

24th March, 2008: Cricket Peru National Twenty20 Championship

Life in Lima continues unabated, the cricket season has reached its climax and everyone can give themselves a big slap on the back if they can reach round after so much cricket in the last three weeks. The second Peruvian National Twenty20 Championship came to a close and all manner of cricket was witnessed, from outrageously one-sided, ringer-infested jamborees to tighter than tight finishes with appallingly low scores, countless dropped catches, some excellent fielding and 48 people taking part in what has become an important fixture in the Lima calendar.

Over three weekends, four teams battled in mortal combat to decide who should be crowned glorious champions: part time footie players aka the Kiteflyers; the highfalutin Lima Cricket and Football Club; the impeccable Indians and Southern Continent contingency, also known as the Boyband "Chak De"; and the felt-capped cricketers Eidgenossen

First up were Flyers v Eidgenossen, a good game was played by these two teams, with the Eids having it in the penultimate over when the 1st Eids ringer James from Stroud hammering two maximums in the penultimate over, ably assisted by Barnesy's custard pies.

Up came Lima versus India, so gallant and brave with a young team in transition against the gunslingin Chak De. A target of 115 seemed doable, after Prabhu had carried his bat from opening with a great 73. That was until Atul the Terrible bowled a double hat trick to remove the experimental middle order. With hindsight this over rather defined the tournament for the LCFC and they never really did recover in any of the following games. All out 80 odd.

The following weekend Lima played the Flyers and were unable to chase the 120 odd set by Abbot and respective football hooligans, even with the aggressive bowling of the part time spin of Walter forcing the aforementioned off the field with a shiner. Abbot came back when the cruise missile-like (not) bowling had abated and laid waste to Lima again.

Eids then managed to beat India off the penultimate ball with one wicket left after India had managed to creep to 75, when Buesst had been very mean and efficient in his bowling, and Henry (cough.....ringer.....another one) hit a maximum off the penultimate ball. There was a minor altercation in the game too, when a semi-standoff took place between 'Chak de' Skip and square leg, but that was resolved by the ICC umpire, doing his job well.

All in all the, umpiring was pretty good, Harry Hildebrand, Rob Champion, Tony Sanford, Miles Buesst, Chris Abbott and John Bell, all played their part in wearing the red t-shirts that made them so distinguishable. Viv Ash, John Bell(again) and Julian Walter did the scoring. This could be better as there seems to be a deficiency in this department. Maybe Brandy from Buenos Aires could come to Lima and give us a course in this most important system of historical documentation.

Come the final day, the Fellowship team of Eidgenossen needed to beat the underdogs LCFC to claim the trophy that had belonged to the Kiteflyers last year. And so they did, Lima, underfiring, underperforming, undercatching, under everything really – even the captain was under his duvet apparently..... Eids rang up 200 runs, a tournament record, with Nick Appleyard making hay, with one incredibly long six, clearing the tennis courts on the far side of the club. Stand-in captain Walter tried to do his best and had to call on all manner of bowling but to no avail. John, also tucked in to the below par tripe and hit 80 odd (plus his first ever six). Lima's one consolation was being able to creep over 100 in response..... nuff said.

India played Kiteflyers and once again Prabhu batted brilliantly for another half century. Atul bowled excellently, both players benefiting enormously from the tour to BA recently. The Flyers were never in the chase of 160 odd and rather tamely surrendered to Chak De after both Harry Hildebrand and Chris Abbott had got out rather cheaply.

Afterwards, the players congregated for a delicious barbecue, to watch John Bell receive the tournament trophy for Eidegenossen, Atul and Prabhu Bowler and Batsman of the tournament respectively. With Prabhu receiving player of the tournament. His prize..... a pair of smelly flip flops.

Well done everyone, sadly no Easter Internationals took place, mainly because of its earliness (apparently it won't be this early again until 2145) and the recent shenanigans in Argentina.