

THE GENT

June 2013

No. 139

Tales from the corridor of uncertainty

BBC discover cricket is not funded by taxpayer



Match reports:

Cairns Fudge (won by 46 runs)

Ramgarhia (won by 7 wickets, won by 4 runs)

MSV Zeemacht (lost by 5 wickets, lost by 63 runs)

CC Zwolle (lost by 32 runs)

London Saints (won by 8 wickets, won by 43 runs)

Hale (won by 23 runs)

Unbeaten domestic start

Fixtures hit by absenteeism

BBC Black Book of Cricket

What they said about Derby Fever

Averages

Dad's Army - Bill Pertwee tribute and full Platoon scorecard from *The Test*

Random libellous abuse

Contact this magazine via email andrewburman_840@hotmail.com

Read about the Gents on www.gowlcc.org

A date which will live in infamy

It is time to come in off a long run. Even before the appalling incident described below, the 2013 season was proving to be somewhat chaotic. After unusually well-attended nets the barometer was set fair. Then the season started. Only six Gents toured Holland (thanks to Judd Street Tigers for supplying five players), while the following weekend's match with Northfields had to be cancelled as only seven Gents were available. Three players have long-term injuries, two have joined golf clubs and two have become fathers. Furthermore, Mr Toft's computer is broken so there has been no report of the tour.

Thus was the backdrop of events leading up to 9 June when a game was scheduled to have taken place against London Rams. Their captain Mike Severn – a good, decent man – cancelled on the Tuesday before, i.e. in good time, and replacement opponents were sought via the usual channels. Although these events were troublesome, it has to be stressed that they were nothing out of the ordinary, being what a small cricket club commonly has to deal with as the season builds momentum. What happened on 9 June, however, defied belief.

In summary, and our hands are still shaking with rage as these notes are being typed nine days later, BBC Mishits CC were a no show on the day and did not inform the Gents that they would not be coming. Not since Pearl Harbour, alluded to above, has such outrage been inflicted on innocent victims. Some sixth sense told us that they were not going to show. Not even the Secretary's magic trick of scurrying from the ground in a stressed manner and lurking by Motspur Park station succeeded in making opponents flesh. A few cars swung off the roundabout into Arthur Road but they disappointingly belonged to residents.

Learned Counsel Ken Toft QC has studied the exchange of emails and agrees that the fixture was confirmed. Mishits were in the run up to the game very interested in the fee for the day, which as Toft has pointed out in effect put the Gents in a contract bidding process where the lowest offer gets the game and unsuccessful candidates are not notified. Memories of a similar experience against the pompous British Library came to mind, but at least they turned up.

Urgent Sunday afternoon calls were put in to their club's somewhat dozy Chairman, who had no knowledge of the fixture. A subsequent vigorously-expressed enquiry by Secretary Burman was met with a grudging apology from the administrative genius who so competently brokered the fixture.

The internal game was a reasonable use of the facilities but could it easily have been upgraded to a proper match had BBC telephoned the Gents in the morning. Within moments, Dhruv and Ketan Patel can summon up six or seven friends or relations. They've done it before. Yet the Gents were denied even that by the blithe arrogance and selfishness of their planned guests.

This act of supreme discourtesy adds weight to the argument that the BBC is the most bloated, inefficient organisation on God's green earth. For years we have paid £150 plus per year to watch dreary Michael Palin travelogues, repeats of BBC4 1970s cock rock documentaries, snivelling "comedians" and Junior Bake Off. Now they cannot even organise a cricket team. What a shower.

The BBC will close ranks. After Burman's final email rumours are afoot of revenge in the form of a Panorama Special outing the veteran Gent for sundry misdemeanours in the 1970s. He is expecting the knock on the door from Operation Yewtree detectives, accompanied no doubt by dozens of BBC journalists and cameramen, any day now. Try it if you want. She said she was 16. While he has your attention, the Editor of *The Gent* would like to apologise for his speech when it became clear that BBC were not going to show. Firebombs achieve nothing.

You, the umpire

Controversy occurred in the feisty internal game when Dubey completed a second run off Lall. A fast throw came in to the bowler from Bocha. Dubey had grounded his bat but moved out of his crease. Lall put down the wicket and umpire Burman gave Dubey out. Captain Newcombe did not withdraw the appeal. Dubey cited Law 38 (1) A batsman is not run out if he or his bat had been grounded behind the popping crease, but he subsequently leaves it to avoid injury, when the wicket is put down. Burman, ignorant of this Law but perhaps more persuaded by Lall's menacingly staring him out, stood his ground. Dubey was therefore given out but returned in true boy's story fashion to hit the winning run as part of a last man stand. Apologies are due to him as it seems the umpire made a mistake although his eye was on the ball up to the time the wicket was put down, when Dubey was out of his crease. The umpire had a sensation of movement but how do you define evasive action?

What they said about Derby Fever

Chris Dane: A brief history of the world, in 60 chapters. It's the nature of great sporting rivalries that each team is defined by its relationship to the other. No matter how their fortunes fare in the wider world they are judged (particularly from within) by performances against their foes. The derby fixture comes to represent the season, rendering other fixtures mere preludes or afterthoughts to the main event.

So it was for over 20 years between West XI and the Gents. With a shared DNA and similar outlook to the Sunday game, both teams are much closer than they'd like to think but share a mutual antagonism and respect that has endured the passing years. This rivalry was enshrined in the annual Bob Ashton Memorial Cup, usually played over three fixtures each summer. The formation of the new Judd Street Tigers meant the trophy could be retired after 22 years of dedicated, hard-fought contest. After another washout in 2012 here's hoping the weather allows the Tigers to hunt down the Gents in 2013, heralding the start of a new rivalry.

Gents stalwart Andy Burman, with no doubt help from West XI's Steve Bignell and others, has put together a loving tribute to the trophy, the characters and the incidents that went into the making of this great rivalry. Relive each contest from sun-parched origins in 1990 to the final rain-sodden denouement in 2011.

Chris Wright: Reading this brought the memories flooding back. What hard fought contests these were, there was always a big sense of anticipation and excitement as you knew that by the close of play it would either be elation or despair!

Winning that first BAMC in 2001 saved my captaincy from the night of the long knives (confirmed by Phil Hill a few years later) as I seem to recall we only won about four other games the whole season. From then on though the team went from strength to strength until eventually the Gents wrestled back the initiative and by the end were fielding extremely strong teams and winning comfortably at the trophy's demise.

Personally I thrived on the fierce competition and I believe it did bring the best out of individuals on the pitch. There were some great individual performances by players from both teams over the years, all the more impressive as they were delivered under immense pressure.

We had such a strong team spirit during those years when we were dominant and I remember the post-match celebrations which went on long into the evening. Some of those Berkhamsted evenings will stay with me for a very long time. Some people did get a little carried away with it all and as captain I spent quite a lot of time trying to keep the team cauldron bubbling but ensuring that it didn't quite boil over. Quite a challenge on some days!

Overall, the fact that we don't continue to play the competition is a loss, but I look back on it all with very fond memories, of cricket played in a great spirit, fielding, catching, bowling and batting, sometimes of the highest quality. With the Judd Street Tigers' first net session approaching and another season just around the corner, it seems like a golden age when we were able to select a team from 18 or 20 available players, such was the appetite for the fixture, I don't think we'll be in that position again in the near future. I think that says everything about the BAMC competition in a nutshell. Good luck with the 2013 season.

Tony Buck: I enjoyed reading the Silver Jubilee issue but have to disagree on Dhruv being in your Second XI. I never saw a better spin bowler in all my seasons with the Gents than Dhruv (mid to late 1990s version) and he could bat a bit too.

Mark Ashton: Good call on Cameron Vine (cited in Derby Fever as the most talented player in the competition's history), the way he played Snelling in 1998 was beyond belief. You have to be talented to late cut a fast bowler like that.

Cameron Vine: Thanks for this, let me know if any of you are coming down for the Ashes.

Sunday 18 August

The details for the anniversary game are being finalised but what a day it promises to be, with players past and present. We are expecting one or two very special guests. There will be plenty to eat and drink and a shedload of cricket. Please reserve the date in your diaries if you have not already done so.

2013 results and fixtures

Date	Gents	Result	Judd Street Tigers	Result
Sun 21 April	-	-	Railway Taverners	Won by 6 wickets
Sun 28 April	Cairns Fudge	Won by 46 runs	Potter Street	Won by 54 runs
Sun 5 May	Ramgarhia	Won by 7 wickets	Dinder	Won by 120 runs
Sun 5 May	Ramgarhia	Won by 4 runs	-	-
Sun 12 May	-	-	-	-
Sat 18 May	MSV Zeemacht	Lost by 5 wickets	-	-
Sat 18 May	MSV Zeemacht	Lost by 63 runs	-	-
Sun 19 May	CC Zwolle	Lost by 32 runs	-	-
Sun 26 May	Northfields	Cancelled	Graces	Won by 12 runs
Sun 2 June	London Saints	Won by 6 wickets	Eastons	Lost by 4 wickets
Sun 2 June	London Saints	Won by 76 runs	-	-
Sun 9 June	BBC Mishits	Cancelled	London Saints	Won by 8 wickets
Sun 9 June	-	-	Sunderland SC	Won by 76 runs
Sun 16 June	Hale	Won by 23 runs	Octopus	Won by 66 runs
Sun 23 June	-	-	Fives	Abandoned (rain)
Sat 29 June	-	-	Plums	Winchester
Sun 30 June	Pak	Old Tenisons	Dinder	Dinder
Sun 7 July	TBD	TBD	N2 Casuals	Winchmore Hill
Sun 14 July	Judd Street Tigers	Old Tenisons	Gents	Old Tenisons
Sun 21 July	Crown Taverners	Crown Taverners	CAMRA	Winchmore Hill
Sun 28 July	Baker Street Irregulars	Away	Magpie and Stump	Winchmore Hill
Sun 4 August	St. Anne's Allstars	Crown Taverners	Old Grumblers	Winchmore Hill
Sun 11 August	London Saints	Old Haberdashers	Southgate Adelaide	Walker Ground
Sun 18 August	Enterprise/Old Gents	Old Tenisons	Cincinatti	Away
Sun 25 Aug	TBD	-	TBD	-
Sun 1 Sept	Clapham In	Away	Acme	Winchmore Hill
Sun 8 Sept	Salix	Imperial College	Railway Taverners	Winchmore Hill
Sun 15 Sept	TBD	-	Whalers	Winchmore Hill
Sun 22 Sept	TBD	-	VCC	Away
Sun 29 Sept	Hale	Hale Common	-	-
Record	Played 9 Won 6 Lost 3		Played 9 Won 7 Lost 1 Abandoned 1	
Runs	Bocha 132 Lall 123 Small 94 Cloete 81		Pinfield 297 Dane 200 Herlihy 155 Porton 139 Wright 126	
Wickets	Lall 10 C Wright 8 Bocha, Raipuri 6		Warren 12 Dane 9 Webster, Wright 7	
Catches/Stumpings	Bocha 4 Pinfield 2		Porton 3/1 Dane, Pinfield 3	

2013 summary match performances

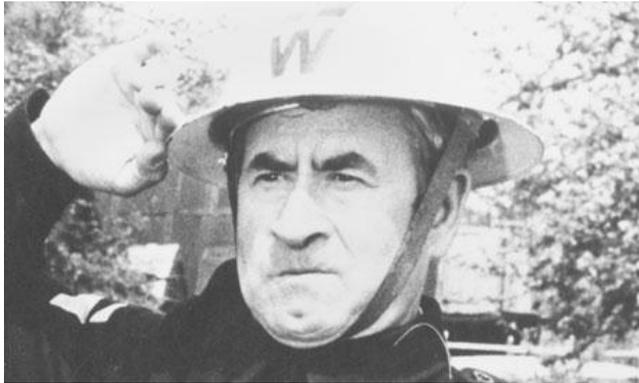
28/4	Wandsworth	Gents 231-3 (Cloete 81, Bocha 54, Wahed 42)	Won by 46 runs
	Common	Cairns Fudge 185-6 (Lam 35*, Huxley 33, Howells 28, Griffiths 28, Hibbert 3-20)	
5/5	Old Tenisons	Ramgarhia 63 (Raipuri 4-7, Pentakota 3-28) Gents 67-3 (Lall 43)	Won by 7 wickets
5/5	Old Tenisons	Gents 97-7 (Raipuri 24, Lall 24) Ramgarhia 93-7 (Aman 27, Ali 26)	Won by 4 runs
18/5	Zeemacht	Gents 61 (M Jones 23, Kajan 3-5) MSV Zeemacht 62-5	Lost by 5 wickets
18/5	Zeemacht	MSV Zeemacht 122-8 (Rathu 52, M Jones 3-16) Gents 59	Lost by 63 runs
19/5	Zwolle	CC Zwolle 121 (Sylvan 28, C Wright 5-21) Gents 89-9 (Dishant 3-14)	Lost by 32 runs
2/6	Crown Taverners	London Saints 83 (Griffiths 45, Lall 4-25) Gents 86-2 (Small 57*)	Won by 8 wickets
2/6	Crown Taverners	Gents 151-4 (Bocha 44*, Lall 41) London Saints 108-6 (Chalmers 22*, T Jones 4-13)	Won by 43 runs
16/6	Crown Taverners	Gents 134 (Small 37, S Patel 25, Bocha 20, Davies 4-21)	Won by 23 runs
		Hale 111 (Gurney 35, R Larby 29*, Bocha 5-37)	

Geen informative beschikbaar

The @GOWLLCC twitter feed was silent. Facebook postings ceased on the Saturday morning. The wireless, tuned in to Hilversum short-wave, elicited only a crackle. In Zeemacht, the Gents were skittled for a stout 59 all out in just 11.1 overs, the shortest completed innings in club history, although this record is tempered by the fact that a maximum of 15 were allowed. Both innings against MS Zeemacht crashed the bottom 10 club totals.

51	London Owls (Gunnersbury Park, 5 May 1991) <small>Batting first, game won</small>
54	East Harrow Cheetahs (Cranford Park, 27 May 1989) <small>Batting second, game lost</small>
54	Magdalen (Old Tenisons, 1 July 2012) <small>Batting second, game lost</small>
55	Brondesbury Casuals (Brondesbury, 7 September 2003) <small>Batting first, game lost</small>
57	West XI (HSBC, 7 September 2008) <small>Batting second, game lost</small>
58	Sunderland SC (Arnos Park, 5 July 1997) <small>Batting second, game lost</small>
59	Wombles (Victoria RG, 30 August 2009) <small>Batting first, game won</small>
59	MSV Zeemacht (Zeemacht, 18 May 2013) <small>Batting second, game lost</small>
60	West XI (Victoria RG, 29 May 2005) <small>Batting second, game lost</small>
61	MSV Zeemacht (Zeemacht, 18 May 2013) <small>Batting first, game lost</small>

Put that light out



Sadly, they did. Bill Pertwee (1926-2013) was not only a super actor but also a cricket fanatic. He was assistant baggage man to the 1946 Indian touring team. That sounds a tough gig.

As ARP Warden Hodges his cricketing skills were seen in two episodes of Dad's Army. In *Menace from the Deep* he bowls out a mine with a hand grenade and in *The Test* his Wardens make 152-4. From what is seen on screen it can be deduced that the Home Guard platoon members scored the following runs in their one-wicket win:

- Captain Mainwaring 17 (lbw and also “booked” by umpire Verger for sarcasm)
- Sergeant Wilson 81* (seen bowling slow left-arm in the Wardens’ innings, with a perfect action)
- Private Pike 0 (bowled)
- Lance-Corporal Jones 18 (bowled)
- Private Frazer 7
- Private Walker 12 (also held a sharp close catch in the Wardens’ innings)
- Unknown
- Unknown
- Private Sponge 1 (bowled)
- Unknown (bowled)
- Private Godfrey 8* (including the winning six)

Only two regular Dad's Army characters are still alive, the Rev. Timothy Farthing (Frank Williams, born 1931) and Private Pike (Ian Lavender, 1946). Also still batting is Mrs Fox (Pamela Cundell, 1920). Ian Lavender was a good enough player to bowl Captain Mainwaring first take in the nets and begged to be allowed to keep for one ball to EC Egan (FS Trueman), the ringer introduced by Hodges in *The Test*. Sadly his request was refused by the director. All boys are encouraged to watch the episode on YouTube and note how Laurie Wright models his hyperactive wicket-keeping style on that of Corporal Jones, random bail removal and all. At the end of *The Test*, the siren goes and the two teams promise to arrange a football match over the winter. The great unmade episode!

For Arthur Wilson, the result and his performance were profoundly pleasing. Only a few episodes before, Mrs Pike had revealed that her landlord Mr Hodges had doubled her rent and that she now owed him £50, a debt he was prepared to waive if she was “nice” to him. Trust Wilson to come through with personal and platoon honour at stake.

Hale and hearty

Hodges's spirit of blustering confrontation is kept alive today by the great Jonny Comfort of Crown Taverners and Hale. “We'll win this by ten wickets,” he announced when marching out with Weaver to chase down the Gents' 134 on 16 June. Two balls later he was back in the pavilion. It is the nature of these things. Equally predictable was the demise of HP Denton, which always comes after he has had a fuss. It disturbs his concentration. Having played a sensible defensive shot, the bequipped opener gestured for the sightscreen to be moved (note for psychiatrists and Method Actors: Crown Taverners has no sightscreens). This inevitably means instant dismissal for him and sure enough next ball he spooned to cover.

Tigers start to fly

It was inevitable when Judd Street Tigers were formed that there would be some player attrition. The very geography of their games – all but one in north London or Essex, away from their west London roots – ensured that. But what a good job they have done in producing a tough, competitive side. They are scoring bags of runs (559 more than the Gents so far in the same number of innings, with Pinfield and Dane already past 200) and have won seven out of nine games to date. They will be most welcome visitors to Motspur Park on 14 July.

Cairns Fudge v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 28 April 2013, Wandsworth Common. Gents won toss. Cloudy, 12C

Won by 46 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Cairns Fudge			
Bocha		b Simon	54	Huxley	b Hibbert	33
Hibbert		b Fargher	12	†Howells	run out	28
†Cloete	c McDonald	b Lam	81	Griffiths	b Palmer	28
Wahed	not out		42	Correal	b Hibbert	10
Lall	not out		15	McDonald	c Wahed	17
Kumar, T Jones, Palmer, Denton, *Newcombe and Dubey dnb				Simon	b Hibbert	1
				Lam	not out	35
				Barclay	not out	17
				Fargher, *Jensen and Taylor-Maughan	dnb	
Extras		w26 lb1	27	Extras	w15 nb1	16
Total	20 overs	3 wickets	231	Total	20 overs	6 wickets
FoW: 53, 91, 193				FoW: 43, 86, 102, 120, 127, 165		
Bowler				Bowler		
Jensen	4-0-38-0			Kumar	4-0-35-0	
Lam	4-0-32-1			Bocha	4-0-48-0	
Fargher	3-0-37-1			Palmer	4-0-41-1	
Barclay	3-0-42-0			Hibbert	4-0-20-3	
Simon	2-0-16-1			Lall	3-0-21-1	
Maughan-Taylor	2-0-30-0			Newcombe	1-0-20-0	
McDonald	2-0-35-0					

On a bitingly cold Sunday the Gents and their excellent hosts Cairns Fudge defied the absence of a prepared wicket to card an unprecedented 416 runs in a violent Twenty20. That there was a game at all was a triumph for positive thinking and credit should go to the two captains Jensen and Newcombe, who corralled their freezing troops and tried to ensure that involvement was maximised. Praveen Bocha hit the fastest ever Gents fifty off just 21 balls before ceding the record 20 minutes later to Gregg Cloete, who despite looking likely to give up the ghost to the cold at any moment clubbed his first 52 off only 16, facing just 27 balls in total. Cairns Fudge replied briskly but were always slightly behind the required rate.

No pitch had been cut so the impressive organiser Daf Howells was soon in the nether world of Quadron's Emergency Contact Procedure, which consisted splendidly of a mobile number to be called in the event of meltdown. The veteran Gents organiser immediately had flashbacks to such life-blighting horrors as the absence of pitches at Victoria RG in 1992 and Finsbury Park in 1999. A mower and roller were unlikely to be spirited up by the female apparatchik who answered the phone, so the teams decamped to the artificial wicket, while one of the Fudges went home to get a set of sprung stumps. Civilian footwear stepped up to the plate as boundary markers. With the delayed start, the decision to reduce the overs and bowl them all from one end was sensible.

In 2012 Fudge had dismissed the Gents for 97, going on to win by 4 wickets. Only Sanjay Patel scored more than 8 that sunny day, his 40 including the only three boundaries of the innings. Only Hibbert and Lall returned. With an aggressive top six and no deviation off the seam, circumstances were ideal for a rather different day's cricket. The tone was set by Bocha, who had solid support from Hibbert. The Jamaican was bowled in the 5th. over but Bocha went swiftly to his fifty with five fours and three sixes. By now Cloete was batting and he was clearly in the mood, striking eight sixes and five fours. He fell after 11 overs at the crease for 81, well caught on the square-leg boundary, by which time Wahed had overcome his ring-rustiness to post an elegant 42. He was well supported by Lall. The final score was a record Twenty20 score in Gents matches.

The Gents needed a big score for Cairns Fudge attacked the target valiantly with fours, but crucially few sixes, being struck all over the ground. Palmer, in a rare bowl, got a good wicket after forays by Kumar and Bocha, who nearly went into negative equity after Howells and Griffiths took a shine to him. By now midwinter easterlies, general in this country since January, were keening. Several players began to resemble stroke victims, having lost control of their facial muscles and begun to drool. A spell of four overs into the gale was immediately ordered by Dr Newcombe to his patient Hibbert, three wickets the result. The outfield was average and the catching appalling, although Wahed managed to clutch onto one via a Hibbert knockdown. Fashion errors were committed in the field by Lall, bowling in a purple top and Hibbert, wearing a black and red striped hoody that looked like a piece of retro AC Milan merchandise, though to his credit he did peel it off to bowl. The required rate became an impossible task for Cairns Fudge but they fought to the end even though the visitors had won the race to the pole and planted their flag.

Gentlemen of West London v. Ramgarhia

Sunday 5 May 2013, Old Tenisons. Gents won toss (toss in second game was agreed). Cloudy, 19C

Won by 7 wickets

Ramgarhia			Gentlemen of West London			
Ali	c Hibbert	b Pentakota	0	T Jones	b Graeme	1
Gogs		b Pentakota	15	Palmer	lbw b Graeme	1
Ash	c Bocha	b Lall	1	†Denton	not out	6
Aman		b Lall	0	Lall	c Gurpreet b Disco	43
Sunny	c Bocha	b Pentakota	4	Kumar	not out	7
Sumeet		b Raipuri	2	Raipuri	dnb	
Gurpreet	c Qureshi	b Raipuri	8	Qureshi	dnb	
Butch		b Bocha	0	Wahed	dnb	
Amarpreet	not out		11	Bocha	dnb	
Graeme		b Raipuri	1	Pentakota	dnb	
Disco		b Raipuri	0	*Hibbert	dnb	
Extras		w3 nb2 b16	21	Extras	w4 b4 lb1	9
Total	12 overs	All out	63	Total	15 overs	3 wickets
FoW: 0, 9, 23, 34, 36, 45, 47, 47, 48, 63			FoW: 1, 4, 59			
Bowler			Bowler			
Pentakota	5-0-28-3			Sunny	3-0-20-0	
Lall	3-0-12-2			Graeme	3-0-7-2	
Raipuri	3-1-7-4			Ali	3-0-17-0	
Bocha	1-0-1-1			Gogs	3-2-2-0	
				Aman	2-0-13-0	
				Disco	1-0-3-1	

Won by 4 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Ramgarhia			
Qureshi	lbw	b Graeme	0	Ali	lbw b Lall	26
Pentakota	lbw	b Graeme	0	Amarpreet	c Bocha b Raipuri	1
Wahed	c Aman	b Disco	13	Ash	c Raipuri b Pentakota	0
Raipuri		b Aman	24	Aman	b Lall	27
Bocha	c Gurpreet	b Gogs	14	Gurpreet	b Raipuri	16
*Hibbert	c Ash	b Aman	9	Sunny	c Pentakota b Kumar	2
Lall	lbw	b Disco	24	Sumeet	lbw b Kumar	1
Palmer	not out		1	Gogs	not out	5
Kumar	not out		8	Graeme	not out	1
T Jones and †Denton	dnb			Butch and Disco	dnb	
Extras		w1 nb2	3	Extras	w4 nb3 b5	12
Total	15 overs	7 wickets	97	Total	15 overs	7 wickets
FoW: 0, 4, 21, 53, 57, 68, 82			FoW: 11, 25, 43, 77, 80, 84, 87			
Bowler			Bowler			
Graeme	3-0-17-2			Raipuri	3-0-12-2	
Sunny	2-0-8-0			Pentakota	2-0-13-1	
Gogs	3-1-25-1			Bocha	2-0-7-0	
Disco	3-0-26-2			Lall	3-0-20-2	
Aman	3-1-11-2			Hibbert	2-0-21-0	
Sumeet	1-0-9-0			Kumar	3-0-13-2	

The Gents bowled and fielded sensationally to beat Ramgarhia for the first time at a pleasantly warm Old Tenisons. After bowling out their guests in just 12 overs, the Gents lost two quick wickets before a 55 run stand between Lall and Denton ensured that there would be no late drama. This was Ramgarhia's first game of the season and the match mirrored 2012's, when the Gents lost in similar circumstances. The teams were much changed from the previous two encounters; only Kumar (2011 and 2012) and Lall (2011) had played Ramgarhia before. The groundsman, taking his cue from an old schedule, was not expecting a match but did a sterling job mowing and rolling a pitch in short order.

Hibbert won the toss and chose to field. The Gents were on top from the moment Ali drilled the first ball of the game from Pentakota into Hibbert's safe hands at mid-off. Ash was dropped three balls later but in the next over holed out to diving short extra-cover Bocha off Lall, the first of three excellent catches over the day for him. Ramgarhia did not help themselves with some of their shot selection but Pentakota (now playing league cricket in Telford and down in London for the weekend), Lall, debutant Raipuri (filling in for late withdrawal Shu Desai) and Bocha constituted a formidable seam attack on a slow, low May pitch.

That three catches were taken at mid-off or mid-on is evidence of the visitors' approach. A late assault by Amarpreet was the best batting of the innings but he fell off strike and Raipuri cleaned up. Extras comfortably top-scored.

There was a quick turnaround and initially the Gents found batting no easier, Ickenham CC's Graeme bowling Tom J and pinning Palmer, whose brisk early negotiation with the groundsman cannot go unlauded. Lall batted furiously, smiting seven fours and two sixes while Denton batted sensibly. Kumar confirmed victory after Lall was well held in the deep.

The sides then regrouped for a 15 overs game which lasted longer than the main event. Lall's assault on Disco, 20 off four balls before being pinned lbw, helped the Gents put up a par total. Ramgarhia seemed to have timed their reply to perfection and stood at 77-3 off 12 but tight bowling from Raipuri, Lall and especially Kumar pegged them back. A successful captaincy debut for Horace Hibbert then against a good bunch of lads.

MSV Zeemacht v. Gentlemen of West London

Saturday 18 May 2013, Zeemacht

Lost by 5 wickets

Gentlemen of West London

Pinfield 11, Denton 0, Burgess 1, Porton 2, S Khan 0, C Wright 0, M Jones 23, *Newcombe 0, T Jones 6, Toft 0*

Extras (nb1 w11 b5 lb1) 18

61 all out (22 overs) FoW: 1, 8, 11, 13, 16, 25, 26, 52, 61

Bowling: Ajanthan 4-1-7-1, Kajan 5-1-5-3, Rajan 3-0-10-1, Kokilan 4-0-8-1, Gerthuran 6-0-25-1 **Catches:** NR

MSV Zeemacht

Kuperan 1, Mathan 9, Nadeem 4, Kobi 1, Gerthuran 0, Rajan 18*, Kokilan 11*

Extras (nb1 w2 b2) 5

62-5 (15.3 overs) FoW: 0, 5, thereafter NR

Bowling: C Wright 6-1-10-2, M Jones 3-0-10-0, S Khan 5.3-1-23-1, Burgess 1-0-10-0 **Catches:** S Khan 1, Pinfield 1

Lost by 63 runs

MSV Zeemacht

Rathu 52, Unche 0, Ajanthan 1, Gerthuran 13, Karan 0, Kokilan 18*, Rajan 10, Mahar 3, Nadeem 1, Kuperan 5*

Extras (w1) 1

122-8 all out (15 overs) FoW: NR

Bowling: Newcombe 3-0-25-1, Pinfield 3-0-28-2, M Jones 3-0-16-3, Burgess 1-0-13-1, S Khan 2-0-16-0, C Wright 3-0-12-1

Gentlemen of West London

C Wright 6, Porton 4, Pinfield 1, M Jones 10, T Jones 5, Denton 3, S Khan 6, Burgess 0, Newcombe 1, Toft 3*

Extras (nb3 w15 lb2) 20

59 all out (11.1 overs) FoW: 11, 14, NR, NR, NR, 42, 42, 43, 59 **Bowling:** NR

CC Zwolle v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 19 May 2013, Zwolle

Lost by 32 runs

CC Zwolle

Wasi 0, Bakker 0, Kobi 0, Asif 2, Shabaz 14, de Haan 3, Dishant 0, Danesh 15, Sylvan 28, Raja 10, Cyran 5*

Extras (nb1 w26 b11 lb2) 43

121 all out (30 overs) FoW: 0, 5, thereafter NR

Bowling: C Wright 7-1-22-5, Webster 7-1-21-1, Newcombe 4-0-8-2, Burgess 2-0-14-1, Porton 3-0-15-0, S Khan 7-0-34-1

Catches: Pinfield 1, **Stumpings:** Porton 1

Gentlemen of West London

Pinfield 0, Denton 7, S Khan 5, C Wright 3, M Jones 6, †Porton 9, Burgess 0, Newcombe 17, T Jones 2, Toft 4*, Chez 5*, Webster dnb

Extras (w25 b2) 27

89-9 (35 overs)

FoW: 0, 22, 27, 39, NR, NR, NR, 64, NR, 89

Bowling: Vasi 6-2-14-0, Asif 6-0-18-1, Dishant 6-1-13-4, Shavaz 5-0-14-1, Janna 6-1-7-0, Kavi 3-0-12-1, Kobi 3-0-6-1

Catches: NR

Gentlemen of West London v. London Saints

Sunday 2 June 2013, Crown Taverners. Gents won toss. Sunny, 19C

Won by 8 wickets

London Saints			Gentlemen of West London			
Griffiths	c Bocha	b Lall	45	Small	not out	57
Dewhurst		b Hibbert	11	Caveney	c Chalmers	0
A Mayhew		b S Patel	0	T Jones	b Burrell	5
†Chalmers		b S Patel	2	†S Desai	not out	18
Hotston		b Lall	0	Kumar	dnb	
McIntyre		b Lall	0	Dubey	dnb	
*Thomas		b Lall	3	Lall	dnb	
Berkeley		b Small	1	*Hibbert	dnb	
MacCaig		b Kumar	5	S Patel	dnb	
Grimes	not out		3	Bocha	dnb	
Burrell		b Small	0	H Patel	dnb	
Extras		w10 b3	13	Extras	nb1 w4 lb1	6
Total	22.2 overs	All out	83	Total	17.4 overs	2 wickets

FoW: 37, 52, 56, 58, 58, 59, 69, 74, 74, 83

Bowler

Lall	5-0-25-4
H Patel	2-0-22-0
Hibbert	4-0-7-1
S Patel	5-0-11-2
Kumar	4-0-12-1
Small	2.2-0-3-2

FoW: 0, 19

Bowler

Berkeley	5-2-9-0
Burrell	5-0-21-2
Griffiths	2-0-13-0
Grimes	3-0-16-0
McIntyre	2-0-18-0
Dewhurst	0.4-0-8-0

Won by 43 runs

Gentlemen of West London			London Saints			
Kumar	c Sub. (S Desai)	b Berkeley	19	Dewhurst	b Lall	6
Lall	lbw	b A Mayhew	41	Hotston	lbw	16
Hibbert		b Grimes	10	Burrell	b T Jones	12
Bocha	not out		44	McIntyre	b T Jones	16
†S Patel	c Sub. (S Desai)	b Hotston	22	Berkeley	b T Jones	8
H Patel	c Chalmers	b Griffiths	5	†Chalmers	not out	24
Dubey	not out		1	*Thomas	b T Jones	0
Caveney	dnb			A Mayhew	not out	6
S Desai	dnb			Grimes		
T Jones	dnb			Griffiths		
Small	dnb					
Extras		w9 b2	11	Extras	w13 b5 lb2	20
Total	15 overs	4 wickets	151	Total	15 overs	6 wickets

FoW: 56, 68, 88, 130

Bowler

Dewhurst	2-0-18-0
Burrell	2-0-21-0
A Mayhew	2-0-22-1
Berkeley	3-0-22-1
Grimes	2-0-13-1
Hotston	2-0-24-1
Griffiths	2-0-25-0

FoW: 31, 34, 55, 66, 71, 71

Bowler

S Desai	2-0-16-0
Bocha	2-0-14-0
Lall	2-0-7-1
H Patel	2-0-11-1
T Jones	2-0-13-4
Dubey	2-0-18-0
Caveney	2-0-22-0
Kumar	1-0-5-0

Disappointingly knocked out of the Europa League at the Group Stage, the Gents got their domestic campaign back on track with victories by 8 wickets and 43 runs against old rivals London Saints, whose first games of 2013 these were. After the visitors had fallen away after a bright start, Jonny Small scored 57* on debut having previously taken a wicket with his first ball for the Gents, a leg-break that deceived Berkeley. Crown Taverners had made a substantial investment in the facilities, including a new artificial pitch (not needed here) and a new scoreboard. The ground was in excellent nick.

After the first game finished at a quarter-to-five, a 15 overs game took place, which saw bright batting by Bocha and Lall before Tom Jones took four wickets in the evening sunshine to record a second win for the hosts. This is the third time this season that such games have been played; it is a good way to ensure that everybody has some involvement. In the end, all players either batted or bowled, although the 2012 Gents Batsman of the Year faced only one delivery.

Hibbert surprisingly inserted Saints and thinking that a hard, dry pitch would provide turn gave Hemin Patel the new ball alongside Lall. Griffiths deposited four full-tosses over the ropes in Patel's first over, leading him to bemoan the fortune of any poor sap who has to grip and spin a shiny new ball. The Hypocrisy Police were immediately put on standby when he was reminded that he did exactly the same thing as captain against West XI in May 2009, opening with himself and Sciberras, to some effect one recalls. Although dropped three times, Griffiths batted very well but after his doughty opening partner Dewhirst went, the Gents' seamers established an advantage that Saints were powerless to prevent, having had no match practice and missing a few players.

Lall had pulled a muscle in his first over and took a breather but was lively and accurate in his return, deep extra-cover Bocha obliging with the catch to dismiss Griffiths. He and the returning Sanjay Patel accounted for the middle order and Southampton's innings subsided to 83 all out with 12.4 overs unused. Kumar bowled as sharply as anybody, accounting for guest MacCaig with a beauty that moved back to clip the left-hander's off-bail. The few balls of leg-spin bowled by Small to 72-year-old Tony Grimes, stoutly defended by the veteran, was according to Dave Thomas "black and white cricket." It would have been worthy of an old Pathé newsreel.

Nevertheless, 83 all out was not a disaster for the visitors and after a quick turnaround they struck immediately when Caveney top-edged a full toss to the wicket-keeper for a golden duck. Jones batted cautiously but effectively to repair the damage with Small before being bowled. Desai was on good form from the off and as Small grew steadily in confidence, striking one six and ten fours, the match slipped away from Saints' grasp.

Some jolly batting in the second game brought up a good score and although Southampton batted well it proved beyond them. The game was sullied by some very loud and perhaps not first grade banter between two Gents that included an exchange of views while the bowler was running in. This is disrespectful to the Spirit of Cricket, patronising to our opponents and should be slapped down by the captain. Shouting across the field is unacceptable. You never found any of the early Gents teams doing that (ahem, except under conditions of extreme stress involving overthrows). We are not foreign rioters. We speak the language of Shakespeare and if people persist in this sort of behaviour measures may be taken. Save it for after the match.

Averages 2013

	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
Bocha	6	4	1	132	44.00	4	16	0	107	6	17.83
Burgess	3	3	0	1	0.33	-	4	0	37	2	18.50
Caveney	3	2	0	6	3.00	-	2	0	22	0	-
Chez	1	1	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cloete	1	1	0	81	81.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denton	7	5	1	16	4.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Desai S	3	2	1	26	26.00	-	8	0	43	1	43.00
Dubey	3	1	1	1	-	-	2	0	18	0	-
Hibbert	6	4	0	31	7.75	1	10	0	48	4	12.00
Jones M	3	3	1	39	19.50	-	6	0	26	3	8.67
Jones T	8	5	0	19	3.80	-	2	0	13	4	3.25
Khan S	3	3	0	11	3.67	1	14.3	1	70	2	35.00
Kumar	5	3	2	34	34.00	-	12	0	65	3	21.67
Lall	5	4	1	123	41.00	-	16	0	85	10	8.50
Newcombe	5	4	0	36	9.00	1	8	0	53	3	17.67
Palmer	3	2	1	2	2.00	-	4	0	41	1	41.00
Patel H	3	2	1	7	7.00	-	4	0	33	1	33.00
Patel S	3	2	0	47	23.50	1	12	2	36	3	12.00
Pentakota	2	1	0	0	0.00	1	7	0	41	4	10.25
Pinfield	3	3	0	12	4.00	2	3	0	28	2	14.00
Porton	3	3	0	15	5.00	-/1	3	0	15	0	-
Qureshi	2	1	0	0	0.00	1	-	-	-	-	-
Raipuri	2	1	0	24	24.00	1	6	1	19	6	3.17
Sciberras	1	1	0	6	6.00	1	6.2	0	21	2	10.5
Small	3	2	1	94	94.00	-	2.2	0	7	2	3.50
Thoms	1	1	0	0	0.00	1	-	-	-	-	-
Toft	3	3	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wahed	4	2	1	55	55.00	1	-	-	-	-	-
Webster	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	1	21	1	21.00
Wright C	3	3	0	9	3.00	-	16	3	44	8	5.50

That is 30 players used so far and boy have the Gents been grateful for guests. Burgess, Chez, Tom Jones, Shez Khan, Pinfield, Porton, Raipuri, Small, Thoms and Webster have all debuted, becoming Players 285-294 in the archives. Tom Jones tops the appearance list. Shu Desai, de la Perrelle and Laurie Wright have been injured all season. We hope to see them again soon.

Sunday 16 June 2013, Crown Taverners. Hale won toss. Cloudy then sunny, 20C

Won by 23 runs

Gentlemen of West London		Hale					
Bocha	c Dale	b Davies	20	†Comfort	c Thoms	b Bocha	4
†Denton	c Weaver	b Davies	0	*Weaver		b Bocha	12
†S Desai		b Davies	8	Gurney	c and	b S Patel	35
Small	c Rees	b Gurney	37	Dale		b Bocha	0
Hibbert	c R Larby	b Davies	0	Hardy		b Bocha	4
Thoms	c Hardy	b Giles	0	†Giles	c and	b Sciberras	1
S Patel		b R Larby	25	MacCaig	lbw	b Bocha	0
Sciberras		b R Larby	6	R Larby	not out		29
Caveney	c Davies	b Gurney	6	Rees		b S Desai	2
*Newcombe	c Rees	b Comfort	17	Davies	c Newcombe	b Sciberras	14
H Patel	not out		2				
Extras		w13	13	Extras		w9 b1	10
Total	29.4 overs	All out	134	Total	26.2 overs	All out	111
FoW: 13, 22, 33, 33, 33, 73, 88, 96, 117, 134				FoW: 4, 47, 55, 55, 55, 55, 62, 71, 111			
Bowler				Bowler			
Davies	7-0-21-4			Bocha	7-0-37-5		
Giles	7-1-44-1			S Patel	7-2-25-1		
R Larby	7-1-27-2			Sciberras	6.2-0-21-2		
Gurney	6-0-27-2			S Desai	6-0-27-1		
Comfort	1.4-0-15-1						
MacCaig	1-1-0-0						

The Gents edged an excellent and tense game when Sciberras broke a last-wicket stand of 40, Hale's player of the day Davies (four good wickets, a gritty 14 and a catch) driving to cover, who dived forward to take the catch. A day for the bowlers saw middle-order collapses in both innings but the Gents squeezed out just enough runs to win, Small impressing with his cultured 37. Eleven batsmen were caught, an unusually high number at this level, but the Gents' catching is still woeful. The tough ones are sticking but the easy ones are not.

The game nearly did not happen. Hale had only six players on the Wednesday but Crown Taverners came to the rescue. Gents had been hovering around 9-10 all week, had 11 on the Saturday, dropped back down to 10 on Sunday morning with the illness of Mark Jones but were restored to full complement when Horace Hibbert brought along his son-in-law Dane Thoms for a game. What a fielder he turned out to be, taking one good catch and fizzing in his return throws.

Weaver bowled his slows, Davies and Giles, through as the inserted Gents plummeted to 33-5. Denton, Hibbert and Thoms all mistimed drives, Desai was bowled and Bocha, who had begun well, top-edged to square leg. It was not particularly bright cricket but after this dodgy start the Gents batted rather well. Larby is the fastest bowler on the circuit but Small played him with fine technique, a cover-driven four causing murmurs of appreciation from the spectators. Patel's counter attack ended with a Larby snorter that left his stumps in a heap, Small fell off his first false shot and Sciberras became Larby's second victim. Caveney wafted his wicket away, but Newcombe and Hemin Patel saw up a fair score, although it was disappointing that 32 balls were unused. Hale were favourites at tea and Comfort, who does not lack self-confidence, predicted a ten-wicket win.

He lasted two balls, pulling a four off Bocha then picking out square leg who had been moved deeper. This was thoughtful captaincy, but there was much muttering when Bocha was kept on after a savaging from Gurney, who pulled a four and a six off the last two balls of his first over. In a low-scoring game, Hale's 46-1 after 6 overs (Bocha 3-0-30-1) was painful reading. But the captain was vindicated when Bocha switched to round the wicket. The change of angle transformed the match. His length improved and in no time Weaver, Dale, Hardy and MacCaig had gone. Sanjay Patel's brilliant low, diving caught and bowled saw off the dangerous Gurney and Sciberras and Sachin Desai had quick successes after the 14 overs double change.

With 64 needed for the last wicket, Hale's eleventh man having gone home, it looked like a very early finish, but Larby and Davies had other ideas. They batted intelligently and chancelessly. When 11 came from Desai's wide-strewn sixth over, Newcombe appeared to have moved from being in control of the match to waiting for something to happen. He then moved himself in at cover, saw Davies stroke Sciberras for four through the gap he had just vacated but was rewarded next ball with the match-winning catch, which no doubt rounded off Sciberras's birthday well. There was little between the teams and few would bet against a Hale win in the return.