

## THE DENIS MEYER VETERAN 6'S TOURNAMENT

SINGAPORE, JUNE 5-7, 2009

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June.

G'day cricket lovers everywhere and welcome to sunny Singapore, which is not strictly true as it is 7.30 p.m. and night-time. Cricket teams from across S.E. Asia and Australasia have congregated here to celebrate the memory of Denis Meyer, a popular player who tragically had a heart attack whilst fielding in a match about a year ago. 'Here' at the present moment is Turnstiles Pub in Holland Village, and players are busy assessing the opposition prior to the start of the tournament tomorrow, and also getting p....d.

### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June

I'm woken up by the telephone and the hotel receptionist sounds just like Diane – actually it is Diane, informing me that it is 11.30 a.m. and the tournament started 3 hours ago. I am aghast – what has happened? – the last 12 hours are like a black hole in the space of my life. I realize when I see my trousers that I must have eaten a pizza at some point before returning to the hotel.

Dress quickly – too quickly – shorts on back to front – try again – success. Throw kit into bag and spend the next 20 minutes trying to find the ground, which is just across the road.

Meet up with rest of Kelawar contingent – teams have been rearranged into the 'Cubs' – Speedie, H, Tim, Willow, Webby and Bruce Griggs; and the 'Colts' – Drummond, Phil Render, Johnny, Malcolm Norquay, Matt Ford, Andy Scott, Noel Matthews and my own good self. I don't know why this has happened as the teams were equally well balanced before. Agnes has made a batch of bacon sandwiches, which settles my rumbling bowels, together with a draught San Miguel. Both teams have made winning starts and hopes are high for the rest of the day, with 3 more pool games to play. Both teams then proceed to lose their next matches, leading to team changes for the Colts and Johnny entering the fray. This has the desired effect, as Johnny makes his way to the crease to bowl his over, the occupants of the pavilion begin shifting uneasily, like a herd of wildebeest sensing the gradual approach of a lion. Johnny does the business, the batsmen only able to hit two of his five balls, ensuring another victory.

The 'Cubs' have also got back into winning ways, although Graham Wilson was a casualty. Chasing a ball heading for the boundary, Willow slid in to make a spectacular stop. The applause soon turned to gasps of shock as he stood up and gazed at his little finger, which was pointing at a right angle to the rest of his digits. Like a true Kelawar hero, and despite the pain, he relocated the offending pinky into its proper place and later carried on playing.

There then followed a 'local' derby for the 'Colts', Graham Witt's 'Bounty Buccaneers' being the opposition, and skipper Drummond took this opportunity to give GH his debut appearance in the competition. Fielding first, the 'Bounty' are

restricted to just 44 runs, GH showing his class with a smart piece of fielding, chasing the ball with all the grace and care of an elephant recovering after being tranquilised. Another victory for the 'Colts', in fact both teams remain undefeated for the rest of the session, each finishing with 3 wins and 1 one defeat, and the final pool game to play on Sunday morning.

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June

It's difficult to report on what happened on Saturday night as the party got split up and were involved in different things. I think Noel must have had the best time, as he definitely looked paler before he applied his brilliant white sun block.

The 'Cubs' play their final pool game against Singapore Cricket Club and don't really do themselves justice, losing by 12 runs. The 'Colts' were up against Colonials Behaving Badly and GH was once again in the line-up. This time it was his bowling that caught everyone's attention. Using his 3 foot run up to maximum advantage he pitched the first ball just beyond the bowler's crease after which it bounced three times before coming to a rest a couple of feet off the mat, just in front of the motionless batsman. The batsman stares at the bowler with a look that seems to say "Are you taking the piss?"

Despite this, the CBB were only able to amass 61 runs, and Matt and Noel were confident of another 'Colts' win. This proved to be more difficult than they thought and 12 runs were still needed with only 2 balls remaining. Noel smashed the first for 6 and the second for 4, tying the match scores and sending the 'Colts' through to the quarterfinals as winners of their pool. The 'Cubs' were not so lucky, losing out to an inferior run rate.

ANZA Champs were the ¼ final opponents and proved just too strong for a valiant 'Colts' side, who had more than upheld the Kelawar reputation in 6's tournaments. Kelawar then proceeded to uphold their reputation in the beer tents for the rest of the afternoon.

The next problem was how to get the club President back to KL, thank goodness he's relatively subdued when he's smashed out of his brain. I poured him into a taxi outside of the hotel, and he poured himself out of it when I opened the door at the airport. Luckily he didn't set off any alarms while we were making our way to the departure lounge, and he slept for most of the flight. I assume that he was able to contact son Matt to collect him and take him home.

And that was that. A great weekend was had by all, socially and cricket wise. Well done everyone.