
THE GENT

No.156

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Johnny Small stuns Hurricanes Impressionist painter captures glee



Gents slump to 53 all out but May ends Won 3 Lost 2 after back to back wins

Cuban *federales* dog Tiger blaster

More debuts remembered

Averages

RIP Charlie Clift

Match reports:

Hounslow Hurricanes (won by 2 runs)

Millfields (lost by 5 wickets)

Wimbledon United (lost by 123 runs)

Gubbays (won by 5 wickets)

Northfields (won by 112 runs)

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May review

If *The Gent* serves any purpose, now that match reports are available within a day of stumps being pulled, it is to offer some perspective. All that needed to be said, and more, about the Wimbledon United trouncing was said, with passion. Some comments about shot selection by senior players hit home, so spare a thought for West Indies' Shannon Gabriel who on the same day played a silly shot. With seven possible balls remaining on the final day of the series decider with Pakistan, and nine wickets down, he essayed a dreadful Sunday afternoon hoik against Yasir Shah and was bowled to give Pakistan their first ever series win in the Caribbean. So, it is not just the Gents. This writer once played in a 23 all out for West XI. We feature later some of the club's more embarrassing batting performances.

The contractual situation is not yet resolved. United Warriors are believed to have offered Vijay Basker and Satyapal Pingili £250k per week with unlimited vada pavs throw in, wages with which the cash-strapped Gents cannot compete. Wayne Caveney and Vamsee Krishna have signed two-year contracts at £80k per week and are now close to Sanjay Patel's top club wage of £100k. The Gents' wages structure may stop them attracting future marquee signings. One for the club's owners to ponder.

May saw some interesting results across the circuit. Bricklayer's Arms have so far won six on the trot, including a notable win against CAMRA. Our friend Dave Laing took a vital wicket. Salix lost their first two before travelling to Oxfordshire to play Islip, where they scored 71 then bowled the hosts out for 40. Our old sparring partner Stuart Lumsden took 7-1-4-5. On 14 May, rejuvenated leg-spinner Steve Bignell, not fancying Judd Street Tigers' tour of Porto, guested for Railway Taverners. A remarkable game ensued. Despite his 3 for 48, Beamers scored 338 for 5, taking Tavs' opening bowler for 103 runs off his 8 overs. Tavs made 109 for 6 before the heavens opened and the match was abandoned as a draw.

Sundays 14 May and 21 May did not necessarily proceed to the editor's advantage. Outside Wimbledon station on 14 May while in a foul mood he threw a crisp packet on the floor as the nearby waste bin was being picked through by vagrants and not safely accessible. He was duly given a fine of £80 by a paramilitary council official. This was not his first brush with the public sector, his pen having flowed freely over the years on cricket pitch double bookings, inaccurate BBC weather forecasts and the whining entitlement of BBC Misfits CC. A week later, he was bitten by the groundsman's dog at Old Tenisonians after saying hello to it. Tetanus and rabies injections were duly administered.

But his bad luck was as nothing to compare with that which befell HP Denton. The poor fellow slipped on some steps at Highbury and Islington station, partially detaching his thigh muscle from his knee. Surgery will be needed followed by a long period of recuperation. This happened a few days before he was due to move up north. Poor bloke, we wish him well.

Dirección de Inteligencia is the main state intelligence agency of the Cuban government. DI have been showing great interest in Tigers batsman and musician Mike Delanian, who has been making frequent visits, sponsored by the Cuban Ministry of Culture, introducing them to western music, Juan, Rosalita and Jesus y Maria never having heard the Clash. Now any government worth its salt has a duty of care to protect its citizens and Tigers have previous, such as serial fare dodging by a former stalwart. While being escorted from Havana airport in a government limo, Delanian spotted a spook in the front seat flicking through photographs on his phone. And lo and behold, one of the pictures glimpsed was the one of him holding the match ball (*Gent 140* in August 2013) after his 55. It is reassuring to know that our humble magazine has readership in Cuba. Perhaps a tour should be arranged.

Email from an old friend

Most generous comments. I've been dragged back into cricket, in part because it is the chosen sport of my 15-year-old son rather than football, and partly because my ankles gave up the ghost on 11-a-side football a few years back after one too many injuries. I played in a father and son game a few years back and promptly got signed up after slogging a few boundaries. So over the last few years I have been turning out for Whiteley Village III's, a little more each season as the wife accepts the inevitability of it all. Last year I got the thrill to be bowling at one end with my son bowling at the other in a league game.

My style is still agricultural, but I like to think entertaining. My dad is still watching AFC Wimbledon with me, and groans when he watches me play cricket with a "Why do you have to try and smack everything?" Luckily my son is a lot more patient and plays more like my dad used to.

Keith Dimond

2017 scorecards, results and averages

30/4	Ealing SG	Gents 154 (S Desai 52, Basker 31) Hounslow Hurricanes 152 (Nahush 43*, Pai 23, S Patel 3-34)	Won by 2 runs
7/5	Hilly Fields	Gents 186 (Bocha 48*, H Patel 29, A Khan 22, C Cooper 3-21) Millfields 190-5 (Collis 80, Taylor 24*, Hooper 22, Marshall 21, Small 3-33)	Lost by 5 wickets
14/5		Wimbledon United 176-8 (Herbert 51, D Hitchman 27, Phillip 23, Dean 21) Gents 53 (Cripps 6-1, Dean 3-21)	Lost by 123 runs
21/5	Old Tenisonians	Gubbays 106 (Mihir 33) Gents 111-5 (Bocha 36*, Ahmed 20, Raj 3-19)	Won by 5 wickets
28/5	Durston House	Gents 257-8 (Dubey 46, Kumar 34, S Patel 31*, Pentakota 31, Small 28) Northfields 145-5 (Collins 42*, Iverson 28, D Redhead 24)	Won by 112 runs

Date	Gents	Result	Judd Street Tigers	Result
Sun 23 April	-	-	Southgate Compton	Lost by 4 wickets
Sun 30 April	Hounslow Hurricanes	Won by 2 runs	N2 Casuals	Won by 79 runs
Sun 7 May	Millfields	Lost by 5 wickets	Haringey Libraries	Won by 25 runs
Sat 13 May	-	-	Opporto	Lost by 7 wickets
Sun 14 May	Wimbledon United	Lost by 123 runs	Opporto	Won by 72 runs
Sun 21 May	Gubbays	Won by 5 wickets	Graces	Lost by 100 runs
Sun 28 May	Northfields	Won by 112 runs	Cincinnati	Cancelled
Sun 4 June	Kingstonian	-	Spartan	-
Sun 11 June	Hounslow Hurricanes	-	Beamers	-
Record	P5 W3 L2		P6 W3 L3	
Runs	Bocha 91 Dubey 63 Small 54 Desai 52 Kumar 51		Wright 165 Greenham 101 Porton 96	
Wickets	H Patel 7 Dubey, Kumar 5		Taylor 9 Webster 7 Bignell, Greenham and Warren 6	
Catches/Stumpings	Bocha 4 Small 3 A Khan, Krishna 2		Porton 4 O'Brien and Taylor 3	



Highest score for: 257-8 *v.* Northfields Against: 190-5 by Millfields
Lowest score for: 53 *v.* Wimbledon United Against: 106 by Gubbays

Fifties/hundreds for (1): 52 Desai *v.* Hounslow Hurricanes
Fifties/hundreds against (2): 80 Collis (Millfields), 51 Herbert (Wimbledon United)

Four-wicket hauls (1): 6-1 Herbert (Wimbledon United)

Sixes (12): Bocha, Dubey 3, Kumar 2, Gwalla, A Khan, Krishna, Padimalla 1

Run outs (5): Bandla, Bocha, A Khan, Kumar, S Patel 1

Ducks (10): Kumar 3, Bocha, Chatharaju, Krishna, H Patel, Pervez, Ponnam, Small 1

Player (debut *)	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
Ahmed *	2	2	0	24	12.00	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bandla *	2	1	0	8	8.00	-	11	0	41	2	20.50
Bocha	4	4	2	91	45.50	4	11	0	58	2	29.00
Caveney	4	4	0	43	10.75	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chatharaju	3	2	0	1	0.50	-	4	0	19	0	-
Dubey	5	5	0	63	12.60	1	30.3	3	109	5	21.80
A Khan *	4	4	1	50	16.67	2	5.5	0	43	1	43.00
Krishna	5	4	2	27	13.50	2	21	1	75	2	37.50
Kumar	5	5	0	51	10.20	-	24	3	76	5	15.20
H Patel	5	4	0	46	11.50	1	25	0	129	7	18.43
S Patel	2	2	0	47	47.00	-	12	0	67	3	22.33
Pervez *	3	2	0	1	0.50	-	1	0	8	0	-
Small	4	4	0	54	23.50	3	8	0	50	3	16.66

One game only: Basker 1/1/0-/31, Desai 1/1/0/52, 5.2-0-21-1 (1 ct.), Gorantla 1/-/-/-/, 7-4-5-1, Gwalla * 1/1/1/14, 6-0-26-0, Newcombe 1/1/0/1, 1.1-0-5-0, Padimalla * 1/1/0/6, 5-3-3-0, Ponnam * 1/1/0/0, Pentakota 1/1/0/31, 4-0-11-1 (1 ct.)

Gentlemen of West London v. Hounslow Hurricanes

Sunday 30 April, Ealing SG. Gents won toss. Cloudy, 18C

Won by 2 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Hounslow Hurricanes				
H Patel		b Amit	6	Sunil	c A Khan	b Krishna	10
Small	c Manik	b Prashant	0	Kaushik	lbw	b Dubey	1
Dubey		b Amit	1	*Pai	c Desai	b S Patel	23
Desai	st Prashant	b Manik	52	Andy		b Dubey	7
A Khan	lbw	b Vikas	13	Darshan	lbw	b S Patel	13
Pervez		b Roy	0	Nahush	not out		43
Bocha		b Roy	0	Amit		b H Patel	0
†Basker		b Vikas	31	Roy	run out (Bocha)		3
S Patel		b Prashant	16	†Manik		b S Patel	13
*Kumar		b Manik	0	Vikas	lbw	b Bocha	0
†Krishna	not out		3	†Prashant	c Small	b Desai	18
Extras		w14 n4 b11 lb3	32	Extras		w20 nb1	21
Total	All out	35 overs	154	Total	All out	33.1 overs	152
FoW: 5, 12, 21, 51, 52, 56, 124, 128, 129, 154				FoW: 12, 14, 28, 64, 67, 67, 79, 105, 112, 152			
Bowling: Prashant 7-1-23-2, Amit 8-2-21-2, Vikas 7-1-33-2, Roy 2-0-4-2, Pai 4-0-19-0, Manik 7-0-40-2				Bowling: Krishna 5-0-16-1, Dubey 6-1-14-2, Desai 5.2-0-21-1, Kumar 3-0-16-0, S Patel 7-0-34-3, H Patel 4-0-26-1, Bocha 2-0-17-1, Pervez 1-0-8-0			

The Gents' thirtieth season started with a superb game that twisted and turned all day in the Perivale gloom, ending with a Gents' victory by 2 runs. When Gents had the visitors at 112 for 9 the match seemed over but the rock Nahush and the violent No.11 Prashant so nearly did it, adding 40 in 25 balls before Prashant carved Desai high to cover Small, who made no mistake, clutching the catch two handed in front of his face. Earlier, Sachin Desai had glued the innings together with a resolute 26-over 52.

Both sides collapsed against the new ball then rebuilt. The Gents' batting order was based on who was actually present, the format of the game not yet having been invented that allows an absent batsman to take strike. We were away at five to one but by twenty past two the Gents had collapsed to 56 for 6 in the teeth of challenging bowling. Small edged behind fifth ball, Dubey played on and Hemin Patel was yorked. Debutant Ahmed Khan gave Desai staunch support before being lbw whereupon Roy bowled the second debutant Pervez and Bocha. The scorebook made grim reading for Gents supporters, including two ladies known to Khan and Pervez who were allowed free admission after kindly supplying the Chairman with painkillers to relieve his cold symptoms.

Basker, fresh from a 50 for Titans the day before, smote well to give the excellent Desai the support he needed. They added 68 in 58 balls before Desai was stumped for 52 (six fours). Basker and Kumar (a similar dismissal to Dubey's) fell in a trice before an entertaining 19-ball stand of 25 between Sanjay Patel and Krishna saw up the 150. Five overs were disappointingly unused but it was still a good recovery.

The Gents' seamers got movement in the gloaming. Dubey doubled his 2016 haul of wickets while Krishna had Sunil caught at cover. Pai and Darshan batted steadily before the innings unravelled around the drinks break. Sanjay Patel earned the second of three lbws in the innings and induced another catch in the covers. Hemin Patel struck first ball and when Bocha retained his composure to run out Roy having dropped the catch Hurricanes were 79 for 7. By now Basker had ceded wicket-keeper duties to Krishna. A few half-chances went begging behind the timbers but the concession no byes (at least, none were signalled) was impressive. Nahush played the Dravid role to perfection but needed support. Manik lofted Hemin Patel for the day's first six before Sanjay Patel bowled him. Bocha had Vikas lbw, 112 for 9.

Prashant hit a six off Sanjay Patel and ran well with Nahush. Thirty-three came in three overs and at 149 for 9 off 33 only six were needed to win. Nahush pulled a three off the returning Desai's first ball. Prashant then picked out Small and a game that neither side deserved to lose was over. Sumit Kumar tried to involve all his men and was rewarded with a strong team performance. A word on Hurricanes: they were punctual, friendly and good sports (they upheld three lbw appeals). Home and away matches is good news for both clubs.

Millfields v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 7 May, Hilly Fields. Gents won toss. Cloudy then sunny, 18C

Lost by 5 wickets

Gentlemen of West London			Millfields				
†Small	c Lemon	b C Cooper	12	Hooper	c Small	b Kumar	22
H Patel		b M Cooper	29	Collis	c Bocha	b Small	80
Newcombe	c Hooper	b Gardner	1	Claridge	c and	b H Patel	8
†Krishna	c Collis	b M Cooper	16	Marshall	c and	b Small	21
A Khan	c Gardner	b Blatherwick	22	*C Cooper	c Bocha	b Small	12
*Kumar	c C Cooper	b Lemon	17	Taylor	not out		24
Bandla		b C Cooper	8	†Winter	not out		12
Dubey	c Winter	b Blatherwick	5	Lemon, M Cooper, Blatherwick and Gardner did not bat			
Bocha	not out		48				
Chatharaju	lbw	b Taylor	1				
Caveney		b C Cooper	6				
Extras		b6 lb2 w8 nb5	21	Extras		w3 nb2 b6	11
Total	All out	38.4 overs	186	Total	5 wickets	39 overs	190
FoW: 17, 24, 51, 86, 99, 106, 117, 161, 177, 186				FoW: 49, 78, 135, 135, 154			
Bowling: C Cooper 7.4-1-21-3, Gardner 6-2-32-1, Lemon 8-0-51-1, M Cooper 8-3-31-2, Blatherwick 4-0-16-2, Taylor 5-1-29-1				Bowling: Dubey 8-1-38-0, Krishna 3-0-16-0, Kumar 6-0-15-1, Newcombe 1.1-0-5-0, Khan 0.5-0-5-0, Bandla 5-0-22-0, H Patel 6-0-36-1, Bocha 4-0-14-0, Small 5-0-33-3			



Against strong hosts, the Gents, hampered by two injuries and dropped catches, put in an inconsistent if valiant performance, but lost with six balls to spare. The Gents never quite had their noses in front, but lacked nothing in effort and might have won with twenty more runs.

If a disappointing result, it was an exciting game with much of interest on and off the pitch. A quite modern park bench was revealed as the setting for some healthy nocturnal activity by the then-bachelor Horace Hibbert some years back, while the loud support by Small's pals sitting on the hill of this pretty ground (left) was appreciated, if perhaps not by all the hosts.

Kumar won the toss, batted and put some big hitters down the order. This tactic was partially successful, but Bocha was too low at nine, running out of partners with eight balls left. Most batsmen got a start. Small was assured before picking out cover but Newcombe edged to second slip. Hemin Patel was steady until being bowled by Mark Cooper's first ball. Cooper, father of opening paceman Cian, is a leg-spinner with 35 years' club experience. His 8 overs in 2016 went for 0-57 but here he achieved turn and bounce. Krishna, Khan, who is a promising addition, and Kumar got into double figures, but the drinks total of 86 for 4 soon plummeted to 117 for seven. Bandla batted 12 overs for 8 runs, but gave Bocha stout support as the Gents took the fight to Millfields. The vice-captain hit hard for his unbeaten 48, with a six and four fours. The final score exceeded expectations formed at the halfway point, if not those formed pre-match.

Millfields' hero was Tom Collis, 715 runs to his name in 2016 but tellingly absent from last September's game. It was also of significance that none of Jampala, Katragadda and Pingili, whose 21 overs then went for a miserly 58 runs, could play. Such things are a fact of life and the Gents went about their business keenly. It soon became apparent that Collis was a very high-class batsman and the openers put on 49 in 13.4 overs before Hooper edged Kumar behind. By then Newcombe had retired from bowling with a back injury, soon to be followed by Krishna with a damaged foot. The Gents then put behind them the poor catching and ground-fielding of the first 20 overs. Hemin Patel caught Claridge off his own bowling. At 30 overs Millfields, 121 for 2, needed 66 off 10. Hooper and Marshall upped the rate until two wickets fell off successive balls, Hooper holing out at long-off (nine fours and a six) and Marshall driving back to the bowler next ball. Cian Cooper also holed out to long-off to give Small his third wicket. An assault of 20 runs in two overs by Taylor and Winter gave Millfields some breathing space and the away end was subdued when Winter hit the winning four.

Talking cricket with Millfields



DRINKS BREAK

And another thing, yer umpire's bin coachin' the batsmen for the last 'our...'asn't bin coachin' 'em abart runnin' between the wickets, though, 'as he, hab hab?...yarygghb, don't talk to me like that, you're on our turf, you concentrate on yer scoring...

TEA INTERVAL

You got the football scores, scorer?...Whaddya mean Blackburn went down?...At least QPR stayed up, wouldn't have done if we'd lost last week...'Ere scorer, 'ow come you know the scores you should be scoring not checking bleedin' football...

10 OVERS INTO SECOND INNINGS

Ob, get the keeper...Howzhat...he's pronounced 'is aitch, bleedin' ponces these Gents...wbaddyawant for your tea, sahn, I've got some nice jellied eels in...

Vijay Basker's Car Share



THE WARRIORS		THE GENTS	
Batting	Bowling	Batting	Bowling
1. [Name]	1. [Name]	1. [Name]	1. [Name]
2. [Name]	2. [Name]	2. [Name]	2. [Name]
3. [Name]	3. [Name]	3. [Name]	3. [Name]
4. [Name]	4. [Name]	4. [Name]	4. [Name]
5. [Name]	5. [Name]	5. [Name]	5. [Name]
6. [Name]	6. [Name]	6. [Name]	6. [Name]
7. [Name]	7. [Name]	7. [Name]	7. [Name]
8. [Name]	8. [Name]	8. [Name]	8. [Name]
9. [Name]	9. [Name]	9. [Name]	9. [Name]
10. [Name]	10. [Name]	10. [Name]	10. [Name]
11. [Name]	11. [Name]	11. [Name]	11. [Name]

Inspired by Upender Sanga and Rakesh Patel, Vijay Basker's new Sunday outfit United Warriors piled up 239 for 4 in a T20 pre-season friendly on 7 May, before skittling their oppo for 19 (NINETEEN).

Good luck for the season – they'll not lose many with that line up - and let's hope we see more of Pingili and Basker in Gents' colours later in the season. This team has a consistent approach to team branding, in contrast to our good selves with a mix of Chivers Easton Brown 2002 shirts, the more recent Titan Sports variety and SportsDirect randoms.

Wimbledon United v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 14 May, Cottenham Park. Wimbledon United won toss. Sunny, 19C

Lost by 123 runs

Wimbledon United			Gentlemen of West London				
*D Hitchman	lbw	b Bocha	27	H Patel	c D Hitchman	b Cripps	11
Phillip	lbw	b Khan	23	Chatharaju	c Herbert	b Cripps	0
Herbert		b H Patel	51	Ponnam	c and	b Cripps	0
Flannery	c Dubey	b Kumar	5	Pervez	lbw	b Cripps	1
Wijedoonawardena	c Krishna	b Kumar	8	*Kumar		b Cripps	0
Dean	c A Khan	b H Patel	21	Dubey	c Herbert	b Cripps	1
Patel	not out		14	A Khan	c J Hitchman	b Dean	5
Saxby		b Dubey	12	Bocha	lbw	b Dean	6
†J Hitchman	run out (A Khan)		1	†Krishna	lbw	b Wije'wardena	0
Brown	not out		3	Caveney	c Herbert	b Dean	8
Cripps	did not bat			Gwalla	not out		14
Extras		b4 lb1 w4 nb2	11	Extras		b1 lb1 w3 nb2	7
Total	8 wickets	35 overs	176	All out		14.4 overs	53
FoW: 48, 66, 79, 111, 129, 148, 168, 170			FoW: 4, 6, 11, 13, 15, 15, 27, 28, 28, 53				
Bowling: Dubey 6-0-25-1, Bocha 5-0-27-1, Kumar 7-0-28-2, Khan 5-0-38-1, H Patel 6-0-27-2, Gwalla 6-0-26-0			Bowling: Brown 5-0-13-0, Cripps 5-4-1-6, Dean 2-4-0-21-3, Wijedoonawardena 2-0-16-1				



Andrew Cripps produced the best analysis by a Gents opponent as Wimbledon United inflicted an embarrassing defeat at sunny Raynes Park. A brave tenth-wicket stand ensured that the 1991 record low score of 51 (that game won) was left intact, which provided, along with good bowling and fielding in the final 15 overs of the first innings, the only comfort to a shattered side. Earlier, Herbert's third fifty in three games in this series was the mainstay of a competitive 176 for 8 in a game reduced to 35 overs after a late start.

The prolific Dave Hitchman nearly fell first ball as Khan parried but could not grasp a cover drive. The first 20 overs belonged to the Maroons who made hay of inconsistent bowling, with far too many four balls offered. There were misfields galore in this spell, and even a regulation two upgraded to six by four buzzers. The occasional ball beat the bat and Bocha and Khan were rewarded with lbws.

The fielding sharpened after Dubey's sharp catch at mid-wicket off a Kumar full-toss. United were 109 for 3 off 20 but Hemin Patel and debutant Gwalla stemmed the flow of runs. Patel was the pick of the bowlers, castling Herbert with his faster ball, an incident not unmentioned in the post-match festivities. The Gents were pleased with their fightback at tea. Hitchman thought the Maroons 20 short. The market spread on the Gents innings was 150-160 but with some big hitters in the order anything was possible. Kumar had to incorporate two debutants into the batting line-up, not an enviable task.

A pathetic 53 all out in 88 balls was the result. Patel cut Brown for four, but Chatharaju spooned to cover for a golden, Cripps's first. Others followed off balls 9, 14, 19, 26 and 27. Ponnam was unlucky, a diving catch after short extra had athletically parried the ball, but a veil should be drawn over some of the shot selection. There were three lbws, only Hamza's disputatious (caught if not leg before as the ball spooned up in a flurry of foot and bat). To their credit, the Maroons did not call off the dogs - a slow death by part-time bowler would have been agony. Dean and Wijedoonawardena cleaned up despite a brave stand between Caveney and Gwalla, the latter lofting a six. Well done skipper Kumar who shook every United player's hand, having conducted himself with a good deal of dignity throughout the mayhem. Congratulations to them. Meanwhile, the Gents have much to ponder amid a series of tough fixtures.

A remarkable day



That's another fine mess we've gotten ourselves into. The Gents contemplate the carnage

On the shield of such eminent Crippses as austere Labour politician Sir Richard Stafford (1889-1952) and Millwall FC stalwart Henry Richard "Harry" (1941- 1995) must now be inscribed the name of Andrew. In just 30 balls, he eclipsed Ron High – a fellow Scotsman for conspiracy theorists among you – in the list of opponents' bowling records.

6-1	Cripps (Wimbledon United, 2017)
6-10	High (Enterprise, 1991)
6-13	Phillips (Virgin Casuals, 1997)
6-16	Rafiq (Robin Hood, 1999)
6-24	Crawford (St. Anne's Allstars, 2004)
6-25	Arthur (West XI, 1989)
6-25	Boa (Village, 2010)

Lowest totals by the Gents



51	London Owls (1991) Batting first, game won
53	Wimbledon United (2017) Batting second, game lost
54	East Harrow Cheetahs (1989) Batting second, game lost
54	Magdalen (2012) Batting second, game lost
55	Brondesbury Casuals (2003) Batting first, game lost
57	West XI (2008) Batting second, game lost
58	Sunderland SC (1997) Batting second, game lost
59	Wombles (2009) Batting first, game won
59	MSV Zeemacht (2013) Batting second, game lost
60	West XI (2005) Batting second, game lost

The most surprising aspect of these debacles is that two of the matches were actually won. Quoting from the 1991 match report "A tight win by 9 runs against London Owls was gained in a bizarre, rainy conflict. Only two Gents bowlers were used, Owl Martin Hockey had a slash on the pitch and a record six lbws were given in the game". Forward to 2009 and the Gents' innings against Wombles "subsided in a mere 14.1 overs with four ducks. The bowling was faultless and the catching alert". The visitors' innings lasted only 10 more balls as Inkollu, Rudru, Hemin Patel and Kalidindi won the day. To this writer, the most bizarre of these collapses was on 1 July 2012. Magdalen had scored 158 before skittling the Gents for 54. The batting order was stellar: de la Perrelle, Newcombe, Cloete, H Desai, Lall, Inkollu, Hibbert, Kumar, Manginene, Pentakota (on debut – see later) and D Patel.

Charlie Clift has died



It is our sad duty to report that former Urban Associates cricketer Charlie Clift died in February aged 56. He went missing while hiking in Scotland and was found dead by mountain rescue teams on the lower north slopes of Meall Nan Cleireach, Fort William. In a strong batting line-up, usually too good for the Gents, Charlie was renowned as a lower-order hitter and put several games beyond reach. His highest score against us was 39 not out in 1999. We sent our commiserations to his family and friends, including the Urban Associates, reunited on the day of his funeral. Thanks for the memories, Charlie.

Gentlemen of West London v. Gubbays

Sunday 21 May, Old Tenisonians. Gubbays won toss. Sunny, 20C

Won by 5 wickets

Gubbays			Gentlemen of West London				
Deepak		b Kumar	18	Small	c Ashish	b Arjun	14
Ravi	c Krishna	b Gorantla	0	Caveney	c Aryuat	b Raj	15
Mihir	c Bocha	b Bandla	33	*Kumar	lbw	b Raj	0
*Aryuat		b H Patel	13	Dubey		b Raj	10
Neal	c Bocha	b Kumar	0	†Ahmed	c Arjun	b Ravi	20
Vishal		b H Patel	7	Bocha	not out		37
†Ashish		b Dubey	14	A Khan	not out		10
Vijay	run out (Bandla)		4	Pervez, Krishna, Bandla, Gorantla and H Patel did not bat			
Shamit		b Bandla	0				
Raj	run out (Kumar)		0				
Arjun	not out		2				
Extras	b5 lb4 w6		15	Extras	b2 lb1 w2		5
Total	All out	34.3 overs	106	Total	5 wickets	26.2 overs	111

FoW: 4, 57, 64, 68, 80, 91, 96, 96, 98, 106

Bowling: Dubey 6.3-1-23-1, Gorantla 7.4-5-1, Krishna 5-0-23-0, Kumar 7-3-13-2, Bandla 6-0-19-2, H Patel 3-0-14-2

FoW: 31, 32, 39, 42, 94

Bowling: Aryuat 5-2-8-0, Mihir 5-0-12-0, Arjun 7-0-32-1, Raj 5-0-19-3, Neal 2-0-14-0, Ravi 1.2-0-13-1, Vishal 1-0-10-0



The Gents romped back to form when the middle order, led by vice-captain Bocha, grabbed the game by the scruff of the neck, cantering to victory with 5 wickets and 8.4 overs in hand.

When he arrived at the crease, Gents were 42 for 4 in the 18th over and the match was in the balance. Eight overs later and the Gents were celebrating only their second win in this rubber, in the sixth game. Batsmen had to contend with a slow turning wicket after midweek rain. The spinners were not complaining, taking 8 of the 13 wickets that fell to bowlers.

At Ealing SC a year before, Gubbays had struggled to 37 for 3 at the midway point, a position from which they never recovered. Here, 17 overs saw them at 42 for 1, the only wicket to fall Ravi neatly caught by second slip Krishna off Gorantla, only his second ever catch. Catches win matches and it is not the worst idea in the world to practise them beforehand. It was a joy to behold the control of Gorantla and Kumar, who earned the extremely attacking fields, and the neat work by debut 'keeper Ahmed. A flurry of fours took Gubbays to 57 for 1 before Kumar bowled Deepak off the last ball of the 20th over. Krishna toiled with little reward but Kumar signed off by having Neal caught at silly mid-off.

The spinners were now on, Bandla's slow left-arm having Mihir caught deep mid-wicket for 33 in 22 overs. Gubbays were looking for 150 and took chances against the twirlers, who each took two wickets, Hemin Patel turning one to clip the left-hander Vishal's off stump. There were two run outs and Dubey returned to bowl Ashish, 106 all out. After the desperate cricket a week before it had been a pleasure to watch and no doubt a pleasure for Kumar to captain, equipped as he was with a good variety of bowlers.

Small and Caveney did a fine job opening the innings, putting up 31 in 12.4 overs. Caveney relished his new responsibility and Small was his usual composed self. It is always a surprise when he is out, but at least he fell to an authentic dismissal, edging behind. Aryuat's spinners got turn, and four wickets fell for 11 runs, three to Raj from the Pavilion End. There was a lot of work to do and Ahmed, Bocha and Khan did it well. Ahmed and Khan hit two fours each. Bocha hit three fours and two sixes, including the match winner high over long-on, in an innings of only eight overs. Gubbays are good guys and it was intriguing to listen to captain Aryuat's blood-curdling tales of some of the more challenged sides on the circuit as the teams socialised outside the clubhouse on a mild evening.

Northfields v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 28 May, Durston House. Northfields won toss. Sunny then showery, 24C

Won by 112 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Northfields				
H Patel	c D Redhead	b E Redhead	0	Tulachan	c Ahmed	b Dubey	4
Caveney	c Meehan	b Dhuna	14	Iverson	run out (S Patel)		28
Small	lbw	b D Redhead	28	Meehan		b Pentakota	1
*Kumar	c E Redhead	b Devalia	34	Brown	lbw	b Krishna	9
Pentakota	c Iverson	b D Redhead	31	†Collins	not out		42
S Patel	not out		31	*†D Redhead	c Pentakota	b H Patel	24
†Ahmed		b Arjun	4	Turkes	not out		15
Dubey	run out (Iverson)		46	E Redhead, Devalia, Arjun and Dhuna did not bat			
Padimalla		b Brown	6				
Krishna	not out		8				
Chatharaju	did not bat						
Extras		b16 lb1 w33 nb5	55	Extras		lb 3 w19	22
Total	8 wickets	40 overs	257	Total	5 wickets	40 overs	145
FoW: 0, 23, 65, 120, 156, 164, 244, 248				FoW: 17, 19, 50, 81, 113			
Bowling: E Redhead 8-1-28-1, Dhuna 8-0-37-1, D Redhead 8-0-48-2, Devalia 7-0-36-1, Arjun 7-0-64-1, Turkes 1-0-18-0, Brown 1-0-9-1				Bowling: Dubey 4-0-9-1, Pentakota 4-1-11-1, Chatharaju 4-0-19-0, Krishna 8-1-20-1, Padimalla 5-3-3-0, S Patel 5-0-33-0, H Patel 6-0-26-1, Small 3-0-17-0, Kumar 1-0-4-0			

Spectacular batting helped by wayward bowling carried the Gents to 257 for 8, their third successive two-hundred score on this tiny ground. But unlike 2015 and 2016, the Gents' bowlers found their line and there was no Northfields centurion. They also benefitted from a change in the weather which Sanjay Patel estimated to be worth 70 runs, although the self-effacing Northfields players were having none of it.

With rain forecast, the Gents were surprisingly inserted and lost Hemin Patel caught behind second ball. This ushered in some remarkably consistent batting. Nobody scored 50 in the highest club total not to feature such a milestone (previously 235-9 dec.). Pentakota, back for his first game since 2014, caught the eye with his off-driving and Dubey was spectacular, lofting his first ball over long-on for six and striking two more in a stand of 80 with Sanjay Patel in only 9 overs. Earlier Caveney had continued his improvement, Small had looked fluent and Kumar had convinced for the first time this season. When it was time for late order comedy cameos Krishna and debutant Padimalla obliged with a six apiece, the latter crashing his first ball into the fence before heaving over his second. A total of 55 extras was barmy, but none of the wides and no-balls seemed harshly adjudged. The hosts were in the field for 44.4 overs in all, bowled in two-and-a-half-hours. Tea was much needed.

Rain had begun to fall and there was much consultation of weather forecasts and, regrettably, Duckworth-Lewis. The latter was soon righteously put a stop to. It was darkling and the Gents seemed keener to continue, but Northfields fought the good fight in hostile conditions. A towel and sawdust were procured. Balls that had sat up in the first innings now spat through head-high to Ahmed. Shots that had earlier found the ropes were now worth only one or two. The first boundary did not arrive until the ninth over by which time two were down, the Nepalese Tulachan caught behind off a screamer from Dubey and Meehan bowled Pentakota. Chatharaju bowled a neat and improving spell after pitching too short in his first over. Krishna bowled superbly as did the extremely quick Padimalla, who is clearly a high-class cricketer. Thanks are due to the indefatigable Vijay Basker for sourcing him on the Saturday. Runs came at a trickle, although extras were well represented, and 17.3 overs had passed when Brown fell lbw.

Iverson took 16 balls to get off the mark and batted bravely for 30.4 overs before he was run out. The run rate increased when last year's centurion David Redhead came in to partner Collins. Redhead hit 24 in only four overs before Pentakota stunningly caught him in the deep, one of only four wickets that fell to bowlers. His birthday-eve game had been full of involvement. Collins and Turkes hit lustily in the gloom to take Northfields up to a respectable score. It had been a good day out. Every Gent either batted or bowled and seven did both. It was fun to attend the Northfields fines meeting after the match. Although they had not dropped any catches, heinous crimes such as not walking out to bat through the picket gate exacted harsh retribution. Thanks to them for hosting and to Gourav Dhuna for scoring and insights.

The hinge years – 2008 and 2009

Let us go back a long way, to the winter of 2007/8. The Gents were in a state of flux. Dhruv Patel and Jim Wright had signalled their intentions to play less, while a third high-quality all-rounder, Nabil Husain, would only be available for part of the season before returning permanently to Saudi Arabia. Recruitment was therefore needed, but from where? The irrepressible Dhruv Patel had for a decade been an effective recruiting sergeant, introducing Jim Wright, Sanjay Patel and Nabil Husain. But who would replace him?

At the winter nets Peter Denton introduced Ravi Kumar Inkollu, an event that proved of great importance. His friends would follow and they are recalled below, along with four other great club men in Wayne Caveney, Nilesh Dubey, Sumit Kumar and Greg Newcombe. Sanjay Patel began the process of their integration in 2008 and completed it 2009, his last year as captain. We start with the opening game of 2008 played at the club's then-home, Fairfield RG in Kingston. The Gents we know today are Ravi's gift and his onfield contribution in 2008 and 2009 was squarely measured with 712 runs and 50 wickets. Vijay Basker today performs the vital role as conduit for new talent. We offer a word of apology to Peter Denton, Sachin Desai, Himanshu Desai, Richard Gilkes, Nabil Husain and Naveed Khan, whose debuts have yet to feature. The building work at Gent House should be finished in June whereupon we can access the club archive dealing with those years, 2002 to 2007.



Ravi Inkollu (43 games) 27/4/2008 Fairfield RG

v. St. Anne's Allstars

St. Anne's Allstars 103 (T Haddow-Allen 32, Begley 21, Snelling 1-31, Inkollu 2-25, S Patel 1-11, Sciberras 3-18, H Patel 4-14)

Gents 104-1 (Khan 66*, Denton 24, Snelling 4*, Chayya, S Patel, Gilkes, Turpin, Toft, Inkollu, Sciberras and H Patel dnb). **Won by 9 wickets**

Ravi Inkollu debuted in this straightforward win, working up some good pace in support of Snarler Snelling, although it was the slows of Hemin Patel and Sciberras that cleaned up.



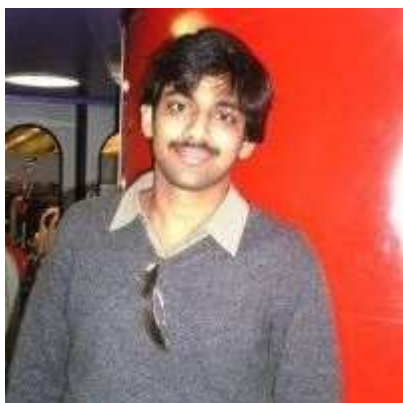
Ahsan Iqbal (25) 11/5/2008 Burton's Court v. Sloane Club

Gents 275-3 (Khan 24, Inkollu 80, Gilkes 45, Husain 69*, Iqbal 19*, Turpin, Shanware, Toft, Denton, S Patel, Snelling and H Patel dnb)

Sloane Club 30 (Snelling 2-12, Iqbal 2-5 Shanware 2-8, H Patel 3-0). **Won by 245 runs**

Ahsan Iqbal was the club's fastest bowler since Stuart Snelling. With his first ball in the nets, he knocked over Paul Turpin's stumps and it was clear that the Gents had signed a matchwinner. This light-hearted game was observed by a UFO whose provenance remains uncertain.

This photograph has the iconic quality of the Raising of The Flag On Iwo Jima, although it was not staged. Padded up and looking menacing in the May 2009 West XI game L. to R. are Ahsan Iqbal, Ravi Inkollu and Patrudu Lalam. Quite a middle-order, but none was required to bat.



Murali Kalidindi (15) 6/7/2008 Old Tenisonian

v. Old Tenisonians

Old Tenisonians 141 (Kain 49, Perkins Jr. 34, Inkollu 2-14, Khan 1-24, Sciberras 0-28, H Patel 0-32, Shanware 0-15, Kalidindi 4-19)

Gents 109 (Khan 6, Sciberras 14, Inkollu 1, Buck 15, Denton 21, Shanware 13, Toft 8*, H Patel 9, Kalidindi 6, Dhillon Patel 1*, Perkins Jr. 3-6). **Lost by 32 runs**

A moment of insanity by captain Denton saw Burman dropped just before the match. Old Tens had nine and Gents 11, so to "even things up" the veteran was told to step aside. Murali Kalidindi, a subtle bowler, took four wickets bowling right-arm round and with the Afghani Daud Shanware conceded only 34 runs in 16 overs. The captain top-scored but the Gents fell short.



**Patrudu Lalam (11), Richard Palmer (29) and Suman Rudru (21)
25/4/2009 Barnes Common v. St. Anne's Allstars**

Gents 212-3 (Khan 46, Sciberras 14, Rudru 55, S Patel 66*, Inkollu 14*, Palmer, Gilkes, S Desai, Denton, Lalam, Buck and H Patel dnb)

St. Anne's Allstars 170-8 (Morgan 42, MacDonald 35, Nicol 29, Hanton 24, Inkollu 5-2-12-2, S Patel 2-0-9-1, H Patel 5-0-25-0, Buck 4-0-29-0, Sciberras 5-0-32-1, Rudru 5-2-9-0, Khan 3-0-9-1, Gilkes 4-0-17-1, Palmer 2-0-14-0). **Won by 42 runs**

In September 2008 Suman Rudru had flown in on the Air India on the Friday, guested in civilian clothing for Hale two days later and famously clobbered Hemin Patel over the trees. He was clearly some player.

The Telugu train was getting up steam. Lalam, Palmer (a colleague of Hemin Patel) and Rudru debuted in the first game of 2009 while Sachin Desai played only his second match. Rudru only played 21 games but starred in most of them, scoring 55 here and posting 103 with captain Patel, who overtook Mark Ashton's run aggregate record of 3,848 on a windy afternoon. Desai, Lalam and Palmer had quiet games.

Greg Newcombe (70) 2/8/2009 Old Tenisonians v. Close PF

Gents 115-8 (Khan 28, H Patel 11, Iqbal 22, H Desai 6, S Patel 2, Toft 7, Newcombe 7*, S Desai 5, Kalidindi 2, Lalam, Inkollu and Rudru dnb) and **136-6** (Rudru 3, Inkollu 0, Lalam 50 ret.*, Kalidindi 11, S Desai 21, Newcombe 1, Toft 7*, S Patel 1, H Desai 10*)

Close PF 93 (Dubey 23*, Kumar 20, Inkollu 4-0-17-4, Iqbal 2-0-12-1, Rudru 2-0-20-0, S Patel 4-0-8-1, H Patel 3-0-16-2, Kalidindi 2-0-16-0) and **100-9** (Kumar 11 and 25*, Virag 22, Dubey 20, Newcombe 4-0-21-1, Iqbal 4-1-6-2, H Patel 4-0-17-2, Kalidindi 4-0-26-1, Rudru 2-0-21-0, H Desai 1-0-8-1, S Desai 1-0-1-0). **Won by 58 runs**

August 2009 was blessed with the first sightings of a wonderful quartet. All would become regulars and two would captain. Greg Newcombe's debut came about thus. He worked in a call centre alongside Sachin Desai and was looking for a new team. Desai recommended the Gents. Newcombe's debut came against Dhruv Patel's employer, the match an unusual two-innings affair. He proved a great find, taking four catches during an entertaining afternoon whose highlight was Lalam's 50. The match report referred cheesily to "super commitment" from him to attend after a car malfunction. Note the empurpled trio who did not bat in the first innings. That was some team.

Sumit Kumar (88) and Nilesh Dubey (69) 9/8/2009 Alexandra RG v. Northfields

Gents 198 (Khan 20, H Patel 31, Denton 4, Iqbal 0, Sciberras 15, Kumar 51, Ali 7, Dubey 12, S Patel 38*, Toft 0, Singh 0, Mahomed 4-20, Attree 3-45)

Northfields 113 (John 37, Dubey 4-2-0-15-0, Iqbal 7-2-12-4, Kumar 3-0-15-1, H Patel 7-1-21-0, Sciberras 7-1-27-1, Singh 1-0-15-0, S Patel 3-2-4-2). **Won by 85 runs**



Dhruv Patel brokered the services of colleagues Nilesh Dubey and Sumit Kumar for their first and only appearance of the summer in the club's final game at Alexandra RG in Surbiton. Kumar had a spectacular debut, hitting 50 including six fours and a six described as "a blow of transcontinental distance". He and Sanjay Patel added a then-record 95 from a worrying position of 103 for 7. Iqbal's quartet of wickets won the game. Kumar and Dubey were Dhruv Patel's last referrals, a good note to end on.

Wayne Caveney (70) 16/8/2009 Old Haberdashers v. London Saints

London Saints 112 (Grimes 34, Berkeley 25, Snelling 7-0-29-0, Inkollu 4-2-0-7-3, Newcombe 3-0-22-0, H Patel 7-0-26-2, S Patel 5-1-7-2, S Desai 2-0-15-1)

Gents 113-5 (S Desai 4, Gilkes 2, H Desai 34, Caveney 4, Snelling 46*, Palmer 0, Newcombe 10*, Inkollu, S Patel, H Patel and Martin dnb). **Won by 5 wickets**

Wayne Caveney's debut is a good example of how the memory can play tricks, without will to deceive. One would have sworn his debut came quite spectacularly a fortnight later with his heroics against Wombles but no. Introduced by captain Patel, then a fellow BT engineer, he kindly brought a mate along, Martin, to make up the XI. Caveney scored 4 and Martin took a fine catch. Saints were in control at 81 for 2 but collapsed. Stuart Snelling then struck a club personal best 46 not out. A vintage season was drawing to a close. Eight years on Caveney, Dubey, Kumar and Newcombe and the Patels still play. There was something in the air in 2009.