

What was and what might have been!

Kelawar Vs RSC 28/11/09

This report is dedicated to Geoff and Padma. Thanks for all your efforts on and off the field. Your 3 years at Kelawar will be fondly remembered I hope and we all wish you the very best for the future.....Mike Speed, President Kelawar CC.

What was!

22/11/09

The game over and the tour coming to an end Singapore misfits and Kelawar gathered at Out of Africa for an evening of good food and copious amounts of Vodka. All went well, England beat South Africa, appetites were satisfied, new friendships established and the touring team left with tails of drunkenness and other 'stuff'. Everyone was happy, except..... no-one paid for the food, a disaster of monumental proportions!

27/11/09

Friday eve after a long hard week earning a crust Henry and Speedie met in the Oval Bar at RSC to 'chew the fat', solve most of the world's problems and have a few beers. Inevitably the conversation turned to tomorrow's game and the fact Henry was to Captain the RSC side. "Why the hell am I captain, I just want a run around and a few beers afterwards" said the ex Kelawar captain in a 'half empty rather than half full' type of voice. "Well because you are the best person for the job and someone who will make the day memorable for Geoff and Padma" replied Speedie in his usual upbeat and reassuring manner. "I know said 'H', why don't you do it", "No, I don't think so" was the reply.....a decision as it turned out of similar proportions to the disaster almost a week earlier.

28/11/09

The game was arranged in celebration of Geoff DeZylva and Padma, both leaving shortly for pastures new, both stalwarts of Kelawar for 3 years or so, both to be missed and this to be their final game. Fitting then that 3 Kelawar members, 'H', Speedie and Lemmy were representing RSC in order more Kelawar members could play in the game. A late start due to the reluctance of the Rugby section to leave the field and the general malaise of the cricketers as they wished Padma (with wife) and Geoff all the very best. 'H' in the meantime was busy plotting the downfall of the Kelawar team, obviously resigned to the fact he was Captain but determined to show the world why and not let the general good nature of the occasion and socializing get in the way of a resounding victory. So on winning the toss he elected to bat rather than allow Geoff and Padma to stride out together for their last emotional farewell under a guard of honour and with the pavilion standing and applauding.

Heren and Lemmy opened for RSC to face an unlikely opening spell from Simon Eames and Witty who was good enough to get Lemmy in his second over. Lemmy though not disgraced having 'amassed' 3. Heren though in good form and despite the introduction of Chris Storer and Anu eventually retired on 51. Arith and Conrad came and went, both falling for the guile of Storer senior, Nadaraj came next followed by 'H' with RSC set nicely on 97 for 3 at the drinks break after 12 overs.

What happened next was almost inexplicable but I guess I have to try! It started almost immediately after the break, 'H' 'dug in', played out a maiden and brought the game almost to standstill. His partners, Nada, Kim Heng, Charlie, Rueben, did what they could but 'H' took most of the strike and resolutely refused to hit the ball off the square. Rumours abounded about the reasons why, to the point where perhaps Kelawar were actually trying to NOT get him out. Speedie and Flo agreed that 'H' would inevitably say they bowled well and that Speedie would only need a couple of overs to surpass 'H's score....sadly it wasn't to be, Speedie's innings that is, 'H' however did not disappoint and confirmed that "they did bowl well".

Innings closed at 139 so 42 off the last 13 overs, 17 scored by 'H' out of a total of 24 from 61 deliveries (strike rate of 39%).....Speedie, DNB (no sour grapes here!)

The Heavens then opened and the Kelawar innings never even got underway, a disappointing end for Geoff and Padma but a nice speech from 'H' and the handing over of gifts meant they didn't go away empty handed (and 'H' and Speedie kissed and made up).

What might have been!

22/11/09

"How much do I owe you for the food Dave" said Speedie

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"I'd love to be Captain for the day" replied Speedie

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"Don't worry about the toss, you bat first" said Speedie graciously.

Innings opened by Padma and Geoff to a standing applauding pavilion and a guard of honour by the RSC players. They both get 50 before the Captain introduces himself into the attack to restrict the innings to 139 and taking 6 for not many.

The Sun continues to shine and the RSC innings is steady, anchored by 'H' who ends up with 24 off 61 deliveries and with Speedie making a quick fire 50. 9 wickets down however, Geoff having got 5, all caught by Padma and RSC need 2 off the last ball with Lemmy at the crease. He

crashes one from Geoff through extra cover but Padma diving low to his right makes a brilliant one handed stop and the batsmen scramble a single to tie the game.

A Fairy tale of course, but note some similarities to reality!