

## THE EUAN SQUIRES TROPHY

By LIONEL B. WICKET

A cool early summer evening, slight gusts and the wiff of willow hanging in the air.

DCSCC gathered, not just for another match, but for the Euan Squires trophy against Grey SCR. Euan, a much-loved and prominent member of the club sadly passed whilst playing cricket, and although many in the team may not have known him, this game each year honours his memory, his contribution to the club and the game he loved. Long may it continue. Grey SCR had turned out both in players and supporters, testament to the regard Euan was held in.

Guy (c) looked apprehensive as he approached the opposition captain, knowing that one misjudged coin flip would likely result in civil unrest within the team. However his tossing remained, as ever, exceptional and he took DCSCC to a 10th consecutive toss win (0.1% chance for any biologists less au fait with mathematics).

DCSCC took to the crease, Guy (c) and Keerthi opened. Guy faced two stoic dot balls before clipping a single and ushering Keerthi to the stage.

Unfortunately, Keerthi's stay was brief — a dot followed by a dismissal — an unfortunate bounce proved unpredictable. Ash arrived and saw out the over. 1-1 after 1 over, 'measured' as my the local vicar might describe it.

But the innings began to bubble gen-

tly — a boundary here, a scampered two there — and by the fourth over, extras had added a bit of fun to the party. Ash took particular pleasure in anything short or wide, and the scoreboard crept upwards.

By the 10-over mark, Ash was nearing his retirement and Guy, not far behind, was also crescendoing to another proud asterisk in the score book. Ash reached a crisp 30\* (with two elegant fours to seal it) and made way for John Warren. Guy (c), not to be outdone, retired shortly after on his own unbeaten 30\*, sterling work.

John and Vinay's partnership was short-lived, a sharp pick-up from the mature fielding side and a removal of the bails caught John short. Enter Miles Hudson. The bat had now passed to hockey hands.

The final overs were classy. Vinay punished anything short. While Miles deftly swept the ball from his leg like a 1960s Arnold Palmer. Their unbroken partnership saw DCSCC reach a fine total of 121-2 from 18 overs.

The wind picked up slightly as the shadows lengthened, and DCSCC took the field. Grey SCR's Rich Root (in an unusual moment of inter-club diplomacy) opened the batting. Rajat's opening was full of menace — a streaky two, followed by a mistimed-airborne strike that Vinay calmly pocketed. 2-1 and DCSCC were off and running.

From the other end, Ian Boothroy. A well timed 4 was not enough to distract him and later that over the stumps had minor rearrangement courtesy of a fine

delivery from one half of DCSCC's answer to the Waugh brothers.

Staff were feeling good and in the sixth over Eckart (half-man, half-wicket-keeping algorithm) secured a vintage run out. Grey SCR, now 25-2.

Ben and Joanne took over bowling duties — youth, accuracy, and contempt for the wide line.

Joanne was miserly with her line, conceding just 4 from 2 overs. Ben likewise, finishing with a neat 0-12 from 3.

Rich had put on a stand-out show, he had cut, pulled, and lofted his way to an impressive retirement on 30\*, proving he had not defected in vain.

In spite Rich and Hailes' best efforts, the rate never quite took flight. Mike Costello was clinical in his over. Keerthi bowled tight in the dying embers of the innings, and Vinay, returning, closed it all out with the economy of a Yorkshire accountant.

Grey SCR ended their innings on 63-3 — a noble effort, but some way short of the target.

And so, the Euan Squires Trophy concluded in DCSCC's favour — a game played with spirit, skill, and good nature.

Cricket was at it's best, an inter-generational field of players with mutual respect and genuine sense of community.

Thanks go to all who played and supported with particular thanks to Grey SCR and their supporters, we appreciate it is not so easy to field a team so we are grateful for your time, effort and attitude.