

Sunday 6th February, 2011: T20 Test match

Well this was definitely a day of cricket. *Cricket Peru* decided that a new format should be tried: a 20/20 test match in which two teams would play two innings of 20 overs. The rules of this game are fairly straightforward in that both teams bat once and with the next innings they reverse the batting order ... with the opening bowlers not being allowed to bowl in the second innings until the third change. The net result is that everyone gets a good chance to bat in the match, where normally the tail is ignored and shifted around the field like grazing cattle.

In reality it turned into a 20 + 15 over match because, in Lima, nothing ever starts on time! The two captains were Gary Sargent and Julian Walter, and it was decided to play a 12-a-side game, to accommodate all the players keen to play.

After Walter won the toss and decided to bat, openers Kashyap Nansi and Bobby, who were both playing their first games for the season, hit the ball to all corners of the park and were rather generously allowed to put on 55 for the first wicket, with roughly four catches being put down on the boundary! Louis Gerjean came in at first drop and made a rapid 52, before being caught off the bowling of Vishal Vaidya. Kashyap made an unbeaten 50, before retiring. The run rate then dropped dramatically, with Rob Champion picking up 3 wickets with wickedly ordinary bowling including the wicket of captain Walter, caught by John Bell at point, having mishit a wide one. The first innings total was 143: a defensible score but not amazing.

In response, Sargent's team had a stuttering start, with Umesh removing Chris Abbott and Vishy Vaidal early. Champion and Sonu then laid waste to the bowling with a particularly good partnership of 112 - undoubtedly the best of the day. Rob made a chanceless unbeaten 50 (retired) which is a first for him ... not the half century but the chancelessness aspect! Sonu also made a personal best of 47 until his skipper told him his score - always a kiss of death for this ilk of batsman! Out next ball. Sonu's innings was not quite as error-free, but Sonu's golf slap to leg is a mastery in coordination. Gary Sargent and John Bell then took the score to 160, 18 ahead of Walter's team.

Second innings: Eight minutes later and Owen and Gerhard were opening the batting for Walter's team, both on batting debut. The innings started fairly tamely with both openers

showing that commitment can overcome technique and after 4 overs were 20 for no wicket. Chris Mahoney and Kamlesh then came in and both scored half centuries. In one over, Mahoney showed excellent eye and belted Sargent for three sixes. Champion managed to make Walter his bitch by getting him out twice in one day, this time caught behind by Peter Biese for 1. But Walter's team had laid down their marker. Sargent's team needed 120 to win the game outright off 15 overs. So Tony Sanford and Peter Biese came in with Peter not lasting long. Gareth Evans and Tony then set about chasing down the score. Walter's team were doing their best to make this a realistic possibility especially with some weak fielding and bowling. It was not until Kash and Louis came on to bowl that the run rate started to become difficult for the opposition. Eventually the task became too hard and with the time at 6:20pm, and the fading light more than a minor issue, Sargent's team ended up 11 short of the target.

In summary 70 overs were bowled; four players scored high forties or fifties Tony Sanford scored 38. Everyone got a chance to have a decent bat. Owen and Gerhard putting on useful runs and Umesh bowling excellently in the first innings. Latecomers Kamlesh and Peter Biese were given a game. Champion achieved a personal best by being both top run scorer (57 not out) and wicket taker (4 for ??) in one match. Sargent's XI won the first innings, but Walter's team held out and managed to win the 'test match'. 550 runs were scored, at an average of around 8 an over. And in the end, there was only 11 runs difference between the two sides.

For the full, unedited version of this report, please see <http://perucricket.blogspot.com/>