

## Gentlemen of West London v. Wimbledon United

Sunday 13 May, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Sunny, 17C

Won by 8 wickets

Wimbledon United			Gentlemen of West London				
Hasan	c Namilikonda	b Gulati	19	Basker	st J Hitchman	b Hasan	37
*Saxby		b Gulati	21	Caveney		b Cripps	5
Phillip		b Kota	20	Kota	not out		59
Williams		b Santha	19	†Namilikonda	not out		26
Flannery	run out (Basker)		17	Dubey, Sudireddy, Gulati, Santha, Chatharaju, Gangapatnam			
Anand	c and	b Santha	3	and H Patel	dnb		
Patel	lbw	b Gulati	12				
Chaitanya		b Gangapatnam	0				
†J Hitchman	not out		2				
Dean	not out		2				
Cripps	dnb						
Extras	b1 w5 nb7		13	Extras	b1 w4 nb1		6
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 wickets</b>	<b>40 overs</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2 wickets</b>	<b>27.4 overs</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 50, 51, 88, 102, 105, 118, 120, 124			<b>FoW:</b> 15, 83				
<b>Bowling:</b> Dubey 3-2-4-0, Chatharaju 5-0-26-0, Sudireddy 2-0-17-0, Kota 7-0-24-1, Gulati 7-1-18-3, H Patel 5-0-22-0, Santha 8-2-13-2, Gangapatnam 3-1-3-1			<b>Bowling:</b> Cripps 5-0-20-1, Dean 8-1-42-0, Patel 5-2-10-0, Hasan 4-0-15-1, Saxby 3-0-29-0, Chaitanya 1.4-0-10-0, Williams 1-0-6-0				



Kota and Namilikonda see the job through

The Gents convincingly got their first win of 2018. They had excellent guest support, well harnessed by skipper Hemin Patel. The inserted Maroons were on top for the first 11 overs but once Gulati had the openers the Gents never relinquished their advantage, strolling to victory with eight wickets and more than 12 overs in hand, Kota taking his record in this rubber to 107 runs in two not out innings.

This was a triumph of team work, with eight bowlers used and the three who didn't getting a bat. The Maroons were lacking Herbert (a fifty in each of the three previous meetings) and David Hitchman, now teaching in Greece but they lacked no talent in the batting. Hasan and Saxby were untroubled for 11 overs before respectively nicking the outswinger and being yorked by the inswinger, the batsman complimenting the guilty man Vinitesh Gulati. The top order all got a start but none could go on to play the big innings. Young Kiwi Jonathan Williams looked likely to before being bowled by a full-toss after some beautiful off-side play. Good bowling on a lively, damp wicket played its part in the turnaround, as did some dynamic fielding but the catching was poor, though the lively Santha caught a shell of a return. There were two drops of the skipper and the players never heard the end of it. After 47 runs came in the first ten overs, the next 30 produced only 81 for 8 wickets. Basker's two friends from the eminent Telugu Dare Devils T20 franchise, Prasad Santha and Hari Gangapatnam, were fast and accurate. At tea the Gents were hopeful.

Andrew Cripps had damaged a few Gent egos with his 6 for 1 a year before and he bowled Caveney in the third over. Basker and Kota then added 68 in 20 overs before Basker, having been dropped twice, was neatly stumped for a solid 37. The Gents were now favourites, but keen students of the social game were mindful of the escapades of Judd Street Tigers a week before, collapsing from 87 for 3 to 94 all out in pursuit of Graces CC's 100. Namilikonda was in no mood to hang about, pulling his first three balls for 6, 4 and 4 en route to his highest Gents score. Fifties should follow if he is given a run up the order. Kota went to his eighth Gents fifty in just 27 games, hitting eight 4s and the winning 6. He returns to India with a healthy average of 42.59. The pair needed only 31 balls for their 50 stand.

Thanks are due to the guests, who played well and influenced the outcome considerably, and helpmate David Bender, who was falsely accused of fabricating association football scores, this being the sort of thing the young jackanapes would do.