

Cape

Kalahari Cup Match

By Joel Krige, Cape Bar



Cape Bar v Jo'burg Bar at the Vineyard Oval, Claremont. Standing from left: Gary Beale, John Rogers, Dave Melunsky, Jan Buurman, Darryl Cooke, Lee Bozalek, Anwar Albertus, Basil Joseph, PJ Combrinck, Attie Heyns, Heinrich Jansen van Rensburg, Roy Gordon, Duncan Turner, A D'Oliveira, M Cochrane, Schalk Aucamp, Greg Amm. Kneeling in front from left: Joel Krige, Bruce Leech, Terence Ossin, Paul Belger. Caught the early plane home: Gerry Pretorius

Whatever anyone might say, Joburg has style. On the Friday, the Barristers XI flew into the Mother City brandishing a spanking new silver trophy – the Kalahari Cup – which, of course, they had every intention of winning and taking home again. But luck (or too much sun and wine in Franschoek the previous day) would not have it their way. We mustered a great team for Sunday's game and managed to restrict them to 140, against great talents who could chase down 175 against Pakistan, 193 against the Barristers of England and Wales and bowl the West Indies South out for 101 in the World Cup.

Notwithstanding Anwar's reservations about the decision to bowl first, the majority went with Dave's advice that the pitch would dry out and get flatter as the day went on. The Barristers, too, were torn between taking up the touring party's prerogative to bat first and avoid fielding in the sun, and having to catch an early plane home.

Bowling first paid off. Our strike bowlers put on a great performance with Roy at 2 for 32, Heinrich 2 for 19, John Rogers 1 for 20, Attie 2 for 32, Anwar 1 for 20 and Darryl 1 for 8 (or thereabouts). Schalk Aucamp, a five-year running captain of Potchefstroom Uni kept them in the game with a patient half century, assisted by Terence Ossin with a well struck 33.

We were soon in trouble with our top order fading, but Roy and Dave stayed focused until drinks, laying the foundation for us, with Dave being applauded by his fan club for almost each of his 33 runs. The Joburgers' bowling attack was superb, swinging and weaving the ball in and out: Begler (2 for 10 off seven overs), D'Oliveira (1 for 26 off six overs), Leech (2 for 25 off seven overs), PJ Combrink (1 for 24 off five overs), Pretorius (0 for 1), Cochrane (1 for 28 off seven overs) kept the pressure on and Bruce Leech bowling in-swingers when we were expecting them to swing out. Lee commented that we were in trouble at 61 for 6 after drinks.

Dave took over the umpiring duties expecting to administer the last rites over our innings. Instead, he was treated to a revival sparked by Bozalek J, and one lone helmeted batsman, 'Biff Krige,' perhaps stung by the opposition's chirps, or inspired by the prospect of being the first holder of the Kalahari Cup, played a match winning innings of 42 n.o. to rescue his faltering side. Joel surprised friend and foe



Joel Krige on the left with Attie Heyns, holding the Kalahari Cup.

alike by coolly mixing his standard forward defensive prods with scything pulls to all corners of the leg side (and one straight drive to the sight-screen) and in one memorable and decisive over, reaching the boundary four times from balls destined for the middle stump off Schalk Aucamp. Anwar later described Joel's performance as worthy of the title of a book he had received as a school prize for being the best student of the year, by that colonial jingo Rudyard Kipling called 'Captain Courageous.' We hung in thereafter, taking the singles with Heinrich avoiding his famous big swipes. By then the smell of burning kameeldoring, specially imported from the Kalahari to go with the Cup, was wafting across the field, but we were determined not to throw it by doing a Ronan O'Gara (whose high tackle lost the Lions series), nor a Nacklevuki (whose high tackle late in the semi-final lost the Curry Cup). Finally, it was all over at 141 for 8.

Roy took over the braai and we relaxed in the company of a wonderful Barristers' team that had flown down for the weekend bringing the Kalahari Cup with them and starting a great new cup tradition. Now we need to get our other trophy back. 