

## The Third Man's Report

### Check out our web site

Have a look at the Baulko web site. All the news about club events, fixtures, results, ladders etc are all available at the following web site – [www.baulkocricicket.com.au](http://www.baulkocricicket.com.au) To see your team's results, go to baulkocricicket.com.au, select 'Team Pages' then select your team. From there you can see the ladder by selecting 'Ladder'.

The site will be updated regularly, and the club history is being added to as time permits.

There have been some changes to the committee this season. You can find a list of the committee members on the website

### To all Captains, Coaches and Managers

#### Match Results

I need match results in **following the conclusion of the game**, so they can be submitted to the PDCA. You can either drop them off at the club or email them to me at [results@baulkocricicket.com.au](mailto:results@baulkocricicket.com.au). If no results are submitted you get **NO POINTS and may be fined!** It is up to you to get the results to me – I will not be chasing anybody. When putting in players' names, can you put in their first name as well so that I can pass this onto the PDCA.

#### Team Reports

Team reports for this newsletter can be put in the box at the Club or emailed to me at [results@baulkocricicket.com.au](mailto:results@baulkocricicket.com.au) by Tuesday night after the game. Newsletters will be published during the week after a game.

### Team Performances:

A	in Grand Final	B12	in Grand Final
B4	in Grand Final	15/1	in Grand Final
B10	in Grand Final	13/1G	in Grand Final
B11	in Grand Final	11/1	in Grand Final

### Individual Achievements

Gaurang Merani	A	49	Gabriel Joseph	15/1	85
Sumit Kalia	A	29 & 4/5	Michael Bennetts	15/1	75
Chris Springall	A	28 & 4c	Omair Fernando	15/1	38
Adam Tinley	A	26 no, 2/26	Daniel Chatman	15/1	27
Keenan Galas	A	23 & 2/8	B Delaney	15/1	3/22
Ben Dooley	B4	57 no	James Dallaway	13/1G	104
Greg McLoughlin	B4	48	Mitchell Webb	13/1G	35 & 2/4
Roger Deane	B4	5/31	Blake Newman	13/1G	27
Tony Senior	B10	5/30	Jack Michie	13/1G	2/10
Ward Koski	B10	2/15	Michael McConnell	11/1	26 & 3/10
Andrew Nicholls	B10	61	James Gardiner	11/1	2/4
Andrew Gay	B10	44 no	Nick Andrews	11/1	2/4

### Canteen Roster – Ted Horwood Oval

Teams are reminded to have people available to man the canteen at Ted Horwood Reserve. The canteens raise valuable funds for our club, which help us to keep the fees down. The following teams are rostered in the next few weeks –

<b>DATE</b>	<b>MORNING</b>	<b>AFTERNOON</b>
Grand Finals	No games	Volunteers required

Volunteers are needed to man the canteen. If you can help out for an hour or two on either Saturday or Sunday, in the morning or afternoon, please let Leigh know. You can contact her on 0407 280 343.

## The President's Roundup

There were mixed results for Baulko in the semi finals. All 5 of our five senior teams (A Grade, B4, B10, B11 & B12) won and progressed to the final. In the juniors, we had three winners (U15/1, U13/1 Gold & U11/1) and six teams who lost (U16/1, U15/2, U14/1, U13/1 Maroon, U13/2 & U13/3).

Congratulations to the winners and best wishes for the final. The draw is on the website, so take a look and get along to support our teams. There will be games at Charles McLaughlin, Ted Horwood, Jones Park & Masonic in the afternoon. Whilst in the morning there are games at Hazel Ryan, Allen Robertson and Morgan Power Lower.

Back luck to those teams defeated in the semis and thanks for your efforts this season. Hopefully we will see you all back again next year!

To celebrate the end of the season, we will be holding a get together back at the Sports Club on Sunday 30 March, commencing at 6pm. It will be held downstairs in the same place we have our monthly meetings. We look forward to seeing you there and hopefully we will be celebrating a successful end to the 2007/2008.

The extensions at the Sports Club are almost complete and a Gala Open Day will be held on Sunday 20 April at the club. Come along and see the "all new" Club.

Don't forget the Presentations, which will be held on the last weekend in May, both at Northmead Bowling Club. Seniors will be on Saturday night 31 May and juniors on Sunday 1 June.

The last monthly meeting for this season will be held next Tuesday 1 April at the Sports club, commencing at 8pm.

Hopefully I will see lots of Baulko supporters at the games this weekend and back at the club, where hopefully we will have some celebrating to do on Sunday night.

Peter McLoughlin  
President

## Match Results and Reports

**11/1**      7 for 97      Kings Langley      10 for 65      First innings win

A heavy fog and frost greeted us on arrival at Harold West, but there was another major surprise in store for us. Unbelievably, the ground had been transformed since the last time we had visited – lights had been put up, soccer posts were in, and “what the \*^&#?” the pitch had been covered with dirt and turf. Amidst the ensuing panic we managed to move the game (hurried text messages, opposition vehicle convoy, tense discussions with umpire, calls to grandparents and other spectators, etc) to Hazel Ryan, and got underway only 15 minutes late. Definitely not an ideal preparation for our biggest game of the year (to date). (I’ve calmed down now, but the letter I had drafted in my head to Council en-route from Harold West to Hazel Ryan that morning couldn’t have been published in any open forum). A big thanks to all the parents who enabled the move in such an efficient manner.

The “panic” didn’t impact the boys though. We won the toss and sent Kings Langley into bat, and once again set about “strangling” our opposition with great, tight bowling. Kings Langley was 2 for 32 off 26 overs, showing that our opening bowlers were proving difficult to get away. What was to happen next was very exciting. In the space of the next 9 overs, we took another 7 wickets for only 17 runs, and had the opposition reeling at 9 for 43. Kings Langley’s final batting pair though put their heads down with some gritty, intelligent batting, and it took us another 16 overs to get the final wicket. Kings Langley finished up being all out for 65 – a total we were fairly confident of being able to chase down. The only downside to our bowling was the fact the total included 31 sundries – we’re still giving the other sides too many freebies – something we will need to continue working on. Best bowling was Michael McConnell (7 overs 3 for 10), Nick Andrews (3 overs 2 for 4), James Gardiner (6 overs 2 for 4) – however, everyone in the team had a bowl, and everyone performed admirably. The coach was pretty proud of the performance.

Backing up the bowling was some pretty spectacular fielding. Overall, there were 9 catches and 1 run-out. We easily have the most athletic and talented fielding side in the comp, and whilst a couple of difficult chances were put down, our fielding continues to put immense pressure on our opposition batting line-ups.

We went in to bat, and our openers saw out the first day with some excellent play for us to finish on 0 for 19. At 1 for 49 on Day 2 after 20 overs, things were looking pretty smik – our top 3 batsmen had done the job asked of them and set up a solid foundation for a win. However, we suffered a classic middle order collapse, and ended up 5 for 55 just two overs later and the coach’s heart rate was quickening to say the least. 66 was starting to look like an impregnable mountain! The lower order put their heads down though and we passed Kings Langley’s score with 5 wickets still in hand, and finally finished up at 7 for 97 when the opposition said they had had enough. Best batting was Michael McConnell 26, James Gardiner 12, Michael Bellam 10, Ryan Chelvarajah 8 and Tom Waddups 8 not out.

So, we remain undefeated with one game to play – THE BIG ONE. Bring it on.

**13/3**      10 for 40      Wenty Leagues      10 for 106      First innings loss

No report submitted.

**13/2**      10 for 91      Rouse Hill Rams      9 for 166      First innings loss

Finishing fourth on the table put us up against the top side in the competition – Rouse Hill Rams. It was never going to be an easy match, but the boys approached the game with enthusiasm.

Bowling first, we got off to a great start having the Ram 2-12 after 10 overs. This was due to some very accurate bowling, keen fielding and possibly also the thickest fog I’ve ever seen at a game of cricket for the first hour! Tom Lockhart opened the bowling and created some real problems for the opposition batsman and took the first two wickets (both bowled). With Ruben Roberston at the other end we kept the pressure on at the start. Tom (10 overs, 2-31) and Ruben (9 overs, 2-20) performed admirably as an opening bowling combination.

Today I think the spinners played a big part in keeping the score to a chaseable total – Amit Balakrishnan (10 overs, 2-15) and Todd Ripps (10 overs, 1-32) both performed very well. Harry Druery chipped in with his deceptive medium pacers to also claim 1-9. The catching and ground fielding was very good today – special mention of a great diving catch at mid-on by Geoff McIntyre to help dismiss the Ram’s best batsman and a very sharp stumping by Jack Marton.

Still, this was the best side in the competition and they managed to pick up the scoring through the day to end up with 9-166 at stumps. Overall, a great effort with the ball.

Baulko’s innings started almost exactly like the Ram’s innings on day one. After 10 overs, we had slumped to 3-7 as we found the bowling very hard to score against and some real gems being bowled to take wickets. Taylor Stewart and Tom Lockhart

steadied the innings and both put on 10 runs each before losing their wickets to some good bowling and, in Tom's case, a great gully catch.

With nothing to lose, Geoff McIntyre launched a good middle order counter-attack with a variety of shots around the ground. Geoff ended up with a well compiled 32 N.O. The last wicket partnership added 22 runs, much to the delight of the other Baulko players and assembled parents and supporters. Gaj Sivapalan produced his top score for the season with 9, and hit his first four of the season to cheers from gathered fans. A lovely cameo innings which showed just how well Gaj can play – something else to look forward to next season!

Unfortunately, Baulko was bowled out for 91. The boys played the game in tremendous spirit, wished their opponents the best of luck in the final and started the post-game partying.....

They gave their all, but came up short today against a tough opposition. Hopefully the boys will all be back next season to try again.

<b>13/1 Maroon</b>	<b>10 for 122</b>	<b>Kings Langley</b>	<b>3 for 324</b>	<b>First innings loss</b>
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This was always going to be a tough game. Kings Langley is an excellent team – the frontrunners all season. They batted beautifully and though our boys tried hard, Kings Langley took full control – it was a hard, long day in the field. Kings Langley dispatched anything that wasn't of a good line or length and we were under pressure the whole morning. On the second morning we had one major goal – to bat through the day. We achieved that goal and acquitted ourselves very well! We didn't get close to their score but they didn't walk all over us either. We held them out and made them work for the result. Each of the boys dug in and worked hard to stay in, score a few runs and enjoy the last game of the season. The Kings Langley coach complimented our team on a great game and congratulated them on being the most improved team across the year!

Overall, this has been good year for the boys. After our grand final loss last season in second division, this year we were elevated to first division. We had some excellent results, including defeating our Grand Final nemesis twice (the second time in a very convincing manner!). Each boy has improved in the different areas of their game and some very good individual efforts from each boy have been achieved. They are a great bunch of boys who have a lot of potential and if they focus on their game next season can go even further.

Our thanks go to Tony Senior for his commitment, fun and wisdom in coaching the boys throughout the season. Also, thank you to the parents who have been able to help out with the various jobs that have needed to be done – scoring, umpiring, canteen... Thanks for a great season!

<b>13/1 Gold</b>	<b>9 for 236</b>	<b>Wenty Waratahs</b>	<b>10 for 105</b>	<b>First innings win</b>
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Blake won the toss and elected for us to bat. Openers Jonathan and James were under the instructions to look for runs and run aggressively. This they did and we got off to one of our best starts of the season before Jonathan was run out for 8 in the 8th over with the score at 20. This brought in Mitchell and produced the partnership of the season to date. Mitchell (35) and James put on 94 runs in 27 overs to lay a platform for the middle order to come in and score quick runs. Blake (27 with four 4s) with James put on quick fire 60 runs in just 10 overs to take our score to 179 in the 45th over. At this stage James was on 84 and looking as solid as a rock.

Taseen (0), Jack Farrel (12 with two 4s) and Brent (15 with one 4s) were given instructions score quickly as James held up one end and steadily moved towards his maiden century, which finally came in the 53rd over of the day to the delight of everyone at the ground. It was a magnificent effort to bat through the day and be 102 not out at stumps.

We still had three over to bat on Sunday morning and James was finally run out for 104 looking to push the score along. Jack Michie (0) and Anoop (2) came and went quickly, and Joel and George Joseph, who substituted for Jack Delaney, were 4 and 2 not out respectively as we reached 236 at the end of our overs.

Wenty started their innings knowing that they had to score more than four runs per over to win. Brent (1/11 off 8) and Taseen (1/5 off 5) got us off to a perfect start and both Wenty openers were out by the sixth over. Anoop (1/11 off 5) chipped in with another wicket and Wenty was 3 for 16 in the 11th over. A partnership of 81 runs followed and although the required run rate was climbing Wenty was still in the game. We finally made the breakthrough when Anoop cleverly ran out Wenty's number 3 batsman for 61 in the 35th over. A frenetic ten overs ensued in which Wenty lost five wickets for eight runs, the spinners doing the damage; Mitchell 2/4 off 3, Jack Michie 2/10 off 4 (both stumped by George) and Joel 1/19 off 6. Jonathan picked up the last wicket to finish with 1/8 off 3 and Jack Farrel bowled two tidy over for one run. Apart from not accepting some half chances it was a good performance in the field and we bowled only 3 wides and not a single no-ball. Big thanks to George, who did a great job behind the stumps.

An excellent semi-final win, with James's century the highlight in a good all round team performance.

<b>14/1</b>	<b>10 for 47</b>	<b>Greystanes</b>	<b>7 for 164</b>	<b>First innings loss</b>
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This game was always going to be difficult.

Playing against Greystanes (minor premiers) always is.

Our team lost the toss and were sent in to bat. Last time this happened was the last round before this match and things did not go well that day.....

The field was heavy and very damp with dew which made scoring difficult.

Their bowling attack was lucky early when a nick by Sanji was caught behind in the second over.

Sam H and Tevin steadied things for a while, though the runs were not flowing easily. Tevin was trying hard to force up the run rate when caught at first slip. A mini-collapse followed. The tail did wag towards the end of the morning, though not long or hard enough. All Out 47. An extremely hard total to defend against such a quality batting side such as Greystanes who were a little bit gung-ho at their approach and at one stage did look shaky but by this time they had passed our total and would eventually declare their innings the following day at 7 for 164.

S. Hubbard 12

A. Rizvi 10 overs 4 maidens 3 for 23

S. Fernando 2 overs 1 for 12

J. Dwyer 4 overs 1 for 19

K. Singh 9 overs 1 for 27

It has been a good season over all, with mixed fortunes throughout. One remembered for how many training sessions we missed out on, games we half finished and games which were abandoned due to wet weather. And one that will be remembered for some great talent which this years Under 14/1's displayed throughout the season at training and out on the field.

Hope to see you all again next season.

Brett.

<b>15/2</b>	<b>10 for 101</b>	<b>AKA Crusaders</b>	<b>10 for 162</b>	<b>First innings loss</b>
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The semi final started well for us with our opening bowlers Matt D and Hamish hitting a good line and length. A few dropped catches cost us but it was overall a good bowling performance. Vrushank bowled his off spinners very well to get the fabulous results of 4/14, and Jack and Shivang really put in for 2 good wickets as did Matt and Eric with 1 wicket each. Taseen did not get any reward for fantastic bowling and continually beat the bat in a solid performance with the ball. Daniel kept extremely well with a good catch and stumping, and was very athletic behind the stumps. Matt D took the catch of the year in slips that Ricky Ponting would have been jealous of. When it came to our turn to bat the openers Matt N and Hamish batted very diligently for an hour and a quarter and absorbed all the pressure they could throw at them. We were well positioned to get the total but unfortunately our big hitting tactic in the middle order did not come off and the next 5 batsman went cheaply. Then Jack and Daniel came to the crease and put on a magnificent 43 run partnership to put us in a position to pull off what would have been a sensational victory. Then just when the opposition were starting to wilt we lost 2 quick wickets and the season was over. However, I am extremely proud of how the boys battled out the semi and the season in total. In the end we went down to a team that should be in 1st division and we improved immensely as the season progressed. Thanks boys for your efforts and I look forward to coaching you next year and hopefully going 1 match further.

<b>15/1</b>	<b>6 for 282</b>	<b>Kellyville</b>	<b>10 for 157</b>	<b>First innings win</b>
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No report submitted.

<b>16/1</b>	<b>10 for 169</b>	<b>Hills Barbarians</b>	<b>10 for 224</b>	<b>First innings loss</b>
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After a good win last week, the boys were up against Hills Barbarians in the semi-final.

Hills won the toss and elected to bat. It didn't take long to put pressure on Hills with Kieran claiming the first opener in the 4th over with the score on 5. Hills then settled into a good partnership and it wasn't until the 19th over that Teshan claimed the vital wicket of the other Hills opener with the score at 2 for 74. Two overs later Teshan did the job and clean bowled the Hills danger man to put us back in the game, but Hills fought back hard putting on an 83 run partnership when Trent took a good catch in the deep off Samira to remove the other danger man. The boys toiled away hard and were rewarded for their efforts when Mick bowled the Hills opponent just as they were starting to take control again. Mick broke through again 10 runs later with Scott taking a great leg side catch behind the stumps. With the score on 6 for 183 the captains made a great choice and brought some spin into the attack through Adam and it worked a treat, with Adam claiming 2 wickets in his first over to have Hills 8 for 195. Six overs later, Adam claimed his third victim with Trent taking a simple catch at square leg. Trent was then able to clean up the last wicket in the first over of the second day to have Hills 10 for 224.

Whilst the score looked impressive, the field was very quick and the boys were able to get value for their shots. Scott and Sean started off the innings in a very steady manner putting on 35 runs for the first wicket, when Sean was trapped in front for 19. Trent came to the crease and he was unfortunate to grab an edge to be caught at first slip for 1 with the score on 2 for 36.

Scott and Ben then put together a great partnership of 66 runs with both boys playing some great shots and putting the pressure right back onto the opposition. Ben started to get frustrated and played a hard shot which caught the edge and was taken spectacularly in first slip for 45. Still in the game, Kieran came to the crease nursing a hamstring only to be out bowled for a duck. Scott was still palying some great cricket until he was caught down the leg side after getting the finest of edges for a hard fought 37.

Now the boys needed to dig deep wit the score on 5 for 105, Mick and Adam started to build a partnership before Mick was caught in second slip chasing a fuller ball outside off stump. Adam and Teshan then did a great job working the ball around the park to get us back in the match. After a 29 run partnership, Teshan was run out by a direct hit from the boundary looking for a third run. Unlucky mate, but well batted for 17. Adam was next to fall caught trying to work the ball behind point for 17 well earned runs. Hiran was caught in cover trying to keep the run rate going.

However, the boys still showed great fighting spirit with Samira and Cameron putting on another 14 runs before Cameron was caught in cover for 8.

That saw the end of a good match and a determined effort by our boys to go 53 overs to fall 55 runs short.

Thanks to all the players, parents and supporter during the year, it has been again a pleasure. A big thanks to Nathan for his support and never-say-die attitude with the boys and of course a hugs thanks to Margaret Daines for doing the scoring.

Statistics: Ben 45, Scott 37, Sean 19, Adam 17, Teshan 17, Mick 11, Samira 11 not out and Cameron 8. With the ball, Adam 6-2-3-10, Teshan 5-1-2-18, Mick 9-3-2-37, Samira 12-1-1-35, Kieran 7-1-1-28, Trent 11-0-1-48 and Ben 5-0-0-34.

<b>B12</b>	10 for 181	Western Tigers	10 for 52, 10 for 112	Outright win
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No report submitted.

<b>B11</b>	9 for 207	Guildford Leagues	10 for 135	First innings win
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### Version 1 (the short one)

Day 1 - Guildford Leagues won the toss and elected to field. A continual stream of steady and valuable partnerships saw us become the first team in the comp to bat out the full 70 overs and amass 207 runs which given the playing conditions was a fantastic effort. Contributions with the bat were made by all 11 batsmen - some contributed with runs, others with time spent at the crease. The most satisfying aspect of our batting was that we didn't lose 2 wickets in succession at any stage of the innings. Determination and focus by the top and middle order set up the perfect platform for a flurry of runs late in the innings. Charuka delivered when it mattered most and top scored with 46. Prasad, Chani, Rajitha and Dilshan made valuable contributions of 20 + runs each.

Day 2 - Inspiring spells with the new ball by Chani and Sacha kept the opposition under constant pressure. Early breakthroughs by Chani supported by some spirited fielding and catching kept us just ahead of the eight ball at the first drinks break (2/39 from 15 overs). The second session started well with Dilshan making his brief presence felt on the field by holding onto a difficult chance at first slip and then promptly retiring back to the sheds for a breather. The opposition got on a bit of a roll after that reaching 3/84 from 30 overs at the main break. Thanks to some useful advice from the umpire, Chani and Sacha were brought back into the attack paying almost immediate dividends. Sacha began hitting the top of off stump with increasing frequency and Chani outsmarted the batsman with superb variation. We went into the 3rd break at 6/115 from 45 overs. It didn't take us long to wrap it up from there with Chani and myself knocking off the tail in quick succession (need to mention..... Ricky finally held a catch at mid on). All in all, a real team performance with everyone playing their part with bat, ball and in the field. Sam and Aneesh deserve a special mention for their commitment - their availability as substitutes on a particularly hot afternoon had a huge impact on our performance on the field.

We will be playing our good mates at Xenium Crusaders in the finals on 29/30 Mar.

### Version 2

Sat rolled around and all of us somehow managed to find the ground that was halfway to Canberra. We got there in time to watch the opponents wrapping up a practice session. Some of the younger guys on our side had never seen a practice session and were quite curious as to what happened in these sessions. They were not sure whether to clap or laugh...

The more senior guys were happy to see the opponents wear themselves out before the game. Rajitha (one of the most senior guys) quickly laid out his chair and went to sleep.

The toss was tossed and as usual we lost. We were asked to bat. Ricky padded up. Nirav asked him to take his pads off. This has now become a standard routine. Nirav offered a few throw downs to one of the openers who had no idea what that meant and politely declined. He said he didn't like to eat too much before batting. Nirav acknowledged.

When it was time to head out to the middle, the openers headed out. It was such a long walk to the middle that the more senior opener immediately called for a drink as soon as he reached the pitch. The ground was huge and the grass was tall enough to hide a small elephant. It was clear that runs were not going to come easily, but this didn't worry the opener because runs never came easily to him.

The innings got off to a flyer with the first ball being smashed for a quick single. Truth is the ball landed in front of the fielder but due to the thick grass, the fielder had a bit of trouble finding the ball so the batsmen were able to scamper a single. Not much happened after that for about 8 overs or so other than many swings and misses while the batsmen tried hard to get themselves out. Then finally one of the openers managed to get bat on ball and that was the end of that – the ball went straight into the hands of the fielder.

Although the scorebook had only registered about 11 in about 8 overs, according to the D-L (Dias- Las) formula that takes into account the new ball, the quality of the bowlers, the freshness of the fielders, the height of the grass, the age of the batsman and distance to the boundaries, Ndias had in fact contributed the equivalent of 180 runs while Las had contributed about 30. Another good performance by the openers worthy of the man of the match award.

So with not much on the board, we had lost our first wicket and it looked like it was time to start packing the kit. Prasad made his way to the middle asking for directions from the returning opener on his way out as he had left his GPS in the car. Prasad and Lasith then guided BHCC to a point that was far from safe. Lasith swung wildly at anything that was on the pitch and Prasad started going over the top. The lads in the pavilion were struggling to watch and were too busy telling each other bad jokes.

Lasith eventually found a way to get out and made the long lonely walk back, sending Chani to the crease. Las had amassed about 70 runs according to the DL formula.

Getting Chani to the ground was a story in itself. He claims to have been really busy all week studying for some big exam and even threatened to pull out. When it was made clear to him that his team came before his country and family, he agreed to find a way to show up but pointed out that he was going to have to drive half-way around the country to get there. It was made clear to him that we didn't care.

He showed up in time and quickly padded up. We did warn him it was incredibly hot out in the middle. He said not to worry because he wasn't planning on being out there too long. But then Chani and Prasad decided the walk back was too long to make so they stayed out there for a while – ordered drinks between balls. Prasad ordered a Scotch on the Rocks but was knocked back by Ricky the bar tender who said his credit was no good.

They built a pretty good partnership until eventually Prasad decided to test the catching capabilities of the opponents and gifted his wicket. Unfortunately for us they accepted the gift graciously and directed him to the pavilion.

Prasad refused to go anywhere until the third umpire was asked to review the catch. Sach quickly reviewed his camera footage and found nothing but pictures of nude models in his memory. All the guys gathered around the camera and there oohs and ahhs emanating from the stands. They then pointed Prasad to the dressing room. Prasad notified the umpire that the dressing room was locked and preferred to stay out in the middle. The umpire said he didn't care. Sach did manage to capture Prasad on camera as he crossed the rope on the way back.

This wicket set the cat amongst the pigeons because it is usually around this time that our side starts heading for the parking lot. Captain NG told everyone to relax as he always does and he put on his cape and charged out to the middle with bat held high.

Sam had shown up as he always does to support the boys and because there were two ICC umpires out in the middle he was putting his favourite pencil to the task with the score book. Dilshan was getting lessons from Sam on how to score and he was seen using all ten fingers and even a few toes to count.

Prasad came back and asked for the rule book to see if he could identify any loopholes and claim victory immediately. He found a formula to calculate who wins based on the number of overs bowled a day. Problem was the formula required adding a couple of numbers together and this required Prasad to sit down and ask for a calculator.

While Prasad was scratching his head, the rest of the boys were becoming a bit fidgety. Charuka got ready. Every man and his dog started telling Charuka what to do. In the one ear he was told to go have fun, while at the same time being told in the other ear to not do anything silly.

He decided he needed to take a leak, but because the changing rooms were locked he went and relieved himself on the closest fence that separated the park from the neighbour's house. Not long after that, the owner of that house came out with her dog

and walked the dog straight up to our kit and asked the dog to take a leak. Fortunately the dog was a cricket lover and refused and instead chose to relieve itself into one of the guys' bags. We all agreed that this was a fair considering the damage Charuka had done to the neighbour's fence.

During a drink break, captain NG was ordered to not go for any big shots to which he simply responded by giving the finger. Chani and Nirav went back and paved the way. Then Chani did some fancy footwork but not much else and was given out plumb in front. He had no hesitation in walking back although from the pavilion, which was about half a mile away from the centre and at a 45-degree angle to the pitch, the ball looked like it was clearly going down leg. There was a bit of cursing by a few of the guys.

The praying had started at this point because we were still below the 100 run mark and normally when we get to this stage, the innings comes to a rapid fire close.

Ricky was on his hands and knees, but we all knew he was praying for another wicket so that he could get to bat. Aiyesh was getting ready by rolling up his sleeves, but then Rajitha finally woke up and decided to pad up. Ricky was not happy with that development. He asked the guys to be quiet so that Rajitha would go back to sleep.

Then Charuka and Nirav got going and were on fire. They were finding the boundary with ease and running between the wickets like there was no tomorrow. Nirav once again decided we had enough runs and found a way to make his way back. Things were, however, still very precarious. We felt that if we could get to 170 we would have a fighting chance. We were still some 40-50 runs short of that.

Rajitha strolled out. Sam quickly put one run against his name and was about to give him run out before he had even reached the crease, but then he did the unexpected. As soon as he hit the ball he started running, and then the whole team started shouting for him to crease his bat. So he creased his bat from half way down the pitch and got in safely, albeit barely.

He then proceeded to score runs in an unprecedented performance. Sam was baffled by this and was very irritated. He was expecting to put three runs against Charuka's name and 1 run out against Rajitha. Instead he was made to work. These guys blew away their averages with this one innings.

Charuka top scored with a brisk 46 while Rajitha got his top score for the past 10 years – previous high score being 16. Ndiya pointed out that Charuka's performance needed to be attributed to Ndiya's coaching in the nets the previous night... He took the credit for Charuka's 46 runs, taking his own score to 49!

Eventually both Rajitha and Charuka handed their bats over to the rest in waiting and they didn't disappoint either. Sam was a bit disappointed with the amount of work he was made to do, but even he was seen smiling with the total. Aiyesh, Sacha, Dilshan and Baner put on some great partnerships.

At one point Ndiya was asked to send out a message to the batsmen asking them to get a few more runs. He went out and told one of them that their car was being stolen. That got him running.

In the end, Dilshan contributed 28 runs in no time while Baner hit a quick fire 9. We ended up with 207 for 9 after 70 overs. No other team has batted 70 overs this season.

The boys were pumped on Sunday to rip into the opponents. Prasad and Rajitha were busy losing another match across town and were replaced by Tricky Sam – that is Ricky and Sam.

The morning started with Dilshan sending a frantic sms to everyone saying his small toe on his left foot was in pain and he was not sure if he would be able to contribute much to the side. He was told to use one of his other toes.

Chani then bowled two balls and started holding his leg. He spent the rest of the day limping around but still managed to bag 4 wickets. Sacha took the new ball and was on heat. Between Sacha, Nirav and Chani, the batsmen struggled.

They managed to score their required 3 runs an over. At drinks they were on track with 3 for 84. So Ricky was thrown the ball to give the batsman some relief... His two overs cost as much as Nirav's 17 overs. The opponents paid for Ricky's beer after the game.

Then Dilshan was brought onto the field to intimidate the batsman by standing in first slip. The very next ball flew off the bat and went straight to Dilshan who tried to get out of the way, but his toe refused to cooperate. In the end he had to protect himself and the ball got lodged between his palms. He claimed the catch – that is he claimed that he meant to catch it... We all knew better...

Nirav took a similar catch. He was so shocked that he caught it that he ran around the pitch screaming with his hands in the air... The guys had to chase him and tackle him to get him to stop. We were not sure if he was in pain or if it was the pleasure of seeing the ball in his hands. Ricky gave him a big kiss and all was well...

The opening batsman proved to be a serious thorn in the side and kept going. He finally launched into one ball that was going for six about three feet off the ground. It was travelling like a bullet until the mid-on fielder pulled off some incredible field and knocked it to the ground, saving his team 5 runs.

The batsman then hit another beautiful cut shot that went straight into Las' hands... Las quickly ran away to avoid being kissed by Ricky. Ndias pointed out that had the previous big hit not been stopped, Las would not have had the opportunity to take that beautiful catch... everyone agreed that Ndias deserved all the credit for Las' catch. He told Sam to put that catch down under his name.

Then towards the end, another partnership started brewing. Chani tried to bowl one of his faster balls, but due to him only having one leg to stand on, it was one of the slowest balls he's bowled all season. The batsman hit it straight up in the air. Ricky shouted at the top of the voice that the catch was his. Everyone else shouted a big "NO" but it was too late. The only other person close to it was Baner, but he fled the scene, deciding it was better to console Ricky than have everyone console him.

All the guys immediately started walking towards Ricky preparing their words of consolation even before the ball had finished going all the way up. Then it started coming down and Ricky locked his eyes firmly on it. Ricky has had a lot of practice looking straight up into the sky – something he's mastered during his bowling.

The ball came straight down and landed on his thumb. He didn't flinch. Somehow it managed to stay balanced on his thumb long enough for him to claim it. All the guys who had their boots ready to rip into Ricky rear end immediately patted him on the back instead. Nirav gave him a big kiss. That catch more or less sealed the match.

Of course, Nirav still had to take a few more amazing wickets with some dodgy balls that went to the left and the right and then the left again, but that catch was a definite turning point.

Nirav bowled one ball that was going to the slips as a clear wide so the batsman let it go, but then it turned around, came back and took the off stump out of the ground. The batsman stood there baffled as did the umpire and all the fielders... Nirav, however, was doing laps around the pitch with his hands in the air and had to be tackled one more time...

It was a great win with everybody (except for our opening batsman) contributing to the win. The opening batsman said he wanted to know what it was like to be carried by the side, hence his decision to not contribute.

All in all, it was a great performance and a great ride to the finals... Just one more such performance now and ... everyone will be spared this drive...

<b>B10</b>	10 for 207	Wenty Leagues	10 for 134	First innings win
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No report submitted.

<b>B4</b>	10 for 257	The Bulls	10 for 82	First innings win
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No report submitted.

<b>A</b>	8 for 236	Wenty Leagues	10 for 88	First innings win
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We won the toss and elected to bowl on a pitch that seemed to offer something for the quicks early on. Warm temperatures and nerves were the order of the day. To restrict the top team to 88 on a relatively good batting wicket was a tremendous effort by the team. Discipline and the hunger for finals cricket was showing with all members lifting their game to not only bowl Wenty out in 2.5 hours but to restrict and crush them to only 88 runs. The main destroyers with the ball were:

Sumit Kalia - 4/5 off 6

Keenan Galas - 2/8 off 6

Adam Tinley - 2/26 off 9

Also, well supported with Trent Hession, Robert Simpson chipping in with a wicket each.

With 2 hours of batting left and 88 runs to chase, we wanted a solid start and we knew that we were essentially 1 good partnership away from a grand-finals berth and that's exactly what our openers provided us. Both Chris Springall and Gaurang Merani gave us a platform which saw Baulkham Hills establishing a 44 run lead at the end of play day 1.

With Wenty calling the game off at the end of day 1, there was a surreal feeling after such a dominant performance and for it to be all over with a whole day remaining but that was to be short-lived as the PDCA stepped in to 'flex the muscles' and force all 22 players and 2 umpires to turn up the next day.

We knew that an hour of 'safe' batting would be enough to force Wenty to concede for the 2nd time and with cold beers waiting on the other side of the fence, that was almost the case. We did loose some early wickets but a consistent, gritty middle-order, dragged out the inevitable for a well deserved Baulkham Hills semi-final victory. Batting performances:

Gaurang Merani - 49

Sumit Kalia - 29

Chris Springall - 28

Adam Tinley - 26\*

Thanks to Steve Sarlog for filling in and contributing to a special victory. The next battle is against Greystaynes in the final @ McCreddie. They are undefeated, although they were struggling in our rain-affected match earlier this year. At this point we have no demons, no fear and I am confident that we can bring the silverware back to the club!