

KLCC- Single Wicket 2007 Match report -14/7/2007

*I perish in my prime,
Seldom by death of time,
Die like lovers as they gaze,
Die for those, I live to please*

J Swift

Yes, I saw lot of players in their prime, perishing in the tournament to those who have well passed their prime and to others who are yet to reach their prime. For sure, they were not gazing at their opponent at the end, like lovers, yet it was a pleasure to watch the matador perishing instead of the bull, for those who were oppressed (handicapped in this case).

It was the performance of the junior players, namely Alex, Chris and Arvin that we will remember in years to come. The odds were all against them (in spite of their higher handicap), they emerged victorious on almost every occasion, except in the plate final (under somewhat controversial circumstances as per spectators!).

But knowing Webby, the winner of the plate, I do not agree with the crowd. Webby never does anything ruthlessly (you obviously haven't seen him with his 1000-yard hunting gaze in Le Club de Plage on a Saturday night - Ed) but he is fully capable of running himself out, by calling (YES, NO, YES ... WAIT and OH SHIT), to himself and walking back to the pavilion.

However in his year (2007), Webby performed well and he did it in style. Well done, Webby.

I feel that all junior players deserve our appreciation and support to develop their cricketing/sporting skills in years to come. Well done boys, we are all proud of you.

Talking of individual matches, most of them were keenly contested. The match between Ashfaq and Rick was very close and Rick managed to win owing to his superior batting skills. But Ashfaq as a bowler and as a fielder (any comments, H? None - Ed), did very well throughout the day.

Henry started well with a towering six to mid-off area (dreaming of a trophy) but at the end he was still short of one run, in the crucial game with Matt Larson. As per Henry, the ball struck him first, before he could strike the ball (or was it other way around?). Since Henry will be editing this, we could all hear the truth from his own words (Have I crossed the line captain...?).

(Bare Innocence is no support, when you are tried in Scandal's court)

In my view, Henry sacrificed himself to save the day for the writer (he is a very generous chap indeed – Ed). Had he won the game against Matt (and he could have if he'd tried – Ed), I would have been finished, my role would have been reduced to mere speculation on winners while gazing at the blue sky. Thank you, Henry, for shaping my fate in the draw and reinforcing it in the field, can I count on this for next year as well?

In fairness to Matt, he played very well, especially with bat against Henry and the writer.

The match between Kelvin and Druvi was also interesting to watch. Druvi batted with a lot of flair and, unfortunately for Kelvin, he could not find his rhythm in bowling so he ended up bowling several no balls, which brought his downfall.

Swifty (the entertainer), showed his class in batting, but the luck was not in his favour, so in the end he conducted batting and bowling classes to the writer and a few others who sought his advice. Thank you, Swifty, your description of the beautiful nurse in hospital (after your knee surgery) tempted me to get both my knees operated on. But my age and financial reality brought me back to my senses.

“Oh why? That each fairest dream, just fleet before me but to wither away”

Since I have already described Webby, let him have some peace of mind, but I must confess that I do not believe that he deserved the reception he got when he collected the plate. They were chanting... Paedophile etc. (And your point is? – Ed). Do not worry Webby, I am on your side! I mean, I know that they are envious of your looks! (Obviously – Ed)

Whitey, I hope that you did not lose money on betting, we all know that the race was won by a dark horse....Never mind, it was fun to have you in high spirits. Do you know that a monkey could pick up winning stocks than so-called experts? Next time charge a commission instead of betting, like bankers, you could never lose money this way.

I must also mention Drummond, the winner in 2005, and the player who could have repeated the 2005 performance in the absence of Craig, the winner of 2006. But it was not to be, however, he did well given the opposition he had to face. I wish him better luck next time. Chris Fernando was also a little unlucky not to proceed further, but in my view he shares the shot of the day with Alex (square driven boundary of Alex and lofted sweep six by Chris Fernando).

Dave (Sol) played to his potential and was unlucky not to get some of his power shots connected due to the uneven bounce of the ball and misjudgments in timing etc. But he never gave up and went down fighting like a true hero.

It was the best of times (Dil thought) in the absence of Craig. It was the worst of times at the end, for poor Dil (who was the highest rated player to win the cup as per punters), when he lost the match to calm and quiet Gupinder. Dil went for extravagant shots to please the crowd and perished cheaply; Gupinder played well within his limits and reached the target imposed by Dil. In fairness to Dil, with Gupinder's handicap of (9), he had to go for big shots from the beginning to increase his chances of winning. (or maybe just bat for the full 10 balls – Ed)

The other mega star of KLCC (big-hitting Paresh) (who is the other?? – Ed), having won all his matches quite easily, for some strange reason lost to the writer in the Semifinals. Paresh, too, in the writer’s view, got carried away by the occasion and did not realize that he only had to impose a total of 20 runs to win the match. In hindsight everyone could be a pundit. Hard luck, Paresh.

Geoff and Trigger Doyle did a splendid job behind the wicket and we must all thank them for their hard work and commitment.

Geoff did well with the ball and bat but unfortunately his first match was with Dil, hence he could not proceed further. Rizvi too played well but he got run out (border line decision) and lost his way half way through the tournament.

All the junior players, as I mentioned before, played well beyond what was expected of them and Alex in particular showed his talent with bat and ball.

Last but not the least, “Speedy” (true to his name), played with grit and determination with a vintage bat, but luck was evading him.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks on behalf of KLCC to Speedy and his family for organizing the tournament and for inviting all of us for dinner at his residence. Thank you Speedy.

The final match of the day for the Cup was between Gupinder and Padma, both senior citizens (I assume) and both thrust onto this big stage by the failure of more capable players. But this could be written the other way around as well, as history is written by winners (some say traitors who hanged heroes).

Gupinder (9) batted first and played very cautiously for 12 runs. The total was simply not sufficient. All Padma had to do was to push the ball into gaps and walk

across and collect the trophy. In the writer's opinion, Gupinder could have won the match had he scored another 6-7 runs to put more pressure on Padma. Well done, Gupinder, it was a remarkable effort and it is the "journey that matters not the destination".

Finally we all must praise the work done behind the scenes by the beautiful, callipygian (great word, Padma! – Ed) ladies of KLCC – Vivien for scoring and Di, who served and prepared the delicious lunch.

**"You must rise or you must fall,
You must rule and win or serve and lose,
You must be anvil of hammer"**

(By a German philosopher whose name I cannot remember).

The idea is that you must never get sandwiched in between, you must be bold enough to take sides and pay the price for it, if not, and you will not have peace in this life. Adios