

## **Semi-Final: Mexico v MCC**

On Pitch 2, MCC were to play against Mexico. MCC lost the toss and Mexico chose to bat. On another swelteringly hot day MCC took to the field, aiming to restrict the Mexicans to a chaseable total, in order to make the Grand Final later in the day.

The early exchanges were limited to both sides sizing each other up. However MCC, as they had done for the whole tournament, turned the screw and the pressure told. One by one, the Mexican batsmen came in, found it extremely difficult to score and wickets fell at a steady pace. They crept to a score of 71 all out.

A special mention must go to Luke Blackaby who opened up with his medium-fast seam. His many variations were truly too much for the Central American side and he posted scarcely-believable Twenty20 figures in the scorebook of 4 overs 4 maidens 2 for 0!

So, chasing 71, MCC opened with the all-rounders Blackaby (34 not) and Akhtar (34 not out). Both played steady innings to get the Club off to a good start.

The run chase never looked in doubt, and both batsmen carried their bats for an impressive 10-wicket win and a place in the Grand Final.

The dream final became reality when, a few overs later on the other pitch, Panama beat Panama 'A' to secure their own place.

by MCC Captain, Jon Rea-Palmer