

# THE GENT

July 2016

No. 152

Tales from the corridor of uncertainty

## An empurpled hat-trick Pavan clinches win against Tigers



**Horace Hibbert, Chris Wright and John McGirr tumble in 3 balls**

Mid-season reflections

Son of Gent Austin Wilman stars for Esher U15s

Hale bail

Averages

Greg Newcombe gets his head around Yarl game

Remaining fixtures

Match reports:

Judd Street Tigers (won by 21 runs)

Alexandra Park (won by 69 runs)

Yarl (won by 1 wicket)

St. Anne's Allstars (won by 4 wickets)

Hounslow Hurricanes (lost by 3 wickets)

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## Damp but fun

We are now halfway through the season so it seems a good time for a few reflections on three of the biggest issues affecting the club, availability, finances and home grounds, the second and third categories being intertwined. Individual form ebbs and flows and will be reviewed in October.

In 2014, the ECB reported that no fewer than 5% of all scheduled league games had to be cancelled because sides could not raise a team (defined in league cricket as nine or more players). So far, members' availability has been good and notified early. Where guests have been needed the regulars have taken responsibility and brought them in, although the team was one short in two games. Last-minute replacements have been handled particularly well, three unavoidable absentees responsibly arranging their own replacements so that the captain was not handicapped. The club WhatsApp messaging tool has undoubtedly helped, and has been a useful conduit for venting opinions on the game, some sensible.

Karthik Jampala and Sachin Desai attended the Hurricanes game despite injury, umpiring the first innings. Jampala then bravely impressed himself into fielding duties in the second. The Editor also appreciated the back-up when that mentalist twat invaded the tea area with his dog during the Alexandra Park game. "We'll fix it," said Sanjay, and you did. Applause too for Greg Newcombe's high quality report on the Yarl game.

We are lacking a view on finances due to some administrative problems with the bank account. This will be fixed soon. Please keep playing your match fees promptly to Praveen Bocha or his deputy as the club is still showing a deficit and we need to build up cash reserves. If you pay for teas or kit, you will be reimbursed.

The pitches have been damp, sometimes barely playable and once dangerous. The result has been some low-scoring matches (59 runs per game down on 2015) and hence puny individual run aggregates. Old Tenisonians play in the Fuller's Brewery Surrey County Premier League. The highest league score batting first on that ground in 2016 has been just 125. Perhaps north London has a different microclimate, for although they are having a mixed season, our friends Judd Street Tigers already have three players over 200 runs, with Chris Wright on 485 in only 11 innings. Our best is Pavan Kota on 166. However, the Gents have been lucky with the weather. Only one game has been cancelled, and that unilaterally by the oppo when they refused to turn up.

We now have a run of games at OT, whose groundsman John Crawford has worked hard during a wet summer to ensure that games can be played. The question of back up to OT may have been resolved. Ealing SC at £112 is £56 cheaper than LMPF Greenford, changing facilities are of a decent standard and the bar is better. You can bring your own teas, whereas Greenford teas, served with a snarl and inspired by the famous cookbook "*Like it or lump it - Wandsworth prison menus of the 1950s*", are £100.

## Austin Maestro



Veteran Gents will remember with affection Rich Wilman, who played for the Gents with some success 28 times in the 1990s.

His son Austin (pictured left, carrying the cup) is a most talented young cricketer and scored 50 not out in June for Esher U15s as they beat Guildford U15s by 10 wickets to win the Surrey section. Next up is a match against the Middlesex winners with only four rounds left until a potential national final.

## Recent Gents Hat-tricks

Snelling	3-1 v. Enterprise (Victoria RG, 1 August 1999)
D Patel	4-25 v. Envile (Kinver School, 12 August 2000)
Fitch	4-18 v. Enterprise (Victoria RG, 10 June 2001)
Snelling	6-6 v. London Canaries (Victoria RG, 1 July 2001)
Iqbal	5-7 v. London Saints (Farfield RG, 1 June 2008)
Kota	3-37 v. Judd Street Tigers (Paulin Ground, 5 June 2016)

Five wickets in five balls

## 2016 scorecards and results

1/5	LMPF Greenford	<b>Bengal Troopers 244</b> (Khan 146, Tawhid 35, Shajib 21, Bocha 5-33) <b>Gents 100</b> (Basker 26, Choudhury 4-12, Mahmud 3-23)	<b>Lost</b> by 144 runs
8/5	Old Tenisonians	<b>Wimbledon United 157-7</b> (Herbert 60, Saxby 36) <b>Gents 159-5</b> (Kota 48*, Bocha 42, H Patel 30, Kumar 20)	<b>Won</b> by 5 wickets
15/5	Ealing SC	<b>Gubbays 135</b> (Aryuat 28, Mihir 27, Ketan 24, Bocha 3-21) <b>Gents 139-7</b> (Tewhatu 50, Kota 21, Mihir 3-38)	<b>Won</b> by 3 wickets
22/5	Durston House	<b>Gents 237-9</b> (Charatla 61, Kumar 43, Caveney 30, Bocha 25, E Redhead 3-27) <b>Northfields 238-3</b> (D Redhead 112*, Knight-Williams 45, Thompson 30*)	<b>Lost</b> by 7 wickets
29/5	LPOSSA	<b>White Swans (Southall) 86</b> (Apurva 23, H Patel 4-10, Kota 4-23) <b>Gents 87-3</b> (Newcombe 35*, Small 25)	<b>Won</b> by 7 wickets
5/6	Paulin Ground	<b>Gents 223-9</b> (Dubey 55, Newcombe 54, S Patel 49*, Kota 22, Webster 3-28) <b>Judd Street Tigers 202</b> (Wright 99, Taylor 27, Kota 3-37)	<b>Won</b> by 21 runs
18/6	Ealing SC	<b>Gents 146</b> (Kumar 44, H Patel 33) <b>Alexandra Park 77</b>	<b>Won</b> by 69 runs
26/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Yarl 121-8</b> (Charatla 55*, Harry 27) <b>Gents 122-9</b> (Kota 62, Harry 3-31)	<b>Won</b> by 1 wicket
3/7	Dundonald RG	<b>St. Anne's Allstars 69</b> (Krishna 3-8) <b>Gents 71-6</b> (Hampton 4-29)	<b>Won</b> by 4 wickets
10/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 136</b> (S Patel 43*, Sudireddy 30, Oruganti 5-16, Sarfraz 4-12) <b>Hounslow Hurricanes 137-7</b> (Andy 51*, Darshan 44, Amit 21, Kota 3-31)	<b>Lost</b> by 3 wickets

Date	Gents	Result	Judd Street Tigers	Result
Sun 26 April	-	-	<b>Southgate Compton</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 2 wickets
Sun 1 May	<b>Bengal Troopers</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 144 runs	<b>Harrowdene</b>	<b>Won</b> by 58 runs
Sun 8 May	<b>Wimbledon United</b>	<b>Won</b> by 5 wickets	<b>Graces</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 71 runs
Sat 14 May	-	-	<b>Porto</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 3 wickets
Sun 15 May	<b>Gubbays</b>	<b>Won</b> by 3 wickets	<b>Porto</b>	<b>Drawn</b>
Sun 22 May	<b>Northfields</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 7 wickets	<b>N2 Casuals</b>	<b>Won</b> by 162 runs
Sun 29 May	<b>White Swans (Southall)</b>	<b>Won</b> by 3 wickets	<b>Southgate Adelaide</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 7 wickets
Sun 5 June	<b>Judd Street Tigers</b>	<b>Won</b> by 21 runs	<b>Gentlemen of West London</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 21 runs
Sun 12 June	<b>Hale</b>	<b>Cancelled (rain)</b>	<b>Old Grumblers</b>	<b>Cancelled (rain)</b>
Sat 18 June	<b>Alexandra Park</b>	<b>Won</b> by 69 runs	<b>Eastons</b>	<b>Drawn</b>
Sun 19 June	-	-	<b>Little Berkhamsted</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 20 runs
Sun 26 June	<b>Yarl</b>	<b>Won</b> by 1 wicket	<b>Fives</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 65 runs
Sun 3 July	<b>St. Anne's Allstars</b>	<b>Won</b> by 4 wickets	<b>Spartan</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 87 runs
Sun 10 July	<b>Hounslow Hurricanes</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 3 wickets	<b>Haringey Libraries</b>	<b>Won</b> by 7 wickets
Sun 17 July	<b>Bengal Tigers</b>	-	<b>South London Oddballs</b>	-
Sun 24 July	<b>Baker Street Irregulars</b>	-	<b>Acme</b>	-
Sun 31 July	<b>Ashford</b>	-	<b>Octopus</b>	-
Sun 7 Aug	<b>Pak</b>	-	<b>Highgate</b>	-
Sun 14 Aug	<b>Clapham In</b>	-	<b>Whalers</b>	-
Sun 21 Aug	<b>Bricklayer's Arms</b>	-	<b>Cincinnati</b>	-
Sun 28 Aug	<b>Battersea Ironsides</b>	-	-	-
Sun 4 Sept	<b>Gubbays</b>	-	<b>Railway Taverners</b>	-
Sun 11 Sept	<b>Salix</b>	-	<b>Mayfield</b>	-
Sun 18 Sept	<b>Hale</b>	-	<b>Railway Taverners</b>	-
Sun 25 Sept	-	-	<b>Highgate</b>	-
<b>Record</b>	<b>P10 W7 L3 Cancelled 1</b>		<b>P13 W3 D2 L8 Cancelled 1</b>	
<b>Runs</b>	Kota 166, Kumar 135, Newcombe 126, S Patel 108		Wright 485, Porton 273, Taylor 237, Dane 172	
<b>Wickets</b>	Kota 15, H Patel 13, Bocha 10		Dane/Webster 15, Wright 14, Taylor 10	
<b>Catches/Stumpings</b>	Small 4/1, Kota 4, Sudireddy 3		Delanian 9, Taylor 7, Boden 5, Bignell 4	

## 2016 performances

**Highest score for:** 237-9 v. Northfields

**Highest score against:** 244 by Bengal Troopers

**Lowest score for:** 100 v. Bengal Troopers

**Lowest score against:** 69 by St. Anne's Allstars

**Hundred partnerships against (1):** 112 3rd. wicket Khan/Tawhid (Bengal Troopers)

**Fifties/hundreds for (6):** 62 Kota v. Yarl, 61 Charatla v. Northfields, 55 Dubey v. Judd Street Tigers, 54 Newcombe v. Judd Street Tigers, 50 Tewhatu v. Gubbays

**Fifties/hundreds against (6):** 146 Khan (Bengal Troopers), 112\* D Redhead (Northfields), 99 Wright (Judd Street Tigers), 60 Herbert (Wimbledon United), 51 Andy (Hounslow Hurricanes), 55\* Charatla (Yarl)

**Four-wicket hauls for (3):** 5-33 Bocha v. Bengal Troopers, 4-10 H Patel v. White Swans (Southall), 4-23 Kota v. White Swans (Southall)

**Four-wicket hauls against (3):** 5-18 Oruganti (Hounslow Hurricanes), 4-12 Choudhury (Bengal Troopers),

4-12 Sarfraz (Hounslow Hurricanes)

**Sixes (6); 4** Charatla 1 Bocha, S Patel

**Ducks (9):** 2 Hibbert, Krishna 1 Beckford, Bocha, Bowden, Chatharaju and Hibbert

## Judd Street Tigers v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 5 June, Paulin Ground, Winchmore Hill. Judd Street Tigers won toss. Sunny, 26C

Won by 21 runs

Gentlemen of West London		Judd Street Tigers				
†Small	c Taylor	b Dane	5	Delanian	b Jampala	2
H Patel	run out		2	Herlihy	lbw	9
Dubey		b Wright	55	Allerton	b Jampala	4
Newcombe	c Daffern	b Wright	54	Dane	b Kumar	14
Kota	c Bignell	b Webster	22	*Taylor	b H Patel	27
S Patel	not out		49	Wright	b H Patel	99
*Kumar	c Daffern	b Webster	2	Webster	c and	11
Jampala		b Delanian	4	Daffern	run out	1
Sudireddy	c Allerton	b Webster	1	Hibbert	run out	18
Chatharaju	run out		1	McGirr	c Jampala	0
Cullingham-Neil	not out		1	†Bignell	b Kota	0
Extras		w13 nb5 b9	27	Extras	w9 nb4 b4	17
Total	9 wickets	40 overs	223	Total	All out	38.3 overs
FoW:	9, 14, 102, 142, 189, 201, 215, 218, 222			FoW:	10, 17, 19, 40, 96, 153, 165, 202, 202, 202	202
<b>Bowler</b>						
Dane	8-1-41-1			Jampala	8-0-31-2	
Webster	8-1-28-3			Cullingham-Neil	1-0-7-0	
Taylor	8-0-48-0			Kumar	7-2-30-1	
Wright	8-0-28-2			H Patel	8-1-24-2	
Daffern	4-0-25-0			S Patel	2-0-26-0	
Delanian	4-0-44-1			Dubey	7-0-43-0	
				Kota	5.3-0-37-3	

The Gents won a magnificent game by 21 runs when Pavan Kota did the hat-trick by bowling John McGirr, having dismissed Horace Hibbert and Chris Wright off the first two balls of his sixth over. Wright scored the first 99 in a Gents match while earlier Sanjay Patel had been stranded one short of his 50 at the climax of some powerful top-order batting in which Dubey (55 with nine fours) and Newcombe (54 with seven fours) excelled. There was also plenty for students of the Laws to mull over, not least *Law 32 (Caught) 3. A fair catch and Law 28 (The wicket is down) 1. Wicket put down*. The sides continued their remarkable run of high scoring against each other, that's 1,357 in six innings to date, all scores over 200 with all games played in warm, sunny weather.

There was chaos before the game, some vinyl-related and some-cricket related. Somebody had donated a bag of vinyl long-playing pop albums to Mr Bignell so he could hawk them on on-line tat emporium eBay. It was a mixed bag indeed, incorporating blues-rock and latterly jazz-rock combo Blodwyn Pig (who had a saxophonist singer and were formed by ex-Jethro Tuller Mick Abrahams), English folk-rockers Steeleye Span (first three albums very good, others less so, this one was All Around My Hat, their seventh) and country-rockers Asleep at the Wheel. The cricket chaos was similar to 2014, Mr Hibbert again importing a supernumerary, this time his friend's son who was keen for a game, young Cullingham-Neil. Tigers were short so as the heroic Vijay Basker did in 2014 Hibbert gamely swapped teams, to no little effect, insisting that he had played for West XI (one of the Tigers' founding clubs) back in the day. He probably did. Indeed, a greater challenge would be to find which of Britain's 15,000 teams he has not played for at some time. Chatharaju stood in for the unwell Bocha, giving Gents two debutants, and Sanjay Patel returned having missed eight games with a back injury.

Tigers chose to field and were rewarded with two quick wickets, Small clipping to cover Taylor off Dane and Hemin Patel run out in interesting circumstances. Dubey's drive had deflected off the stumps, dislodging a bail. Patel was short of his ground attempting a second and the run out was completed by the bowler. Umpire Sanjay Patel immediately checked *Law 1.*, which states that the wicket is put down if a bail is completely removed from the top of the stumps, or a stump is struck out of the ground. After this kerfuffle, Dubey and Newcombe added 88 in 15.3 overs to take the Gents to a promising 102-2 at 20-over drinks. Dubey was the more aggressive, batting for 17.4 overs compared to 24.2 by Newcombe but the innings were of equal value and gave Sanjay Patel licence to hit out in the final 11 overs.

Dubey was bowled Wright first ball after drinks. He and Webster, (a dead ringer for James Robertson Justice, it is worryingly easy to imagine him bellowing at a fielder "You blithering idiot") were the pick of the Tigers' attack. The Newcombe/Kota stand was steady, 40 in 8.5 overs, and the Gents were moving relentlessly to a good score. Wright ended Newcombe's stout knock, a club personal best. Enter Sanjay Patel who played shots all around the ground, surviving the fall of the steady Kota to take Gents past 200. A fifty would have been deserved but was not to be as he could not get the strike in the final over.

The final score of 223 was seen as within reach of a talented Tiger batting line-up and probably par for the conditions, with long square boundaries and a pronounced slope at right-angles to the wicket. Among the conundrums captain Kumar had to answer was how spin would do on this wicket, Tigers having essayed mainly seam. The hosts knew that there was no need to go bonkers, five and a half runs an over being quite achievable. In the event, the Gents won the early rounds thanks to the medium-pace of Jampala and Kumar. Jampala bowled Delanian in his second over and got Herlihy leg-before with a full toss in his third. In his own second over, the sixth of the innings, Kumar got one through Allerton's defences. From 19-3 Tigers progressed to 40 before Hemin Patel, on his way to an outstanding analysis of 8-1-24-2, had Dane caught Dubey at silly mid-off.

Taylor and Wright moved things on to 96 in the 23rd. over, being particularly savage on Sanjay Patel, before Hemin had his second success, a neat stumping by Jonny Small to see off Taylor. Not only was the spinner taking wickets, he was paying only three runs an over for them and the pressure consequently mounted on the batsmen. When Taylor fell, the required rate was 7.5. Webster batted gamely before being run out by Kumar but now spectators were seeing Chris Wright in all his glory; ten fours and five sixes, with Hibbert's the only maxima of the day, would flow from his bat. He needed a partner though and although Daffern was run out Hibbert proved to be the man.

Dubey, having been unlucky with dropped catches, went for ten off his final over but he had done a good job. Wright targeted Kota, hitting two sixes and a four off his first over. Kumar brought back Jampala and bravely kept Kota on. The stand seemed to have been broken when Wright drove to Sudireddy on the long-on boundary, but he was deemed to have trodden on the line in contravention of *Law 32 (Caught) 3. A fair catch*. Had the catch been given, Kota could not have had his hat-trick.

The 39th. over decided the game. Tigers had to score 22 off the last two but were cut off when Hibbert drove to long-off Jampala, Wright was caught and bowled (and captured on film) and McGirr bowled. It was a fitting climax to a memorable match. To end on a statistical note, Kota's hat-trick was the first in a Gents game since 2008, when Ahsan Iqbal, against London Saints, took the least celebrated one of all time, because it straddled two overs and nobody realised what he had done.

## 90s in Gents matches



Spot the ball. Chris Wright hits another six off Kumar. Long-on Sudireddy caught it but stepped back on the boundary line, contravening Law 32. 3.

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| <b>99</b>  | Wright (Judd Street Tigers) (Paulin Ground, 5 June 2016)            |
| <b>98</b>  | Joseph of Urban Associates (Victoria RG, 19 May 2002)               |
| <b>98</b>  | Cloete v. Birdlip and Brimpsfield (Sinclair Field, 9 June 2012)     |
| <b>97*</b> | Cloete v. West XI (Crown Taverners, 4 September 2011)               |
| <b>96</b>  | Hubbocks v. Wandham (Beverley Park, 5 June 1994)                    |
| <b>96</b>  | Thornicroft v. Rotherham SC (Victoria RG, 4 September 1994)         |
| <b>95*</b> | Wright v. London Rams (Old Tenisonians, 25 June 2006)               |
| <b>93*</b> | Ashton v. New Barbarian Weasels (Peel Centre, 1 September 1993)     |
| <b>93</b>  | Gilkes v. Salix (LMPF Greenford, 19 August 2012)                    |
| <b>93</b>  | Small v. Northfields (Durston House, 25 May 2014)                   |
| <b>92</b>  | Seale of West XI (Victoria RG, 24 May 1992)                         |
| <b>91*</b> | C Arthur of West XI (Victoria RG, 24 May 1992)                      |
| <b>91</b>  | Bowman of St. Anne's Allstars (Barnes Common, 24 April 2011)        |
| <b>90</b>  | Waddell of West XI (Boston Manor, 12 August 1990)                   |
| <b>90</b>  | Mantha of Urban Associates (Victoria RG, 10 May 1998)               |
| <b>90</b>  | S Packer of Southwark and Lambeth Imperials (Boston Manor PF, 2011) |

## Tiger run gluts

14/7/13      Gents 231-9, Judd Street Tigers 231-10 (12 a side)  
 27/7/14      Gents 250-9, Judd Street Tigers 230-8  
 5/6/16      Gents 223-9, Judd Street Tigers 202

**Tied**  
**Won by 20 runs**  
**Won by 21 runs**

## Wright back to haunt the Gents

This was Wright's fourth 50 against the Gents, though surprisingly his first since 2006. Mayhew of London Saints also has four, while Dane is way ahead on seven. Dubey's was his seventh Gents 50 and Newcombe's his second. Sanjay Patel was only a confused call away from his 29th. One of the pleasures of the day was enjoying the company of civilised, clever team-mates and opponents who really know their cricket. In contrast, with Sky Sports absent from Burman Towers, Test cricket has to be followed on Test Match Special, which is not what it was, or via BBC on-line text, complete with comments from every bellend who thinks he understands the game. There should be tests before such people are allowed near a computer.

## How Tigers saw it

Despite recording their fourth consecutive total of 200-plus and a cavalier innings of 99 from the prolific Chris Wright, the Tigers went down to another defeat (their fifth in eight games in 2016) on a perfect day for batting and house painting, their capacity (and previously West XI's) to shoot themselves in the foot in this fixture remaining undiminished.

The afternoon had got off to a good start as the Gents were reduced to 14-2, the dangerous Small being taken low down at cover by Stewart Taylor and Hemin Patel being run out in bizarre circumstances after the batsman had driven the ball against the non-striker's wicket dislodging one bail. However, Dubey (55) and Newcombe (54) put together a fine partnership of 88 up to the drinks break, despite much playing and missing and carving behind the wicket.

Wright uprooted Dubey's off peg first ball following the interval, but far from regaining the initiative, the Tigers' outcricket went the shape of the pear for several overs, with dropped catches, missed stumpings and run outs, and general muppetry. Sanjay Patel took advantage with good use of the long handle in a boisterous 49, and only in the last few overs did the bowlers turn it around, Matt Webster (3-28) and Wright (2-28) being the pick, Ian Daffern and Rowan Allerton taking the best of the catches.

A total of 223 was about par for the pitch, but some wayward bowling (13 wides, 5 no balls) meant that the opposition had effectively batted for 42 overs. The Tigers' reply was soon on the back foot, with the top order all falling to some lame dismissals (40-4 in the 13th over). Wright and Taylor (27) steadied the innings with a stand of 56 in 10 overs but 75 were still required from the final ten. As long as Chris was still there the Tigers had a chance, but if one may paraphrase Longfellow – Into every garden some rain must fall.

Wright has forever been profligate with his batting partners in his thirst for runs, and on this day two new names (Webster and Daffern) were added to the growing list of colleagues he has run out. The loss of the former was particularly unfortunate as the pair had put together 57 in just eight overs. He did find another worthy collaborator in Horace Hibbert (18), the last minute replacement for the brush-wielding Chris Boden, and bums were squeaking as 22 were required from the last 12 balls, but when the end came it was quick and painless, Kota taking a hat-trick with the first three balls of the 39th. over.

## Hale not hearty

The 12 June game was cancelled unilaterally by Hale when they pulled out. After close liaison with their captain, the game was called on twice Sunday morning with a wicket covered since 9am and an improving weather forecast. Hale's captain then called at 11.44am to explain that since several of his players had refused to travel they were bailing. This left it far too late to get a replacement team. In the event, the afternoon was dry (although it may have been raining where the Hale refuseniks live) and the club has suffered financially. A diplomatic note was sent, which awaits reply.

This incident does not threaten relations between the clubs. Simply put, Hale do the best tea on the circuit, a worldie. The past two seasons they have curated home-made vegetable curry and rice with all the trimmings with back-up savouries for the fainthearted, and jelly and cream for dessert.



Just to show what can be done with a bit of effort, the picture shows Old Tenisonians the Thursday before the Yarl march. Excellent work by groundsman John Crawford allowed the game to go ahead.

Such conditions may become the norm. In our children's lifetimes, everyone from the Middle East will try to come west, due to climate change. We've just had a month's rain in a day, in what was already the wettest ever June. Welcome to your new rainy season. In the Civil War areas (the Middle East and a thick band across Africa), they're having terrible droughts and the world as a whole has record temperatures. So, we need to get used to it.

## Gentlemen of West London v. Alexandra Park

Saturday 18 June, Ealing SC, Perivale. Alexandra Park won toss. Cloudy, 17C

Won by 69 runs

Gentlemen of West London		Alexandra Park				
Sudireddy	b Ajit	3	†King	lbw	b Snelling	1
Sciberras	b Sam	18	Metcalf		b H Patel	13
*Kumar	st King	44	White	lbw	b Kumar	2
H Patel	b Metcalf	33	Ajit	c S Patel	b Rajagopalan	18
S Patel	c Edwards	15	Taylor	st Bowden	b H Patel	2
Gilkes	c Edwards	5	Theodoros		b Sudireddy	0
Buck	st King	3	Rayan		b Sciberras	2
Snelling	c White	7	Claudio		b Buck	4
†Bowden	hit wicket	0	Sam	not out		2
Rajagopalan	not out	3	*Edwards		b S Patel	16
Extras	w8 nb7	15	Extras		w6 lb1	17
Total	All out	36.4 overs	146	Total	All out	26.5 overs
FoW:	4, 43, 105, 110, 125, 131, 140, 140, 146			FoW:	5, 12, 24, 44, 45, 45, 54, 55, 77	
<b>Bowler</b>						
Ajit	8-2-13-1		Snelling	4-0-13-1		
Rayan	8-0-43-2		Kumar	4-2-4-1		
Sam	6-1-16-2		Rajagopalan	4-0-12-1		
Metcalf	8-0-38-2		H Patel	6-2-17-2		
White	6.4-0-36-1		Sudireddy	2-0-3-1		
			Sciberras	2-0-7-1		
			Buck	3-0-7-1		
			Gilkes	1-0-13-0		
			S Patel	0.5-0-0-1		



An eventful Gents reunion game saw victory by 69 runs against game, friendly visitors and new opposition Alexandra Park Vs. Kumar (44) and Hemin Patel (33) scored most of the runs while wickets were shared among nine bowlers. An American citizen, Zack Bowden from Philadelphia, kept wicket in his first ever game of cricket and performed superbly, conceding no byes and executing a smart stumping. This atoned perhaps for his dismissal when he smashed his stumps over first ball. The retro feel of the day even extended to the club secretary, whose rant during the tea interval at an interloping fruitloop would not, according to Tony Buck, have been out of place at Victoria Rec 20 years before. The match was ten-a-side after two cancellations in the morning and the pitch and outfield were damp but playable. Two miles away, a wet outfield led to the cancellation of the United Titans' T20, a frustrating and disappointing day for them. Zack Bowden and Mukhund Rajagopalan debuted and would add youthful energy to a side including returning veterans Buck, Gilkes, Sciberras and Snelling. Seven Gents captains played so opinions on tactics during the match were not entirely absent.



Alexandra Park, the third new opponents in seven games, won the toss and fielded. Their side was a blend of youth and experience. First-change Sam, already possessed of a fine action and control of the ball, was ten and their splendid 'keeper King (left) started playing for them according to a team-mate when the club was founded in 1888.

Ajit, an accurate, skiddy bowler, was difficult to play and he got Sudireddy early en route to a very tidy analysis. Sciberras, Kumar, Hemin and Sanjay Patel then dug in in conditions that helped the bowlers. Tyro Sam got Sciberras before Kumar and Hemin added 62, the highest stand of the day. Both hit three fours of only 16 struck all day. King took two stumpings off the slow spinner White and 3.2 possible overs were unbowlled when the Gents were all out for 146. It was pleasing that all the veterans got off the mark but Tony Buck failed in his stiff personal objective of scoring 50 to overtake Richard Gilkes in the career runs list.

Play then resumed after an entertaining tea interval and who should have the pads on but Bowden, a very swift promotion into an essential role. Within a couple of balls from the still medium-fast Snelling, it was obvious that he would have the gig all day.

King fell lbw Snelling and fellow veteran White lbw Kumar, who bowled abstemiously. Metcalf and Ajit, who took three fours off one Hemin Patel over, batted well but once they fell a variety of bowlers picked up wickets regularly, including Rajagopalan in an exemplary spell of left-arm over. He got Ajit caught by mid-on Sanjay Patel. Sudireddy bowled Theodoros with his first ball. But no wicket was more celebrated than Taylor's, the left-hander misjudging the flight of a Hemin Patel off-break, stretching forward, lifting his back foot for a moment and being brilliantly stumped by Bowden. This took Hemin to 10 wickets for the season.

Everyone got a bowl and a total of fewer than 60 looked possible but the tenth wickets held things up with the highest stand of the innings, a very good 22. Young Sam, showing the benefits of coaching from an early age, was resilient while captain Edwards played some fine shots before Sanjay Patel bowled him.

Celebrity supporter Dave Bender was in attendance and was not above helping the day run smoothly. He observed how good it was that all four pitches were in use. A fine day then against a team who added to the sense of occasion and will be very welcome visitors in future years. Thanks to everyone who played or supported.

## Bonkers Bhuvan

Although it defied the Laws of cricket it most certainly did not defy its Spirit. That is the verdict of *The Gent* in its own Chilcott Report after the decision to loan Bhuvan Charatla to nine-man Yarl on 26 June and then bring him back when things got a bit tasty in the second innings. The facts are these. Batting No.9, Charatla scored 55 to take Yarl up to 121-8. So far all is good, such loans happen often. What was unusual is that, having batted and helped reduce the Gents' innings to rubble, his temporary contract was deemed to have expired and he was whisked back to score the winning run in a one-wicket victory. He therefore batted for both teams and bowled for one.

We thought that this was a first but no! The precedent is England's last tour of the West Indies when it was noted 'IJL Trott, GS Ballance, JE Root and JM Bairstow batted for St Kitts Invitational XI.'

In his fulminating 2000 denunciation, nailed to the Victoria Rec pavilion door, fundamentalist preacher and West XI player Andy Robinson accused the Gents of empire building, citing in his Articles the seduction of talented players from demoralised opponents into the ranks. He will, it is hoped, note that a reverse process was followed on this occasion.

## Gentlemen of West London v. Yarl

Sunday 26 June, Old Tenisonians. Yarl won toss. Sunny, 20C

Won by 1 wicket

Yarl		Gentlemen of West London				
Baski	c Newcombe	b Bocha	5	Sudireddy	b Baski	5
Srikanth		b S Patel	9	Kota	b Harry	62
Anjana	c Desai	b Jampala	1	†Krishna	b Baski	0
Harry		c Chatharaju	27	Newcombe	b Charatla	6
Sathees		b S Patel	0	Jampala	b Kala	10
Kala		b Desai	0	Desai	b Harry	17
Breejass		b Desai	0	*Bocha	b Kala	5
Yogan	c Kota	c Chatharaju	3	S Patel	b Harry	1
Charatla	not out		55	Chatharaju	run out	2
Thiru	not out		4	Pingili	not out	1
Extras		w11 nb4 b1 lb1	17	Charatla	not out	1
Total	8 wickets	35 overs	121	Extras	w10 b1 lb1	12
FoW:	13, 17, 32, 32, 37, 37, 55, 64					
Bowling:	Pingili 6-0-12-0, Bocha 5-1-13-1, Jampala 4-0-13-1, S Patel 3-0-7-2, Desai 6-0-24-2, Chatharaju 4-1-7-2, H Patel 4-0-22-0, Kota 3-0-21-0					
FoW:	26, 26, 59, 91, 91, 105, 108, 115, 120					
Bowling:	Baski 7-2-17-2, Kala 5-0-25-2, Yogan 4-0-13-0, Breejas 4-0-18-0, Charatla 5-0-16-1, Harry 5-0-31-3					
Total	9 wickets	30 overs	122			

In a gentle reminder for me to write this match report, writes **Greg Newcombe**, Andy referenced the Chilcott Report, and while it hasn't quite taken me seven years to write it (you'll be glad to hear it's also not 2.6m words long) the complexity of the win against Yarl has taken some time to sink in. The match started with a behind closed doors deal and as it wore on, many questioned a lack of any type of exit plan, but just like Blair to Bush, the majority of the XI echoed the "I will be with you, whatever" sentiment to stand-in captain Praveen (Sanjay's mid-game tantrum aside).

What followed was a bizarre match even by Gents standards, starting with one of our own (Bhuvan) scoring 55\* for Yarl, bowling a tight spell (sending the author of this hastily-penned match report's middle stump cartwheeling out of the ground) BUT, then returning for the Gents to score the winning run in a tight one-wicket victory.

A delayed start due to traffic troubles for the oppo may not have produced a dodgy dossier, but it did ensure Sachin and Hemin had the time to reveal that as they wandered the supermarket aisles shopping for the day's sandwich ingredients, they had both agreed that "Yes, this is what it would be like if we had married." A welcome reminder – I think you'll agree - of what we have in common with our fellow man set to the backdrop of a post-Brexit Britain.

The day started with Yarl winning the toss and electing to bat, a decision skipper Praveen - who had been advised to bowl first by a number of experienced Gents - was happy with. After a slow start, the Gents took control, two catches (one at point, one at cover) saw to the wickets of Baski and Anjana, with Sanjay Patel bowling Srikanth to put the home side firmly in the driving seat. The talented Harry then put a stop to the tumble of wickets with some booming drives and probably deserved more than his attractive 27. Three ducks followed with Sanjay taking a second wicket and Sachin taking two in a destructive spell of swing bowling.

Enter Stage Left: Bhuvan. The subject of an 'unusual deal' whereby he would bat and bowl for Yarl and yet still bat for the Gents (instead of Hemin) saw him take to the field with the oppo needing runs to keep them in the game – he didn't disappoint. What followed was a devastating 55, including a number of sixes off the spinners (and one dropped catch that went like a WMD to long-on) taking Yarl's total to a reputable 121.

After tea the chase was on for the Gents, who lost wickets early on (Sudiredy and Krishna bowled by the impressive Baski). Kota restored order with a graceful 62 before falling foul to a true all-rounder in Yarl's Harry, while Bhuvan took that wicket that we won't talk about.

It still seemed within reach for the Gents as they upped their run rate, but a number of let's say questionable batting decisions and Sachin getting his wires crossed as to just how many wickets we had in hand saw Bhuvan take to the field for the third time to win the Gents the game. It was perhaps fitting that he would be the one to end it, but after a hard-fought, if a little out of the ordinary match against friendly oppo, here's hoping normal service resumes next week.

**St. Anne's Allstars v. Gentlemen of West London**

Sunday 3 July, Dundonald RG, Wimbledon. St. Anne's Allstars won toss. Sunny, 22C

## Won by 4 wickets

On a traumatic day for batsmen, the Gents won their fifth successive game after skittling a useful St. Anne's batting line-up for 69 on a vicious wicket. The hosts' seamers then revengefully reduced the Gents to 43-6 before Pingili and Kumar restored order, Kumar winning the game with three successive pulls for four. The Gents needed only an hour to reach their target and the game, which was done and dusted by five to five, lasted only three. Some of the Gents' shot selection beggared belief but it is difficult to be too critical of the performance as a whole because the bowling and fielding were outstanding. The spell in which Jampala and Krishna bowled in tandem was quite brilliant. The magnificent Krishna carded 6-4-8-3 but on another day Jampala might have worn the crown with his prodigious away swing.

This was the club's third visit to Dundonald RG, the previous two being tetchy affairs against Urban Associates and New Barbarian Weasels some years ago. The pitch was mottled and damp and intermittent warm sunshine turned it into a spitting monster. Pingili opened with two maidens before striking in his third, Halladay top-edging a pull from a steeply rising delivery to 'keeper Bowden, who performed heroics all day. Surveying afterwards the carnage that saw 15 wickets fall for 76 runs, it was strange to note that St. Anne's second wicket represented a period of equality between bat and ball, with some plays and misses but also some good drives by MacDonald and Bowman, who have respectively scored a ton and a ninety in this rubber.

The innings began to unravel in the 13th. over when terror twins Jampala and Krishna got into their stride, but it was not the pitch that did for MacDonald. A lofted drive was about to be annotated by the scorer as his third four, but there was Pingili sprinting twenty yards from long-on to long-off to take a stunning catch. Whatever the perils in the pitch and the menace of the bowlers, it would not be uncharitable to observe that St. Anne's did not help themselves in the next few overs, losing Bowman and Hampton to run outs and Grobler to an underhit chip to mid-off Small. Although in peril at 58-6 they still had 11 overs' possible batting when the captain brought on Bocha and Hemin Patel, Kota not being used on this occasion. Further catches by Bowden and Kumar, a bowled and another run out and the innings was over.

Tea, a fine affair, was taken al fresco, whereupon the mayhem resumed, the Gents' top order struggling against the pumped-up Anzacs Hampton and Bowman, who no doubt remembered the peppering they had received. Small clipped an early four through mid-wicket but it was otherwise a period of total bowling dominance. Chatharaju was bowled, Sudireddy fell leg before, catcher Bowden was bowled after jumping out of the way and Kota clipped to silly mid-off. When Small was bowled by a corking Bowman inswinger great tension was afoot with the Gents 28-5.

Bocha took on Hampton, driving a two, a four and an almighty straight six, the only maximum of the day. He curiously became only the second Gent after Charatla to clear the ropes in 2016. Stepping across the line he then became Hampton's fourth victim as Hemin Patel again raised the finger. St. Anne's were fighting like devils, but Hampton and Bowman could not bowl all day. Pingili showed great maturity, applying himself from the word go. Kumar played himself in, took on the slow left-arm Burke and won the game. Their stand of 28 was the day's highest. It was that sort of game. Commiserations go to St. Anne's who nearly did it.

## Gentlemen of West London v. Hounslow Hurricanes

Sunday 10 July, Old Tenisonians. Hounslow Hurricanes won toss. Damp then sunny, 23C

**Lost by 3 wickets**

Gentlemen of West London		Hounslow Hurricanes			
Newcombe	b Ramesh	<b>14</b>	Amit	b Kota	<b>21</b>
H Patel	c Krishna	<b>5</b>	†Krishna	b Hibbert	<b>0</b>
Kota	b Sarfraz	<b>0</b>	Darshan	c Sudireddy	<b>44</b>
Khan	b Oruganti	<b>8</b>	Andy	st Wright	<b>51</b>
Denton	b Oruganti	<b>1</b>	Sunil	b Charharaju	
Hibbert	lbw	<b>0</b>	Raj	b Kota	<b>6</b>
Sudireddy	b Sarfraz	<b>30</b>	Oruganti	run out	<b>2</b>
*S Patel	not out	<b>43</b>	*Ramesh	st Wright	<b>1</b>
†Wright	b Oruganti	<b>7</b>	Sarfraz	not out	<b>0</b>
Beckford	lbw	<b>0</b>	†Anat and Krishna did not bat		
Chatharaju	lbw	<b>0</b>			
<b>Extras</b>	w11 nb3 b12 lb2	<b>28</b>	<b>Extras</b>	w7 nb3 b2	<b>12</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>30.3 overs</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>28.1 overs</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 17, 18, 35, 36, 36, 101, 115, 129, 131, 136					
<b>Bowling:</b> Ramesh 5.3-1-21-1, Sarfraz 7-3-12-4, Oruganti 7-1-18-5, Raj 2-0-14-0, Andy 3-0-20-0, Sunil 1-0-16-0, Krishna 5-0-21-0					
<b>FoW:</b> 8, 48, 84, 124, 133, 136, 136					
<b>Bowling:</b> Hibbert 5-0-20-1, Khan 3-0-12-0, H Patel 7-1-30-1, Chatharaju 3-0-24-1, Kota 7-0-31-3, S Patel 1-0-3-0, Sudireddy 2-0-14-0, Beckford 0.1-0-1-0					

Hounslow Hurricanes bowled well to dismiss the Gents for 136, chasing the target with more ease than the final margin of 3 wickets might suggest, a flurry of wickets falling in an atmosphere of some joviality as the target hove into view. This was the seventh game out of ten won by the chasing side in 2016. It was a challenging day for the hosts, who suffered several injuries before and during the match. They were comfortably beaten but gave it a good shot against the fifth new opponents of 2016. Hurricanes were a competitive side with representatives of not only their eponymous town but also Slough, a matter of great interest to TfL bus fanatics, these fine towns being connected by the 81, a venerable and much-loved outlier route and all double-decker since 2014.

The Selection Committee's hope was that Anil Oruganti would lead the Gents' attack in 2016. He then got a job in Coventry but, having a number of mates in the Hurricanes, returned here to meet as many old chums as possible. With Vamsee Krishna also crossing the floor and Karthik Jampala injured playing two T20s for United Titans 24 hours before, the Gents looked light in the seam bowling department.

Newcombe retired hurt with a back injury in the 10th. over by which time the opener Sarfraz had seen off Hemin Patel and Kota. The returning Khan slashed two fours but Sarfraz and Oruganti, who posted outstanding analyses, demolished the middle order, Gents in the mire at 36-5 with a further batsman crook. Sudireddy has a calm head and it may be that a lower position in the order suits him. He matched Sanjay Patel (a solid 43\* with three fours and a six) stroke for stroke in a stand of 65 in 8.3 overs. Sarfraz broke the stand and despite the resistance of Patel and, briefly but stylishly the returning Laurie Wright, Oruganti cleaned up in his second spell. The total was beefed up by 28 extras but 27 balls were scandalously unused. Newcombe returned and clipped a four but could take no further part in the game, Jampala deputising for him.

Krishna continued his mission to score ducks in as many London postcodes as possible when he lobbed Hibbert to silly mid-on Sanjay Patel in the third over. By this point Amit had set the tone of the innings with three clips for two off Khan. While not belittling the effort the bowlers and fielders put in, Amit, Darshan and the half-centurion Andy were quite serene in their progress, playing spin-twins Hemin Patel and Kota particularly well.

Nevertheless it was Kota who broke the stand, bowling Amit but, after a stand of 40, 36 more came fluently before Darshan holed out. The Gents were then further handicapped when the day's captain Sanjay Patel pulled up lame after a solitary over. The day was turning into something of a trial. Forty more came up for the fourth wicket, Hurricanes 13 shy of the total with seven wickets in hand when Kota bowled Sunil.

The match then entered a barmy period before ending in farce. Andy reached his fifty, charged Chatharaju and was stumped. Oruganti batted with levity, being dropped first ball before also falling to more tidy glovework. Raj was then run out off the last ball of the 28th. over. Horace Hibbert's son-in-law Junior Beckford was given a bowl and castled Anat first ball with what appeared to be a throw. There was no signal from the umpire which was the cue for shenanigans. After much discussion, and possibly negotiation, the umpire signalled No-ball and the match was Hurricanes'. Cricket can be chaotic sometimes.

## 2016 averages

	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct/St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
Basker	2	2	1	28	28.00	2	-	-	-	-	-
Bocha	6	6	0	91	15.17	-	25.4	2	125	10	12.50
Bowden	2	2	0	1	0.50	2/1	-	-	-	-	-
Caveney	3	3	1	47	23.50	1	-	-	-	-	-
Charatla	4	3	2	81	81.00	1	17	1	52	2	26.00
Chatharaju	4	4	0	7	1.75	-	7	1	31	3	10.33
Denton	2	2	0	5	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dubey	3	2	1	61	61.00	2	18	0	104	0	-
Hibbert	3	3	0	7	2.33	0	9	0	47	2	23.50
Jampala	6	4	1	23	7.67	2	27.	1	107	5	21.40
Kota	9	8	1	166	23.71	4	45.3	2	242	15	16.13
Krishna	7	5	2	3	1.00	-/1	19	5	71	5	14.20
Kumar	7	7	2	135	27.00	2	35	4	157	3	52.33
Newcombe	5	5	1	126	31.50	2	-	-	-	-	-
H Patel	8	4	0	70	17.50	1	37.5	6	134	13	10.31
S Patel	4	4	2	108	54.00	2	6.5	0	36	3	12.00
Pingili	4	2	2	16	-	1	24	5	49	3	16.33
Small	5	5	0	61	12.20	4/1	12	0	81	1	81.00
Sudireddy	10	9	0	84	9.33	3	6	0	33	2	16.50

**One game:** Aguirre 1/-/-, Beckford 1/1/1/0, 0.1-0-1-0, Buck 1/1/0/3, 3-0-7-1, Cullingham-Neill 1/1/1/1, 1-0-7-0, Desai 1/1/0/17, 6-0-24-2 (1 ct.), Gilkes 1/1/0/5, 1-0-13-0, Khan 1/1/0/8, 3-0-12-0, Kurdu 1/1/0/1, 3-0-23-0, Mamidi 1/1/0/1 (2 ct., 1 st.), Oruganti 1/1/0/2, 3-0-18-1, Rajagopolan 1/1/1/3, 4-0-12-1, Sciberras 1/1/0/18, 2-0-7-1, Snelling 1/1/0/7, 4-0-13-1, Tewhatu 1/1/0/50, 7-2-23-1, Wright 1/1/0/7 (2 st.)

## Remaining fixtures

### 17 July – Bengal Troopers (Old Tenisonians)

A word of explanation is needed here. We incompetently double-booked 10 July, so will now only play Bricklayer's Arms once, away. The powerful Bengal Troopers step in for a return. Brick acted fast and played Sunderland SC on 10 July, stout work.

### 24 July – Baker Street Irregulars (Old Tenisonians)

Old friends pay their annual visit.

### 31 July – Ashford (away, Ashford CC Middlesex)

We visit new opponents who play at a superb ground in Short Lane, Stanwell. It's a good 116 bus ride from Hounslow. They run every 12 minutes on a Sunday.

### 7 August – Pak (LMPF Greenford)

This is always a good fixture. Possibly the last time we shall play here.

### 14 August – Clapham In (Old Tenisonians)

This is always one of the fixtures of the season. There is nothing to split the sides and several games between the clubs merit classic status.

### 21 August – Bricklayer's Arms (Raynes Park SG)

Brick are generous hosts. A brilliant day out is guaranteed.

### 28 August – Battersea Ironsides (Old Tenisonians)

A welcome return visit. Based on 2015, we can expect towering sixes, fast bowling and mad shot selection.

### 4 September – Gubbays (Cavendish RG, Ruislip)

Even in a damp summer, expect a true surface with good bounce and carry. The Gents beat Gubbays for the first time in May.

### 11 September – Salix (Imperial College, Harlington)

A much-loved fixture and a well-balanced one over the years. The Gents have had the better of things recently but Salix are having a good season.

### 18 September – Hale (Hale Common)

Whatever you do, try to make this game in beautiful surroundings and enjoy the best teas on the circuit. We'll probably go down in convoy again.