

The CRY Cadence Corporate Cricket Challenge
Regent's Park, London
Final: Saturday July 21, 2007

British summer can be many things these days. But if the current geometrical regression in climate is anything to go by, gone are the days for serene and sunny summer days – you either succumb to its force, or you take a corner to sulk and moan.

That was not an option though for the last remaining teams at CRY cricket challenge. Week after week they showed up, put up a cheerful face against the unpleasant weather odds and gave us a game.

The semi finals were played between Infosys, ICICI, HCL and NIIT. NIIT and ICICI progressed into the finals and the match for third place was played between Infosys and HCL. The semi finals were played in the morning and the matches for the winner and third place went well into the evening.

These matches were interrupted thrice due to adverse weather conditions – downright downpour and the park that looked like more like a front line than a crown property pitch. But still, gamers gave us the game in all its glory. Back somersault and stunts were seen throughout the game.

Semi Final: ICICI v Infosys

Infosys won the toss and batted first. They made 73 runs for 9 wickets in 15 overs. ICICI was on a kill mode: making 73 runs without a loss. Rakesh from ICICI was the man of the match.

Semi Final: NIIT v HCL

NIIT won the toss, elected to bat first and eventually won the match. They made 122 runs for 3 wickets in 15 overs. HCL made 92 runs for 5 wickets. Sumit Ganju from NIIT was the man of the match for being the top scorer with 50 runs not out.

Third Place: Infosys v HCL

HCL won the toss, batted first and eventually won the third place. They made 132 runs for 9 wickets. Infosys made 103 runs for 9 wickets. SHM Siddique from HCL was the man of the match.

FINAL: ICICI v NIIT

ICICI won the toss and elected to bat first. NIIT batting second made 86 runs for 9 wickets and clinched the second place. But it all went ICICI's way when they

comfortably scored 115 runs for 4 wickets and seized victory away from 15 other clashing titans, well almost. Man of the match of this final game was Vivek from ICICI.

Awards

Peta Viner from Connect Communications, one of the co-sponsors of the Cricket Challenge gave out awards and trophies to the players and the winning teams.

Aakash Desai, ICICI's captain took the winner's trophy and the entire team received medals. Runners up NIIT players received medals and a trophy.

Last year's winners TCS were given a replacement trophy for handing over the rolling winners' trophy to the victorious ICICI.

CRY's Nina Munshi made the first speech, thanking everyone involved. Richard Hastings from Cadence took the floor and jokingly blamed Nina for taking all the good speech lines.

Few eye candies during the game included the cry volunteers Toni and Tracy – whose brilliant efforts in selling, at times by force, the raffle tickets to anyone who dared to go near them raised a neat £ 125 for CRY.

It was all about the “passion and the spirit of the game” that got Aakash Desai, the winning team's captain to take the plunge and raise some money for a cause. The 8th CRY Cadence Corporate Cricket Challenge 2007 was accomplished, with almost everyone involved looking forward to a round of similar stunts and antics next summer. We can only hope global warming will hold its breath and let us play in peace.

**The CRY Cadence Corporate Cricket Challenge
Regent's Park, London
Saturday July 14, 2007**

With all the hullabaloo of 'the wettest summer in years' deeply embedded in our minds, another one-day cricket extravaganza started with little fanfare – the clouds hovering above us were an intimidating presence. But someone seems to have gotten it right. It was a summer day at its best. Richard Hastings from Cadence was starting to look pink from the sunburn by the middle of the day.

Sun-dried tomato sandwiches, steady flow of tea and manicured Regent's Park all joined force to add on to a pleasant sporting day with a cause.

There was some accident on the motorway that got our Satyam troops stuck for more than three hours on their way to Regent's Park. Infosys, who were supposed to play Satyam, was a winner by default.

When David Leftely from Morgan Stanley took centre stage to accept Man of the Match award, one of his team mates shouted, "Speech, speech". He duly complied with banter, "you are all a bunch of buggers, you made me run too much". To which his other team mate yelled, "Yeah David, it is because you are the only white guy in the team". The park cracks up.

So, it was in this pleasant spirit that another day of Cricket challenge was over. Here's the match report.

PWC v ICICI

ICICI won the toss and won the match eventually. They made 121 runs in 15 overs, for 5 wickets. PWC was 70 runs all out. Saminda Gunawardana from ICICI was the man of the match.

NIIT v iFlex

This game was played on pitch 2. NIIT won the toss and won the match as well. They made 139 runs for 3 wickets against iFlex's 118 runs for 8 wickets. Naaji Shah and Kamal Gulati, both from NIIT were jointly declared man of the match.

iGate v Wipro

iGate won the toss. They made 103 runs for 9 wickets. But that wasn't really enough to seize victory away from Wipro's 107 runs for 3 wickets. Vijay Duraisamy from Wipro was the man of the match for making 51 runs and not out.

Morgan V Covansys

Morgan won the toss and decided to field. They made 106 runs for 7 wickets and won the match against from Covansys who made 105 runs in 15 overs. David Leftly, who

cheekily made the organisers wait for 15 minutes as he was in the shower, won the man of the match.

Lehman V HCL

HCL won the toss and batted first. They then went on to make a whopping 180 runs in 15 overs. Lehman made 87 runs in 7 wickets. Sameer Garg from HCL was the man of the match for being a star performer – 53 runs and not out.

Satyam V Infosys

Motorway got better of the Satyam army as they were stuck due to a traffic accident. They couldn't make it on time so Infosys was declared the winner.

**The CRY Cadence Corporate Cricket Challenge
Regent's Park, London
Saturday July 7, 2007**

The disappointment following the rescheduling of the 2nd leg of the Cricket Challenge on 30th of June due to the weather washout made way to a pleasant sun-drenched sporting day in Regent's Park on Saturday 7th of July.

Cricket blended well with CRY's cause and the outcome was a series of thrilling matches played mostly by the Indian expatriates in the UK.

For some, it was more than just an abstract idea of a charitable cause in India. "I know about CRY's work back home in India. It is very comforting to know here in the UK that they are putting up such events to raise money for the welfare of children across India", said Sumeet Sharma, who just happened to pass by Regent's Park that day but stayed on to watch the matches.

The omnipresent figure throughout the matches was Cadence's IT Director Richard Hastings. "We employ 600 people in India and this is our way of making sure we also work for the overall benefit of the Indian Society". He was clearly enjoying the day interacting with the amateur players and also handing out 'man of the match' plates to the top players. CRY's Nina Munshi was interweaving through all three pitches making certain things progressed like clockwork.

As the event called it a day around 7 pm, the sun was still exuding the warmth over the park, as if to approve of the good cause the event had championed. Here's the match report:

HCL v Morgan:

Morgan Stanley won the toss and elected to field first. HCL made 118 for 6 wickets and Morgan was 50 all out. Jassi was the man of the match - he made 25 runs and bowled really well.

HCL v Covansys:

Covansys won the toss and elected to field. With a fine batting performance by Suhail and Aakash HCL scored 109 runs. Some good bowling restricted Covansys to 51 runs in 15 overs. Aakash was the man of the match for a good batting and bowling performance.

DKIB v NIIT:

NIIT made 135 runs for 3 wickets. DKIB was 74 all out. Sumit Ganju was 53 not out, and declared man of the match.

DKIB v Infotech:

Infotech fielded first. DKIB was 78 bowled out. Infotech was 79 for 7 wickets. Captain Richard took a great catch of the first ball setting the tone of the game. Ravi Kumar was declared man of the match.

iGate v Satyam:

Satyam was 108 all out and iGate made 122. Man of the match was Prashant Soodh in this finely played noon game on pitch 2.

Infotech v iFlex:

Infotech made 79 for 1 wicket and iFlex made 82 for 1 wicket hence winning the game. Man of the match was Keerthi Nanavalan from iFlex.

PWC v TCS:

TCS won the toss and made 91 runs in 15 overs. PWC lost by 10 runs. Avichal Jain from TCS was the man of the match.

Infosys v Wipro:

Infosys won the toss, and chose to bat first, making 111 for 7 wickets. Wipro made 110 for 8 wickets. Amit Arora from Infosys was the man of the match with 3 brilliant sixes.

TCS v LBS:

TCS made 119 for 6 wickets in 15 overs and LBS made 121 runs for 6 wickets. Ashish Saxena was declared the man of the match.



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23rd June 2007

The CRY Cadence Corporate Cricket Challenge : A Healthy Way to Raise Money

The Cry Cadence Corporate Cricket Challenge (5Cs) began in great style on the 23rd of June 2007. After a roaring success last year, CRY decided to extend the tournament this year by having a league round where every team will get ample opportunity to show their cricketing skills. The tournament will follow a league format and each team will play 3 matches at the first stage

The morning commenced with a short inauguration by Richard Hastines (IT Director of Cadence), Vanessa Fay (Corporate and Trusts Fundraising Manager of Helen & Douglas House) and Nina Munshi (Fundraising Manager of CRY).

There were three games played simultaneously on adjacent fields. The match summaries are as follow.

PITCH 1

Game 1 :- Lehman Brothers vs Morgan Stanley

The toss was won by Morgan Stanley and they elected to field. Lehman scored 112 runs in 15 overs, a score which they thought was definitely defensible. However, a splendid innings of Mehul (man of the match) helped Morgan Stanley winning the game.

Game 2 :- Dresdner Kleinwort vs iFLEX Solutions

The toss was won by iFLEX and put DKIB to bat first. Again, DKIB scored 119 by the end of their innings. A steep ask of a runrate of 8.0 perover might be

daunting to some but iFLEX seemed to have reached it without much of a problem, thanks to a great performance from Aravindan (Man of the match).

Game 3 :- Covansys vs Lehman

Lehman won the toss and put Covansys to bat who scored 123 in their 15 overs, yet another high scoring game. The Runrate of 8.2 per over seemed for a while very achievable by Lehman as they were cruising away to victory till suddenly wickets started to tumble. In the end Lehman lost by an agonising 2 runs to the jubilant Covansys team. Jai Prakash of Covansys was the man of the match.

PITCH 2

Game 1:- NIIT vs Infotech

NIIT won the toss and elected to bat scoring 93 in their 15 overs at the loss of 5 wickets. Infotech, however fell short of the run chase at the end by 10 runs, scoring 83 for 6 by the end of their innings. The man of the match was Kamalg of NIIT.

Game 2 : iGate vs Infosys

Igate winning the toss decided to bat scoring 91 for 6 by the end of their innings. In the end Infosys reached that target with the help of players such as Mahesh who was the man of the match.

Game 3 : ICICI vs TCS

Toss was won by ICICI who managed to score 107 in the 15 overs. The game was very tense from the very beginning. The tension was mounting with each ball bowled, finally in the end it was ICICI who were victorious but only by 1 run, talk about close calls. TCS finally ended at 106, a hearth breaking experience for the team mates. Sunil was the man of the match. ICICI seems to make a habit of winning crunch games, lets hope they can maintain this nerves all the way.

PITCH 3

Game 1 : London Business School vs ICICI Bank

LBS won the toss and decided to bat. They managed to score 109 for 7 in 15 overs. ICICI began their chase but the wickets kept tumbling. However, ICICI

held their nerves to win the game. LBS fought valiantly but the efforts of Sunil and Vivek of ICICI saw ICICI to a well earned victory.

Game 2 :- Satyam vs Wipro

Wipro won the toss and elected to bat scoring 108 by the end of the 15 overs. Satyam , could not withstand the excellent bowling of Wipro and were all bundled up on 68 runs. Rajinikanth of Wipro was Man of the Match.

Game 3:- London Business School vs Pricewaterhouse Coopers

LBS won the toss and scored a daunting score of 190 in the 15 overs. A steep runrate of 12.6 per over was too much of an up hill task for Pricewaterhouse who finished their innings at 91. The man of the match was Vijay of LBS who scored a brilliant 50 .

All the games were extremely competitive and the quality of cricket was definitely commendable. The occasion was also blessed by the weather gods, as the weather though looking ominous did hold up right till the end and finally burst into heavy showers after the last ball of the day was bowled, almost celebrating the event, the cause and the enthusiasm.