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# THE GENT

No.159

October 2017

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## 30 years, 361 players, 553 games



**Season's report**

**Final averages**

**Stats and pivots 2008-2017 (WARNING – contains graph)**

**Best and worst games**

**Sanjay Patel smashes top 10 in decade's batting and bowling averages**

**Oppo team of the year and oppo history**

**Book sale**

**Salix's revenge mission**

**Match reports:**

Stanmore Warriors (lost by 161 runs)

Salix (won by 71 runs)

Hale (won by 9 runs)

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## Remember those who have gone before us

In contemplating our thirtieth season, our thoughts turn naturally to those colleagues and opponents no longer with us. This year has been a difficult and in some cases tragic one for the Gents family, though there has been great joy with Praveen Bocha's first born Viyaan. We record the names of those who have passed with thanks for their friendship and love. It's a strong XII up there.

*Bob Ashton (Gents)*  
*Charlie Clift (Urban Associates)*  
*Simon Lloyd (New Barbarian Weasels)*  
*Craig Maddocks (London Owls)*  
*Stefan Meininger (Gents)*  
*Phil Parsons (Sunderland SC)*  
*Ian Renvoize (Gents)*  
*Collis Seale (West XI)*  
*Graham Thelmer (Gents)*  
*Colin Thomas (London Owls)*  
*Miles Whitehead (12 Angry Men)*  
*Alex Young (Gents)*

## Oppo team of the year



It is some years since we did this but the quality of performance in 2017 has to be acknowledged. Two centurions lead a side captained by the astute Padmore. Stanmore Warriors inflicted some drubbings, chiefly to the Gents and Plastic XI, who were 50 all out in a T20 and lost by 10 wickets. Khan will open with Poulter (917 runs for the season). A powerful middle order comprises Wright, whom we didn't meet this year but whose 565 runs following 728 in 2016 compels his inclusion, Collis, Robbins, who narrowly ousts Royal to represent Clapham In, and Padmore. Herbert (left after his 6 for 1 with board scandalously not updated by the shattered Gents), Wasim and Vikas provide the pace with Wright and Egan in reserve. Cilliers, if available, will keep.

*Poulter (Bricklayer's Arms)*  
*S-A Khan (Stanmore Warriors)*  
*Collis (Millfields)*  
*Wright (Judd Street Tigers)*  
*Robbins (Clapham In)*  
*\*Padmore (Salix)*  
*†Cilliers (Crown Taverners and Hale)*  
*Egan (Northfields)*  
*Herbert (Wimbledon United)*  
*Wasim (Kingstonian)*  
*Vikas (Hounslow Hurricanes)*

## 2017 Played 19 Won 11 Drawn 1 Lost 7

<b>Ins:</b>	Ahmed, Bandla, Francis, A Khan, Namilikonda, Pervez, Sampath
<b>Outs:</b>	Denton, Gilkes, Jampala, Kota, Oruganti, Sciberras, Sudireddy
<b>Runs</b>	Bocha 349, Basker 300, S Patel 235, H Patel 219, Sampath 204, Ahmed 146, Francis 135, Kumar 125, Dubey 112, Sanga 100
<b>Wickets</b>	H Patel 20, Bocha 13, Pentakota 11, S Patel 10
<b>Ct./St.</b>	Bocha 9, Pentakota 6, Namilikonda 5/1

Despite the absence of many 2016 regulars and off-field problems lingering from a chaotic AGM, the Gents had a winning thirtieth season. They had more success batting first, failing to defend only twice in 12 but successfully chasing only twice in seven. It was a challenging year but new and old melded well. Kota had returned to India wreathed with garlands, Small was unavailable after May and Desai from April to September. Basker played only twice before July. Hibbert played only three, Newcombe was clobbered in May and Kumar in July, while Denton, Jampala, Oruganti and Sudireddy did not play at all. However, new faces Ahmed, Bandla, Francis, Namilikonda and Sampath (and, briefly, Ahmed Khan and Pervez) - all experienced players - were brought in. Pentakota made a most welcome return after two seasons. Full sides were therefore fielded each week, albeit with considerable guest support. Forty-five men played (the same as in 2016), 20 just once. The whistling up of spare players before and even during matches became a niche art form, at which Basker and Krishna excelled. It also tested the captains, who had to try to involve everyone. It was a damp summer and home matches with Battersea Eagles and Judd Street Tigers were rained off. The credits for the unused pitches will be carried forward to 2018. Hale and Gubbays bailed for the second year running. Hale was unfortunate as the club incurred pitch costs but no income.

Inconsistency dogged the season but it made for entertainment all the way. After an exciting April win by 2 runs against Hounslow Hurricanes (Desai's composed 52 the only fifty until July) the Gents suffered a narrow defeat to Millfields and a crushing one to Wimbledon United, Cripps's 6 for 1 being the best analysis by an opponent. Northfields were beaten, Dubey with 46, but the attacks of Kingstonian and Hounslow Hurricanes proved too strong. St. Anne's Allstars and the jovial White Swans (Basker 85) were beaten but Crown Taverners made hay on their own ground before a brave reply led by Francis with 74.

Bocha's 79 not out beat Bricklayer's Arms before two games were rained off. The sun shone for the Pak T20 Cancer Research fundraiser, two close wins and generous donations from players, supporters and kind opponents. Northfields avenged May's loss at Old Tenisonians but Basker (57) led an exciting run chase against Clapham In, the final home game. The tense drawn return with Bricklayer's Arms saw Krishna enterprisingly declare after just 25 overs (Sanga 100 and Ahmed 50, both retired). Brick's Poulter also retired on 100. Only four members played and guests Shaikh and Sanga shared 25 overs. Stanmore Warriors' Sayf-Ali Khan then smashed 144 to thrash the Gents. The shorter days saw wins against Salix and Hale with vibrant innings of 51 not out from Sanjay Patel and 52 from Basker.

Bocha's best season yielded 349 runs, 13 wickets, 9 catches and 3 run outs but elsewhere statistics were less memorable. Basker's three fifties saw him to 300 runs, with three others scoring 200, including Sanjay Patel's best aggregate in four years, and five 100. Only seven players passed 50, five fewer than in 2016. Leading bowler Hemin Patel's 20 wickets and 219 runs propelled him to his first double. Three other bowlers took ten wickets. Bandla, a welcome addition with rarely seen slow left-arm spin, and seamers Chatharaju, Dubey (twice the overs of 2016 with some grudging new ball spells), Krishna, Kumar, Pentakota and Sanjay Patel were rarely collared and paid around four runs an over, Kumar at 3.31 being the meanest. Chatharaju and Krishna prospered from increased responsibility. Ahmed and Namilikonda kept wicket very well but catches still fell by 22 in two fewer games.

There were two bad injuries, a torn anterior cruciate ligament ending Kumar's season and a back injury Newcombe's after he had bowled just seven balls. Vice-captain Bocha, Basker, Krishna and Hemin Patel followed in Kumar's footsteps with strong leadership. Appealing became more sensible after a word from Bocha. Hemin Patel's generosity in funding the kit refresh should be publicly applauded, as should the help offered by those who arranged guest players and provided teas, sometimes at their personal expense.

## The decade 2008-2017

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Played	22	23	25	22	18	20	16	21	21	19
Won	13	21	14	9	13	16	11	12	14	10
Drawn	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Tied	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lost	6	2	10	10	5	3	4	8	6	7
Abandoned	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	1	-	-
<b>Gents</b>										
Runs	2,868	3,813	3,552	3,419	2,875	3,240	3,032	3,462	3,398	3,136
Wickets	170	164	196	266	133	135	137	151	166	154
Avg. Score	130-8	159-7	142-8	155-8	160-7	162-7	190-9	165-7	161-8	165-8
Ct.	54	83	62	66	42	50	52	55	79	57
Ct./game	2.4	3.6	2.5	3.0	2.3	2.5	3.2	2.6	3.8	3.0
<b>Oppo</b>										
Runs	2,270	3,043	3,558	3,248	2,284	2,485	2,042	2,758	3,128	2,928
Wickets	188	216	191	170	155	167	140	145	177	143
Avg. Score	103-9	127-9	142-8	148-8	127-9	124-8	128-9	131-7	149-8	154-8

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Players	32	31	35	48	42	51	40	39	44	45
1 game	8	10	6	18	13	10	16	13	18	20
2-5	10	4	12	15	13	27	12	9	11	10
6-10	4	2	5	7	10	7	7	8	6	5
11-15	2	10	6	5	6	7	5	9	6	9
16-20	5	4	5	2	-	-	-	-	3	1
>20	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Max.	22	23	25	22	18	20	16	21	21	19

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
50s	7	19	9	9	8	18	12	12	18	8
100s	1	-	-	2	2	-	3	2	-	1
4-w	13	11	4	6	3	6	8	2	4	2
100 runs	3	6	1	8	8	6	5	5	7	5
200 runs	3	2	5	2	3	3	2	5	1	3
300 runs	-	2	1	2	-	-	2	-	2	2
400 runs	1	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-
500 runs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 wickets	4	2	3	2	3	5	4	3	4	3
20 wickets	1	3	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	1
30 wickets	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
40 wickets	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 ct.	4	4	3	3	2	2	3	3	4	3
10 ct.	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

Batting Average (15 innings min.)		Bowling Average (50 overs min.)		Bowling Economy (50 overs min.)	
Cloete	43.82	Iqbal	11.68	Katragadda	3.09
Kota	39.00	Inkollu	11.81	Inkollu	3.20
Lall	36.96	Lall	12.67	Iqbal	3.35
Small	31.09	Kota	13.03	Rudru	3.54
Basker	29.53	Rudru	13.69	Snelling	3.58
Iqbal	27.83	Snelling	15.08	Pingili	3.78
Rudru	27.21	H Patel	15.50	Krishna	3.84
Inkollu	27.20	Jampala	15.52	Bandla	3.87
S Patel	26.47	S Desai	15.80	Kumar	4.07
Bocha	26.27	S Patel	15.84	S Patel	4.08

## The pivots 2008-2017



**Top 10 appearances**

**Top 10 runs**

**Top 10 wickets**

**Top 10 catches**

Appearances	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
H Patel	21	23	25	21	5	10	5	10	17	17	154
S Patel	18	15	20	17	13	11	10	14	12	11	141
Kumar		1	17	11	11	8	8	11	16	9	92
S Desai		19	18	10	14	9		11	4	3	88
Toft	21	20	18	12	7	4	1				83
Caveney		3	15	18	4	10	4	5	7	12	78
Dubey		1	11	7	12	7	11	8	7	12	76
Hibbert	2	3	12	3	12	14	10	10	7	3	76
Denton	19	3	3	11	3	10	6	14	2		71
Newcombe		6	11	9	12	12	4	6	9	1	70

Runs	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
S Patel	169	432	326	356	274	250	187	207	185	235	2,621
Kumar		51	234	160	53	89	114	251	334	125	1,411
Bocha					208	265	141	103	300	349	1,366
Small						264	289	478	252	54	1,337
Dubey		12	224	184	269	87	124	126	149	112	1,287
S Desai		255	210	128	169	147		202	56	69	1,236
Basker						140	302	265	115	300	1,122
N Khan	281	332	119	95	74			26	106	33	1,066
H Patel	65	101	168	166	23	37	15	86	159	219	1,039
Cloete				221	172	187	327	57			964

Wickets	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
H Patel	33	39	41	32	7	14	8	9	25	20	228
S Patel	19	27	21	16	15	16	16	14	10	10	164
Sciberras	18	11	10	22	8	7			2		78
Kumar		1	13	7	11	5	8	5	14	8	72
Snelling	29	16	9	3	4	5			4	2	72
Hibbert	6	6	10	3	6	13	9	4	2	1	60
Bocha					6	11	11		15	13	56
Inkollu	19	31			4						54
Dubey			9	2	8	4	6	7	1	9	46
S Desai		1	1		21	7		9	4	2	45

Catches	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
S Patel	4	5	7	3	6	4	1	4	4	1	39
H Patel	6	8	6	5	1	1	1	3	2	3	36
S Desai		4	13	3	4	2		2	4	3	35
H Desai	4	13	4	9	3						33
Newcombe		6	5	2	6	4			4		27
Bocha					2	5	6		4	9	26
Small						2	2	6	11	3	24
Hibbert	1	2	4	2	2	5	1	4		1	22
N Khan	6	4	2	4	1				5		22
Sciberras	6	4	2	4	3	3					22

## The oppo 2008-2017

Opponent	First game	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	Drawn	Aban.
West XI	22 May 1988	10	8	2	-	-	-
Enterprise	13 May 1989	3	3	0	-	-	-
NB Weasels	7 July 1991	1	1	0	-	-	-
London Saints	16 August 1992	15	14	1	-	-	-
12 Angry Men	29 May 1994	1	1	0	-	-	-
London Rams	6 May 2001	4	4	0	-	-	-
St. Anne's Allstars	28 April 2002	11	10	1	-	-	-
Jay Bharat	10 August 2003	1	0	1	-	-	-
Salix	19 Sept 2004	12	7	4	1	-	-
Pak	15 May 2005	10	8	1	-	-	1
Hale	7 May 2006	20	16	4	-	-	-
Wombles	27 August 2006	4	4	0	-	-	-
Old Tenisonians	8 July 2007	1	0	1	-	-	-
Gubbays	2 Sept 2007	5	2	3	-	-	-
Kingston LH	4 May 2008	2	1	0	-	1	-
Sloane Club	11 May 2008	2	2	0	-	-	-
Cairns Fudge	15 June 2008	5	3	2	-	-	-
Purley Arms	29 June 2008	1	0	1	-	-	-
Battersea Ironsides	27 July 2008	1	0	1	-	-	-
West One	3 August 2008	2	1	1	-	-	-
Close PF	24 August 2008	5	3	2	-	-	-
West London Invit.	24 August 2008	1	0	0	1	-	-
Kingston	24 May 2009	2	1	1	-	-	-
Old Grumblers	6 June 2009	2	1	1	-	-	-
Crown Taverners	26 July 2009	5	3	2	-	-	-
Northfields	9 August 2009	8	3	5	-	-	-
British Library	23 August 2009	1	1	0	-	-	-
Ruislip Victoria	9 May 2010	2	1	1	-	-	-
Swinging Goggles	30 May 2010	3	3	0	-	-	-
Brentham	30 August 2010	1	0	0	-	1	-
Village	5 Sept 2010	2	0	1	-	-	1
Marsa	19 March 2011	2	0	1	-	-	1
Baker Street Irreg.	8 May 2011	6	5	0	-	-	1
Ramgarhia	26 June 2011	4	2	2	-	-	-
Clapham In	3 July 2011	7	5	2	-	-	-
Ham & Petersham	7 August 2011	1	1	0	-	-	-
Raynes Park FP	21 August 2011	1	0	1	-	-	-
Southwark & LI	28 August 2011	1	0	1	-	-	-
Birdlip & B'field	9 June 2012	1	1	0	-	-	-
Cheltenham Alls's	10 June 2012	1	1	0	-	-	-
Magdalen	1 July 2012	1	0	1	-	-	-
MSV Zeemacht	18 May 2013	2	0	2	-	-	-
CC Zwolle	19 May 2013	1	0	1	-	-	-
Judd Street Tigers	14 July 2013	3	2	0	1	-	-
Legends	18 August 2013	2	2	0	-	-	-
Hyde Farmers	22 June 2014	1	1	0	-	-	-
Bricklayer's Arms	20 July 2014	6	3	0	-	2	1
United Titans	17 August 2014	2	0	2	-	-	-
Wimbledon United	10 May 2015	3	1	2	-	-	-
Blue Marlins	2 August 2015	2	0	2	-	-	-
Battersea Eagles	30 August 2015	3	3	0	-	-	-
Bengal Troopers	1 May 2016	2	0	2	-	-	-
White Swans	29 May 2016	2	2	0	-	-	-
Alexandra Park	18 June 2016	1	1	0	-	-	-
Yarl	26 June 2016	1	1	0	-	-	-
Hounslow Hurr.	10 July 2016	3	1	2	-	-	-
Monty RH	24 July 2016	1	1	0	-	-	-
Ashford	31 July 2016	1	0	1	-	-	-
Millfields	4 Sept 2016	2	1	1	-	-	-
Kingstonian	4 June 2017	1	0	1	-	-	-
Stanmore Warriors	3 Sept 2017	1	0	1	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>207</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>

Of the 87 teams played in 30 years, 47 were first played in the last decade.

## 2017 scorecards and results

30/4	Ealing Central SG	<b>Gents 154</b> (S Desai 52, Basker 31)	<b>Won</b> by 2 runs
7/5	Hilly Fields	<b>Hounslow Hurricanes 152</b> (Nahush 43*, Pai 23, S Patel 3-34) <b>Millfields 190-5</b> (Collis 80, Taylor 24*, Hooper 22, Marshall 21, Small 3-33)	<b>Lost</b> by 5 wickets
14/5	Cottenham Park	<b>Wimbledon United 176-8</b> (Herbert 51, D Hitchman 27, Phillip 23, Dean 21) <b>Gents 53</b> (Cripps 6-1, Dean 3-21)	<b>Lost</b> by 123 runs
21/5	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gubbays 106</b> (Mihir 33) <b>Gents 111-5</b> (Bocha 36*, Ahmed 20, Raj 3-19)	<b>Won</b> by 5 wickets
28/5	Durston House	<b>Gents 257-8</b> (Dubey 46, Kumar 34, S Patel 31*, Pentakota 31, Small 28) <b>Northfields 145-5</b> (Collins 42*, Iverson 28, David Redhead 24)	<b>Won</b> by 112 runs
4/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Kingstonian 160</b> (Wasim 38*, Islam 33, Niazi 30, B Gola 4-17, Mangineni 3-24) <b>Gents 101</b> (Sampath 29, Wasim 3-20, Shabbir 3-26)	<b>Lost</b> by 59 runs
11/6	Perivale Park	<b>Gents 91</b> (H Patel 43, S Patel 20, Achal 5-20, Vikas 3-15) <b>Hounslow Hurricanes 92-3</b> (Sunil 36*, Darshan 20)	<b>Lost</b> by 7 wickets
25/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 183-8</b> (H Patel 39, Bocha 27, Dubey 22, Kumar 22, Singh 3-27) <b>St. Anne's Allstars 69</b> (Bocha 3-9)	<b>Won</b> by 114 runs
2/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 228-8</b> (Basker 85, Kumar 48, S Patel 22, H Patel 20) <b>White Swans 86</b> (Raj 29)	<b>Won</b> by 142 runs
9/7	Crown Taverners	<b>Crown Taverners 258-5</b> (Giles 54, G Day 44, Delaney 41, Huntingford 38, Turkington 24*, Weaver 23*) <b>Gents 223-8</b> (Francis 74, Sampath 29, Caveney 24, Namilikonda 22, D Day 3-28)	<b>Lost</b> by 35 runs
16/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 224-7</b> (Bocha 79*, Sampath 41, Basker 30) <b>Bricklayer's Arms 160-6</b> (Poulter 71*, Mercer 21)	<b>Won</b> by 64 runs
6/8	Ealing Central SG	<b>Gents 121-7</b> (Ahmed 44, Basker 29) <b>Pak 107-9</b> (Maani 25*, Butt 22)	<b>Won</b> by 14 runs
6/8	Ealing Central SG	<b>Gents 141-6</b> (D Gola 36, S Patel 24) <b>Pak 135-8</b> (Basker 33, S Ahmed 28, Butt 28, D Khan 20, Pentakota 3-17)	<b>Won</b> by 6 runs
13/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Northfields 161-9</b> (Singh 49, Kent 30, Pentakota 3-14) <b>Gents 110</b> (Bocha 33, Francis 23, Egan 4-12)	<b>Lost</b> by 51 runs
20/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Clapham In 173</b> (Robbins 69, Frecknall 36, Krishna 3-13) <b>Gents 175-6</b> (Basker 57, Bocha 26, Sampath 22, Royal 4-26)	<b>Won</b> by 4 wickets
27/8	Raynes Park SG	<b>Gents 200-5 dec.</b> (Sanga 100*, Ahmed 50*, Chalamalasetti 26) <b>Bricklayer's Arms 181-5</b> (Poulter 100*, Tremain 31, Sanga 4-28)	<b>Drawn</b>
3/9	Shenley	<b>Stanmore Warriors 281-7</b> (S Khan 144, N Borkhatria 61, J Borkhatria 22) <b>Gents 120</b> (Miriyaala 28, Sampath 24, Pingili 23, Oakley 4-15)	<b>Lost</b> by 161 runs
17/9	Imperial College	<b>Gents 220-8</b> (S Patel 51*, Bocha 33, H Patel 25, Namilikonda 23, Padmore 5-49) <b>Salix 149-5</b> (Padmore 58)	<b>Won</b> by 71 runs
24/9	Hale Common	<b>Gents 207-8</b> (Basker 52, S Patel 37, Francis 26, Sampath 26, Ive 4-45) <b>Hale 198-8</b> (Basantini 56, Gourav 35*, Naseem 27)	<b>Won</b> by 9 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	-	-	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	Lost by 161 runs	South London Odd Balls	Lost by 3 wickets
Sun 10 Sept	Gubbays	Cancelled	Mayfield	Lost by 40 runs
Sun 17 Sept	Salix	Won by 71 runs	Railway Taverners	Won by 6 wickets
Sun 24 Sept	Hale	Won by 9 runs	Spartan	Lost by 137 runs
Sun 1 Oct	-	-	Highgate	Cancelled
<b>Record Runs</b>	Played 19 Won 11 Drawn 1 Lost 7 Cancelled 4 Bocha 349 Basker 300 S Patel 235 H Patel 219 Sampath 204 H Patel 20 Bocha 14 Pentakota 11 S Patel 10		Played 21 Won 7 Lost 13 Abandoned 1 Cancelled 4 Wright 565 Taylor 327 O'Brien 283 Dane 258 Greenham 232 Webster 23 Taylor 20 Greenham 15 Dane 13 Ali, Bignell, Warren, Wright 12	
<b>Catches/Stumpings</b>	Bocha 9 Pentakota 6 Namilikonda 5/1		O'Brien 10/4 All'on, Greenham 7 Taylor 6/1 Dane, Wright 5	

## 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*	11	7	1	46	7.67	-	55	5	213	9	23.67
Basker	11	9	-	300	33.33	1	1	0	5	0	-
Bocha	14	14	3	349	31.73	9	45	4	223	14	15.93
Caveney	12	12	1	95	9.50	-	5.5	0	44	1	44.00
Chatharaju	12	10	4	34	5.67	1	38.2	6	174	8	21.75
S Desai	3	3	-	69	23.00	3	15.2	1	73	3	24.33
Dubey	12	11	1	112	11.20	4/1	62	12	224	9	24.89
Francis*	7	6	-	135	22.50	3	-	-	-	-	-
D Gola*	3	2	-	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	5	4	1	33	11.00	-	22	0	138	3	46.00
V Krishna	13	8	3	31	6.20	2	61	7	240	9	26.67
Kumar	9	8	-	125	15.63	-	35	4	116	8	14.50
Mangineni	2	1	-	9	9.00	-	10	1	40	3	13.33
Namilikonda*	8	7	2	74	14.80	5/1	6	0	31	1	31.00
H Patel	17	14	-	219	15.64	3	77.1	2	409	20	20.45
S Patel	11	11	3	235	29.38	1	39	1	200	10	20.00
Pentakota	7	7	1	69	11.50	6	40	5	152	11	13.82
Pervez*	3	2	-	1	0.50	-	1	0	8	0	-
Sampath*	13	11	-	204	18.55	3	4	0	17	1	17.00
Small	4	4	-	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:** Bhaskar\* 1/1/0/6, 1-0-8-0, Chakravarty 1/1/0/5, Chalamalasetti 1/1/0/26, 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, M Krishna\* 1/1/0/0, Lele\* 1/-/-/-, 5-0-23-1, Miriyala\* 1/1/0/28, 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, Pingili 1/1/0/23, 7-0-54-1 (1 ct.), Ponnam\* 1/1/0/0, Sanga 1/1/1/100, 12-4-28-4 (1 ct.), R Sharma 1/1/1/3, 4-1-12-1 (1 ct.), Shaikh\* 1/-/-/-, 13-2-47-1

## 2017 in numbers

**Highest total for: 257-8** *v.* Northfields

**Lowest total for: 53** *v.* Wimbledon United

**100 partnerships for (2): 163** 3rd wicket Sanga/Ahmed/Chalamalasetti *v.* Bricklayer's Arms, **103** 2nd wicket Basker/Kumar *v.* White Swans  
**50s/100s for (9): 100\*** Sanga *v.* Bricklayer's Arms, **85** Basker *v.* White Swans, **79\*** Bocha *v.* Bricklayer's Arms, **74** Francis *v.* Crown Taverners, **57** Basker *v.* Clapham In, **52** Desai *v.* Hounslow Hurricanes, **52** Basker *v.* Hale, **51\*** S Patel *v.* Salix, **50\*** Ahmed *v.* Bricklayer's Arms

**Highest partnerships by wicket for: 1. 67** H Patel/Basker *v.* White Swans, **2.** Basker/Kumar *v.* White Swans,  
**3. 163** Sanga/Ahmed/Chalamalasetti *v.* Bricklayer's Arms, **4. 55** Kumar/Pentakota *v.* Northfields, **5. 52** Ahmed/Bocha *v.* Gubbays,  
**6. 64** S Patel/Basker *v.* Hale, **7. 80** S Patel/Dubey *v.* Northfields, **8. 44** Bandla/Bocha *v.* Millfields,  
**9. 18\*** S Snelling/J Snelling *v.* Crown Taverners, **10. 25** Caveney/Gwalla *v.* Wimbledon United

**Sixes (46): 10** Bocha **5** Sampath **4** Basker, Sanga **3** Dubey, Francis, Kumar **2** Caveney, H Patel, Namilikonda, S Patel **1** Ahmed, Gwalla, A Khan, Krishna, Padimalla, S Snelling

**Ducks (26): 3** Kumar, H Patel **2** Bandla, Caveney, Chatharaju, Krishna **1** Basker, Bocha, Dubey, D Gola, Hibbert, M Krishna, Pentakota, Pervez, Petela, Ponnam, Sampath, Small

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

**Run outs for (10): 3** Bocha, **1** Bandla, Chatharaju, D Gola, A Khan, Kumar, Mangineni, S Patel

**Highest score against: 281-7** by Stanmore Warriors

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

**100 partnerships against (2): 149** 1st wicket S-A Khan/N Borkhatria (Stanmore Warriors), **111** 1st wicket Poulter/Tremain (Bricklayer's Arms)  
**50s/100s against (10): 144** S-A Khan (Stanmore Warriors), **100\*** Poulter (Bricklayer's Arms), **80** Collis (Millfields),  
**71\*** Poulter (Bricklayer's Arms), **69** Robbins (Clapham In), **61** N Borkhatria (Stanmore Warriors), **58** Padmore (Salix), **56** Basantini (Hale),  
**54** Giles (Crown Taverners), **51** Herbert (Wimbledon United)

**Highest partnerships by wicket against: 1. 149** N Borkhatria/S-A Khan (Stanmore Warriors), **2. 57** S Ahmed/Butt (Pak),  
**3. 57** Collis/Marshall (Millfields), **4. 96** Giles/G Day (Crown Taverners), **5. 57** Niazi/Islam (Kingstonian) **6. 76** Singh/Kent (Northfields),  
**7. 36** Robbins/Frecknall (Clapham In), **8. 26** Nahush/Manik (Hounslow Hurricanes) **9. 31** Wasim/A Ali (Kingstonian),  
**10. 40** Nahush/Prashant (Hounslow Hurricanes)

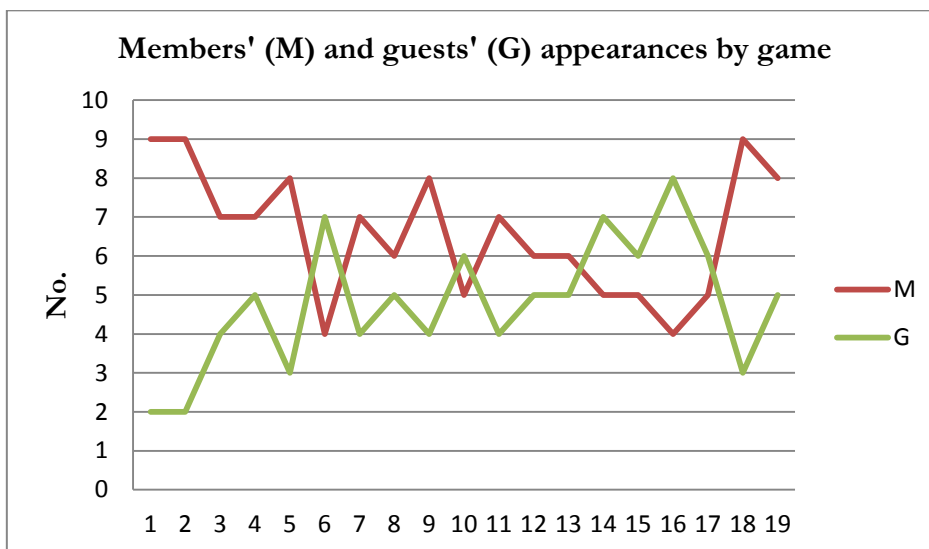
**4-wicket returns against (7): 6-1** Herbert (Wimbledon United), **5-20** Achal (Hounslow Hurricanes), **5-49** Padmore (Salix),  
**4-12** Egan (Northfields), **4-15** Oakley (Stanmore Warriors), **4-26** Royal (Clapham In), **4-45** Ive (Hale)



## Squaring the circle

Bombarding the readership with data is not the way to ensure they read to the end, nevertheless important facts have emerged about guest support. Our definition of a member is someone who has paid the annual subscription. The Gents had 15 such in 2017. Of these, one did not play and two played only once. Five active 2016 members left the club and had to be replaced by guests, whom we tried to welcome and whom the captains did their best to involve. Below is the split of members and guests from game 1 (Hounslow Hurricanes home) to game 19 (Hale):

There were 125 appearances by members (6.6 per game) and a staggering 91 by guests (4.8 per game). The totals do not stack to 11 as in five games we played 12 and one 13. The analysis shows just what a difficult job the captain has in deciding batting and bowling orders. Never in 2017 was a member dropped for a guest. The question, and a fair one, then arises “What is the point of being a member if precedence in batting and bowling is not guaranteed?” There was understandable chuntering about this, and it needs answering at the AGM, but please be clear that the captain has to use the resources at his disposal as he sees fit. He wants to win the game while giving all players a fair crack. He is not there to dispense loyalty points and needs support. Members’ batting positions are also shown. Only you can decide if you had a fair crack. We do not show bowling orders as they can be misleading, e.g. a spinner will come on after the new ball bowlers. We appreciate the contribution of all and fervently hope that the regular 2017 guests have been sufficiently encouraged to join as members in 2018. That must be our aim.



Member	No. matches	No. innings	Avg. position
Basker	11	9	2.9
Bocha	14	14	6.1
Burman	-	-	-
Caveney	12	12	6.4
Chakravarty	1	1	4.0
Chatharaju	12	10	8.4
Desai	3	3	3.7
Dubey	12	11	5.5
N Khan	5	4	8.0
Krishna	13	8	7.9
Kumar	9	8	4.9
Newcombe	1	1	3.0
H Patel	17	14	2.3
S Patel	11	11	6.5
Small	4	4	1.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>5.4</b>

## Pearl anniversary

On 22 May 2018, the Gents will celebrate their thirtieth birthday. Marriages of this longevity are traditionally celebrated with a gift of pearls. We later include some stats to whet the appetite for a comprehensive review of the last ten years to be published over the winter, the first twenty having been covered in *Decade* and *Decade/2*, which are on the website. Note the presence of four players in each of the top 10 batting and bowling averages and bowling economy lists over the period: Inkollu, Iqbal, Rudru and our beloved Sanjay Patel. What consistency from him in 141 games.

We therefore need a big celebration and the secretary herewith commits to raising a side of honoured guests to play the Gents in 2018. There will be some surprises and some familiar faces, but rest assured it will be a very talented side. This is who we were back then. Fourteen seem to have been selected, so some things don't change:



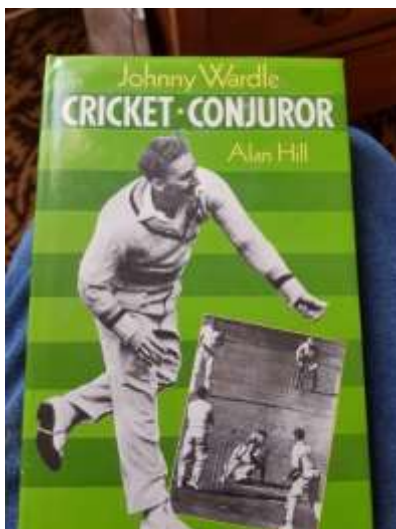
Back row L. to R. Wright, Snelling, Burman, Gilkes, H Patel, Buck. Front row L. to R. S Patel, D Patel (Dhruv's son Chirag in the middle), Sciberras, Turpin, Husain, Norcott and Toft. The Patels link the old and new squads.



L. to R. Snelling, Desai, Gilkes, S Patel and H Patel

Five legends present at Hale with 1,008 performances between them. It was fitting and greatly appreciated that Stuart Snelling and Richard Gilkes turned up not only to support but also to raise the tone with commentary of majestic eloquence, particularly when there were Gents full-tosses and misfields.

## Book sale



Detailed accounts are being prepared but it seems that although the bank account is in credit, the club made a loss in 2017. We aim to be self-funding rather than having to rely on a benefactor model.

Many of you will remember that in 2010 we sold some old cricket books and raised £136 for club funds. *The Gent* has recently been bequeathed some more books and we are conducting another sale, on-line tat auction house eBay being too much like hard work. There are some rare items and several treasures in the catalogue.

Please support this initiative in order that we can continue to provide cricket of high quality, on good grounds and with good equipment, at a reasonable price. Thanks to Messrs Bignell, Caveney, Khan and Thomas (London Saints) who have taken 23 books so far, freeing valuable space at Gent House and helping the club.

## World on the brink

*"They will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen" (President Trump). "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" (King James Version, Romans 12:19).*

Nobody has a thirst for vengeance quite like a wronged cricketer and we can reveal that a senior Salix player, who must remain anonymous, is plotting cyber revenge on the Village CC for their acrimonious 2010 match report (see Note). It is his vow to upload doubtful images onto their website. Upon revealing his mission in the garden of the White Hart in Harlington, a team mate asked him if avenging this seven-year-old slight was the most important thing in his life. "Certainly," he replied. He revealed, like the North Korean man, that the technology is nearly there. The morality of revenge was most famously explored in *Hamlet*. Doing over someone's website is the modern equivalent of stabbing with a poisoned blade. The world holds its breath.

Note: Salix 164-7 beat Village 163-7 by 3 wickets. Village accused Salix of punctuation errors, cheating and unsavoury personal hygiene.

## Cricket porn - from Gent 121 (July 2009)

One of the strongest sides the Gents have ever put in the field scored 237 for 5 off 35 overs and restricted West XI to 143 for 8, winning by 94 runs. Sanjay Patel's 2009 Gents had everything and it all came together on a cool, cloudy Sunday. Five of this team (Snelling, Khan, S Desai and the Patels) played in 2017 and Gilkes and Sciberras have not yet hung up the whites.



*So after defeats in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2008 and drawn series in 2006 and 2007 (the cup therefore being retained by West XI) the Bob Ashton Memorial Cup is once more in the hands of the Gents. Though the new players have undoubtedly strengthened the 2009 team, the most satisfying facet of the decisive victory on 19 July was that the club stalwarts contributed so much to it. Though Naveed Khan had already scored a 46 and a 33 this season, poor Richard Gilkes was down in the dumps with scores of 0, 7, 0 and 0 in his only four innings. It was an inspirational move by Sanjay Patel – dreamed up in the car on the way to the ground – to give him the opener's berth. Both batsmen posted their (then) highest scores for the club, Gilkes 68, Khan 60.*

Back row L. to R. Iqbal, Toft, H Desai, Snelling, Gilkes, Khan, H Patel, S Patel. Front row L. to R. Sciberras, Rudru, Inkollu and S Desai.

## Stanmore Warriors v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 3 September, Shenley Cricket Centre. Stanmore Warriors won toss. Showery, 19C

Lost by 161 runs

Stanmore Warriors			Gentlemen of West London				
*N Borkhatria		b Dubey	61	Sampath	c Bahia	b Oakley	24
S-A Khan		b Chatharaju	144	Miriyala	c Iqbal	b Bahia	28
C Borkhatria	c Namilikonda	b H Patel	1	Dubey	c Oakley	b Parmar	2
Mandala		b Dubey	5	Pentakota	run out		0
J Borkhatria	c Dubey	b Pentakota	22	Pingili		b N Borkhatria	23
P Borkhatria	c Pingili	b Chatharaju	4	V Krishna	run out		1
Iqbal	not out		19	†Namilikonda	c S Borkaktria	b Iqbal	7
†Bahia		b Pingili	1	Chatharaju		b Oakley	0
†Parmar	not out		5	*H Patel		b Oakley	18
S Borkhatria	did not bat			M Krishna	c Bahia	b Oakley	0
Oakley	did not bat			Khan	not out		9
Extras	b5 w13 nb1		19	Extras	b1 w5 nb2		8
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 wickets</b>	<b>40 overs</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>29.5 overs</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 149, 151, 183, 201, 242, 260, 276				<b>FoW:</b> 31, 39, 46, 63, 67, 81, 81, 108, 108, 110			
<b>Bowling:</b> Pingili 7-0-54-1, Pentakota 8-0-46-1, V Krishna 3-0-25-0, N Khan 3-0-33-0, H Patel 7-0-38-1, Dubey 8-1-53-2, Chatharaju 4-0-27-2				<b>Bowling:</b> Bahia 8-1-28-1, Parmar 8-0-31-1, Oakley 7-1-15-4, Iqbal 5-0-37-1, P Borkhatria 1-0-8-0, N Borkhatria 0.5-0-0-1			



Sayf-Ali Khan - 144 if you please

Stanmore Warriors almost, but not quite, rewrote the record books on a dank afternoon. The total, margin of victory and first-wicket stand were the second highest by an opponent, while Sayf-Ali Khan's 144 (18 4s and four 6s) was the fifth highest individual innings. Several Gents got a start in the reply but they were well beaten by a talented side who hosted congenially at an excellent venue.

Praveen Bocha, newly a dad, could not play (although he threatened to until 9 o'clock Sunday), so Vamsee Krishna's brother Mahendra stood in. Warriors try to match their strength to their opponents' and the game might have been a lot closer had one of several chances offered by Khan been gobbled up. But they weren't and the Gents were on the back foot from the word go as Khan and Nikhil Borkhatria flayed the bowling. The seamers took an hour to work out the pitch – slow but true with some turn – but by then the score had skyrocketed.

When the hosts were 149 for 0 after 16 overs, so one-sided was the game that the hosts were in danger of being cited for violation of the UN's 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Gents then responded well and normality returned for the remaining 24. Dubey and Pingili took good deep catches, Hemin Patel got turn and bowled with reasonable economy and Dubey and Chatharaju deserved their brace of wickets. Khan batted 36 overs and was rightly applauded from the pitch.

The Gents briefly dared to hope when in the first four overs Sampath smacked three 4s and a pulled 6 over mid-wicket but wickets fell regularly, particularly when 17-year-old Peter Oakley came on first change and was out immediately by the spectating Sanjay Patel as a potential match-winner "because of his MCC shirt". An astute analysis; he bowled with accuracy and pace and deserved his four-for. Miriyala batted 16 overs, Pingili 15 and Hemin Patel had some late fun with two 6s off Iqbal, but the visitors only penetrated the boundary 14 times, 24 fewer than Warriors. Two men were run out and more than 10 overs remained when Pingili played on to end the innings.

A word on the guests. Pingili and debutants Miriyala (opener for old Basing IIs, Raja Pentakota's Saturday team) and Mahendra Krishna put in tireless performances, though sadly Mahendra's reward was a gloved behind golden duck. Thanks are due to them and those who sourced them. Absent players missed a fine venue but will be able to enjoy it in 2018 as the Gents were invited back for a game on the top pitch.

## Salix v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 17 September, Imperial College. Salix won toss. Sunny and showery, 17C

Won by 71 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Salix				
H Patel		b Padmore	25	Spillane	c Namilikonda	b H Patel	16
Sampath		b Kakumanu	12	Gavigan	c Dubey	b Krishna	9
S Desai		b Ellis	13	Darling	c and	b S Patel	9
*Bocha		b Padmore	33	Padmore	c Bocha	b S Desai	58
S Patel	ret. not out		51	Ellis	not out		30
Francis	c Ellis	b Padmore	9	Heaton	c Basker	b H Patel	4
Dubey	c Padmore	b Unadkat	9	†Collins			3
†Namilikonda	not out		23	Ferrari, Fletcher, Unadkat and *Kakumanu dnb			
Caveney		b Padmore	2				
Chatharaju	c Gavigan	b Padmore	6				
Krishna	not out		0				
Basker	dnb						
<b>Extras</b>	b9 w19 nb4 p5		37	<b>Extras</b>	b2 lb2 w15 nb1		20
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 wickets</b>	<b>35 overs</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>5 wickets</b>	<b>35 overs</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 21, 49, 83, 130, 147, 174, 210, 216				<b>FoW:</b> 13, 35, 78, 102, 112			
<b>Bowling:</b> Kakumanu 6-0-36-1, Heaton 4-2-5-0, Padmore 7-2-49-5, Ellis 7-0-26-1, Unadkat 4-0-40-1, Darling 7-1-50-0				<b>Bowling:</b> Dubey 5-2-9-0, Krishna 7-1-22-1, Chatharaju 4-2-17-0, S Patel 3-0-5-1, S Desai 7-1-35-1, H Patel 4-0-29-1, Bocha 2-1-3-0, Caveney 2-0-20-0, Basker 1-0-5-0			



Leaves are falling all around...

A splendid game ended in a Gents' win thanks to Sanjay Patel's 51, his 29th score of fifty or more, his first since June 2015 and his second against Salix. Both sides batted consistently but Salix were becalmed for their first fifteen overs, scoring only 35 runs. Padmore thrashed 58 in only 11 overs to give the hosts a sniff but Bocha was able to use nine bowlers in closing out the tenth win of the season. In contrast, Salix ended their campaign with only one win and a draw in 17 games, but they remain a fun-filled, reliable club with some good players. Here's wishing them an improved 2018.

The inserted Gents started watchfully. In the 7th over Sampath hit Kakumanu for two 4s before being bowled. In the 12th Hemin Patel lofted Padmore for two 4s and a 2 before losing his timbers. He had scored 200 in a season for the first time and showed good technique here. The slow left-armer Ellis got Desai. Bocha and Sanjay Patel then impressively put up 47 in six overs. Bocha struck three 4s and two 6s, Patel five and two. Francis batted like a prince before holing out, a great diving effort. Dubey fell whereupon Namilikonda breezed to 23 not out in only four overs. Five penalty runs caused by a stray helmet, the Gents' first ever such sundries, helped boost the score to 220, exceeding the captain's hopes. There was confusion about the batting order. Bocha had put Basker at No.7 but instead of padding up the bearded giant had a comedy moment and busied himself giving Burman and Caveney shoulder massages and torturing Sampath. Namilikonda strode out instead.

The Gents' innings had been conducted in bright if cool sunshine but when Salix went out it was sepulchral and rainy, though there was insufficient precipitation to call the game off. Dubey, Krishna, the fast improving Chatharaju and Sanjay Patel conceded only 53 runs in their 19 overs. Spillane's innings was an epic 23 over vigil in which he "played himself into form and then out again". When he left Padmore showed what might have been, crashing 58 with seven 4s and two 6s. In doing so he became only the fifth opponent to score a fifty and take four or more wickets. Here they are:

51* and 4-12	Tattersdill (New Barbarian Weasels) (King's College, 24 August 1997)
84* and 5-16	Vine (West XI) (Boston Manor, 19 July 1998)
59* and 6-16	Rafiq (Robin Hood) (Sutton Common RG, 27 June 1999)
50* and 4-31	Harsh (Gubbays) (Old Tenisonians, 17 May 2015)
58 and 5-49	Padmore (Salix) (Imperial College, 17 September 2017)

His dismissal was worthy of the quality the man showed, mid-off Bocha running in, diving forward and adjusting himself to take the catch in his right hand an inch above the ground. Only five wickets fell, all caught. The ninth bowler, Basker, thought he had the big-hitting Ellis stumped, only for the batsman to be reprieved because the glovesman had knocked off the bails without the ball.

## Hale v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 24 September, Hale Common. Hale won toss. Sunny, 21C

Won by 9 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Hale				
H Patel	c Gourav	b Giles	4	Delaney	c S Desai	b Chatharaju	8
Sampath	c Basantini	b Naseem	26	†Cilliers	c Francis	b Krishna	2
S Desai	c Naseem	b Gourav	4	Basantini	run out (Mangineni)		56
Francis	c Punchard	b JA Davies	26	Latif	st Namilikonda	b Bandla	19
S Patel	c Basantini	b Ive	37	Naseem	b Bocha		27
*Bocha	c Cilliers	b Ive	19	Gourav	not out		35
Basker	c Basantini	b Ive	52	Ive	c S Desai	b S Patel	12
†Namilikonda		b Ive	9	Giles	c Namilikonda	b S Desai	12
Caveney	not out		0	Punchard	b S Patel		0
Bandla, Krishna, Chatharaju and Mangineni dnb				*Weaver	not out		3
				JA Davies and JO Davies dnb			
<b>Extras</b>	b4 lb1 w23 nb2		<b>30</b>	<b>Extras</b>	b4 lb5 w12 nb3		<b>24</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 wickets</b>	<b>35 overs</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8 wickets</b>	<b>35 overs</b>	<b>198</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 8, 29, 72, 90, 121, 185, 201, 207				<b>FoW:</b> 11, 15, 45, 109, 142, 153, 171, 173			
<b>Bowling:</b> Gourav 7-1-10-1, Giles 7-0-36-1, Naseem 5-0-37-1, JA Davies 7-0-49-1, Ive 6-1-45-4, Latif 3-0-25-0				<b>Bowling:</b> Chatharaju 4-0-21-1, Krishna 7-1-18-1, Bandla 6-0-32-1, Mangineni 3-0-16-0, Bocha 2-0-23-1, H Patel 4-0-23-0, S Patel 6-0-39-2, S Desai 3-0-17-1			



Bandla and Francis – our tin lads

A decade that began with Hemin Patel and Mark Sciberras skittling St. Anne's Allstars on a filthy Fairfield RG strip ended in the Hale twilight with Gourav launching Sanjay Patel for 6, 6 and 4. Seventeen runs came from the over but 27 were needed so victory was the Gents' by 9 runs, despite a manful Hale response to the visitors' 207. Two late additions, surprises to captain and secretary, meant that the Gents had 13. Hale had 12 so it was agreed to both bat and field 12. In theory this should have restricted scoring but a thousand outfielders could not have prevented the day's 13 6s.

Yet it had all started so placidly, Gents crawling to 35 for two off 12 overs with Hemin Patel and Desai caught mistiming the pull. Francis, who spoilt Giles's return with two 6s off his final two balls, and Sampath (not on the team sheet because the secretary thought he was in Edinburgh) sped things up to take the Gents to 90 off 20. Gourav bowled his away-swing well, straight through with Giles.

Sanjay Patel, Bocha, Basker and Namilikonda constitute a powerful middle order and they played to form, Basker (four 4s and a 6) bringing up exactly 300 for the season in smashing 52 (his eleventh fifty) in only 9 overs as 117 came off the last 15. Sanjay Patel carded his own 200. The beshorted young builder Richard Ive, who had the best throwing arm seen in a Gents game for many years, turned out to be no mean bowler and took four wickets, opening with a rare maiden before Basker and Namilikonda smashed him into the trees.

Hale had to face ten overs before tea and opened with Crown Taverners Carl Delaney and Emile Cilliers. Sanjay Patel rightly predicted that Krishna would prove a handful with the new ball. Cilliers edged to slip Francis, a neat catch and Delaney top-edged a cut to gully Desai running back to give Chatharaju a deserved wicket. The excellent tea was taken with Hale 41 for one after 10. Bandla had Latif smartly stumped three balls after the resumption. Raja Pentakota's team mate from Old Basing, Vivek Basantini anchored the innings and while another Old Basing man Naseem was there Hale fancied their chances.

Bocha bowled Naseem with a grubber in the 23rd. over, 109 for 4. Hale needed over eight an over thereon and fully intended to get them. Desai and the Patels fully intended to stop them. The crucial wicket came off Sanjay Patel's twelfth ball. Basantini was dropped by mid-wicket Mangineni and attempted a run. The fielder recovered to throw smartly in for the bowler to complete an impressive run out, the Gents' tenth of the campaign. Sanjay Patel struck twice and Desai was rewarded with a fine catch by Namilikonda, sprinting thirty yards to square-leg. Gourav's late assault closed the gap but the Gents just deserved to win a fine, evenly-contested match to conclude their 30 years in some style.

## Five worst

### **7 September 2008, HSBC New Beckenham. West XI 153 for 5 beat Gents 57 by 96 runs**

The Bob Ashton Memorial Cup was lost for the sixth successive year, 1-2. The Gents would never beat a West XI side including the peerless all-rounder Cameron Vine, though the Australian did not particularly influence proceedings here, pulling up crook and unable to bowl. After rain in the morning and an hour's shilly-shallying the game was eventually called on, Dane's 62 not out and Taylor's 3 for 13 ensuring victory against a side beset by administrative malfunction, being wrong-footed by two no-shows, Babar and Wahed. A West XI six was cheaply signalled by a deep fielder as a four and a Gent batsman submitted a claim for a bump ball after a catch was taken by Dave Laing at deep mid-off. West XI played well and deserved their win. The series swung on a close second match at Old Tenisonians in July that West XI shaded by 2 runs, the ebb and flow a vindication for fans of the best-of-three format.

### **5 September 2010, Fairfield RG. Village 252 for 5 beat Gents 84 by 168 runs**

A season that had proceeded placidly if inconsistently exploded in the Gents' face as the talented Loonstra (69), Harty (51) and Littlejohns (45 not out) saw Village to a monstrous total. After an appalling tea supplied by the Albion PH, the Gents collapsed to Boa's left-arm seam in 17.1 overs to their biggest defeat by runs, leaving behind the 159 runs pounding inflicted by Exiles two miles up the road in Surbiton in 2001. Late arrivals did not show the club at its slickest, a matter for which captain Gilkes felt forced to apologise. Village's captain Bowman described his team's display as the best in their history. Relations between the clubs then declined after an abandoned game in June 2011 when de la Perrelle and Sanjay Patel were in command chasing down 210. "The trouble with the Gents of West London is that they aren't good enough to have a proper rivalry with Village," they taunted. Letters were exchanged between the secretaries, matters quickly went south and the clubs never played again.

### **21 August 2011, Old Tenisonians. Raynes Park FP 152 beat Gents 140 by 12 runs**

A crowd-pleasing implosion was described by captain Hemin Patel as the worst performance in his time as a player although the game below may have caused him to revise his opinion. Harsh words, but it certainly took some explaining how a talented batting side could lose eight wickets for 32 runs in 10 overs on a slow, low but not difficult wicket against steady rather than outstanding bowling. Mobeen's 53 should have been a footnote as Cloete (41), Caveney (31) and Denton (25) powered the Gents to 108 for two off 16 overs but eight wickets fell in fewer than 10 overs as batsman after batsman lost patience. An unprecedented seven lbw appeals were upheld by the umpires.

### **1 July 2012, Old Tenisonians. Magdalen 158 beat Gents 54 by 104 runs**

This was possibly the Gents' worst batting performance. It was certainly the shortest completed innings (14.5 overs) and saw the fewest runs scored by batsmen (36). The Gents lost seven wickets for 17 runs, five in under three overs to Xavier's off-spin, to record their joint second-lowest total. Only London Owls (51 in 1991) and East Harrow Cheetahs (54 in 1989) had inflicted such carnage on Gents' batting but the Owls game was won and both were played on poor council pitches in the club's formative years, not on a proper wicket in its supposed maturity. What the scorecard fails to record is the chaos off the field in the game's final stages which would not have been out of place in a schoolboys' junior house cricket match. Batsmen fell asleep or attended to errands at home instead of taking their place in the middle. The batting order was disregarded, a phenomenon that resurfaced in 2017.

### **2 August 2015, Northwick Park. Blue Marlins 79 for 2 beat Gents 78 by 8 wickets**

A bad, bad day and a dreadful, never to be repeated first date. Smiling faces sometimes pretend to be your friend. Smiling faces show no traces of the evil that lurks within. This was a dismal day out in which a paltry Gents score was chased down in 17.4 overs, the visitors losing 10 wickets for 46 runs. Blue Marlins were rude hosts, failing to provide drinks for the players or a chair for the scorer and then overcharging, as proved by a crack team of forensic accountants assembled by the Gents. They also made a schoolboy error of swearing at the Gents in Hindi, a language spoken by most of the team and vigorously responded to. Denton observed they also flouted Law 2.5 (Fielder absent or leaving the field) when captain Niraj arrived after nine overs had been bowled and promptly came on himself, taking 3 for 9. Countries have gone to war for less. After an early finish, the teams reconvened for a 15-overs game that enabled the Gents to notch two defeats in a day for the third time.

## Five best

### **6 June 2009, Fairfield RG. Gents 161 for 9 beat Old Grumblers 157 for 7 by 1 wicket**

In a rare Saturday game, Gents were 104 for 9 when Sanjay Patel, suffering from a torn calf muscle, hobbled out with Shu Desai as his runner to join the tough Lancastrian Ken Toft. Patel pulled his first ball for four and the pair went on to win the game with a stand of 57 in 61 balls, Toft striking five fours in his 28 not out. Until the last 45 minutes, Old Grumblers had had the better of things and were proceeding to a hard-fought but simple victory. Toft described the game as his “proudest cricketing experience”, his captain as a hero and amusingly remarked that the innings had cemented his position at No.10. Toft’s day had started badly when a park nutter insulted him for dropping a catch, before demanding that Sciberras be No balled for throwing. Such were the perils of this otherwise pleasant venue and indeed for some unknown reason, Saturday fixtures. This match shines through the years and although he cannot remember what he had for dinner the day before, this writer remembers its every twist and turn.

### **27 September 2009, Hale Common. Gents 247 for 7 beat Hale 211 by 36 runs**

This was a game of four outstanding individual performances on one of the Gents’ favourite grounds. It was a fitting way to end an unsurpassable campaign. Rudru hit a marathon 85 (16 fours) in 28 overs and Iqbal, off the mark with a six after Himanshu Desai had retired hurt, hit four more and five fours en route to 73 in 16 overs, adding 124 with Rudru. Griffiths hit 113 (three sixes, 17 fours) in reply, putting on 169 with Giles. Hale were 184 for 2 off 26 needing an achievable seven per over but were dramatically pegged back, Inkollu bowling Griffiths while Hemin Patel ran through the tail in the twilight with his first quintet, 5 for 29. Unusually for such a high-scoring game, only five men made double figures, although Extras notched a healthy 80 not out.

### **11 July 2010, LMPF Greenford. Gents 132 beat West XI 120 by 12 runs**

Captain Richard Gilkes gave a tactical masterclass which saw the Gents retain the Bob Ashton Memorial Cup. This game was a mirror image of the tussle in July 2008 when West XI won from a similarly disadvantageous position, by just 2 runs against a distraught Gents. Sanjay Patel’s fighting 35 was the best effort of a moderate Gents’ total on a tricky pitch but in the reply everything Gilkes tried came off. After Iqbal’s early blast of three wickets, Dane (54) and Taylor (24) took the hosts to 93 for 4 off 26 overs, 40 needed from nine. Snelling was off the field injured and it looked grim for the Gents but the pitch was turning. Gilkes placed Greg Newcombe straight at short mid-off and his diving catch to dismiss Taylor, the first of Hemin Patel’s quintet, galvanised the Gents. Sanjay Patel bowled Wright with his final ball as West XI lost seven wickets for 27 runs, their last four contributing one. Newcombe, who would become captain two years later, described the game as the best he had ever played in and still has the match ball.

### **10 June 2012, Victoria Ground. Gents 199 for 8 beat Cheltenham Allsorts 193 by 6 runs**

This was the best of all the Gents’ tour games on one of the most scenic grounds to host the club. Tour rep Newcombe secured the services of pal Alex Butler, who batted chancelessly against a varied attack for the full 40 overs, scoring 11 fours and seven sixes in his 100 not out. He had stout support from Khan (25) and Cloete (34 after a violent 98 at Birdlip and Brimpsfield the day before). Cropper (42) and A Waters (27) put on 78 for the first Allsorts’ wicket but Sciberras got them both. Khan struck thanks to a brilliant one-handed catch by Butler that paved the way for Sachin Desai’s spell of 8-0-31-7, his career bowling up to this game having been 20.1-0-117-2. He swung the ball prodigiously, was supported by sound catching and got the best return in any Gents limited-overs game. His maniacal stare drew comparisons with RGD Willis at Headingley in 1981.

### **24 August 2016, Old Tenisonians. Gents 234 for 7 beat Monty RH 201 for 7 by 33 runs**

The pleasure of this match was overcoming a patronising opposition who underestimated the Gents from the first ball. The top order collapsed to 23 for 5 amid much fielder joviality, Monty’s captain telling the Gents to keep sending in batsmen until the 35 overs were used up. Dubey (58) and Kota (83 not out) then put on a match-winning 138. Monty conceded an absurd 71 extras but fought back well to 104 for 2. Tension then escalated after a declined run out and with some volatile personalities in both teams matters briefly threatened to get out of hand, but the bowlers held their line and the fielders caught their catches. There has been no greater batting recovery in the Gents’ history.