**DCSCC vs Darlington Economic Campus cricket club, Tuesday 6 June 2023**

It turns out that 'Economic Compass' refers to a team based at the newly established Treasury office at Darlington. (Typically, Civil Service personnel are very cautious as to who they say they are!)

The game started with DEC being one player short so we opted to bat first, with Steve B fielding for Darlington for a couple of overs until Kris changed into his whites and was 'volunteered' to play for them (big mistake on our part!)

Vinay and Guy opened for us, putting on the runs quickly with Vinay opting for the aerial route...until he was caught in the deep. Mujeeb came next and pummelled the bowling in his inimitable style, until they brought on a rubbish left-arm bowler who dealt in numerous wides...including one that Mujeeb foolishly followed by nicking it into the keeper's gloves. For the most part, Guy resisted the temptation to hoist the ball into the air… except on one occasion where he smacked it long into the field in the vague direction of fielder Kris. Now any loyal member of DCSCC would have stumbled over the greensward rather than catch a clubmate out but, rather than show DEC we had given them a duff fielder, he sprinted 25 yards and actually caught the ball! Disgraceful!

Undeterred, the rest of the team rallied round and continued to add to the score. Terry hit a notable boundary before serving up a dolly; Hilal swept elegantly; Eckart clubbed the ball with vigour but couldn't keep up with Aidan at the other end who threatened to overtake him running between the stumps. In 20 overs we amassed 105 for 5.

For our part in the field, we found that one particular opening batsman was evidently 12th man for the Australian Ashes team. He smacked sixes and fours off anyone daring to bowl at him - said Aussie eventually retired on 30 plus(?) but this then left DCSCC to exert a stranglehold on the rest of the team.

Notable performances included Terry demolishing the stumps of the other opener and of No. 3; a 'heart-in-the-mouth' catch from Ian off his brother's bowling; Aiden being cruelly robbed of bowling one bemused batsman since umpire Steve ruled a no ball (it had bounced twice)...only for Aidan then to pitch it further up and the batsman to give Vinay a catch next ball. Hilal bowled smartly to remove two further of the opposition and then 'men of the match' Nigel had two batsmen caught behind by Eckart. This brought the destructive Aussie opener back to the crease but, after a quick single, wily Nigel kept him at the non-striker's end and clean-bowled the last man. DEC were 84 all out and DCSCC had gained a well-earned win.