

WELLESLEY HOUSE NEWS

THE WELLESLIAN

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Subject:: Cricket and Tragedy

Date:: JUNE 2022

Classic Greek Tragedy—or family fun? Difficult to know...

It is perhaps fitting that some of the children recently performed Oedipus as their form play, the very archetype of inter-generational conflict. The Middle School Mixed Soft Ball match which took place on the 25th June 2022 was certainly as dramatic as the Sophoclean tragedy. However, in the legend there are no real winners, whilst there was the sense that this fixture would not end in a draw. Hopefully no one was going to gouge their own eyes out after killing their father.

The kids have definitely benefited from the Wellesley touch over the last year, whilst it must be said some of the parents have slightly withered on the vine. The big question hangs in the air: have our abilities declined sufficiently for the fruit of our collective loins to wrest victory from our weakening and feeble grasp, like hungry inheritors filling their bags with the family silver while our last breath still rests on our lips?

The parents quickly checked if anyone had recently received an ominous premonition from the Oracle at Delphi that their child was destined



to beat them. The overheads loomed with dramatic ironic intent and the ball started to talk. With Southorn and Symington Mills at either end the opening overs were somewhat frantic before the innings was becalmed as Shatokhin and Spanton dug in. Scoreboard pressure was starting to creep when Lucy and Trudi stepped to the crease with the Wainman brothers and Luna frothing at them from the other end. The batswomen wisely took an over to get themselves in before Lucy opened up with 5 boundaries in her next six balls. At the other end Trudi managed a meagre 6 runs; questions over her approach to training and whether she has the temperament to play at this level remain.

The higher order had done their job however, with the lacquer all but gone and the clouds starting to lift the lower order displayed aggressive running and power-hitting to double the score against skillful and controlled bowling. Sarafoglou & Grady rode their luck and narrowly avoided cardiac arrest in their stand of 44, and the tail wagged as Caroline and Martin added 32 before Martin managed to run himself out. The score to chase was a respectable 148-8.

The children started their brutal reply, capitalising



from some buffet bowling, which seemed to deteriorate further following the drinks break. Shatokhin high scored with 30, with Wainwright, R. close behind on 28. Scoring from all was rapid and all around the wicket, as our little angels sensed weakness and went in for the kill. It is worth recalling that Oedipus' patricide was accidental; however these little treasures were plotting our demise in front of our very eyes.

Perhaps in desperation the fielding side started to resort to foul play, with Sarafoglou, A. sullyng his family name when he was penalised for kicking the stumps under the Umpire's nose. Umpire Laurens was faultless throughout, surviving several direct hits and at times acted



However if fearlessness is indeed a trait of this generation, then we might consider the importance of at least a little caution. While the Gen Xer parents - latch-key kids one and all - prized each wicket as if it was the last findus crispy pancake and that's all there was for dinner, the youngsters played with a profligacy and gay abandon which would not look out of place in the England Test team of late.

Is this the recklessness of youth or a predestined characteristic of their generation born into a brave new world of twitters, space jets and 5 ball overs? Yes they scored a massive 160 runs, but at the cost of 18 wickets. Therefore at an agreed exchange rate of 5 runs per wicket, the parents were once again rightful champions – our rictus claws clutching to our primacy for one more year. Until next year then, we will savour it, and in the meantime avoid any visits to Delphi.

more like a rugby ref, elegantly managing the adrenaline of both sides and keeping the sledging just on the right side of civil.

The children showed true grit and fearlessness in the chase. The former exemplified when Wainman, B. (kids person of the match) was bowled a full beamer straight to his face by his own mother (parents person of the match), only to hit his next ball for a straight six over long on.

