



10th ANNUAL DUNFORD-PHILBROOK CHALLENGE CUP 25 OVER MATCH
PATTAYA CRICKET CLUB (PCC) V BRITISH CLUB BANGKOK (BCB) – 12 JANUARY 2020

The match was played on a humid but thankfully partially cloudy and later a breezy day at St Andrew's School. The ground was in a beautiful condition and the spongy grass offered some cushioning to those thunderous belly flops (dives) of the fielders.

Cricket fans that didn't come to watch missed out on a great game which was the anniversary of the first game played by PCC 10 years ago against BCB. There were plenty of runs, wickets and big 6's over the spectator's tent. The Barmy Army was in full song and the beer was flowing. You couldn't want for a better setting or a better day.

Captain Ben of the BCB won the toss and decided to field. PCC opened with Wez Masterton and Lee May. Talal opened the bowling for BCB with a pacey but very wide loosener followed by corker that elicited an LBW appeal. It was very close but the ball pitched just outside of leg and thus not out. A few front-foot no balls followed and once Talal had sorted out his run up, Wez decided to bash 2 fours and 2 sixes. Talal was withdrawn from the attack and Wez went on to punish Dilip and Ed Kahn with 4 more sixes and a four. Lee struggled against accurate bowling from Pramodh and after several dot balls was bowled for 1. Trevor Moolman came in and played some classy forward defensive strokes in 16 dots against Pramodh and Ed Khan, but when he attacked the ball, he hit fours and sixes. Wez retired at 50 Not Out from 17 balls (3 fours and 6 sixes) and Matt Harkness took the crease. Matt found the best way to score runs was to hit the ball really, really high into the sky and wait for BCB to drop the catch. One such ball was hit so high, all of the fielders had time to congregate underneath it. Ben shouted "Mine", so loudly he frightened away all of the fielders and promptly dropped the catch. Doh. 4 sets of buttery fingers allowed Matt to amass 49 before he was caught behind off Ben. Trevor retired with a 6 off his last ball for 54 and PCC were 183 for 2. Talal was brought back into the attack and had immediate success by bowling Lord Richard Harvey first ball for 1. His 3rd ball had Reds Liddell caught for 4 by Ben who had wiped the butter off his fingers. The umpire, Clive Rogerson, then made a counting error and allowed a 7th ball for the over which caused Andy Emery to be bowled for 16 and Talal to get his 3rd wicket. Must do better Mr Umpire. PCC had had a bit of a mini collapse to 193 for 5, but were rescued by Bernie and Dave Samways who set about Dilip and Talal, adding 40 in the last 5 overs. Dave was run out due to a yes-no-yes-wait-sorry-ops event before the innings was completed at 236 for 5. (Pattaya's highest score since this scorebook started in 2013)

Promodh was the pick of the BCB bowlers with 5 overs, 1 for 23. Talal was successful but expensive at 5 overs 3 for 58.

Lunch and much needed fluids – it was damned hot and humid out there.

BCB opened with Moss and Hurring whilst PCC opened their bowling with Andy and Bernie. BCB scored steadily but PCC took wickets at regular intervals because they held on to their catches. Hurring and his replacement, Dale, fell cheaply for 3 and 4 respectively to catches by Dave and Shaun off Bernie and Andy. At 28 for 2, BCB were somewhat behind the curve. Moss fell next at 41, stumped by Lee May. Ben and Pramodh moved things along with some gusto, well, mainly Pramodh who scored a quick-fire 32 off 20 balls before being caught behind by Lee May off Andy. He was replaced by Mak Khan who started a BCB recovery by smashing an unbeaten 50 before retiring. Ben was bowled for a classy but slow 20 by Andy which brought in Dilip who in turn bashed a series of fours before being superbly caught by Trevor on the long off boundary. It was a carbon copy of the now famous Ben Stokes catch in the World Cup. Dilip and Khan could have gone earlier having played some risky shots which should have been caught at 3rd man but Simon Philbrook was guilty of catch avoidance. He blamed the not yet fully healed bones in his hand caused by a golfing injury. Yeah, right. At this point, 168 for 6, the wheels fell of the recovery when Talal, Sunish and

Khan all went cheaply to Andy, Wez and Bernie. Mak Khan came back from retirement and along with Sarge made a valiant effort to recover lost ground in the final overs. Sarge got 20 in 9 deliveries and Mak added 7, but they ran out of overs and concluded their innings on 206 for 9. Thus, a win to PCC by 28 runs.

Mak Khan was the pick of the BCB batsmen with 57 not out whilst Bernie was PCC's best bowler with 4 overs, 4 for 22.

The super day of cricket was finished off with speeches and the traditional awarding of fines for dropping catches, having too high a strike rate, having dyed hair, being old or young or too tall etc.