THE GENT

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| **August 2014** | **No. 143** |

Tales from the corridor of uncertainty

**Celebration time**



**RIP Smudge**

**Southern Hemisphere ablaze - Gregg Cloete and Morgan Clark set record stand in Barnes**

**Gubbays and Cairns Fudge inflict defeats**

**Gents and Tigers 480-runs bonanza**

**Rain washes away three games**

**Averages**

**Match reports**

**Gubbays (lost by 25 runs)**

**Hale (won by 61 runs)**

**Hyde Farmers (won by 61 runs)**

**Cairns Fudge (lost by 3 runs)**

**Bricklayer’s Arms (abandoned)**

**Judd Street Tigers (won by 20 runs)**

**St. Anne’s Allstars (won by 23 runs)**

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Read about the Gents on [www.gowlcc.org](http://www.gowlcc.org) or Twitter @gowlcc

RIP Smudge

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| 010.JPG | Smudge the Cat, who has died peacefully, was a great friend of Crown Taverners and always permitted cuddles from the Gents, who send their condolences to Jerry and Sue on their sad loss. The Gents first met Smudge in dramatic circumstances, in the 2011 Hale game. Ken Toft reported: “The early part of the innings was notable for incursions onto the field of play by a rather docile and foolhardy cat. After being removed a couple of times the moggy rather unwisely found his way to the Crown and Cushion. The landlady of the said establishment is no friend of the cricket club and carried the poor creature to its home, directly across the outfield, exchanging pleasantries with a couple of fielders and alienating 22 potential customers.” |

Smudge made regular, most welcome appearances in subsequent Gents matches, although in September 2011, on the occasion of the final ever game against West XI, he spent the afternoon sleeping. He had a pied-à-terre in Crown Taverners’ pavilion, where food and milk were laid in for him by a kind but mysterious benefactor, whose identity was never established, although a venerable slow bowler seems likely. Rest well, little fellow.

Records passed in 2014



Some statistical updates from 2014:

* On 8 June, Gubbays inflicted the first defeat on the Gents since CC Zwolle on 19 May 2013, a record unbeaten run of 19 games (18 won, 1 tied) in all games and 22 games in England.
* Not content with recording the Gents’ fastest 50 against Baker Street Irregulars in 2013 (52 from 16 balls, total 81 from 27), South African pin-up boy Gregg Cloete then hit 111 against London Saints on 18 May to record the club’s quickest century. He went to 102 from only 41 balls and faced 44 in all. In 2012, previous record holder Rinku Lall hit 128 from 73 balls, also against Saints, going to 102 from 60.
* Cloete currently has 907 Gents runs at an average of 56.69. Nobody else with more than six innings has an average over 50, Nabil Husain on 49.35 being the next best. Without a qualification, Alex Butler, who scored 100 in his only game, stands alone.
* Vijay Basker and Rinku Lall’s 113 for the second wicket against Cairns Fudge was the first Gents’ century stand ever in a losing cause. Both scored 50s, again uniquely in a losing cause.
* Dozens of players have been loaned to or from opponents in Gents games over the years but none had scored a 50 until Vijay Basker’s 66 for Judd Street Tigers, part of a record opening stand for that club (see picture above in which Herlihy has pushed to backward of square on the leg side, not for the first time).

Century partnerships in a losing cause (\* = unbroken)

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| **3** | **169** | Giles (34) and Griffiths (113) of Hale | Hale Common | 27 September 2009 |
| **3** | **117** | Tait (76) and Radmall (48) of Enterprise | Victoria RG | 29 April 1990 |
| **2** | **113** | Basker (53) and Lall (56) *v.* Cairns Fudge | Old Tenisons | 29 June 2014 |
| **2** | **111** | Wilson (107) and Penny (41) of Wandham | Beverley Park | 5 June 1994 |
| **2** | **111** | Best (75) and Patrick (27) of New Barbarian Weasels | King’s College | 18 June 1994 |
| **1** | **109** | Basker (66) and Herlihy (44) of Judd Street Tigers) | Winchmore Hill | 27 July 2014 |
| **2** | **100** | Taylor (56) and Walton (28) of West XI | Gunnersbury Park | 21 July 2002 |

**Gentlemen of West London *v.* Gubbays**

**Sunday 8 June, Old Tenisons. Gubbays won toss. Sunny, 26C**

**Lost by 35 runs**

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| **Gubbays** | | | | | | **Gentlemen of West London** | | | | |
| Neal |  | | | b Hibbert | **48** | Jampala | | lbw | b Mihir | **3** |
| Deepak | c Jampala | | | b Lall | **1** | Pentakota | |  | b Ali | **2** |
| Sanjay | c Lall | | | b S Patel | **10** | Dubey | | c Sandeep | b Ali | **6** |
| Mihir | c Katragadda | | | b Lall | **29** | Lall | |  | b Mihir | **0** |
| \*Aryuat | c Lall | | | b H Patel | **14** | S Patel | |  | b Mihir | **0** |
| Khaz | c Pentakota | | | b Lall | **1** | Katragadda | | run out |  | **25** |
| †Sandeep |  | | | b Lall | **2** | †Thoms | |  | b Ali | **7** |
| Ali | run out | | |  | **6** | \*Hibbert | | c and | b Neal | **37** |
| Shyam | not out | | |  | **6** | Caveney | |  | b Aryuat | **4** |
| Vijay | did not bat | | |  |  | H Patel | | not out |  | **1** |
| Manish | did not bat | | |  |  | Hebis | | Abs. injured |  |  |
| **Extras** |  | | w12 nb4 b5 lb1 | | **22** | **Extras** | |  | w13 b9 lb1 | **19** |
| **Total** | **35 overs** | | | **8 wickets** | **139** | **Total** | | **29.1 overs** | **All out** | **104** |
| **FoW:** 6, 75, 82, 111, 117, 128, 130, 137 | | | | | | **FoW:** 6, 6, 13, 16, 18, 37, 79, 101, 104 | | | | |
| **Bowler** |  |  | | |  | **Bowler** |  | |  |  |
| Katragadda | 7-3-8-0 |  | | |  | Mihir | 6-1-9-3 | |  |  |
| Lall | 6-1-28-4 |  | | |  | Ali | 7-1-24-3 | |  |  |
| Dubey | 4-2-5-0 |  | | |  | Neal | 4.1-0-17-1 | |  |  |
| Pentakota | 4-0-26-0 |  | | |  | Aryuat | 7-0-29-1 | |  |  |
| Hibbert | 3-0-24-1 |  | | |  | Manish | 6-0-15-0 | |  |  |
| S Patel | 7-1-16-1 |  | | |  |  |  | |  |  |
| H Patel | 4-0-26-1 |  | | |  |  |  | |  |  |

Gubbays, a late replacement after Ramgarhia’s pull-out and the best side played in 2014, ended a club record unbeaten run of 18 games which stretched back to 2 June 2013, 53 weeks. This was a fiercely contested match in which the visitors’ solid batting technique on a bowler’s wicket proved decisive. The Gents, batting one short due to a serious shoulder injury suffered by debutant Hebis, fought all the way but were outplayed on the day by a talented side who had, in contrast to the Gents, not enjoyed much success in 2014. Neal (five fours and a six) and Hibbert (four fours and a six) provided the best batting of the day and there were several notable bowling performances, including a miserly 7-3-8-0 from Katragadda, 6-1-28-4 from Lall and excellent spells from Mihir and Ali which earned them three wickets apiece.

Hibbert lost the toss and the Gents fielded. Lall struck early when Jampala took a simple catch at square-leg to see off Deepak but Neal batted with confidence and was well supported by Sanjay, Mihir and Aryuat. The pitch was low and slow and the outfield damp and grassy. Boundaries were therefore scarce although Neal’s policy of controlled aggression, in contrast to some mad swishing by most of the Gents’ top order, paid dividends. Hibbert bowled him with a pearler of an inswinger but Gubbays’ sound top order kept the board ticking over. A hundred and fifty looked attainable but Sanjay Patel produced a great spell and with Lall’s penetrative second blast and sound catching Gubbays were restricted to 139-8. With the ball keeping low and a hint of irregular bounce, it was a defendable total. Misfortune struck poor Hebis when he dislocated his shoulder falling to the ground after attempting a run out. An ambulance attended and took him to Kingston Hospital.

Mihir and Ali were the best opening bowlers faced in many a moon: not express, but uncannily accurate and they gave the batsmen nothing. Pentakota, Jambala, Dubey, Lall and Sanjay Patel fell quickly, three playing over straight deliveries. Seven days before the Gents had recovered from 31-5 to post a winning score. This time, the depths of 18-5 proved irrecoverable. Thoms struck a straight six and supported the sound Katragadda well before a momentary lapse saw him misjudge a straight one, watching the ball onto his stumps. The captain’s entry then changed the character of the match, if not the result, as 42 came up for the seventh wicket. Hibbert had begun to find the boundary when Katragadda was run out going for a tight second. The returning Ali did for Caveney and Hibbert drilled a low caught and bowled to Neal with the Gents 35 runs short at 6.40pm. He was shattered with disappointment but had led well from the front.

The pleasant ritual of lining up after the game and shaking hands with one’s opponents became standard practice about five years ago. For a change, then, the Gents had to complement their handshakes with words of congratulations to deserved victors rather than ones of commiserations to gallant losers. Dane Thoms, for example, had never before tasted defeat as a Gent. This result will do the Gents no harm and Gubbays need to become a regular fixture. Congratulations to them.

**Gentlemen of West London *v.* Hale**

**Sunday 15 June, Old Tenisons. Hale won toss. Cloudy, 18C**

**Won by 61 runs**

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| **Gentlemen of West London** | | | | **Hale** | | | |
| Small | c Weaver | b Davies | **13** | †Short | c Raju | b Pentakota | **6** |
| Pentakota |  | b Larby | **0** | Abdul | c Small | b H Patel | **39** |
| †Basker | c Short | b Larby | **0** | Larby |  | b Pentakota | **10** |
| Raghu | c Larby | b Davies | **22** | †Giles | c Basker | b H Patel | **5** |
| Jampala |  | b Larby | **32** | Zeeshan | run out |  | **21** |
| Katragadda | c Giles | b Davies | **3** | Upkar | not out |  | **16** |
| S Patel |  |  | **71** | Rees | lbw | b H Patel | **1** |
| †Raju |  |  | **12** | Punchard | c H Patel | b Small | **1** |

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| \*Hibbert, Orugant and H Patel did not bat | Umar |  | b Small | **0** |

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|  |  | | |  |  | \*Weaver | |  | b Small | **2** |
|  |  | | |  |  | Davies | |  | b Small | **0** |
| **Extras** |  | | w20 b3 lb1 | | **24** | **Extras** | |  | w4 nb2 b6 lb3 | **15** |
| **Total** | **35 overs** | | | **6 wickets** | **177** | **Total** | | **29.1 overs** | **All out** | **116** |
| **FoW:** 9, 11, 38, 52, 64, 150 | | | | | | **FoW:** 17, 33, 65, 83, 92, 94, 96, 96, 108, 116 | | | | |
| **Bowler** |  |  | | |  | **Bowler** |  | |  |  |
| Larby | 7-0-49-3 |  | | |  | Katragadda | 4-1-7-0 | |  |  |
| Giles | 7-0-17-0 |  | | |  | Pentakota | 7-0-35-2 | |  |  |
| Davies | 7-0-26-3 |  | | |  | S Patel | 6-0-28-0 | |  |  |
| Upkar | 7-0-22-0 |  | | |  | H Patel | 7-1-32-3 | |  |  |
| Abdul | 2-0-18-0 |  | | |  | Small | 5.1-2-5-4 | |  |  |
| Short | 2-0-20-0 |  | | |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Umar | 3-0-21-0 |  | | |  |  |  | |  |  |

Sanjay Patel’s imperious 71\*, supported by Kartheek Jampala’s resolute 32, enabled the Gents to post a competitive 177-6. Hale began their chase assertively but fell into a spin against Jonny Small and Hemin Patel, losing their last seven wickets for 33 in the cool evening gloom. Credit goes to Vijay Basker, who brought along three guests from his Saturday Twenty20 United Titans franchise to enable the Gents to honour the fixture with a full team. While it is concerning that so few members were available for this attractive game, it is reassuring that players can be seconded. The alternative is to field teams of six or seven players, or cancel games. Hale too had changed their team, and four players were new to this fixture.

The Gents’ squad is evolving, but one comforting constant has been the form of the top order, the first five wickets having totalled in the past three games 31, 18 and 64. Larby’s early blast accounted for Pentakota and Basker, who top-edged to the ’keeper. Small had begun confidently but spooned the first ball from Davies to mid-off. Raghu scored quickly before Larby took a fine diving catch in the covers and Katragadda edged to slip to give Davies 3-26, a fine effort to complement the less spectacular but equally valuable analysis of 7-0-17-0 by his fellow spinner Giles.

Advantage Hale then, but Jampala was batting wisely in testing conditions, with movement through the air and off the pitch. His partnership with Patel of 86 in 15 overs was notable for exceptional running between the wickets with the veteran by no means exposed by his young, fit partner. Singles were sprinted, ones turned into twos and two into threes. With boundaries scarce, although Patel struck two huge sixes, it was intelligent cricket. The pair were severe on the support bowling and the returning Larby, but the teenager got his man on 150. Jampala had batted for 24 overs without scoring a boundary. His innings was of great worth. Raju’s brisk cameo helped the Gents to 177-6, a sound recovery. Patel hit four fours and two sixes in his 26th. innings of 50 or more for the Gents. He later ascribed his success to batting lower in the order, giving himself the chance to acclimatise himself to the conditions with a long period of umpiring.

Pentakota had Short caught behind and bowled Larby with the inswinger while Katragadda was his usual accurate self. Abdul batted very well for his 39. Sanjay Patel was steady but it was the introduction of the spinners that turned the game. Abdul cut to point Small off Hemin Patel’s first ball before Giles edged behind, Basker having taken the gloves off Raju. Sanjay ran out Zeeshan for a brisk 21 before the spinners cleaned up. Small even induced a rare catch to his partner in crime, who obliged him with a juggling effort at silly mid-on to go ahead of Tony Buck in the catches list. The innings fell in a heap, the estimable Rees falling lbw third ball after being dropped off the first two, and might not have exceed the hundred had all the catches stuck. Horace Hibbert’s captaincy goes from strength to strength. He set wise fields and his bowling changes worked out. He accommodated the guests self-sacrificially, neither batting nor bowling himself. Whoever takes over when marriage claims him in August should take very careful note of how he does things.

**Gentlemen of West London *v.* Hyde Farmers**

**Sunday 22 June, Old Tenisons. Gents won toss. Sunny, 24C**

**Won by 61 runs**

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| **Gentlemen of West London** | | | | **Hyde Farmers** | | | |
| Denton | c Gardner | b Richardson | **5** | Bailey |  | b Clark | **70** |
| Small | c Mackenzie | b Owen | **23** | Cotton |  | b Clark | **11** |
| Cloete | c Gardner | b Richardson | **43** | Murgatroyd |  | b Katragadda | **2** |
| Newcombe | c Bailey | b Hunt | **37** | Riddington |  | b Cloete | **9** |
| Clark |  | b Brown | **37** | Hunt | lbw | b Pentakota | **4** |
| Pentakota | c Bailey | b Hunt | **20** | \*Gardner | st Basker | b H Patel | **16** |
| Kumar |  | b Hunt | **7** | Brown | lbw | b Kumar | **10** |
| †Basker | not out |  | **6** | Owen | c Basker | b Katragadda | **16** |
| Dubey | not out |  | **18** | Richardson | not out |  | **3** |

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| Katragadda and \*H Patel did not bat | Hackwell | c Basker | b Katragadda | **3** |

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|  |  | | |  |  | Mackenzie | | run out |  | **1** |
| **Extras** |  | | w10 nb6 b3 | | **19** | **Extras** | |  | w6 nb3 | **9** |
| **Total** | **30 overs** | | | **7 wickets** | **215** | **Total** | | **27.4 overs** | **All out** | **154** |
| **FoW:** 19, 55, 103, 137, 177, 184, 193 | | | | | | **FoW:** 20, 23, 44, 53, 73, 99, 143, 147, 153, 154 | | | | |
| **Bowler** |  |  | | |  | **Bowler** |  | |  |  |
| Owen | 7-0-39-1 |  | | |  | Katragadda | 7.4-0-25-3 | |  |  |
| Richardson | 5-0-30-2 |  | | |  | Clark | 5-0-33-2 | |  |  |
| Hackwell | 5-0-50-0 |  | | |  | Pentakota | 3-0-17-1 | |  |  |
| Hunt | 7-3-38-3 |  | | |  | Cloete | 3-0-14-1 | |  |  |
| Brown | 6-0-55-1 |  | | |  | H Patel | 4-0-25-1 | |  |  |
|  |  |  | | |  | Small | 2-0-21-0 | |  |  |
|  |  |  | | |  | Kumar | 3-0-19-1 | |  |  |

The Gents won an enjoyable, entertaining match against Hyde Farmers, whose first competitive fixture this was. Possessed of guile, experience and no little ability the visitors pushed a strong Gents side until the final overs with the fluent opener Bailey playing the innings of the match. The match was brokered by Naveed Khan, who met the Farmers at the Oval nets. Details were exchanged and the fixture secretaries did the needful. The visitors looked good in their new kit supplied by the august Titan Sports, young Mr. Khan’s own brand. These are truly times of great opportunity for retailers.

Hemin Patel agreed to a 30 overs game because Farmers were lacking support bowlers. The mutterers and nay sayers, who resist all change, were proved wrong for this novel arrangement worked well. All the Gents batsmen contributed to a healthy 215-7 with Gregg Cloete and his colleague at Channel 4, debutant Morgan Clark from Perth, Western Australia providing the fireworks and the sandwiches, into several of which J. Sainsbury had regrettably infiltrated sweetcorn. Denton and Small holed out. Cloete was dropped early and looked set for a major rampage before falling to a well-judged catch at mid-wicket. Clark’s innings was fascinating. For the first few overs, the ball flew at random angles off his bat. The cover-drive would squirt down to fine-leg and the hook end up at point. The ghost of Isaac Newton could be heard tearing up his Laws of Motion. Once he got used to the slow pitch, however, he was transformed and hooked and drove powerfully. Newcombe, Pentakota (a welcome return to form for him) and Dubey batted fluently. Gardner set wise fields and his bowlers, of whom slow left-armer Hunt (sporting a Salix shirt) was particularly impressive, were well supported by the fielders, who took some tough catches.

Tea arrangements were somewhat schismatic with each side catering their own team. This was for the best as Farmers had brought a collection of wives and children for whom adequate sustenance would have probably been beyond the Gents’ Catering Corps. The blond Bailey was some player. He played shots all around the ground in his 70, including two sixes to hit Small out of the attack. The Gents took wickets regularly but Farmers batted deep, as shown in a stand of 44 for the seventh wicket between Bailey and Owen. The returning Clark bowled Bailey who departed with applause ringing in his ears for his fighting knock.

It was not a day for the Gents’ spinners (although Hemin Patel edges ever closer to Dhruv Patel in the aggregate wickets list) but the seamers posed many challenges. Aravind Katragadda, going for fewer than two runs per over this season, was the pick with three wickets while Clark, Pentakota and Cloete provided solid back-up. Basker had a very good day behind the timbers with no byes, a smart stumping and two catches while Cloete and Clark caught the eye with their groundfielding, the South African ending the game by smartly running out Mackenzie when he chanced a tight second. Thanks are due to Dhruv Patel who deputised for Nilesh Dubey, who had turned his ankle.

**Gentlemen of West London *v.* Cairns Fudge**

**Sunday 29 June, Old Tenisons. Cairns Fudge won toss. Cloudy. 21C**

**Lost by 3 runs**

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| **Cairns Fudge** | | | | | | | **Gentlemen of West London** | | | | |
| Milne | lbw | | | | b Pentakota | **0** | Small | |  | b Boden | **9** |
| Boden |  | | | | b Jampala | **0** | †Basker | | c Taylor-M’n | b Boden | **53** |
| Flauker | c Katragadda | | | | b H Patel | **73** | Lall | |  | b Flauker | **56** |
| †Taylor-Maughan | | c Basker | | | b H Patel | **62** | Pentakota | |  | b Flauker | **12** |
| Correal |  | | | | b S Patel | **7** | Orugant | |  | b Flauker | **10** |
| Bowden-Pretty |  | | | | b S Patel | **13** | S Patel | | not out |  | **37** |
| Walker |  | | | | b S Patel | **10** | Katragadda | | run out |  | **1** |
| Green | not out | | | |  | **24** | \*Hibbert | | not out |  | **9** |
| Harrington |  | | | | b Katragadda | **6** | Jampala | | did not bat |  |  |
| Winklewski | not out | | | |  | **1** | Denton | | did not bat |  |  |
| Wills | did not bat | | | |  |  | H Patel | | did not bat |  |  |
| **Extras** |  | | | w4 b7 lb5 | | **16** | **Extras** | |  | w12 nb3 b4 lb3 | **22** |
| **Total** | **8 wickets** | | | | **35 overs** | **212** | **Total** | | **6 wickets** | **35 overs** | **209** |
| **FoW:** 3, 7, 140, 153, 163, 174, 188, 202 | | | | | | | **FoW:** 27, 140, 140, 149, 186, 188 | | | | |
| **Bowler** |  | |  | | |  | **Bowler** |  | |  |  |
| Jampala | 5-1-24-1 | |  | | |  | Green | 7-0-23-0 | |  |  |
| Pentakota | 5-0-23-1 | |  | | |  | Boden | 7-0-46-2 | |  |  |
| Katragadda | 7-0-41-1 | |  | | |  | Flauker | 7-0-50-3 | |  |  |
| Lall | 3-0-23-0 | |  | | |  | Milne | 7-0-28-0 | |  |  |
| H Patel | 4-0-29-2 | |  | | |  | Wills | 7-0-55-0 | |  |  |
| Small | 5-0-28-0 | |  | | |  |  |  | |  |  |
| S Patel | 6-0-32-3 | |  | | |  |  |  | |  |  |

Needing six to win or four to tie off the final ball of a vigorous, exciting contest, captain Horace Hibbert could only manage a single, leaving the Gents beached 3 runs behind Cairns Fudge’s formidable 35-overs total of 212-8. Both innings included a century stand with two individual half-centurions, a rare if not unique event, and the Gents’ 209-6 was only the second time they have gone past 200 batting second.

Cairns Fudge won the toss and batted on a gloomy, cool day. Jampala’s and Pentakota’s early swing saw the dismissal for ducks of both openers, which let in the strong Kiwi Doug Flauker (12 fours and two sixes) and wicket-keeper Alex Taylor-Maughan (seven fours and one six), who fashioned a stand of 133. Faulker hit hard from the word go, some of his pulls through mid-wicket reminding Gents veterans of West XI’s Cameron Vine. Taylor-Maughan was more tentative to begin with and was dropped on 29, a skier to mid-wicket. By the end he was scoring faster than his partner. Hemin Patel got them both with catches at long-off and behind the timbers, Basker’s sixth of the campaign to set alongside his two stumpings. The visitors were on course for a score in excess of 250 at drinks before the Patels reined them in. Sanjay struck thrice and Katragadda’s perseverance was rewarded with Harrington’s wicket. Lall and Small endured wicketless spells. The Gents had fought back well but the left-hander Green then drove hard and 212-8 was, to say the least, a challenge.

After Boden struck on 27 to bowl Small for 9, Basker (six fours) and Lall (nine fours and a six) batted very well but as in the first innings were out within a few minutes of each other. The run rate, previously exactly what was required, then fell. Basker walked after edging behind and the previously expensive Flauker bowled Lall with the first ball of his second spell. He would add the scalps of Pentakota and Orugant. Although he went wicketless, Milne’s miserly spell of spin was of signal importance to his team and the required rate rose to seven an over. Katragadda was dismissed in spectacular fashion, being run out by a quick piece of thinking by Flauker after a tough caught and bowled was shelled.

Sanjay Patel batted with guts and with hard running and a few boundaries Gents were left needing 23 off two overs. Twelve came off the penultimate over, including a four and a six from Patel. Hibbert faced the final over. A glanced four off the first ball gave Gents hope but the captain could only get a two and a single from the final five. Cairns Fudge had won.

The Gents gorged on success in the year from June 2013. It will be interesting to see how a young, evolving squad responds to recent defeats, particularly in the light of what looks like a tough set of July games. Welcome to the 2014 fixture list! It promises to be an exciting time and it is important not to overreact to adversity. At tea, Hibbert said “This will tell us if we can really play this game”. As he tends his injured thumb, one hopes that he will not be too disappointed at what he had seen for the Gents had fought like devils.

**Gentlemen of West London *v.* Bricklayer’s Arms**

**Sunday 20 July, Old Tenisons. Bricklayer’s Arms won toss. Cloudy and muggy, 25C**

**Drawn (Abandoned)**

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| **Gentlemen of West London** | | | | | | | **Brickalyer’s Arms** | | | | |
| †Basker |  | | b Roberts | | **86** | | Foister | |  | b Dubey | **12** |
| Bocha |  | | b Derks | | **24** | | Derks | |  | b Hibbert | **6** |
| Pentakota | lbw | | b Roberts | | **22** | | Lombardo | | not out |  | **24** |
| Gorantha |  | | b Roberts | | **20** | | Roberts | |  | b Small | **3** |
| \*Hibbert | run out | |  | | **12** | | Meldrum | | st Basker | b Small | **5** |
| S Patel | | c Meldrum | | b Roberts | | **6** | | Thurup, Ottley, \*Watson, Winpenny, Laing and †Cole did not bat | | | |
| Small | not out | |  | | **10** | |  | |  |  |  |
| Dubey | not out | |  | | **3** | |  | |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Orugant, Jampala and K Patel did not bat |  |  |  |  |

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| **Extras** |  | | w7 nb3 b9 lb2 | | **21** | **Extras** | |  | w2 lb2 | **4** |
| **Total** | **35 overs** | | | **6 wickets** | **204** | **Total** | | **19 overs** | **4 wickets** | **54** |
| **FoW:** 47, 109, 167, 174, 184, 192 | | | | | | **FoW:** 16, 33, 36, 54 | | | | |
| **Bowler** |  |  | | |  | **Bowler** |  | |  |  |
| Meldrum | 4-0-17-0 |  | | |  | Hibbert | 5-2-7-1 | |  |  |
| Ottley | 6-0-43-0 |  | | |  | Pentakota | 5-1-12-0 | |  |  |
| Derks | 7-0-31-1 |  | | |  | S Patel | 1-0-1-0 | |  |  |
| Lombardo | 5-0-28-0 |  | | |  | Dubey | 4-1-12-1 | |  |  |
| Roberts | 7-0-44-4 |  | | |  | Small | 4-0-20-2 | |  |  |
| Thurup | 4-0-20-0 |  | | |  |  |  | |  |  |
| Laing | 2-0-10-0 |  | | |  |  |  | |  |  |

A quarter of an inch of rain (7mm) fell in 20 minutes to ruin what had been an enjoyable inaugural fixture against Bricklayer’s Arms, who were graced by Dave Laing, the former West XI player. Vijay Basker made his second successive 50 with his club highest score of 86 in 32 overs (10 fours) to guide the Gents to a par 204-6, including partnerships for the first three wickets of 47, 62 and 58. In reply, Brick, batting in poor light, were 54-4 with Lombardo counterattacking when the cap**t**ains shook hands.

Broken alarm clocks, illness and travel problems beset the Gents but the game started by 1.15pm. Ketan Patel, a long-standing friend of the club, was a last minute inclusion and his enthusiastic support for the day cannot go unapplauded. He brokered a good deal on the excellent teatime kebabs, ran around keenly in Brick’s brief innings and put in a sterling shift playing with skipper Watson’s lively Jack Russell. Gorantha, one of six United Titans on the day, made his debut and Sanjay Patel, deputising for Hibbert pro tem, fashioned a batting order from the few punctual arrivals.

Bocha, Pentakota and Gorantha hit nine fours between them and ran well, but the mainstay of the innings (some would say, not only for playing reasons, of the whole season) was Basker, who knuckled down in far from easy conditions to play a classic opener’s innings. At 99-1 off 18 overs the Gents had hopes of 250 but Brick’s outfielding, never sloppy, came into its own in the second half of the innings, which closed at 3.30pm. Roberts carded 4-44 with his left-arm over swing bowling.

The Gents’ bowlers were on the money after tea. The light was deteriorating rapidly. In an odd moment in keeping with much of what had gone on before, Sanjay Patel bowled a single over after the captain had sprinted off the field to attend to something, unilaterally bringing himself on. He was then instantly replaced after a good over conceding one single. Hibbert, Dubey and Small shared the wickets, Meldrum’s stumping adding to Basker’s growing bag of victims behind the timbers. He currently stands on six catches and three stumpings, the best fielding return since 2011 when Himanshu Desai caught nine and stumped four.

Bricklayer’s Arms are exactly the type of side the Gents should be playing home and away and indeed early negotiations for 2015 have begun. They were by their own accounts lacking a few batsmen here and perhaps the Gents had the edge when the notorious and not a little ridiculous Motspur Park microclimate had its petulant say, but the two sides should be evenly matched over a run of games.

The Gents’ scorer enjoyed the company of the visiting wicket-keeper, Chris Locke, a London Evening Standard sub-editor who works alongside another former West XI player, Chris Folley. Of particular merit was his immaculate scoring, including all the correct symbols and a record of each ball faced by the batsmen. How refreshing to meet a man who understands the ’keeper’s dagger, the captain’s asterisk and the triangles for byes and leg-byes.

**Judd Street Tigers *v.* Gentlemen of West London**

**Sunday 27 July, Paulin Ground, Winchmore Hill. Gents won toss. Sunny. 25C**

**Won by 20 runs**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Gentlemen of West London** | | | | | | **Judd Street Tigers** | | | | |
| Bocha | c Basker | | | b Webster | **16** | Basker | | st Thoms | b Small | **66** |
| Small | c Herlihy | | | b Wright | **106** | Herlihy | |  | b S Patel | **44** |
| Caveney | st Pinfield | | | b Dane | **7** | Delanian | |  | b Small | **1** |
| Dubey | lbw | | | b Dane | **2** | †Pinfield | |  | b Hibbert | **12** |
| S Patel |  | | | b Dane | **13** | Dane | |  | b Kumar | **43** |
| Jones | c Basker | | | b Delanian | **16** | Wright | | c and | b Small | **15** |
| Kumar |  | | | b Daffern | **4** | Rawlings | | c Katragadda | b Bocha | **18** |
| Pentakota | c Bignell | | | b Wright | **72** | Daffern | | run out |  | **0** |
| †Thoms | not out | | |  | **0** | \*Murray | | not out |  | **7** |
| Katragadda | run out | | |  | **0** | Webster | | not out |  | **1** |
| \*Hibbert | did not bat | | |  |  | Bignell | | did not bat |  |  |
|  |  | | w5 nb3 b1 lb5 | | **14** | **Extras** | |  | w6 b10 lb7 | **23** |
| **Total** | **9 wickets** | | | **40 overs** | **250** | **Total** | | **8 wickets** | **40 overs** | **230** |
| **FoW:** 43, 64, 66, 88, 133, 156, 250, 250, 250 | | | | | | **FoW:** 109, 112, 133, 148, 171, 205, 206, 226 | | | | |
| **Bowler** |  |  | | |  | **Bowler** |  | |  |  |
| Webster | 7-0-53-1 |  | | |  | Katragadda | 6-1-27-0 | |  |  |
| Wright | 8-0-61-2 |  | | |  | Dubey | 6-1-33-0 | |  |  |
| Dane | 8-0-33-3 |  | | |  | S Patel | 6-0-28-1 | |  |  |
| Murray | 8-0-29-0 |  | | |  | Pentakota | 3-0-12-0 | |  |  |
| Delanian | 4-0-33-1 |  | | |  | Small | 8-0-47-3 | |  |  |
| Daffern | 3-0-20-1 |  | | |  | Hibbert | 4-0-27-1 | |  |  |
| Bignell | 2-0-15-0 |  | | |  | Kumar | 4-0-18-1 | |  |  |
|  |  |  | | |  | Bocha | 3-0-21-1 | |  |  |

In the clubs’ inaugural fixture in 2013, the Gents’ 231 was tied by Judd Street Tigers off the day’s final ball. One year on, the Gents won a tight victory after a marathon game played on a perfect batting wicket, recovering impressively from 88-4 to post 250-9. Jonny Small’s maiden club century (16 fours) and Raj Pentakota’s maiden 50 (ten fours and a six) were the Gents’ batting highlights, 94 coming in just 10 overs when they were together. The loaned Vijay Basker and Jim Herlihy laid a solid platform for the hosts with the first century opening stand in a Gents game in four years, 109 in 21 overs, but tight bowling and impervious fielding in the second half of the innings won the day. Only three Gents games have produced more runs.

The Gents had 13 players on the ground so Vijay Basker was transferred on a fixed-term contract to the hosts, to no little effect. Indeed, by the end of the day the Tigers’ Human Resources Department was getting sign off on a temp to perm contract to net him, to no avail. Basker it was who caught Bocha off a top-edged pull that landed five minutes later in the slip cordon and who would later catch Jones at mid-on. From a healthy 43-0 after 7 overs the Gents entered a Dane-induced stall with Caveney stumped after hopping out of his crease yelping in pain, Law 39 being enacted in all its sternness, Dubey lbw in the same over and Patel bowled after a bright start. Small was batting with calm grace, playing each ball on its merits and stroking his fours across the fast outfield through cover and mid-wicket.

Mark Jones introduced Small to the club in 2013 so it was pleasant to see the two pals bat together, every shot of Jones attracting healthy barracking from Pinfield, barracking doubtless birthed in the lower parts of Amsterdam during the tour. Several wisecracks gripped and turned. For this writer, it brought back happy memories of the sophisticated Ashton/Hill repartee in Gents v. West XI clashes of the 1990s. The baton gets handed on. The Gents passed 100 in the 20th. over, the unruffled Small surviving the loss of Jones and Kumar, bowled after the captain had a funny turn, invading the pitch to give him some unwonted advice. Dane and the spinner Murray bowled well in tandem and there was brief stalemate between bat and ball, in contrast to the Sri Lankan school alumni game on the next pitch, which was peppered with sixes and howled appeals.

Enter Raj Pentakota. The stand that followed was a match-winner. Pentakota’s artillery found its range immediately while Small proceeded through the 80s and 90s. The sidelined Taylor might have put on a brake on their escapades but Tigers’ support bowlers could not, the returning Webster and Wright also taking a bit of a bashing. Small went to his hundred with a rare false shot, an edge over slip, but he deserved this small slice of luck. Three wickets then fell off the final three balls of the innings, Small and Pentakota holing out and Katragadda run out without facing, moments of success that the hosts had deserved for their tireless outcricket. Hibbert could take credit for his rejigged batting order which bequeathed considerable power in the tail and he was the happier of the two captains at tea.

Basker and Herlihy batted very well for the Tigers, although Herlihy was gifted several easy fours off his legs. A run rate of 6.3 is easy to sustain over a few overs, but onerous over 40. In truth, it was difficult to split the sides at drinks, for although the required rate had crept up to 7.5, Tigers had some big hitters to come. The persevering Sanjay Patel broke the stand by bowling Herlihy, the dangerous Delanian following in the next over bowled Small, attributing his fate to being padded up for nearly two hours. By now Hibbert, with his looping off-spin was operating in tandem with Small’s leg-spin and the Gents’ fortunes improved. Hibbert bowled Pinfield with a full-toss before Small deceived Basker in the flight, a neat Thoms stumping the result, and induced a low caught and bowled to finish Wright’s cameo of two sixes and three singles.

Dane and Rawlings batted powerfully but the choice of the accurate Kumar and Bocha to round off the innings was wise, Kumar bowling Dane and a juggling Katragadda obliging Bocha at long-on to dismiss Rawlings. The game was closed out but there was little in it, the earlier blast of Pentakota and Small having proved the differentiator. An excellent day out then with some superb batting from both teams and much lively banter. Both clubs have their challenges but friendly rivalry has been established and the fixture should prosper.

2014 averages

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **M.** | **Inn.** | **NO** | **Runs** | **Avg.** | **Ct./St.** | **O** | **M** | **Runs** | **Wck.** | **Avg.** |
| Bagchi | 1 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 7.00 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Basker | 9 | 8 | 1 | 175 | 25.00 | 6/3 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Bocha | 6 | 6 | 0 | 59 | 9.83 | 4 | 16.1 | 1 | 56 | 9 | 6.22 |
| Caveney | 3 | 3 | 0 | 35 | 11.67 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Clark | 2 | 2 | 0 | 94 | 47.00 | - | 12 | 3 | 60 | 3 | 20.00 |
| Cloete | 5 | 4 | 0 | 327 | 81.75 | 3/1 | 14 | 1 | 64 | 2 | 32.00 |
| Denton | 5 | 3 | 0 | 14 | 4.67 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dubey | 8 | 7 | 3 | 95 | 23.75 | 2 | 28 | 8 | 77 | 4 | 19.25 |
| Gorantha | 1 | 1 | 0 | 20 | 20.00 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hebis | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hibbert | 10 | 7 | 1 | 94 | 15.67 | 1 | 32.4 | 8 | 112 | 9 | 12.44 |
| Jampala | 5 | 3 | 0 | 39 | 13.00 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 24 | 1 | 24.00 |
| Jones M | 6 | 6 | 6 | 36 | 12.00 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Jones P | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1.00 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Katragadda | 9 | 7 | 2 | 52 | 10.40 | 5 | 49.4 | 11 | 139 | 10 | 13.90 |
| Khan | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | - | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | - |
| Kumar D | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Kumar S | 5 | 4 | 0 | 48 | 12.00 | 1 | 15 | 0 | 69 | 5 | 13.80 |
| Lall | 2 | 2 | 0 | 56 | 28.00 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 51 | 4 | 12.75 |
| McGirr | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | - | - | 7 | 0 | 43 | 2 | 21.50 |
| Mishra | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 5.00 | -/1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Newcombe | 3 | 3 | 0 | 77 | 25.67 | - | 2 | 0 | 19 | 0 | N/A |
| Orugant | 3 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 10.00 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Patel H | 5 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 15.00 | 1 | 25 | 2 | 128 | 8 | 16.00 |
| Patel K | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Patel S | 7 | 7 | 2 | 166 | 33.20 | 1 | 37 | 2 | 131 | 11 | 11.91 |
| Pentakota | 11 | 10 | 2 | 213 | 26.63 | 2 | 51 | 8 | 208 | 8 | 26.00 |
| Raghu | 1 | 1 | 0 | 22 | 22.00 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Raju | 1 | 1 | 1 | 12 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Sharma | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Small | 10 | 9 | 2 | 276 | 39.43 | 2 | 42.1 | 5 | 197 | 16 | 12.31 |
| Thoms | 5 | 5 | 1 | 60 | 15.00 | 2/1 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 0 |  |
| Toft | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Sub. Fielder 1 catch

**Highest score for: 301-7** *v.* London Saints

**Highest score against:** **230-8** by Judd Street Tigers

**Lowest score for:** **104** *v*. Gubbays

**Lowest score against:** **44** by Baker Street Irregulars

**Hundred partnerships for (2): 113** 2nd. wicketBasker/Lall *v.* Cairns Fudge,

**106** 6th. wicket Cloete/Clark *v*. St. Anne’s Allstars (club wicket record)

**Hundred partnerships against (2): 133** 3rd. wicket Flauker/Taylor-Maughan (Cairns Fudge),

**109** 1st. wicket Basker/Herlihy (Judd Street Tigers)

**Fifties for (12): 111** Cloete *v.* London Saints, **100** Cloete *v.* St. Anne’s Allstars, **106** Small *v.* Judd Street Tigers, **93\*** Small *v.* Northfields,

**86** Basker *v.* Bricklayer’s Arms, **73** Cloete *v.* Baker Street Irregulars, **72** Pentakota *v.* Judd Street Tigers, **71\*** S Patel *v.* Hale

**56** Lall *v.* Cairns Fudge, **53** Basker *v.* Cairns Fudge **50\*** Dubey *v.* Baker Street Irregulars

**Fifties against (5): 105** Macdonald (St. Anne’s Allstars), **73** Flauker (Cairns Fudge), **70** Bailey (Hyde Farmers),

**66** Basker (Judd Street Tigers), **62** Taylor-Maughan (Cairns Fudge)

**Four-wicket hauls for (7): 4-5** Small *v.* Hale **4-10** Bocha *v.* Northfields **4-11** Bocha *v.* Baker Street Irregulars

**4-13** Katragadda *v.* Northfields **4-18** Small *v*. London Rams **4-22** S Patel v. St. Anne’s Allstars **4-28** Lall *v.* Gubbays

**Four-wicket hauls against (1): 4-44** Roberts (Bricklayer’s Arms)

**Sixes (38): 12** Cloete **4** Clark, Dubey **3** Hibbert, S Patel, Thoms **2** Caveney, Newcombe, Pentakota, Small **1** Lall, Pentakota

**Duck trophy (14):** **2** Bocha, Pentakota **1** Basker, Hibbert, Jones, Katragadda, Khan, Lall, Newcombe, S Patel, Sharma, Toft

**St. Anne’s Allstars *v*. Gentlemen of West London**

**Saturday 2 August, Barnes Common. St. Anne’s Allstars won toss. Sunny, 24C**

**Won by 23 runs**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Gentlemen of West London** | | | | | | | | | **St. Anne’s Allstars** | | | | | |
| Denton |  | | | | b Chadwick | | **7** | | Cresswell | | |  | b Clark | **0** |
| Khan |  | | | | b Chadwick | | **0** | | Begley | | |  | b S Patel | **31** |
| \*Small |  | | | | b Chadwick | | **8** | | Halliday | | | c S Patel | b McGirr | **4** |
| Newcombe | c Cresswell | | | | b Hampton | | **0** | | MacDonald | | |  | b S Patel | **105** |
| Cloete |  | | | | b Adams | | **100** | | \*Adams | | |  | b S Patel | **0** |
| S Patel | c Begley | | | | b Seth | | **29** | | †Veney | | |  | b S Patel | **2** |
| Clark | c Begley | | | | b Adams | | **57** | | Hampton | | | st Mishra | b McGirr | **35** |
| M Jones | not out | | | |  | | **3** | | Pillans | | | not out |  | **11** |
| †Mishra | lbw | | | | b Adams | | **5** | | Chadwick | | | not out |  | **1** |
| P Jones | | c and | | | | b Pillans | | **1** | | Thompson and Seth did not bat | | | | |
| McGirr | not out | | | |  | | **7** | |  | | |  |  |  |
| **Extras** |  | | | w6 nb2 b2 lb2 | | | **12** | | **Extras** | | |  | w3 nb1 b4 lb9 | **17** |
| **Total** | **35 overs** | | | | **9 wickets** | | **229** | | **Total** | | | **35 overs** | **7 wickets** | **206** |
| **FoW:** 11, 16, 20, 21, 100, 206, 213, 218, 219 | | | | | | | | | **FoW:** 0, 5, 69, 69, 77, 168, 197 | | | | | |
| **Bowler** |  | |  | | | |  | | **Bowler** | |  | |  |  |
| Hampton | 7-2-23-0 | |  | | | |  | | Clark | | 7-3-27-1 | |  |  |
| Chadwick | 7-1-36-3 | |  | | | |  | | McGirr | | 7-0-43-2 | |  |  |
| Pillans | 6-0-43-2 | |  | | | |  | | Cloete | | 7-0-39-0 | |  |  |
| Thompson | 7-0-53-0 | |  | | | |  | | S Patel | | 7-0-22-4 | |  |  |
| Seth | 5-0-38-1 | |  | | | |  | | Small | | 4-0-37-0 | |  |  |
| Adams | 3-0-32-3 | |  | | | |  | | Newcombe | | 2-0-19-0 | |  |  |
|  |  | |  | | | |  | | Khan | | 1-0-6-0 | |  |  |

Records tumbled at pretty Barnes Common. A record sixth-wicket stand in Gents matches of 106 between Gregg Cloete (100 with 18 fours and two sixes) and his colleague at Channel 4 Morgan Clark (seven fours and three sixes) capped a somewhat lopsided batting display by the visitors, the remaining eight batsmen scoring 31 between them. Chasing 229, Sam MacDonald struck 105 for the hosts (the first century by an opponent since Hale’s Andy Griffiths in September 2009) but the Gents’ bowling and fielding picked up in the last ten overs to secure the win. Two centuries in a game is a unique event in the club’s history but the inaccurate BBC weather forecast (heavy rain from 2pm) was not.

The Gents were indebted to guest support, Sunderland SC’s John McGirr, his referral Mishra (another wicket-keeping Himanshu) and Phil Jones from Northfields CC stepping in in the absence of the United Titans, away winning their TAL Twenty20 quarter-final. Neale Adams won the toss and put the Gents in whereupon the opening bowlers Hampton and Chadwick destroyed the top order. Denton struck a good straight-driven four before becoming the first of the left-armer Chadwick’s three clean bowled victims. The returning Khan fell in the sixth over, captain Small in the tenth and Newcombe in the eleventh, leaving Gents 21-4. At this point Hampton had carded 5-2-5-0, Chadwick 5-1-13-3 and Pillans 1-0-1-1.

We then witnessed a Southern hemisphere counter-attacking blitzkrieg. Cloete’s first eight scoring shots were all fours while Patel struck six fours in an innings of eight overs, bringing up the hundred before holing out to cover just after drinks. Clark’s 57 took him just 12 overs and included the biggest six of the day, a monstrous pull over square-leg and over the trees for a lost ball. Cloete was less aerial than usual but still drove and pulled powerfully. He went to 96 in Pearce’s first over with a two upgraded to a six by four buzzers, cover-drove a four for his ton and was then bowled. Clark soon followed, the stand worth 106, eclipsing Sanjay Patel’s and Neepam Bhatt’s 100 for the wicket against London Rams in 2005. It would be wrong not to praise St. Anne’s outfielding. Begley and MacDonald, whose day was far from over, were brave and resolute throughout.

Though lacking the usual opening bowlers, the Gents had two quick successes in the field, Clark bowling his fellow Australian Cresswell and McGirr inducing a chip to mid-on Patel by Halliday. Begley and MacDonald then scored freely before Sanjay Patel bowled Begley, following up with the dismissals of Adams second ball and Veney in short order. MacDonald and Hampton then added 91 and were severe on Small and Newcombe. But Small had overs in reserve from his first four bowlers and they bowled tightly to put the task beyond St. Anne’s, despite a pair of late sixes from Hampton off Small’s experimental medium-pacers. MacDonald deserved his hundred and Hampton gave him sterling support. McGirr had bowled well and had Hampton stumped, the batsman not waiting for the umpire’s decision. Patel bowled MacDonald to give him the excellent figures, on a batsman’s day, of 7-0-22-4. The Gents’ day, then, but a close run thing.

2014 results and fixtures

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Gents** | | **Result** | **Judd Street Tigers** | | **Result** |
| Sun 27 April | **Baker Street Irregulars** | | **Won** by 6 wickets | **Potter Street** | | **Won** by 5 wickets |
| Sun 27 April | **Baker Street Irregulars** | | **Won** by 70 runs | **-** | | **-** |
| Sun 4 May | **-** | | **-** | **CAMRA** | | **Lost** by 6 wickets |
| Sun 11 May | **Wimbledon United** | | **Cancelled (rain)** | **Old Grumblers** | | **Cancelled (rain)** |
| Sat 17 May | **-** | | - | **Oporto** | | **Won** by 88 runs |
| Sun 18 May | **London Saints** | | **Won** by 214 runs | **Oporto** | | **Won** by 4 wickets |
| Sun 25 May | **Northfields** | | **Won** by 186 runs | **Graces** | | **Won** by 7 wickets |
| Sun 1 June | **London Rams** | | **Won** by 13 runs | **Eastons** | | **Won** by 2 wickets |
| Sun 8 June | **Gubbays** | | **Lost** by 35 runs | **London Saints** | | **Won** by 17 runs |
| Sun 8 June | **-** | | **-** | **Sunderland SC** | | **Won** by 9 wickets |
| Sun 15 June | **Hale** | | **Won** by 61 runs | **N2 Casuals** | | **Lost** by 5 wickets |
| Sun 22 June | **Hyde Farmers** | | **Won** by 61 runs | **Octopus** | | **Lost** by 3 wickets |
| Sun 29 June | **Cairns Fudge** | | **Lost** by 3 runs | **Fives** | | **Lost** by 4 wickets |
| Sun 6 July | **-** | | **-** | **Racqueteers** | | **Won** by 49 runs |
| Tue 8 July | **-** | | **-** | **Beamers** | | **Cancelled (rain)** |
| Sun 13 July | **Kensington and Chelsea** | | **Cancelled (rain)** | **Southgate Adelaide** | | **Cancelled (rain)** |
| Sun 20 July | **Bricklayers Arms** | | **Abandoned** | **Cincinnati** | | **Won** by 151 runs |
| Sun 27 July | **Judd Street Tigers** | | **Won** by 20 runs | **Gentlemen of West London** | | **Lost** by 20 runs |
| Sat 2 August | **St. Anne’s Allstars** | | **Won** by 23 runs | **-** | | **-** |
| Sun 3 August | **-** | | - | **Little Berkhamsted** | | **Lost** by 5 wickets |
| Sun 10 August | **London Saints** | | **Cancelled (rain)** | **Spartans** | | **Cancelled (rain)** |
| Sun 17 August | **United Titans** | | **-** | **Whalers** | | **-** |
| Sun 24 August | **-** | | **-** | **Graces** | | **-** |
| Sun 31 August | **Clapham In** | | - | **Acme** | | - |
| Sun 7 Sept | **Salix** | | - | **Railway Taverners** | | - |
| Sun 14 Sept | **-** | | **-** | **Potter Street** | | - |
| Sun 21 Sept | **-** | | - | **VCC** | | - |
| Sun 28 Sept | **Hale** | | **-** |  | | **-** |
| **Record** | | Played **12** Won **9** Lost **2** Abandoned **1** | | | Played **15** Won **9** Lost **6** | |
| **Runs** | | Cloete **327** Small **276** Pentakota **213** Basker **175** | | | Wright **365** Dane **285** Pinfield **274** Porton **260** | |
| **Wickets** | | Small **16** S Patel **11** Katragadda **10** | | | Taylor **16** Bignell/Dane/Webster **10** | |
| **Catches/Stumpings** | | Basker **6/3** Katragadda **5** Bocha **4** Cloete **3/1** | | | Pinfield **5/4** Allerton **5** Porton **3/2** | |

2014 scorecards

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 27/4 | KGF Richmond | **Baker Street Irregulars 44 Gents 47-4** (Neighbour 3-6) | **Won** by 6 wickets |
|  |  | **Gents 146-4** (Cloete 73, Dubey 50\*) | **Won** by 70 runs |
|  |  | **Baker Street Irregulars 76-9** (Neighbour 29, Bocha 4-11) |  |
| 18/5 | Old Tenisons | **Gents 301-9** (Cloete 111, Pentakota 49\*, Thoms 24, Hibbert 23, Nanton 3-37) | **Won** by 214 runs |
|  |  | **London Saints 87-7** (Berkeley 22) |  |
| 25/5 | Durston House | **Gents 256** (Small 93\*, Newcombe 40, Caveney 24, Westwood 3-32) | **Won** by 186 runs |
|  |  | **Northfields 70** (Cave 21, Bocha 4-10, Katragadda 4-13) |  |
| 1/6 | Fairfield RG | **Gents 112** (Kumar 28, Thoms 28, Khan 3-22, Fisher 3-28, Brain 3-35) | **Won** by 13 runs |
|  |  | **London Rams 99** (Murtland 30, Khan 21\*, Small 4-18) |  |
| 8/6 | Old Tenisons | **Gubbays 139-8** (Neal 48, Mihir 29, Lall 4-28) | **Lost** by 35 runs |
|  |  | **Gents 104** (Hibbert 37, Katragadda 25, Mihir 3-9, Ali 3-24) |  |
| 15/6 | Old Tenisons | **Gents 177-6** (S Patel 71\*, Jampala 32, Raghu 22, Davies 3-26, Larby 3-49) | **Won** by 61 runs |
|  |  | **Hale 116** (Abdul 39, Zeeshan 21, Small 4-5, H Patel 3-32) |  |
| 22/6 | Old Tenisons | **Gents 215-7** (Cloete 43, Clark 37, Newcombe 37, Hunt 3-38) | **Won** by 61 runs |
|  |  | **Hyde Farmers 154** (Bailey 70, Katragadda 3-25) |  |
| 29/6 | Old Tenisons | **Cairns Fudge 212-8** (Flauker 73, Taylor-Maughan 60) | **Lost** by 3 runs |
|  |  | **Gents 209-6** (Lall 56, Basker 53, S Patel 37\*, Flauker 3-50) |  |
| 20/7 | Old Tenisons | **Gents 204-6** (Basker 86, Bocha 24, Pentakota 22, Gorantha 20, Roberts 4-44 ) | **Abandoned** |
|  |  | **Bricklayer’s Arm 54-4** (Lombardo 24\*) |  |
| 27/7 | Winchmore Hill | **Gents 250-6** (Small 106, Pentakota 72, Dane 3-33)  **Judd Street Tigers 230-8** (Basker 66, Herlihy 44, Dane 43, Small 3-47) | **Won** by 20 runs |
| 2/8 | Barnes Common | **Gents 229-9** (Cloete 100, Clark 57, S Patel 29, Adams 3-32, Chadwick 3-36)  **St. Anne’s Allstars 206-7** (MacDonald 105, Hampton 35, Begley 31, S Patel 4-22) | **Won** by 23 runs |

Weather dampens Season No.27

It has been an enjoyable if rather truncated season, with only two games played in May and in July. The maximum 16 games to be completed by season’s end would be the lowest since 1992 (also 16). The Gent have lost six times, twice to opponents and four times to the weather, which seemed unerringly to deteriorate just in time for the match. Thanks to the 33 players who have played this season, enjoy the final games and see you at the A.G.M. in November.

Highest stands by wicket – Gents



|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | 121 | Bignell (34) and Hubbucks (78) *v.* Enterprise | Victoria RG | 2 May 1993 |
| **2** | **127** | [H](http://gowlcc.org.uk/Players.htm#JAMES_WRIGHT) Desai (34) and Lall (61) *v.* Ham and Petersham | Crown Taverners | 7 August 2011 |
| **3** | **166** | Husain (100\*) and Kain (87) *v.* London Saints | Old Tenisons | 3 June 2007 |
| **4** | **162** | [H](http://gowlcc.org.uk/Players.htm#JAMES_WRIGHT) Desai (46) and Lall (128) *v.* London Saints | Old Haberdashers | 14 August 2011 |
| **5** | **152** | Ashton (102) and Hughes (57\*) *v.* London Saints | Victoria RG | 15 August 1993 |
| **6** | **106** | Cloete (100) and Clark (57) *v.* St. Anne’s Allstars | Barnes Common | 2 August 2014 |
| **7** | **110\*** | Thompson (66\*) and Derriman (47\*) *v.* London Rams | Belair Park | 3 July 2004 |
| **8** | **109** | H Desai (37) and Bocha (76) *v.* London Saints | LMPF Greenford | 12 August 2012 |
| **9** | **108** | Hibbert (81) and Sciberras (22) *v.* Brondesbury Casuals | Shepherd’s Bush | 17 September 2000 |
| **10** | **79\*** | S Patel (73\*) and Pentakota (31\*) *v.* Salix | Imperial College | 9 September 2012 |

Highest stands by wicket – opponents

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | 239\* | Bulmer (140\*) and Maddock (87\*) (London Owls) | Victoria RG | 5 September 1993 |
| **2** | **160** | Branch (50\*), Susman (50\*) and Stanier (37) (Bedouins) | Enville | 6 August 2006 |
| **3** | **215** | Heyman (132) and Jones (89) (Village XI) | Old Hamptonians | 30 July 2006 |
| **4** | **138** | Jaques (107) and Torbe (65) (East Harrow Cheetahs) | Beverley Park | 4 August 1996 |
| **5** | **90** | Junani (74) and Ahluwalia (49) (Gubbays) | Cavendish RG | 2 September 2007 |
| **6** | **100** | Dane (73) and Walton (53) (West XI) | KGF Morden | 10 September 2000 |
| **7** | **82** | Wildman (76\*) and Thomson (14) (Clapham In) | Old Tenisons | 3 July 2011 |
| **8** | **64** | Nicol (31) and Evans (56) (St. Anne’s Allstars) | Barnes Common | 29 April 2006 |
| **9** | **68** | Heafield (40) and Wall (19) (London Rams) | Belair Park | 28 July 2001 |
| **10** | **52** | Dimond (37) and Heap (11\*) (Enterprise) | Victoria RG | 31 August 1997 |

Top 10 stands

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | 239\* | Bulmer (140\*) and Maddock (87\*) (London Owls) Record wicket stand against | Victoria RG | 5 September 1993 |
| **3** | **215** | Heyman (132) and Jones (89) (Village XI) Record wicket stand against | Old Hamptonians | 30 July 2006 |
| **3** | **169** | Giles (34) and Griffiths (113) (Hale) | Hale Common | 27 September 2009 |
| **3** | **166** | Husain (100\*) and Kain (87) *v.* London Saints Record wicket stand for | Old Tenisons | 3 June 2007 |
| **4** | **162** | [H](http://gowlcc.org.uk/Players.htm#JAMES_WRIGHT) Desai (46) and Lall (128) *v.* London Saints Record wicket stand for | Old Haberdashers | 14 August 2011 |
| **3** | **161** | Lall (102) and Cloete (97\*) *v.* West XI | Crown Taverners | 4 September 2011 |
| **2** | **160** | Branch (50\*), Susman (50\*) and Stanier (37) (Bedouins) Record wicket stand against | Enville | 6 August 2006 |
| **3** | **156** | Hubbucks (67) and Ashton (137\*) *v.* Enterprise | Victoria RG | 10 May 1992 |
| **5** | **152** | Ashton (102) and Hughes (57\*) *v.* London Saints Record wicket stand for | Victoria RG | 15 August 1993 |
| **4** | **138** | Jaques (107) and Torbe (65) (East Harrow Cheetahs) Record wicket stand against | Beverley Park | 4 August 1996 |

United Titans Telugu League Twenty20 Final

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Photo** | **Sat 16 August, 3.00pm, Perivale Park, Stockdove Way, off Argyle Road, London UB6 8TJ**.  Let us supply a bit of context here. United Titans include Gents members Praveen Bocha and Raj Pentakota, who have been playing for us since 2012, Vijay Basker, who joined in 2013 and Aravind Katragadda, who joined this season. Vijay has also provided superb support to the Gents by getting spare players. Good luck, Titans.  Biryani will be available and it will be fun. |

Oppo view

Gents *v.* Bricklayer’s Arms

A good ground, great new opposition, superb tea – and then the rain picked on this one small corner of south-west London and washed away the game. Ian Watson won the toss and inserted the Gents on a hot sticky day that promised swing. So there was, but mainly with the bat to start off as the openers helped themselves to 33 off four overs. Only Allan Meldrum finding his line and Mike Derks replacing Mike Ottley applied any sort of brake, Mike D getting the first wicket with a full in-swinger that landed on the base of leg stump. Though catches went down, our ground-fielding got sharp against some aggressive batting. At drinks, kindly supplied early on 15 overs, Gents had 81 and by the 20th. over the rate was down almost to five as Tom Roberts straightened one to win a fine lbw.

Tom followed that by bowling a charging No.4, then ending opener Vijay Basker’s long innings and having skipper Sanjay Patel caught by Allan at mid-off. He was well supported by Danny Lombardo and Klaus Thorup (“You don’t expect genuine spin at our level,” said Gents’ bemused skipper, and Klaus was unlucky both with a stumping not given and edges falling safe). Tom ended with four wickets, then sealed our man of the match spot by running out No.5 as the Gents were unable to mount a last charge. The rate remained under six an over – a great bowling and fielding effort after it had looked as would be chasing 250-270.

Tea was magnificent, a feast of great Asian cuisine, and now Simon Foister and Mike Derks started our reply. Conditions had changed from hot to murky, and Gents’ bowlers maintained a tight line – in contrast to their flying start, we posted just five off the first five. The rate did climb slightly but still was barely two when Mike Derks went bowled in the ninth over. Simon Foister stuck at it despite an injury hampering him and cutting down any singles, but at 33 he too was bowled, and a looping leg-spinner’s full toss then did for Tom Roberts. Danny Lombardo at least hit our first boundaries, following two fours with the match’s only six. But by this time what had begun as ominous rumbles and flashes behind us had whirled round the whole ground – a huge angry cloud spiralling and zeroing in on us. Barely had Allan Meldrum been stumped off the leggie than the rain broke.

Gents’ organiser had warned that the ground did not drain well, and against 25 minutes’ deluge it had no chance. A draw was swiftly agreed in the interests of getting down the local pub, where we decided this was such an enjoyable fixture we would do home and away next year. Then we repaired to the Brick – where it had not rained at all.

**Chris Locke**

Judd Street Tigers *v.* Gents

At the present moment Blackpool FC look to have a better chance of getting a full side on the field than the Tigers! Yet again they were forced to take on one of the toughest fixtures of the season without a full allocation of members, with some players injured and one failing to appear on the day. Such are the travails of a Sunday cricket team. Fortunately, the opposition were over-subscribed and very kindly loaned out a highly efficient player – Vijay Basker – who top-scored in the Tigers’ innings in addition to fielding excellently and taking two catches.

A highly competitive and entertaining match thus proceeded, with 480 runs scored in 80 overs, which, give or take a wide or two, works out to pretty much a run a ball. With the contest relegated to the Winchmore Hill junior pitch, remarkably recovered from Friday’s biblical floods, it was always going to be a high-scoring match with the toss crucial. The Gentlemen won it and therefore had the advantage of a harder ball (loaned by the home side), with the fielding team having to endure the hottest part of the day. The Gents’ innings was held together by a measured century from opener Small, who launched his account with two boundaries in the first over, rode his luck occasionally, but also played some excellent strokes, being dismissed only in the final over for 106. Their innings was in the balance at 88-4, thanks to another Trojan shift from Chris Dane (3-33), and again at 156-6, but Pentakota – coming in at No.8 – struck a rapid 72, adding a vital 94 with Small for the seventh wicket in short order. With Stewart Taylor and Chris Boden both injured, then Matt Webster being crocked during the game, the Tigers’ bowling was always going to struggle, only Dane and Craig Murray (29 from 8 overs) being reasonably economical.

A total of 250 was about par for the ground, with its short boundaries and quick outfield (The Tigers had scored 240 in 40 overs batting first the week before) and openers Basker (66) and a back-to-form Mike Herlihy (44) seemed fairly untroubled as they put together a record century stand of 109 in 21 overs. But the Tigers were always slightly behind the run rate and the innings slowly began to run out of steam. The Gents bowled steadily and the fielders defended the shorter boundaries more productively. Small’s day got even better as he bagged 3-47, including the vital wicket of Chris Wright for 15 with a sharp return catch after Wrighty had commenced his knock with two huge sixes. Barnaby Pinfield made a mess of a Hibbert full toss, bowled for only 12, though Chris Dane (43) and Dave Rawlings (18) gave some brief hope with 34 in five overs, but when Daney was dismissed at 226 the match fizzled out disappointingly, with no repeat of the exciting tied game of 2013.

**Steve Bignell**

St. Anne’s Allstars *v.* Gents

Well, we came close but at the end of the day the victory cigars had to be returned to their boxes for another year. Having won the toss we put the Gents of West London (GOWL) into bat and the opening bowlers of Hampton and Chadwick immediately went about their business with relish. Chadwick was soon rewarded with his first wicket, followed by two more in subsequent overs. All three wicket balls beat the batsmen, homing in on the stumps beautifully. At the other end Hampton, although taking no wickets, kept the opposition’s run rate low with good accurate bowling.

New recruit Edwin Pillans - duly dubbed Edwin All-STARR (Dot ball, what is it good for? Absolutely nothing, say it again...) - took over from Hampton and marked his debut with a wicket with only his second delivery. The batsman launched the ball into the air and ‘Carry the Bat’ legend Pete Cresswell took a great catch to his left. It was Cresswell’s first catch for the Allstars. Unbelievably, the usually dominant GOWL were on the ropes and the Allstars dared to dream - could it be our year, finally?

But Gents are no pushovers, as Allstars' two victories over them in thirteen years shows, and their middle order steadied the ship. Cloete, who through some fine stroke play knocked up 100, was ably supported by Clark (57) and Patel (29). Our fielding remained tight with good bowling spells by Seth (who took a wicket after his delivery was struck into the air and caught by Begley) and Thompson from the Vine Road end. It must be noted that Begley’s catch was all the more impressive as he was not the only one in the chase for the earthbound ball - the other was the Colossus known as Cresswell. Fears for Begley’s demise were thwarted as Cresswell put on the air brakes as Begley nabbed the catch. Adams came on as a third change and to his and everyone's surprise, took three wickets, including another catch on the boundary by ‘Safe hands’ Begley. Pillans marked his debut with a second wicket (caught and bowled) late on. Despite good bowling and fielding, the square (and constant change of balls through ones being lost and alternative ones found in the bushes and kit bags) provided an excellent batting wicket, and GOWL posted a target of 229, for the loss of nine wickets. A fine Allstars tea provided the required refreshment for round two.

Knowing the need for an immediate impact, opener Begley set about knocking the ball around the park and with the introduction of MacDonald at number four, a great partnership began. Together the pair punished loose balls, which landed either side of the boundary rope, and made many quick singles. The Allstars’ dream factory started whirring once again. Begley posted a foundational 31 before being dismissed. Undeterred, MacDonald went on to form another partnership with Hampton. There was no let-up, runs were needed and Hampton (35) and MacDonald obliged. Sam’s time at the crease was beautiful to behold and a final tally of 105 earned him the Allstars Man of the Match award.

However, sadly, it was not to be. An Allstars’ total of 206 for seven was not enough, but it has been noted that it is our highest ever score against GOWL. So close, but no cigar. It was a day full of excitement and testament to the wonderful game of cricket. And if one thing can be taken from the match it is the Allstars have a great fighting spirit. Long may it continue. Well done.

**Neale Adams**

Lock up your daughters

Former West XI all-rounder Paul Christensen paid a brief London visit in early August from his Hong Kong home, although Hurricane Bertha precluded an appearance for the Tigers. In his 103 games from 1989 to 1997, he scored 1,512 runs at 17.18 (HS 101\*) and took 100 wickets at 16.85 with his flighted off-breaks. He caught 50 batsmen, nearly all at short-leg, including an astonishing 19 in 1991 (Gents record is 14, by wicket-keeper Ian Maughan). A blond giant, he would stare at the batsman benignly, his huge paws outstretched for juicy offerings. Away from the cricket pitch, he was no mean performer in the trouser department and had a particularly successful business trip to Russia in the Glasnost (гла́сность) period.