

The Kelawar “ALL-STARS” Celebrity Match

DATE: SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

VENUE: UKM, BANGI

OCCASSION: An invitational, intra-club match for second team/retired former stars to shine once again in the absence of the youthful first-teamers who were away contesting the Manila Sixes ‘Bowl’!

PLAY: Two teams of 10½ star players each were chosen by the designated teams Captains: Geoff ‘Pollock’ De Zilva for ‘US’ and Craig ‘Chappell’ Bartley for ‘THEM’. The toss was won by ‘Contrived’ and US were batting. A makeshift wicket of junior stumps and a beer can box were installed and play began. Openers Abhi ‘Kapel Dev’ Mishra and Pollock opened the batting with aplomb, hitting fours off Anu ‘Ambrose’ and Kelvin ‘Holding’s first overs. Pollock took one too many fours off Ambrose, however and he came back to have him well caught by Laughlin in the covers for 18. Stuart ‘Border’ Watts came in next with a few swishes, but then was kept to singles by much tighter bowling. Jawad ‘Akram’ and Lashan ‘Khan’ came on to bowl next and, although Akram was hit for six and four by Kapel Dev off his first over, they then continued the stranglehold.

With the score starting to tick over again, Kapel Dev retired on 30 not out, leaving room for the mighty Brad ‘Benaud’ to stride to the crease and cut some fine ones and twos. A change of bowling saw the arrival of maestro’s in Simon ‘Embury’ and Ranjid ‘Younis’ who took the wicket of Benaud for 7, caught by Chappell, with his third ball. In strode stalwart Ian ‘Boycott’ to clip a fine four down to long off. Border reached 33 not out with another stylish four and a six off Embury, then retired bringing in the authoritative Padma ‘Azharuddin’ to rattle some fours around. Meanwhile, Embury was bamboozling Boycott with his variety and was rewarded when Boycott chipped on into the covers going for a quick single. Time for the remarkable Drummond ‘Hammond’ to surmount the crease, gaze into distant open boundaries, and then chip Embury meekly to Laughlin in the gully for a golden duck. Embury was on a hat-trick when the formidable John ‘Gatting’ swaggered in and fended at the tempting ball to spoil the party.

Embury and Younis completed their fine spells of 2 for 22 and 1 for 12 and were replaced by the twin menace of young Arvin ‘RP Singh’ and Gupinder ‘Gavaskar’. Singh struck immediately to have Gatting trudging unhappily back to the pavilion for one after clipping a full one back to the bowler. Young Charlie ‘Waugh’ then came confidently to the crease to strike fear, and singles, into the bowlers, whilst Azha speeded things up with three fours off Gavaskar’s first over. There followed a battle of wits between the two old masters and two young magicians. Gavaskar’s next over went for just two and Singh put in two overs worth just two and three respectively. Back came Azha and Waugh with some lovely stokes for fours and two’s. Azha eventually retired with 30 not out and the super Michael ‘Lillee’ graced the field. Lillee hit a four and a two off Gavaskar then was clean bowled for no more by the lethal Singh. US found themselves down to their last (half) man and the very young, but devilishly talented, Douglas ‘Tendulkar’ calmly toddled onto the pitch. Young Tendulkar carefully fended off the remainder of Singh’s excellent spell of 2 for 15 and it was at this point that Craig ‘Chappell’ decided to bowl. Against the deceitfully tossed up long hops, the younger Tendulkar and Waugh’s dodged and defended valiantly, clipping a few singles, until Chappell had Tendulkar stumped for 0 to end the innings. US had scored a magnificent 156 for 7.



'TENDULKAR' AT THE CREASE FACING 'CHAPPELL'

A short lunch was taken and play resumed with THEM master blaster batsmen Ranjid 'Younis' and Lloyd 'Richards' to face the joint menace of Michael 'Lillee' and Stuart 'Border'. Some good opening bowling kept the lethal batsmen at bay until Border took the wicket of Younis for three, clean bowled. Chappell then took commandingly to the crease and, with Richards, the scoring flourished. Both batsmen smacked a few fours and two's until Border again took a wicket, bowling Richards this time for 19. Border finished with figures of 2 for 27 and Lillee with 0 for 14. Simon Embury came in to face the new bowling pair of Abhi 'Kapel Dev' and Charlie 'Waugh'. Chappell continued his slaughter, particularly of Waugh, and Embury battled bravely until amazingly caught one-handed in the deep by the swaggering John 'Gatting' off Kapel Dev' for one. Jawad 'Akram' came in for a rapid two, one and four until caught sharply at slip by Border off the pacey Waugh. Gupinder 'Gavaskar' came in swarthily, followed in by Arvin 'Singh' following the retirement of Chappell for 31 not out. Gavaskar and Singh moved fluently into gear with repeated singles and Gavaskar was beginning to look really like Gavaskar with a lovely struck four off Kapel Dev until the same bowler had him caught for seven and THEM were suddenly five down for about 70.

Then came the longest and shortest innings of the day. With the retirement and two wickets in quick succession, Kelvin 'Holding' was caught napping in the pavilion and took well over the proscribed 3 minutes to arrive at the crease. On his first ball, Waugh gained a little extra bounce and Holding tamely edged to the wicket keeper for a quick-fire golden duck. Six down now and looking worried, THEM threw on their 'joker' in batsman Anu 'Ambrose' who proceeded to blast Waugh for a six and two fours. Waugh completed his spell a little wounded with commendable figures of 2 for 39 and Kapel Dev a superb 2 for 12. On came bowlers Drummond 'Hammond' and Brad 'Benaud' and, whilst Hammond concentrated on bowling to Singh for ones and twos as he held up one end, Benaud was savaged badly by Ambrose, who also took a 6 off Hammond as THEM, with the aid of wides and no-balls, recovered momentum.

Drummond completed a steady spell of 0 for 18 and Benaud completed two overs of 0 for 27 to allow the promising combination of John 'Gatting' and Geoff 'Pollock' to bowl at the entrenched pair. Alas, the only way of splitting the batsmen was to have Ambrose retire for an excellent, rapid 30 not out, bringing the almost equally talented and effective Lashan 'Khan' to the crease and the momentum was maintained. Not even valiant fielding from the likes of Gatting, Kapil Dev and young Tendulkar stopping boundaries could steady the flow. An increasingly desperate Pollock, after his two overs of 0 for 10 and Hammond's three overs of 0 for 22, turned to the guiles of Padma 'Azharuddin' and Ian 'Boycott' to bowl the remaining overs. Khan retired on a brilliant 25 not out to allow THEM's final (half) batsman Holding to

return to the crease for another go! Having struck two off Boycott's first ball, Holding chipped a rising ball back up the pitch where Boycott valiantly threw himself forward only to just reach it with his fingertips, and Holding survived, again! A few more singles from Singh saw him finish with a marvellous 19 not out and Azha with 0 for 5, as THEM completed victory with a four and two by Holding (10 not out) off Boycott's final over (0 for 15).

Boycott and Hammond gladly tucked into a few beers, but the remaining players supped only soft drinks, giving the impression that Kelawar's 'old' stars are turning into more of a cricket team than a drinking team. Well played all, and I'll drink to a rematch.

My Man-Of-The-Match: Anu 'Ambrose' with 1 for 23 and 30 not out (2 sixes)

Ian 'Boycott' Boler