

Lawyers Cricket World Cup

By Lachlan Gyles

The 5th Lawyers Cricket World Cup, kindly sponsored by LexisNexis, was held in Brisbane over Christmas-New Year 2016. Previous tournaments had been held in Hyderabad, London, Barbados and Delhi.

There were twelve teams entered in the tournament, playing in two pools; A and B teams from each of Australia, India and Sri Lanka; single teams from Pakistan, Bangladesh, the England & Wales Bar and the English Solicitors; and two Commonwealth teams made up of players from a variety of countries including the West Indies and New Zealand. The Hon Ian Callinan AO QC was the tournament patron.

The majority of the teams stayed at Kings College at the University of Queensland, and a number of social functions were held there over the ten days or so of the tournament. There was also a sports law conference hosted by the university.

A number of supporters accompanied the teams, including judges from India and Sri Lanka, and from Pakistan including from the Lahore Court of Appeal and the Pakistan Supreme Court, the highest appellate court in Pakistan.

Each team played five pool matches, with the top two teams in each pool advancing to the semi-finals. The games were 35 overs per side, played on excellent grounds with 1st grade umpires.

Sam Sykes (9 Selborne) opened the bowling for the Australia A team, and Lachlan Gyles (10th Floor Chambers) captained Australia B. The other Australian players were primarily solicitors based in Brisbane, Melbourne, Sydney and country NSW, but also included barristers from South Australia, as well as other Australian lawyers practising in the UK.



Sam Sykes and Lachlan Gyles

Australia A finished 2nd in its pool, behind Pakistan, but was narrowly beaten by India A in a close semi-final. Australia B finished a credible 6th, beating Bangladesh and a Commonwealth team and going very close to beating the fancied Sri Lanka A team.

The final was a day/night match between India A and Pakistan. India had won two of the previous tournaments, but were beaten by Pakistan in the final in Delhi in 2013, so had plenty to play for. In the end however Pakistan overhauled the Indian score in the last over of the match, followed by a fireworks display at the ground which delighted the hundreds of spectators in attendance. Congratulations to Pakistan on retaining the trophy.

The tournament was a great success by any measure, with all of the visiting teams praising the organisers and commenting on the warmth and hospitality of their Australian hosts.

The motto of the tournament is 'Cricket for Friendship', and it certainly provided a wonderful opportunity to renew friendships and to compare notes about legal practice in the many diverse legal systems represented – and also to dissect and debate the ups and downs of that particular day's play over a drink, as would be expected when any teams of cricketing lawyers get together. The next tournament will be played in Sri Lanka in late 2017.