

Kelawar Vs Kinrara CC – Nava Shield, Club Aman 29/12/07

Another sun-bleached Saturday morning greeted the meeting against the only club to beat Kelawar in last year's competition: Kinrara. As the streets of Jalan Damai were literally lined with 'petitioned out' workers, Henry marched out to lose the toss (as though one does it on purpose – Ed) while Kinrara decided to stand in the early morning sun.

With the opening pair that proved successful against the Selangor Warriors two weeks earlier, the skipper marched out for a second time with Webby. Kelawar scored slowly (ie good pacing – Ed) to begin with, letting the extras come to them. Siva bowled neatly off his peculiar delivery stride and Bharadwaj bowled an assortment of dot balls and wides, that were cheered, much to the annoyance of Speed senior and Cranners, who obviously preferred the clap-politely-in-the-Lords-Members-area approach (quite right, too – Ed).

Henry was caught and bowled after scoring twice with the bat by Shameem, who had so far been competing with Bharadwaj to bowl the most extras.

As Webby battled away in his helmet, Arshad came to the crease to begin his match-winning innings. Webby's 'Collingwood' innings came to a close, however, after junior Farzad undid him with a ball that squeezed through to hit Webby's off stump.

This brought Cadman to the crease, Kelawar's variation of 'the junior', who in total probably doubled Farzad's not-so-small somatotype. Cadman held one end while Arshad cracked on. Kinrara decided to bring back the opener, Siva, to get rid of Arshad, a tactic that probably should have worked for the first ball, when he was dropped at long off.

Seeing that he could no longer trust his team mates (or the probability of removing Arshad from his innings that had already escalated out of control), Siva decided to trap Cadman with his pads in front of his stumps, even the little flick towards the leg side not being enough to convince the umpire of Cadman's innocence as he departed for 11.

Arshad was run out in unusual circumstances as he hesitated as to whether he should run or not. His indecision cost him his wicket and he entered the pavilion with a convincing 82 runs to his name, easily Kelawar's best batsman of the day.

Flo Nightingale followed his recent spell of bad luck by scoring in a similar manner to Cadman and finishing on a similar score as well - caught by 'the fans' favorite' Siva off Farzad's bowling.

This left Cranners, who was under strict instructions from the skipper to spank the ball as far as he could while Speed Major was left to tend the non-bowling end as an optimistic three turned into an ambitious two, leaving Cranners unselfishly short of his ground in the final ball.

Kelawar finished their twenty legal overs and nineteen balls with a total of 139, providing Kinrara with a total worth chasing considering their impressive feat in the previous week, chasing 120 with two overs to spare.

Awais Malik and Pavindran were the first to experience the Kelawar bowling attack, that in true England fashion was missing its key element - its bowlers. The combination of Flo Nightingale and Rizvi was expensive in the opening overs, allowing 12 off the first two overs.

Pavindran was removed after Joe junior caught off Rizvi's bowling. Henry entered the attack to deliver the ball to Siva, the dot ball fans' favorite, and Awais Malik, who was moving along swiftly until he was bowled for 27.

This left Shameem at the crease while Siva dominated from the other end. Chris Speed wasted no time, however, when he removed him with a pitch-perfect ball only to thud onto the pads of the struggling batsmen. Naveed also fell to the magic that was consistently leaving the hand of the junior of the Speed family, this time caught by Joe junior for a duck.

Omer scored one more than Naveed as he looped the ball high into the early afternoon sun, allowing for a splendid catch from Kelawar's batting hero, Arshad.

During the array of wickets, Chris managed to rid Siva from the wicket with another pearler to remove his off stump. Siva trudged back to his disappointed fans with 39 (mainly leg side) runs in the score book.

Dhardwaj and Jaya moved the innings on into the latter overs with 23 and 6 respectively; however, they never quite managed to reach the demanding run rate that was required.

Kinrara finished on 125, 15 short of victory. The day belonged to Arshad and Speed minor, showing Kelawar's mixture of experience and youthful talent as noisy Kinrara left disappointed.