

Kelawar Vs ICC Friendly – 24th May

Venue – STC

Overs – 30

Result – Comprehensive win for Kelawar

Beautiful day for cricket, ground was pretty alright after the previous night rain, a breeze and it was not one of those burning hot mornings. Kelawar team turned up one by one and looked like everyone was excited for a game of cricket after some time. J Lee, he turned up, seemed like he had very long night with loads of beer and took sometime to realize the reason for his presence at the ground, but really wanted play, believe me. Everyone had a chat with everyone to get updated on what each other had been doing in last few weeks.

Toss was on and Kelawar was given the chance to bat. Opponents might have thought the ground would be dried off and faster towards the 2nd session, so they decided to field. Having a player who's in the current Malaysian squad (As a wicket keeper batsman – *I think he's actually just a bloody good bat and doesn't keep -ed*) may have boosted the confidant to chase runs.

Then the game started or rather catch dropping session started.

For Kelawar, Murray-Watson and Matt Ford opened the batting, first over a good one for Kelawar, completed that having scored 8 runs. Andy and Matt scored couple of boundaries and managed to keep the score board ticking. It was noticed that one of the opponents opening bowlers, was really bringing in the ball and there were couple of appeals made by them for LBW. Ford fell quickly to one of those in-swingers when he was bowled for 6.

Next in the line to bat was Dil so he joined Watson in the middle. They put up a good partnership and it was ended when Waston's impressive innings came to an end after being caught behind. He walked out immediately and scored 21 (3 fours and 1 six). He was soon followed by Ranjith as he departed after scoring a quick 18 (2 fours and 1 six).

It was apparent that opponents are not really doing a good job in the field, sloppy fielding, wild throws and specially drop catches. I started to keep a count but then gave it up as it was too many.

After Ranjith, Dil came back to pavilion after his impressive innings of 33 which contributed to bring up the Kelawar to a total of 112. Then Kelawar had the captain Geoff and Wilson sending the ball to all the corners of the field (*err that was more of the Wilson and less of the captain Geoff -ed*). Fours, sixes, twos and quick singles really boosted the Kelawar total to a great one.

They collectively added 87 runs of which Geoff scored 41 and Wilson did his job with 46. First to depart was Wilson which made Witty to be in the middle. Guess this was G's first match since he recovered from the injury so he was bit out of touch. He fell quickly thus J. Lee joined the captain to carry on the impressive scoring and seemed like J Lee had recovered from his hang over. He scored quick 22 and Speedy made valuable 14 to finish off the innings.

Kelawar posted a comfortable 236 of 30 overs and lost 7 wickets in the process. Opponents too contributed to the score by giving 28 wides.

After the break the 2nd session started.

Having witnessed the number of drop catches, the captain gave some encouraging speech just before the Kelawar went out to the field. In summary it was, "Guys, we have a good score, we can defend this. So pls try not to drop any catches"

Mike Sharrad opened the bowling for Kelawar and it was a bit expensive gave away 10 runs. Then the writer started from the other end and opened his account with a wide. One of their opening batsmen was looking pretty decent with the bat and was really going after the Kelawar opening bowlers.

First break through came in the writer's 2nd over when one batsman fell for the slow ball and gave a pretty difficult catch to the fielder in the short covers. Dil made a good effort to secure the catch. Sharrad too managed to send the other opener back to the stands during his spell.

When Kelawar opening bowlers finished the 10 overs (Anu 5-32-1, Sharrad 5-51-1), ICC managed to score 83 and was looking good.

Next captain turned to more experienced Wilson and Dil to take up the bowling challenge and they backed the decision well. Though the opponents had their star batsman in the crease, the Kelawar pair managed to keep them under control. And Ranjith too was doing a good job behind the wickets and guess this is the first time keeping for Kelawar.

Two great moments of the day

1) - Dil came up with a plan, he exactly knew what he's going to bowl and where the batsman going to hit, so he needs precise fielding positions.

He went over to the batting crease, adjusted the fielder at the point, "Witty pls move a bit to your left.. yep that's perfect".

Then bowled, he was right, batsman hit the ball in the air and it went right towards Witty (*floating...looping...agonizingly slow...probably fizzing with spin too -ed*). But one little thing failed the whole plan, Witty couldn't keep the ball in the hands.

2) - Then Wilson from the other end again, he has a plan as well. He wanted the writer to swap the fielding positions with Witty in short covers.

Guess what, next ball came straight in to the writer's hand, but yet again catch was dropped. Witty was relieved.

Dil and Wilson did extremely well to keep the run rate low and they finished their spells having given only 34 runs (Dil 6-21-3 and Wilson 6-13-0). Their spells proved to be the turning point of the game as the end of the 22nd over, the opponents were far behind the asking rate.

Captain called the next spinner, Speedy to continue the attack and Speedy took 2 consecutive wickets in his first over. Captain chose himself, Witty and J. Lee to complete the rest of the overs. Speedy finished off the ICC inning by taking the last wicket when they were at 192 after 29.4 overs.

As usual Kelawar team celebrated the win by opening a few beers.

Notable performances from Kelawar

Geoff	41
Wilson	46
Dil	33
Andy	21
Ranjith	18
J Lee	22*
Dil	6-21-3
Wilson	6-13-0
Speedy	1.4-7-3