

## **A TIP FOR THE MALAYSIAN NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM (KELAWAR VS ICC)**

It was a very pleasant morning at the STC with all our players turning up early for the match. Captain of the day, Geoff de Zylva, lost the toss and Kelawar was sent in to field. He quickly signalled to Darvin to get warm to open the bowling. Oh yes you read it right, Darvin opens the bowling sharing the new ball with Druvi. Something that we saw so much in the recently concluded Indian Premier League where many teams employed spin as their opening option. Maybe the Malaysian team should have used a little bit of Geoff's intelligence in the World Cricket League Division 6 in Singapore where they finished fourth out of 6 teams.

Druvi bowls first up slowly finding his rhythm. Darvin does fairly well in keeping the pressure on and both him and Druvi do not give away too many in the first 6 overs of power play. ICC were going at around 5 an over. Druvi (1 for 23) and Darvin (1 for 21) finished the first 8 overs. Since slow bowling seemed to work early on Geoff brings on Mike Speed. Speedy had the former Darvin's syndrome of not being able to land the ball, therefore went for 35 runs in his 3 overs. Geoff bowls OK for his 1 for 21 and he got his wicket by one that cut back into the right hander and broke leg stump. The other bowler to note is Jason whom seemed to be bowling for run outs apart from his good 2 overs where he took 1 wicket giving away only 6 runs. Rohit also took 1 wicket for 21 in 3 overs. There were three run outs in the ICC innings which included two direct hits by Malcolm (our keeper) and Darvin. The other run out was completed by a throw from Ranjith from the boundary to the bowler's hand. That just summed up a wonderful fielding performance by the Kelawar boys (*the obligatory two dropped catches excluded of course! – Ed*). ICC finished 140 for 8 in their allotted 20 overs.

Kelawar went into bat chasing 141 to win. There was a difference in the style of batting by both Rohit and Jason (who usually goes into bat with at least 1 beer under the belt - according to him one beer lasts him 10 overs). There was finesse by Rohit (83\*) and some brutal hitting by Jason (45\*). The duo made it look very easy as Rohit continued his run of good form. Kelawar cruised to a ten wicket victory with Jason clearing the boundary hitting the fence on the full near the tunnel at STC for the winning runs. It was pleasant to know there were still lots of batting to come (*indeed! It's not often Kelawar has an international player racking up a DNB at number 3! – Ed*). This was a good practice match for the Kelawar boys who are just coming into competing in the Stonor shield which starts in mid-October. Geoff was a proud captain at the end of the day. (Come on Darv, you could have mentioned how you missed the bus back to Penang, were forced to stay another night, and take Geoff out for satay Kajang... Ed)