# **Hetairoi vs Flycatchers** 7/7/26

Cricket. . It's a funny old game. . It's all Greek to me

At last, a return to Hetairoi roots and a time game. Winning the toss in time games is a two edged sword, bat first and face taking ten wickets with batting for a draw a real possibility, and score too few and watch the oppo stroll home in the chase. Against that is the palpable feel good scenario of bowling to victory.

So on winning the toss, the Hetairoi opted to bat. After a slow start, John Ball and Simon Evans took the open partnership to past 100, and Simon another solid 50. After the two openers left in close succession, the rest of the innings stumbled to an all out and distinctly sub-par total of 160.

Post tea with an hour and 20 overs, the flycatcher openers strode to the middle (apparently one opener asked of his partner whether he'd have to retire on getting 100, add hubris to your list of favourite aspirated Greek words)

Simon Evans and William Ball opened the bowling each bowling to a ring field, everyone saving one bar fine leg. Will struck the first blow replying to a crunching shot through the covers for four with a nip backer bowling the first opener. Simon bowled three overs before stopping with a painful ankle (Achilles? Grecophiles?) replaced by the Justin Abel.

What followed still seems like a fantasy dream to the Hetairoi, the worst nightmare for the Flycatchers.

Justin took two wickets in an over and William kept producing unplayable deliveries. The score went nowhere and wickets mounted, mainly bowled, but special mention of the remarkable reaction catch from the senior Simon Evans, reportedly a left hander, stuck out out a right mitt and a sharp chance from Will stuck. It was the Hetairoi's day.

The one run saving field kept a lid on scoring, and in a day of generally good ground fielding, Karim Pal deserves special mention with several telling stops.

After an unbroken spell of 10 overs (6-21 )Will was replaced by Olly Fryer, Justin being replaced by Charley Fryer. The indisposition of one Flycatcher player meant the ninth wicket would give a win to the home side. Well done to Charley for wrapping things up with yet another clean bowled victim.

So the sub par Hetairoi total of 160, turned into a massive win by 103. Their total of 57 was less than Simon Evans scored off his own bat in the Hetairoi innings! That 57 took 25 overs to compile, never at the races.

The result was certainly remarkable, but more than amply gave credence to the feel good factor of batting first and bowling the oppo out.