

Chile win nail-biting final to win the T20 tournament.

Argentina come so close to T20 glory, and win the Cricket Veloz trophy.

The third day of the *Cricket South America* Under-13 Championship saw the venue revert to *Lima Cricket & Football Club*, after the historic Day 2 at Markham College. But the sunny weather remained unchanged, providing a perfect backdrop to the three-day tournament's finale.

And what a finale it proved to be, with Argentina captain, Diego Juarez, needing to hit a six off the last ball of the T20 final against Chile to tie the scores. His opposite number, Chile captain, Nicholas Hooper was the bowler, and despite serving up a long hop on leg stump, Juarez could not get the ball aerial and it was fielded on the boundary.

Heartbreak for the Argentineans, who had batted brilliantly in trying to chase down an imposing target of 132. The openers, Manuel Nogues (37*) and Enrique Roulet (32) provided a great platform, with a first innings stand of 61 off 10 overs, built on great running between the wickets and the occasional big hit. The Argentine middle order chipped in with some rapid-fire cameos, but the run-rate continued to climb, so that after 15 overs, Argentina needed exactly 50 runs off 5 overs. Their cause was helped by some nerves amongst the Chilean bowlers, who conceded a number of wides and no-balls at this point, but 19 runs were still needed off the last over. It yielded 13 to leave Argentina at 127 for 4 after their 20 overs.

The Chilean innings was all about **Batsmen of the Tournament**, Tim Gayfer, who hit a majestic 82 to provide the bulk of the runs. He combined solid defence with aggressive running ... and merciless punishment of any bad balls! None of the other Chilean batsmen reached double figures, but most were able to stay at the crease and provide Gayfer with the support he needed. He was finally out in the final over, caught on the boundary, but by that time, the damage had been done.

The morning session was dedicated to the **Cricket Veloz Tournament**, a 7-a-side development competition designed to give fringe players a chance to shine. And so it proved, with **Argentina** (28 for 4) winning a low-scoring final against the Peru Alpacas (27 for 3) by 2 wickets. Fernando Abadia (13) top-scored for the Alpacas, batting first, but despite losing regular wickets, Argentina reached the target with an over to spare, assisted by the number of wides and no-balls conceded by the Alpaca bowlers.

Earlier, Argentina had defeated the Peru Vicunas by 37 runs, largely thanks to Juan Martin Tissera's brutal 34, opening the batting for the Argentineans.

The Peru Alpacas, meanwhile, had reached the final by beating Chile by 6 runs in the opening match. Luis Paredes was the hero in that match, with 9 runs opening the innings for the Alpacas; and then bowling a tight last over, when the pressure was on.

In the 3rd/4th play off, the Peru Vicunas batted first and reached a daunting 64 for 2, due in large part to Emilio Vila's savage 30. Chile did well to battle to 45 for 4, but were never really in the hunt. For his innings in this match, and his good all-round bowling and fielding, Emilio Vilas won the **Cricket Veloz Player of the Tournament**.

This and the other awards and cups were presented after the T20 Final by *Cricket Peru* President, Harry Hildebrand, assisted by *Lima Cricket Club* representative, Paul Cabrerias, and the two tournament sponsors, Steve Petrovich of *AK Drilling* and Otto Bottger of *DP World Callao*.

For the second year running, **Tim Gayfer** of Chile won the **Player of the Tournament** award, to go with the Batsman of the Tournament award. In four innings, Tim scored an awesome 187 runs at an average of 62.33 and also contributed with his bowling and excellent fielding.

The **Bowler of the Tournament** was awarded to **Manuel Nogues** of Argentina for his 9 wickets at an average of 5.11. Two other bowlers, brothers Mitchell and Caleb Olive of Chile, had taken 9 wickets during the tournament as well, but Nogues' superior average meant that he just sneaked ahead.

The **Fielder of the Tournament** was difficult to single out, as there were so many excellent candidates in each side. Having consulted with the coaches, and checked with the statistics, the award was given to **Luis Felipe Espinoza** of Chile.

Finally, the **Spirit of Cricket Award** was presented to **Nicholas Hooper**, the captain of Chile. Not only had he contributed 109 runs with the bat, and 5 wickets with the ball, he had also marshalled his troops superbly, while at all times showing a respect for his teammates, the opposition and officials.