

FOCC rolls on with "ABK CRYcket 2016"

Friends of CRY Club, Kuwait (FOCC), conducted the 19th "ABK CRYcket 2016" tournament at the Al-Sahel Sports Club on the 8th of April. Coupled with the grass ground, the event had all the ingredients to make it a memorable day – full of fun, enthusiasm and stiff competition. "CRYcket" is an annual softball cricket tournament, for children under 12 & 14, played in 7-over match format, and completed in a single day. The teams are formed by bringing together children irrespective of which school, nationality or locality they belong to.

The Under-14 trophy was bagged by "CCC Seniors" and "Pace XI Seniors" took the runners-up place. In the Under-12 Category, "CCC Juniors" clinched the winner's trophy and the "DPS Siachin Warriors" came in second place.

Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) were the event sponsor and hence the tournament was named as "ABK CRYcket". DNV–GL continued their support for FOCC as our Gold sponsor and Hussein & Qaisar Int. Co. as Bronze sponsors. Our co-sponsors were Al-Soor Clinic and German Press Company, while other sponsors included Al-Maillem Tires, BEC Online, Career Hunters, Dar Al-Saha Poly Clinic, Morad Behbehani Co, Payal Jewelers and Well Wishers. The raffle draw prizes were provided by Pizza Inn. We are grateful to HE the Ambassador of India, Shri Sunil Jain who has been supporting us over the years, through his encouraging messages. Our thanks to Arab Times, Kuwait Times, Times Kuwait, Q8india.com, Indians in Kuwait.com, Goa-world.com, Mangalorean.com, Canaraworld.com, Abroadindians.com, daijiworld.com and Goanet.org for covering us in the media. Kuwait Cricket, the apex body of controlling cricket in Kuwait as usual came forward with their support by providing us with professional umpires and scorers and Al-Sahel Spots Club for providing us the venue for the tournament. Most importantly, we highly appreciate the parents, coaches and team officials, our un-sung background heroes. Lastly we thank CRY India for being our invisible strength, year after year.

The CRYbuddies, Kynara Fernandes, Nandita Venkataraman, Sukaina Ghasia, Nafisa Basrai, Miransh Sharma and Balakannan M. were in full steam to keep the KID'S CORNER, running and entertaining the children between their matches. Toys, books and other interesting items donated by good Samaritans were available in "Buy for Cry" stall at amazing bargain prices. The Raffle draw, another integral feature had 9 fabulous prizes to be won.

Mr. Balwant Bains and Mr. Shankar Dahima from Ahli Bank of Kuwait, Mr. Mohammed Osama Owais from DNV-GL and Mr. Hassan Merchant from Hussein & Qaisar Int. graced the occasion as our Chief Guests and presented the trophies, medals and certificates from CRY India to the winning teams and participating children. The FOCC's Souvenir was also released which included a message from Ms. Susan Varghese, Head of CRY Global Operations which was highly motivating and gave a brief on the FOCC supported project "Manav Ashrita Sansthan (MAS)" in India.

The participating teams in the Under-12 Category were 664 Hitter's, Cricket Coaching Club (CCC) Juniors, DPS Siachin Warriors, Pace-XI Juniors and Young Stars Cricket Academy. In the Pool A, after the league matches, all the three teams remained tied with a win each, but CCC Juniors and DPS Siachin Warriors secured their place in the semifinals on the basis of net run rate. From Pool B, Young Star Cricket and 664 Hitters entered the semifinals. After the finals, "CCC Juniors" clinched the winner's trophy and the "DPS Siachin Warriors" came in second place.

Teams in the Under-14 Category were All Children Cricket Academy, Cricket Coaching Club (CCC) Seniors, DPS Indus Frontiers, Jabriya Giants, MACE Tigers, MG Kids Cricket Coaching and PACE-XI Seniors. After starting the matches early in the morning, from Pool A "Pace XI Seniors" and "ACC Academy" made it to the semifinals, whereas from Pool B the "Cricket Coaching Club (CCC) Seniors" and "DPS Indus Frontiers" qualified. The semifinal between CCC Seniors and "Pace XI Seniors" remained tied requiring a super over for finding the finalist. In the final the "CCC Seniors" were victorious and "Pace XI Seniors" took the runners-up place.

The best player awards went to Meet Bhavsar (CCC Juniors) in the U12 category and Ajith Suresh (CCC Seniors) in the U-14 category. The special Trophy for the youngest player was awarded to Shourya P. Sharma of Young Star Cricket Academy.

FOCC is proud to be partners with CRY – in our joint mission to help the underprivileged children. Those interested in joining hands with FOCC may please visit www.focckwt.org, or contact any of the volunteers. With CRY, everybody wins.