

“LSWCC Sarjan” Team finishes among the top 5 teams in the HKCA Saturday League Division 1 for the Season 2014-2015.

Report:

Last year (2013-2014 Season) LSWCC Sarjan Team finished at Position 3 among the Hong Kong Cricket Association Saturday League Division 1 Teams.

In the current year's season that has just concluded LSWCC Sarjan Team did not perform well as was expected, since HKCA introduced a new rule stating that no Premier League(PL) players who have played PL matches could play in the Saturday League, rule that cost LSW Sarjan a huge loss as their main batsmen were not allowed to play.

Once again Suresh Kumar "Zulu" was given the responsibility of leading the team as captain, the team mainly played with promising youngsters and few experienced players.

First game played on 15th Nov. 2014 at HKCC against HKCC Nomads

Wasn't a good start of the season by LSW Sarjan team as they lost after bowling exceptionally well? LSW Sarjan got HKCC Nomads all out under 130 runs, in reply LSW top order batsmen failed to score as the wickets were falling at quick intervals. The lower order couldn't do much as HKCC Nomads won by 26 runs.

Game 2 played on 6th Dec. 2014 at Mission Road against CCC Hung See

LSW Sarjan made a hard come back by defeating CCC Hung See by a big margin of 150 runs, where the twin brothers batting and bowling well. Sarfaraz Khan scoring a half century and Waqas Khan scoring a century. In the bowling department our pace bowlers did the most damage, Mohsin Khan the young talented left arm pace bowler claiming 3/18 in his 7 over spell and Waqas Khan claiming 4/8 in his 6 over spell. They got the whole team of CCC out in less than 26 overs.

Game 3 played on 13th Dec. 2014 at PKVR Park against HKU CC

The winning formula continued as LSW Sarjan crush HKU CC by 7 wickets. We witnessed another great bowling by LSW Sarjan bowlers, our star left arm spinner Saqib Mahmood claiming 3/10 in his 6 over spell, getting the whole team out under 110 runs. The opening pair was too excited to get the job done, but unfortunately they fell early on. Our young talented batsman Haroon Arshad played a good knock of 50 not out and Waqas Khan once again showing his batting skills with 30 not out. LSW Sarjan reached their target in less than 20 overs.

Game 4 played on 20th Dec. 2014 at PKVR Park against HKCC Witherers

Dark clouds were all over LSW Sarjan Team as they lost to HKCC Witherers, batting first and could only managed to get 155 runs with Waqas Khan scoring 50 only, bowlers fought hard throughout the HKCC innings but luck was not with LSW Sarjan as HKCC won by 10 wickets not losing a wicket in the innings.

Game 4 played on 27th Dec. 2014 at PKVR Park against USRC/MCC

LSW Sarjan won the game by forfeit over USRC/MCC as they played with players that were not eligible to play as per rules of HKCA. LSW Players were satisfied from their hard work in the first half of the season as the year 2014 ended in an easy victory.

Game 5 played 10th Jan. 2015 at KCC against KCC Crusaders

With the introduction of new kookaburra pink ball in Saturday League by HKCA to be experienced, LSW Sarjan bowlers were over the moon specially new talented medium pacer Mohammad Osama Minhas, who was the key destroyer claiming 6/27 from his 5.5 overs. KCC Crusaders batsmen's could only manage to get 90 runs in total on the board under 17 overs.

As the new Kookaburra ball was swinging in both directions, resulting LSW Sarjan openers bravely gave charged over KCC Crusaders bowlers. Hiren Patel was the top scorer with just missing his first half century of the Saturday League smashing 47 runs in no time as LSW Sarjan chased the target in 17 overs and won the game by 4 wickets.

Game 6 played on 24th Jan. 2015 at Mission Road against Pakistan Association

This match was most awaited game and talked about in team meetings as LSW Sarjan was against their arch-rivals. Pakistan Association (PA). PA won the toss and let LSW Sarjan bat first, wasn't a good start from the opening pair as they fell easily from the PA bowling attack. Luck was not with LSW Sarjan's side as wickets were falling, than came in the evergreen legend Mohana Marzook and coach-cum-player Tabarak Dar both holding on the PA bowling attack and giving some hard time to PA bowlers. Both build up good understanding & running between the wickets by scoring of 60 plus runs. The lower order didn't do much as LSW Sarjan was all out for 125 runs.

LSW Sarjan were very aggressive in the field as they did not give up easily on their lower total, getting early break through helped LSW Sarjan till the drinks break at 17 overs but PA ended up winning by 6 wickets.

Game 7 played on 7th Feb. 2014 at KCC against KCC Saracens

Another exciting match with one of the KCC's best Saturday team. Upon winning the toss LSW Sarjan wanted KCC Saracens to bat first and get them to a low total, it didn't went as planned as the KCC openers maintained a healthy partnership of 80 plus runs, even the middle order having partnership of 100 plus runs. LSW Sarjan had a hard time in the field by only taking 5 wickets. KCC Saracens finished their innings with a big total of 228 runs.

LSW Sarjan openers had a big responsibility on their shoulders, Gururaj one of Sarjan's best left hand all-rounders scoring his first half century for the club, which put less pressure on the team other batters. Batting at one down promising young talented left hand batsman Khizzar Jabbar was short of 3 runs for his first half century of the season. Both left hands did some serious destruction as they had partnership of about 100 plus runs. After the drinks break, comes in the captain Suresh Zulu as the wickets were falling quickly, hitting quick boundaries when the team needed most. The lower order saved the day, with our ever green legend Mohan Marzook smashing 38 runs in no time. Result KCC Saracens were beaten by 4 wickets – a beautiful defeat as LSW Team players smiled on their way to the changing room – shaking each other's hand and saying well played guys.

Game 8 played on 28th Feb. 2014 at KCC against KCC Tartars

Close defeat to KCC Tartars, as they were having home advantage was a big thing for the KCC as they won by 25 runs. On winning the toss KCC Tartars decided to bat first, but LSW Sarjan's pace bowlers kicked off excitingly by claiming 3 wickets in the first 10 overs. Middle order of KCC Tartars then woke up and made a partnership of 120 plus runs ending their innings by 188/7.

Coach-cum-player Tabarak Dar took the responsibility to open the innings with the left hand batsman Gururaj, as Tabarak Dar went hard on the KCC Tartars bowlers smashing 42 runs in just 3 overs. LSW Middle order batsmen didn't do well as the captain went without scoring. Waqas Khan held the pressure for some time as he departed after scoring a useful 30 runs. Coming in next was our evergreen legend Marzook Mohana, giving his best to take the match from Tartars; unfortunately he was short by 5 runs to register his first 50 of the season before getting out. KCC Tartars were the first team of KCC to defeat LSW Sarjan in the league.

This was the last game before play offs, in the play offs LSW Sarjan played who they lost from in the round robin stage. This play offs will decide the champion of the Saturday League.

It was the time for LSW Sarjan to take guard and go for the kill to the teams they had lost. The first match was against Pakistan Association.



Played on the 21st of March 2015 against Pakistan Association at Mission Road

LSW Sarjan won the toss and elected to bat first; both openers made a solid start and had a partnership of 100 plus runs. Hiren Patel register his first 50 of the season by scoring 89 runs, the middle and lower order didn't do much as Waqas Khan made useful 26 runs in no time before getting run out. LSW Sarjan closed their inning by 179 all out. Half job was done, when LSW Sarjan's bowlers got early breakthrough in the opening overs. Pakistan Association was down on 4/40 at the drinks break. The middle order stayed for some time but they were no match for our spin bowlers. All three left arm bowlers taking 2 wickets each, Zulu the captain himself, Gururaj and Saqib Mahmood. Pakistan Association's dream of becoming the champions was once again shattered by LSW Sarjan as they won by 31 runs. It was a sweat win for PSW as PA players walked back with head down and out.

LSW Sarjan's winning momentum continued as they took over KCC Tartars in style.

Played on the 28th of March 2015 against KCC Tartars at KCC

LSW Sarjan elected to bat first as they won the toss after having a good look at the wicket, making full use of the decision by having two left hand openers Khizzar Jabbar and Gururaj making a steady start. Both the left-handers got out early. Then came along another young and talented batsman Jagjeet Singh on his debut. Both he and Waqas Khan held LSW Sarjan's innings making a good partnership of 80 plus in which Waqas Khan got another Saturday League fifty. In the Middle order it was Tabarak Dar who fired up the total for LSW Sarjan, making 42 in no time. LSW Sarjan closed their inning 192/9 at the end of 35 overs.

KCC Tartars had big target to chase, the openers started off well but fell after the drinks break one getting out to fast bowler and the other getting out spinning. The middle and lower order fought harder to get the match but couldn't do so as another young talented fast bowler Mohammad Ali was introduced in the last few overs, he took the match away from KCC by bowling well. His bowling figures were 2.1 overs, 3 wickets and by giving only 6 run. His performance won LSW Sarjan the match by 11 runs.

LSW Sarjan was at the top of points table until they got a game to play with HKCC Nomads.

It was a must win match for LSW Sarjan to stay at the top and finish as champions unfortunately, the match was called off without a ball being bowled and both team got points shared.

For the last match of the Saturday League it was a must win with a bonus point, unfortunately LSW Sarjan could win as some key players were not available due to other commitments.

Last match played on the 18th of April 2015 against HKCC Witherers at HKCC

Once again HKCC Witherers had home advantage, winning the toss HKCC Witherers elected to bat first. This match was played on Astro Turf as Grass Turf was not prepared by HKCC. LSW Sarjan bowlers couldn't do much as the both openers of HKCC were playing well in front of their home crowd. They had partnership worth of 180 plus runs. At the end LSW Sarjan could only managed to take 2 wickets. Their innings ended on 285/2, LSW Sarjan had a big total to chase.

Both left-handed batsmen open the innings, wickets started to fall early. Middle order stayed for some time as Haroon Arshad scoring his second 50 of the season before getting out on 69 runs. The lower order batsmen couldn't help much as wickets were falling quick and fast. LSW Sarjan were all out at 154 runs and lost the hope of becoming the champions of Saturday League for 2014-2015 season.

LSW Sarjan finished in the top five teams in the HKCA Division One League as shown in the table below:

Hong Kong Cricket Association – Saturday League Championship Division – Division 1

Over-all the players enjoyed the season with good team effort. Though the results didn't go the way LSW Sarjan planned but it was pleasant sight to see Captain Suresh Kumar "Zulu" in smiles as he had captained the team well.

Top Performances of LSWCC Sarjan Players:

1. Great all-round performance by Waqas Khan with top score of 383 runs made in the season, HS of 121runs and taking 15 wickets with Best Figures of 4/8 in 13 matches
2. In Batting Haroon Arshad scored 226 runs with HS of 69 in 10 matches
3. Saqib Mahmood taking 17 wickets in 12 matches with Best figures of 4/20
4. Mohammad Osama Minhas taking 12 wickets in 7 matches with Best Figures of 6/27.

Edited by Ramesh Thadani
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