

Kelawar v Kinrara, Navaratnam Shield (20:20 League)
Played at STC, 21st Feb 2009

In a break with tradition, Kelawar's full side arrived well ahead of the opposition. This backfired slightly as the full repertoire of fielding drills (slip catches followed by whacking balls in to the air) was exhausted some 20 mins before the start of play. After a much needed warm down, Kelawar took to the field with a depleted bowling attack but strong batting side. Containment was order of the day.

Despite Druvi's early breakthrough, the overall team effort bemused the opposition batsman and amused Kinrara's supporters. A combination of dropped catches (x7), dive-overs, full tosses and overthrows ensured Kinrara were headed for a strong total.

Eventually, after 10 overs, the rot was stopped, Chris Speed (2-31) grateful to see a catch pouched at deep mid-on, and Kelawar were back in it. The opportunity was seized as step-overs were eradicated, cool heads shown to complete run-outs (Noel) and good lines bowled (Chris Storer 3-22, Rohit 0-20). Druvi returned to keep the end of the innings tight (2-19) with Kinrara closing on a respectable, but very gettable, 127-8.

Confident words from the Skipper were played out to the letter. Early runs from Neil (38 off 27) saw Kinrara confuse themselves with an astonishing array of bowling changes in the opening overs, but with no impact on the rate.

Just as Kinrara's supporters had been silenced, the breakthrough came; Kinrara's entire team so busy berating the umpire that they failed to notice Neil had walked for a thin edge behind. However, by now Stuart was building towards an excellent half century off 37 balls and with support from Scott (16 off 14) Kelawar were home with more than 5 overs to spare, for a 9 wicket win.

A good effort from all the bowlers to keep Kinrara down to 127 and great batting from Stuart (69* off 46) proved that catches are irrelevant, 6s and 4s win matches.