

PCC lose by 3 wickets in a mini one-day test match friendly with Shrewsbury School.

The match was played on a cool, cloudy day with threatening skies at Pattana Sports Resort on 12 Feb 2022 and eventually finished in a downpour in the last over. The terms of the match were largely set at the beginning but evolved as the match progressed. The match was 2 innings per team with 15 overs per innings. Batsmen who scored 25 would retire Not Out but could return. Anyone with at least one arm was encouraged to bowl but no more than 3 overs per innings. Wides would count as 2 runs and would not be re-bowled, which was a good idea because if that was not the case, PCC would still be at the ground. No Balls would be 1 run and a free hit.

Having organised the rules, the Captains Andy Emery (PCC) and John Pike (Shrewsbury) wandered to the wicket with the officials, Dave Samways and Clive Rogerson. Reds (Ian) Liddel was in the tent doing the scoring. Shrewsbury lost the toss and PCC decided to bat first.

Peter Ganguly and Amit opened for PCC against the bowling of Chris Redman who seemed to be suffering from effects of over exuberance from the previous night. Despite the plaintiffs of "I don't feel well" and "How many balls to go" after the second ball, Chris bowled a maiden. Peter showed some classy defensive strokes and honours were even. Alex McInnes, henceforth known as Mr Noisy, bowled the next over which was also very tidy. However, his second and final over went for 13 as Amit hit the first 6 of the day. Rajveer got the same treatment from Peter whose score was ticking along nicely. PCC were 27 for 0 after 5 overs. Peter retired on 25 Not Out and was replaced by Jainish Parikh. Rajveer chose this moment to make his mark and Jainish caught behind for 2 and then had Amit caught in the deep for 16. PCC 54 for 2 at the 10th over. Richard Schon and Habby Singh held the crease against variable bowling from Ron and John Pike until Richard was run out for 9 by a lack of forward velocity. Habby went in the last over for 16, caught by Chris Redman off John Pike's bowling. Luke Stokes took the crease for the remainder of the final over for 4 Not Out with PCC closing their innings on 94 for 4. (Please note Mr Extras scored 23, mainly wides.)

Greg P and Chris Redman took the crease for Shrewsbury against Jainish and Andy. Jainish was very economical but events were fairly even until Chris hit Andy for a 6. However, Habby obtained revenge by removing his off stump for 18. 30 for 1 after 5 overs and nothing between the teams. Peter Ganguly and Luke Stokes bowled the next 4 overs and worked as a team in the field when Luke's safe hands caught Ron for 7. This was in marked stark contrast to the rest of PCC's catching ability with Andy's Dad (Mike) having a torrid time behind the sticks. Mr Noisy was run out for 1 due to the old "Yes, no, wait, sorry, oops and why are both at the same end?" scenario. This did nothing to curb Mr Noisy's chirpiness. Koustav bowled in his first ever cricket match and although expensive and occasionally wayward, he did take his first ever wicket, that of John Kite, LBW for 3. Ben A was the last wicket to fall to a very sharp caught and bowled by Crunch. Matt and Greg T rounded off the Shrewsbury innings at 96 for 5, 31 being Mr Extras of which 26 were wides.

During each team's second innings the batting line-up would continue rather than start again, so that everyone would get a chance to bat at least once. Therefore, Luke Stokes and Steve Christie opened against Mr Noisy and Rajveer. Both bowlers were hit for 11 in their first overs which further enraged Mr Noisy. Luke hit three 6's and retired on 25 which bought in Satyan who departed for a Golden Duck being bowled by Matt T. 39 for 1 after 5 overs and a better start than the first innings. Steve Christ was bowled in the next over for 12 by Dom and PCC were 39 for 2. Matt T was bowling well with figures of 2 overs 1 for 6 and Ron had a purple patch when he bowled Andy Emery for 12 and Koustav for 6 in his first over. Jainish was having a terrible day with the bat and went for a duck,

bowled by Chris Redman. PCC were stuttering to a halt having lost 3 wickets for 2 runs. Resistance was finally provided by Andy's Dad (Mike) and Habby who managed a 6 before being caught by Matt T for 10. Andy's Dad kept the run rate ticking over with Amit and they finished 7 and 8 Not Out respectively. PCC concluded their second innings on 83 for 6, thus leaving Shrewsbury 83 to win. Remarkably Mr Extra was absent in this innings and Shrewsbury did not bowl a single wide.

PCC needed to bowl tidily and hold on to their catches to win this match. Alas, that was not going to happen. PCC started well by running out Matt T for 1, Greg T was caught and bowled by young Koustav for 3 and shortly followed by Amit bowling Rajveer for 5. 17 for 3 in 3 overs and a very good start. Andy went cheaply for 7 caught by Luke Stokes for his second catch of the day off Crunch whilst Dom made a bit of a stand whilst he lost partners. Ben was bowled by Jainish for 2 who then caught Dom off Habby's bowling for 13. Shrewsbury were now 58 for 6 from 11 overs and needing 25 runs from the last 4. Thunder could be heard and rain could be seen in the distance – could we finish in time? At this point PCC's wobblyitis of the bowling arm continued and although John Kite was Shrewsbury's 3rd Run Out of the day for 5. Rain began to fall in the final over as Mr Noisy hit the winning runs with 2 balls to spare from Habby and finished 10 Not Out. The rain fell in torrents as we reached the tent. Shrewsbury had hit 48 off the bat but Mr Extras had given them 35 and Shrewsbury finished on 83 for 7 and won by 3 wickets with seconds to spare. It was a great match and thoroughly enjoyed by all, although someone (no names) might have got a bit carried away!

Readers can find the score cards in the score card section of the PCC webpage. The next friendly match will be against Koh Chang at Pattana Sports Resort at 11 am on 19 March. All are welcome to attend.