

Gentlemen of West London v. Brentham

Sunday 2 June, Wycombe House. Brentham won toss. Humid, 23C

Won by 189 runs

Gentlemen of West London		Brentham			
Z. Ahmed	retired hurt	53	Mike	b H. Patel	1
Chatharaju		7	*Krishna	c Namilikonda	14
Gulati	retired not out	102	Haroon	c Gulati	11
Kota	c Krishna	2	Ankit	c Gulati	29
Shaikh	c Haroon	44	Vinay	b Kota	43
Corbett	c sub. (Gulati)	14	†Kelly	not out	11
†Namilikonda	c Haroon	14	Jignesh		0
Sudireddy	not out	17	Vaz	c Namilikonda	2
Kumar		34	Badar I	c Kota	0
*S. Patel and H. Patel dnb			Badar II	not out	0
Extras	b3 lb1 w19 nb3	26	Extras	b5 w6 nb2	13
Total	6 wickets	313	Total	8 wickets	124
FoW: 52, 85, 229, 252, 258, 313	40 overs		FoW: 4, 21, 34, 89, 120, 121, 124, 124	40 overs	
Bowling: Krishna 4-0-29-0, Jignesh 2-0-26-0, Vaz 10-1-83-2, Vinay 8-0-63-0, Mike 1-0-15-0, Haroon 8-0-50-1, Badar 7-0-43-3			Bowling: H. Patel 8-3-10-3, S. Patel 8-1-23-0, Kumar 7-0-23-1, Sudireddy 6-0-28-0, Shaikh 3-0-10-0, Gulati 3-0-18-0, Chatharaju 3-1-2-0, Kota 1-0-4-2, Z. Ahmed 1-0-1-2		

The Gents' long-awaited first game at Wycombe House's splendid ground saw a convincing win inspired by Vinitesh Gulati's 102, the fastest in club history. Thanks are due to Brentham for stepping in after Gubbays, not for the first time, pulled out. They fielded a youthful, friendly team with two experienced old hands, but only had nine men after two were kidnapped by their Chess Valley League Sunday XI. The Gents could have garnered them guests had they been notified earlier and lent two fielders in rotation throughout, one of whom took a catch. The captains also agreed that two Brentham could bat twice. By their own admission they were weak but judging by the socialising between the teams during and after play they seemed to enjoy the day.

The inserted Gents scored freely from the word go with debutant Zahid Ahmed elegantly lacing his cover drives before retiring hurt on 53. They raced to 52 off five overs, including an all-run Chatharaju 4. This was not Kota's day with the bat, but Gulati was majestic. He joined the Pantheon of Gents centurions after 19 overs at the crease, striking 15 4s and 4 6s, two of which cleared the faraway southern boundary. He, Buck, Butler, Jones and Sanga hit the machismo jackpot, scoring tons without first recording a 50.

Liberal scoring continued before late arrival Haroon and Badar pegged it back. Shaikh looked good for a 50 before holing out, Corbett and Namilikonda cracked it about before Sudireddy and Kumar added 58. Sudireddy driving a memorable 6, his first ever. The club's record total of 325 was briefly threatened but 313 it was, still an intimidating score against a game bunch of lads who kept their pecker up.

Bangladesh v. South Africa held the attention in the opulent clubhouse at tea before the captains prised out the players to resume batting at two minutes past five. Adding back the wides and taking off the drinks break, Gents bowled at 20 overs per hour for the first time in recorded history, a rate enabled by Brentham's tactics. Their likeable young captain Krishna impressed on his team the need for crease occupation. They may not win, he argued, but batting practice in such circumstances would be invaluable should they have to chase, say, 160 (where he set the bar) in a Saturday league match. The Gents therefore found it hard to take wickets, but went for few runs. When the Patels had bowled straight through, Brentham were 35 for three, needing an unlikely rate of 11.6 per over.

H. Patel took three wickets to go to 11 in his sixth game. He had quite an eventful day, which started when he demanded to open. He put his pads on and grabbed his bat whereupon discussions took place which jettisoned him to No.11. Vinay batted well and deserved a 50. The catching was up to scratch and Namilikonda took a remarkable one in the final over, when Vaz kneeled, played the ramp shot and scooped it into the gloves. Statisticians had some fun. The Gents' total was their third-highest, the third-wicket stand of 144 their eighth-highest (though not a record for that wicket) and the tireless Vaz's concession of 83 runs in 10 overs, having opened with a wicket maiden, has only been exceeded once.



Vinitesh Gulati – first 100 and the fastest ever



Zahid Ahmed – 50 on debut

A new chapter opens?

Wycombe House CC made all welcome and supported the day on and off the pitch. Ameer Ahmed played here for years before moving to Ashford (Surrey) for the 2019 season. Though injured, he put in a great shift tending the scoreboard (see *Note*), engaging the Brentham youngsters in entertaining if blood-curdling conversation about the politics of Pakistani cricket and manning the bar. When the Gents were short of players he kindly brokered the playing services of brother Zahid (IIs) and old friend Vasi Shaikh (Is) who also worked hard behind the scenes to ensure that the day ran smoothly. The tea of devilled chicken and chana chickpea curry went down well. The beauty of having the host club supply tea is that there is no faffing around with buying the stuff, unloading cars and washing up. Once the game is done social relations can begin immediately. Nothing was too much trouble for them and the Committee sent a message of thanks to WHCC for their efforts.

The Daktronics electronic scoreboard is similar to Byfleet's, though the 'Horn' facility had to Hemin Patel's disappointment not been enabled, perhaps out of fear, perhaps because of the absence of a soundcard. What a thing of magic it is to press a button, say 'Player A +4 Runs' and see the score brightly updated a hundred yards away. Batsmen can even see their own score! Simple pleasures are best. The old scoreboard (shown on the front cover of this magazine) has correctly not been decommissioned. It should have a preservation order slapped on it. As a young boy Ameer Ahmed tended it, being paid in sweets and pop. It would be interesting to discover if the no doubt wholesome graffiti scrawled by him and his mates survive.

Gents have three games at Wycombe House in 2019 and hope to increase their allocation in 2020, though if fewer pitches were taken at Old Tenisonians CC their unit price may rise. Demand to play here on Sundays is higher than at Old Tens, though perusal of the 2019 handbook indicates a few gaps in May, August and September. No regular guest sides play there, one-off fixtures supplementing a clutch of Middlesex Development League games. What we can conclude is that this was a successful first date, one the Gents are keen to repeat.

Note: as pointed out here before, it is not recommended that one person should tend both scorebook and scoreboard.

The Gulati 102



No – we are not an app

. 4 2 . . . 4 4 1 6 . 4 . 4 . 2 4 . 4 2 . 4 . 4 . . 1
 . 4 . 4 . 1 . . . 4 2 6 4 . 6 . 1 1 1 4 1 1 2 6 4

102* (57 balls, 4 6s, 15 4s, 5 2s, 8 1s, 25 dot balls)

This beat the previous record of 102* off 59 balls scored by Rinku Lall *v.* London Saints at Old Haberdashers on 14 August 2011.

. 1 . 6 6 1 . . . 4 4 4 . 1 . . 1 . 1 1 . 2 4 1 6 6
 . . . 4 1 . . . 1 6 4 4 6 . 1 1 . . 1 6 6 4 . 2 6 . 2 . 6 3 . 1
 2 . 6 4 2 .

Top 10 totals in Gents games

325-5	Gents <i>v.</i> London Saints (Old Tenisonians 3.6.07) ⁴⁰ overs Batting first, won
325-9	Gents <i>v.</i> St Anne's Allstars (Crown Taverners 4.8.13) ³⁵ Batting first, won
313-6	Gents <i>v.</i> Brentham (Wycombe House, 2.6.19)
301-9	Gents <i>v.</i> London Saints (Old Tenisonians 18.5.14) ³⁵ Batting first, won
290-3	Gents <i>v.</i> London Rams (Old Tenisonians 25.6.06) ³⁵ Batting first, won
284-3	12 Angry Men <i>v.</i> Gents (Victoria RG 29.7.01) ³⁵ overs Batting first, lost
281-7	Gents <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels (Fairfield RG 7.7.07) ³⁵ Batting first, won
281-7	Stanmore Warriors <i>v.</i> Gents (Shenley CS 3.9.17) ⁴⁰ Batting first, lost
279-3	Gents <i>v.</i> West XI (Crown Taverners 4.9.11) ³⁰ Batting first, won
279-7	Gents <i>v.</i> Clapham In (Chiswick House 1.9.13) ³⁵ Batting first, won

Top 20 partnerships in Gents games

1	239*	Bulmer (140*) and Maddock (87*) (London Owls) ^{Record wicket stand against}	Victoria RG	5.9.93
3	215	Heyman (132) and Jones (89) (Village XI) ^{Record wicket stand against}	Old Hamptonians	30.7.06
6	212*	Small (131*) and Kumar (74*) <i>v.</i> St Anne's Allstars ^{Record wicket stand for}	Boston Manor PF	7.6.15
2	186	Elmes (165*) and Murray (56) (Northfields) ^{Record wicket stand against}	Durston House	24.5.15
3	169	Giles (34) and Griffiths (113) (Hale)	Hale Common	27.9.09
3	166	Husain (100*) and Kain (87) <i>v.</i> London Saints ^{Record wicket stand for}	Old Tenisonians	3.6.07
3	163	Sanga (100*, Ahmed 50* and Chalamalasetti 26*) <i>v.</i> Bricklayers' Arms	Raynes Park SG	27.8.17 ^{Timed}
4	162	H. Desai (46) and Lall (128) <i>v.</i> London Saints ^{Record wicket stand for}	Old Haberdashers	14.8.11
3	161	Lall (102) and Cloete (97*) <i>v.</i> West XI	Crown Taverners	4.9.11
2	160	Branch (50*), Susman (50*) and Stanier (37) (Bedouins)	Enville	6.8.06
3	156	Hubbucks (67) and M. Ashton (137*) <i>v.</i> Enterprise	Victoria RG	10.5.92
1	155	Collis (150*) and Street (44) (Millfields)	Hilly Fields	6.5.18
5	152	M. Ashton (102) and Hughes (57*) <i>v.</i> London Saints ^{Record wicket stand for}	Victoria RG	15.8.93
1	149	S-A Khan (144) and S. Borkhatria (61) (Stanmore Warriors)	Shenley SC	3.9.17
3	144	Gulati (102*), Z. Ahmed (53*), Shaikh (44) and Corbett (14) <i>v.</i> Brentham	Wycombe House	2.6.19
4	138	Jaques (107) and Torbe (65) (East Harrow Cheetahs) ^{Record wicket stand against}	Beverley Park	4.8.96 ^{Timed}
3	138	N. Khan (75) and Small (88) <i>v.</i> Bricklayer's Arms	Raynes Park SG	21.8.16 ^{Timed}
3	137	Hadfield (102) and Davies (33) (12 Angry Men)	Victoria RG	29.5.94 ^{Timed}
3	137	Harper-Dallas (59) and S. Patel (69) <i>v.</i> Enterprise	Beverley Park	1.7.00
3	136	J. Wright (95*) and Husain (76) <i>v.</i> London Rams	Old Tenisonians	25.6.06