

X-CRICKETERS TEAM REPORT 2014-15



Steady Improvements - LSW X-Cricketers Season Report 2014-2015

The second team since a change of Management and the coming back of the original X-Cricketers into the LSWCC Social Team started with renewed determination to do better than the previous season

The opening match of the season was against Indian United at Police Training School on 21st September 2014. Captain Vishal Mahtani called correctly and won the toss and decided to bat first. Josh Daswani gave a good start by scoring 56 runs at the top of the order, however the rest of batting struggled to match his pace and team was 146/9 at the end of 30 overs. Indians United struggled in the chase and managed to sneak home with a one wicket win in the last over. Shazad was the pick of the bowlers for X-Cricketers with 3 for 21 in his 6 overs. Tathagata Sarkar and Kaushik Kohli picked up two wickets each.

The next game was against ESF Lions on Nov 16th 2014, having beaten them in a friendly game last year, maybe we were bit over confident and ESF Lions have prepared well for their first game of the season. Played in the rain ESF Lions piled on 221/5 in 30 overs at PTS. Nitesh (53) and Josh (24) tried to chase the target but X-Cricketers fell short and were all out for 174 in the 28th over.

Next game was on 25th Jan 2015 at KGV grounds. It was good to have cricket being played at the ground again after all the years, although on artificial grass and with a roll on wicket. The match was against USRC and we expected a tough game. The toss was won by USRC and they batted first, we struggled with bowling on the wicket initially and the small ground made scoring easy, Maqsood and Nitesh bowled the right lines and took 9 wickets between them (Maqsood 5-47 and Nitesh 4-30) and put a break on their innings in the 21st over with the score on 213. Josh produced another great start by smashing 56 runs at the top of the order. Kaushik then got into form and produced a quick fire 48 however once again a sudden collapse resulted in being all out for 169 runs in 25 overs. Not batting out 30 overs resulted in losing the game.

Two weeks later we were playing Mid Levels United on 7th Feb 2015 at Po Kwong Village Road Reservoir Ground. X-Cricketers won the toss and decided to Bat first. Kaushik Kohli was the only batsman who was in good form and the rest of the top order collapsed. It was up to the lower order batsman to bat out the overs and managed to put up a respectable 132 runs. Midlevels chased the target in the 22nd over with 5 wickets to spare.

Batting out 30 overs was where we were struggling and in the next 3 leagues games we aimed to do just that. The next game on 3rd May 2015 at PKV Reservoir we were put in to Bat by HKUST. And we batted till the 2nd last ball of the match and scored 166 runs. Josh Daswani top scored once again with 37 runs. We had HKUST 5 wickets down at drinks break of our bowling innings, but a break in concentration made us lose the game, having competed neck to neck in the game for 75% of the match, we lost the game easily by 4 wickets in the end.

Tired by losing close games this season, the team's determination to win kept growing. And we achieved it in our next game also at PKV reservoir on 10th May 2015. The opponents SLSCC won the toss and decided to bat. It was a rainy day and the outfield was wet. Our captain decided to open with a left arm spinner to open the bowling and Nitesh Sancheti responded by taking a wicket in his first over, and 4 more in the next three overs to have figures of 5 wickets for 16 runs in 4 overs. Sri Lankan Social Side were bundled out for 75 runs. We also lost early wickets due to a wet wicket but Nitesh held the batting innings as well with 17 runs and won us the game with 2 wickets to spare.

The last game of the season was played at Po Kwong Village Park on a very hot 7th June 2015. We fielded first in the hot sun in the big ground but restricted Taipans CC to 202 for 6 wickets in 30 overs. We started well with Kaushik Kholi (Not out 50 runs) and Ben Yates 44 putting up a big partnership, but we were behind the run rate and in looking for runs we lost wickets and were all out for 166 in 27.3 overs.

We played one more friendly game at HKU (Sandy Bay) against HKU Social Club. It was good to play at Sandy Bay after a while, we were chasing 152 and were 80 for 6 and the rains came and the match was abandoned.

It was a improved performance form the X-Cricketers, in every game there was a chance to win and a few catches or a little luck our way we could have won lot more games. Next season we are determined to move up the points table and look at winning more games for the club °

