

Gentlemen of West London v. Battersea Eagles

Sunday 22 July, Old Tenisonians. Battersea Eagles won toss. Sunny, 27C

Won by 1 wicket

Battersea Eagles			Gentlemen of West London				
Sambandan		b Mangineni	6	Basker	c M. Singh	b Harris	41
Mahtab	c Chatharaju	b Mangineni	18	N. Khan	c S. Khan	b Suresh	1
Goel		b Mangineni	0	Kota	c M. Singh	b F. Khan	110
F. Khan		b Krishna	22	Namilikonda	lbw	b Sanjay	1
†M. Singh		b Kota	35	Francis	lbw	b Harris	21
†Murphy	run out (S. Patel)		17	Caveney	c and	b Harris	1
*Harris	c Namilikonda	b Chatharaju	37	Chatharaju	c and	b Harris	4
S. Khan	not out		40	†Krishna	st M. Singh	b M. Patel	8
M. Patel	run out (Basker)		18	*S. Patel	not out		12
A. Khan	not out		1	H. Patel		b F. Khan	1
Sanjay, Cooper and Suresh	dnb			Mangineni		b F. Khan	0
				†Dubey	not out		1
Extras	b4 lb3 w13 nb2		22	Extras	b5 lb1 w9 nb1		16
Total	8 wickets	38 overs	216	Total	10 wickets	37.4 overs	217
FoW: 10, 10, 31, 57, 97, 141, 161, 204				FoW: 2, 103, 108, 150, 152, 156, 202, 202, 209, 209			
Bowling: Krishna 7-0-42-1, Mangineni 7-1-17-3, Kota 6-0-34-1,				Bowling: Cooper 5-0-23-0, Suresh 7-0-53-1, S. Khan 3-0-23-0,			
S. Patel 4-0-12-0, Chatharaju 4-0-32-1, Namilikonda 6-0-43-0,				A. Khan 1-0-15-0, Harris 8-0-26-4, Sanjay 3-0-28-1, Goel 3-0-13-0,			
H. Patel 4-0-29-0				F. Khan 4.4-0-17-3, M. Patel 3-0-13-1			

The Gents won a marathon thriller when S. Patel and the injured Dubey added eight runs for the final wicket in a 12-a-side game, the captain clipping the winning single at 7.55pm with three balls left. The Gents' 217 was their second-highest successful chasing score, ceding gold only to the 235 for 9 against 12 Angry Men in 2000. They looked favourites at 150 for 3 and later 202 for 6, but the dismissal of Kota for a magnificent 110 gave Eagles heart and Faroukh Khan so nearly bowled them to victory.

This has always been a tight fixture. Harris won the toss and batted, 38 overs a side and everything down leg side a wide, a battle order soon revoked as unadministrable. In front of visiting royalty Mark Ashton and Ken Toft, Mangineni had Sambandan and Goel with his fourth and fifth balls. Chatharaju also obliged him with a parried catch at mid-wicket to see off Mahtab. Harris had mentioned that he had some good batsmen down the order which was true. His consistent middle and lower order put pressure on the fielders and increased the scoring rate from four in the first 20 to seven off the last 18. Harris caught the eye until he was well held by long-off Namilikonda off Chatharaju and young S. Khan hit an attractive 40. The Gents' fielding was improved from recent weeks: two batsmen were run out by direct hits.

Dubey had injured his foot while 'keeping and would only bat if absolutely necessary. Khan (who provided a fine tea) cut Suresh's eighth ball to point whereupon Basker and Kota did something rather wonderful in putting on 103 in 14.4 overs. Basker was dropped on 1 and 2 and made the most of his good fortune. It would be lazy to say that these drops were the crux of the game. What can be said with certainty is that the Gents would have had to find 40 runs elsewhere to win. How he responded, smiting five 4s and an enormous straight 6 into the sightscreen.

Kota was imperious. He fashioned two more lucrative stands with the returning Dino Francis and Krishna, both featuring fine shots and superb running. He went to his ton with a majestic cover drive to the pavilion before edging behind in the 34th over on 202 having hit 12 4s, 1 5 (upgraded by four buzzers) and 1 6 in a stay of 32.3 overs. As so often happens in such circumstances there was then a tumble of wickets. Krishna was stumped and H. Patel and Mangineni bowled prodding forward.

There were then shenanigans. Gents had nominated Dhruv Patel as a batting replacement for Dubey, on the irrefutable basis that the pint-sized veteran had turned up and had his whites. Dubey was having none of it and hobbled out as last man to join the just-dismissed Mangineni who would act as his runner. The field was close set but the captain trusted his eye, taking a 3 and two 2s and surviving a hearty appeal for lbw. The final over started with Gents 214 for 10. There was a dot ball then singles off the second and third. Off the fourth the captain chipped into the mid-wicket hinterland and sprinted. The batsmen were home, hats were flung in the air, umbrellas gnawed through and a bank holiday declared.

What they said

Thanks for a great game and brilliant food. A fantastic thriller with true gentlemen.

Khalid Harris

An absolute privilege to meet such a wonderful group of guys. They are a credit to the club. Thanks for the opportunity to meet them all. Great oppo as well.

Mark Ashton

Highest successful run chases by Gents

2000	Gents 235-9 beat 12 Angry Men 231-3 by 1 wicket
2018	Gents 217-10 beat Battersea Eagles 216-8 by 1 wicket
2010	Gents 200-6 beat Close PF 196-5 by 4 wickets
1990	Gents 186-3 beat Enterprise 185-6 by 7 wickets
1994	Gents 185-5 beat Wandham 184-9 by 5 wickets



Latest culprit Pavan Kota with match ball

Gents' centuries

158*	S. Jones <i>v.</i> West XI (2002)
143*	Husain <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels (2007)
137*	M. Ashton <i>v.</i> Enterprise (1992)
131*	Small <i>v.</i> St. Anne's Allstars (2015)
128	Lall <i>v.</i> London Saints (2011)
126	G. Wright <i>v.</i> Clapham In (2012)
114*	S. Desai <i>v.</i> Close PF (June 2015)
111	Cloete <i>v.</i> London Saints (2014)
110	Kota <i>v.</i> Battersea Eagles (2018)
109	Husain <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels (2008)
106	Small <i>v.</i> Judd Street Tigers (2014)
104*	Husain <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels (2005)
103	J. Wright <i>v.</i> 12 Angry Men (2000)
103	Husain <i>v.</i> London Saints (2006)
102	M. Ashton <i>v.</i> London Saints (1993)
102	J. Wright <i>v.</i> Wandham (2000)
102*	Buck <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels (2001) <small>Retired hurt</small>
102	Lall <i>v.</i> West XI (2011)
100*	J. Wright <i>v.</i> London Canaries (2000)
100*	S. Patel <i>v.</i> London Rams (2005)
100*	Husain <i>v.</i> London Saints (2007)
100*	Butler <i>v.</i> Cheltenham Allsorts (2012)
100	Cloete <i>v.</i> St. Anne's Allstars (2014)
100*	Sanga <i>v.</i> Bricklayer's Arms (2017) <small>Retired not out</small>

Fourteen Gents have scored 24 centuries, four against London Saints and New Barbarian Weasels. Kota's 110 was the highest score since 2015 and the ninth highest overall.