

Day 2 of the South American Cricket Championships saw a Peru vs Chile matchup with all to play for. Having huffed to two defeats on the first day, Peru - revitalized by a night of Don Draper-esque debauchery - ground into life with a warm-up that resembled more of a geriatric yoga session. This was tactfully avoided by a Harry Hildebrand who was bent on applying more cream than a Nick Jones Cover Drive in amongst his ever present and visible pant and boxer combination. It was a sight to behold and it clearly put Chile on the back foot as they promptly went on to lose the toss.

Captain Soulsby decided to bat and reluctantly Chris "The Platform" Hodgson donned the pads. What followed can only be described as a running between the wickets boot camp for the Platform as we could see an alcoholic haze ascending from his shoulders as he and Mike put on a few runs. The bowling was tight and the run rate fairly slow as the Peru boys battled to 40 off 10 overs. A few wickets fell after Mike had accumulated a text book 20 from 26 balls. This resulted in the insertion of Nick "I'm not paying to talk to you" Barsby who showed masterful good looks to knock around a few runs ending with a massive 9. In next came Baxter carrying a wide load and he battered a few balls over cow corner. He was ably assisted by a now lubricated Harry Hildebrand who creaked his joints into action and ran some quick singles resulting in his hamstrings shrinking with every stride. 10 overs later the Peru unit had reached 113 off 20 overs, Hildebrand preserving his average again in Spry-esque fashion.

At the changearound there were no question marks over whether Peru could defend the total as we had plenty of loaded guns in our ranks. Nick Jones, the man who gave everything to empty his chambers later in the week, toiled away and the team began to take a few wickets. In amongst some fairly boring batting there were some sparkling moments of Peruvian magic. Nuck Fitzpatrick and Nick Barsby had a go and Tony "The Finger" Sandford kept the run rate down with some great darts. Ably assisted by Dickie Lord, the outrageously named Argentinian umpire, the Peruvians took a few key wickets and started to turn the screw. Brief glimpses of hope were not enough however. Nuck Futzputruck came away with two wickets off his lovely nurdlers. The Chileans finished it off in the end fairly easily and won the game with 7 wickets in hand, their opener carrying his bat to hit the winning runs. The post-match shenanigans could begin.

Coronation chicken for lunch sir? Go on then, if you want to, came the cry. As the Peruvian chat machine ground into action in the gazebo/Delica office stories were tugged from the annals of history that made us proud to represent *Cricket Peru* and realize that the establishment is not just a cricket team, it's a concept.