

Crown Taverners v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 16 June, Crown Taverners. Gents won toss. Sunny, 20C

Won by 116 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Crown Taverners				
Namilikonda		b Day	35	†Higginbotham	c and	b Namilikonda	9
Chatharaju	lbw	b Duffy	0	Bowles	c Kota	b Gulati	2
Kota	run out		79	M. Walter	lbw	b Gulati	4
Gulati	lbw	b Shillingford	8	Muralidharan	c and	b Namilikonda	0
Caveney	run out		4	Hayhoe		b Newcombe	25
Sudireddy	c Higginbotham	b Duffy	30	Duffy		b Namilikonda	1
Corbett		b Duffy	1	*Grannell		b H. Patel	4
Newcombe	not out		4	Berry	c Namilikonda	b Chatharaju	1
†Dubey	not out		7	Day		b H. Patel	1
*S. Patel and H. Patel dnb				Prakash	not out		1
				Shillingford	c Kota	b S. Patel	4
Extras	b2 lb2 w6 nb1		11	Extras	b11lb1 w9		11
Total	7 wickets	35 overs	179	Total	All out	25.3 overs	63
FoW:	1, 80, 100, 114, 166, 167, 168			FoW:	12, 22, 23, 23, 24, 32, 32, 38, 58, 63		
Bowling:	Duffy 7-2-20-3, Prakash 7-2-20-0, Berry 1-0-13-0, Grannell 5-0-32-0, Day 5-0-26-1, Shillingford 5-0-24-1, Muralidharan 3-0-31-0, Bowles 2-0-9-0			Bowling:	Gulati 5-0-13-2, Namilikonda 5-0-17-3, Chatharaju 5-2-5-1, H. Patel 5-2-15-2, Newcombe 3-2-5-1, S. Patel 2..3-0-6-1		

The Gents won their fourth successive game after shooting out Crown Taverners on a damp, variable pitch that alternately spat and kept low. They had earlier batted studiously and skilfully with the rock Kota scoring his fourth 50 of 2019. Despite the absence of bad feeling throughout the long history of matches between the clubs, tempers flared in the second innings and articles in the ICC Code of Conduct Levels 1, 2 and 3 were breached. These incidents cannot be ignored and will be discussed later.

Taverners fielded three first XI players, Bowles, Grannell and Michael Walter (son of the famous Trevor), and five second XI, Day, Duffy, Higginbotham, Muralidharan and Shillingford. Chatharaju fell to the fifth ball of the day but Namilikonda (seven 4s) and Kota (12 4s and a 6) added 79 in 17 overs, marrying watchful defence with thrilling strokeplay. Namilikonda was bowled by a shooter, by no means the day's last. Gulati and Caveney did not prosper, Caveney failing to ground his bat to be run out, but Sudireddy scored a spectacular 30 (two 4s and two 6s). Three players therefore scored 144 runs out of 168 off the bat (86%) as wickets fell around them. Having held the fort for 31 overs, Kota was run out after charging up the pitch to the crease of the spellbound Corbett, who was bowled soon after. Newcombe and Dubey added a few sensible runs against tight late bowling and neither Patel batted. Taverners' mostly accurate bowlers were supported by brave and sometimes spectacular outfielding, so 179 was not a bad total. The tea, as always here, was tasty and varied with identifiable sandwich fillings.

The pitch had been covered, and rolled just before the game, but there had been heavy rain in the week and Gulati and Namilikonda found conditions to their liking. Perhaps inspired by the unfairness of what he felt was zealous calling of wides, Namilikonda took two caught and bowleds, and castled a third. Gulati was hostile and had Walter leg-before and Bowles caught Kota at short cover. That was 24 for five in the eighth over and the match was pretty much over. The bowling was outstanding.

The six bowlers used by captain Patel presented a host of challenges. H. Patel, bowling slower than usual, got turn and bounce, bringing one back a foot from outside off-stump to bowl Grannell. Chatharaju induced Berry to hole out to mid off to give Namilikonda his third catch of the day and 10th of the season. Hayhoe then fought back with a series of meaty clubs to the leg-side boundary but it was 63 all out when Shillingford chipped the captain to mid on Kota at 23 minutes to six. Drinks with Taverners were gratefully consumed and Gents were invited back in 2020.

A strange day ended with a novel experience for your correspondent when he was accosted by a gypsy from County Kerry, who with his tribe had recently invaded Hanwell and whose standards of personal hygiene were not high. He keenly listened to the crackpot reminiscences of the Irishman, who was clearly a benign man of peace, with a fund of goodwill. It was better to have met him than not.

Seconds out



Crown Taverners CC 16.6.19: Daniel Bowles is persuaded to leave the field

The barometer of Srinivas Namilikonda's emotional nature was set for a spell of riot, which duly arrived when umpire Trevor Walter wided him eight times. It is an offence under ICC Code of Conduct Level 1 to show dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action. Like many players, he needs a competitive edge to give of his best, but cavorting in front of an umpire and performing an arcane war dance may not be the best way to get him onside.

Immediately after the dismissal of Bowles the game lost all sense of discipline. Perhaps Bowles thought it was a bump ball. The umpires later confirmed that it was not; he scooped the ball off the toe of his bat. Whatever upset him he was reluctant to leave the crease. According to a Gents club official close to the incident, whose word we trust, Newcombe, for reasons known only to himself, then proffered a handshake but was rebuffed with an expletive, which he instantly returned. Bowles threatened Newcombe and had to be escorted from the pitch by Dubey and Namilikonda with the phrase "Calm down" ringing in his ears. Telling an angry person to calm down is always effective and never results in an escalation of tensions. Bowles rejoined his team bellowing dire imprecations, threatening to "fix" the former Gents captain who would "have to take the consequences of his actions". While it was all kicking off, the Gents scorer was meekly trying to ascertain the new batsman's name and record the fall of the wicket, such details being of prime importance to him.

Shades of Cuntgate in 2007 when bequipped Gents 'keeper HP Denton was alleged to have used a vile term to the Weasels' captain, the argumentative Gregg Dyer. The accusation was forcefully denied.

The Gents had breached the Level 2 offence of deliberate physical contact between players during play, although the restraint of Bowles did not seem to be aggressive. By his action Bowles had ascended, or descended, to the Level 3 offence of threat of assault on a player, team official, or spectator. To the credit of the protagonists, apologies were offered and accepted during the drinks break, but both clubs are better than that and a recurrence would be unwelcome. The local Facebook Crime page was ablaze. "A poor example to any children watching on TV", ranted J. Davies of Farnham. "Get the F** In", said someone called Mooncat G, who was later blocked by Admin.

More importantly, who would have won a fight between Newcombe and Bowles? Based on his bloodcurdling tales of putting in reducers on girls in mixed netball games, our money would have gone on the younger man Newcombe in the fourth simply because of this more recent combat experience.