

## **Belize closer to the crown and promotion to Division 2**

### **Peru impresses with two more victories**

Los Reyes Polo Club grounds are now well-known for gusty winds in excess of 50 km/h, especially early in the mornings. Today's action in Division 3 saw both teams that won the toss surprisingly electing to bat and both suffered at the hands of the winds and the bowling attack of their opposition.

Costa Rica tried a cautious approach against the tournament's only undefeated team, Belize. None of their batsmen was able to reach double figures and the end came in 18 overs with only 39 runs on the board. Dirk Sutherland 4/12 and Keve Flowers 4/6 were outstanding for Belize with the ball.

As if they needed to pad their already unbeatable net run rate, Belize raced to their target in just four overs with Conway Young (15) and Gareth Joseph (13) being the top scorers.

Mexico's batsmen were pinned down from the first delivery from Peru's bowlers who have earned the reputation of having one of the most difficult attacks to score runs against. Miles Buesst (2/7), Nadeem Ahmed (2/11) and Anthony Sanford (2/11) were the destructive force as Mexico stumbled to 7/4 in the early overs. Hugo Vanbelle with 16 runs was the only batsman to reach double figures in his team's total of 49 all out in 15.3 overs.

The Peruvian bats then took their time to reach the target in 15.2 overs with Chris Abbott (25\*) and Michael Soulsby (20\*) securing the third victory for them in this tournament.

The lone afternoon game had the winless Falkland Islands up against Peru, a team that has gone undefeated since losing their very first match to Belize. Peru won the toss and elected to bat and, just as they have done in the previous games, set out cautiously to build their innings. Outstanding knocks from Mike Soulsby (35\*) and Nicholas Appleyard (35) enabled them to reach 126/3 from their 20 overs.

The Falkland Islands were never up to the challenge and were dismissed for the lowest total of the tournament (22) in 10.3 overs. The wickets were shared equally by the bowlers but Peru's Suresh Sharma had the best figures at 3/7. Both teams have now completed their schedule for the tournament with the Falkland Islands recording no victories from five games; while Peru had a tremendous week ending with a 4-1 record. Depending on tomorrow's final games, this could be good enough for a second place finish - a position

that would be well-deserved by a team most agree is the most improved from previous tournaments.

ICC Americas Division 3 Championship, Costa Rica 2011 (as of March 17, 2011)

Rank	Team	P	W	L	T	N/R	Pts	NRR
1	Belize	4	4	0	0	0	8	+3.835
<b>2</b>	<b>Peru</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>+1.790</b>
3	Chile	4	3	1	0	0	6	+0.252
4	Mexico	4	1	3	0	0	2	-0.036
5	Costa Rica	4	1	3	0	0	2	-0.737
6	Falkland Islands	5	0	5	0	0	0	-4.357