

The match that was lost the night before ? 26.09.09 against GEO .

“Quack, quack! Pass the yellow one !” my daughter called out. I gave the little rubber bird a long squeeze and watched it sink slowly in the soapy bathwater. “Game over !” she sang. A match report was taking shape.

At 11am there was a whimper of Kelawar presence at Equine Park. Jean had been pole-axed by the night before and was fast asleep on the concrete. Dave Nightingale was bravely putting on a braver face (though he had warned us all the day before). Umpiring in sunglasses and a large hat, his pain throughout the day was well disguised. Thank-you Dave! The oppo was conspicuous by its absence.

When they arrived it was a salt and pepper affair, with the minority in full whites and the rest in whatever they had stumbled out of bed and grabbed. Dil choosing to bat, delegated yours truly as an impromptu match reporter and Jean Daniels and Druvi were sent forth to the crease. Ah, what magnificent specimens. “Ebony and Ivory, Together..... etc” as McCartney and Jackson had so eloquently enunciated in their “feel good” song. Doubtless there would be some Herculean sixes and elegant cover drives in the offing.

As Jean walked back towards us after being caught first ball, a large red sign flashed above his head “Bear with a sore head”. We did not approach. “Isn’t that a golden duck” someone piped up helpfully. “Yes, it doesn’t get worse than that”. Enter Druvi, stage-right. With his competitive edge shining like Excalibur, he was the man to go one better. Next ball, obviously still under the illusion that he was involved in a sixes warm-up and not a 30 over match, he gallivanted down the wicket as soon as Dil edged his first ball. “No” shouted Dil, “Shit” shouted Druvi. “Clink” went the bails. A diamond duck left us 2 wickets for one run (and that was a wide) after the first over!

Andy Daniels arrived to restore some decorum and put on an excellent 58 with Dil before being caught. Dil, a complete alien (to the concept of retiring at 30), scored a solid 39 before an LBW decision. Padma made a brief appearance and Vignesh added a healthy 24 off 28 balls before being caught behind. Five from Eamsey and five less from Witty did little to add to a poor score. Chris Storer dabbled and prodded away as the overs concluded and was not out on 12, with a frustrated Yohan just off the mark as time was called. They had bowled well at the beginning and only three of our nine batsmen had found the boundary! Even with Extras producing the highest total of the day with 44 ( 36 wides !) we had only managed 141.

With Noel Cowards immortal word’s ‘Mad Dogs and English-men’ echoing in my head, we all tried to drink as much ice cold water before fielding. It was a hot one folks! The adrenalin produced by watching a cricket ball hurtling towards you had now worn off and the tell-tale signs of a hangover with Scottish credentials attached were beginning to manifest themselves!

They came out swinging and looking slightly arrogant. But they used their first overs to better advantage and by the fourth they were 37 for 1. Sumit their Nr 3 showed a lot more intelligence and played some good strokes reaching 42 off 31 balls. Druvi( nearly making up for his batting,) bowled four excellent overs of line and length with Padma taking a well positioned catch. Andy Daniels at the other end also found some pace and length. I

have enormous respect for anyone shorter than myself who can produce a top edge six over third man from his own bowling!

Dil arrived to tempt and question any batting technique that there was. He produced splendid figures of 3 for 15 off 4 overs. And suddenly there was that lift of optimism that puts a spring in your step despite the heat. Perhaps we could simply bowl them out ? Yohan delivered a respectable 3 overs but Witty provided the best entertainment with 6 overs for one wicket and only 31 runs. Batsmen were going through their usual contortions in front of him, simply out-Witted by the flight and length of the trajectories. The humiliation of being bowled by one was the icing on his cake and produced chortles around the field ! Vaidy also contributed well to the “rallentando” in run rate with the field closing in. Dil took a terrific caught and bowled catch. Andy Daniels showed safe hands at short third man from Dils bowling. Unfortunately their number nine batsman was clearly not their number nine batsman. He scored an excellent 18 off 15 balls despite clean bowling from a revived Jean Daniels ( 7 runs off 2 overs). And so it was that they reached a total of 142 for 6 with 4 overs to spare.

A convivial affair, it must be said.

I learnt three things that day. Always carry a pen and paper to cricket in case you get bounced at the last minute to write the report. Never try to drive a motor-bike and carry the Club score-book at the same time. And, as I screw back the cap on my botal-infront-of-me, I vaguely remember the last one had something to do with the night before.....!

Dil 3 – 15 off 4 and 39 runs

Andy Daniels 1-39 off 3 and 11 runs

Vignesh 29 runs and a debut as wicket –keeper !

Chris Storer 12 N/O

Druvi 1-16 off 4

Yohan 0-20 off 3

Witt 1-31 off 6

Jean Daniels 0-7 off 2 Kelawar 141-9

Wides 16

Geo cricket club.

Saif 2-14 off 6 (1 M) !!

Saboor 1-20 off 4 retired 11

Zeeshan 2-12 off 4

Captain Greenpants 1 – 23 off 6

Gray pants 1-17 off 3

Sumit 42 runs off 31 balls

Shezan 21 off 12 balls

Fahad 11 off 29 balls

Chachu 18 off 15 balls GEO 142 -6 off 26 overs

Wides 36

S.N E.

