

Grass Root Cricket

Scene One

Characters

Frisco
Andrew
Trevor
Ossie
Leslie
Dalton
Steve
Aubyn
Mr. Service
Godfrey
Donavon
Alex
Tim

It's a scorching hot Sunday afternoon. Chevette, the top Black local cricket team is preparing to play a side from London. One by one the home players casually stroll into the park unconcerned about the time. Its quarter past two and six players are missing. The opposition are out on the field warming up except for a big belly one that was getting more pleasure out of his can of special brew.

Leslie wins the toss at twenty to three and decided to bat, despite of one or two rumbles from unrecognisable voices. Andrew and Trevor open the bating. There is a loud appeal for lbw against Andrew in the second over. The umpire is Frisco, Andrew's team mate. Frisco's finger goes up. He gives Andrew out.

Andrew Come on Frisco, play de game man.

Frisco What do you mean play de game? You out, cha.

Andrew (nose swelling up) There is no way dat ball woulda hit de stumps.

Frisco (getting angrier than Andrew) Ley me tell you someting right! I was trained to give these types of decisions so don't come tell me my job. What do you know?

Andrew (eyes popping) what do I know? I know I wasn't out, dats what I know.

Leslie (calls from the pavilion) Come on Andrew.

Andrew's head turns sharply to look at his skipper and reluctantly walks off the field, but not before flinging his right arm in the air. In the mean time Trevor decides to have some fun.

Trevor That ball was missing leg stump Frisco.

Frisco Why don't you shut up, can you see from there?

Trevor De man wasn't out, you don't know de rules.

Trevor walks away to garden the pitch but frisco isn't finished yet.

Frisco Look nuh, don't get me mad now, de man was out.

Andrew reaches the pavilion as Godfrey walks out to bat.

Ossie (half smiling) Hard luck Andrew, boy

Andrew Don't tell me hard luck man dat wasn't out.

Tim So what you doing here den?

Andrew ignores Tim's remark and begins to demonstrate how he played the shot.

Andrew I was way down de wicket and de man still give me out

Ossie I could see it from here

Andrew (glad for the support) For a man who call himself a professional umpire dat was bad. (he takes off his pads and finally sits down)

Ossie Never mind boy, is so it go sometimes.

Andrew (charged up again) Don't keep telling me is so it go Ossie, dat man should never be out dey in de first place.

Leslie R-right Andrew, calm down nuh.

Andrew Calm down? you calm down. Is your friend, dats why you send him out dey?

Leslie So what you trying to say, me send him out dey to jouck you?

Godfrey reaches the wicket. He goes to Frisco

Godfrey Andrew well upset boy.

Frisco Upset what! de man out.

Godfrey passes Trevor who is still tapping away at the wicket.

Godfrey Big argument out dey guy.

Trevor (loud enough for frisco to hear) The ball was going down the leg side, it wasn't out.

Frisco points at Trevor, he is at breaking point.

Frisco Listen nuh! (he walks off the field)

Godfrey You see what you done?

Trevor (grinning) I knew he would snap eventually.

Godfrey Was it really out doh?

Trevor (grinning) It was plum.

Godfrey Boy you bad.

Frisco reaches the pavilion.

Frisco Somebody else go out deh. (he throws down the umpire's coat)

Leslie You didn't have to walk off like dat Frisco.

Frisco (he flings out his arms) Walk off like what?

Leslie You could have at least wait til de over finish.

Frisco Cha, mek somebody else go out deh.

Leslie Why did you come off though?

Frisco (steering hard at Leslie) You are trying to be funny now aren't you?

Andrew He must feel guilty, dat's why he come off.

Tim But he come off too late to save you, nuh true Andrew?

Andrew (talking to himself but for all to hear) I never tart one of my own man would do something like dat.

Leslie Who is going out den? (he looks at Steve)

Steve Don't badder look at me, where is Service?

Leslie Service out deh already.

Steve Oh! Sorry, but me nat doing it today!

Leslie picks up the coat.

Leslie Aubyn, can you do a few overs fer me?

Aubyn Me kcar umpire.

Ossie Gime de coat, (he grabs the coat from Leslie) I'll go, but ley me tell alyo something, I aint staying out dey all day.

Andrew (to no one in particular) I leave my house to come and play cricket and this happen. (he sucks his teeth) I might as well did stay home.

Frisco Cha stop yo nise and watch de cricket yo done out.

Andrew Me done out because you cheat me out.

Leslie Oh God, here we go agen.

Frisco (trying to justify his decision) Andrew, you was plum.

Andrew De ball was no where near de stumps Frisco.

Frisco How can you tell? I was in the best position to see exactly where the ball pitched.

Andrew Well you shoulda give me the benefit of the doubt.

Frisco (A little more self assured) Don't be stupid, how could I give you the benefit when there was no doubt?

Leslie (Trying to change the conversation) Can someone else take over the scoring, Tim, have to pad up.

Aubyn I can do dat.

Tim gets up and searches for some pads.

Tim Leslie, wha happen to all de pads? I can't even find a good pair. You will have to have a serious word with dat treasurer we have there you know. (he turns to Andrew) Andrew, ley me borrow yours nuh?

Andrew Tim, don't mek me and you fall out.

Tim I only ask you a simple question. Don't tell me you still vex with Frisco.

Frisco (pleased for the support) You tell him gime Tim.

Leslie Hurry up Tim, Godfrey out.

Tim Wha happen? How he get out?

Leslie The Rasta man bowl him.

Ossie walks off with Godfrey.

Leslie Wey you going Ossie? You only just went out dey.

Ossie (half smiling) What number am batting?

Leslie I haven't put you down yet.

Ossie So who is next?

Leslie Tim, den Dalton.

Ossie So you mean to tell me you put Tim before me? (he shakes his head) Boy alyo good.

Tim So wha wrong with dat Ossie? I man is a star you know, I gwine batter the bowling when I go out dey.

Leslie Everyone will get a bat Ossie - come in when another wicket fall.

Ossie and Tim walks to the wicket.

Leslie Wha happen there Godfrey?

Godfrey (disappointed) Cha, I played right over de barl.

Steve You always get out with dat stupid shot.

Leslie Oh Lord, trouble..... Ossie jouck Tim.

Steve Rartid, is now trouble start. How he out, LB?

Leslie No, caught behind, and he don't look happy at all.

Tim walks off the pitch shaking his head and rubbing his left arm.

Tim Andrew boy, I know how you feel now.

Andrew Don't say anything to me man. I always tell alyo, every dog have his bone

Leslie Didn't you touch it den Tim

Tim Nowhere near Leslie man, nowhere near.

Andrew (a bit more cheerful) Umpires decision is final Tim, dats what you tell me arnt it.

Tim I'm not complaining,. But anyone could see it wasn't out.

Ossie comes off the field. Tim looks at him and shakes his head. Leslie goes out to umpire.

Ossie What's de matter Tim?

Tim (glad for the chance to have his say) Wey you mean what's de matter? I never touch de ball

Ossie The ball came off your gloves Tim.

Tim No Ossie man, look at the red mark on me shirt.

Ossie (looking at Tim's arm) Which mark? That was there from last week (he sucks his teeth)

Andrew Shot Trevor, mek fou me an you.

Aubyn Trevor need eight more for his fifty.

Ossie Trevor got so many runs already?

Tim I wouldn't mind if you wasn't so fast with yo finger.

Ossie Tim, less yo nise! What's the score Aubyn?

Aubyn Sixty Seven.

Ossie For how much?

Aubyn Two, sorry, Three.

Leslie (Shouts from square leg) Frisco come after Ossie.

Steve Shot, super.

Ossie Shot what! He is out.

Steve He catch it? How he do dat? Dat look four all de way. Who going next?

Ossie Me.

Steve So what number me going?

Ossie Ask de man at square leg.

Steve So you mean Frisco going before me.

Frisco So what if I bat before you , you is no batsman.

Steve Who is no batsman? I bet you, you don't mek Ten runs out dey today.

Frisco Cha, keep yo money.

Trevor reaches the pavilion.

Godfrey Unlucky Trev, well batted.

Aubyn Well batted Trevor, you just missed your fifty.

Trevor I'm not bothered about fifty. It was a good catch though. The best I ever face.

Frisco (Showing teeth) Good catch what. Ah bad shot.

Godfrey Nah man, that was a brilliant catch.

Trevor Of course it was. Frisco is only awkward because he give my spar out.

Andrew Well said Trev, shake me hand.

Tim goes to Trevor.

Tim Trevor, ley me ask you a question, did I touch dat ball?

Trevor I couldn't see, ask Fresco, he is the professional umpire.

Tim You see you?

Aubyn Look like we will struggle to get a Hundred.

Frisco How much overs left to go Aubyn?

Aubyn Ley me see - about Fifteen.

Frisco Dats R-right, at least I wouldn't have to slug today. I should have time to play my shots.

Tim (Laughing) Frisco, keep quiet! You don't have no shots?

Frisco Wait and see.

Trevor (Showing no expression) Frisco is a joker. A professional joker.

Dalton hits a big six over the pavilion.

Tim Go dey Brownie. Frisco, is dem sort of shot you mean? Lash him agen Dalton.

Godfrey Service want to come off.

Steve Ley him stay out dey.

Godfrey You can't do dat.

Tim (laughing) Strokes Ossie.

Trevor Strokes what, he look funny.

Everyone laughs.

Andrew You guys are really two face.

Tim What's the matter now Andrew?

Andrew Ah tired tell alyo, the wicked will never get away.

Trevor Andrew, go back to sleep and keep quiet.

Aubyn (Annoyed) Uno stop de noise and mek me concentrate pon the scoring!

Godfrey Oh no, look who is coming!

Alex approaches with two tins of Tenants larger in his hands.

Tim Wha happen Alex? Gime some ah de Tenants nuh.

Alex It nearly done.

Tim Me only want ah drop.

Alex reluctantly pushes the can towards Tim. Steve looks at Tim anxiously.

Steve Tim, leave ah drop gime.

Tim How you mean leave a drop gi you? Am draining the tin as it is.

Steve Alex, you have anymore ah dem ting dey?

Alex Me only have one fer later.

Steve Sell me it nuh.

Alex Two poun.

Steve Two poun for wha, you crazy?

Alex looks towards the cricket action.

Alex Wait, ah Assie Lewis dey out dey? You all must be desperate. Who to go next, Frisco? Nah I can't believe he still ah play cricket. De game done.

Tim Game done and you see Dalton out dey ah lash ball.

Alex So wait, Wha happen to all de super stars? Andrew, you done bat?

Andrew Ask Frisco.

Alex How you mean ask Frisco, so you nah have mout?

Godfrey Service is coming off, someone will have to go umpire.

Andrew gets up without saying a word and takes overs from Mr. Service.

Service (Laughing and showing plenty of teeth) Gentlemen I couldn't stay hout dhere heny longer in dat hot sun.

Steve (To no one in particular) A hot day like dis and nobody nuh bring liqueur to sell.

Aubyn Do you realize dat dem two already put on forty runs.

Trevor And I bet Dalton have thirty nine of dem. (he burst out laughing)

Aubyn For your information, Ossie have sixteen.

Alex You sure dem nuh byes.

Everyone laughs. Steve is the loudest. Donavon approaches.

Don (To no one in particular) How Uno men doing ? (he goes to look at the score book) I see you miss out on another fifty Trevor.

Trevor The guy took a brilliant catch. The best I ever seen.

Don Who is the captain?

Trevor That joker at square leg.

Don You mean Leslie?

Aubyn Yeah.

Don So how come he aint bat yet? (He shouts to Leslie) Leslie, get out here and put on some pads. Wha happen, you doh war win dis game?

Leslie gives teeth less smile. Dalton goes for a big hit and misses.

Don Play straight Dalton, Get your head down.

Tim Donavon, leave de man alone, he is doing al-right.

Don I don't give a shite. He will never improve if he don't learn to play straight.

Someone calls for a run. Dalton sets off, Ossie says no then decides to run. Dalton charges down but Ossie turns back. Dalton is run out.

Trevor I knew someting like that would happen. Those two can't run.

Tim R-right Frisco, here is yo chance.

Frisco (not sounding very confident) Big chance? What can I do in six overs?

Trevor Frisco, dats plenty of time to make a fifty.

Tim Fifty, and you see Andrew out dey waiting fer him.

Don Unlucky Dalton.

Dalton I was doing r-right until I here your voice.

Tim I agree with you star.

Alex Who going after Frisco might as well pad up. He wont last long.

Frisco joins Ossie and immediately there is almost another run out.

Alex But wait, ah Laurel and Hardy.

Don Uno men sort Uno self out.

Trevor Sort out, what's dat? It's the blind leading the blind out dhere.

Steve is still keen on Alex's Tenants.

Steve Alex, open the ting nuh!

Alex Man Paco, gime ah chance nuh.

Frisco plays and misses several times.

Tim I tell you Frisco wont mek nutten today.

Aubyn Five overs to go.

Godfrey What's the score?

Aubyn One forty.

Leslie comes off and is replaced by Godfrey.

Leslie R-right Donavon? You made it den

Don I just dis minute come off the M1.

Leslie We could do with you today.

Don So how come you not batting?

Leslie I giving de others a chance.

Don That's rubbish, as captain in my absence you should be out there lashing ball. Dese London men can bat you know.

Frisco is still playing and missing.

Trevor Come on Frisco, hit de ball.

Steve Is dat what they sen him out dey go do?

Frisco gets an edge for four. Steve is still after Alex's Tenants.

Steve Alex, open de ting nuh!

Alex Man gime ah chance nuh.

Frisco plays and misses again.

Don Frisco, get behind the ball and play straight.

Frisco goes for a big hit and is bowled.

Alex What kind of stupidity dat?

Trevor You didn't expect any better did you?

Leslie You lot don't say anything to start another argument.

Alex How you mean don't say anything? I pay my poll tax you know. (he sucks his teeth) I never hear anything so.

Trevor Leslie is a joker.

Steve walks out to bat as Frisco approaches.

Don Leslie you not batting today?

Leslie There is only two overs left.

Don So what! You tink a Hundred and Sixty runs is anyting to dese men? Steve is only going to miss all the balls.

Trevor Yeah, like Frisco.

Frisco (Showing teeth) You nah tired call my name?

Leslie Hard luck Frisco.

Tim Wha happen to all the shots you were going to show us Frisco?

Frisco (Still showing teeth) De barl was swinging all over de place.

Leslie smiles but he really want to laugh.

Tim Frisco, not one ball move out dey.

Trevor points to his head indicating madness Frisco notices Don.

Frisco I tart I hear your mout out ya.

Don If you did hear me you would still be batting

Frisco I had to have a go. We nah have no runs

Another wicket falls. Ossie hits a skier and is caught.

Leslie Hurry up Aubyn, Ossie out.

Aubyn How much ball leave?

Leslie I don't know - about seven.

Ossie reaches the pavilion.

Leslie Good knock Ossie.

Tim (Now scoring) That was a useful Twenty Six Ossie.

Ossie (Smiling) I didn't realise I got so many runs.

Trevor Ossie, You looked funny but you batted well.

Tim gives a big infectious laugh.

Alex Trevor, you take de words right out my mout.

Frisco Sorry I couldn't stay with you Ossie, but de man bowl me a beauty.

Ossie From the time I see you miss de first ball I said to myself, I better have a word with you and next ting I know, the man bowl you. But you was playing well up till den.

Trevor and Tim look at each other.

Ossie (Noticing Alex) What's happening Alex?

Alex Nutten much. I was just watching you make a fool of yo self.

Ossie sucks his teeth and walks away to take of his pads.

Tim Only two balls to go.

Leslie How much we have?

Tim One Six Four.

Leslie Dat's plenty runs, they can't get dat.

Don I'm telling Uno, dese men can bat.

Leslie So we can't bowl?

Steve is about to face the final ball.

Dalton Come on Steve, we want a six.

Trevor Show Steve the Tenants Alex.

The bowler runs in. as Steve tap away at the crease. The ball is well pitched up and Steve sends it crashing into the pavilion wall.

Tim Shot Ampy. Dat man should have gone in long time

Alex Leslie can't captain.

Leslie Alex gime a chance nuh the game nah done yet.

Alex The game done loose when Ossie and Frisco ah bat.

Ossie (Excited) Alex, how much you want bet dey don't get these runs?

Alex I don't want tek your money.

Steve is a hero as the players walk off the field.

Don Nice six Steve. You see what you can do when you play straight.

Steve Straight? I just close me eye an swing.

Trevor I believe dat.

Frisco You always have to say someting don't you?

Andrew still remembers his dismissal.

Andrew Frisco, you shouldn't talk after what you do today.

Frisco You gone back pan dat same ting dey?

Alex What Frisco do?

No one answers

Steve Alex, gime a drop ah de ting nuh, me tusty after all dat running up and down.

Alex Run up and what down ? Man move yo self.

Steve You see you, (He rubs his nose) You gwarn.

Dalton Alex, stop being so stubborn and give de man a drink. He deserve it after that six.

Alex Dalton stop yo nise and go have yo tea.

Tim Alex don't worry wid dem, yo right.

Alex Don't badda sweat talk me because you na get no mo.

The players enter the dressing room for tea.

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Scene Two

Leslie picks up a sandwich and retreats into a corner.

Leslie Visitors first lads.

Tim position himself next to the plate of cakes and looks on uneasily as the opposition help themselves. Trevor suddenly picks up a sandwich.

Tim Wait nuh Trevor.

Trevor Wait what, I'm hungry guy.

Hearing this Tim quickly grabs three slices of cakes and immediately devours one of them.

Ossie I hope alyo leave piece of cake for me you know.

Andrew fingers through a plate of sandwiches and picked out four that had in tuna.

Frisco Go easy on de fish Andrew me nah get none yet.

He ignores Frisco and takes a huge bite out of one the sandwiches.

Steve Service, pour me some tea.

Service So wah happen, you nah have hand?

Steve You good at it.

Service Look de pot, you pour it yo self. Unu tek dis ting fe a joke. Heaveting is Service, ah fed up wid uno.

Tim I agree with you Mr. Service, mek him pour it himself.

Dalton Keep quiet Tim, you sound like a parrot.

Tim (Picking up another two pieces of cakes) Who is talking to you? Frisco, if you want tuna only two lef.

Frisco Cha, me nah want none after Andrew done finger dem up.

Andrew (Without taking his eyes out of his plate of sandwiches) Frisco, my hands clean, so is my consions.

Leslie calls Godfrey over to him.

Leslie So what you tink den?

Godfrey About what?

Leslie Tactics. You tink I should attack early or try and defend?

Godfrey I didn't know. If you attack and they get a good start we could be in trouble. It's up to you.

Leslie calls Trevor

Leslie What do you tink de tactics should be ?

Trevor Don't ask me, you is de captain.

A volunteer is needed to wash up.

Leslie Right lads am looking for someone to wash up.

Godfrey I done it two weeks on the trot.

Frisco Dat is a fact.

Leslie How about you den Frisco?

Frisco I do enough for dis club as it is, mek someone else do it.

Leslie Steve.

Steve You mad?

Tim Leslie, you is the captain just tell one ah dem to do it.

Leslie You do it den Tim!

Tim I don't mind but I have a sore pon me finger. See it dey?

Leslie Mr. Service?

Service I was wandering when you would get round to me. Always Service.

Steve You good at it.

Leslie butts in before Mr. Service could reply.

Leslie Mr. Service, don't take any notice of Steve. I'll get someone to give you a hand.

Service Don't worry bout it, unu gwarn. Service go do it.

The Chevette players takes the field and began to engage in some catching practice. Steve catches everything that came his way. Ossie is finding it difficult to make them stick. Andrew throws the ball ridiculously hard at Leslie the wicket keeper, who is finding it hard to bend. Trevor is admiring his smart outfit and doesn't see the throw from Dalton, which narrowly misses his head.

The umpires walks out to the middle followed by the two opening batsmen. Dalton marking out his run up. He is to open the bowling. Three slips, a cover point, mid off, mid wicket a third man and a fine leg awaits the first delivery. Service is missing, he is still doing the washing up.

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Scene Three

The London Innings

Dalton begins to run in then stops. He addresses Leslie the wicket keeper.

Dalton Leslie, go back a bit, you too close.

Leslie (Ginning) R-right Marshal.

Godfrey and Tim at first and second slips laughs.

Ossie (To no one in particular) I knew he was too close but I didn't want to say anything.

Tim I don't know about you Godfrey, but me going back some more too. If that man get an edge the barl gwine fly thru here like a bullet.

Godfrey Cha, nутten nah come thru here.

Dalton walks back to his mark and begins to run in once more. His first ball is a half volley. The batsman goes for the drive. The ball hits the edge of his bat and flies through to Tim at second slip. He spills the catch.

Frisco Hard luck Dalton. That butter finger man shouldn't be in slips anyway.

Tim Frisco, why don't you shut up?

Leslie Well bowled Dalton, unlucky Tim.

Ossie From de way dat batsman shape up I knew dat was going to happen.

Tim (Ringing his right hand) Sorry Dalton, but I never see de ball.

Trevor Dat was an easy catch Tim.

Tim How you mean easy? I wasn't even ready, wha wrong wid you?

Leslie Come on forget it.

Aubyn Well said skip.

Dalton finishes a lively first maiden over. Leslie signals to Steve, indicating that he is to bowl the next over. Steve begins to mark out his run up unloading several thunderous belches as he does so. He rubs his stomach and wipes the back of his hand against his nose. Leslie goes to him.

Leslie What kind of field you want?

Steve Gime a fine leg, I leave de rest to you.

Leslie I'm setting an off side field so try and bowl to it.

Steve Dat's no problem.

The first ball is on a good length but the batsmen sneaks a quick single to Ossie at gully.

Don (From the pavilion) Walk in with de bowler Ossie.

Ossie flings out his right arm in Donavon's direction indicating that he keep quiet.

Tim He is right Ossie, dat should never be a run.

Ossie looks at Tim. Steve's second ball is down the leg side. The third is driven through the gap at mid on for four. Leslie resets the field.

Leslie Tim, come out of slips - go to mid on. Trevor, move round a bit.

The fourth ball is again down the leg side and goes past the wicket keeper for four byes.

Andrew Come on Steve, bowl de barl on de off side.

Steve rubs his nose then rubs his belly as he walks back to his mark. The fifth ball is a Yorker. The batsman digs it out and scamper a quick single to the gazing Trevor at cover.

Leslie Come on Trevor, we have to stop dese silly singles.

Trevor What's de matter guy? Dat was an easy run.

Don Uno men must walk in with de bowler. Trevor, you is to deep. Leslie, you have to attack dese men.

After a misdirected first over Steve settles down to bowl five tight overs. At ten overs London are Thirty for no wicket.

Leslie Tim.

Tim Wah happen? Don't tell me you want me to bowl! You must gi people warning so they could loosen up.

Leslie Man keep quiet and come bowl.

Tim (Laughing) Leslie you wicked.

Tim takes the ball from Leslie and begins to twist it about between his fingers. He sets the field.

Tim Steve, come in.

Steve walks in a short way from fine leg then stops.

Tim Right in Steve.

He eases in some more then stops.

Steve Me nat coming no closer you know.

Tim Trevor, on the line please. Godfrey, come round a bit...dat will do. Dalton, go right back!

The first ball is short. The batsman makes a big swing at it but fails to connect. Steve takes a couple of steps backwards

Tim Where you going Steve? I want you in. Leslie, talk to dis man nuh.

Steve R-right, bowl de barl and stop de nise. (he takes one step forwards)

The second ball is a full toss and is dispatched to the boundary for four. The third gets the same treatment.

Leslie Come on Tim.

Tim Gime a chance nuh, cha.

The fourth ball is quicker and goes wide of Leslie for four byes.

Trevor Bowl de ball properly Tim.

Tim Wah happen you want come bowl?

Ossie Come on Chevette, let's get it together.

The final two balls are played gently by the batsman.

Leslie Dat's better keep dem dhere.

Aubyn is to bowl next, Leslie goes over to give his instructions.

Leslie Try and keep dem on de off side, dese two are good off dhere legs.

Aubyn I'll do my best.

Aubyn's first over is full of long hops and London raced to fifty seven.

Leslie Cheers Aubyn. Trevor, come from dis end next over.

The first ball of Tim's second over is top edged to Steve at short fine leg.

Tim R-right Steve, it's yours.

All eyes are on Steve as he circles under the ball. His hands goes up about a foot above his head. The ball drops in then out again.

Leslie (Sucking his teeth) Hard luck Steve.

Trevor Hard luck what! Dat was an easy catch.

Ossie Never mind Paco, it happen to all of us.

Tim You speak for yourself Ossie. I would never drop a catch like dat.

Alex (From the pavilion) Hit everyone in de air, they can't catch.

Tim's nest ball is a full toss which is savagely disposed for six runs.

L. supt'r Shot Gabby, show de country boy dem how fe lick barl.

Encouraged by the support the batsman goes down the wicket after the next ball. It turned and beat the bat and also the keeper's gloves. Tim steers at Leslie in disbelief.

L. supt'r Dem no have no keeper gabby, batter dem.

Don Don't snatch at the ball Leslie, let it come to you.

Alex No use you tell him dat, he don't know what you mean.

Andrew (nose swelling) Dat was bad Leslie.

A quick single is attempted to Andrew at square leg but he fumbles the ball and misses the run out.

Trevor Come on guy!

Andrew Why don't you shut up? If some people can mess about I can do it too.

Aubyn Wah happen, you guys don't want win this game?

Don You men stop arguing and sort unu self out.

Tim has had enough

Tim Leslie, mek somebody else bowl man, dis ting is beyond a joke.

Leslie (Signals to Dalton with his fingers) Dalton, next over dis end.

Trevor slowly walks from deep mid wicket to begin his first over.

Leslie Come on Trevor, we haven't go all day.

Trevor (Unsmiling) Keep quiet guy.

After setting his field he marks out his run up, puts down the ball the walk back to give the umpire his cap and sweater. His first delivery is down the leg side and is smartly taken by the keeper.

2nd supt'r Ah who say dem no have no keeper? Him pretty E.

Leslie's face creases up with a teeth-less grin

The batsman attempts to drive the second ball and drags it back on his wicket. Aubyn is first to congratulate Trevor, followed by Ossie.

Aubyn Well bowled Trev, dat was a beauty.

Ossie Nice one Trev, If anyone was going to get the break through I knew it would be you.

Alex Good bowling change Tim, dat ah your wicket.

Service (Running in from mid-on) Well bowl Trevor boy, dat barl move plenty.

Leslie It never move.

Trevor It moved big in the air.

Service Me know me see it do someting.

Aubyn It doesn't matter, de main fing is we get de break through.

Frisco Dat's it Aubyn, quite correct.

Andrew is still unmoved at square leg. He doesn't join in the conversation.

Trevor Look at that big baby over dhere! He is still sulking.

Leslie Just leave him Trevor.

After the initial break through, Chevette takes control and grabs another Four wickets to leave London needing Seventy Eight runs to win with Thirteen overs remaining.

Alex Come on Chevette, you have dem on the run.

L. supt'r But wait, is who you ah soport now?

Alex You done win. Me have to mek dem tink they have ah chance.

Dalton bowls a maiden over.

L. supt'r Don't mind dat Bushy, him nah come wid nutten. Tek him next over.

Dalton grins as he walks back to fine leg. Leslie preserves with Trevor but his next over concedes Eighteen runs.

L.supt'r Me know you bin ah toy wid dem Bushy, teach the bouy fe respect you.

Ossie Never mind dat Trev, he is yours next over.

Dalton's first ball is crashed against the pavilion wall for four.

2nd supt'r Shot Vinny, finish de game quick and ley we go drink liqueur.

Andrew (Vexed) Leslie, you have to start spread de field.

The second ball is glanced to fine leg and easily beats Steve's out stretched leg and goes for Four.

Don Dalton, set an off side field and bowl to it. Leslie, you have to get control of dis game.

The third ball from Dalton is quicker but it lacks direction and goes for Four wides.

L supt'r Him ah try fe hide de ball Bushy, but him na have nowhere fe hide today.

Ossie Come on Dickie, sort dis man out.

The remaining four balls are tighter but London once again is in control of the game The Chevette players knows it. They lack urgency, heads are down. Steve replaces Dalton and is hit for sixteen in his first over. London now require Twenty Two more runs in Seven overs.

Leslie (Dejected) Tanks Steve. Aubyn, come from dis end next over.

Trevor is bowling well but the score board is still ticking over. Aubyn picks up the wicket of the dangerous opener on ninety. Ossie is first to go to him.

Ossie Well bowl Aubyn, you should have been on long time.

Service (Grinning happily) Well done Aubyn, I don't know why dis man tek you off so early!

Ossie I tink dat's where you slipped up you know Leslie.

Leslie How do you mean?

Frisco You know full well what he mean, Aubyn should never come after just one over.

Ossie Exactly.

There is a bit more urgency as the new bats man arrives.

Leslie Trevor, go to third slip. Andrew, come in a bit.

Andrew A bit? How far is a bit?

Leslie (Vexed) Look man, if you don't want to field you could go off.

Trevor Dat's the best ting you said all day Leslie.

Leslie Ossie, go to gully. Dalton, in five.

Don You should have been doing dat Twenty overs ago Leslie.

Aubyn's next ball rises and flicks the batsman's gloves. Leslie takes the catch and run towards Aubyn in excitement. Andrew is still unmoved at square leg.

Ossie Dat was a beauty Aubyn.

Aubyn Am just warming up.

Service (Laughing) I could see dat. (He gives Aubyn a hug)

Tim Nice catch Leslie, about time you did someting right.

Godfrey We could still win dis game you know.

Ossie Of course we can, I haven't given up. Let's make dem fight for dese runs.

Aubyn completes a maiden wicket over. Trevor's first ball of his final over is belted for four. His second ball finds the edge and flies to Godfrey at first slip who spills the catch.

Godfrey (Looking at his hands) Shit!

L supt'r Easy nuh Johnny, we ongly war five more runs fe win. See de game thru.

Trevor's final ball is flicked to fine leg. The batsmen were settling for one run but the ball goes past Steve for four runs.

Ossie Wake up Paco! You just cost us de bloody game.

Aubyn first ball is short. The batsman attempts to hook but hits it to the left of Andrew at square leg who didn't make any great effort to take the catch and London takes the winning run.

Leslie Hard luck Andrew.

Trevor Why you always telling people hard luck, Leslie? He should have taken dat catch.

Andrew Why didn't you come and take it?

Frisco You should have held dat catch Andrew, it's as simple as dat.

Andrew You shut up Frisco! Because you don't know noting.

Service Okay lads calm down, we give it darm good try in de hend, so let's feget it.

Aubyn I agree with Mr.Service.

The players arrives at the pavilion.

Don Hard luck Chevette, good try.

Alex Dat was no good try, Leslie sell de game.

Don I agree he made a lot of basic mistakes but we bounce back well.

L supt'r Unu try hard but ah we mek it get so close. (he turns to one of the batsmen) nice knock Johnny, you two short ah yo Fifty. Blame Macka fe dat.

Ossie Don't worry, we go put tings right when we come to London.

2nd supt'r Put tings right? you hear dat Johnny? Him ah joke. Three ah we best batsman didn't even play today. It go be murder when you come up so.

Ossie Dat's R-right we go meet agen.

Grass Root Cricket **Scene Four**

The Post Mortem

The players enters the dressing room.

Frisco Well lads, dat was a shambles.

Leslie What was bad about it? We only lost in de last over.

Frisco Dat's not de point, too many sloppy tings bin ah go on out dey - man ah drop easy catch, and miss run outs - cha, all dat ah rubbish.

Leslie Who you mean? Andrew.

Andrew If you don't want me and you fall out don't call my name. Frisco can say what he like but if he never cheat me out we woulda mek more runs.

Tim You can say the same for me to Andrew, because I wasn't out.

Ossie Of course you was out.

Andrew I never go out dey and miss all de barl. Dat's where we lost de game.

Trevor Dat's because Frisco didn't give you de chance to.

Leslie I tink de game change when Ossie run out Dalton. Dem two was going well.

Ossie (butting in quickly) I never run out Dalton you know. I call for de single but Dalton wasn't backing up so I said no but he kept coming.

Dalton You never said no.

Ossie Of course I said no.

Godfrey I tink we lost the game when Tim drop de guy who made ninety odd in de first over.

Leslie Dat's right, if we did get him early we would win easy.

Dalton Why didn't you try Service Leslie?

Leslie You know someting, I forget all about Service until it was too late.

Trevor Dat's was typical of your day Leslie.

Steve It wouldn't matter, Service woulda gets licks same way.

Dalton You don't know dat.

Steve Of course I know! Dem stupid little long hops he does bowl woulda end up in de river.

Tim Steve, you should be de last one to mention stupid because dat's exactly how you look when you drop dat easy catch off my bowling.

Steve You call dat easy? I had to run in to de barl.

Dalton Run in where? You didn't have to move.

Trevor Steve, you looked silly guy.

Ossie And de same man went on to make Fifty.

Andrew, Godfrey and Leslie leaves the room and head for the shower. Alex enters the room.

Alex Wey him dey? I come to see de man who sell out de game.

Ossie Alex, you keep quiet!

Alex How you mean keep quiet? Am only saying what you is afraid to say. For one ting, he take off yellow man too early and bring him back when it's too late. Second ting, he drop too many catches and gi way too much byes - and Service, what you did was bad.

Service How you mean what I done was bad?

Alex A lot ah tings was happening on de pitch and as Chairman of the club you should step in.

Service De skipper is in charge on the pitch my friend

Alex No-no-no doe gime dat.

Don Service is correct, he is de Chairman of Chevette Cricket Club not the manager. His job is to chair meetings, nothing else.

Ossie I was just about to tell him dat.

Trevor When are we going to see you in de shower Steve?

Steve Don't worry about me guy.

Frisco What you have so fer hide guy?

Steve Me nat hiding nutten I rather go home and have a bath.

Trevor Don't give us dat, you hiding someting because I caught you once having a shower in your under pants.

This gets the biggest laugh of the day. Steve doesn't know which way to look. He rubs his nose several times.

Dalton (Finding it hard to stop laughing) Trevor, dis have to be a joke!

Trevor No joke guy, ask him.

Frisco Well, well, well.

Trevor Frisco, you shouldn't laugh because I see you do the same ting to.

Tim Wait, how come I never hear about dis before?

Leslie returns from the shower.

Leslie So which pub you lot going?

Steve Ley we go straw Platters.

Leslie I have to go home first, I'll meet you lot up dey.

Trevor Dat means we wont see him agen.

Leslie Am just going to get some money and come back. Shit, talking about money, Godfrey, can you collect the tea money for us.

Godfrey Cha, how much is it?

Leslie One Fifty.

Steve I'll give you mine in de pub.

Godfrey Tim, tea money?

Tim You wouldn't believe this but I was in such a hurry to get here I for get to pick up my wallet. Leslie, pay for me nuh, I go pay fer you next time.

Leslie (reluctantly) Okay.

Ossie Godfrey, I don't have any change, I'll have to give you later.

Frisco Godfrey, here is my money, too much excuse ah go on yah.

Andrew Some ah dese guys ah jokers. They know they coming to play cricket and doh walk with no money.

Frisco Leslie, putting all joke aside, I hope you realise that as captain you have to come and buy the opposition a drink.

Leslie What you guys worrying about? I'll be dhere but I don't see why you have to go all de way to Stopsley.

Frisco Who say ah dey we ah go, only Steve want to go dey.

Aubyn It don't matter where we go let's just go, my throat dry.

Leslie So where we going den.

Frisco I dare say that it would be more convenient for the opposition if we went to Lewsey Farm.

Ossie Not necessarily.

Frisco Okay, where do you suggest?

Dalton Stop de argument and let's go to Lewsey Farm.

Andrew (oiling his skin) Yeah man, dat's de bess place for de guys dem.

Leslie Dat's more like it. Godfrey, you collect all de money yet?

Godfrey You must be joking, I only get Nine pounds.

Steve Stop worrying about money and ley we go.

Service Can you guys hurry up, Barry waiting to lock up.

Andrew Okay, Service, we know dat.

Service How you know dat an you still ah hile yo skin.

Andrew Don't worry about dat, am safe. De little man is always safe.

Frisco Listen, I am going to take de guys dem to the pub, I'll catch you up dhere.

Steve Hold on, Am coming with you!

Frisco I tart you was going home to have ah bath?

Steve I could do dat later.

Frisco and Steve leaves the room, followed by Aubyn and Ossie. Dalton is about to leave.

Andrew Dalton, can I get a lif with you?

Dalton Get a lif and you not even dressed? Besides, I haven't got any room fer dat big bag you have deh. My boot full up.

Trevor I don't know why he carry so much stuff, he can't even play cricket.

Andrew Trevor, I didn't ask you to carry dem so just shut up! Godfrey, you have room?

Godfrey I should have.

Andrew You see Trevor, not everyone is as self fish as you. I keep telling you guys every dog have his day. Don't worry, Jah will provide.

Trevor Well ask him to provide you with a car.

Everyone laughs as they leave the dressing room. Andrew is still getting dressed.

Grass Root Cricket

Scene Five

At The Pub

Frisco (To no one in particular) What took you lot so long? Steve, am collecting some money to buy the lads a drink.

Steve How much you want?

Frisco Two poun.

Steve Two poun? (he digs into his pocket and pulls a pound and some change) Dat's all de change me have.

Frisco Fair enough. (he goes to Leslie) Put yo han in yo packet guy! I'm collecting to buy de opposition a drink.

Leslie How much you want?

Frisco Two poun, but you should put in a fiver since you gi way the match.

Leslie Frisco, just gime me change and keep quiet.

Frisco Who ah haven't collect from yet?

Trevor Andrew and his chauffeur.

Leslie I'll put in fer dem till they come.

Steve goes to the bar as Andrew and Godfrey walks in.

Frisco (addressing Godfrey) What tek you so long guy?

Godfrey (looks at Andrew) See him dey.

Frisco Andrew, me say you nat coming agen. Anyway, you and Godfrey owe Leslie Two poun each. He put in fer you to buy the lads a drink.

Andrew I never ask nobody to put in anything fer me. (he walks off and goes to sit by himself)

Alex It like de bear have ah soar head.

Ossie De man is going thru a rough time, remember he is not working you know.

Trevor Dat doesn't mean he have to go and sit by himself.

Aubyn That is the man's privilege.

Ossie I was just about to say dat.

Frisco Cha, forget about Andrew and talk about someting else.

Leslie I'll drink to dat. Anyway, I take it you guys wasn't happy with my captaincy today?

Trevor Happy isn't the word.

Aubyn I don't fink he did too bad considering.

Frisco (taking a mouthful from his glass) Frankly, I taught it was atrocious.

Leslie A captain don't have to talk all de time to be effective. They only win in de last over.

Alex Leslie keep quiet! You don't know anything about captain.

Leslie Alex, why don't you go over dhere and sit with Andrew.

Trevor So Leslie, you tink Donovan talk too much?

Leslie I never say dat. You hear me say dat?

Donovan walks in.

Tim Donovan, they just been talking about you. They recon you talk too much.

Don Who's been saying dat?

Trevor I'll give you one clue, he was captain today.

Don I know one ting, if I was captain today there is no way we would loose the game.

Leslie What would you have done different den?

Don Everyting. For a start I would have packed men around the bat and bowled dem out for less than a hundred and Dalton should have bowled a lot more overs.

Leslie But Dalton was getting hit.

Don I don't give a shit, he is our strike bowler so you would expect dat.

Tim (addressing Steve) did I hear right?

Steve Don't ask me they lost me long time.

Frisco Donovan, what you want to drink?

Don Cheers, you can get me a Red stripe.

Frisco goes over to Andrew.

Frisco So our company not good enough fer you? Am buying a round what you want?

Andrew You can get me a white wine but I hope you nat buying it out of guilt.

Frisco Look nuh, I don't hold grudges. What happen done gone.

Andrew Just get me de wine man.

Frisco You see yo face? (he turns to Leslie) Leslie, wah yo want to drink?

Leslie Oh! cheers John, I'll have a half.

Frisco Dalton.

Dalton Same as dis. (he holds up a bottle of pilsner)

Frisco turns to go to the bar.

Alex Frisco, wha happen, me doh have mout too?

Frisco You expect me to buy you a drink after all de stick you gi we today? Cha, goway.

Steve You tell him Frisco! The greedy shite wouldn't even gime a drop of Tenants today.

Alex Dat's okay. No big ting, I have money. I follow Chevette all over Luton and none ah you never offer me a cup of tea so I must give alyo stick.

Frisco You only follow us to take the piss.

Don Getting back to you now Leslie.

Leslie You nah done with me yet? Frisco, you better make dat a pint.

Don Another thing you did wrong was to let Tim have his own way.

Leslie Tim never have his own way.

Dalton Of course he did.

Tim Tim decided he didn't want to bowl after two overs.

Dalton How you work dat out?

Leslie Trevor nah tek a wicket straight away?

Don I don't give a shit. That is not de point. As captain you tell the players what you want dem to do, not de other way round.

Leslie R-right Adolf, point taken.

L supt'r Like this little man know him cricket

Ossie Dis man is our skipper you know-and one of de best batsman in de area. Dat's why I tell you it will be different when we come to your place.

Frisco returns with a tray of drinks.

Don Who open de batting today? (he take a sip of his larger)

Leslie Trevor and Andrew.

Don Dat was all wrong. Trevor should not go in before number four.

Ossie My sentiments exactly.

Don What sort of partnership did they have?

Steve (laughing) They never put on nutten.

Trevor Dat's because Frisco jouck Andrew.

Ossie Andrew was unlucky. The ball was going down de leg side, plus the fact that he was well forward.

On hearing this Andrew drifts closer to the rest of the crowd.

Frisco That may be so , but de ball hit Andrew on de back foot.

Andrew burst out laughing.

Andrew Frisco, you must have different eyes to everyone else, de barl never hit me on no back foot.

Frisco Is that so?

Trevor Andrew is right Frisco, the ball hit his front foot.

Godfrey I tart you said it was plum Trevor?

Trevor (smiling) I can't remember saying that.

Andrew Dat Trevor is a hypocrite.

Tim Donovan, I was more unlucky than Andrew. Ossie send me for nutten.

Don How you out?

Tim Caught, but I was no where de ball.

Don Unu men must learn to accept de umpire's decision.

Alex O-o-oh! Is now I see why Andrew nearly bite off me head when I ask him if he done bat.

Service I must say from where I was standing he look to be stretching down de wicket.

Andrew I glad some of you see sense now. I keep telling alyo, empty barrel make de most nise but I is no empty barrel.

Trevor And you still make the most noise.

Andrew And what are you? A big puss arse.

Leslie Well lads, I have to make a move.

Trevor Where you going it's only nine o'clock.

Leslie I am on earlies guy.

Steve So what?

Don Before you go are you available fer Tuesday?

Leslie Yeah, I should be. Anyway, see you guys.

Alex I suppose I better buy myself a drink. (he looks at Frisco)

Ossie Donovan, coming back to Leslie, you know when Terry doesn't play I automatically open, well he had the cheek to put all Tim before me.

Don Dat's plain silly.

Tim How you mean silly? So you want to say Ossie is a better batsman dan me?

Aubyn Of course he is, he has proved it.

Alex If Ossie is an opening batsman den I am taking up cricket next year.

Ossie Alex, shut yo mout! You don't even know how to hold a bat.

Dalton Alex, if you take up cricket I stop playing.

Frisco Doh worry wid Alex. De day he take up cricket the game done.

Andrew Alex, you might do better than some ah dem.

Alex Not might. Will.

Steve gets up to go to the bar.

Dalton Steve, buy me a Pilsner.

Steve I brock. I only have Two poun lef.

Don Listen, I tink I have to make a move.

Service I tink I doing de same to.

Don Everybody available fer Tuesday?

Steve I on lates so I can't mek it.

Ossie I won't be able to play either.

Don Terry and Ken coming in so we should have a full team

Godfrey When can we ever guarantee dat?

Tim It's about time we lash dem Pakistanis you know. Trevor why don't you stop messing about and come play?

Trevor Don't start that agen guy.

Frisco Tim, leave Trevor out of dis. He don't want to play, so be it.

Alex You lot should fine him. I could never see my club play with seven men and just watch.

Andrew Dat's how him stay.

Dalton Give de man a rest.

Steve Res what? Gi him stick.

Aubyn Trevor you is a hard man.

Ossie You lot should respect de man decision.

Godfrey Yeah, let's leave it man.

Frisco As far as I am concerned this conversation should never have started cause Trevor don't exist.

Aubyn gets up.

Aubyn Ossie, you ready?

Ossie Whenever you are.

Tim Aubyn, you going past de ring? Gi me ah drap nuh.

Andrew Godfrey, you ready?

Steve How come everybody running to go home so? De night still young.

Dalton We not all like you, some of us love our bed.

Alex Might as well we all go.

Trevor Alex, Me and you and Steve can stay.

Alex Nah, you two go drink me out.

Steve Me nat stopping here, I going an look party.

Trevor Party on a Sunday night?

Dalton Steve go to your bed, you darm vampire.

Frisco What you call him? Vampire.

Dalton Vampire yes. He don't like to go home until it's daylight.

Frisco Well- well- well. Anyway, some of us have a job to go to ah marning, so me gone.

Andrew Godfrey, Alex and Dalton follows Frisco. Only Steve and Trevor remain in the pub.

Trevor Ampy, we might as well go to.

Steve We might as well, but I nat going home. Gime a lif nuh.

Trevor Where to?

Steve Only Stopsley.

Trevor Stopsley, you mad? Dat's too far guy. I going home.

Steve You see you.

Trevor I'll give you a lift, but I am not going to Stopsley.

Steve It could be worth your while.

Trevor Why? You have someting line up?

Steve Sort of. Dese two girls I know share a flat, they always telling me to drap by.

Trevor They have man?

Steve They love man but they doh have none.

Trevor Well I suppose I could come for an hour or so, but I am not waiting in de car.

Steve Doh worry, you safe.

They finished their drinks and left for Stopsely.