**Match Report:**

Round 10

Panania / East Hills (W/wood) CC

2 Day match at Smith Park

**Won by 8 wickets**

First match of the new year and our Captain won the toss!

Having been sent in to bat, PEH were two down for no runs in no time. Ethan drew an edge on the first ball of the innings, but it fell short of our diving ‘keeper. No matter, though. Four balls latter their opener skied one to Sean at cover who took a comfortable catch. Atif opened from the other end, and his fourth ball dismantled their Captain’s stumps with typical sheer pace. PEH 2 for 1 off two overs.

Both bowlers continued and threatened with each ball. Ethan completed 4 overs with figures of 1 for 3, before being replaced by returning older brother Sean. Atif bowled one more from the other end before Sajid replaced him. Atif – 5 overs, 1 for 4.

A rusty Sean toiled from the far end and completed a 5 over spell that will do him good in the few matches left for him. 5 overs, 0 for 9. A cameo-ing Michael took over and struck in his first over, getting an edge from their number 3 – who looked the most accomplished of their batsmen – comfortably taken behind by Neil. Sajid was unlucky to only bowl 3 overs if favour of Aiden’s leg-spin. 0 for 9 off Sajid’s three overs. But the move proved justified with Aiden getting an inside edge onto the stumps to remove their fourth wicket just before drinks. PEH 3 for 29 off 17.3.

After the break, Michael struck again in his third over. Ethan taking a comfortable catch at Mid-off. Michael tired though in his fourth, and finished his spell with 2 for 17. Meanwhile, Aiden continued to trouble their middle order, a stumping chance going begging, and edges wide of the keeper and slips. Max replaced Michael, and removed their number 6 – who also looked to be getting comfortable – cleaned bowled Carl-style. Aiden took his second wicket in what would be his final over, a skied catch to a well-placed Ethan at Mid-wicket. Aiden – 5 overs, 2 for 22. Asif was tossed the ball for two overs and kept them quiet while Max got into his stride, striking again in his third over in similar style to before. One more over from him and he finished with 2 for 13 of his 4.

Atif replaced Asif at the near end in an effort to close out the innings and his first ball of the spell drew a plumb LBW – spearing into the batman’s toes at the base of middle stump. While Max finished off his spell at the other end, Atif produced another inch-perfect yorker to clean up their number 10 – stumps flying.

PEH all out for 83 in 33.1 overs. Atif finishing with great figures of 3 for 5 off 6.1.

With Riz nursing a broken thumb, Asif joined Nico to open the innings, and the pair got off to a solid start. They were relatively untroubled for 13 overs, amassing a wonderful partnership of 58, until Asif edged one behind to the keeper on 21. This brought Aiden to the crease at 3 but Nico departed 3 runs later forcing a very smart catch at gully on 30.

Sean came in at number 4, again to get the rust out for the run-in to the semis. And in typical Sean fashion, the boundaries flowed. Aiden provided great support as Sean plundered a quick 21 to complete a comfortable victory. We passed their total within 20 overs with 8 wickets in hand.

A great way to start the new year, and hopefully a good omen to kickstart our season and get back on track.

Big thanks to the Mitchell’s for interrupting their holiday to ensure we had a full team for this one.