

TIM BAYLY 6-A-SIDE TROPHY, Sun, 11th Dec, 2011

Sunday the 11th of December saw the last trophy of the 2011 season being hotly contested at the home of Peruvian Cricket, Lima CC. The Tim Bayly Cup Super Sixes tournament began with 'El Derbi' between The Kiteflyers and Lima Cricket. After Mike Soulsby got off to an aggressive start, reaching (and subsequently retiring on) 27 not out, The Kiteflyers, with some tight bowling, managed to pull the score back to a challenging but not unsurpassable 47 for 4 off 5 overs. Ed Baxter bowled tightly, managing to unhinge two of the Lima Cricket side, ending with figures of 2 for 7. The Kiteflyers went into bat, and got off to a shaky start, losing Nick Barsby to an over of accurate Soulsby bowling. The wickets kept tumbling but Ed Baxter playing a true captain's innings of 30 not out, achieving the win with a gigantic 6 over long on off the second last ball of the innings. A truly nail-biting first game.

The second game saw Eidgenossen take on Chak De. Eidgenossen batted first and put the opposition to the sword, scoring a healthy 59 for 1 off their 5 overs. Nick Jones showed his class by quickly reaching his retiring score of 25 not out, leaving Nuck Fitzpatrick to finish the innings, reaching 16 not out. In response, Chak De struggled to get going, with only Bobby really posing a threat, reaching 21 not out. Some tight bowling ensured that Chak De could only muster 39 for 1 off their 5 overs, ensuring Eidgenossen their first win of the day.

The third game was between the Kiteflyers and Chak De. Still hyped from the earlier nailbiting victory, The Flyers bowled first, restricting Chak De to a mere 24 for 4 from their 5 overs, with Ed Baxter amongst the wickets again, taking 2-1. Chasing 25 the Flyers made easy work of their task, with Nick Barsby and Jack Palmer polishing the job off in 2 overs, with Nick making 16 not out, an easy win for the Flyers at the end of the day.

High scoring Eidgenossen then took on Lima Cricket, looking to pick themselves up after their opening defeat. New boy Cameron Smith played some lovely flicks off his pads as he stroked his way to a well made 25 not out, supported by 'El Manager' Hodgson who played some nice shots to reach 16. Eidgenossen kept things tight with good catching and tight bowling from Nuck Fitzpatrick and Jon Bell, with LCFC finishing on 51 for 2 off their 5 overs. In response, Eidgenossen stormed to the required total, reaching 53 for no wickets off just 2.5 overs. Nick Jones again put the bowlers to the sword, along with Ian 'the Body' Roughton, scoring 23 and 27 not out respectively. Eigenhossen were proving to be the side to beat.

In what would eventually be the final, Kiteflyers took on Eidgenossen in the group stage, with both sides knowing they would be facing each other in the final. Bowling and Batting orders were chopped and changed a bit, allowing others to shine. The Flyers batted first, with next season's captain Kenny Steen and soon-to-be retiree Dave Sharples opening up. Without losing a wicket they notched up 30 for no loss of wicket. In response, Eidgenossen lost an early wicket to a sharp caught and bowled by Nick Barsby, only to have 'The Enigma' Mahoney (21 not out) and Nuck Fitzpatrick (10 not out) guide them to what proved an easy victory.

The match that would decide the bottom team would be contested between Lima Cricket and Chak De. Lima Cricket batted first, notching up 44 runs for 6 wickets from their 5 overs, with Soulsby reaching 18. Kashap took 3-3 off his one over, proving to be the best over of the day, for a bowler that is. Chasing 44, Chak De seemed up against it, with Julian Walter taking 2-5, and Soulsby going for 3 runs off his over. Bobby made a well fought 22 not out for Chak De, who left it to the last over to decide their fate. Needing a six off the last ball of the innings, Sonu completely missed the ball, only for it to be given a wide down the leg side. Off that extra ball, Sonu crashed the delivery through the covers for 4, giving Chak De their first win of the day, leaving Lima CC winless.

The Final saw the Kiteflyers vs Eidgenossen. Eidgenossen batted first, and with Ian 'The Body' Houghton being dismissed LBW first ball by Nick Barsby, the Flyers had their tails up. However, yet again, Nick Jones smashed his way to 26 not out, before retiring, making way for 'The Enigma' Mahoney to step up. With some nonchalant hitting, Mr. Enigma hit Ed Baxter for 23 of the last over of the innings, including two huge sixes, somewhat denting the bowling figures of the day's highest wicket-taking bowler. They finished on the day's highest score of 67 for 2 off their 5 overs, a challenge for the Kiteflyers.

Stepping out to bat, the innings began in less-than-desirable fashion for the Flyers, losing Nick Barsby for 8, Jack Palmer for 6 and Ed Baxter run out for just 1, after a catastrophic mix up in the middle. Paul King and Kenny Steen were set with the immense task of scoring about 47 off 3 overs. They steadied the ship, with the help from some nervy bowling from Eidgenossen, and managed to fall only 10 runs short of the mammoth total, with Kenny finishing on a battling 11 not out and Paul on 9 not out.

So the Tim Bayly Trophy was Eidgenossen's - deservedly so, thanks to their attacking style of batting and tight bowling. Nick Jones won the best batsman award, scoring 74 runs without being dismissed all day. Bowler of the day went to Ed Baxter who took 4 wickets for 43 runs (23 of which were off his last over!). The celebrations carried on into the evening with the presentation of the Trophy to Eidgenossen, and some farewells to some departing members of Cricket Peru ... followed by topless arm wrestling, but that's a story for another time ...

All in all, a cracking day's cricket at Lima CC, and a great way to set up for the SAC 2011 in Chile, and the 2012 season.