

Gentlemen of West London v. Squirrels

Sunday 12 August, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Cloudy and showery, 22C

Won by 2 wickets

Squirrels			Gentlemen of West London				
Prickett		b Dubey	6	Basker	c Barnard	b Holmes	25
Micapo		b Dubey	4	Dubey		b Holmes	6
Glavina	retired out		54	Kota	c and	b Barnard	51
†Aldridge		b Dubey	13	Kumar	c and	b Barnard	30
Carey		b Namilikonda	52	†Ahmed		b Jackson	26
Barnard	run out (Basker)		0	Namilikonda	c Aldridge	b Jackson	5
Clapson		b S. Patel	6	Krishna		b Mayes	13
*Alexander	c S. Patel	b Namilikonda	10	Chatharaju	not out		20
Holmes	not out		26	Caveney	run out		1
Mayes		b Namilikonda	0	*S. Patel	not out		0
Jackson	not out		10	H. Patel	dnb		
Extras	b2 lb2 w7 nb1		12	Extras	b1 w7 nb11		19
Total	8 wickets	35 overs	193	Total	8 wickets	35 overs	196
FoW: 12, 14, 33, 121, 122, 131, 151, 155, 156			FoW: 21, 34, 123, 132, 145, 167, 170, 190				
Bowling: Krishna 1-0-9-0, Dubey 7-1-26-3, Kumar 5-0-21-0, Chatharaju 3-0-20-0, H. Patel 5-0-35-0, Kota 2-0-13-0, Namilikonda 6-0-30-3, S. Patel 6-0-35-1			Bowling: Holmes 7-0-38-2, Mayes 7-0-51-1, Carey 4-0-21-0, Alexander 3-0-28-0, Barnard 7-0-39-2, Jackson 7-1-18-2				



Ranjith Chatharaju and the captain all smiles

Ranjith Chatharaju finished a tense encounter in astonishing fashion, hitting the day's final ball for six over long-on when four were needed to win. Squirrels, a sporting, entertaining team, seemed to have done enough to win after tight death bowling and brave fielding but were undone by a piece of magic that will be long remembered. The Gents are beginning to like chasing. Kota scored his fourth 50 of the season (to set alongside his century) to bring up his 1,000 runs for the club at a healthy average of 45.82. This was the sixth chasing win of 2018, four more than in 2017 and a number not exceeded since 2009.

Squirrels were founded in 1982 by alumni of the University of Nottingham, a serious academic institution where you can study subjects such as chemistry, physics or medicine. The town's popularity mainly derives from its rumoured preponderance of women over men, alas refuted by the 2011 census. Derby and Leicester are the places you need for such shenanigans. And, according to HP Denton, Uxbridge.

The visitors lost three early wickets to Dubey's prodigious swing and movement off the seam that thoroughly tested 'keeper Ahmed. Glavina and Carey then batted well to add 88 in 14 overs before Namilikonda provided the penetration others lacked with three wickets, including a neat stooping catch at short third-man S. Patel to dismiss captain Alexander. Fortunes were swinging in favour of the Gents but Holmes and Jackson had other ideas, thrashing 37 off 29 balls at the end. The concession of 16 runs in his final over, which included a catch not attempted, did not improve the captain's mood.

Holmes struck twice to bowl Dubey and have Basker caught cover after a violent 17-ball cameo that started with fours off balls one, three and five of the innings. Order was restored with a stand of 89 in 18 overs by Kota and Kumar that provided a platform for the later assault on a formidable total. By his own admission, Kumar is not the fastest runner in the club. What he does have is technique, intelligence and experience and all three qualities were shown here. Kota meanwhile was untroubled in hitting 10 fours en route to his third successive 50. After 22 overs, the Gents were 123 for 2, needing 71 off 12.

Spin twins Barnard and Jackson then turned the game round, Barnard taking sharp c&bs off full-blooded drives in successive overs to end two fine innings. Namilikonda edged behind and although Ahmed was scoring quickly it was becoming clear that it was going to be a cliffhanger. There then followed some athletic and skilful cricket by both sides, Ahmed and Krishna running well and Squirrels flinging themselves around the parched ground. Gents moved to 167 for 5 off 31 overs, 27 needed off four.

Ahmed and Krishna then fell in quick succession but Chatharaju, who had quietly played himself in, went on the attack. He and Caveney ran well, putting on 20, and the Gents entered the final over, to be bowled by Barnard, on 187 for 7. Chatharaju hit a two and a one. Caveney could not score off the next three, being run out off the last of these. Four were then needed to win off the last ball and the captain and non-facing batsman admitted after that he was ready to shake hands with a valiant winning opposition. But no! Chatharaju took a step down the wicket and drove the ball on the up like a rocket high towards and over long-on. Carey was on the boundary and caught it but had to step back a few paces to do so. Over the boundary in fact and Gents had won. No Gents game had ever ended with a decisive boundary off the last possible ball, let alone a sixer.

During the final overs some Gents were asking the captain to change his batting order (written down 1. to 11. before the innings started). He refused to do so for reasons understood by anyone who understands motivation and leadership, trusted his team and was vindicated.

It needs to be recorded here that secretary Glavina commendably did not misrepresent his side's strength while the fixture was being brokered. Many assert their strength to be weak/medium but are no such thing. The next lot who come down and mock us in such a way will be hunted down and put in a camp. Upon interrogation in the first innings, captain Alexander thought his team a little stronger in batting which largely inspired S. Patel to bowl first. It all made for a balanced game of ebb and flow.

Basker and Krishna had also played, and Chatharaju and Kota had been reserves, in United 'Titans' semi-final defeat the day before against Marchside Kings. Kings posted 211 for 3 with Kakani 173 not out. Titans so nearly did it. They were 209 for 3 with one ball left. Pavan Kumar was then run out for 123 after twisting his leg turning for the second – 210 for 3 and defeat by 1 run.

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
2018	Gents 196-8 beat Squirrels 193-9 by 2 wickets
2018	Gents 191-5 beat Pak 190-7 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
2005	Gents 175-3 beat New Barbarian Weasels 174-7 by 3 wickets
2017	Gents 175-6 beat Clapham In 173 by 4 wickets
1994	Gents 172-6 beat New Barbarian Weasels 171-9 dec. by 4 wickets

Glavina's retirement food for thought

The retirement of Glavina on 54 was recorded by Ken Toft as Retired out in the scorebook and he is always right in such matters. Under Law 25, a batsman retires out if he retires without the umpire's permission, and does not have the permission of the opposing captain to resume his innings. He kept his pads on and it would have been interesting to see the outcome had the Gents taken one more wicket. Were he to have resumed, he would have needed the permission of S. Patel to continue and might have received short shrift.

On 30 April 1983, C.G. Greenidge became the only Test batsman to be Retired not out. It happened during the fifth Test between West Indies and India in Antigua. After West Indies bowled out India for 457 in their first innings, Greenidge put on 296 runs with D.L. Haynes for the first wicket. He was on 154 when he got the news that his daughter was ailing. He had to rush from Antigua to Barbados to be beside her. Two days later she died. As a mark of respect, it was decided that Greenidge should be recorded as Retired not out. His 154 is known as the Tragic Century.