

Single Wicket 2009

A glorious albeit early Saturday morning on the 4th July and not a Yank in sight, (Hoorah I hear you call!) saw the gathering of 'the 22' for Kelawar's annual single wicket which pits, amongst others, man against man (speedy Vs Anu), old against young (Chris Vs Jason), hung over against sick (Henry Vs Eamsy) and bar dweller against bar tender (Johnny Vs Dave Sol.....or did Dave Sol play against himself?).

Anyway off to a flyer with ex champ Drummond dumping musical champ Larsen into the plate followed by another ex champ Dil having to hit 20 off 10 to overcome the exuberance and sultry good looks (allegedly!) of Druvi. We're off and running, all that is for the above mentioned sick and hung over who have yet to grace us with their presence.

Di busies herself with preparing the BBQ, Viv takes another Panadol presumably in anticipation of an upset stomach following said feast and the Pres takes to the field to take on the slightly younger, fitter but less handsome Anu. A slightly below par 15 off the bat for the Pres but with the handicap difference Anu needs to get 20 off the bat to win. A series of full tosses and short s...e gives Anu hope but with 4 needed off the last 3 balls Anu decides, for reasons known only to himself, that brawn should take precedent over brain and he tries to finish it in 1, only to be caught by an alert Scotty somewhere near cow corner. Anu learns a lesson which will serve him well in the rest of the tourney.

Next up a game which the pre-match email had billed as the clash of the Titans, Johnny against Dave Sol, as it turned out it was more like David against Goliath except that David had left his sling shot at home following a night out on the p..s with his mates! Johnny's bowling was dispatched unceremoniously to all parts by Dave for what I believe to be a competition record gross score of 44 (off 10 balls!). Johnny's 'chase' was slow, respectful (of Dave's bowling?) and generally s...e and he ended up 21 runs short. Sol marched on into the cup to play Arshad who threw his way to victory over ex winner Padma by the narrowest of margins (that's 1 run by the way!)

Rohit underlined his billing as pre-match favorite with a comfortable win over Mike 'whodunit' Sharrad and Geoff overcame a forlorn Andy Scott having been dropped on the way by Anu. This remember is the same Andy Scott who caught Anu earlier in the competition (what goes around comes apparently!). Webby faced a little know Vaidy who came to Kelawar last week as a better bowler than batsman.....and now we know why! In this largely one sided encounter however Webby's back 'went', the only cure apparently being 2 hours sleep, during which time his erstwhile team mates, but in this competition his opponents, toiled in the midday sun, 2 years running Webby has contrived to do the absolute minimum, 2 years running to no avail!

An older than he looks Jason saw off a younger than he is Chris Speed with little or no sentiment, Chris having been advised just to get bat on ball and run like hell by his old man managed to miss 6 out of 10 and Jason finished the job off with just 7 balls bowled.....easy peasy!

Battle of slow Vs slower (and that's their batting!), Big Phil Vs Witty, Witty bowled after 7 deliveries leaving Phil just 6 to get off 10, Witty bowled 3 wides.....alamah....Phil through.

Big sick arrives on his motor bike, Portaloo in tow just in case, closely followed by Hangover, strolling across the Alice Smith paddock like Clint Eastwood riding into town as 'the bad and the

ugly'. He prevails as did Clint, due largely to the lack of direction of the 'sick's guns, 4 bullets astray when only 11 were needed.

And so onto the 1st round proper when byes, beers and the effects of Di's BBQ were surely influential in the out comings.

The plate;

The first 'drop out' ex eye candy Druvi, out gunned by Larsen, now fuelled by significantly more Tiger than when he lost to Drum in the prelim round, perhaps we should start later next year (or Matt stay out later?). Then Johnny succumbed to Padma, who with only 3 balls to go needed 8 to surpass the previous record set by the bar tender, only to be denied by some devastatingly quick accurate bowling by Johnny (Too many tigers by this time!).

Chris Speed who had previously devoured almost half of Di's BBQ progressed at the expense of sick Simon who had managed just one chicken burger, the most solids that had entered (or indeed exited) his body for some 3 days. Anu made short work of Larsen in the next round leaving him to ponder whether it should be Tiger or Carlsberg keeping his right hand company for the rest of the afternoon! Padma saw of Andy Scott amid mutterings of conspiracy and dropped catches, there's always next year mate!

The unknown Vaidy had a good result against a 'fancied' (not by me I hasten to add) Mike Sharrad, who like young Chris earlier only managed to get bat on ball 3 times before being run out. Vaidy surpassing his modest total on the 9th delivery thus confirming his status either as a number 11 or an opener to succeed Webby. Wiley Witty out thought young Chris, caught by a now rejuvenated Henry, who was thankful it wasn't the other way round and another embarrassing moment against his tormentor.

The heady heights of the plate semis saw Anu, now in fine form, annihilate Padma and Vaidy take on Witty. Vaidy batted first and continued his stoic batting form 'smashing' 6 singles in Witty's 10 deliveries leaving just 2 runs to win, a formality you (and Witty!) would think.....Alas no! Witty out 3rd ball without troubling our scorer who was already into her 2nd packet of Panadol. And so Anu and Vaidy to battle it out in the final. Anu to bowl first, dot ball, single, dot ball, dot ball, dot ball, riveting stuff this and then an unplayable (by Vaidy at least!) rising delivery that lifted into Vaidy's nether regions and down he went, sack of potatoes like at first, then onto all fours as if a different angle of dangle would relieve the pain. He managed to walk off, met by the Pres wanting to know if he could finish the match and wanting to offer him some pain killers but Viv had just devoured the last one. He agreed to continue but only to bowl, happier we now know with the ball going away from him rather than towards him. So needing just 3 to win Anu met the 2nd delivery with aplomb, smashing it for 4 and victory. Well done to Anu, some sterling performances along the way and a popular winner.

The Cup;

First up and first out Dave Sol succumbing to Arshad, not via some bent arm, spinning, dipping, swinging, lifting delivery, Arshad's stock ball he would have us believe, but run out by a country mile and without the usual batsman at the other end to blame. Still it gave Dave time to do some keeping and to leave on time to prepare for the evenings entertainment.

Henry against Jason saw Jason hit one huge 6 before being caught and then 'H' putting brain before brawn and pushing the 6 runs required in comfortable singles.

Next saw the bowling performance of the day (or was it inept batting?) with Arshad facing all 10 of Geoff's deliveries, chasing 24 to win and scoring just a single. Henry saw off Big Phil to put him in the semis before two previous winners came together in the shape of Dil and Drum. Dil batted first and needed 8 to simply overcome the handicap difference which he got after just 3 deliveries, Drum we thought would have his work cut out but Dil had other ideas and tamely lofted Drum's 4th ball into the welcoming hands of that man Scotty again leaving just one run to win. Dil did all he could, fielders in close, on their toes ready, silent in concentration.....he then bowled a half volley which Drum smashed over long off for 4.....Bye Bye Dil!

Pre-tournament favorite Rohit then had to take on the sleeping beauty who had been woken from his slumbers by the promise of an evenings entertainment watching Rugby followed by whatever..... Well whatever 'whatever' was worked cos Rohit was cast aside and Webby was catapulted into the semis against Henry. Geoff saw of Arshad to book his place and the Pres overcame Drum off the last ball to become the 4th (and most unlikely!) semi finalist.

First up Geoff and Pres, Geoff to bat, 5 off the first 4 and then a drive to the only fielder who could throw from the boundary to the far end which he duly did to run out Geoff by a yard, Thank you Dil! Speedy got the 2 needed courtesy of a wide and into the final. Henry, alcohol free on the day, a good indication of how determined he was to win it, against the well rested Webby promised much and indeed delivered. Webby amassed a respectable 16 off Henry's 10 leaving Henry 18 to get off the bat with the handicap differences accounted for. With 3 balls remaining Henry was on 14, we're not sure whether Henry knew this or whether, as demonstrated when playing darts, he's simply c..p at maths but he only managed 3 singles to tie the game and take us into the only bowl off of the day. So with no batsman at the other end to intimidate him and with nothing else to think about except perhaps the 'whatever' the evening promised, Webby came in and bowled straight and true, hitting the top of middle stump. Henry's response was emphatic, demolishing all three stumps with a full length pearler (a sign of things to come perhaps!). That knocked the wind out of Webby who's next delivery was wide and suddenly he was tired again and wanting another lie down. Henry, composed and calm, replicated his first and Webby now needed to hit to stay in. He tried, oh how he tried but it wasn't to be and Henry marched on, now supremely confident knowing he was playing the Pres who at 10 years his senior and 10 cans of Tiger worse for wear and surely 2nd favorite in this 2 horse race.

And so it turned out, sadly, a tame affair, the Pres being asked to chase 17 off the bat after Henry had scored 22, some indifferent fielding included, which part of 'wicket keepers end don't you understand.....Jason' was clean bowled first ball by one resembling the previous two in the bowl off. Henry might claim a hat-trick but no-one will listen, no-one cares. Another entertaining day where everyone contributed, thanks to Di, Carole and Fran for the catering, thanks to Viv for the scoring and thanks to everyone for participating.

In Summary;

Cup Winner 2009; Henry Tattersfield, Runner up Mike Speed

Plate Winner 2009; Anu, Runner up Vaidy.

Just in case I can't make it next year, long may The Mike Speed Single Wicket Trophy continue.

Mike Speed

Pres.