

Kelawar V. KLCC 16/8/09

STC was resplendent as we arrived for the Sunday game at 1pm. General agreement that it is a truly fine cricket venue.

Dil was mumbling something about immigration as we changed. It transpired that the Karachi Cricket Academy had fallen foul of the 'system' and had been substituted by the KLCC club who we had recently played against during the Club Aman Sixes a few weeks earlier.

Winning the toss, Dil chose to bat as the clouds were already grey and rain seemed a certainty at some point in the afternoon. Rick and Andy M. W. opened the scoring with Rick displaying the same kind of batting which had taken him to 79 not out the previous weekend against Penang. The bowling from Gul Raiz was sensibly respected but Andy was nearly caught behind in the fifth over waving at a delivery from the speedy Kumran. A couple of balls later it was Rick who was caught at first slip off Kumran. 34 – 1 and a respectable 24 for R. Ridell. Soon after, Andy had his leg stump removed and Kelawar were 40 – 2. Dil and Rohit began to settle into a partnership. Dil hit 44 including a spectacular 6 to cow corner in the 13<sup>th</sup> over followed by a 4 to square leg. But wickets were falling too fast and Rohit was bowled off stump in the 14<sup>th</sup> over. Dil was chasing his runs well as the urgency became clear. Unfortunately experimentation with reverse grip proved un-productive and disaster struck Kelawar as he was stumped in the 16<sup>th</sup> over going quite reasonably for a second. A deadly accurate throw from long off to the w/k end finished his promising innings. 95 – 4. The fielding maintained its impressive level with Willow being caught at deep mid wicket by Ali, who then also caught Gary soon afterwards with a spectacular running and diving catch at deep long off. Respect. Pity there wasn't a TV replay available ! Vignesh was caught for a 10 run contribution and Padma notched another 12 before he sadly just ran out of balls. 128 – 8.

The herons were being tossed about above STC as we began fielding under a dark mass of latent wetness. It was assumed only a couple of overs would happen before the clouds could no longer contain themselves. But a wicket for no runs in each of the first overs from Willow and Chris Speed provided a glimmer of hope and Kelawars spirits were re-focused on the job in hand. The weather was brewing and blowing. Around the country kites were hastily being un-packed. Willow's run ups frequently fizzled out as his bails blew off just as he was about to unleash. The slow ritual carpentry only added to the electrical tension that was crackling uncomfortably close to us. Zeeshan the opener and Kaihzar were finding the boundaries frequently with fizzing balls that were expertly directed between fielders who could only turn and jog slowly to retrieve. Zeeshan was finally caught at point by Gary from Dil and the rain came down at 79 – 4 in the 9th over. Uncharacteristically, it soon blew over and we resumed with no prospect of further interruptions. Kaihzar impressed by punishing Chris with consecutive sixes on his way to 40 runs before being caught brilliantly on the boundary rope by Dil as he went for the sight screen. Even though the ball had now taken on the consistency of a pickled plum, Ali and Naeem continued the flow of runs. And despite a useful wicket taken by Rohit from Eamsy's bowling, the die had been cast and 135 – 5 from a mere 13 overs finished this game sooner than hoped for. The result merely meant that Prez arrived late completing his afternoon trawl through the local cricket grounds, accustomed as he is to witnessing Kelawars valiant flourishes at the death. It was sad to disappoint such stalwart

support. But the Tiger provided succor and the faithful few maintained after match protocol to the letter.

STATS:- Kelawar 128 – 8 20 overs

Rick 24 , Dil 44, Vignesh 10, Padma 12.

Kelwar bowlers:- Wilson 1 for 25 off 3, C Speed 1 for 21 off 2,

Gary 1 for 35 off 3, Rohit 0 for 19 off 2, Dil 1 for 10 off 2, and Eamsy 1 for 20 off 1.

KLCC 135 – 5 off 13 overs

Zeeshan 32, Kaihzar 40, Ali 28, Naeem 21 n/o

Bowling figures unavailable, sorry.