

## SACC triumphant at the Saigon International Sixes



On a glorious weekend of cricket at the RMIT oval, SACC overcame a strong Baba's Kitchen side to win their first Saigon International Crown.

The event, generously sponsored by Suntory PepsiCo and Heineken, featured 8 teams. The Singapore Misfits and the Beijing Bacchanals made the trip across from their respective cities, while the local teams of Saigon Australian Cricket Club (SACC), United Cricket Club (UCC), Sri Lanka Sports Club (SSC) and Boomerang entered teams. Making up the eight were Baba's Kitchen, champions on two occasions, and Saigon Softball who were trying their hand at Cricket for the first time.

The format of the competition was 2 groups of four. Each group played a round robin on the Saturday with the top two teams entering the Cup and the bottom pair contesting the Plate on the Sunday. In a competition which rewarded tight bowling (wides would count as 4 runs), it was likely to be the side with the most disciplined bowling married with explosive batting that would come out on top.

## Group A

Group A was a local affair, seeing UCC, SACC, Baba's Kitchen and Bomberang square off against one another to continue existing rivalries. It was SACC won took first blood, defeating UCC in the first match. UCC amassed 63 with Rajesh top scoring with 31\*. In response, SACC was helped with 24

Team	Played	Points
Baba's	3	6
SACC	3	4
UCC	3	2
Boomerang	3	0

extras and coasted home with 4 balls to spare. In the second match, Baba's showed their batting might, plundering 114 off their 5 overs. Tariq, Rubal and Parvez all impressed hitting boundaries galore. Despite a spirited unbeaten 70 run partnership between Adam C and Luis, Baba's run out victors by 34 runs.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of group A, the eventual finalists played out an entering game. Baba's Kitchen batted first and hit 88, with Tariq (32\*) and Rubal (31\*) retiring and Parvez (18) making the runs. In response, despite Jai retiring (33\*) and Mitch (30\*), SACC ultimately fell 9 runs adrift. In the match featuring Boomerang and UCC, Boomerang made a subpar 36 which UCC chased in 2.1 overs.

In the final round, SACC made an impressive 90 against Boomerang. Jai top scored with 34\* and was ably supported by Mitch who hit an unbeaten 20. In response, Boomerang was bowled out for 47 in the fifth over to cap a disappointing day for the men in red. In the final group match, Tariq (38\*) and Rubal (35\*) continued their impressive formed to accrue a daunting 95 against UCC, who despite Rajesh (27) and Guy's(20) best efforts could only manage 55.

## Group B

In group B, we had the Singapore Misfits, the Beijing Bacchanals, SSC and Saigon Softball, who for my money, were the team of the tournament. The first game in this group saw the Softball guys strike out a few times but reach a respectable 53 from their 30 balls. In response, they also proved they don't need gloves to catch a ball taking 2 early wickets. However, the experience of Sumedha (19\*) came to the fore as he guided SSC home. In the all international affair, Chris (24\*) and Charlie (34\*) got Beijing to an imposing 80 which was only just enough against a determined Misfits team. Tim (20) and Craig (18\*) batted valiantly, ultimately falling 2 runs short.



In the next round, the Misfits, who had finally found a paddling pool and accompanying shrubbery, put 67 on the board against SSC with Tim (28\*) and Craig (30\*) once again the architects. In reply, despite 27 from Joel, SSC fell 14 runs short, largely due to two wickets falling to Vasanth in the 3<sup>rd</sup> over. Following this, the Bacchanals made 73 against Saigon Softball, with Chris' 30 being the highlight. In the bottom half of the innings, hitting a few ground balls and one home run, James impressed the pure cricket fans smashing 27 on the way to his side reaching 50.

In the final round, the Softball guys conceded 70, largely down to a lot of wides. However, home runs from Nick and T ensured they finished on 50 after their first day of cricket. In the second match, SSC squeezed home in one of the games of the tournament on the penultimate ball against Beijing. Beijing set SSC 79 to win thanks to Chris (19\*), Charlie (31\*) and Richard (24\*). However, SSC's batting proved too strong with SSC stalwarts Joel (32\*) and Sumedha (26\*) seeing them across the line.

Team	Played	Points
Bacchanals	3	4
Misfits	3	4
SSC	3	4
Softball	3	0

As 3 sides had lost 1 and won two, it came down Run Rate For off legitimate balls faced which saw Beijing top the group, followed by Singapore Misfits.

Therefore Sunday's matches were:

### **Plate Semi's**

UCC v Softball

SSC v Boomerang

### **Cup Semi's**

SACC v Bacchanals

Baba's V Misfits

### **Plate Competition**

In the first Semi-Final, it was one way traffic. Despite JP taking two wickets, UCC amassed 86, again largely due to extras. In response the softball guys made 35, with Ethan hitting his first 6 in cricket.

In the second Semi, SSC set a competitive 74 against Boomerang with Priyantha top scoring with 25. The reply, however, didn't go according to plan with no batsmen reaching double figures as Boomerang limped to 39.

In the wooden spoon match, Boomerang bowled extremely tightly to limit the Softball guys to 37. Nick scored his second six of the tournament which was the highlight of the innings. In reply, Boomerang cantered home with 10 balls to spare with the mature head of youngster Blair Kelly leading them home.

In the plate final, an old grudge match was played out (all in good spirit) of course. With Joel being dismissed first ball, and Priyantha shortly after, UCC must have thought that this would be their time to pick up some silverware. However, Berty (30), Hiran (22\*) and Chandana (28\*) had different ideas as SSC hit their way to 90. In reply, despite Guy's 32\*, UCC fell 24 runs short, meaning that SSC were crowned Plate Champions.



## The Cup Competition

In the first Semi-Final, Beijing struggled as SACC bowled very tightly. In particular, Daley, Mitch and Cam all bowled exceptionally to limit the Bacchanals to 40. In reply, the reliable duo of Jai (20\*) and Mitch (17\*) saw SACC home with 14 balls to spare.

In the second Semi, Baba's once again batted first and once again, Tariq ended not out on 31. Parvez also cashed in with 31\* to leave Baba's Kitchen on 85 after their 5 overs. Despite Craig's best efforts for the Misfits (25), Baba's wouldn't be denied as they ran out victors by 37 runs.

In the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> place play-off, bragging rights for the best placed International team were up for grabs. Misfits batted first and Craig (16), Tim (24\*) and Vasanth (14\*) gave the boys from Singapore a respectable 61 from their 30 pills. However, it didn't prove enough as Karl 24\* and Charlie 32\* powered the Bacchanals home.

## The grand final

The final saw SACC take on the Baba's kitchen all-stars and the tournament got the final it deserved. Tariq (32\*), who finished the tournament without being out and an average North of 160, again got them off to a perfect start. Parvez (20)\* propelled the target to 80 which on another day, might have been enough. However, cometh the hour, cometh the man. Mitch, who had deferred largely to Jai (15) for most of the tournament, hit a sensational 32\* to give SACC a great platform. It was then left to skipper Daley to hit the winning runs as SACC eclipsed the target with two balls to spare.

## Players of the Tournament

**Player of the Tournament** – Parvez Zargar (Baba's Kitchen – Over 100 runs and 4 wickets)

**Batsman of the Tournament** – Tariq Sofi (Baba's Kitchen – Over 160 runs without being dismissed)

**Bowler of the Tournament** – Vijesh MV (UCC – 5 wickets)

## Thanks

A massive thanks goes to our generous sponsors, Heineken and Suntory PepsiCo. Without their support the event would not be possible.

Special thanks to Mr Bandula Warnapura, Development Manager of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) and Sri Lanka's first Test team Captain for gracing the event and presenting the winners trophies.

Thanks to Claire and Rahul who scored the games. Without scorers, we can't play so your contributions are very much appreciated.

Thank you to all the umpires and in particular to John Fawcitt who umpired the majority of the games.

A massive shout out to the teams from Beijing and Singapore. We really hope you enjoyed the tournament and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Of course, we'd like to thank all those who supported us in running and organising the event in anyway and the local teams for their participation.

