

THE GENT

June 2016

No. 151

Tales from the corridor of uncertainty

Broken Britain



Gent and White Swans jobs defy No Kitbags Allowed in Cricket Ground Law

It's 3-2 in May as every game goes with the toss

Early averages

Matt Tewhatu

Wimbledon United oppo report

Match reports:

- Bengali Troopers (lost by 144 runs)
- Wimbledon United (won by 5 wickets)
- Gubbays (won by 3 wickets)
- Northfields (lost by 7 wickets)
- White Swans (Southall) (won by 7 wickets)

Contact this magazine via email andrewburman_840@hotmail.com

Read about the Gents on www.gowlcc.org or Twitter @gowlcc

2016 scorecards and results

1/5	LMPF Greenford	Bengal Troopers 244 (Khan 146, Tawhid 35, Shajib 21, Bocha 5-33) Gents 100 (Basker 26, Choudhury 4-12, Mahmud 3-23)	Lost by 144 runs
8/5	Old Tenisonians	Wimbledon United 157-7 (Herbert 60, Saxby 36) Gents 159-5 (Kota 48*, Bocha 42, H Patel 30, Kumar 20)	Won by 5 wickets
15/5	Ealing SC	Gubbays 135 (Aryuat 28, Mihir 27, Ketan 24, Bocha 3-21) Gents 139-7 (Tewhatu 50, Kota 21, Mihir 3-38)	Won by 3 wickets
22/5	Durston House	Gents 237-9 (Charatla 61, Kumar 43, Caveney 30, Bocha 25, E Redhead 3-27) Northfields 238-3 (D Redhead 112*, Knight-Williams 45, Thompson 30*)	Lost by 7 wickets
29/5	LPOSSA	White Swans (Southall) 86 (Apurva 23, H Patel 4-10, Kota 4-23) Gents 87-3 (Newcombe 35*, Small 25)	Won by 7 wickets

Ate	Gents	Result	Judd Street Tigers	Result
Sun 26 April	-	-	Southgate Compton	Lost by 2 wickets
Sun 1 May	Bengal Troopers	Lost by 144 runs	Harrowdene	Won by 58 runs
Sun 8 May	Wimbledon United	Won by 5 wickets	Graces	Lost by 71 runs
Sat 14 May	-	-	Porto	Lost by 3 wickets
Sun 15 May	Gubbays	Won by 3 wickets	Porto	Drawn
Sun 22 May	Northfields	Lost by 7 wickets	N2 Casuals	Won by 162 runs
Sun 29 May	White Swans (Southall)	Won by 3 wickets	Southgate Adelaide	Lost by 3 wickets
Record	P5 W3 L2		P7 W2 D1 L4	
Runs	Charatla 80, Kota 79, Kumar 77, Bocha 74		Wright 259, Porton 161, Taylor 140, Boden 132	
Wickets	Kota 9, Bocha 8		Taylor 8, Dane/Wright 7	
Catches/Stumpings	Small 3, Mamidi 2/1		Boden 5, Delanian 3	

2016 performances and averages



Highest score for: 237-9 v. Northfields
Highest score against: 244 by Bengal Troopers
Lowest score for: 100 v. Bengal Troopers
Lowest score against: 86 by White Swans (Southall)
Hundred partnerships against (1): 112 3rd. wicket Khan/Tawhid (Bengal Troopers)
Fifties/hundreds for (2): 61 Charatla v. Northfields, **50** Tewhatu v. Gubbays
Fifties/hundreds against (3): 146 Khan (Bengal Troopers),
112* D Redhead (Northfields), **60** Herbert (Wimbledon United)
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 (1): 4-12 Choudhury (Bengal Troopers)

	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
Aguirre T	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Basker V	2	2	1	28	28.00	2	-	-	-	-	-
Bocha P	4	4	0	74	18.50	-	16.5	0	101	8	12.63
Caveney W	3	3	1	47	23.50	1	-	-	-	-	-
Charatla B	3	2	1	80	80.00	1	17.0	1	52	2	26.00
Denton P	1	1	0	4	4.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dubey N	2	1	1	6	-	1	11.0	0	61	0	-
Hibbert H	2	2	0	7	3.50	-	4.0	0	27	1	27.00
Jampala K	3	2	1	9	9.00	1	9.0	0	46	2	23.00
Kota P	5	4	1	79	26.33	2	30.0	1	153	9	17.00
Krishna V	5	4	2	3	1.50	-	13.0	1	63	2	31.50
Kumar S	4	4	1	77	25.67	1	20.0	0	111	1	111.00
Kurdu S	1	1	0	1	1.00	-	3.0	0	23	0	-
Mamidi S	1	1	0	1	1.00	2/1	-	-	-	-	-
Newcombe G	2	2	1	52	52.00	1	-	-	-	-	-
Oruganti A	1	1	0	2	2.00	-	3.0	0	18	1	18.00
Patel H	3	1	0	30	30.00	1	9.5	1	34	6	5.67
Pingili S	2	-	-	-	-	-	13.0	3	31	2	15.50
Small J	3	3	0	43	14.33	3	12.0	0	81	1	81.00
Sudireddy R	5	4	0	41	10.25	2	2.0	0	16	1	16.00
Tewhatu M	1	1	0	50	50	-	7.0	2	23	1	23.00

For the first time since 1995 there is no Sanjay Patel in the list. It doesn't seem right somehow. Thankfully, his back is on the mend and we shall see him in June. Ditto Sachin Desai who has been doing marathon bike rides in May. We are as always grateful to Vijay Basker, Greg Newcombe and ever presents Vamsee Krishna and Ratnakar Sudireddy for arranging guests. Let's hope the batting lists grow a layer or two of fat by the next edition.

Gentlemen of West London v. Bengal Troopers

Sunday 1 May 2016, LMPF Greenford. Bengal Troopers won toss. Sunny, 16C

Lost by 144 runs

Bengal Troopers		Gentlemen of West London					
†Kazi	c Basker	b Oruganti	5	Small	b Mahmud	3	
Shajib	c Jampala	b Krishna	21	†Basker	b Choudhury	26	
Khan	c Small	b Kota	146	Hibbert	b Mahmud	0	
Tawhid	lbw	b Small	35	Bocha	c Anis	b Mahmud	7
*Islam	c Sudireddy	b Bocha	5	Kota	run out		3
Rubel	c Kota	b Bocha	0	Sudireddy		b Anis	1
Rajib	lbw	b Bocha	9	Caveney		b Choudhury	17
Mahmud	c Sudireddy	b Bocha	4	Jampala	c Amin	b Choudhury	6
Amin	lbw	b Kota	0	*Kumar	not out		13
Choudhury	not out		0	Krishna	c Tawhid	b Choudhury	2
Anis		b Bocha	0	Oruganti	run out		2
Extras		w13 nb6 b1 lb1	21	Extras	w16 b3 lb1		20
Total	All out	35.2 overs	244	Total	All out	28.4 overs	100
FoW: 6, 56, 168, 191, 191, 207, 244, 244, 244, 244				FoW: 14, 17, 27, 34, 42, 51, 74, 82, 84, 100			
Bowler				Bowler			
Hibbert	3-0-21-0			Mahmud	6-1-23-3		
Oruganti	3-0-18-1			Amin	6-0-16-0		
Kota	7-0-45-2			Anis	5-0-25-1		
Krishna	4-0-22-1			Choudhury	7-3-12-4		
Bocha	5.2-0-33-5			Rajib	2-0-4-0		
Small	8-0-53-1			Rubel	1.4-0-11-0		
Kumar	4-0-36-0			Islam	1-0-5-0		
Jampala	1-0-14-0						

A strong Bengal Troopers won by 144 runs at blustery Greenford, the third biggest margin by runs ever inflicted on the Gents. Though the hosts had their moments in the first innings, Shanin Khan's 146, with nine fours and ten sixes was the fourth-highest ever against the Gents and proved within two runs to be the difference between the sides. Though Basker and Kumar resisted well and Caveney gilded his three fours with a classy leave-alone (his first ever), the visitors won at a canter. Troopers' dominance was exemplified by their boundary hitting, a total of 19 fours and Khan's ten sixes compared to just ten fours by the Gents.

The match was made when the planned internal fixture between Gents and United Titans was abandoned. The call went out for a strong team to visit. Welcome Troopers and welcome Kumar to the captaincy. Named after a song by Iron Maiden, they were an interesting bunch of fellows, cricket fanatics to a man with an assertive but fair disposition. Though the visitors had come from as far afield as Essex and Cambridgeshire, the game started only a little late at 1.15pm, 40 overs a side. Oruganti got an early success when Kazi edged behind in the second over but fours off his fifth and sixth balls showed Khan's confidence and quality. The fifty came up before Shajib was neatly caught by square-leg Jampala off Krishna. This let in the dogged Tawhid, who supported Khan well in the match-winning stand. The Gents had their chances to dismiss Khan. The first came when he was on 31, when mid-wicket shelled a skyer and he was twice put down off the bowler. Yet his power was something else. As his artillery found its range, the sixes boomed, mostly straight into the trees. The bowling was steady and the groundfielding alert. A minor statistical quirk was that before rectifying such nonsense here, Basker and Bocha had respectively not taken a catch and wicket in 2015.

Small broke the stand getting Tawhid lbw whereupon the Gents entered their best period of the match. Khan was still scoring freely before Small caught him on the square-leg boundary. Bocha - 2.2-0-12-5 in his second spell - and Kota then cleaned up, the highlight being a remarkable diving catch by Sudireddy. The Gents had fought back hard to dismiss Troopers for a formidable, but not as bad as it might have been, 244. Not content with confusing the Gents with a left-handed batsman, their opening attack also boasted the right-arm over/left-arm over combination of Satan. Mahmud did for Small, Hibbert and Bocha, although Amin beat the bat several times. The introduction of the spinners confirmed a result that had been obvious for an hour. The Gents' spinners Kota and Small had got some response from the pitch but Choudhury fizzed it through and got grip and turn. He well deserved his four wickets.

Adding back extras, the match comprised 64 overs, which somehow were not bowled until 7 o'clock. That's 13.3 an hour, although frequent ball searches no doubt contributed to this. Had the full 80 overs been bowled at such a rate, the match would not have ended until 8.15pm and a substantial chunk of Sunday Night at the London Palladium would have been missed, including Norman Vaughan's intro and Beat the Clock.

Gentlemen of West London v. Wimbledon United

Sunday 8 May 2016, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Sunny, 27C

Won by 5 wickets

Wimbledon United		Gentlemen of West London			
*D Hitchman	b Jampala	4	H Patel	b Hasan	30
Ahmed	b Pingili	0	†Krishna	b Brown	0
Herbert	c Caveney	60	Kota	not out	48
Saxby	b Kota	36	Bocha	c Phillip	42
Hasan	st Krishna	2	*Kumar	b Dean	20
Phillip	not out	18	Hibbert	b Herbert	7
Dean	c and	19	Caveney	not out	0
†J Hitchman	b Charatla	4	Charatla, Jampala, Sudireddy and Pingili did not bat		
Cripps	b Hibbert	4			
Cripps not out					
Wijedoonawardena and Brown did not bat					
Extras	w2 nb3 b1 lb2	8	Extras	w7 nb2 b1 lb2	12
Total	7 wickets	155	Total	5 wickets	159
FoW: 6, 6, 81, 86, 117, 148, 151	35 overs		FoW: 1, 34, 93, 129, 155	30.3 overs	
Bowler		Bowler			
Pingili	7-2-20-1		Brown	5-0-30-1	
Jampala	3-0-16-1		Hasan	6.3-0-37-1	
Kumar	7-0-24-0		Cripps	2-0-21-0	
Charatla	4-0-22-1		Wijedoonawardena	5-1-23-0	
Kota	7-0-28-1		Dean	7-0-27-1	
H Patel	5-1-24-2		Herbert	5-1-28-2	
Bocha	1-0-12-0				
Hibbert	1-0-6-1				

The Gents won their first game of 2016 with a strong team effort at sunny Motspur Park where the toss proved significant. Hibbert, deputising for the delayed Kumar, won it and after a brief period of consultation with former captain Hemin Patel chose to field, on the basis that the pitch would settle down and be better for batting in the late afternoon. This interpretation proved to be spot on and electric batting by Hemin Patel, Bocha and Kumar, glued together by Kota's vigilant 30-over 48*, saw the Gents win impressively. An eventful day saw much good cricket by both sides, including two stupendous catches. The Gents had two late changes, Pingili and Charatla coming in for Denton and Oruganti, the latter helpfully arranging his own replacement.

The game, reduced to 35 overs due to the overrunning AFC Wimbledon ladies football match, did not start until 1.40pm. The reduced format possibly suited the Gents more as the Maroons were accelerating well when their innings closed. Pingili and Jampala struck early before Herbert (83 in the 2015 game) and Saxby booked in for a 75 runs stand in 18 overs, Herbert striking nine fours and Saxby four. Herbert was dropped at mid-off early on and a few run out chances went begging but this stand gave the visitors heart. Kumar and Charatla recovered well after going for eight and 12 in their respective first overs but it was spin that transformed the fortunes of the Gents, Kota bowling Saxby, Hemin Patel having Herbert well caught by square-leg Caveney and Hasan stumped by Krishna who performed admirably as stand-in wicket-keeper in the absence of Basker and Denton. Dean lofted Patel for the day's only six first ball before falling to a stunning caught and bowled by Charatla who caught a missile high above his head. The visitors accelerated in the final 11 overs, adding 69, but the Gents were pleased at tea to have restricted a talented batting line-up to 155. There was an attempt to persuade the AFC ladies to make the tea which was rebuffed without the necessity for Yewtree intervention. Patel's doorsteps, Kumar's samosas and pakoras and Caveney's selection of fruit hit the spot.

Those runs still had to be got and what a pleasure it is to record how the Gents did it. Krishna was bowled second ball by Brown's away swinger but Hemin Patel, having confidently bagged the No.11 slot only to be overruled by the captain, struck boldly, smiting six fours in five overs. An early captaincy coup was thereby averted. Upon his dismissal Bocha blazed 32 in boundaries in a nine-overs stand of 59 and the Gents were racing along at 6.5 runs an over. Bocha fell to a super tumbling catch at deep third-man by the veteran Phillip, who sadly bumped his head and took no further part in the match, Jampala fielding for him. Kumar and the watchful Kota added 36 more, the score 129-4 off 24 overs. Hibbert kept Kota company as the No.3 unleashed three fours in his last four scoring shots to end two shy of his second club 50, the win coming with 27 balls and five wickets in hand, a convincing margin.

It was agreeable to spend an hour after in the company of the Maroons in the garden of the Earl Beatty. In an area awash with Premiership football tops, the purple and white stripes of Real Valladolid worn by a visiting player attracted admiration and comment.

Gentlemen of West London v. Gubbays

Sunday 15 May 2016, Ealing SC, Perivale. Gents won toss. Sunny, 20C

Won by 3 wickets

Gubbays			Gentlemen of West London		
†Deepak	run out	13	Tewhatu	c Aryuat	b Manish 50
Manish	run out	15	Kurdu		b Mihir 1
Ravi	lbw	1	Kota		b Manish 21
Aryuat	c Mamidi	28	Newcombe		b Mihir 17
Ketan	st Mamidi	24	†Mamidi	run out	1
Mihir	c Mamidi	27	Charatla	not out	19
Sanjay		3	*Bocha	lbw	b Mihir 0
*Shyam		2	Sudireddy	lbw	b Aryuat 16
Bharat	not out	0	Krishna	not out	0
Vijay		2	H Patel and Aguirre	did not bat	
Extras		20	Extras		w2 nb6 b5 lb1 14
Total	All out	33.3 overs	Total	7 wickets	22.2 overs 139
FoW: 30, 34, 35, 89, 113, 130, 133, 133, 135			FoW: 5, 57, 85, 90, 110, 110, 133		
Bowler			Bowler		
Charatla	5-1-7-1		Mihir	7-1-38-3	
Bocha	6.3-0-21-3		Shyam	4.2-0-28-0	
Krishna	7-1-28-1		Aryuat	6-0-31-1	
Tewhatu	7-2-23-1		Manish	3-0-21-2	
Kurdu	3-0-23-0		Sanjay	2-0-15-0	
Kota	3-0-14-0				
Sudireddy	2-0-16-1				

The Gents beat Gubbays at the fifth time of asking with a strong team performance. Correctly inserting the visitors on a mottled-green, slow wicket, stand-in captain Praveen Bocha got his tactics spot on and was well supported in their execution. The feisty Matt Tewhatu, eager to atone for his low score for Balham in the Saturday league, hit 50 on debut and Ravikiran Mamidi took three victims in his first game with the gloves in giving an entertaining demonstration of the 'keeper's dark arts. Ealing SC, hard by the A40, was a new venue for the current Gents squad, although a game was played here in 1997. Being close to Perivale tube and with good facilities including a friendly clubhouse, it will be under consideration as back-up to Old Tenisonians.

Withdrawals by captain, vice-captain and the injured Jampala resulted in the team not being clarified until Saturday night. Bocha had to assimilate two debutants and one he had met only once before into his game plan. He chose to take tactical input from Hemin Patel, who, possibly flattered by the attention of one of the club's rising stars, restricted himself to unusually mild observations about Bocha's captaincy in his traditional Sunday night Whatsapp rant. Gubbays too were much changed, lacking the formidable Harsh, he of two fifties against the Gents in 2015. They only had ten men, which told in the final overs.

The game was delayed by an incorrect postcode incompetently being sent to the visitors, who ended up in Uxbridge. After due contrition from the secretary we were away and it became immediately obvious that it would be a seamer's day. So it proved, with the slows going for a combined 13-0-89-1. The first hour's cricket was compelling. Charatla and Tewhatu, achieving movement off minimalist runs, carded a miserly 1-15 off their first eight overs as Gubbays struggled. Chancing a second to the powerful arm of Sudireddy at deep extra cover, Deepak was run out in the 12th. over to be followed two overs later by Manish, a simple underarm direct hit by square-leg Kota doing the job. Ravi fell to a back-foot lbw off Tewhatu and after 17 overs the visitors stood at a parlous 37-3. Aryuat, Mihir and Sanjay counterattacked with purpose against the slows, although Sudireddy's leg-spin did for Ketan. The opening pair returned to finish off the innings for 135 off 33.3 overs, a total inflated by a big bag of extras. The groundfielding, on a huge, patchy outfield, was exemplary.

Kurdu was bowled in the first over. The burly Kiwi Tewhatu and Kota then constructed a stand of 52 in ten overs with wonderful running between the wickets. The days of Gents top-order batsmen clumping the ball to long-off and staying put may not be over, but they are certainly suspended under the current regime. The off-spinner Manish bowled Kota with his first ball but Newcombe was up for the fight, hitting four threes in his attractive knock. Tewhatu fell well caught at mid-wicket, Newcombe ran out Mamidi, soon followed himself, Bocha was leg-before two balls later and the Gents had entered a wobble. All credit goes then to Charatla and Sudireddy who got the Gents up to 133, Charatla winning the game with the only six of the innings, a spectacular pull over square-leg with 12.4 overs unbowled. It was ultimately a satisfying win against a traditionally competitive team and it is to be hoped that the guests enjoyed themselves.

Northfields v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 22 May 2016, Durston House, Ealing. Northfields won toss. Sunny then cloudy, 20C

Lost by 7 wickets

Gentlemen of West London			Northfields			
Small	c D Redhead	b Egan	15	D Redhead	not out	112
Sudireddy		b Kent	9	Collins	b Kumar	19
Kota	c Egan	b E Redhead	7	Knight-Williams	c Kumar	45
Basker	lbw	b Egan	2	*Taylor	c Basker	5
Bocha	c Thompson	b E Redhead	25	Thompson	not out	30
Caveney		b E Redhead	30	Lilley, †Brown, E Redhead, Kent, Egan and Dhuna did not bat		
*Kumar		b Dhuna	43			
Charatla	run out		61			
Dubey	not out		6			
†Denton	st Brown	b Dhuna	4			
Krishna	not out		1			
Extras		w26 nb1 b4 lb3	34	Extras	w21 nb3 b3	27
Total	9 wickets	40 overs	237	Total	3 wickets	38 overs
FoW: 25, 34, 36, 59, 76, 113, 206, 229, 235				FoW: 56, 134, 162		
Bowler				Bowler		
Egan	8-0-22-2			Charatla	8-0-27-0	
Kent	8-1-50-1			Dubey	7-0-50-0	
E Redhead	8-0-27-3			Krishna	2-0-13-0	
Thompson	5-0-37-0			Kumar	5-0-39-1	
D Redhead	7-0-54-0			Kota	8-0-43-2	
Dhuna	4-0-38-2			Small	4-0-28-0	
				Bocha	4-0-35-0	

On 24 May 2015, Northfields overcame a Gents score of 260-7 to win by 7 wickets, the record chasing score in a Gents game. One year on, inspired by David Redhead's unbeaten 112 (12 fours and three sixes), they rampaged to an identical margin of victory after the Gents had recovered from 76-5 off 20 overs to post 237, that's a tad over eight an over in the second half. The Gents thereby fell to their third defeat out of four over course and distance. Northfields' 238-3 pips the Gents' epic 235-9 against 12 Angry Men in 2000 into third place in this august list. Although beaten, the Gents fought hard – we expect nothing less – and stand at 2-2 for the season. The 2015 season started with four successive defeats.

The inserted visitors initially struggled against Egan's wily slow-mediums and Kent's left-arm over pace, played out to forceful encouragement from the very attacking field. Sudireddy clipped a pleasing four through mid-wicket but lost his middle-stump hitting over a straight one. Small started well before edging to slip, Basker being pinned in front of his stumps immediately. The steady Kota clipped a low catch to square-leg and Bocha batted pleasingly for 25, finding the slip cordon increasingly porous as he played a series of powerful back-foot cuts and drives. Caveney played well for his 30, knocking up five fours and blocking the straight balls. The Gents were now batting well and Kumar, whose first seven scoring shots found the ropes, and Charatla (three sixes and seven fours in a powerful maiden 50) added 93 in just 10 overs, assisting by plentiful extras. The total of 237 was the Gents' highest since July 2015 but still less than the winning 256 and **losing** 260 they scored batting first in the last two clashes on this minute, attractive ground.

There were jolly japes after the second ball of Northfields' innings when the new ball, purchased in good faith from SportsDirect for an admittedly suspicious bargain price of £4.99, cracked at right-angles to the seam. Charatla used its replacement well but most of the bowling was innocuous, although Kota and Small turned a few. It took a long-hop from Kumar, deflected onto the stumps by Collins, to break the opening stand in the 13th. over. David Redhead and Knight-Williams allied powerful hitting to excellent running and the run rate increased. Redhead was dropped twice off Kota and survived a confident appeal for lbw but deserved his good fortune. There were two successes for Kota but Northfields were comfortable in the last ten overs and never looked like giving the Gents even a flicker of hope. The fielding held up well under the onslaught.

The end was bizarre. The first ball of Dubey's final over, a high full-toss, was pulled high by Redhead for a caught and bowled. The square-leg umpire had, however, called a No ball, so the match was won off an Extra, Dubey's analysis remaining frozen on 7.0 overs. Although neither side had a particularly strong attack, the batting by both sides was eye-catching and sometimes brilliant. Thanks to Northfields for good hosting, being organised enough to supply spare match balls, several of which were smashed into Swyncombe Avenue gardens (and invoiced for) and to Ken Toft for his support and companionship. Northfields seemed keen on home and away matches in 2017, in which case the Gents would have an opportunity to demonstrate home advantage.

White Swans (Southall) v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 29 May 2016, LPOSSA, Sudbury Hill. Gents won toss. Sunny, 21C

Won by 7 wickets

White Swans (Southall)		Gentlemen of West London					
*†Quinnell		b Jampala	9	Small	lbw	b Raj	25
Raj	c Kota	b Pingili	0	†Krishna	lbw	b Kamran	1
Apurva		b H Patel	23	Sudireddy		b Jith	15
Joseph	c Dubey	b H Patel	14	Newcombe	not out		35
Jith	c Newcombe	b Kota	12	Jampala	not out		3
Saad	c Small	b Kota	0	Kota, H Patel, Pingili, Dubey and *†Kumar did not bat			
†Abdul	c H Patel	b Kota	0				
Oz		b H Patel	5				
Kamran	c Small	b Kota	0				
Amrish		b H Patel	1				
Upin		not out	6				
Extras		w12 nb1 b2 lb1	16	Extras		w2 nb3 b3	8
Total	All out	28.5 overs	86	Total	3 wickets	17.1 overs	87
FoW: 1, 36, 56, 65, 70, 72, 78, 78, 78, 86				FoW: 9, 32, 70			
Bowler				Bowler			
Pingili	6-1-11-1			Kamran	3-0-22-1		
Kumar	4-0-12-0			Jith	5-0-22-1		
Jampala	5-0-16-1			Upin	3-1-6-0		
Dubey	4-0-11-0			Raj	3-0-17-1		
Kota	5-1-23-4			Oz	2.1-0-12-0		
H Patel	4.5-0-10-4			Quinnell	1-0-5-0		

The Gents' spinners dismissed White Swans for 86, Hemin Patel and Pavan Kota each taking four wickets as the hosts collapsed after a steady start. Newcombe, Small and Sudireddy then batted briskly to chase down the target in only 17.1 overs. Thus, the fifth game of 2016 was won by the side winning the toss, Sumit Kumar opting here to bowl on a fresh afternoon against new opponents, generally a wise tactic. The Gents' three victories this season have come chasing. The tally for 2016 is now 3-2. The London Post Office Sports and Social Association ground was very impressive and it is hoped that this will become a regular fixture.

White Swans, originally a Croydon team, are now based in Southall and their captain Paul Quinnell has had to reconfigure the side for the 2016 season. We were therefore witnessing no less a phenomenon than the birth of a new team, as exciting to this writer as the discovery of a new galaxy would be to an astronomer. In fact, there are only 15,000 amateur cricket teams in England compared to 100 to billion galaxies so everyone here was privileged. In these circumstances, it was perhaps not surprising that captain Quinnell was unsure how best to utilise his cygnets. That will come with time. The main thing was that the fixture was honoured and 21 players (Bocha being latterly unavailable) had an enjoyable day out.

The first 22 overs were placid as Swans passed 60 for only three down, recovering from the loss third ball of Raj who skied Pingili to mid-off Kota who judged it well. Quinnell and Apurva batted sensibly before Jampala bowled the captain. It was the introduction of the spin twins that transformed the match as Patel and Kota took eight wickets in their ten overs. Patel started the collapse when Apurva played over one that turned a little. Kota slowed his bowling after two overs upon advice from his partner in crime. He immediately achieved grip and turn. All four of his wickets were caught, the best being Newcombe's reflex grab in the gully to dismiss Jith which emphasised the value of pre-match catching practice. Patel caught Abdul at short-leg having moved himself there the previous ball, splitting the team on whether this was rank insubordination rewarded or wise insight. It certainly gave Hemin plenty to talk about after the game, along with his four wickets.

The feeding frenzy had ended at half-past three, so it was arranged to have 10 overs before tea. Swans had two successes in that time, Kamran pinning Krishna early on and Jith bowling Sudireddy after a hectic 15. Small was batting correctly and Newcombe caught the eye with an elegant unbeaten 35 notable for some fine cover-drives and off-drives. After tea, he and Small added a quick 20 before Raj trapped Small on the back foot. Newcombe and Jampala saw the Gents home at 5 o'clock without further alarm. The temperature was falling so a ten-over game was eschewed.

The feeling was that Swans, a friendly, engaging bunch of lads, did not quite do themselves justice. The outbreak of mass hysteria precipitated by the onset of spin has been seen countless times in cricket, up to the very highest level.

Wellington Bomber



Its own website describes Wellington, NZ as “Famous for a vibrant creative culture fuelled by great food, wine, craft beer, coffee and events, a cosmopolitan city with an energetic personality”. This great city made its own imprint on Gents history on 15 May when its eminent citizen, sports journalist, man mountain and formidable cricketer Matt Tewhatu scored 50 on debut to help chase down Gubbays’ 135 all out. Not content with that, he then took 7-1-23-1 in a spell of compelling swing bowling, delivered refreshingly off a four-pace run. Doubtless inspired by his knock, he proceeded to score 198 for Balham the following Saturday.

Double-figure players have done this for the Gents, most recently Rakesh Patel, but what do three of the last four, Alex Butler, Tomal Aguirre and Matt Tewhatu, have in common? Introduced by Gregory Newcombe is what. A good judge of a cricketer.

But look, the desiccated nitpickers say, Aguirre did his in his second match. True, but he did not bat on debut against St. Anne’s so was precluded from scoring a fifty, padded up as he was for about 18 months as Jonny Small and Sumit Kumar put on an unbeaten 212.

Tewhatu was the first Kiwi to play for the Gents since the controversial 2004 middle-order tenure of Wayne Thompson and Ryon Derriman, who still owes Tony Buck a tenner.

Wimbledon United – oppo report

For their third game of the season, Wimbledon United renewed their acquaintance with the Gentlemen of West London on another hot and sunny early May afternoon down the road at the Archbishop Tenison’s ground in Motspur Park. However, this being a period of transition in the nation’s sporting calendar, both sides were forced to wait for the onset of cricket while the ladies of AFC Wimbledon completed what looked like a bit of an end-of-season rout on the adjacent football pitch. With a delayed start the match was reduced to 35 overs apiece, and with the Gents winning the toss United were put in to bat on what looked a good pitch but which on closer inspection revealed a degree of crumbliness underfoot that for the batsmen meant that at the very least a need for careful attention to timing would be necessary for survival.

Both openers were back in the pavilion by the end of the third over however, as first skipper David Hitchman played over a full length ball from Jampala and was bowled and then Hash Ahmed couldn’t deal with Pingili and was also bowled, Pingili starting with two maiden overs. Alex Herbert and Gary Saxby therefore almost had to start from scratch but to their great credit they began to put together a decent partnership, Alex the more assured of the two, certainly to begin with. By twelve overs gone, and the first drinks break, the score had reached 46 for 2, the repair job well under way, and the pair continued together until the 21st. over, when Gary was dismissed, bowled by Kota for a commendable 36. Farrukh Hasan entered at five but a little rustiness could be detected in the timing and rhythm of his batting and before long, in a rash moment venturing outside his crease, he was smartly stumped by Krishna off the bowling of Patel for just 2.

With Alex motoring on past a hard-earned fifty, Curtis brought his inimitable batting style to the crease and displayed his usual brand of resolute last minute defence and (for the opposition) irritatingly last minute attack. Another 31 had been added when Alex finally perished, caught at square leg by Caveney, again off Patel, for an innings defining knock of 62. In at number seven, and savouring a bit of promotion up the order, Cottenham demolition man Greg Dean entered the fray and using his wisdom and experience to fully weigh up the bowling credentials of the opposition duly got off the mark for the second week in a row with a first ball six, heaved towards the distant houses beyond deep mid-on. Slightly more circumspect thereafter, Greg nevertheless put on 31 with Curtis until Charatla intervened in spectacular fashion as the bowler held onto another straight belter from Greg with an instinctive reaction catch above his head (two feet lower and he might not have been around to tell the tale!).

With just an over and a half remaining John Hitchman tried to make the most of limited time but could muster only a couple of singles before a bit of a swipe at Hibbert's fourth ball missed the intended point of contact, with the inevitable result, leaving just time for Andrew Cripps to wangle a four off the last ball of the innings, taking Wimbledon to a slightly underwhelming score of 155 for 7, Curtis still alive on 18 not out.

The advantage of winning the toss now became more apparent as the Gentlemen knew their target, and being a relatively modest one could take their time if need be, and with the effects of the heat and sun could now enjoy slightly better batting conditions as well. That said, in his first over Pete Brown put the wind up the Gents a little with a superb outswinging delivery fifth ball to demolish the wicket of opener Krishna for a duck. However Patel and new man Kota carried on unperturbed, Patel swinging the bat to profitable effect, scoring 29 out of the 33 added in the next five overs before being bowled by Farrukh for 30.

Bocha joined Kota and the new pairing went into overdrive mode, adding 60 in a match turning partnership that occupied just nine overs, exploiting their luck with some "well placed" aerial shots between the fielders but also deserving their luck with some fine boundary hits. Bocha was the man to fall first, but not until he'd hit eight fours in an innings of 42. This came to an end when another of the "well placed" shots in the event proved by the smallest of margins to be not quite well placed enough. A thick and forceful edge off Greg's bowling soared into the air towards third man, where there lay in waiting the Cottenham Cat. Backpedalling furiously in response to urgent instructions from the skipper, standing at mid-off, Curtis (for it was he) made it back far enough to get a partial hand to the by now rapidly descending ball, and in a moment of heart-stopping balletic contortion re-caught the ball (which had popped out of his hand at the first attempt) with an outstretched arm and simultaneously disappeared through a backwards somersault into a battered heap on the distant grass - a perfect rendition of what yoga practitioners like to refer to as the "corpse" pose. A few nanoseconds of stunned silence elapsed before the said arm twitched and then rose slowly to the vertical position clutching a small red object and a yelping crowd of delighted team-mates descended on the stricken heap. How Curtis does it God only knows, but this time the, even for him, extreme nature of the event (although I do seem to recall a similar occurrence a while back against 54th) left him not quite sure which day of the week it was and he was tenderly guided to the relative safety of a pitch-side chair for the remainder of the game.

The Gents gamely provided a substitute fielder (who was thankfully not called upon to attempt anything similar) and the match continued, captain Kumar joining Kota in another stand, this time of 36, which ended when Alex Herbert got into the action, bowling Kumar for 20. By now, after 24 overs, the Gents were sitting pretty on 129 for 4, with 11 overs to go and cruising towards a comfortable win. Hibbert and Kota took the home side to the very brink of victory, adding another 26, before in a moment of carefree carelessness rather than sheer incompetence (we'll be kind to the man!) Hibbert allowed himself to be bowled by Alex with the scores level. Caveney, who had been just about to take his pads off in anticipation of the win, couldn't apply the fatal blow and it was left to Kota, finishing undefeated on 48, to strike a four in the next over to seal the victory for the Gents.

So United had to stomach a first loss of the season, but could not complain at being well beaten by a strong Gents side on the day. Solace of some sort was to be found in the company of the opposition and a few cold beers in the shaded back garden of the Earl Beatty public house, to round off an enjoyable day's sport. Alex wins this week's Man of the Match award with his excellent innings of 62 and a good stint with the ball in hand, 5 overs producing a tidy return of 2 for 17. Curtis' reward (apart from a sore head) will have been to immediately set the bar at an impossibly high level for Catch of the season - but we shall see as the weeks pass. Come on lads - that's your challenge!

286-0...or did they?

The scorecard of Porto v. Judd Street Tigers, played on domingo 15 maio 2016, was of interest to students of both Law 2. 9b and cricket averages. Porto were recorded by the nxCricket.app as scoring 286-0 after both openers retired to let others bat. The Law states:

Law 2. 9b: Retired

If any batsman leaves the field of play without the Umpire's consent for any reason other than injury or incapacity, he may resume the innings only with the consent of the opposing captain. If he fails to resume his innings, he is out. For the purposes of calculating a batting average, retired out is considered a dismissal.

West XI's reporter Stephen Bignell is too wise to fall for this old trick and corrected Porto's score to 286-2 in his match summary. Tigers then drew after scoring 223-6 (Wright 116) in a mammoth **60 overs**. What a feat of endurance. No Gents side has ever batted for more than 50 and no Gents oppo for more than 48.2.