

Cricket Perú competition foments international diplomatic rivalry

Last Sunday Cricket Peru hosted an “international” 11-a-side 10 over cricket competition played at Lima Cricket and Football Club. Teams representing the Indian, South African, UK and Australian embassies and led by their respective diplomatic envoys vied for the coveted Indian Ambassador’s Cup in a no-holds barred slog-fest where international matters were decided on the sporting field and national sporting pride took a fall or, in one particular case, ultimately restored. Before the commencement of the day’s play, a minute’s silence was observed for one of world statesmanship’s and grass-root cricket’s greatest benefactors – Nelson Mandela.

The knockout competition first saw the UK come up against the cup holders Australia. The UK through a brisk batting performance led by Alex James, Miles Buesst and Mike Soulsby scored a day-high 133 off ten overs leaving the Aussies with a daunting task to go through to the final. Australia kept up with the pace for the first part due to good performances by Nick Myers and Chris Mahoney however the UK bowlers, especially Ian Roughton and Julian Walter, applied the screws to hold Australia to 94.

South Africa then pitted itself against the might of India who sent the South Africans into bat. The Indian bowling depth was apparent as South Africa was restricted to 48 all out with Farooq stealing the show with a hat trick finishing with 3-3. Any SA hopes of restricting Indian scoring were obliterated as Shobit launched an assault retiring at 28 in the first over. India won by 10 wickets and an amazing 42 balls to spare. SA’s bowlers will not be mentioned here however you may see the figures in the score sheets available in the Cricket Perú website.

Thus SA was paired to face Australia for the 3rd/4th playoff where Australia elected to bat. Australia was left reeling as Tony Sanford took a hat trick in the second over and finished with the outrageous figures of 5-10 off 3 overs. Nick Myers and sundries again contributed heavily to leave SA with a target of 89. Australia’s bowling this time showed better control keeping the runs in check throughout the innings leaving SA on 5-55 with handy batting cameos from Pierre, Danny, Tony Sanford and Luis Paredes.

The main event took place just as the last of the BBQ food was being heartily downed, the commentator had just done his three-game warm up and, the large colourful crowd was anticipating the showdown of the day.

Fresh from their heavy scoring in the first game, the UK elected to bat first and made a steady start with runs again coming from Alex James, Miles Buesst and Mike Soulsby. However a marginal decision and very tight varied bowling from the Indian team restricted the middle overs by taking regular wickets leaving the UK in a spot. A much needed rear-guard action from Hans de Wit (22) saw the UK get up to a defendable 75 all out. The Indian bowlers shared the wickets around with Suresh snaring 3 and Rahul, Sonu and Jaggi 2 apiece.

The UK bowlers initially did well restricting the long Indian batting line up however with all batsmen getting starts and the fine innings of Jaggi, India gained the impetus to draw ever more closer to the total reaching it in the final over with a four smashed to square leg. The shot sparked off jubilant scenes in the large Indian contingent in the crowd. No one was more

jubilant than the Indian ambassador himself after regaining the trophy that had been missing from his cabinet for the past year.

Tony Sanford was awarded the performance of the competition for his bowling exploits. But number 10 from India was/were named player/s of the tournament

Cricket Peru wishes to thank Juliet for her scoring, Roger Dunn for his umpiring and all those who helped make the day an unparalleled community and sporting success.

The Indian Ambassador's Cup is part of the preseason at LCFC. More games start in the first weekend of January and the Apertura starts at the beginning of February. Anyone who is interested in coming down to play or spectate is more than welcome to either come down or contact Cricket Perú via this website or contact the various club captains also found in the webpage.