

PCC defeat Koh Chang CC by 4 wickets in friendly at PSR on 26 Mar 2022

The young lads of KCCC were on tour and wanted to test their mettle against a BCL Division A side in a social match that was to be played as close to BCL 25-over rules as possible. The only exception was a maximum of 4 overs per bowler instead of 5.

KCCC won the toss and decided to bat first. Andy Emery was in charge of PCC for the day and sent Habby and Jainish to bowl against Ash and Phum. They might have turned the wick down a little bit, but they bowled at a reasonable pace and the batsmen played with straight bats and knew what to hit and what to leave. Ash was the first to go when he got an inside edge and dragged the ball on from Habby for 2. Phum continued and almost got some boundaries but the slow outfield at PSR restricted his shots to 2's. Phum was bowled by Andy Schofield for 7 when he tried a big swing and miss. 2 for 10 in the 3rd over. Johnny only lasted 2 balls before a ball crept between his bat and front pad and Habby claimed his 2nd and final wicket – 2 for 14 from 3 overs. This brought KCCC's premier young batsman, Bodhi, to the crease and he was determined not to lose his wicket without a fight. He steadily took runs from all of PCC's bowlers and benefitted from a (not so few) wides. He was ably supported by Win who fended off a lot of dot balls for his 15 runs until Jainish claimed him as his first of 3 victims. Win was caught behind from a top edge by Colin Clark. Mowkat could only last 3 balls as Jainish took his second wicket in the over with Andy Emery taking a good catch in the deep. 67 for 5 during the 16th over. Guy went on and scored a rare KCCC boundary but it was his only scoring stroke as he was caught by Richard Schutt for Jainish's last wicket – 3 for 20 from 4 overs. The KCCC running between the wickets was very good but Eeshan went for a run that wasn't there and Bodhi remained in his ground. A silly Golden Duck. Bodhi bowled-out at this point when he tried to smash Luke Stokes' dribble down the ground and was stumped by Colin for his error, for a very creditable 37. This brought Pang and Bobby, the coach, to the wicket and Bobby set about Habby and Animals bowling by smashing 4's and 6's to add an element of respectability to the score. Pang scored 5, caught by Andy E off Andy S's bowling 2 for 13 off 4 overs. Bobby ended with 27 not out from 14 balls and Veer 1 not out. KCC concluded with a decent score of 121 for 9 where Mr Extras contributed 26, but a defendable target.

Richard and Jainish opened for PCC against Mowkat and Pang. The bowlers kept things very tight and gave little away. Jainish fell quickly to Mowkat in the third over for 2, bowled through the gap. Luke Stokes replaced him and batted well with Richard who retired on 28. Amit went out but not for long as he was caught for 2 by Johnny off Veer and Luke smashed a 6 off Phum. 3 for 65 from 13 overs and PCC were slightly ahead. Animal faced 11 balls and 5 wides for his 4, before being bowled by Bobby who was much too quick for him. Luke was caught by Ash from Eeshan's bowling for a fine 20 and Peter Gangur was caught in the deep by Bobby for 7 to give Guy a wicket. This left Habby, who has a reputation for swinging the willow and Andy S. True to form, Habby hit 4's and 6's from Mowkat and Eeshan before he was caught by Bobby for 23 off Phum. However, by this time PCC's run rate was such that they had almost caught up and Andy S scored the winning runs with 8 not out and Colin Clarke only facing one ball before PCC won by 4 wickets with 1 over to spare. The fielding by the KCCC team had been excellent. They only dropped one catch and they scampered and dived all over the field.

There was enough time for a friendly T10 over match where PCC scored 69 for 4 and KCCC scored 50 for 2, which included a 5 run penalty for a fake throw by Luke. A win to PCC by 19 runs.

It was a great day out and so pleasing to see how the KCCC boys had progressed over the years.