

THE GENT

September 2015

No. 148

Tales from the corridor of uncertainty

There are no words

Willison models Clapham In's Duck Suit



Pitch perfect

Scoring in colour – just say no!

Another fine mess – Clapham In funding revealed

You, the captain

Law 2 – Peter Denton gets it right

Baker Street Irregulars (abandoned - drawn)	Pak (won by 31 runs)
Bricklayer's Arms (won by 124 runs)	Clapham In (won by 21 runs)
Blue Marlins (lost by 8 wickets)	Bricklayer's Arms (won by 102 runs)
Blue Marlins (lost by 18 runs)	Battersea Imperials (won by 3 wickets)
Pak (won by 1 wicket)	Battersea Imperials (won by 13 runs)

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Pitch perfect

There has been much discussion recently about possible home venues in 2016, either as an alternative to or replacement for Old Tenisonians. This writer has been lobbied about moves to Brentford and Raynes Park, curiously both grounds where the batsmen enjoyed success. It needs some proper discussion both after games and formally at the AGM. It's a big decision, the biggest we have to take, so don't be afraid to voice your opinions. Let the majority, not a tightly-knit group of politically motivated men, decide.

A simple test of faith



Having forgotten his own club's scorebook on 23 August, Andrew Burman conducted two experiments while scoring both innings in the opponents' book. For the first innings, he experimented with coloured fibre tip pens. For the second, he reverted to pencil but scored each ball faced by the batsmen, Brick being keen on analysing strike rates. Project Coloured Pens was a limited success (see left), the problem being that time spent fossicking for the correct colour could mean a vital umpiring signal being missed.

Project Run Rate was more encouraging. You only need to record an extra dot next to the batsman and it looked really good. Apart from run rates, it was easy to get a sense of the tempo of the innings, when batsmen were lashing out or defending, etc.

Master scorer Ken Toft is famously fundamentalist on this matter, arguing that mistakes made in pen are unsightly and time-consuming to rectify, which the empirical evidence above supports. He has been known to nail proclamations denouncing coloured pens to the doors of stationers such as Ryman and W.H. Smith.

Another fine mess

An interesting sight in August was Clapham In's secret session in which fines were dispensed for various transgressions, including dropping catches and scoring nought or (innovatively) one. The suit on the front cover regrettably refers. Captain Frecknall later revealed that his club does not have an annual subscription, being funded instead by a £15 match fee plus fines. If one compares this method to that used by the Gents, a five games a year man would pay £75 (Gents = £95), ten games £150 (Gents = £130) and fifteen games £225 (£165). Theirs is a sensible way of doing it, for they do not play every week.

The late Sunderland SC captain Phil Parsons introduced fines as a means of funding Mackems cricket. This writer vividly remembers one player being fined £10 for getting married, which then doubled when it transpired that he had not told his mother, with whom he was still living. The Gents briefly introduced fines for dropped catches in the disastrous 1998 season, an initiative that was abandoned when one player blithely prepaid £20 in April for his likely season's spillages, a fair estimate as it turned out.

You, the captain

What follows is true, but don't worry because you won't know the team. Imagine that you are captain of an established cricket club who play ten games a season, usually losing more than winning. In the winter, you recruited an excellent batsman who in the first part of the season transformed your club's fortunes, scoring several centuries. So far, so good.

In a recent game, you asked a junior member of the side to umpire. He made a few mistakes but did his best. Before his overs were up, he left an indelible mark on the game by giving out the master batsman lbw. It looked a harsh decision from beyond the boundary, but that's cricket. Master batsman then got changed, said playing for the club was waste of time and disappeared into the sunset. He has not been seen since. There are two questions:

What action, if any, would you take as captain?

What action, if any, would you take as chairman?

2015 results

Date	Gents	Result	Judd Street Tigers	Result
Sun 26 April	-	-	Southgate Compton	Lost by 9 runs
Sun 3 May	United Titans	Lost by 29 runs	Potter Street	Cancelled (rain)
Sun 10 May	Wimbledon United	Lost by 29 runs	Old Grumblers	Lost by 5 wickets
Sat 16 May	-	-	Porto (tour)	Lost by 5 wickets
Sun 17 May	Gubbays	Lost by 8 wickets	Porto (tour)	Lost by 1 wicket
Sun 24 May	Northfields	Lost by 7 wickets	Graces	Won by 11 runs
Sun 31 May	Judd Street Tigers	Cancelled (rain)	Gents	Cancelled (rain)
Sun 7 June	St. Anne's Allstars	Won by 141 runs	N2 Casuals	Drawn
Sun 14 June	Hale	Won by 38 runs	Acme	Lost by 58 runs
Sat 20 June	London Rams	Won by 15 runs	Sampfords	Lost by 42 runs
Sun 21 June	-	-	Eastons	Drawn
Sun 28 June	Close PF	Lost by 6 wickets	Haringey Libraries	Lost by 4 wickets
Sun 5 July	-	-	Fives	Won by 2 wickets
Sun 12 July	Baker Street Irregulars	Abandoned	Octopus	Lost by 4 wickets
Sun 19 July	Bricklayer's Arms	Won by 124 runs	Little Berkhamsted Sahibs	Lost by 8 runs
Sun 26 July	Pak	Cancelled (rain)	CAMRA	Cancelled (rain)
Sun 2 August	Blue Marlins	Lost by 8 wickets	Cincinnati	Lost by 8 wickets
Sun 2 August	Blue Marlins	Lost by 18 runs	-	-
Sun 9 August	Pak	Won by 1 wicket	Highgate	Won by 57 runs
Sun 9 August	Pak	Won by 31 runs	-	-
Sun 16 August	Clapham In	Won by 21 runs	Harrowdene	Won by 6 wickets
Sun 23 August	Bricklayer's Arms	Won by 102 runs	Whalers	Lost by 30 runs
Sun 30 August	Battersea Imperials	Won by 4 wickets	-	-
Sun 30 August	Battersea Imperials	Won by 13 runs	-	-
Sun 6 September	Salix	-	RailwayTaverners	
Sun 13 September	Gubbays	-	Deadbeats	
Sun 20 September	TBA	-	RailwayTaverners	
Sun 27 September	Hale	-	-	
Record	P17 W10 D (Abandoned) 1 L7		P17 W4 D2 L11	
Runs	Small 413 Kumar 243 Basker 242 S Patel 207		Delanian 277 Herlihy 249 Dane 240 Allerton 221 Ward 211	
Wickets	S Patel 14 Small 12 H Patel, Oruganti 9		Webster 17 Daffern 11 Delanian, Taylor 10	
Catches/Stumpings	Denton 6/3 Hibbert, Jampala, S Patel, Small 4		Allerton 10 Boden 4	

2015 scorecards

3/5	Boston Manor PF	United Titans 144 (Katragadda 56, Basker 30, Krishna 3-28) Gents 115 (H Patel 29, Desai 25, Kumar 23, Pawan 3-21)	Lost by 29 runs
10/5	Old Tenisonians	Wimbledon United 199-4 (Herbert 83, Shacklock 32, Patel 26) Gents 170 (Jampala 39*, Small 35, S Patel 21)	Lost by 29 runs
17/5	Old Tenisonians	Gents 101 (Basker 31, Vandu 4-29, Harsh 4-31) Gubbays 103-2 (Harsh 50*, Ashish 46*)	Lost by 8 wickets
24/5	Durston House	Gents 260-7 (Kumar 79*, Basker 68, Fawkes 4-79) Northfields 261-3 (Elmes 165*, Murray 56)	Lost by 7 wickets
7/6	Boston Manor PF	Gents 268-5 (Small 131*, Kumar 74*, Bowman 3-32) St. Anne's Allstars 127-8 (Chadwick 30, Murray 28, S Patel 3-20)	Won by 141 runs
14/6	Crown Taverners	Gents 199 (Basker 73, S Patel 65, Oruganti 29, Rajesh 4-15, Giles 3-17) Hale 161-9 (Giles 52*, Rajesh 44, Kamran 30, S Patel 4-34)	Won by 38 runs
20/6	Fairfield RG	Gents 130 (Sciberas 46, D Patel 28, S Patel 22, Severn 3-27, Fisher 3-29) London Rams 115 (McLeod 27, Rothwell 23, Desai 3-24)	Won by 15 runs
28/6	Old Tenisonians	Gents 203-2 (S Desai 114*, Cloete 40, Jones 26) Close PF 206-4 (Ahmed 164*)	Lost by 6 wickets
12/7	Boston Manor PF	Gents 257 (Katragadda 58, Aguirre 56*, Basker 42, Dubey 36, Jampala 24, Ware 3-40, Neighbour 3-63) Baker Street Irregulars 25-1	Abandoned
19/7	Old Tenisonians	Gents 264-5 (Oruganti 70, Jampala 49, Hibbert 30, Newcombe 30*, Pingili 25*, H Patel 20) Bricklayer's Arms 140-9 (Ottley 31, O'Keeffe 23, Meek 22)	Won by 124 runs
2/8	Northwick Park	Gents 78 (Small 20, Basker 18, Prem 3-4, Niraj 3-9) Blue Marlins 79-2 (Vamsee 32*)	Lost by 8 wickets
2/8	Northwick Park	Blue Marlins 134-8 (Mandar 31, Yogi 27, Ashish 23, Jampala 3-16) Gents 116-4 (Small 46, Jampala 30)	Lost by 18 runs
9/8	Old Tenisonians	Pak 121-8 (S Khan 37, Small 4-11) Gents 125-9 (Bocha 41, Manni 5-23)	Won by 1 wicket
9/8	Old Tenisonians	Gents 121-5 (Desai 33, Bocha 32) Pak 90-8 (Ahmed 34, Small 3-15)	Won by 31 runs
16/8	Old Tenisonians	Gents 200-7 (Small 88*, Jampala 30, Khan 25) Clapham In 179-9 (Carman 54, Frecknall 44, Kumar 3-27, Dubey 3-33)	Won by 21 runs
23/8	Raynes Park SG	Gents 219 (Dubey 51, H Patel 34, Laing 3-25) Bricklayer's Arms 117-6 (Pasolla 40, Ottley 21)	Won by 102 runs
30/8	Old Tenisonians	Battersea Imperials 93 (A Khan 32, Oruganti 3-18, Pingili 3-25) Gents 94-7 (Small 39, A Khan 4-20)	Won by 3 wickets
30/8	Old Tenisonians	Gents 129-6 (Krishna 36*, Chintam 27, Katragadda 23) Battersea Imperials 116 (A Khan 42, Small 3-19)	Won by 13 runs

2015 averages



	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
Aguirre	5	4	2	75	37.50	1	10	0	72	3	24.00
Basker	8	7	0	242	34.57	-/2	-	-	-	-	-
Bocha	6	6	0	103	17.17	-	18	1	116	0	-
Buck	1	1	0	0	0.00	-	2	0	6	0	-
Caveney	5	4	0	29	7.25	1	2	0	11	0	-
Chalamalasetti	1	1	0	11	11.00	1	1	0	11	0	-
Chintam	4	4	1	43	14.33	-/1	-	-	-	-	-
Cloete	2	2	0	51	25.50	2	7	0	34	2	17.00
Denton	12	8	0	48	6.00	6/3	-	-	-	-	-
Desai	9	8	1	193	27.57	1	29.1	2	141	7	20.14
Dubey	7	7	0	126	18.00	1	25.1	2	134	7	19.14
Gilkes	1	1	0	5	5.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gorantla	2	0	0	0	-	-	13	3	38	3	12.67
Hibbert	8	6	0	55	9.17	4	30.2	3	134	3	44.67
Jampala	9	8	1	190	27.14	4	21	1	108	7	15.43
Jones	5	4	0	38	9.50	-	1	0	5	1	5.00
Katragadda	7	7	0	123	17.57	3	28	5	117	3	39.00
Khan	4	2	0	26	13.00	-	6	1	20	4	5.00
Kota	2	2	1	11	11.00	-	4.1	0	15	3	5.00
Krishna	8	4	1	49	16.33	1	19.5	4	71	5	14.20
Kumar	10	10	5	243	48.60	1	38	2	201	5	40.20
Laing	1	1	0	0	0.00	-	2	0	16	1	16.00
Mamidi	1	1	0	0	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newcombe	6	6	2	51	12.75	-	10	0	65	2	32.50
Oruganti	10	8	3	125	25.00	2	32	4	129	9	14.33
Patel D	3	2	1	35	35.00	1	4	0	22	2	11.00
Patel H	10	8	3	86	17.20	3	30.4	5	147	9	16.33
Patel S	14	12	2	207	20.70	4	54	2	268	14	19.14
Pingili	6	5	1	43	10.75	1	19	1	92	7	13.14
Reddy	1	1	0	3	3.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sciberras	1	1	0	46	46.00	-	2	0	15	0	-
Small	13	12	2	413	41.30	4	25	1	186	12	15.50
Sudireddy	12	7	1	48	8.00	1	19	2	134	4	33.50
Turpin	1	1	0	1	1.00	3	-	-	-	-	-

The averages tell a tale of good batting wickets (or stronger opposition batsmen, or less potent Gents' bowlers, or a combination of all four), as evidenced by some impressive runs tallies and increased bowlers' strike rate and stability of personnel compared to recent seasons:

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
No. players	47	41	51	40	34
Strike rate	25.98	22.89	18.85	22.32	24.07

Gentlemen of West London v. Baker Street Irregulars

Sunday 12 July, Boston Manor PF. Baker Street Irregulars won toss. Showery, 22C

Abandoned as a draw

Gentlemen of West London			Baker Street Irregulars		
†Basker	c Neighbour	b Gibbs	42	†Mead	not out
Dubey		b Neighbour	36	Ware	b Dubey
Jampala	lbw	b Nair	24	Gibbs	not out
Newcombe	c Neighbour	b Gibbs	1	Adams, Nair, T Phillips, P Phillips, Findlay and *Neighbour	15
Aguirre	not out		56	did not bat	
S Patel	c Nair	b Ware	19		
Katragadda		b Neighbour	58		
*Kumar	c Sub.	b Ware	0		
Pingili	c Ware	b Neighbour	9		
Sudireddy		b Ware	0		
Extras		w11 nb1	12	Extras	
Total	All out	33.3 overs	257	Total	1 wicket
FoW: 59, 102, 104, 117, 166, 240, 241, 255, 257				5 overs	25
Bowler			Bowler		
Neighbour	7-0-63-3		Kumar	3-0-11-0	
Findlay	4-0-30-0		Dubey	2-0-14-1	
P Phillips	3-0-26-0				
Nair	7-0-40-1				
Gibbs	7-0-58-2				
Ware	5.3-0-40-3				



Contrasting maiden fifties from Tomal Aguirre (nine fours) and Aravind Katragadda (two mammoth sixes and ten fours) propelled the Gents to 257 all out in muggy Brentford. Baker Street Irregulars, who had bowled and fielded gamely in perfect batting conditions, began their innings with some assertion before the players were driven from the field by steady then heavy rain, never to return. Spare a thought for the visitors, some of whom had travelled a long way to play, who were denied the opportunity to enjoy a batting bonanza.

Irregulars won the toss and put the Gents in, only to see Dubey and Kumar crash a fusillade of early boundaries, 59 coming up in only seven overs before Dubey was bowled. Jampala, back from his long holiday in India, batted attractively before being lbw. Newcombe, driving to cover, and the prolific Basker fell in quick succession whereupon Sanjay Patel provided a typical cameo. Aguirre, descendant of no less an august personality than controversial conquistador fruitloop Lope de Aguirre, was, unlike his ancestor, the personification of calmness. Instead of declaring himself the Wrath of God (*der Zorn Gottes* in Herzog's light 1972 comedy dealing with the subject) and fantasising about marrying his daughter, he played each ball on its merits and batted sensibly for 19.3 overs (almost as long as he had his pads on waiting to go in against St. Anne's) to compile an excellent 56 not out.



Katragadda looked good in the nets and has been scoring heavily on Saturdays for United Titans so it was good to see him flourish in the longer format. That said, he needed only 22 balls to go to his fifty, two sixes into the trees behind the Murphys building works taking him to 49, at which point he had overtaken Aguirre. He fell for 58, having failed to score off just six of the 25 balls he faced. Neighbour and Ware then cleaned up, captain Kumar slicing to his loaned pal Dubey at fly slip, Pingili holing out after two good boundaries and Sudireddy bowled. The final total was formidable but not insuperable and there was much to look forward to over a first-rate tea, the usual sandwiches being supplemented with samosas and pakoras with a variety of sauces (see left) and fresh cherries and loganberries from the Burman orchard.

There had been a spell of light rain at three o'clock and the sky was darkling, but there was no reason at this point to believe that the game would not go the distance, even when the showers resumed. The rain, however, became torrential and the square, bone dry for weeks, could not absorb it. With standing water on the pitch and treacherous run-ups and outfield the captains were forced to shake hands on the draw.

Gentlemen of West London v. Bricklayer's Arms

Sunday 19 July, Old Tenisonians. Toss agreed. Sunny, 25C

Won by 124 runs

Gentlemen of West London				Bricklayer's Arms			
*Hibbert	c Meek	b Ottley	30	Foister		b Gorantla	5
H Patel		b Ottley	20	*Watson	c and	b Oruganti	13
Oruganti	st Locke	b Laing	70	Hawking	c Krishna	b Gorantla	0
Jampala		b Meek	49	Ottley		b H Patel	31
Aguirre	c Meek	b Hawking	10	Robinson		b Newcombe	0
Newcombe	not out		30	O'Keeffe	c Jampala	b Khan	23
Pingili	not out		25	Kendall		b Khan	2
Jones, Sudireddy, †Krishna, Gorantla and Khan did not bat				Meek		b Sudireddy	22
				Winpenny	not out		5
				Laing	c Pingili	b Aguirre	0
				†Locke	not out		0
Extras		w24 b3 lb3	30	Extras		w19 nb1 b11 lb7	38
Total	5 wickets	35 overs	264	Total	9 wickets	35 overs	140
FoW: 50, 59, 191, 196, 205				FoW: 41, 41, 42, 52, 99, 99, 114, 134, 139			
Bowler				Bowler			
Meek	7-0-50-1			Gorantla	7-1-25-2		
Ottley	7-0-34-2			Pingili	4-1-10-0		
Hawking	6-0-41-1			Oruganti	3-2-1-1		
Laing	7-0-45-1			Newcombe	3-0-21-1		
Kendall	2-0-23-0			Hibbert	3-0-20-0		
Robinson	3-0-32-0			H Patel	4-2-7-1		
Watson	2-0-23-0			Khan	4-1-12-2		
Winpenny	1-0-10-0			Sudireddy	4-2-15-1		
				Aguirre	3-0-11-1		



A beautiful sunny day saw a run-filled game played in festival spirit, the Gents winning by 124 runs. Anil Oruganti scored his maiden fifty (70 with 11 fours) while Kartheek Jampala (six fours) was bowled one shy of his, the pair adding 132 in 15.2 overs, within eight runs the margin of victory. Bricklayer's Arms were missing some regulars but, well led by their impressive captain Watson, fought hard all day.

Chairman Naveed Khan made his first appearance of 2015 and was soon busy meeting the newer squad members. With the top five run scorers all away, there was scope for experimentation with bat and ball and Hibbert opened with himself and Hemin Patel. Fifty came up, but Hibbert might have been caught in the first over off a top-edged pull. They both struck well, Patel unleashing a beautiful cover-driven four down the hill. Ottley's spin did for them both.

Oruganti began assertively and with Jampala put the Gents into a strong position. The boundaries were complemented with good running and the score mounted quickly. Meek, working up good pace in his second spell, bowled Jampala and Laing had Oruganti stumped.

Aguirre, having endured with the patience of Job two century stands while padded up in his three matches to date, fell quickly but Newcombe and Pingili added 59 runs in the last five overs. Watson tried eight bowlers, the pick being Ottley and Meek. He also delegated mutt-handling duties to the Gents, but Jessie (above) contented herself with a bowl and a ready supply of cold running water. The bowl sadly disintegrated, the cause being diagnosed by engineer Laing as UV light degradation.

Brick had a huge challenge in overcoming 264 but although they could not find a free-scoring partnership to rival Oruganti's and Jampala's they sold their wickets dearly. The Gents' batting heroes shared the first seven overs from the Pavilion End, Gorantla going straight through for two for 25. Their economy left Brick needing ten an over and although Ottley, O'Keeffe (his first Brick runs, of many we would predict) and Meek batted fluently it was too big a challenge. Both sides leaked extras, the swirling wind not helping, but some good catches were taken, Jampala running in from long-on to pouch O'Keeffe and Pingili taking Laing one-handed at gully. Hibbert used nine bowlers and Khan sneaked to the top of the bowling averages with his two wickets. The game was played in a good spirit and Brick will be keen for revenge in the August return.

Blue Marlins v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 2 August, Northwick Park. Gents won toss (toss agreed in game two). Sunny, 26C

Lost by 8 wickets

Gentlemen of West London				Blue Marlins			
†Small	lbw	b Niraj	20	Anubhav	lbw	b Krishna	16
Basker	c Avinash	b Niraj	18	Avinash		b Jampala	4
Denton		b Niraj	0	Vamsi	not out		32
Jampala	c Yogi	b Mandar	8	Surendra	not out		16
Desai		b Prem	6	†Yogi, Ashish, Mandar, Prem, *Niraj, Shankar and Mithun did not bat			
S Patel		b Mandar	0				
Sudireddy		b Vamsi	10				
Bocha	lbw	b Prem	0				
Krishna		b Prem	0				
Khan		b Vamsi	1				
*H Patel	not out		1				
Extras		w13 lb1	14	Extras		w7 b2 lb2	11
Total	All out	25.5 overs	78	Total	2 wickets	17.4 overs	79
FoW: 32, 32, 47, 58, 58, 58, 59, 63, 64, 78				FoW: 5, 29			
Bowler				Bowler			
Mithun	6-0-20-0			Jampala	4-1-7-1		
Ashish	4-1-13-0			S Patel	4-0-12-0		
Shankar	4-1-15-0			Desai	3-0-15-0		
Niraj	4-1-9-3			Krishna	3-0-12-1		
Prem	3-0-4-3			Bocha	2-0-15-0		
Mandar	2-0-6-2			H Patel	1.4-0-14-0		
Vamsi	2.5-0-10-2						

Lost by 18 runs

Blue Marlins				Gentlemen of West London			
Shankar	c Jampala	b Khan	0	*Small	c Mandar	b Surendra	46
Mandar	st Basker	b H Patel	31	Bocha	c Surendra	b Shankar	1
Mithun	st Basker	b Khan	4	†Basker	c Yogi	b Niraj	10
Ashish		b S Patel	23	Jampala		b Mithun	30
†Yogi		b Jampala	27	S Patel	not out		8
Prem	c Jampala	b Small	19	Sudireddy	not out		7
Avinash	c Small	b Jampala	13	Desai, Denton, Krishna, Khan and H Patel did not bat			
Anubhav	not out		1				
Surendra		b Jampala	0				
Niraj	not out		4				
Vamsi	did not bat						
Extras		w10 nb2	12	Extras		w9 b3 lb2	14
Total	8 wickets	15 overs	134	Total	4 wickets	15 overs	116
FoW: 13, 13, 68, 72, 111, 124, 126, 128				FoW: 4, 36, 89, 106			
Bowler				Bowler			
Khan	2-0-8-2			N/R			
Sudireddy	2-0-21-0						
Small	3-0-26-1						
Bocha	1-0-20-0						
H Patel	3-0-31-1						
S Patel	2-0-12-1						
Jampala	2-0-16-3						

Blue Marlins, introduced by their ex-player Sumit Kumar, inflicted a drubbing on the Gents, overcoming a paltry total of 78 with eight wickets and over 17 overs in hand. There was no obvious reason why the visitors batted so badly. The Gents were punctual and seemed keen and alert, although four had suffered disappointing defeats in the Telugu Twenty20 quarter-finals the day before. The wicket had consistent bounce. The home attack was quicker than most but was played effectively enough by Small, Basker, Jampala and Sudireddy. Whatever the reason, an insipid innings closed on the lowest score since 2012, with over nine overs unused. The hosts then survived the early loss of their openers to win at a canter.

It had all begun promisingly, after some faffing about by the home side that delayed the start by half-an-hour. Small and Basker prospered against nine accurate overs from Mithun, Ashish and Shankar. Niraj then did both for them and No.3 Denton. The fifty soon came up for three down, whereupon six wickets fell for six runs, including a rare golden duck for Sanjay Patel. Sudireddy briefly threatened a fightback but he could not do it on his own.

Jampala might have struck in the first over of the reply but Avinash was dropped at the wicket. No matter, as in his second over he produced a corker to knock back off-stump. A further 24 were added before Krishna struck with his first ball, the Gents' last success. Vamsi and the inappropriately-trousered Surendra then put up 50 for an easy win.

Though several were initially reluctant to play, the Gents were in much better form in a hotly-contested second game, falling 18 runs short when stumps were drawn. To paraphrase Sanjay Patel's vigorous speech to the refuseniks, the performance in the first game had been shocking and the Gents therefore needed to demonstrate to new opponents that they could play better cricket than they had. The captaincy passed to Small and the crooked Krishna stood down, although he kindly stayed on to umpire. Khan struck first ball, Jampala taking a fine low catch on the long-off boundary. He then deceived Mithun to give Basker the first of two stumpings. Blue Marlins then scored freely, poor Bocha going for 20 off his over, before Jampala struck with 3 for 16.

Small and Jampala fashioned a good reply against more top-class bowling and fielding, Small climbing to one run ahead of Basker in the vestigial run aggregate list. The Gents competed well throughout but could not find the boundaries they needed in the last few overs. A measure of pride had been restored.

To an extensive list of services that Blue Marlins failed to supply (e.g. mid-innings drinks in the first game, a chair for the scorer and respect for the decisions of the umpire) must be added the provision of bowlers' names, which are therefore not recorded. Those who like to perv on Gent misfortune can file these scorecards in the memory bank for their next bout of solo titillation, along with those from the 1999 President's Cup, the only previous occasion that the Gents had lost twice in an afternoon.

A new one on us



Word of advice. Never, ever dispute bequipped batsman Peter Denton's take on matters of cricketing pedantry. Blue Marlins' captain Niraj was late, arriving after nine overs had been bowled, whereupon he immediately took the ball and dismissed batsmen 1. to 3. in short order. Denton expressed concern after his own dismissal, citing Law 2.

He was only right. **Law 2 (Substitutes and runners; batsman or fielder leaving the field; batsman retiring; batsman commencing innings)** has the following Clause:

5. Fielder absent or leaving the field

If a fielder fails to take the field with his side at the start of the match or at any later time, or leaves the field during a session of play:

- (a) the umpire shall be informed of the reason for his absence.
- (b) he shall not thereafter come on to the field of play during a session of play without the consent of the umpire. The umpire shall give such consent as soon as is practicable.
- (c) if he is absent for 15 minutes of playing time or longer, he shall not be permitted to bowl thereafter, subject to (i), (ii) or (iii) below, until he has been on the field for at least the length of playing time for which he was absent.

Niraj should therefore have not been allowed to bowl for another nine overs and the Gents' umpires should have known this. This was of course a complete game changer. Had he been held back, the Gents might have made, oh at least another ten runs or so, then who knows what would have happened?

Law 24 (No ball) has also been discussed this season, Sachin Desai noticing but not calling a transgression of:

5. Fair delivery - the feet

For a delivery to be fair in respect of the feet, in the delivery stride,

- (a) the bowler's back foot must land within and not touching the return crease appertaining to his stated mode of delivery.

A personal observation is just what a difficult job the umpires have. They must watch for back and front foot transgressions before the ball has even been bowled. If that ball is bowled at 70mph, they have a little over half a second of action to decide on Wides, aerial No balls, leg before wicket, etc.

Gentlemen of West London v. Pak

Sunday 9 August, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss (toss agreed in game two). Sunny, 27C

Won by 1 wicket

Pak				Gentlemen of West London			
Sahad	c Denton	b Desai	12	Oruganti	c Sahad	b Manni	4
Baasim		b Kumar	10	Sudireddy		b Manni	3
S Khan		b Small	37	Caveney	c S Khan	b Manni	3
Aani	c Kumar	b Small	8	†Denton		b Manni	8
Dan	st Denton	b Small	10	Aguirre		b Dan	7
*Ahmed	run out		0	*Hibbert	run out		11
†N Khan	c and	b D Patel	1	Small	c N Khan	b Baasim	12
Khal		b Small	2	Bocha	lbw	b Manni	41
Manni	not out		5	Desai	run out		1
Mossey	not out		1	Kumar	not out		14
Salik did not bat				D Patel	not out		7
Extras		w15 nb4 b14 lb2	35	Extras		w10 nb1 b2 lb1	14
Total	8 wickets	20 overs	121	Total	9 wickets	18 overs	125
FoW: 21, 50, 93, 96, 97, 104, 107, 112				FoW: 7, 7, 24, 24, 43, 51, 85, 86, 112			
Bowler				Bowler			
Hibbert	4-0-9-0			Dan	4-0-27-1		
Kumar	4-0-16-1			Manni	4-0-23-5		
Desai	3-0-23-1			Baasim	3-1-13-1		
Bocha	3-0-29-0			Sahad	3-0-38-0		
Small	3-1-11-4			Khal	2-0-13-0		
D Patel	2-0-12-1			Ahmed	2-0-8-0		
Aguirre	1-0-5-0						

Won by 31 runs

Gentlemen of West London				Pak			
Small	run out		11	*Ahmed	retired out		34
Bocha		b Baasim	32	Sahad		b Small	0
*Hibbert	c Dan	b Ahmed	5	Aani		b Small	3
Kumar	c Baasim	b Sahad	18	Baasim	st Denton	b Small	3
Desai	c Ahmed	b Sahad	34	Dan	lbw	b Oruganti	0
Oruganti	not out		9	Khal	lbw	b Sudireddy	8
Aguirre	not out		2	Manni	run out		1
D Patel, †Denton, Sudireddy and Caveney did not bat				S Khan	c Hibbert	b Aguirre	2
				Mossey	not out		16
				Salik	not out		3
				†N Khan	did not bat		
Extras		w5 nb1 b3 lb1	10	Extras		w11 nb3 b4 lb2	20
Total	5 wickets	16 overs	121	Total	8 wickets	16 overs	90
FoW: 26, 52, 58, 104, 112				FoW: 4, 12, 21, 22, 52, 54, 62, 84			
Bowler				Bowler			
Dan	2-0-13-0			Bocha	3-0-9-0		
Manni	4-0-27-0			Small	4-0-15-3		
Ahmed	4-0-26-1			Oruganti	3-0-16-1		
Baasim	2-0-19-1			Sudireddy	3-0-14-1		
Khal	2-0-24-0			Aguirre	2-0-24-1		
Sahad	2-0-8-2			Caveney	1-0-6-0		

The annual Twenty20 competition with Pak's dads and lads finally went ahead after postponement due to rain a fortnight earlier, the Gents winning a fizzing crackerjack of a first game before a more perfunctory second win. Bocha (73 runs), Small (7-1-26-7) and Denton (three dismissals) had particularly good days, while Naveed Khan's brother Shezhad and Manni produced excellent performances for the visitors, the latter delivering a rare five-wicket return.

After the captains had moved the wicket from a newly-cut if bumpy one to the flat track used the previous day, the inserted visitors proceeded carefully to 50 for one after 10 overs before 29 came from the last overs bowled by Desai and Bocha. Pak's captain Khurshid Ahmed became the first run out opponent of 2015, in chaotic circumstances. Dhruv Patel's first ball, a beamer, was correctly called No ball. Ahmed hooked to square-leg Bocha who took a sharp catch and, not having heard the call, threw the ball up in celebration. Ahmed dashed for a single but Bocha had recovered quickly and a simple throw to the bowler did the rest. Had this been the final wicket, the pint-sized twirler would have carded an enigmatic 0.0-0-1-0. Small bowled with guile, assisted by a pitch that was rapidly turning into a dustbowl and responsive wicket-keeping and outcricket.

The Gents then collapsed to the medium-pace swing of the black-trousered Manni, four wickets tumbling in the first four overs. At 24 for four, the hosts were struggling before Aguirre, Hibbert and Small steadied the ship. Runs were coming quickly but wickets kept falling, including the unfortunate and expressively debriefed run out of Desai, and it took a counter-attacking 41 (seven fours and the day's only six) in just six overs by Bocha to get Gents past the ton. What a batsman he is on this form and with Kumar's sensible support 26 of the 35 runs needed were added for the ninth wicket. Manni was not finished though and when the ball rapped Bocha's pads umpire Aguirre raised the finger. Kumar and Dhruv Patel then saw the Gents home in a tense finish, their first by this margin since 2009. Ken Toft struck the winning run that day and was here to see Kumar do the same with a four down the ground. It had been an excellent contest.

Battle lines were then drawn for a relaxed 16 overs match played in sweltering conditions. Bocha, Kumar and Desai batted well for the Gents while Ahmed glued Pak's innings together. Small took three more wickets to make an eloquent case for his selection in the England squad to visit the Emirates this winter. A cheerful day's cricket all in all against gracious, friendly and well-supported opponents, driven home by top class food.

Clearly made up after his wicket-keeping performance, Peter Denton posted: "A great day, great result, great team spirit and a great liberal lefty conversation with drinks after".

Tied matches

Tied	West XI 147-9 tied with Gents 147-7 (KGF Richmond, 12 July 1992) <small>Victory conceded by West XI as Gents lost fewer wickets</small>
Tied	Gents 160-7 tied with London Rams 160-8 (Victoria RG, 5 May 2002)
Tied	Gents 167-5 tied with New Barbarian Weasels 167-8 (Victoria RG, 12 July 2003)
Tied	West London Invitation XI 140-8 tied with Gents 140 (Old Tenisonians, 24 August 2008)
Tied	Gents 93 tied with Salix 93 (GSK Greenford, 14 September 2008)
Tied	Gents 231-9 tied with Judd Street Tigers 231-10 (Old Tenisonians, 14 July 2013) <small>12 a side</small>

Other close finishes

1 run	Gent 97 beat London Saints 96-8 (Victoria RG, 16 August 1992)
1 wicket	Lager Louts 99-8 beat Gents 98 (Victoria RG, 25 April 1993) <small>Winning side had 10 men</small>
Drawn	Gents 147-6 dec. drew with London Saints 66-9 (Town Park, 25 June 1994)
1 run	Gents 90 beat Sunderland SC 89 (Arnos Park, 3 August 1996)
1 wicket	Urban Associates 164-9 beat Gents 161 (Nursery Road, 11 August 1996)
Drawn	New Barbarian Weasels 174-3 dec. drew with Gents 81-9 (KGF Tolworth, 25 July 1999)
1 wicket	Gents 235-9 beat 12 Angry Men 231-3 (Victoria RG, 3 September 2000)
1 wicket	Sunderland SC 82-8 beat Gents 81 (Victoria RG, 26 May 2001) <small>Winning side had 10 men</small>
1 wicket	Gents 164-9 beat 12 Angry Men 160-6 (Victoria RG, 28 July 2002)
1 run	Gents 155-6 beat West XI 154-8 (Berkhamsted, 15 September 2002)
1 run	Gents 147 beat Pak 146 (Victoria RG, 15 May 2005)
1 wicket	Gents 72-9 beat London Rams 71 (Fairfield RG, 22 June 2008)
1 wicket	Battersea Ironsides 92-9 beat Gents 91 (Battersea Ironsides, 27 July 2008)
1 wicket	Gents 161-9 beat Old Grumblers 147-7 (Fairfield RG, 6 June 2009)
1 wicket	Close PF 142-9 beat Gents 141-7 (Old Tenisonians, 1 August 2010)
1 wicket	Gents 121-9 beat Pak 121-8 (Old Tenisonians, 9 August 2015)

2015 individual and team performances

Highest score for: 268-5 v. St. Anne's Allstars

Highest score against: 261-3 by Northfields

Lowest score for: 78 v. Blue Marlins

Lowest score against: 93 by Battersea Imperials

Hundred partnerships for (2): 212* 6th. wicket Small/Kumar v. St. Anne's Allstars (Gents record for any wicket, 3rd. wicket Oruganti/Jampala v. Bricklayer's Arms)

Hundred partnerships against (2): 186 2nd. wicket Elmes/Murray (Northfields) (wicket record in Gents games), 111 3rd. wicket Herbert/Shacklock (Wimbledon United)

Fifties/hundreds for (12): 131* Small v. St. Anne's Allstars, **114*** S Desai v. Close PF, **88*** Small v. Clapham In, **79*** Kumar v. Northfields, **74*** Kumar v. St. Anne's Allstars, **73** Basker v. Hale, **70** Oruganti v. Bricklayer's Arms, **68** Basker v. Northfields, **65** S Patel v. Hale, **58** Katragadda v. BSI, **56*** Aguirre v. BSI, **51** Dubey v. Bricklayer's Arms

Fifties/hundreds against (8): 165* Elmes (Northfields), **164*** Ahmed (Close PF), **83** Herbert (Wimbledon United), **56** Katragadda (United Titans), **55** Murray (Northfields), **54** Carman (Clapham In), **52** Giles (Hale), **50** Harsh (Gubbays)

Four-wicket hauls for (2): 4-11 Small v. Pak, **4-34** S Patel v. Hale

Four-wicket hauls against (6): 5-23 Manni (Pak), **4-15** Rajesh (Hale), **4-29** Vandu (Gubbays), **4-31** Harsh (Gubbays), **4-79** Fawkes (Northfields)

Sixes (30): 6 S Patel **5** Dubey **4** Kumar, Small **3** Katragadda **2** Basker, Desai **1** Bocha, Cloete, Khan, Oruganti

Duck trophy (29): 3 Denton, S Patel **2** Jones, Newcombe, H Patel, Pingili, Sudireddy **1** Basker, Bocha, Buck, Desai, Dubey, Hibbert, Jampala, Krishna, Kumar, Laing, Mamidi, Oruganti, Small

Gentlemen of West London v. Clapham In

Sunday 16 August, Old Tenisonians. Clapham In won toss. Cloudy, 22C

Won by 21 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Clapham In				
Small	not out		88	†Plaja	c Sudireddy	b Oruganti	7
Dubey		b Hasan	6	Ferreira	run out		14
Reddy	lbw	b Curtis	3	Gregory		b Dubey	13
Oruganti		b Curtis	0	Carman	c Jampala	b Dubey	54
Newcombe	st Plaja	b Hollands	3	Willison		b Dubey	0
Jampala	c Willison	b Goodman	30	*Frecknall		b Jampala	44
†Khan	st Plaja	b Hollands	25	Hollands	c S Patel	b Kumar	2
S Patel	st Plaja	b Ferreira	0	Curtis		b Kumar	7
*Kumar	not out		14	Lindberg		b Kumar	1
Sudireddy and Krishna did not bat				Goodman	not out		12
				Hasan	not out		6
Extras		w14 nb5 b11 lb1	31	Extras		w5 nb2 b8 lb4	19
Total		7 wickets	200	Total		9 wickets	179
FoW: 19, 22, 22, 43, 103, 159, 160				FoW: 16, 29, 76, 89, 104, 121, 144, 150, 166			
Bowler				Bowler			
Hasan	7-0-44-1			Oruganti	6-0-18-1		
Curtis	7-2-24-2			Krishna	6-2-12-0		
Hollands	4-0-32-2			S Patel	7-0-34-0		
Goodman	7-0-32-1			Small	2-0-27-0		
Ferreira	3-0-15-1			Dubey	6-0-33-3		
Frecknall	5-0-25-0			Kumar	5-0-27-3		
Lindberg	2-0-16-0			Jampala	3-0-16-1		

A game that began in bright sunshine ended in sepulchral darkness as the Gents closed out a famous win against friendly but competitive opposition who played good, hard cricket from first ball to last. The Gents were on their game and supported Jonny Small's marathon innings with tight seam bowling and exemplary outcricket.

Hasan and Curtis reduced Gents to 22 for three in the sixth over, soon to become 43 for four in the 13th. as Newcombe overbalanced and became the first of three Plaja stumpings, a curiosity if not a unique event in Gents' history. Small and Jampala sprinted between the wickets, the latter hitting four threes in a stand of 60 that brought up the ton in the 21st. over. In the 28th., Lindberg's second, Small went to his fifty with three successive fours. He would strike ten in all. Naveed Khan was in vintage form, pulling a hamstring while running a three (his first scoring shot), thereafter contenting himself with a series of twos and a huge six into a garden. Kumar hit another six and he and Small struck boldly to put up 33 in the last three overs, Small 88 not out, redemption for him after his two previous innings in this rubber were ended by early slip catches.

Students of cricketing terminology will note that he did not carry his bat. The term is mainly used when the innings closes after all 10 wickets have fallen; that is, the other 10 players in the team have all been dismissed. It may also be used in situations where one or more of these players retires out are unable to bat through injury or illness, and the remaining players are all dismissed normally. It is not used, however, in any other situation where the innings closes before all 10 wickets have fallen, such as when it is declared, is ended by a limit of overs or when the team successfully chases a run target to win the match. "Small took out his bat for 88" is correct. "Small carried his bat" is not.

Excellent opening spells by Oruganti and Krishna left the visitors 35 for two after 12 overs. Plaja was confidently held by square leg Sudireddy (his first Gents catch) off a top-edge and Ferreira brilliantly run out chancing a third to Jampala, whose pinpoint throw to the bowler left the batsman a yard short. A brutal assault by Carman on Small comprising a two, three fours and two sixes left Clapham In at 66 for two after 16 overs and needing 7.1 runs per over.

Sanjay Patel was bowling well, conceding only 13 runs in his first five overs, but it was Dubey who made the breakthrough: three in fact, bowling Gregory, having the violent giant Carman well caught on the mid-wicket boundary by Jampala before cleaning up Willison. Captain Frecknall struck eight fours in a proud dash for glory and survived Kumar's penetrative late spell of three for 27. The captain had held Jampala back and the all-rounder proved again what an important player he is by ending Frecknall's innings, the last wicket to fall.

Had the Gents not played to their potential they would have lost. As it was, they shaded as fine an oppo as you will meet in a month of Sundays.

Bricklayer's Arms v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 23 August, Raynes Park SG. Bricklayer's Arms won toss. Sunny, 21C

Won by 102 runs

Gentlemen of West London				Bricklayer's Arms			
†Denton	st Locke	b Ottley	19	Derks	c H Patel	b Katragadda	7
H Patel	c Pasola	b Ottley	34	Pasola	c Katragadda	b Dubey	40
Caveney	c Pasola	b Illingworth	17	Hibbert	lbw	b S Patel	0
*Kumar	c Evans	b Goymer	3	*Watson		b Kumar	14
S Patel	c Goymer	b Evans	17	Goymer	c Denton	b H Patel	4
Katragadda	c and	b Illingworth	12	Ottley	lbw	b Jones	21
Dubey	c Illingworth	b Laing	51	Evans	not out		13
Jampala	st Locke	b Laing	10	Carty	not out		4
Small	c Locke	b Laing	14	Winpenny, †Locke and Laing did not bat			
Jones		b Watson	12				
Newcombe	not out		17				
Extras		w12 b1	13	Extras		w3 nb6 b4 lb1	14
Total	All out	29.4 overs	219	Total	6 wickets	30 overs	117
FoW: 55, 56, 61, 99, 107, 148, 175, 178, 191, 219				FoW: 23, 38, 63, 72, 80, 113			
Bowler				Bowler			
Derks	5-0-32-0			Katragadda	5-1-19-1		
Ottley	6-0-23-2			Jampala	4-0-17-0		
Goymer	6-0-28-1			S Patel	4-0-12-1		
Evans	3-0-31-1			Dubey	5-1-12-1		
Illingworth	2-0-34-2			Kumar	4-0-15-1		
Watson	3.4-0-36-1			H Patel	3-2-1-1		
Laing	3-0-25-3			Newcombe	2-0-14-0		
Pasola	1-0-9-0			Small	1-0-12-0		
				Caveney	1-0-5-0		
				Jones	1-0-5-1		

The Gents win/loss account went into credit 8-7 after an entertaining match. Nilesh Dubey's violent 5 and steady support through the order ensured that the Gents posted a defendable total in a match reduced to 30 overs. Brick provided the most schizophrenic fielding performance in many a moon, dropping Denton and Hemin Patel six times in their eleven over stand, before taking some corkers. They then batted solidly in the evening sunshine but could not threaten the total. This was a new ground to this Gents team, although the club had played here once before, in 1999. Horace Hibbert had too, for 12 Angry Men, and was not reticent in recalling his slip catch that day, a catch whose magnificence grew in the retelling. He had an interesting day, initially refusing to turn up because of the weather and then transferring to Brick on a one-match contract after being deemed surplus to requirements.

After a delayed start, Brick won the toss and fielded. Denton and Hemin Patel were assertive, scoring their runs mainly through booming drives interspersed with lumbering singles. After fumbling everything for half an hour, Brick began to make inroads into the batting. Denton was neatly stumped off Ottley's spin before Patel fell to a fine one-handed slip catch. Kumar's drive was brilliantly plucked out of the air by the diving mid-on Evans. Caveney and all subsequent batsmen got into double figures with Dubey going rather higher. Facing only 21 balls (.4244.16.46326.1124.1) he hit three sixes and five fours, his seventh Gents fifty.

Katragadda and Jampala did the needful, the former taking the edge of Derks's bat for a neat slip catch. Horace Hibbert batted first-down for Brick, having swapped sides after Illingworth had cut his finger catching Dubey. Sadly for him he was soon lbw. Pasola anchored the innings and hit some good fours. The pitch had true bounce and batsmen intent on survival could achieve their aim without alarm.

Mark Jones had lost his action after the 2013 tour of the Netherlands but had attended coaching at the Oval to cure his problems. His single over here was fast and accurate and the celebrations from the team when he got Watson were genuine and heartfelt. The Gents need his bowling.

A report of a cricket match is perhaps not the correct forum to criticise the BBC, but here goes. Their weather forecasters got this one badly wrong. The giggly Scotchwoman lost the plot years ago and nowadays can barely finish a sentence but Spike from *Hi-de-Hi!* had maintained tolerable accuracy all summer, although usually during settled periods. This time he winged it and until the very day of the match forecast heavy rain all afternoon. Not so, said Brick's secretary Mr. Locke, rain will clear by 2pm and it's a fast-drying ground. So it did, and so it was.

Gentlemen of West London v. Battersea Imperials

Sunday 30 August, Old Tenisonians. Battersea Imperials won toss (toss agreed in game two). Cloudy, 18C

Won by 3 wickets

Battersea Imperials			Gentlemen of West London		
†Singh		b Oruganti	6	*Small	c J Khan
Jadeja		b Oruganti	0	Kota	b Harris
Hoble		b Oruganti	7	Pingili	b A Khan
T Khan	c and	b Katragadda	17	Jampala	b A Khan
J Khan		b Kota	32	Sudireddy	b A Khan
A Khan		b Krishna	11	Katragadda	b D Khan
Ahmed		b Pingili	1	S Patel	c Hoble
D Khan		b Pingili	4	Oruganti	not out
*Harris		b Pingili	1	Chintam	not out
Cooper	not out		1	Krishna and †Denton	did not bat
F Khan	absent				
Extras		w8 b3 lb2	13	Extras	w2 nb1 lb2
Total	All out	22.1 overs	93	Total	7 wickets
FoW: 0, 10, 34, 34, 49, 54, 59, 69, 93				FoW: 26, 49, 53, 53, 57, 71, 88	
Bowler				Bowler	
Katragadda	5-2-17-1			Cooper	4-0-18-0
Oruganti	5-1-18-3			A Khan	7-3-20-4
Pingili	4-0-25-3			D Khan	5-0-22-1
Krishna	6-1-19-1			Harris	4.4-0-24-2
Kota	2.1-0-9-1			J Khan	2-0-8-0

Won by 13 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Battersea Imperials		
Chintam		b Harris	27	J Khan	lbw
†Denton		b Cooper	1	F Khan	b Small
Krishna	not out		36	†Singh	c Small
Sudireddy		b A Khan	19	T Khan	b Small
*Small		b A Khan	6	*Harris	c Katragadda
Katragadda	run out		23	Ahmed	b Jampala
Pingili		b A Khan	0	A Khan	c Denton
Kota	not out		1	Hoble	b Kota
Jampala, S Patel and Oruganti	did not bat			D Khan	b Sudireddy
				Cooper	not out
				Jadeja	lbw
Extras		w8 nb2 b4 lb2	16	Extras	w10 nb2 lb2
Total	6 wickets	18 overs	129	Total	All out
FoW: 7, 47, 78, 84, 121, 124				FoW: 11, 18, 32, 47, 53, 76, 99, 114, 116, 116	
Bowler				Bowler	
Cooper	3-0-21-1			Jampala	4-0-33-2
F Khan	3-0-15-0			Small	3-0-19-3
D Khan	3-0-20-0			S Patel	2-0-37-1
Harris	4-0-25-1			Sudireddy	3-0-19-2
A Khan	3-0-20-3			Kota	2-0-6-2
Ahmed	2-0-22-0				

Under lowering skies the Gents edged nervously past Battersea Imperials' 93 all out by three wickets before winning an 18 over romp completed in horrid light. Both sides' bowlers exploited favourable conditions to no little effect, Imperials' Abed Khan swinging the ball prodigiously to card 10-3-40-7 over the day while the three Gents' leg-spinners, including the formidable Pawan Kota on debut, had a combined analysis of 8-0-44-7 in the second game. There was some barny cricket by both sides; of Imperials 182 runs off the bat, 48 came in sixes, three by Abed Khan off successive balls bowled by Sanjay Patel, whose analysis is not misrecorded.

Battersea Imperials are a league club who run a Sunday XI, comprising second, third and fourth XI players. They were new opponents for the Gents, hoovered up from the internet, and proved to be well-organised, punctual and courteous. Importantly, they were well matched with the Gents. However, with several combustible personalities on both sides and the tension associated with low-scoring fixtures there was all the fun of the fair out in the middle. Imperials' captain Khalid Harris felt forced to replace an umpire "before it all kicks off" and several of his team had to be persuaded to leave the pitch upon dismissal, even after being bowled. Nor were the Gents, with eight veterans of the highly-competitive Telugu T20 league, innocent. Diplomatic relations were, however, restored after urgent peace talks and the sides ended favourably disposed to one another.

A truckload of members were unavailable for this Bank Holiday game, and therein lay a problem that will be discussed later. The ever-reliable Anil Oruganti did the needful and brought along Chintam and Kota, the latter known to Judd Street Tigers for his mesmerising spell against Graces exactly a year before. Jonny Small was appointed captain and a fine job he did too.

Harris won the toss and decided to bat in a game shaved to 38 overs after starting 15 minutes late. Small would have fielded. Oruganti, bowling with venom, and Katragadda then tore into the top-order and reduced Imperials to 34 for four. The *film noir* light was not helpful for the batsmen, but some of the shot selection was challenged. Tuwaib Khan, for example, pulled Katragadda superbly twice for four and six but going for a repeat lofted a return catch. Krishna struck with his first ball and Pingili survived some early tap to bowl three more.

The burly Javed Khan was batting well and with the resilient Cooper put on 24 for the ninth wicket before Kota bowled him with a corker that pitched outside leg and took the off-bail. This ended a good period of play for the visitors but it spelt the end of the innings because their eleventh man had only finished his shift at Heathrow at 2pm and was late arriving. In the event the Gents were relieved not to have had to chase much over 100.

Three o'clock was a little early for tea so there was a quick turnaround. Small batted with skill and so steady was the support from Kota and Pingili that in the twelfth over the Gents were 49 for one, halfway home for only one down. Abed Khan then exercised his influence, cleaning up four Gents including Jampala and Sudireddy for ducks in his seventh over. Dost Khan bowled Katragadda and Imperials started to believe, the game in the balance with Gents 57 for five. Fourteen came for the sixth wicket before Small holed out from his first false shot. Fortunately, Sanjay Patel was on his game and though he fell with six needed Oruganti and Chintam (off the mark with a fine sweep for four) saw the Gents home. Imperials had fought a good fight.

The home-made tea worked well. Thanks are due to Mr. Denton for assembly duties. Everyone was keen to play again and a feisty game of some quality duly ensued. Krishna, Chintam, Sudireddy (coached by Sanjay Patel in the tea interval and reaping instant benefit from his wisdom) and Katragadda batted attractively to set a difficult target. Nevertheless, Imperials, inspired by Abed Khan's blast, were ahead of the required rate throughout their innings. Small struck three times and took a good low catch at mid-wicket and Jampala struck twice but Khan was a tough proposition, even though wickets were falling regularly. It was highly entertaining stuff, with boundaries, scampered singles, fielders struggling to see the ball and the Gents' scorer grateful for the assistance of Imperials, who kindly updated the scoreboard after each run, an unusual and pleasant courtesy.

After enduring Khan's onslaught, Sanjay Patel got captain Harris, well held in the deep. The spinners then came into play. Khan fell for 42, Denton's ninth victim of the season, off Sudireddy. Kota then wrapped up the innings, Imperials all out in 14 overs. It proved an enjoyable day on which to bid Old Tenisonians adieu for another year.

The issue of involvement – old guard v. young bucks – can never be resolved to the complete satisfaction of all parties and of course the Gents' captains do their best to be fair. If you try to please everybody you end up with a mishmash, because the format has not yet been defined in which all eleven players can bat at five and bowl seven overs each. This issue needs full discussion. Better that than a sulphurous atmosphere.

Most runs in a season – will Jonny Small crash the Top 10?

756	Wright 2000	461	Husain 2006
680	Husain 2007	459	Inkollu 2008
586	Husain 2005	440	Ashton 1992
514	Hubbucks 1994	432	S Patel 2009
503	Ashton 1995	430	S Patel 2001

AGM 14 November 2015



There will be lots to discuss this year so if you have not already done so please reserve this date in your diary.

New and prospective members be advised that this is where we elect the Committee and celebrate the season with playing awards.

A pack will be sent to you in October but remember – Vote Early and Vote Often.