

Millfields v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 6 May, Hilly Fields. Millfields won toss. Sunny, 25C

Lost by 27 runs

Millfields			Gentlemen of West London			
Street		b Krishna	44	†Ahmed	b Hughes	11
Collis	not out		150	Chatharaju	b Hughes	0
†Cordell	not out		41	Kota	b Gardiner	63
Marshall, *Cooper, Mellor, McCluskie, Raj, Hughes, Gregory and Gardiner dnb				Francis	b Street	40
				Bocha	b Street	8
				Caveney	b Gardiner	13
				Pingili	c Marshall	22
				*S Patel	c Gregory	4
				Kataru	c Street	51
				Krishna	not out	2
Extras	b6 lb4 w7 nb1		18	Extras	b2 lb1 w6 nb3	12
Total	1 wickets	40 overs	253	Total	All out	39.1 overs
FoW: 155				FoW: 6, 24, 107, 126, 139, 153, 157, 195, 226		
Bowling: Pingili 8-0-24-0, Kota 8-1-54-0, Kataru 9-0-43-0, Krishna 8-0-44-1, Bocha 5-0-49-0, Chatharaju 2-0-29-0				Bowling: McCluskie 8-0-31-0, Hughes 8-3-15-2, Raj 4-0-35-0, Gardiner 7-0-60-2, Street 8-1-41-3, Gregory 4.1-0-41-2		



Collis, a hundred and a half



Nani Kataru, a debut 51

Bat dominated ball in the third game between the clubs, ten-man Gents falling 27 runs shy of Millfields' huge total in broiling heat. That's 1,184 runs in the rubber now for only 41 wickets fallen. Kota hit his seventh fifty and student Kataru, who had travelled up from Southend, a fiery 51 on debut, but the innings of the day was by Collis who took out his bat for 150, hitting 13 4s and 5 6s, leading his side to 253 for one. Such a total has never been successfully chased in a Gents match and though they fell short the visitors gave it a real go, though they were never quite up with the required rate. The captain would later express his pleasure at the team's determination, if perhaps not some of the fielding.

Cooper won the toss and batted. Patel opened with the pace of Pingili and the off-spin of Kota, the openers moving on watchfully to 37 in 10 overs. Runs came more freely thereafter with only two half-chances given. When Krishna got one through Street's defences it was the first wicket taken since Bandla bowled Hurricanes opener Prashant seven days before in temperatures tending to absolute zero. In that time nine bowlers had sent down 34 overs.

Street's dismissal brought in the assertive Cordell who added 98 with the remorseless Collis. The second half of the innings brought 164 runs, boundaries coming in more overs than not. There were a few misfields but also some good stops. The two quickest bowlers Pingili and Kataru, neither of whom were on the team sheet midweek, carded the best figures. The total was the seventh highest by an opponent but a record for only one wicket down. Collis' score was joint-third in the oppo individual carnage list, Elmes of Northfields still leading with his monstrous 165 not out in 2015.

The pacy Cooper was unable to bowl through injury but McCluskie and Hughes were adequate substitutes, Hughes getting the openers early before Kota and Francis added 83 in 12 overs. Kota was going through the gears with a flurry of boundaries before seizing up with cramp. He soon fell. Bocha and Caveney struck forcefully if too briefly in support of the elegant Francis, who not for the first time glued the innings together. The rate slowed down around the 30-over mark but after Patel holed out in the deep Pingili and Kataru gave it a shot of adrenaline. They inherited a position of 157 for 7 with 97 needing off nine and scored 67 of them, running freely and scoring several boundaries before the overs ran out. The game was well hosted with a good tea and plentiful drinks. Hilly Fields is a public park but the only boundary interloper was a ginger-headed man wearing a disappointing jacket.