

## **Staten Island Cricket Club – Family Day 1999**

The annual family day celebrations of the Staten Island Cricket Club was held on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, at the club grounds, here in Staten Island. The weatherman had predicted light showers and cloudy skies and this would have contributed to the very low turn over of our members their families, well wishers and friends.

People began trickling in, with their contribution of foodstuff, drinks etc. The final headcount was 24 adults, and 14 children. Joining in the fun was Sam Selvendran from Surrey, England.

Bala provided us with his grill. Babu and Satha took over the task of cooking. The main menu was barbecued frankfurters, tastily marinated chicken quarters, and burgers. The male chefs did a great job at the grills to outsmart the ladies, who hitherto dominated the cooking during the previous years' family day celebrations. There were plenty of tastily prepared dishes from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India and the Caribbean Islands. The ladies deserve all the credit for arranging mouth-watering food on carefully laid out tables.

I was given the task of putting together two ladies cricket teams. It took a lot of persuasion and reluctantly 16 ladies agreed to play. One was lead by Earl's wife Dawn and the other by our club captain Shaficool's wife Sintra. Each team fielded 8 players. Sintra's team went into bat and was bundled out for 25 runs. Navel Felix bowled 3 overs and captured 2 wickets at the cost of 17 runs. Vijay had a better bowling spell, capturing 4 wickets at a personnel cost of 8 runs in 3 overs. Captain Sintra top scored with 12 runs. Dawn's team goes into bat, scored 26 for the loss of 5 wickets, winning the game by 3 wickets. Navel Felix top scored with 18 runs. Thahir Butt's wife had a splendid bowling spell of 1 over – 1 run – 3 wickets, which also included a hat trick. Bala and I officiated as the scorers in this annual ladies test series.

Hurriedly picked men's cricket match followed the ladies cricket match. Vinney's team went into bat and piled up 49 for the loss of 4 wickets. Roy and Earl captured 2 wickets each. Roy's team was bundled out for 30 runs. Thanks to some clever bowling by captain Vinney, who captured 5 wickets for 18 runs.

The children's event was the 80 meters dash. Melanie Hacket was able to beat my youngest daughter Shireen, by atleast 2 lengths.

The day was wearing out and every one was obviously tired and anxious to get back to their respective homes to spend the rest of the weekend doing usual stuff. It was now time to call it a day and the president made his usual speech thanking everyone for sacrificing a well-earned Saturday. The children were quite disappointed to go home empty handed, because the 'token trophies' were not available for distribution. The president however assured that the trophies would be sent to the competitors at a later date and declared the family day closed. Everyone headed towards his or her vehicles homeward bound!

Shafie Jayman