

## Gentlemen of West London v. Wimbledon United

Sunday 12 May, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Sunny, 17C

Won by 70 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Wimbledon United			
H. Patel	c J. Hitchman	b Brown	6	Ahmed	b Gulati	15
Gulati	lbw	b Wije'wardena	1	Phillip	lbw	1
†Dubey		b Brown	20	Iyengar	c Namilikonda	3
†Namilikonda	c J. Hitchman	b Hasan	28	Hasan	c Namilikonda	13
Kota	not out		93	Yousuf	c Kota	19
Sudireddy		b Hasan	4	Patel		40
Caveney		b Hasan	6	Kotze		11
Chatharaju		b Kotze	15	Wije'wardena	lbw	15
Newcombe	not out		15	†J. Hitchman	run out (Kumar)	1
*S. Patel and Kumar dnb				*Dean	c Kumar	0
				Brown	not out	1
<b>Extras</b>	b9 lb1 w3		13	<b>Extras</b>	b5 lb1 w4 nb2	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 wickets</b>	<b>40 overs</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>39.3 overs</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 6, 8, 36, 74, 97, 108, 143				<b>FoW:</b> 9, 21, 22, 40, 63, 99, 117, 127, 127, 131		
<b>Bowling:</b> Brown 8-1-34-2, Wijegoonawardena 5-0-33-1, Hasan 8-0-41-3, Kotze 8-0-28-1, Yousuf 7-1-24-0, Dean 4-0-31-0				<b>Bowling:</b> Kumar 8-1-16-2, Gulati 5-2-14-2, Chatharaju 7-1-25-0, H. Patel 5-0-13-1, Kota 4-0-22-0, S. Patel 4-0-18-1, Namilikonda 2-0-3-1, Newcombe 3-0-5-2, Sudireddy 1-0-5-0, Caveney 0.3-0-3-0		



The Gents won their fourth game of 2019 with an impressive batting recovery against popular oppo Wimbledon United. Kota showed exemplary concentration for 33 overs to glue the innings together with 93 not out and oversee a total that was better than hoped for, but credit should be also given to Mitesh Patel, who scored 40 with a broken hand in a brave reply by the Maroons. Captain Patel used ten bowlers.

In bright if cool sunshine Old Tenisonians looked a picture for the first home game of the season. The well-attended AFC Wimbledon Ladies v. QPR Ladies football match finished on time 2-2 and the groundsman jovially doled out bowls of chili to early arrivals, happy in the knowledge that within six hours his work would be done and he could binge-watch his favourite TV series, *Star Trek*. The pitch had been relaid over the winter and the wise ones were looking forward to discovering how it would play. The answer came: truly, with some seam movement and slow turn.

Maroons' batsmen D. Hitchman, teaching in Athens, and 2018 centurion Flannery, footballing at Anfield, were absent as was demon bowler Andrew "Six for one" Cripps who broke Gents' hearts in the Cottenham Park massacre of 2017. Father-to-be Newcombe returned for the Gents, his wonderful news a welcome distraction from the increasingly intemperate conversation about IPL and association football.

H. Patel and Gulati fell early but Dubey and Namilikonda batted briskly before a varied visiting attack got among the wickets. Dubey hit over a straight yorker, Namilikonda was neatly taken off a leg-glance. Sudireddy and Caveney did not prosper and the Gents declined to 108 for 6 in the 26th over. Maroons were on top. Kota was 35 at the time and with intelligent support from Chatharaju and Newcombe he batted gloriously, hitting nine 4s and three 6s as the seventh and eighth wickets added 93. Hasan, Brown, Kotze and Yousuf were the pick of the bowlers.

It was the first time Gents had batted first in this series and they had ultimately made good use of a sporting pitch. They had only failed to defend 200 four times so were favourites at tea, a lavish affair supplied by H. Patel that had a generous hint of outsourcing to Waitrose. Tasty, though.

Kumar and Gulati were accurate and challenging with their new ball. Phillip was pinned early, Ahmed yorked having driven a startling six into the Tennyson Avenue trees, Iyengar well taken by a diving 'keeper and Hasan caught off a top-edged pull. Maroons then needed 161 off 26 overs. Yousuf and Patel added 23 before Kota clung on to a drive at long on to give H. Patel a wicket. No batsman is stouter in defence than a fourteen-year-old with something to prove and Kotze's technique was admirable. It took captain S. Patel's outswinger to dislodge him, the highlight of the captain's first bowl in six games. Patel went bravely on before Namilikonda bowled him. Newcombe struck twice in a neat spell and Kumar, having caught Dean, then ran out the unfortunate Hitchman to end the game at ten to seven.

The aftermath was painful. H Patel suffered a hairline fracture of the wrist in the field. With the long-term absence of Ahmed and Francis, that's three senior players crocked. We wish them a quick recovery.

Kota's deeds were relayed to Bluster House, the Northern Home for Retired Cricketers. Resident M.H.W. Ashton reminisced about his own identical score, against New Barbarian Weasels in 1991. Denied a century that day by selfish batting from his partner, he beefily recalled that he rectified the matter in 1992. Cricketers never forget.