

## Gentlemen of West London v. Viscount

Sunday 8 July, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Sunny, 28C

Lost by 7 wickets

Gentlemen of West London			Viscount			
*H. Patel		b Lawton	0	Clarke	not out	78
Karan Patel	lbw	b Sediqi	7	Anderson	c Ahmed	11
Basker	c Day	b Sediqi	27	*Sobers	b Krishna	24
Kota	c Day	b Walters	31	†Silvera	lbw	6
†Ahmed	lbw	b Sediqi	12	Lawton	not out	0
Chatharaju	c Sobers	b Morrison	2	Donegan, Walters, Morrison, Day, Sediqi and Smith dnb		
Namilikonda	c Walters	b Morrison	22			
S. Desai	c Clarke	b Morrison	2			
Dubey	c Day	b Walters	6			
Krishna	c Sobers	b Walters	3			
N. Khan	not out		5			
Extras	b2 w5 nb10		17	Extras	b2 w11 nb6	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>34.2 overs</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3 wickets</b>	<b>18.2 overs</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 1, 26, 54, 68, 74, 112, 119, 122, 128, 134			<b>FoW:</b> 39, 109, 134			
<b>Bowling:</b> Anderson 3-1-6-0, Lawton 4-2-6-1, Smith 4-0-28-0, Sediqi 6-1-25-3, Day 6-1-25-0, Morrison 7-0-31-3, Walters 4.2-0-11-3			<b>Bowling:</b> S. Desai 4-0-36-0, Krishna 4-0-26-1, Dubey 3-0-24-0, Namilikonda 2-0-14-0, Kota 2-0-14-0, Chatharaju 2-0-9-1, N. Khan 1-0-9-1, Basker 0.2-0-4-0			

Hannibal Clarke's powerful 78 with 11 4s and two 6s powered the keen Viscount side to an easy victory in this inaugural fixture, the Gents' fourth defeat in five. Nobody could fault the hosts' effort, although the catching was again poor. But a total of 134, hard-earned though it was (Kota batted for 20 overs) was never enough against a strong batting side. In a compelling and touching vignette, Ranjith Chatharaju was caught by Viscount's captain Shagr Sobers (grandson of Sir Garfield) and later bowled him.

Gents lost H. Patel early and crawled to 11 for 1 off seven. But in their contrasting ways Karan Patel, Basker, Kota, Ahmed and Namilikonda batted well against an impressive seam attack. Sixteen year-old Sediqi, Morrison and Walters each had three. Again the oppo would outcatch what was once the best fielding side on the circuit. Viscount missed two and pouched seven. In the second innings, Ahmed's simple pouch was the only success as six others were shelled and two, heinously, not attempted. Nothing irks a bowler like a refusal.

The Gents have successfully defended similar totals before. To do so you need early wickets. You certainly do not need to concede 14 in the first over, eight in the second and 10 in the third. Left-hander Clarke is a terrific batsman who hit hard all over the ground. Anderson was more measured but edged behind in the fourth. Seventy then came up in 11 overs as Sobers, unlike his grandfather a right-hander played some terrific shots including an enormous thump into the trees. Chatharaju had him and Naveed Khan in his first appearance of the season pinned Silvera when the scores were level. Clarke won the game when he deposited the second ball of a rare Basker over one bounce into the sightscreen.

Viscount replaced Judd Street Tigers, old friends who are in transition and had only one player available. That would have been a better game, if not as well-attended. There were forty or so supporters of the mainly Bajan visitors, including the formidable treasurer Mrs Foster who was reluctant to hand over the tea money because no tea had been provided for spectators. This went down well with the Gents' organiser, who had been deafened while performing scoring duties by the continual unrestrained commentary and coaching advice bellowed across the ground by his co-scorer, Viscount's non-playing captain Leighton Foster. Thank you sir for so wisely pointing out the Gents' mistakes.

Gents have caught 19 out of 66 wickets in 11 games (29%) in 2018, opponents 44 out of 95 (46%). When an email states that fielding routines will take place thirty minutes before start of play there may, just may, be a reason for it. Drops like catches are contagious. This brings us on to one last gripe - punctuality. The game started on time but four arrived with seconds to spare which did not help the captain. There was good discussion of these and other issues in a post-match review in the miraculously opened bar, well facilitated by the captain, in which everyone had their say.