

TOURNAMENT REPORT

28 Dec 2014

PSCC win the inaugural VCA Phil Hughes Sixes

On a glorious day for cricket at the RMIT Oval, PSCC emerged victorious in an extremely competitive day's cricket to celebrate the life of the late Phil Hughes.



At 7:45 the draw was made. Group A consisted of ECCS, SSC and UCC and Group B was made up of PSCC, ISCS and LIC, a combined team of PSCC, UCC, ICCS, SSC and ISCS players. In-order for the event to be successful, it was essential that all of the matches remained on schedule and a massive thanks should go to all of the teams for ensuring this was the case.

In group 1, ECCS took on SSC in the first match.

ECCS were inserted into bat, and immediately regretted the decision as the impressive A. Zakharoff smashed 36* off 9 balls, including four 6s. R. Savy (14) anchored the rest of the innings well, and SSC were left with a target of 78. SSC struggled in their reply. Joel (21) and Sumedha (12*) struggled to find the middle of the bat and pierce the field. Ultimately, they fell 30 runs short.

	Played	Won	Lost	Points
ECCS	2	2	0	4
UCC	2	1	1	2
SSC	2	0	2	0

In the group's second match, SSC needed a win against UCC to give them hope of making the final. However, a disciplined bowling display restricted SSC to 40 with only two boundaries being conceded. UCC's openers then eased their side home comfortably with James (27*) and Pankaj (13*) looking in good form.

The final match saw ECCS and UCC vying for top spot in the group and a place in the final. UCC batted first and although Chetan (30*) was the only batsman to take the attack to the bowlers, they still posted a respectable 57. Skipper Zakharoff continued in the same vain as the first match, hitting 31* off 11 balls to leave ECCS in a commanding position. However, UCC debutante K. Liddal bowled an extremely tight penultimate over (1-1) leaving ECCS requiring 9 to win off the final over. The first ball was a dot, but J. Tizzard (11*) muscled a straight 6 next ball over the fence to ease the pressure. ECCS won a thrilling match with 2 balls to spare.

In group 2, old adversaries ISCS and PSCC kicked-off proceedings. PSCC put themselves into bat. Despite losing A. Shabbir early, T. Sofi (34*) and P. Zargar (28*) batted superbly to propel PSCC to a total of 78. In response, ISCS only hit one boundary with P. Jettappa (21*) the only batsman to reach double figures. Some tight bowling ensured that PSCC were victorious by 20 runs.

	Played	Won	Lost	Points
PSCC	2	2	0	4
LIC	2	1	1	2
ISCS	2	0	2	0

S. Gill again (PSCC's captain), won the toss and elected to bat against Life is Cricket (LIC). D. Malone took the early wicket of the dangerous T. Sofi in the first over, but the equally explosive A. Shabbir (33*), with support from Feroz (14*) and Parvez (10*), took PSCC to 75. A. Corral (10) and D. Malone (21) batted well but failed to find the boundary frequently enough to leave them 32 runs short, and secured PSCC's spot in the final against ECCS.

The final group match was to determine second and third spots in the group. ISCS batted first, and again struggled to find the boundary, scoring only one 6. Disciplined bowling from LIC contained ISCS to 51, with Sri Ram (16*) top scoring. D. Malone, displaying an impressive array of shots, scored an assured 29* off 17 balls to guide LIC home with 2 balls to spare.

5th-6th Place Playoff - ISCS v SSC

SSC batted first and with Skipper J. Sabreen hitting consecutive boundaries at the start of the innings, it seemed their fortunes may change. However, he fell 2 balls later, and although Sumedha (16*) and Sajith (17*) batted sensibly, 59 was always likely to be subpar. And true enough, Sri Ram (26*) and Rubal (16*) led ISCS home with 5 balls remaining.

3rd-4th Place Playoff - LIC v UCC

In the extremely rare occurrence of Vijesh and D. Malone playing against UCC, this was always going to be an interesting encounter. LIC batted first and D. Malone (14*) and Rajesh (31*) led their team to a daunting target of 73. In response, UCC were always slightly behind the run rate. D. Green (11) and J. Davis (29*) couldn't pierce the field often enough leaving LIC victorious by 9 runs.

VCA Phil Hughes Sixes Final - PSCC v ECCS

Both PSCC and ECCS showed impressive batting prowess in reaching the final. PSCC won the toss (yet again, surely S. Gill has magic powers as he's won his last 7 tosses), and elected to bat first. In an explosive first 2 overs, they blasted 42 runs, hitting 4 sixes and 1 four. T. Sofi (15) fell with the score at 48, and Ahmed (28) and Gill (17) fell at 70. P. Zargar (14*) saw the innings to 84, with 7 sixes and 6 fours being hit.

Naeem perhaps struck the crucial blow of the final removing the in-form Zakharoff in the second ball of the innings. Despite some good hitting from J. Tizzard (30* from 14) and R. Savy (14), ECCS finished 25 runs short.

Overall

All in all, it was a great day of cricket. PSCC deservedly won their first piece of silverware in the VCA and it could be a sign of things to come as they are looking good in the league this season. ECCS should also be encouraged as they have yet again performed well in a sixes event. Hopefully they can take confidence forward to their next matches. Finally, a big thanks goes out to all those who umpired the events. Without their support, the day wouldn't have been possible. Congratulations to **Adam Zakharoff (67 runs)** and **Parvez Zargar (3-27)** who won individual awards.