

Conversation off the Field

The cricket match hopped along to some sweet stroke-making from a reasonable amount of short pitched yet gentle bowling,

while I displayed the impatience of a Sunday cricketer wanting to get a crack at a six before his stumps crashed. At least,

I managed a fine drive through the covers before squaring off against a slow delivery pitched on the spot. I had so much time

I could have composed a line before flat-batting the ball, in the end, straight up to fall at a friendly clip into the snug

hands of the fast bowler posted at mid-off. After twenty-five years I must thank the captain who put me into bat in the number

one spot earned by two decades now of Sri Lankan cricket panache. Gives you street credentials at the wicket, even if

the passport has expired, and conversation lingers on nasty island business directed at foreign NGOs and the two minorities.

Indran Amirthanayagam, April 22, 2011