

Women's World Cup T20 Cricket.
Old Trafford - Manchester - 2nd June 2026

Tall skyscrapers, grey steel and glass.
Contrast with red brick buildings of yesteryear.

Green tree'ed, waterways with boats and swan,
Graffitied walls, line damp roads and cars.

For us it is the crowded tram to Trafford.
Today, South Africa play India, at cricket.

We stand outside a gated, walled Old Trafford,
(More like the Checkers delivery entrance at home).

A long walk around the grey corridor surround,
Then climb the shaded steps up to our stand.

At last, the brilliant, famous, cricket ground,
Brightened by a warm, 'South African' sun.

The crowd arrives, Indians, then more Indians.
"Bharat Mata ki-In-De-Are". "Bharat Mata ki-In-De-Are".

Mainly Indians with a splattering of South Africans.
Indian flags, South African Vuvuzelas, played by Indians.

Indian first, fast and furious, fours 'n sixes, huge cheers.
India 158 for 7. Can South Africa make it?

South Africa lose early wickets; the crowd goes wild.
Gradually, the crowd grows quieter, and the runs come.

A flurry of 4's 'n 6's, South Africa win by six wickets.
Wonderful! But I miss 'Die reuk van die braai.