

Kelawar v DHL
25 Overs
29 August 2009
Selangor Turf Club
Scorer – Druvi Storer
By Raman Sidhu

Pulling into the car park I was expecting to see a neat row of shiny DHL dispatch motorbikes. There were none. Hmm, maybe they drive civvies on weekends. Wait a minute, I recognize some of the oppo – actually most of them. Ah, so we are actually playing ICC (Indian Cricket Club). The next thing I notice is that we have been demoted to the “visitors” end of the pavilion next to the bar. At least we will be close to the beers after another famous victory.

Then we espy one of the groundsmen standing out on the square and yes, he is wearing a bright yellow So’wester. “Maybe he’s cold?” someone points out. “Look, there are two more chaps wearing them!” Yes, the cloud cover is rather heavy and it is rather bleak – but we can still see the Twin Towers and KL Tower so it’s not going to rain. The rain NEVER comes from the south. Two minutes later the heavens open and we watch as the covers are dragged out. Seven seconds later, Andy “shuffle machine” Murray-Watson enquires with seeming innocence, dorsal fin clearing poking out from his shirt, “anyone for a game of cards?” A nanosecond later he reappears with cards, chips and a dull gleam in his eye. “They just happened to be in the car,” he adds. An hour later the rain has stopped and we are ready to play – DHL/ICC wins the toss and we head out to field. As only Speedy and Andy are up after the poker, and with a junior, this week’s pocket money on the line, Speedy gallantly suggests we play for free. Why can’t that be proposed for the Wednesday night sessions when I’m down?

Captain Rohit gathers the players for the team talk on the pitch. “Let’s bowl well and get them all out cheaply,” he says. Anu and young Sam open. 25 for 0 off 3 overs – Oh dear. Sam picks up the wickets of the openers, both well caught by ‘keeper Speedy. Next follows a 66 run partnership for Ahmed and Raghu (44 of 20 balls) in only seven overs. They take a special shine to Jean’s swinging medium pacers. Rohit then turns to the more sedate pace of Drummond who immediately gets Raghu out, a thick edge soaring high and handsome, caught superbly by Rick at slip. Drummond then gets the next wicket of Nilesh caught at gully by the skipper. Meanwhile, Rohit bowls well from the other end but without success. Next to go was Bomi, run out by Drummond/Rohit. Drummond being very confident that the batsman had hit a bump-ball. Very confident in fact – it was never going to be a catch. Honest. Andy Scott asks if Drummond wants anyone else to get involved with the game?

Witty was then brought on to replace Rohit. Andy MW being told to move from deep square leg to deep backward square leg. Ahmed (40) duly obliges and sends one straight down Andy’s throat. 6 for 150. Witty then picks up our last wicket, Drummond taking an easy catch at mid-wicket. Innings closed at 191 for 7. Extras top scoring, as usual, with 45.

As we hobble off, Rohit gathers us together and states that whilst 7+ an over will be tricky, we can still win. With that he announces the batting line up. He will open

together with Andy MW.... we wait patiently for the rest of the order, but being supremely confident with the openers' abilities he simply adds that we can work out the rest of the order later!

Anir opens for the DHL – first over maiden at Andy WM. Swinging miles – why didn't it do that for us? Must take another look at their ball – and buy those instead of our rubbish ones! Rohit quickly into his stride, batting well as always. Andy finally off the mark after 10 dots. Both now get the hint that scoring at 5 an over isn't going to win us the match. 50 partnership up – excellent. Off 8 overs – not too shabby. Andy falls first, bowled Avtar for 20. 51 for 1 off 8.5. No problem. Rick strides confidently out – currently in a rich vein of form. Avtar gets his second wicket, Rick LBW – not a happy bunny. Gone for 19 after a couple of nice boundaries. Meanwhile, Rohit gets his half-ton off 45 balls. Excellent stuff. Batting well. Shock Horror. Rohit's out. Brilliant catch by Anir. Rohit's 69 off 55 balls. 125 for 3 in the 19th over. 67 needed in 6 overs. Ouch. Big JD holes out to cow, caught by "Dude w/ pot". Gone for 1. Maybe Druvi should have been given their team list. 4 for 127 after 19 overs. Padma comes and goes for 5 off three balls. Caught by the keeper off "Bowler #7". How humbling, getting out to a bowler with no name!!

Andy Scott continuing valiantly on. Keeping the score nicely ticking over. Will he run out of partners? Probably. Anu falls next for one. 3 wickets to Ahmed – Kelawar tottering at 6 for 137 in the 21st over. 55 needed off 5 overs. Andy and Drummond put on a quickfire 29 in 14 balls. Anir back in the attack. Drummond bowled for 8. Speedy next for a Golden quacker. 164 for 8. 19 balls to get 28. Sam drives a beautiful boundary in his score of 6 before being run out whilst backing up. Witty last man in scoring 1 not out with the resilient Andy Scott stuck on 35 off only 26 balls. Innings closed at 182 for 9.

Kelawar losing by 9 runs. DHL conceding only 24 extras to our hefty 45.

Post match drinks with the oppo – too many beers again. Home to early bed.

Notable contributions:

Graham Witt 2 for 20 (3 overs)

Sam Barton 2 for 33 (5 overs)

Drummond Siddle 2 for 36 (5 overs)

Rohit Gunavanthe 69

Andy Scott 35*

Andy Murray-Watson 20