

**Kelawar CC versus Canberra Ceylonese CC – 22nd April, 2008**  
**Random recollections of an indolent cricketer**

**10.25 am**

Still hungover - should have declined to play so soon after Phuket 6s. Maybe a fag will help... No! Where's the skip?

**10.40 am**

"Ah, Mr. de Zylva sir. No need to toss, we usually let the touring side choose."

**10.58am**

Hmm... fielding. Geoff's right, perhaps shouldn't have been so polite bearing in mind we've only got 8 players here and Speedy hasn't arrived yet with the ball. Kampung! as Winny would say.

**11am**

No breeze, overnight rain, cloudless sky, thickening humidity. Going to be a long 35 overs!

**11.05am**

Kelvin from the City end. **"Good first ball Kelters! Like those dot balls!"**  
Oh dear, Four, Wide, Wide. Good high action now. Run-up's still too long. Think I'll go hide at fine leg.

**11.12am (9-0)**

Should have moved faster. Surely I'm too old to for Short Extra. This chap looks like he can hit it. Anu, no half-volleys mate. Shit! Ow! Don't rub it! Rub it! Ouch! Still got one good hand.

**11.20am to 12.10pm**

*Intermittently alert.* Steamy. Could do with a refreshing trip to Christine's. Suzie Wong's less lively than I remember. Wonder where you can buy air conditioning hose.

**12.12pm (40-0)**

Anu's bowling well – that's a maiden!

**12.18pm (45-0)**

Fielding's not bad either. Geoff's throwing himself about again – won't catch me sliding around on my knees. That John Morgan's pretty nimble for an old bloke. Admirable use of the feet.

Shit, a catch! That's high. It's going to hurt. Oh, it's a 'No Ball'. Maybe I should make sure I save four rather than risk not quite getting there for the catch. Shit, it's going to bounce at my feet. *Primitive Brain kicks in with a pirouette presenting arse to the ball. Ball misses and trickles over the boundary for four. Heavy silence descends.* Now that wasn't quite text-book. I'll just stay out on the boundary for a while until that image fades somewhat from memory.

**"DRINKS"** Oh dear! The shame!

**12.40 pm (49-0)**

Ah, Winny on to bowl. This should be interesting, but must get away from Cow Corner! So how? Walk in discretely and mingle with the crowd. **“Webby, Deep Mid-Wicket please!”** Shit!

**12.27pm (49-0)**

**“Well done Winny!”** Bowled ‘im with yer first delivery. This could be the turning point.... I always knew he could bowl. **“Come on my luverrr!”**

**12.29pm (49-1)**

Odd crouching stance this new batsman. Dyed hair it looks like. Can't be up to much. We might be through 'em already. **“Come on Winny, lets 'ave another one!”**. Oooh, that's a big six. Gosh! That's even bigger - into the nets. How do these people hit the ball so far? At least this guy looks like he likes to hit straight. ... Winny's lost it!

*Captain Geoff and Winny toil away with variable economy, depending on how much of the strike goes to Whighty (odd crouching stance, peroxide blonde, professional cricketer). Both end with respectable figures in the context of the general drubbing we receive from a batting line up which shows no noticeable sign of fatigue as we claw our way into their lower middle-order (Geoff 7-57-2; Winny 7-42-2).*

*Messrs. Larsen, Speed, Storer and Goonetilleke (Yohan) round out the attack to not too disastrously expensive effect. Indeed, our own Ceylonese contingent achieve the best strike rates of the day - Anu is the pick of the bowlers; no wickets but 21 runs only from his 7 overs, including a tight couple of overs at the end; Chris Storer 1-5-0; Johan 1-5-0. Kelvin somewhat more expensive at 7-54-0. CCCC end on 253 for 6.*

**1.30pm (0-0)**

That opening bowler looks quick. “Winny, first ball?”

Oh good, medium pace only. Off the mark with a single. That's the way to do it!

“Nice six Winny!” “Good hit for four mate!” “Shot! Keep the boundaries coming”

Jolly good, another single. Rotate the strike. Don't do anything vulgar. Partnership's what matters.

**1.45pm (20-0)**

“Chaps, could someone please fetch my cap!” *Next ball bouncer from Wighty slams into gloves in front of faceguard.* “Thanks chaps, but um, I think maybe I'll keep the helmet for a little while longer” *Wide and fullish delivery, attempted flayage over extra cover, inside edge onto base of middle stump.*

Hot. "Where's my lighter? ...Matt...?" Beer.

At least Tim's going to get the chance for a good long bat. Ooh! ... Ouch! .... Was that three 'Yes's' from Winny or four? You can't send him back after that!

"Hard luck Tim! Did you get to face a ball? OK..., talk to you later."

Can't recall seeing Johan bat this high before, but he seems to be holding his own. Oops!

Come-on now Geoff! Captain's innings!

### **2.20pm (119-3)**

They're both doing rather well. Winny's got to score at least 75 to make-up for stitching Tim up like that. Where is Tim?

*They both continue to do well, Geoff makes 53, with pulls and sweeps that have bowlers tensed ready for LBW appeal, and some exquisite drives; Winny 74, with shots all round - most timed sweetly, some muscled. Morgan cuts savagely for 11 towards the end with his brand new bat (courtesy of A. Winstone enterprises) and adds 35 with Anu, who plays fluidly for an excellent and quick 26 not out. We reach a quite respectable 211 for 9 and come second. CCCC head off to Kuantan after one or two social beers.*