

KeLawar CC VS Bojangles CC

Hello all and welcome to the epic that was another KeLawar cricket match. The ground looked as fresh as ever after having being played on only just an hour before for an Air Asia-Malaysia Airlines game. Malaysia Airlines won that by the way, but the battle in for the air still hangs in the balance. Anyway, the Bojangles team had arrived extra early at the ground and were warming up like professional cricketers with expert and intense fielding drills. Dil was the most warmed up having played in the afore-mentioned game. It was decided that the game would be 35 overs with 12 players, but when fielding, only 11 were to be on the field. Thankfully, it was also decided that we could wear white pants with our red shirts rather than the infamous black pants. Bojangles elected to bat first and with the wicket looking menacingly flat and tired, the Kelawarians set upon the field ready to do battle.

The first over by the author wasn't the best opening over ever seen with 10 runs coming off it. Ashfaq bowled a good, tight second over and with the author, now sufficiently warmed up, he drew first blood in the 3rd over of the innings. Both opening bowlers found their lines and lengths managing to swing the ball making the batsmen play and miss on many occasions. Both finished their maximum 7 overs with yours truly taking 1 wicket coupled with Ashfaq's 3 wickets. After 14 overs, Bojangles had managed 63 runs for the loss of 4 wickets.

The 15th over of the Bojangles innings saw the introduction of spin with Dil taking the ball. His partner in crime was GDZ or 'slinga malinga' as some like to call him (that's not what I like to call him – Ed). Shankar however, took a liking to both bowlers hitting out to take Bojangles to 110-4 off 20 overs. His big-hitting meant a change in the bowling with the Skipper coming on to try and dry up the runs and remove Shankar from the crease. Speedy Sr came on swapping the keeping pads with Dil.

Shankar posted a quick 50 which consisted of ten 4's, showing how much running between the wickets there was. However, on reaching his half-ton, he duly decided to carry on rather than retire, and was subsequently stumped off the bowling of KeLawar's first choice wicketkeeper for the day, Speedy Sr. His replacement, Nick, was bowled by one of our skipper's famous 'flippers', which landed half-way down the track, skidding through the defences of the batsman and clean bowling him (delivery of the century – Ed). With 10 overs left in the innings, Bojangles had accumulated 156 runs for the loss of 6 wickets.

At this point of the innings, the deadly duo of Craig Bartley and Paresh Shetty were introduced into the attack. Craig's accuracy earned him a wicket in his second and third overs respectively with a caught behind and a clean bowled. Paresh, bowling in what can be called his 'farewell' game for KeLawar CC, 'ran' up to the crease with even the fielders wondering what he would bowl. Whatever it was (majority verdict was that it was slightly flighted off-spin), it worked! The first two balls of his first over both produced wickets with his first delivery trapping ex-KeLawarian Chiro plum in front. His second delivery deceived the

new batsman in flight, clean bowling him. The ecstatic Paresh wasn't done yet, though! In his second over, he again clean bowled the unfortunate batsman, who had caught Paresh in his best bowling form. Paresh and Craig combined to mop up the tail of Bojangles and the innings concluded with Bojangles having scored 190 all out (in this match, that would read 190-11 on the scorecard).

(There was an hour's break between innings allowing for dinner and other social activities such as opening the beers, and for the lights to come on, of course, which was the main reason for the break).

The KeLawar openers were none other than Rick Riddell (I mean, Mr. Riddell) and Ben Webb. Both were having to play out the early swing under the lights which even caused the bowlers problems. 3 overs into the innings, KeLawar were 8-0 with Rick on 0 and Webby on 0, and the extras on 8. KeLawar's first wicket eventually fell when Rick was trapped in-front by a straight delivery from Aaron, meaning Craig entered the fray. Both Craig and Webby started building a good partnership with the latter starting to free his arms and finding the middle of the bat, hitting some lovely cover drives and cuts before falling to Rajesh, which brought a slightly nervous Padma to the crease.

Padma and Craig looked quite comfortable out there putting on 27 together until Padma had his castle rocked (ooo er – Ed). This brought the KeLawar Eye-Candy for 2006 (that's Geoff) to the crease. Both Craig and Geoff set about chasing down the score posted by the Singapore Bojangles team calmly and methodically with Craig eventually having to retire having scored his 50. At this point, KeLawar were just below the required run rate, as Paresh kept reminding us with the score standing at 119-3 off 23.2 overs. With his partner retiring, Geoff looked set to do the same before sticking his bat out to a harmless ball and presenting a catch, which Bojangles gladly accepted. KeLawar were now 124-4, but the game was still very much in control.

Graham Witt and Dil Abbass were now at the crease together, but not for long. After an intense warm up in the dark nets, Graham was run out (by Dil?). A rather displeased GW returned to the pavilion muttering a few unsavoury words under his breath as Dil was joined by KeLawar's new found off-spinning talent, Paresh Shetty. Unfortunately, Dil was caught in-front of his stumps bringing the skipper to the crease. The partnership of Henry and Paresh didn't last too long with Paresh trying as he famously does, to hit the ball out of the ground and finish the game in style. In the 28th over of the innings, KeLawar were 137-7 needing a further 54 off the remaining 7 overs at a rate of 7.71428571 an over. A simple task, so it seemed.

The skipper and the author combined at the crease with Henry leading the way, carting the unfortunate Sandeep over mid-wicket taking the score to 164-7 off 30.4 overs leaving KeLawar 27 to win from 26 balls. Henry was unluckily out with the ball flicking off his pad as he went forward, going straight to the keeper and presenting a simple stumping chance. Speed Sr came to the middle but was

caught in the covers soon after. Ashfaq came to the crease and with the author of this wonderful match report, they took KeLawar closer and closer to the target with the author hitting some lusty blows to the boundary keeping KeLawar well in the hunt. But there was more drama to follow! Ashfaq was run out with KeLawar needing a further 13 runs to win! KeLawar's score was now 178-10 off 33 overs leaving a further 13 runs to win off 12 deliveries. The retiree Craig once again strode back to the middle to join the author. The game was very much winnable and with that in mind, both batsman set out to complete the task...

But alas! There was further drama! (bathos, more like – Ed) A short ball from Rajesh was cut down to the boundary by Craig. The batsman scampered two runs and went looking for the third as the weak throw went to the middle of the pitch. The ball was thrown to the keeper's end, which the author was running to. He dove full length, landing his bat in the crease **well** before the bails were knocked off. The fielders asked the question to the square-leg umpire, who took an eternity before giving me out!! Outrageous! With the game there to be won, KeLawar had been denied a famous victory, handing back the Margarita Cup back to the Singapore Bojangles Cricket Team.

KeLawar had fallen 10 runs short of victory. A painful and bitter pill to swallow but 'twas all forgotten as the teams went to OOF for drinks and the presentation ceremony. The trophy was handed painfully back to the Bojangles team with the KeLawarians promising to bring it back in the return fixture. All ended well with the teams taking a drink out of the cup, with the focus on the next fixture between the two sides.

Scores

Singapore Bojangles CC = 190 all out

Shankar 50	Paresh 3-12
Aaron 35	Ashfaq 3-30
Rakesh 31	Craig 2-21

KeLawar CC = 180 all out

Craig 52*	Abhi 3-28
Geoff 27	Tushar 2-33
Webby 21	Sandeep 2-33

Result = Singapore Bojangles CC Won by 10 Runs