

## A K-SOB STORY

By LIONEL B. WICKET

Tuesday saw DCSCC return to MC1 to finish a three day cricket marathon. Hoping to continue Monday's success, the mood was bright, as was the sunshine.

With KSOB only having eight players, our captain, Pat Card, offered to let them bat thus negating the need for a coin toss. This proved upsetting for some members of the team who were perhaps overly invested in the result. Pat completed a 'practice toss' which he won and so the winning streak was somewhat maintained. Peace restored.

Theo and Phil took the new ball and got straight to business — tight lines and teasing lengths. KSOB crept to 10 off the first three overs, surviving largely on fine edges to third man.

But pressure built. In the 5th over, a mistimed smack to mid-wicket landed safely in the secure hands of Pat. KSOB one down. One shortly became two, a rising delivery drawing an edge, and Eckart took the high ball into the gloves with calm assurance.

Phil, having conceded a boundary, responded like a man scorned. With his newly refurbished bowling action (courtesy of some self tapes), induced a false stroke and Rich Root accepted the catch at mid-on without fuss. KSOB looked a little shaky, but they'd find their form.

Enter Joanne and Ben. Joanne kept it tight, with the batters struggling against the good line and length. Ben, making his debut for DCSCC, announced himself in style — dot, dot, and then boom! A towering shot to deep cover was intercepted by Ashish, who removed his wide-brimmed hat with the flourish of a Victorian duelist before pocketing a superb catch. A wicket- maiden for Ben — an excellent first act.

Joanne was desperately unlucky not to be rewarded with an LBW, not once but twice — both balls thudded into the pads with all the subtlety of Pat Card running a three — but the umpire deemed them both "just sliding down leg."

KSOB, to their credit, weren't done. Some crisp drives and smart batting pushed them to 77-4 by the 12th over, with one batter retiring on 30. But the real headline act was about to begin.

Rich Root came on to replace Ben. In the absence of the chief sartorial whip, Tony Cleaver, Rich had taken to the field sporting a pair of black shorts in what can only be described as an aggressive disregard for cricketing decorum. But Richard wasn't interested in decorum, he had some lessons to teach KSOB. His consistent line and length would prove fatal for the batters.

Ball 1: Dot.

Ball 2: Timber.

Ball 3: Timber again.

Ball 4: Timber once more. A hat-trick of clean bowled wickets!

The fielders could barely believe it. Rich closed the over with dots, sealing a hat-trick-maiden that will echo in the cricket and hockey WhatsApp chats for years to come.

The final overs saw tight spells from Phil, Guy (c) and Theo, and another Root scalp — because why not? A run-out on the last ball (Eckart with his part gloves, part radar) capped it off. KSOB: 109-9.

After a brief interval and Rich having spoken to Nick Robinson confirming his appearance on the following days today programme, DCSCC went in to bat.

Guy (c) and Eckart strode out like gladiators. Not quite Russell Crowe and Maximus, but definitely two men with bats. They faced tricky, accurate bowling and kept things steady, albeit cautiously. After some quick singles in the first two overs, eighteen balls passed with

no scoring — in solemn tribute, perhaps, to the KSOB keeper who'd earlier taken a painful blow and retired. Eventually, Guy (c) pounced on a leg-side gift, sending it to the rope with an elegant pull shot.

After 10 overs DCSCC were 33 without loss, a third of the target.

Eckart fell to a tidy delivery, bringing in Ashish, who promptly sent a well-guided cut through point. However, the slow outfield and long boundary on the river-side of the pitch turned a four into a well-run three.

Ashish departed retired on a valiant 30\*, and Raj entered the stage. His knock was punctuated by spirited swings. One notable observation was that he was clearly having some issues with unsecured protective gear, resulting in a humorous and unique running technique that required one hand at the top of his trousers at all times. Raj's innings ended with a high risk shot and a safe catch.

Peter followed, but a wicked delivery ended his innings early. In came Captain Pat with steely intent. Guy, having weathered storms and stingy bowling, reached 30\* and retired, a well grafted and deserved 30\*.

This left Rich and Pat at the crease, needing 10 from 12. Pat was bowled by a devilishly slow one. Phil entered but was caught trying to force the pace. Theo arrived — but was left a spectator as Rich Root, not content with bowling glory alone, scored two late boundaries to secure victory with two balls to spare.

Final Score – DCSCC 110-5 with two deliveries left. A game that had everything — class, chaos, comedy — and once again, contributions from all.

A huge thank you to Jemima for scoring and to everyone that contributed over DCSCC's three-match marathon. Up next - more cricket, more tosses and hopefully some longer trousers.