
THE GENT

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Elite sport - superfit athletes pal up



Hemin plays his 200th. game while Vijay strikes his 1,000th. run

Brick's match report – Lucy Jackman's tea praised to the heavens

Mithali Raj's matchday read

Gents and Pak raise £432 for Cancer Research

Scorecards, results and averages

Match reports:

Crown Taverners (lost by 35 runs)

Bricklayer's Arms (won by 64 runs)

Pak (won by 14 runs)

Pak (won by 6 runs)

Northfields (lost by 51 runs)

Clapham In (won by 4 wickets)

Bricklayer's Arms (drawn)

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Read about the Gents on www.gowlcc.org or Twitter [@gowlcc](https://twitter.com/gowlcc)



Matters arising



Chairman Patel debriefs bedroom technique

Congratulations to Hemin Patel, who played his 200th game (Bricklayer's Arms in July), celebrating with off-colour quips and two wickets. He now has 280 wickets at 4.8 rpo and a strike rate of 20.

332 appearances Sanjay Patel
242 Stuart Snelling
218 Tony Buck
211 Andrew Burman
203 Hemin Patel

On the same afternoon club treasure Vijay Basker became the 24th. player to score 1,000 runs for the Gents. To date he has 1,070 in 41 games at an average of 28.92. Of players with 30 or more games, only three players have a better average: Nabil Husain (61 games, 2,270 runs @ 49.35), Jonny Small (52 games, 1,332 runs @ 31.09) and Mark Ashton (153 games, 3,848 runs @ 30.54). He is in exalted company.

Sachin Desai has been tearing it up for Knockholt in the Kent County Village League Div. 4. He has 20 wickets so far, his best return a match-winning 5 for 20 against Weald. We look forward to seeing him for the last three Gents games.

Gent 155 featured Shenley Cricket Centre, which the Gents will visit on 3 September and will be the only first-class venue to host us. You may ask about Chiswick Park, which saw first-class games in 1886 (CI Thornton's XI v. Australians) and 1887 (Middlesex v. Oxford University). Did the Gents not play there? Well no, the Chiswick Park ground was demolished after WW2. We played at nearby Chiswick House.

Hale have responded to the Gents' complaint about the cancellation of the 18 June fixture. The reason they could not raise a team is that "they did not have enough players, which was because "availability was poor". Drilling down, this was apparently "for a number of reasons". Thanks for those insights, chaps. To rub it in, Hale's Giles and Weaver scored freely in the Crown Taverners fixture. The return at Hale must be in doubt. We are liaising with them.

The home games against Battersea Eagles and Judd Street Tigers were rained off by the BBC's jetstream, as were the 2012 and 2015 Tigers games. This was particularly unfortunate as both games were oversubscribed by Gents and opponents. The Tigers clash might have been a classic – they had Neepam Bhatt returning to bolster an already strong line up. Perhaps they had studied Geoffrey Boycott's column which lurks behind the Daily Telegraph's Premium paywall: "Brian Close at Yorkshire taught me that on a batting pitch you need an extra bowler, on a bowling pitch you need to select an extra batsman".

Judd Street Tigers are having a rollercoaster season. They ended May won 3 lost 3 before losing seven on the bounce, five after batting first and three after posting 200 plus scores. Their turning point was the abandonment against South East Challengers, since when they have enjoyed three close victories. Chris Wright went into the bank holiday break with 476 runs. If *The Sun* is to be believed Railway Taverners are readying a £45m deadline day bid for wantaway ace Steve Bignell while Winchmore Hill are set for talks with Chris Dane, who recently denounced his club's wages structure in an explosive interview.

Time for action

Bocha, Caveney, Chatharaju, Desai, Dubey, Francis, Hibbert, Kumar, Newcombe, S Patel, Pentakota and Small: a very solid side chockful of experience. The more observant reader will be ahead of the editor by now, for not one of these players was available for the bank holiday game. No blame attaches, impending babies, work, holidays and health come first, but it does show the challenge facing the club in 2017 in fielding full teams. Forty-one players have already turned out with many changes in the run up to the game, a nightmare for the captain. Hats off to Ahmed, Bandla and Basker who brought in guests to play Brick. The timed format - a concept misunderstood by some - worked well this year thanks to a generous declaration by Vamsee Krishna that set up an exciting conclusion. We mention Poulter's sporting retirement in the match report. He did the same thing against Ashford in May. A day later Joe Root showed what he had learned with a similarly fair declaration against West Indies.

Sly Carew

Another declaration story, this time from Welsh league cricket. The Pembroke County Cricket top-tier title has been won by Carew by one point, after losing to rivals Cresselly in their final match having come in 21 points clear of them and with 20 points for a win. The final standing was 377pts to 376pts in Carew's favour at the end of the 18-match season. What stirred up enough controversy to get the event reported on the BBC Sport website is how the entire match lasted fewer than five overs. Carew had done their arithmetic ahead of the game, and elected to deny Cresselly the chance of adding any bonus points to their tally (one bowling point awarded for every two wickets taken in an innings, one batting point for every 40 runs scored, up to a maximum of five) by *declaring on 18 for 1* after just 15 balls. Cresselly then duly knocked off this target inside two overs for the win, but had no chance of taking the title. Moral outrage has been all over social media yet there has been little comment on Cresswell's decision on winning the toss to bowl. Had they batted the shenanigans could have been avoided. We also note that the Sheffield Shield had to rejig their bonus points as they used to give the final bowling one for the 10th wicket so teams just declared after the 9th.

Next train's gone



Spare a thought for young Australian quick James Royal of Clapham In, seen here with an extremely necessary flak jacket. He works on the railways as a Customer Service Manager and we think it right to raise a matter of national importance here.

The biggest problem caused by the Waterloo upgrade, and one of the top three problems facing the country, is the paucity of gentlemen's washrooms on the commute home from a Gents home game.

Before the upgrade, it was a simple matter to train to Clapham Junction, where there are abundant facilities. Now that station is effectively out of bounds, you have to change at Wimbledon and take the District line to access your homeward train. Fine, except that the Wimbledon washrooms have been out of action since approximately 1985. The editor has to dash out from Earls Court tube and run the gauntlet of knuckle draggers in the Wetherspoon's opposite for relief.

London Saints veteran Tony Grimes has one solution – he goes to matches equipped with an empty wine bottle (with a stopper) for just such emergencies.

Next job

The following job recently came up on-line. The editor of course applied, stressing his bubbly personality. We await developments.

Mistake Experts – Part-Time Job Offer.

Looking for people with mistakes experience, willing to share their stories as part of an artistic process.

2017 scorecards and results

30/4	Ealing SG	Gents 154 (S Desai 52, Basker 31)	Won by 2 runs
7/5	Hilly Fields	Hounslow Hurricanes 152 (Nahush 43*, Pai 23, S Patel 3-34) Millfields 190-5 (Collis 80, Taylor 24*, Hooper 22, Marshall 21, Small 3-33)	Lost by 5 wickets
14/5	Cottenham Park	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, David Redhead 24)	Won by 112 runs
4/6	Old Tenisonians	Kingstonian 160 (Wasim 38*, Islam 33, Niazi 30, B Gola 4-17, Mangineni 3-24) Gents 101 (Sampath 29, Wasim 3-20, Shabbir 3-26)	Lost by 59 runs
11/6	Perivale Park	Gents 91 (H Patel 43, S Patel 20, Achal 5-20, Vikas 3-15) Hounslow Hurricanes 92-3 (Sunil 36*, Darshan 20)	Lost by 7 wickets
25/6	Old Tenisonians	Gents 183-8 (H Patel 39, Bocha 27, Dubey 22, Kumar 22, Singh 3-27) St. Anne's Allstars 69 (Bocha 3-9)	Won by 114 runs
2/7	Old Tenisonians	Gents 228-8 (Basker 85, Kumar 48, S Patel 22, H Patel 20) White Swans 86 (Raj 29)	Won by 142 runs
9/7	Crown Taverners	Crown Taverners 258-5 (Giles 54, G Day 44, Delaney 41, Huntingford 38, Turkington 24*, Weaver 23*) Gents 223-8 (Francis 74, Sampath 29, Caveney 24, Namilikonda 22, D Day 3-28)	Lost by 35 runs
16/7	Old Tenisonians	Gents 224-7 (Bocha 79*, Sampath 41, Basker 30) Bricklayer's Arms 160-6 (Poulter 71*, Mercer 21)	Won by 64 runs
6/8	Ealing SG	Gents 121-7 (Ahmed 44, Basker 29) Pak 107-9 (Maani 25*, Butt 22)	Won by 14 runs
6/8	Ealing SG	Gents 141-6 (D Gola 36, S Patel 24) Pak 135-8 (Basker 33, S Ahmed 28, Butt 28, D Khan 20, Pentakota 3-17)	Won by 6 runs
13/8	Old Tenisonians	Northfields 161-9 (Singh 49, Kent 30, Pentakota 3-14) Gents 110 (Bocha 33, Francis 23, Egan 4-12)	Lost by 51 runs
20/8	Old Tenisonians	Clapham In 173 (Robbins 69, Frecknall 36, Krishna 3-13) Gents 175-6 (Basker 57, Bocha 26, Sampath 22, Royal 4-26)	Won by 4 wickets
27/8	Raynes Park SG	Gents 200-5 dec. (Sanga 100*, Ahmed 50*, Chalamalasetti 26) Bricklayer's Arms 181-5 (Poulter 100*, Tremain 31, Sanga 4-28)	Drawn
3/9	Shenley	Stanmore Warriors	
10/9	Cavendish RG	Gubbays	
17/9	Imperial College	Salix	
24/9	Hale Common	Hale	

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	-	-	Porto	Lost by 7 wickets
Sun 14 May	Wimbledon United	Lost by 123 runs	Porto	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	Lost by 59 runs	Spartan	Lost by 73 runs
Sun 11 June	Hounslow Hurricanes	Lost by 7 wickets	Beamers	Lost by 1 wicket
Sat 17 June	-	-	Mole Hill Green	Lost by 1 wicket
Sun 18 June	Hale	Cancelled	Eastons	Lost by 6 wickets
Sun 25 June	St. Anne's Allstars	Won by 114 runs	Spartan	Lost by 34 runs
Sun 2 July	White Swans	Won by 142 runs	Motley Crew	Lost by 5 wickets
Sun 9 July	Crown Taverners	Lost by 35 runs	Haringey Libraries	Lost by 7 wickets
Sun 16 July	Bricklayer's Arms	Won by 64 runs	Little Berkhamstead	Cancelled
Sun 23 July	Battersea Eagles	Cancelled	South East Challengers	Abandoned
Sun 30 July	Judd Street Tigers	Cancelled	Gentlemen of West London	Cancelled
Sun 6 August	Pak	Won by 14 runs	Acme	Won by 2 wickets
Sun 6 August	Pak	Won by 6 runs	-	-
Sun 13 August	Northfields	Lost by 51 runs	Potter Street	Won by 2 wickets
Sun 20 August	Clapham In	Won by 4 wickets	Railway Taverners	Won by 19 runs
Sun 27 August	Bricklayer's Arms	Drawn	-	-
Sun 3 Sept	Stanmore Warriors	-	Slobs	-
Sun 10 Sept	Gubbays	-	Mayfield	-
Sun 17 Sept	Salix	-	Railway Taverners	-
Sun 24 Sept	Hale	-	TBA	-
Sun 1 Oct	-	-	Highgate	-
Record	Played 16 Won 9 Drawn 1 Lost 6 Cancelled 3		Played 17 Won 6 Lost 10 Abandoned 1 Cancelled 3	
Runs	Bocha 297 Basker 248 H Patel 172 S Patel 147		Wright 476 Taylor 255 O'Brien 249 Dane 222 Greenham 203	
Wickets	H Patel 17 Bocha 13 Pentakota 10 Bandla, Kumar 8		Taylor 17 Webster 14 Greenham 12 Bignell, Dane 11	
Catches/Stumpings	Bocha 8 Pentakota 6		O'Brien 10/4 Allerton 7	

2017 averages

Player (debut*)	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
Ahmed*	7	7	1	146	24.33	3/2	-	-	-	-	-
Bandla*	10	7	1	46	7.67	-	49	5	181	8	122.63
Basker	9	8	0	248	31.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bocha	12	12	3	297	33.00	8	41	3	197	13	15.15
Caveney	10	10	1	93	10.33	-	3.8	0	23	1	23.00
Chatharaju	9	8	4	28	7.00	1	26.2	4	109	5	21.80
Dubey	10	9	1	101	12.63	2/1	49	9	162	7	23.14
Francis*	5	4	0	100	25.00	2	-	-	-	-	-
D Gola*	3	2	0	36	18.00	3	9.3	1	53	0	-
Hibbert	3	3	2	16	16.00	1	5.2	1	31	1	31.00
A Khan*	5	5	1	63	15.75	2	7.5	0	48	2	24.00
N Khan	4	3	0	24	8.00	-	19	0	105	3	35.00
Krishna	10	6	2	30	7.50	2	44	4	175	7	25.00
Kumar	9	8	0	125	15.63	-	35	4	116	8	14.50
Namilikonda*	5	4	2	35	11.67	2/1	6	0	31	1	31.00
H Patel	14	11	0	172	15.64	3	62.1	2	319	17	18.76
S Patel	9	9	2	147	21.00	-	30	1	156	7	22.29
Pentakota	6	6	1	69	13.80	6	32	5	106	10	10.60
Pervez*	3	2	0	1	0.50	-	1	0	8	0	-
Sampath*	10	8	0	142	17.75	3	4	0	17	1	17.00
Small	4	4	0	54	23.50	3	8	0	50	3	16.66
J Snelling	2	2	1	6	6.00	-	8	0	44	1	44.00
S Snelling	2	2	1	15	15.00	-	10	1	56	2	28.00

One game only: U Basker* 1/1/0/6, 1-0-8-0, Chakravarty 1/1/0/5, Chalamalasetti 1/1/0/26, Desai 1/1/0/52, 5.2-0-21-1 (1 ct.), B Gola* 1/1/0/8, 7.2-1-17-4, Gorantla 1/-/-/-, 7-4-5-1, Gwalla* 1/1/1/14, 6-0-26-0, Lele* 1/-/-/. 5-0-23-1, Mangineni 1/1/0/9, 7-1-24-3, Nanda 1/-/-/-, 1-0-6-0 (1 ct.), Newcombe 1/1/0/1, 1.1-0-5-0, Padimalla* 1/1/0/6, 5-3-3-0, Dhilan Patel 1/1/0/2, Dhruv Patel 1/-/-/-, 6-0-44-1, Petela* 1/1/0/0, Ponnamm* 1/1/0/0, Sanga 1/1/1/100, 12-4-28-4 (1 ct.), Sharma 8 1/1/1/3, 4-1-12-1 (1 ct.), Shaikh* 1/-/-/-, 13-2-47-1.

2017 in words and numbers



Biggest strop: Crown Taverners' captain Huntingford with multiple foul imprecations after being given out lbw

Best sportsman's breakfast: Vijay Basker's seven vegetarian sausages

Loosest interpretation of "absence for family reasons": Vamsee Krishna bunked his tenth wedding anniversary for the TDF final while Wayne Caveney was recovering from the Mayweather/McGregor bundle

Most expletives in one tirade: Sanjay Patel *n. Pak*

Feral canine award: JC's dog who bit the editor on the leg and took a slash on his jacket

Highest score for: 257-8 *n. Northfields* **Against:** 258-5 by Crown Taverners

Lowest score for: 53 *n. Wimbledon United* **Against:** 69 by St. Anne's Allstars

Hundred partnerships for (2): 163 3rd wicket Sanga/Ahmed/Chalamalasetti *n. Bricklayer's Arms*, 103 2nd wicket Basker/Kumar *n. White Swans*

Against (1): 111 1st wicket Poulter/Tremain (Bricklayer's Arms)

Fifties/hundreds for (7): 100* Sanga *n. Bricklayer's Arms*, 85 Basker *n. White Swans*, 79* Bocha *n. Bricklayer's Arms*, 74 Francis *n. Crown Taverners*, 57 Basker *n. Clapham In*, 52 Desai *n. Hounslow Hurricanes*, 50* Ahmed *n. Bricklayer's Arms*

Against (6): 100* Poulter (Bricklayer's Arms), 80 Collis (Millfields), 71* Poulter (Bricklayer's Arms), 69 Robbins (Clapham In), 54 Giles (Crown Taverners), 51 Herbert (Wimbledon United)

Four-wicket returns for: (2) 4-17 B Gola *n. Kingstonian*, 4-28 Sanga *n. Bricklayer's Arms*

Against (4): 6-1 Herbert (Wimbledon United), 5-20 Achal (Hounslow Hurricanes), 4-12 Egan (Northfields), 4-26 Royal (Clapham In)

Sixes (33): 8 Bocha, 4 Sanga, 3 Basker, Dubey, Kumar, Sampath 2 Caveney 1 Ahmed, Francis, Gwalla, A Khan, Krishna, Padimalla, S Snelling

Run outs (9): 3 Bocha, 1 Bandla, Chatharaju, D Gola, A Khan, Kumar, S Patel

Ducks (23): 3 Kumar, H Patel, 2 Bandla, Caveney, Krishna, 1 Basker, Bocha, Chatharaju, Dubey, D Gola, Hibbert, Pervez, Petela, Ponnamm, Sampath, Small

Crown Taverners v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 9 July, Crown Taverners. Crown Taverners won toss. Sunny, 25C

Lost by 35 runs

Crown Taverners				Gentlemen of West London			
Delaney	st Namilikonda	b Krishna	41	*H Patel	c Davies	b Grannell	0
*Huntingford	lbw	b Kumar	38	Sampath		b Grannell	29
†Giles	c Namilikonda	b S Snelling	54	Francis		b D Day	74
D Day		b Bandla	5	†Namilikonda	c and	b Davies	22
G Day		b S Snelling	44	S Patel		b Delaney	19
Weaver	not out		23	Caveney		b D Day	24
Turkington	not out		24	Bandla	c Sub.	b D Day	5
Grannell	did not bat			†Krishna	c Davies	b Huntingford	3
Cilliers	did not bat			S Snelling	not out		13
Hardy	did not bat			J Snelling	not out		5
Davies	did not bat			*Kumar	absent injured		
Extras	b10 lb5 w12 nb2		29	Extras	b10 w14 nb5		29
Total	5 wickets	40 overs	258	Total	8 wickets	40 overs	223
FoW: 86, 99, 108, 204, 205				FoW: 0, 55, 123, 158, 164, 173, 183, 205			
Bowling: J Snelling 3-0-23-0, S Snelling 8-1-48-2, Krishna 7-0-49-1, Bandla 8-1-25-1, Kumar 4-1-23-1, H Patel 5-0-40-0, S Patel 5-0-35-0				Bowling: Grannell 8-0-50-2, Cilliers 8-1-25-0, Hardy 6-0-34-0, Davies 3-0-22-1, Turkington 3-0-12-0, Delaney 3-0-12-1, D Day 5-0-28-3, Huntingford 4-0-30-1			



After being run ragged for what seemed 90 overs but what the scorebook confirmed to have been a mere 40, the Gents, missing several prolific batsmen, showed some fight but fell 35 runs short. Only 13 wickets fell and 54 boundaries were struck on a hot, humid day, Joseph Dino Francis hitting a maiden club fifty in only his second game, 74 in 29 overs, with nine fours and a six. Taverners, fielding four first XI players (the opening batsmen, Dominic Day and Cilliers), were a strong, experienced side and held the Gents at bay in the final overs by switching to from spin to pace.

The day started badly when Kumar was delayed and got worse when he had to be helped from the field with a recurrence of his knee injury. While Gents had ten men, Taverners clattered 86 in the first 13 overs before debutant Namilikonda stumped Delaney off Vamsee Krishna. Captain Huntingford was given out lbw off Kumar and hurled a massive purple wobbler that lasted all afternoon. When Bandla got reward for his subtle spell of slow left-arm by bowling Dominic Day, the Gents had hauled themselves back into the game. Then Kumar was injured and in searing heat things rapidly worsened. Giles and Weaver picked off the bowling, and extras, misfields and buzzers mounted despite Namilikonda's stout 'keeping and some neat outfielding from Bandla and Joel Snelling. It was a tired, if not down and out visiting team who took tea. The innings had not been without controversy. The Gents claimed that two thick edges into Namilikonda's gloves were given not out but did not help their cause with too many drops. Bandla and Stuart Snelling, particularly in his second spell, were the pick of the bowlers.

The batsmen then partially atoned on a belting wicket with a fast outfield. Hemin Patel got his batting order right but steered the leg-spinner Grannell to slip second ball, a soft dismissal. Sampath, wielding the BDM, crashed a huge six onto the clubhouse roof as 55 came up for the second wicket in 11 overs. The Gents had high hopes when Francis and Namilikonda added 68 in just 11 more and with 18 left 136 were needed at 7.56. Francis, Sanjay Patel and Caveney hit lustily but Delaney and Dominic Day were quick and the run rate slowed. The Gents sold their wickets dearly to make their second-best chasing score. For their part, Taverners' 258 was the fourth-highest score by any team against the club.

The heat and tension became too much for the Gents' scorer who, like Ishmael in Genesis 16:12, had the hand of every man against him. He made a speech that he immediately regretted but the post-match festivities were pleasant. Hemin Patel was put in a difficult position with Kumar's late arrival and unfortunate injury (he played only 10 overs) but kept a smile on his face. Another much-changed side did themselves justice then with the bat if not the ball and the fixture was retained for 2018.

Should Chandhu Bandla have been given out?

This is clutching at straws and perhaps is not the greatest matter facing Planet Earth but the use of substitute fielders in this game was questionable. Taverners had spares but were within the letter of the law not to offer Gents a fielder when Kumar was carried off injured. However when Grannell left the game at 5.30pm to go to work a beshorted sub was soon on the field, who a few overs later caught Bandla, who was going well, at deep square-leg.

Law 2 (Substitutes and Runners) states:

- (a) If the umpires are satisfied that a nominated player has been injured or become ill since the nomination of the players, they shall allow that player to have a substitute acting for him in the field.
- (b) The umpires shall have discretion to allow, for other wholly acceptable reasons, a substitute fielder to act for a nominated player at the start of the match, or at any subsequent time.

We are persuaded neither that leaving early to go to work is a wholly acceptable reason, nor that the umpires were consulted. Grannell works on the railways. So, why was the 07.46 Heathrow Connect to London Paddington cancelled the next morning unless he was skiving all night?

Taverners' captain Huntingford was an angry man who kicked off with his own team when he was given out lbw. Players have argued with these decisions since the Laws were first codified, but the general principle is that you accept them with a little grace. Instead, Huntingford flung his bat dangerously in the pavilion, likened the umpire and several team-mates to a lady's southerly parts, refuelled with cider (on top of a considerable pre-innings intake), went out to umpire bottle in hand and failed to give the Gents anything all day. Huntingford was playing forward at his demise but this does not obviate the lbw.

Highest Gents' scores batting second

235-9	12 Angry Men (Victoria RG, 3 September 2000) 40 overs, Gents won
223-8	Crown Taverners (Crown Taverners, 9 July 2017) 40 overs, Gents lost
209-6	Cairns Fudge (Old Tenisonians, 29 June 2014) 35 overs, Gents lost
200-6	Close PF (Old Tenisonians, 1 August 2010) 20 overs, Gents won
187	Clapham In (Chiswick House, 31 August 2014) 35 overs, Gents lost

Highest scores against the Gents

284-3	12 Angry Men (Victoria RG, 29 July 2001) 35 overs, batting first, Gents lost
263-6	West XI (Victoria RG, 24 May 1992) 40 overs, batting first, Gents lost
261-3	Northfields (Durstun House, 24 May 2015) 40 overs, batting second, Gents lost
258-5	Crown Taverners (Crown Taverners, 9 July 2017) 40 overs, batting first, Gents lost
256-5	Village XI (Old Hamptonians, 30 July 2006) 35 overs, batting first, Gents lost

Gents' 2030 captain – an early picture



Gentlemen of West London v. Bricklayer's Arms

Sunday 16 July, Old Tenisonians. Toss agreed. Sunny with showers, 25C

Won by 64 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Bricklayer's Arms			
H Patel		b Sohaib	7	Poulter	not out	71
Basker		b Mamoon	30	Mercer	c Pentakota	21
Sampath	lbw	b Nabo	41	Mamoon	b Krishna	14
*Bocha	not out		79	*Watson	c Chatharaju	0
Pentakota	run out		12	Sohaib	c Pentakota	3
†Namilikonda	lbw	b Sohaib	6	Spencer	c Pentakota	9
Caveney	c Poulter	b Watson	16	Nabo	b Chatharaju	10
N Khan		b Spencer	7	McSween	not out	2
Chatharaju	not out		1	Winpenny, Laing and †Locke	did not bat	
Krishna and Bandla	did not bat					
Extras	b8 lb2 w15		25	Extras	b9 lb2 w14 nb5	30
Total	7 wickets	35 overs	224	Total	6 wickets	35 overs
FoW: 9, 90, 106, 132, 165, 198, 223				FoW: 46, 74, 77, 84, 99, 139		
Bowling: Sohaib 7-1-22-2, Poulter 5-0-38-0, Watson 3-0-17-1, Mamoon 7-0-33-1, Laing 3-0-31-0, Nabo 7-0-54-1, Spencer 3-0-19-1				Bowling: Pentakota 5-1-23-0, Chatharaju 5-0-14-1, Krishna 4-2-9-1, Bocha 3-0-22-0, H Patel 6-0-26-2, Bandla 6-1-9-2, Caveney 2-0-19-0, N Khan 3-0-19-0, Sampath 1-0-8-0		



A match featuring two excellent, contrasting fifties saw a Gents win by 64 runs. Praveen Bocha made his highest club score, with eight fours and three sixes in a stay of just 19 overs. Brick's Poulter (85 against the Gents in August 2016) batted the full 35 for a marathon 71 not out. He scored six fours but only one in his first 42 runs as Brick stalled after a bright start. The difference between the sides was the momentum in the middle overs. Basker, Sampath, Pentakota and Caveney merrily put bat to ball while Brick were stifled by the Gents' spinners and, as we shall see, the weather.

Naveed Khan and Raja Pentakota made welcome returns and the Gents seemed focussed from ball one, despite regrettable black trousering from Basker and navy blue shirting from Namilikonda. Hemin Patel swished over a straight one in the third over but the stand of 81 between Sampath (five fours and a six) and Bocha took only 13 overs and put the Gents on top. Although Pentakota was run out after a misunderstanding, the rest of the middle order got among the runs in support of the fluent Bocha. It was the fastest outfield seen at Old Tenisonians in 2017 and the Gents took advantage. Brick stuck to their guns well but some big shots and sterling running saw a healthy total. Bocha was outstanding.

Skipper Watson had requested a timed game and will have every right to insist on one in the return fixture. His batsmen played well but were unable to force the necessary pace. Gents fans would cite here fine spells from Chatharaju, Krishna and Bandla, allied to tremendous catching from Pentakota (one diving forward at fly-slip, one one-handed at long-on and a safe pouch at deep square-leg) but there was another reason. The outfield had slowed considerably. The late afternoon was muggy and moisture was sucked up to the surface, slowing it. On at least six occasions the scorers prepared to annotate a four only to have to downgrade the official record to a two as the ball died and was retrieved.

Poulter was impenetrable but needed support. Mercer and Mamoon hit hard but it became too tough a challenge. Chatharaju, a bowler transformed, and Krishna, unplayable in these conditions on a ground he knows well, swung the ball a foot and a half. Bocha then brought the spinners on, who took a brace each and paid fewer than three runs per over. The game meandered before Poulter came out of his shell against the occasional bowlers, 20 of his last 29 coming in boundaries as various bowlers came and went. It was a sterling effort. Brick's captain said after that had it been a timed game his side would have ended on a similar score. A word here on his supportive captaincy. No less a judge than Naveed Khan noticed how he encouraged his fielders when the twos and fours were flying. You could see young Sohaib grow a foot after a clean interception and accurate, bullet throw had stopped a second and he was rewarded with a public hail of approval.

Brick's match report

A lovely ground, congenial opposition and a quite magnificent tea – but we still can't beat the Gentlemen of West London.

On a cloudy day we were as happy to bowl first as they were to bat. Muhammad Sohaib immediately found pace and swing, striking in the third over to take Hemin Patel's leg stump off a thin inside edge, but Tom Poulter was luckless with two drops at long-on. The second wicket stand went from 9 to 90 before Hassaan Mamoon bowled Basker in the 16th over. Returning Young's veteran Tony Nabo now had No.3 Sampath plumb lbw, while Hassaan ran out Pentakota on his follow-through to put us back in contention at 132 for 4.

However captain Praveen Bocha was in full flow, hitting powerfully and aerially to crank up the run rate. Sohaib returned to remove his partner Namilikonda lbw on leg stump, then Ian Watson saw Tom Poulter take a thick edge at point to dispatch Caveney. But even a stone-cold stumping couldn't see off the skipper as the umpire was looking at his mobile phone at the time – something for which the Gents apologised handsomely afterwards. Alvin Spencer did pick up his final partner Khan in the last over to leave the Gents at 224 for 7 – six and a third an over for us to chase.

After the stupendous tea Tom Poulter and Charlie Mercer accumulated steadily, but it was already noticeable than rising temperatures had brought up the moisture in the outfield, with balls which had raced way for the Gents now stopping two yards short. That and good chasing in the field kept the rate down, but a good platform had been laid by the time on 46 that Charlie edged Krishna to a deep slip Pentakota for 21. Hassaan now found the boundary equally hard to reach, then was bowled by a Bandla grubber for 14 on 74.

This was the key part of the game as the Gents' slow bowlers Bandla and Hemin Patel took charge. Ian Watson spooned to cover Hemin Patel for a five-ball duck, while Sohaib's attempt to break the shackles ended on the hands of long-on. All the while Tom Poulter had been advancing steadily to his fifty, though with only one boundary in his first 41 runs. Two more interspersed with a three took him to the half-century as Alvin Spencer was caught at cow corner by Pentakota off Bandla.

The Gents' spinners had well and truly slammed the brakes on, their 12 overs costing just 35 between them, taking the asking rate out of reach. Tony Nabo and Tom put on 40 before Tony was bowled Chatharaju for 10, and Tom finished with a flourish of three fours as he carried his bat for 71, but we were well beaten and well short at the end.

Chris Locke

Mithali's matchday read



Who's this tucking into *The Essential Rumi*, an anthology of ©13 Sufi poet Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī? Why, it's Indian women's cricket captain Mithali Raj.

On the seeker's path, wise men and fools are one.
In His love, brothers and strangers are one.
Go on! Drink the wine of the Beloved!
In that faith, Muslims and pagans are one.

Quatrain 305

We can reveal that the literary tastes of the Gents are not restricted to *Tuffers' Cricket Tales* and ghosted biogs of Premiership footballers. Raja Pentakota's mother is an eminent Indian poet and a Gent off-spinner's first novel will be published soon. See *What I Did* is a whimsical tale of a troubled loner who achieves redemption through the purchase of a pair of preloved Superdry trackies. Despite being all covered in spunk, they confer magic powers and help him gain confidence.

Gentlemen of West London v. Pak

Sunday 6 August, Ealing SG. Gents won toss in both games. Sunny, 21C

Won by 14 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Pak			
Basker	c Mozzi	b D Khan	29	†N Khan	b Dubey	15
Sampath	run out (D Khan)		9	Butt	st Ahmed	22
Francis	lbw	b K Ahmed	2	A Ahmed	b H Patel	11
Pentakota	c and	b K Ahmed	3	Bashir	b Bocha	0
*Bocha	c D Khan	b A Ahmed	2	Mozzi	c Sampath	6
†Ahmed		b H Khan	44	S Ahmed		0
S Patel	c Butt	b S Ahmed	5	A Khan	c H Patel	0
Chatharaju	not out		15	D Khan	c Bocha	4
Dubey	did not bat			*K Ahmed	not out	17
D Gola	did not bat			H Khan		0
H Patel	did not bat			Maani	not out	25
Extras	b4 w4 nb4		12	Extras	b1 lb1 w4 nb2	8
Total	7 wickets	20 overs	121	Total	9 wickets	107
FoW: 29, 44, 50, 54, 60, 70, 121			FoW: 36, 38, 39, 49, 49, 51, 59, 61, 71			
Bowling: H Khan 4-0-25-1, Maani 2-0-10-0, K Ahmed 4-0-16-2, D Khan 4-0-14-1, A Ahmed 3-0-21-1, S Ahmed 3-0-31-1			Bowling: D Gola 3-0-25-0, H Patel 4-0-23-2, Dubey 3-1-14-1, Bocha 2-1-3-1, Pentakota 4-0-15-2, S Patel 2-0-10-2, Chatharaju 2-0-15-1			

Won by 6 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Pak				
†Dubey		b H Khan	13	A Ahmed	lbw	b Pentakota	10
D Gola		b N Khan	36	S Ahmed	c Pentakota	b H Patel	28
H Patel	st Mozzi	b K Ahmed	17	Butt	c Francis	b Bocha	28
†Ahmed		b A Ahmed	11	H Khan	c Francis	b Bocha	4
S Patel	run out (Basker)		24	D Khan		b Pentakota	20
*Bocha		b H Khan	19	Basker	st Ahmed	b Pentakota	33
Pentakota	not out		4	†Maani	run out (Chatharaju)		1
Chatharaju	not out		4	*K Ahmed	not out		0
Sampath	dnb			N Khan	run out (D Gola)		0
Francis	dnb			A Khan	not out		0
Basker	dnb			Mozzi	dnb		
Extras	b3 w9 nb1		13	Extras	lb1 w3 nb7		11
Total	6 wickets	18 overs	141	Total	8 wickets	18 overs	135
FoW: 36, 71, 75, 99, 118, 137			FoW: 11, 68, 73, 75, 129, 135, 135, 135				
Bowling: D Khan 4-0-25-0, H Khan 4-0-41-2, N Khan 3-0-14-1, K Ahmed 3-0-27-1, S Khan 2-0-21-0, A Ahmed 2-0-10-1			Bowling: Chatharaju 3-0-27-0, Pentakota 4-0-17-3, Bocha 3-0-17-2, H Patel 4-0-35-1, Dubey 0.3-0-12-0, D Gola 2.3-1-15-0, S Patel 1-0-11-0				

An exciting day, honoured with appearances by injured Gents' skipper Kumar and loyal supporter Mickey Mouse, saw two narrow Gents' victories against Pak, who should have won the second game after a brave fightback. There were 504 runs scored, 30 wickets taken and 80.1 overs bowled with wides and no balls added back. Quite an inventory of events, but there was no need for play to have gone on until 8pm when the terms of booking required a finish by 7. Great fun was had though and players and spectators responded generously to the appeal for Cancer Research.

Pak are an occasional team with some handy cricketers. The Gents have had the better of the series in recent years which as they play regularly is no surprise, but T20 is supposed to be a great leveller and so it proved here. In the first game The Gents plodded to 60 for 5 off 14 overs before the excellent Ahmed, Sanjay Patel and Chatharaju, running like teenagers and biffing the ball to all corners, doubled the score in the final six. Left-hander Khalid Butt and Naveed Khan then put up 36 untroubled runs in only 5.3 overs to put Pak in a strong position, but Dubey, Bocha and Pentakota strangled the middle order, Hemin Patel and Bocha (one-handed) taking the pick of the catches in the deep. Mickey Mouse made his first appearance when Bocha was on strike. In spite of no prior agreement to the free-hit rule umpire Basker decided to implement it anyway, signalling one after a foot-fault no ball by extending one arm straight upwards and moving it in a circular motion, which was capable of another interpretation. At 71 for 9 off 15.2 overs victory for the Gents seemed inevitable, but skipper Khurshid Ahmed and the denim-shortened Maani had other ideas, adding 36 in 29 balls to take their side close. It had been a close-run thing, but it was the second game that would set the pulses racing.

It was an oddball classic that started quietly before building to a crescendo. The Gents showed good judgement compiling 141 in their 18 overs. Dhanu Gola batted 11 overs for his 36, Sanjay Patel and Bocha smashed it around and the running between the wickets showed a marked improvement on the previous innings. Pak dropped a lot of catches, but ran hard. Aamir Ahmed was bowled by his namesake.

Aamir Ahmed was lbw to Pentakota 11th. ball which set up a fine stand between S Ahmed and Butt, 57 in 8.4 overs. With Dubey's injury the tide was turning towards Pak before three spectacular catches in quick succession rolled it back. Dino Francis obliged Bocha twice in three balls at deep mid-wicket the over after long-on Pentakota had taken his fifth of the season in only four matches. Sixty-seven were now needed in seven overs.

Mickey Mouse had been rehearsing for a few minutes and now entered stage left. The mind of Vijaya Bhasakar Palavelli Reddy is a wondrous thing. He had fielded for Pak due to Bashir's early departure for a sitar recital, and a seed of an idea was planted; why not shapeshift into a batsman? This he did without a murmur to either captain, to the delight of one and the chagrin of the other, moving from long-on to behind the boundary and re-emerging padded up a minute later to smash the bowling about. It was epic.

His appearance with Dan Khan turned the match on its head. Some of the best running seen all season coupled with the occasional boundary brought Pak to 129 for 4 off 16 overs after a partnership of 54 in 5. Thirteen were needed off 2 overs. Cue much discussion and advice from the boundary. Bocha weighed it all up and decided on Pentakota and Gola. The superb Pentakota bowled the penultimate, off which six runs came but crucially three wickets fell. Khan was bowled off the first ball, Maani took a single followed by two Basker twos. Maani was run out going for a second after a perfect throw by deep extra-cover Chatharaju. Basker was then stumped off the final ball. There was some comment about his swapping sides but his presence in the late order certainly livened up the game.

Naveed Khan and his skipper were the right navigators to steer the ship to harbour but Khan was run out by Gola off his own bowling first ball. Young A Khan had put in a good shift fielding for the Gents after Dubey's departure but could not connect with the ball in order to give his captain the strike. One felt for him. Gola had his maiden and the Gents the game.

Could do better



The run up to the game and its aftermath showed both good and bad. The kit had languished under house arrest at Old Tenisonians since 16 July, pending the next two (cancelled) home games. Members correctly identified the problem and then splendidly tried to solve it by bombarding each other with dozens of emails saying "Somebody needs to pick it up". Of course nobody did. Thanks are due to those, including the oppo, who lent their own kit.

There was shock the following Tuesday when fines were levied by the ground authority of £20 for an hour's overrun and £18.90 for fielding the strewn litter. Eagle-eyed observers will easily be able to identify from the groundsman's photo water bottles, foil containers and tissues. Pity the wildlife chomping on those decaying vada pavs. Bring the 4x4s, caravans and lucky heather next time so we can look the part.

Did well

There is no need to repeat here why Cancer Research is the Gents' charity of choice. Nor are we going to divulge who paid what. Suffice it to say that every player and spectator contributed as, generously, did Pak. The first foul-mouthed tirade (a money-spinning category on the day) was logged just 12 overs in when a Gent, unhappy about the slow progress being made by the batsmen, loudly detonated the C-bomb. He happily paid his fiver. Another player's spirited and sustained abuse of an opponent - Naveed Khan - cost him a tenner. One absentee paid £10, comfortable in the knowledge that he would have questioned a few umpire's decisions. Individual donations totalled £350, to which was added a club contribution of £82 based on total runs scored and extras. A sum of £432 was therefore remitted.

Gentlemen of West London v. Northfields

Sunday 13 August, Old Tenisonians. Northfields won toss. Sunny, 22C

Lost by 51 runs

Northfields		Gentlemen of West London					
Iverson	lbw	b Pentakota	4	Basker	c Singh	b Egan	4
Derrick Redhead	c and	b Bocha	16	Sampath		b Kent	2
Collins		b Chatharaju	4	Francis		b Derr. Redhead	23
Kashy		b Khan	1	†Chakravarty	lbw	b Egan	5
*David Redhead	lbw	b Khan	0	Dhilan Patel		b Egan	2
†Singh		b Namilikonda	49	Khan		b Egan	14
Kent	c Bocha	b Pentakota	30	Pentakota	lbw	b Derr. Redhead	8
Farwell		b D Patel	17	Hibbert	c Derr. Redhead	b B Patel	0
B Patel		b Pentakota	0	Namilikonda	lbw	b Farwell	4
Egan	not out		16	*Bocha	run out (B Patel)		33
Dhuna	not out		2	Chatharaju	not out		2
				Dhruv Patel	did not bat		
Extras	b8 lb1 w2 nb6 p5		22	Extras	b1 lb1 b8 nb3		13
Total	9 wickets	40 overs	161	Total	All out	29.3 overs	110
FoW: 22, 28, 33, 33, 38, 114, 123, 124, 142				FoW: 4, 6, 15, 17, 50, 64, 65, 67, 85, 110			
Bowling: Pentakota 8-2-14-3, Bocha 7-0-23-1, Chatharaju 7-2-21-1, Khan 8-0-34-2, Dhruv Patel 6-0-44-1, Namilikonda 4-0-16-1				Bowling: Egan 8-2-12-4, Kent 4-0-21-1, Dhuna 6-0-30-0, B Patel 5-0-18-1, Derrick Redhead 3.3-1-3-2, Farwell 3-0-24-1			

Northfields won comfortably, and deservedly. Both sides recovered after losing early wickets but the Gents could produce nothing to rival the match-winning stand of 76 between Singh and Kent, melting down to 67 for 8 before a late recovery. Northfields sold their wickets more dearly than their hosts, although both sides were up to the mark in the bowling and fielding.

The Patels were well represented. Dhruv and son Dhilan played for the Gents, Ketan Patel's son Bhuv for Northfields. Bhuv is enjoying fizzing his off-breaks for Park Hill in the Surrey Cricket League and his progress was evident.

Early successes were the Gents'. Pentakota gained the first of five lbws upheld on a low, slow pitch. Bocha smartly caught and bowled Derrick Redhead, who had laced back a c&b in the second over but was relieved by the umpire's decision of a bump ball. Khan (twice, including the 2016 centurion David Redhead for a duck) and Chatharaju struck and the visitors were 38 for 5. Singh and Kent batted sensibly for 16 overs before Kent drove Pentakota to a diving Bocha at mid-off. Bhuv Patel was gone two balls later and successes for Dhruv Patel and, in his first bowl for the club, Namilikonda, reduced Northfields to 142 for 9. Egan and Dhuna saw up 161 a little too easily. The total was heinously inflated by 5 penalty runs when the ball hit the 'keeper's helmet. Pentakota was pick of the bowlers.

It was a par score but such was the Gents' shot selection that it proved out of reach by a distance. Basker edged his second ball behind, the first of Egan's quartet, and Sampath drove over a straight one from the left-armed Kent. Egan had Chakravarty and Dhilan Patel in his fourth over. Some batting broke out when Francis, in a 20- over dig, and Khan showed the necessary application but their dismissals brought a clutch of wickets including a Hibbert hole-out to deep mid-wicket second ball. The position looked hopeless after Pentakota's resistance was ended but Bocha, batting late due to an injury incurred while fielding, struck five fours to take the Gents over the ton. Bhuv Patel ended the match by following in his father's footsteps with a sensational direct hit run out from third man as Bocha was venturing a second.

The captain had a good day. He bowled accurately, fielded tirelessly then gave his club a scintilla of hope of an unlikely win. But he couldn't do it all on his own. The disappointment was not that the team lost, but that several batsmen ignored sound advice about how to tackle what was not an insuperable task.

The Gents' persistent inability to chase even moderate totals was therefore exposed again. Not since 2010 have Gents successfully chased a bigger total (196 for 5 by Close PF in a frankly bizarre T20). Since then, opponents have totalled 155 or more 22 times. Of these games, the Gents have drawn three (two by abandonment) and lost 19.

Gentlemen of West London v. Clapham In

Sunday 20 August, Old Tenisonians. Clapham In won toss. Sunny then rainy, 22C

Won by 4 wickets

Clapham In			Gentlemen of West London				
Gregory		b Pentakota	0	Sampath	c Frecknall	b Goodman	22
Robbins	c Hibbert	b Khan	69	Basker	c Robbins	b Jameson	57
Ferreira	lbw	b Krishna	6	Pentakota	lbw	b Royal	11
*Curtis	c Pentakota	b Bocha	9	*Bocha		b Royal	26
†Shinner	c Ahmed	b Bocha	0	†Ahmed		b Royal	1
Jameson	run out (Bocha)		3	Caveney		b Royal	0
Stern	lbw	b Bandla	11	Bandla	not out		12
Frecknall		b Hibbert	36	Hibbert	not out		15
Wildman	lbw	b Krishna	5	N Khan	did not bat		
Goodman		b Krishna	0	Namilikonda	did not bat		
Royal	not out		8	Krishna	did not bat		
Extras	b5 lb1 w15 nb5		26	Extras	b7 w16 nb8		31
Total	All out	34.2 overs	173	Total	6 wickets	31.1 overs	175

FoW: 0, 22, 47, 47, 61, 109, 145, 155, 155, 173

Bowling: Pentakota 7-1-26-1, Krishna 7-1-13-3, Namilikona 2-0-15-0, Bocha 4-0-33-2, Khan 6-0-36-1, Bandla 6-0-32-1, Hibbert 2.2-0-12-1

FoW: 58, 100, 112, 114, 116, 139

Bowling: Goodman 7-0-31-1, Gregory 4-1-34-0, Robbins 5.1-2-18-0, Jameson 7-0-51-1, Royal 6-0-26-4, Ferreira 2-0-8-0

What a dramatic game this was, the Gents impressively hunting down 173 to win with 4 wickets and 23 balls to spare, the first successful chase in eight games. The top four took responsibility, something that captain and vice-captain have been screaming about for weeks. Clapham In fought like devils but had the worse of the conditions, having to bowl the final overs in persistent rain dumped by Hurricane Gert. There was nothing between the sides and refreshingly no controversy. There were passages of brilliant cricket, two fine innings, two dismissals of international calibre and moments of complete lunacy.

Pentakota's outswinger demolished Gregory's stumps first ball of the match. Robbins (dropped in the third over at mid-wicket and slip soon after) and Ferreira slowly rebuilt until Krishna, bowling as well as he ever has, pinned Ferreira. Bocha struck with his seventh and tenth balls to have Curtis and Shinner, caught mid-on and at the wicket. Bocha then ran out Jameson with a brilliant direct hit throw from cover. Seven days before Northfields' sixth-wicket stand won them the match. As Stern and Frecknall gave the increasingly assertive Robbins staunch support here it looked as if history might be repeated. Bandla then had Stern and Khan deceived Robbins to end his fine, if not chanceless innings (four fours and two sixes). It was clever thinking. Khan tossed up a high leg-break which surprised Robbins, who guided it gently to slip. Krishna struck with successive balls but Frecknall was afire, hitting six fours and taking advantage of several buzzers before Hibbert's loopy off-spin got him. Clapham In's very fair umpires upheld three lbw appeals. They were favourites at tea.

All season the Gents have struggled with their opening partnerships. Too many have been tried up top but few have succeeded, Jonny Small being greatly missed. How refreshing it is, therefore, to record a brisk stand of 58 in only eight overs. Sampath and Basker are big chaps and attacked with ferocity, Sampath hitting Gregory over the fence and onto a shed roof in Tennyson Gardens. He fell off strike and soon perished to a neat catch at mid-off in the ninth over.

Basker, while never spurning the drive and cut (he hit four fours and two maxima), glued the innings together for 23 overs. He and Pentakota brought up the hundred in the 20th. over. The pacy Australian James Royal wanted to bowl with an old ball and one could see why. In six high-class overs he started to demolish the middle order by pinning Pentakota. Basker was caught magnificently off Jameson by a diving, twisting Robbins at long-off a yard inside the boundary, the catch of the season. Royal then blew away Ahmed and Caveney. Gents had stumbled from 100 for 1 to 116 for 5 with 11 overs to go. Bocha then attacked imperiously for seven overs. Royal got him to end with 4 for 26. The teams had fought each other to a standstill but there was still time for a sight to gladden the hearts of Gents supporters. Chandhu Bandla and Horace Hibbert seized the moment, punching 36 runs off 31 balls, the game sealed with five wides from Robbins, the ball crashing into the fence in front of the groundsman's cottage. Twenty-two men had put their heart and soul into a fine game and it was a pity that one side had to lose.

Bricklayer's Arms v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 20 August, Raynes Park SG. Toss agreed. Sunny, 27C

Match drawn

Gentlemen of West London			Bricklayer's Arms				
Sanga	ret. not out		100	Poulter	ret. not out	100	
V Basker	c Locke	b Thapa	0	Tremain	c and	b Sanga	31
Sampath	c Poulter	b Ottley	10	Foister		b Sanga	12
†Ahmed	ret. not out		50	Thapa	c Namilikonda	b Shaikh	3
Chalamalasetti	c Tremain	b Poulter	26	Khedi	c Ahmed	b Sanga	1
U Basker		b Laing	6	Watson	not out		13
N Khan	c Ottley	b Poulter	3	Ottley	st Namilikonda	b Sanga	0
†Namilikonda	not out		3	Basnet	not out		7
Shaikh, *Krishna, Bandla and H Patel did not bat				Winpenny, Laing and †Locke did not bat			
Extras	b2		2	Extras	b4 lb2 w4 nb4		14
Total	5 wickets dec.	25.2 overs	200	Total	5 wickets	44 overs	181
FoW: 0, 27, 190, 194, 200				FoW: 111, 148, 157, 157, 157			
Bowling: Thapa 5-1-28-1, Ottley 4-0-30-1, Basnet 2-0-16-0, Tremain 4-0-45-0, Poulter 6.2-0-46-2, Watson 3-0-25-0, Laing 1-0-8-1				Bowling: Shaikh 13-2-47-1, Krishna 5-0-29-0, Bandla 9-2-37-0, H Patel 2-0-10-0, U Basker 1-0-8-0, Sanga 12-4-28-4, Khan 2-0-16-0			

An epic game ended in a draw after Bricklayer's Arms batted 44 overs in searing heat falling 19 runs shy of the Gents' 200. Earlier, captain Vamsee Krishna had declared after just 25.2 overs. There was much for the statistician to get his teeth into including two hundreds and two century stands but this game will forever be remembered for Poulter's retirement after reaching his hundred when there was no instruction from his captain to do so. It was a splendid act of sportsmanship.

This Gents side was denuded of many regulars and hence much altered for the bank holiday weekend. There were debuts for Chandhu Bandla's friend Uday Basker and Aamir Ahmed's friend from Wycombe House and captain of their IIs, Vasi Shaikh. Upendar Sanga and Nagaraju Chalamalasetti, whom Krishna knows well from his T20 forays, had only played once before. The captain also had to consider a possible declaration and events proved his judgement correct.

Gents batted by agreement and lost Basker neatly caught behind fifth ball. Sampath picked out cover in the sixth over whereupon the runs flowed from Sanga (13 fours and two sixes), Ahmed (eight fours) and Chalamalasetti (three fours and a six). Ahmed and Sanga retired after reaching their personal milestones, Poulter later citing this as a precedent. Brick went 18.2 overs without taking a wicket during which 163 runs came up in a torrent on a hard, true pitch and fast outfield. The first innings was to comprise a maximum of two hours ten minutes' batting, the second an hour plus 20 overs, plus any time saved by an early declaration. Krishna declared with 24 minutes unused which were therefore added to Brick's innings. As it transpired, Brick bowled their overs at 14 an hour, the Gents 18. The Gents could therefore have faced a maximum of 31 overs which would have then given Brick 38 and arguably no option but to play for the draw chasing, say, 250.

Poulter and Tremain played shots all round the ground in their excellent stand. Krishna had spinners aplenty – they would bowl 23 overs – but lacked seamers. There was little turn so just as the Gents' destructive trio had done, Brick's openers punched their ones and twos and picked off the loose ball without mercy. Shaikh was the pick of the seamers, bowling 13 overs in three spells, Bandla was accurate but it was Sanga with his slow left-arm who broke through when Tremain popped one up in his fourth over, the 24th of the innings.

Brick then needed 90 to win in 20 overs. Foister joined in the fun and Poulter proceeded to an excellent century with 13 fours in the 35th over, the score 153 for 2, 48 needed in 10. After his retirement the run rate slowed as Shaikh and Sanga delivered great final spells, supported by improved outcricket. Three wickets fell on 157 and the middle order had too much to do. Honours were even at the end, the unanswerable question being "Would Brick have won had Poulter stayed in?" We will never know although Brick were quite open about their chance of victory being predicated on his presence at the crease. Sanga's career bowling analysis for GWLCC now reads 16-5-39-10 although it will be recalled that two of his six against Pak in 2016, Harris and Kevin, were spectators keen to have a bat.



Guest Upender Sanga became the club's 13th centurion and only the second to take four wickets in the same game. Mark Ashton (137 not out and 4 for 34 against Enterprise in 1993) was the first.

Tom Poulter became the 19th opposing centurion and now greedily averages 256 against the Gents after previous scores of 85 and 71 not out.

Only twice before have a Gent and an opponent scored a hundred in the same game (Cloete and MacDonald, Gents *v.* St. Anne's Allstars in 2014 and S Desai and Ahmed, Gents *v.* Close PF in 2015).

The 163 stand between Sanga, Ahmed and Chalamalasetti was the Gents' third-highest ever although it was not a wicket record. That remains 166 between Husain and Kain *v.* London Saints in 2007.

The draw was only the Gents' ninth (excluding abandonments) in their 550 game history.

Gents' hundreds

158*	S Jones <i>v.</i> West XI (Gunnersbury Park, 21 July 2002)
143*	Husain <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels (Fairfield RG, 7 July 2007)
137*	Ashton <i>v.</i> Enterprise (Victoria RG, 10 May 1992)
131*	Small <i>v.</i> St. Anne's Allstars (Boston Manor PF, 7 June 2015)
128	Lall <i>v.</i> London Saints (Old Haberdashers, 14 August 2011)
126	G Wright <i>v.</i> Clapham In (Crown Taverners, 2 September 2012)
114*	S Desai <i>v.</i> Close PF (Old Tenisonians, 28 June 2015)
111	Cloete <i>v.</i> London Saints (Old Tenisonians, 18 May 2014)
109	Husain <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels (CSSC Chiswick, 7 June 2008)
106	Small <i>v.</i> Judd Street Tigers (Paulin Ground, 27 July 2014)
104*	Husain <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels (King's College, 11 June 2005)
103	Wright <i>v.</i> 12 Angry Men (Victoria RG, 3 September 2000)
103	Husain <i>v.</i> London Saints (Old Haberdashers, 4 June 2006)
102	Ashton <i>v.</i> London Saints (Victoria RG, 15 August 1993)
102	Wright <i>v.</i> Wandham (Fire Brigade Epsom, 14 May 2000)
102*	Buck <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels (Victoria RG, 15 July 2001) ^{Retired hurt}
102	Lall <i>v.</i> West XI (Crown Taverners, 4 September 2011)
100*	Wright <i>v.</i> London Canaries (Victoria RG, 25 June 2000)
100*	S Patel <i>v.</i> London Rams (Belair Park 3 July 2005)
100*	Husain <i>v.</i> London Saints (Old Tenisonians, 3 June 2007)
100*	Butler <i>v.</i> Cheltenham Allsorts (Victoria Ground, 10 June 2012)
100	Cloete <i>v.</i> St. Anne's Allstars (Barnes Common, 2 August 2014)
100*	Sanga <i>v.</i> Bricklayer's Arms (Raynes Park SG, 27 August 2017) ^{Retired not out}

Opponents' hundreds

165*	Elmes (Northfields) (Durstun House, 24 May 2015)
164*	Ahmed (Close PF) (Old Tenisonians, 28 June 2015)
150*	Walker (Rotherham SC) (Battersea Park, 7 May 1995)
146	Khan (Bengal Troopers) (LMPF Greenford, 1 May 2016)
140*	Bulmer (London Owls) (Victoria RG, 5 September 1993)
132	Heyman (Village XI) (Old Hamptonians, 30 July 2006)
113	Griffiths (Hale) (Hale Common, 27 September 2009)
112*	D Redhead (Northfields) (Durstun House, 22 May 2016)
112*	AN Other (East Harrow Cheetahs) (Marble Hill Park, 19 June 1988)
111	Groves-Loader (New Barbarian Weasels) (Victoria RG, 26 July 1998)
107	N Wilson (Wandham) (Beverley Park, 5 June 1994)
107	Jaques (East Harrow Cheetahs) (Beverley Park, 4 August 1996)
105	MacDonald (St. Anne's Allstars) (Barnes Common, 2 August 2014)
103*	Best (New Barbarian Weasels) (Peel Centre, 1 September 1991)
102	Hadfield (12 Angry Men) (Victoria RG, 29 May 1994)
101	Mayhew (London Saints) (Beverley Park, 17 August 1996)
101*	Atkins (Exiles) (Victoria RG, 5 August 2001)
100	D Wilson (12 Angry Men) (Victoria RG, 29 July 2001)
100*	Poulter (Bricklayer's Arms) (Raynes Park SG, 27 August 2017) ^{Retired not out}