

Nava Shield 2009, Game 1, versus Knight's XI, 11/01/09

The Warm-up

A mood of quiet confidence prevailed as the Kelawar players drifted in and settled around the Club Captain, who in a rush of enthusiasm had arrived a full five hours before the start of the game, for pre-match smokes and banter. A well-balanced team on paper, with a particularly strong bowling attack – we shouldn't have to chase too many today!

Discussion of tactics for the day, and thoughts of a rudimentary warm-up, were sharply curtailed by the revelation that the beer monitor had only bought 14 cans of Tiger. H's argument that '*..well, I'll only drink one*', and by implication that the same should apply to everyone else, failed to convince. With Pres on the sideline likely to use up at least half that quota before the end of the game, not to mention a good turnout of thirsty-looking supporters, there was real concern that there might be none left at stumps. Emergency plans were drawn up, but thankfully not needed as news filtered through that Suppie had had the foresight to lay-on an ample supply for us at RM5 per can. Crisis averted, we took the field, having lost the toss.

Kelawar in the field – things fall apart

Wilow and Anu opened, and justified our pre-match confidence by consistently troubling the batsmen; Wilow squaring them-up and beating the outside edge, Anu jaggng the ball back into thigh and glove. 19 for 0, after 4 overs, when Anu was rested with a view to bowling out the last overs. Kelvin came on for Anu, and bowled the dangerous-looking opener in his first over. 34 for 1 at the end of the 8th over, with Wilow ending a fine 4-over spell with none for 14. A fantastic start on a great batting track and lightning-fast outfield.

Things started to slide thereafter, however, before falling apart completely in the last 10 overs, with 104 scored in a melee of wides, miss-fielding, half-volleys and long-hops. The only highlights were wickets form H, with the first ball of his spell, and from Chris Speed when No.3 chipped to H at midwicket; a couple of difficult stumping opportunities created by H and Travis; and Tim flinging himself around behind the stumps to stop the barrage of wides. Knight's XI ended on 161, which included 30 wides – we bowled 25 overs, rather than 20!

The Kelawar Innings – Cool and steady

Eight-an-over was thought tough but doable, but dark clouds on the horizon, complicated by the fact that we had no way of calculating a Dukworth-Lewis target if the game were to be foreshortened, meant (we guessed) that we would need to keep somewhere near the run rate right from the start and keep wickets intact.

Wison and Vallis opened, and we were pleased to get 4 wides back from Knights XI in the very first over. Tim fell in the third over, reaching for a short ball, which may have been a bit too wide, and toeing it to point – 16 for 1 after 3 overs.

Webb came in next and, after escaping a dropped catch from a skyed straight-drive, began to score freely off the opening bowlers. 15 runs in the 4th over got us back up to around 8-an-over, a pace we were able to maintain through the rest of the innings, with the help of receiving even more wides than we bowled.

Willow departed in the 10th over for 19 (78-2). Rick then added 26 with elegant glances and drives, and was well-caught in the 15th over (131-3). So now, 31 needed in 5 overs, with our top-five junior Arvin at the crease. Webby, displaying either full confidence in his partner or a complete lack of commonsense, took a single off the first ball of the over, exposing Arvin to their best bowler who promptly knocked over off-stump with the next delivery.

H strode in confidently to replace Arvin and stroked the ball around in a sanguine manner for the requisite 1s and 2s. The transfer of yet more players from leg to off, leaving a somewhat insulting 2 only on the leg-side, induced Webby to walk across his stumps and first chip the ball for 2 just over mid-wicket's outstretched hands and then get clean-bowled trying to sweep a centre stump Yorker from well outside off-stump. He ended on 56.

Hints of nervous tension were gently dissipated by H and Anu, who coolly knocked off the remaining 14 runs to seal a Kelawar win with 4 balls to spare. Thanks to Suppie, there was plenty of cold beer on hand to celebrate a fine win.

The Stats - Bowling

Bowler	Overs	Wickets	Runs
Wilson G	4	0	14
Mediwaki A (Anu)	4	0	29
Mahal K	4	1	30
Speed C	2	1	28
Herdon T	2	0	19
Tattersfield H	4	1	37

The Stats - Batting

Batsman	Runs	Deliveries	Minutes
Wilson G	19	24	41
Vallis T	2	2	5
Webb B	56	52	72
Riddell R	26	23	24
Mahal A	0	2	3
Tattersfield H	10*	9	15
Mediwaki A (Anu)	5*	5	7