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Dear Comrades,

TEAM III CLINCHES CRICKET CROWN

The hot favourite for the coveted title, **Zone III** won Cricket crown in the 24th edition of our annual sports meet held at our SBIOA school ground on 9th November 2014. In an one sided match, the champions won with ease and without much sweat by a comfortable margin of 9 wickets?

The much-awaited Cricket matches in our 24th edition of SBIOA Sports meet was inaugurated by Com. A. Krishnan, President of our Association and Chairman Sports wing. It was attended in very large numbers by our comrades on 09th November 2014. They took part with lot of enthusiasm and sportsman spirit for which we are known.

As decided in the last edition, to add competitiveness and larger participation, it has been decided to reduce the number of over's to twelve with no bowler will bowl more than 3 over's.

The **finals** of this edition turned out to be a one sided affair. Electing to bat after winning the toss against a strong bowling line up of bubbling young comrades from Zone III, **Zone IV** could muster only 82 in their full quota of overs. With lively bowling backed up by excellent fielding, Zone III restricted the opponents, who could not force the pace and keep the momentum. Except for Cedric D Cruz none of the batsman could cross double digit. Cedric played a long hand scoring a patient 57 not out with the help of two fours and six of the hits sailing over the boundary line. For Zone III, Com. Jibin Prasad of LHO and Com. Suresh of CAG Branch, Chennai captured 2 wickets each conceding 10 runs in 3 overs.

Chasing a small target of 83 runs in the 12 overs, Zone III cruised home with 9 wickets to spare. Com. Suresh from CAG Branch, Chennai in pursuit of quick runs perished after scoring a brisk 29. Com. Balaji of CAG Branch and Com. Aravind Rishikesh of RACPC

Egmore, remained unbeaten on 26 and 23 respectively. It was a total team effort by a better side loaded with young officers which made the task so simple for **Zone III**.



(Our President greeting the players seen above)



(Winners of the Cricket final (Zone-III) seen above)



(Runners up of Cricket final Zone-IV seen above)

Earlier in the **first semi final**, Zone III electing to bat scored a mammoth 162 runs for the loss of 7 wickets in 12 overs. Com. Balaji from CAG Branch scored a brisk 54 with the help of three sixers and six fours. Com. Muralidharan of RACPC, MRC Nagar also scored a brisk 38 runs consisting of three fours and three sixers. None of the bowlers could make any impression or restrict the flow of runs. In reply, **Zone I** shot out for 55 runs in 11 overs. None of the batsman could reach double figures. For the winners, Com. Easwaran of Overseas Br, Chennai took 3 wickets in one over conceding only 6 runs. Com. Balaji of CAG branch ably supported him with 2 wickets conceding just 10 runs.

In the **second semi finals**, **Zone II** played against Zone IV. Electing to take the first strike, Zone II scored 147 runs in the allotted 12 over. Chasing a huge score of 147, Com. Ramesh, scored 51 runs with the help of five sixes and 3 fours. For Zone IV, Com. Amalraj of Kodambakkam branch took three wickets. Zone II started briskly. Stylish left hander Com. Ravi Kumar of Nelson Manickam Road branch blasted the bowlers to all corners of the ground. With the help of 8 sixes and two boundaries, Ravi Kumar scored 58 runs in quick time. The cameo innings came to an end, when Com. Sujith lured him with a slower one and the resultant top edge was well held in the deep. With the advent of Ravi Kumar, the momentum lost and Zone II started losing wickets regularly. In pursuit of the magic number of 147, batsman perished to the consistent attacking fast bowling of Com. Sujith Deepak, of Mugappair East branch, who took a hatrick, eventually ensuring victory for Zone IV. Apart from Com. Ravi Kumar none of the batsmen from Zone II impressed and able to boost the run rate. Eventually, **Zone IV** won the match by 25 runs.

Comrades next week, Sunday the 23rd November 2014, it is going to be Ball Badminton tournament for Men and Women. It's a big opportunity for our comrades

to play this traditional game, which lost its sheen to more fancied shuttle badminton and hardly played in this part of the country.

SBIOA extends a warm welcome to our officers' brethren to participate in large numbers in the ensuing games and make it a grand success.

COME, PARTICPATE, ENCOURAGE & ENJOY

SBIOA ZINDABAD - OUR UNITY ZINDABAD - UNITY THROUGH SPORTS

Yours in SBIOA Service,

**(K. BAVANISHANKAR)
DIRECTOR, SPORTS WING,
SBIOA (CC)**