

Mad Dogs and Englishmen (mostly) toil in the midday sun

Kelawar 209 - 1 (25 overs): Riddell 53 r.n.o. Morgan 57 r.n.o. Bartley 50 r.n.o. Murray Watson 29 n.o.

British Club Singapore 115-7 (25 overs): Rajiv 29, Trevor Larby 26, Henry 3-20.

As Mark Twain had it ' Fortune knocks at every man's door once in a life, but in a good many cases the man is in a neighbouring saloon and does not hear her.' Well, Fortune knocked at the door of the host team on Sunday morning when they were generously invited to bat in absurdly hot conditions which by the afternoon, and their own turn to bowl, had cooled and become rather pleasant. It was tough going for the British Club's bowlers, weakened by the predictable excesses and lag of a weekend tour and impending flights and the wearisome accusations of Monday morning. The dye was cast from the off when Riddell improbably timed a free hit first ball over the long on fence, 6-0, and the heat and the gentle friendliness of the pitch took their toll on Singapore's bowlers. At 82 for no loss, Riddell became the first of the top three batsmen to retire at 50. Neil followed after a considerably more elegant innings, involving actually running between the wickets, that was appreciated by his opponents who named him Kelawar's man of the match. Perhaps slightly hard done by in the allocation of a visitor's shirt was Craig, who hit a very fluent and apparently effortless fifty off only 32 balls, two fewer than your correspondent, who was much more concerned with economy of effort than with cricketing correctness.

Andrew Murray Watson and Geoff De Zylva concluded the Kelawar innings with contributions of more than a run a ball and left Singapore chasing a large total. The pick of Singapore's bowlers was Noel, who took the one wicket to fall in Kelawar's innings.

Singapore started brightly against the new ball pairing of Ben and Anu with Rajiv playing some crisp strokes, hitting over and through the infield, on his way to 29. He was assisted in a watchful innings by Andrew Watson, who had also bowled a quota of overs in the

punishing heat. Ben picked up Rajiv, bowling him behind his legs with a swinging delivery.

Kelawar's President and keeper Mike Speed had a wonderful day behind the stumps, athletically stopping wayward missiles down the leg side and protecting Riddell's future chances of fatherhood, (already endangered in a previous incident involving a gripping off cutter and an absurdly narrow 'protector') by intercepting a wide one to first slip. Speed Senior's fine performance was rounded off by a wonderfully swift stumping off Henry to remove Trevor Larby, who had batted effectively for 26, and in the process finishing off Singapore's chances of an improbable chase.

Henry bowled very well, picking up a fortunate wicket (huh? - Ed) when Barry chopped a friendly full toss to Neil in the gully, but also with increasing control and guile (more like it... - Ed), getting the ball by the end of his spell to grip and turn both ways (steady on... - Ed) and ended up with 3-20. George bowled first change with hostility, and some over-exuberance when disappointed by an umpiring decision, picking up Watson's wicket with a good one. Geoff was accurate and swung the ball, extracting life from a very batsman-friendly pitch and Paul took the wicket of Zoher and collected a catch off Henry's bowling.

Singapore finished up 94 behind Kelawar and everyone retired for 'Fush and chups' and lashings of ginger beer to the background of Australia's woes against India in the second Test.