

My Dear Friends,

A very close call on the weekend. The Skip lost the toss on a hot and windy day and we were forced to field 8 players. Cougar took the gloves of the Keeper from Prague and his warm up was brief. For the other 7 there was no warm up. We did very well to hold them in the first 25 overs with tight bowling and resolute fielding. Odie, Sean, POK and KG were the standouts, with Cougar fitting in seamlessly behind the stumps. POK was sharp and straight to take 1 for 27 off his 7. The Skip was extremely economical to take 1 for 15 off his 7, combining accuracy with swing and bounce. Our 'Quite Useful Player' Sean bowled 6 very nice overs and took 3 for 17. Juka and myself were the aberrations on the day both going for over 30 off 4. To be fair to Juka, Cougar did stump their slogger early in his innings but the square leg umpire didn't see it that way. Cougar did make it to the score book leaping high to take a fizzing, dropping, kicking top spinner off your correspondent to effect a stumping Honnsie would've approved of. As Gauch said we would've accepted the 156 they made if offered to us at the start but we did let them get away from us at the end. We were lucky that KG came back on and restored some order, finishing with 3 for 29 of his 7 accurate and guile filled overs. Odie and Sean took 2 very good catches and KG and POK chimed in with one each.

Our batting didn't start well to say the least. 3 for 3 off the first 2 overs had us in some difficulty. Especially when we only had 10 batters for the day. The Skip and Quite Useful Player restored some sanity smacking and defending in turn in a 61 run partnership which saw Sean dropped 3 times by the same player. Gauch was bowled for 31. Sadly, not long after Sean hit another catch to the same fielder who bizarrely held one and reduced his season batting average to 159. Cougar looked a little scratchy at the start but seemed to be easing into it when he was out to one of the best outfield catches you will ever see. We were 6 for and not even half way home. Thankfully Juka and POK batted with determination and resolve in a 69 run partnership that also saw some controlled big hitting. It was quite a surprise that POK went out when he seemed to have the game under control. His 45 was a very good pressure innings. We needed 13 runs with only two wickets remaining. Your correspondent and Juka got us to within 5 before I stupidly played across the line to get bowled. There was no need to worry as KG impassively strode out and defended stoutly until Juka smashed a four to bring us to a victory. His 30 runs were calmly and determinedly crafted.

After that near death experience we need to do a bit of training this week as well as looking for additional players. We will be without Juka, Normie and I believe the Keeper for the rematch over the next 2 Sundays. It was nice to see Ian Wenlock down supporting with the Leftie who has a birthday today. Happy Birthday to him.

Cheers
Brett

Brett Curran | Skipper Emeritus
Mighty Fighting Sixths Omnipotens Pugnaces Sexti