

Match report by Somnath (BCC Captain)

First match of the season had it all: fun, drama, and yes a tied result.

BCC played No hope CC (NHCC) on 31st March at Riviera ground. Both sides were short of player and decided to lend couple of fielders for the opposition and it worked out well. BCC won the toss and elected to bat first in a 30 over match. Somnath (BCC captain) and Ballu opened the innings against some good controlled, quick swing bowling from NHCC's Blath in particular before Ballu fell to him in the 5th over with team total reading 25.

The next ball from Blath was too much for our new number three Ravi and had the same result as was with previous ball to Ballu and suddenly BCC was two down and Blath on a hatrick. In comes Zanith and after surviving a close LBW appeal kept on consolidating before getting bowled for a well complied 9 around 13th over of the innings (unfortunately we don't have the fall of wickets on the scorecard).

Yoges at number five played a steady composed hand for another 9 before getting clean bowled to the surprise element of the match. Around 20th over mark NHCC brought in a tall young guy called Robbo to bowl. Yoges asked the keeper if the new bowler is quick and should he go for helmet. Affirmative, but Yoges decided to play him nonetheless and wait for the helmet to be brought on maybe within the next few deliveries. Oh boy! What a mistake. The first ball he played just flew off missing his stumps. Not for long though. Yoges got cleaned up the very next ball. At this stage BCC captain at the non-striker's end was frantically asking for a thigh guard (understandable as no one would like to get his hip broken on the very first match of the season).

So fourth batsmen to get bowled (bit harsh for Yoges as he was done by a bowler who should be probably playing semiprofessional cricket instead of playing with us mortals). Just so as to be clear, Robbo by his own account could be bowling anywhere around early to mid 80's. It felt more for the batsmen who faced and perished (Sandhu being the next victim for a naught).

BCC had a collapse, from 80 for 3 to 95 for 7. Somnath departed after a well complied 41, Ubhaynath 3, Sandhu didn't bother the scorers and Ashok got 5. As agreed with NHCC captain the two players who got ducks were allowed to bat in again and this time Sandhu and Ravi had a fruitful partnership of around 40 runs to get to a respectable total of 140 in 29thover before Ravi got out for 5 and Sandhu was unbeaten at 33.

BCC showed some character when it came to bowling and fielding (very unlike BCC!). Ballu and Ubhaynath opened the bowling and Ballu showed great skill in controlling his away swing (and managing to bring the odd ball in to the right hander as well). Ubhaynath managed to keep his line and length and their opened Robbo after trying hard for a while to break free finally hit the ball to the open layer where on the ground ballu judged the catch to perfection at long on boundary. Perfect start, NHCC's star batsman (should actually call player) gone for 12.

That was exactly what BCC needed. Some excellent bowling from Yoges (4 for) and Sandhu (3 for) always kept BCC in the contention. NHCC's Hale (42) kept them in the match. Robbo was sent in bat again after NHCC lost 7 wickets but after scoring 12 and bringing the team total to 140 was bowled by Yoges by a beauty. A tied match and a fair result to open the season. In all a very satisfactory performance by BCC.