

Kelawar CC v RSC

20/20 Saturday 7th March

Venue – RSC

Having never played at RSC before I was quietly confident (god knows why after my previous batting displays – innings 2 runs 0 balls faced 4) my view was driven by being told :-

- the wicket kept low – thus favouring my classic front foot approach
- The bowling was of the gentle medium paced variety
- The outfield was quick and I would not be required to run.

This sense of optimism continued as Tim won the toss elected to bat and selected the heavyweight partnership (in all senses of the word) of Fordy and Rick to open. What joy an old bloke of three/maybe four paces ambled in and propelled the opening over at gentle medium a single from Fordy a couple of boundaries from Rick got us off to a reasonable start (the author actually muddled a straight drive only to see aforementioned old bloke stick out a foot to stop a certain 4 he did limp away though)

The second over was slow left arm round Rick celebrated thrashing a couple of fours and generally beaming at all sundry. My heart sank – I am not a player of spin of any description (some would say any kind of bowling).

The first wicket fell with Rick smashing old bloke to mid off which brought in another old bloke in Noel – he played some classic shots but unfortunately left the author facing the slow left armer and having missed out on a leg stump full toss proceeded to shuffle/dance down the wicket to the next one miss it, turn round watch old keeper fumble about before ending his misery.

The innings continued with a mixture of fine shots and KCC players ensuring that all would bat by getting out at regular intervals. Without the book its difficult to pick out individual performances but suffice to say all hit boundaries (except me obviously) and looked good for time they were in the middle. We ended on 106 which given the conditions looked defensible.

Enter Kelvin and Dhruv an opening pair so heavy on the handsome tablets and general suave sophistication its bound to unsettle lesser mortals. What an effect Kelvin running in lots of aggression and pace from the skate park end, Dhruvi optimizing cool from the pavilion end 7 overs 6 for 26 four for Dhruv bowling straight and true a bit of movement through the air and off the pitch created havoc in the RSC top order. Kelvin getting lift and bounce off a dead pitch got the only caught behind of the day with a quick steeply bouncing away swinger, Tim finally getting a ball to catch above knee. Fantastic display from the Kelawar answer to ‘the persuaders’ (ask your dads kids)

At this point the slow left armer appeared bat in hand a determined look and set about rebuilding the innings with the assistance of another old bloke (this one had a runner ! not e to self – hobble off if fielding first) Assisted by some wayward bowling interspersed

with some fine deliveries from the youth wing of KCC they moved inexorably on towards the required target. It was during this period that the skipper had bought on Arvin from the skate board end where Kelvin had extracted some bounce. Bearing this in mind Tim went back a yard from where he had been standing anticipating a 'bit of carry'. Now I have over the years seen some odd decisions on cricket fields but wicketkeepers attempting to take the ball cleanly on the 3rd bounce is not one in recent memory albeit that on this occasion the ball finally hit the seam jumped viciously and thudded into the skipper skull with a resounding 'clunk'. Tim bravely got up tottered about and in those seconds of temporary madness told Fordy to take the gloves (a well known sixes wicketkeeper who is well aware that with the sixes attack he plays with very few balls require stopping and its the only way he'll get a game)

Tim staggers offer the ever cheerful H takes over bring Dhruvi back to stop the rot, not such a great move given prior events and good over not helped by a few byes but no breakthrough. Arvin bowls a tight over and the penultimate over is to be delivered by Noel (left slow medium – slightly odd action) what a decision gets belted for 6 with our brave deep mid wicket coming in only to go arse over tit on the now damp outfield and watch ball go over his head to the boundary. Noel regroups takes a couple of wickets. H bowls last over RSC nine down one to win and the skinniest boy in KL at the crease. He squeezes his second delivery through point and celebrates half way up the track.

A great game with all the action which draws the crowds to 20/20 big hitting some, excellent bowling and fielding, a head injury in humorous circumstances (for all those not hit) and a tense finish.