



KCC Templars vs. KCC Infidels

Sunday, 24 January 2010

This year promises to be an extremely challenging one for the rejuvenated KCC Templars side, comprising of a majority of young up-and-coming players, supported by a couple of experienced senior players. The restructuring of the KCC teams meant that the Templars' newly inducted younger players would now be offered more opportunities to shine, perform and gain experience in the Sunday league.

With Lamsam winning the toss and putting the Infidels in on a lively green wicket, the Infidels made a confident start with a flurry of boundaries as Matt Collins punished anything wayward or loose. However, it was anticipated that it was just a matter of time before the Templars bowlers in Ateeq Ul-Rehman capitalised on a seaming wicket to eventually induce the edge of Collins to Lamsam at first slip for a whirlwind 25. It brought a certain Peter Wooden to the crease, who subsequently drove, nudged and plundered his way to 49. His partnership with Anthony Barnet led to a healthy foundation of 122 for 1 in 27 overs.

However, the Infidels did not reach that total without some comical running between wickets from Barnet and Wooden, along with some accurate medium pace bowling from Kapil Shukla. Shukla was easily the pick of the bowlers as he swung, seamed and troubled both batsmen whilst making full use of the green wicket. He eventually bowled a miserly spell of 10 straight overs for 31 runs, and was rather unlucky not to have picked up a wicket. Nevertheless, his bowling partnership with the new player in town, Kaushal Hasanga Karunasena (a rather short name for a Sri Lankan), a slow left-arm orthodox spinner, regulated the Infidels' momentum who were initially accelerating at 6 an over to 3 an over.

Along with some tight fielding in the inner circle, the Templars were slowly and subtly grasping control of the pace of the game. A key moment in the match was the run out of Wooden when the Infidels total was on 131 for 1. Thanks to some dynamic fielding from Usman Khan in cover, and more

miscommunication between the Infidels batsmen, Wooden was left stranded when his partner Barnet did not respond. The crucial run out of Wooden allowed the Templars to insert more pressure onto the Infidels middle order which resulted in a deluge of wickets. Even a somewhat quiet, yet focused Devang Shah also got in on the action as he too bowled a full straight 10 overs of unyielding spin. The combination of Shah and Karunasena mesmerised Kelleher, Montague and more importantly the set batsman Barnet for 66. Only a late cameo innings of 35 runs from Waqar Dawood allowed the Infidels to surpass the 200 run mark.

Due to some solid teamwork and composure on the field, the Templars who were at one point earlier in the innings looking to chase down an improbable 280 plus score, managed to restrict the Infidels to 223.

Conversely, the Templars began their run chase in the worst possible fashion losing both openers Usman and Anoop to lose shots by the 5th over. Young Nicholas Chellery impressed and was swinging the ball prodigiously, yet consistently leaked wides. Unfortunately, there was one particular over which Chellery would like to forget, whereby he bowled a staggering 10 wides in an over. But with more training and tutelage, KCC will no doubt have a threatening opening bowler in the years to come.

The Templars were creeping along at a cautious pace but lost wickets at regular intervals. Miten Khatri fell to Chellery's out-swinger, Kaushal was comically stumped off Dawood's leg-side wide and Roshan Dadlani left a straight ball from Dawood. Only skipper Lamsam was countering the might of Wooden's left arm darts and Dawood's mystery doosras, with some watchful singles. But when Lamsam fell to a sharp return catch off Wooden for 38, the Infidels felt a Templars run chase might be over with the score precariously poised at 5 for 103 in the 32nd over.

However, complacency and perhaps over-

confidence crept into the Infidels mind set and an unlikely partnership was formed between 14-year-old Kinchit Shah and Kapil Shukla. With an instilled concoction of determination and quiet confidence, the two Templars batsmen reaped quick runs and formed the definitive match-winning partnership of 90. Shah's innings displayed some classy, crisp straight drives off all the Infidels bowlers, and sometimes left his teammates sitting in the pavilion gasping in awe at the ease at which he was achieving it. Meanwhile, Shukla complimented Shah with some smart boundaries and carried along playing with much conviction.

In a gripping finish to the innings chase, Shah was bowled by Dawood for 38 flawless runs with the score at 8 for 198 in the 42nd over. The Templars still had an uncomfortable 28 runs remaining to complete the win and consequently, it was a bit of a gamble to call for the last remaining batting powerplay in the 43rd over which somehow flustered the Infidels plans a little further. It allowed the next batsman Sunny Bhimsaria, who has often played exciting low order innings under pressure, to step up to the challenge and cut loose. With some lusty Viv Richards-esque cuts and lofts off Wooden, he completed a match-winning knock of 17 not out. Befittingly, Shukla hit the winning runs as well as his 50 in style with punchy straight 6 off Mustafa to complete a memorable match performance.

It was the first win of the season for the band of colts, and after 4 losses, had gained a much needed moral-boosting victory. The win gave the young cricketers a taste of what difference was needed to generate victory as well as the required composure to sometimes win against the odds.

There is much hope and potential in these hungry young guns and perhaps with more opportunities and guidance, bigger and better things can be seen from these players. Inevitably, this can only spell as a healthy future for KCC cricket.

Sam Trimble at KCC

Sam Trimble, a legend of Queensland cricket visited KCC on 4 February and regaled some great cricketing stories. A right-hand opening batsman, Sam Trimble was regarded as one of the finest

opening batsmen to represent Queensland cricket and was unfortunate never to get closer to international honours than being 12th man for Australia against West Indies in 1964-65.

During his most successful years in the mid-1960s, Bill Lawry and Bob Simpson had a stranglehold as Australia's openers (they were also selectors!), and he had to be content with scoring heavily for his state. In 1970-71 he smashed 177 against an MCC attack which included John Snow and Peter Lever.

After retirement, Sam ran the famous annual junior cricket coaching camp at the Gabba for many years, whose alumni included Anthony Barnet. Sam played 144 first class matches, scoring 26 centuries and over 10,000 runs for Queensland at an average of 42. Sam lives in Brisbane and now spends much of his time on the manicured links of the Brisbane Golf Club.

From left: Brewbags, Sam Trimble, Brian Stapleton and Barney



"Arise, Sir John"

His association with the KCC Cricket and current involvement in international sports

Born in Fairlie New Zealand, Sir John studied law at the University of Otago and became a solicitor first, then barrister of the Supreme Court of New Zealand. He enjoyed various appointments during his career and went to Hong Kong where he was variously Magistrate, Coroner, Family Court Judge, District Court Judge and Master of the Supreme Court.

He has been involved in various sports and committees in New Zealand and during the 80s when in Hong Kong he was Captain of Cricket at KCC.

"Notably, he is well known for the time he captained the Tartars when the regulars were away. As captain he got a hat trick (his only one) against Saracens... first wicket Glyn Davies, 3rd wicket Dave Greenwood... and was not sure who was in between."

He was also the Manager, Hong Kong Cricket XI to Malaysia/Singapore 1983



and ICC Associate Members Trophy UK 1986.

Some notable achievements over the last decade include:

2003 – Manager, New Zealand Team, Hong Kong International Cricket Sixes Tournament

2008 June – Made a Distinguished Com-

panion of The New Zealand Order of Merit (DCMNZ)

April 2009 – Appointed to the NZRFU Appeals Council.

April 2009 – Appointed to IRB Judicial Panel.

October 2009 – Appointed to Board of New Zealand Cricket.



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