

# THE GENT

October 2014

No. 144

**Tales from the corridor of uncertainty**

## **Gents' Kitbag - CI5 close in**

**Can Britain be saved – in the nick of time! – from a deadly device in a lock-up in Streatham?**



**“We'll need a chopper – and the nuclear bomb squad!”**

Season's summary

The dogs of Chiswick

Huge stands taunt Tigers

Averages and best of the oppo

Best Gents All-rounders

Dave Bender autobiography

Match reports

United Titans (lost by 5 runs)

Clapham In (lost by 6 runs)

Salix (won by 108 runs)

Hale (won by 130 runs)

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## 2014 Played 16 Won 11 Lost 4 Abandoned 1

**Ins** Clark, Jampala, Katragadda, Mishra, Orugant

**Outs** Buck, S Desai, Gilkes, T Jones, Khalid, Palmer, Qureshi, Sciberras, Snelling, L Wright

**Runs** Cloete 327, Basker 302, Small 289, Pentakota 276, S Patel 187, Bocha 141, Clark 141, Dubey 124, Kumar 114

**Wickets** Small 18, S Patel 16, Katragadda 13, Bocha 11

**Catches** Katragadda 7, Basker 6 (and 3 stumpings), Bocha 6

One hundred years on from the Great War, the Gents suffered as long a list of missing players as any public school, university or factory team from that benighted year, five bona fide club legends being absent in 2014, two having formally retired. In August 1914, boys just out of school left the cricket field to face the guns of the Imperial German Army. In 2014, the combatants were time's wingèd chariot hurrying near, injuries and work.

Yet full teams were fielded every week but one. Vijay Basker drew deeply from the well of talent in his Twenty20 franchise United Titans to complement the remaining regulars. He, Praveen Bocha and Raj Pentakota had extensive club service records and were joined by a splendid new bowler, Aravind Katragadda, whose hop, skip and jump run up and unerring accuracy became one of the sights of the season. Fellow Titans such as Karthik Jampala and Anil Orugant also impressed. By season's end they had made more than a third of all appearances. The Gents lost eight times, four times to opponents (batting second each time, three times by margins of six or fewer runs) and four times to the weather. Eleven games were won and the cricket was generally of a high standard against improved opposition. Only 16 games were played, the lowest since 1992.

After well-attended nets, Baker Street Irregulars were overcome twice in an afternoon, Cloete (73) and Dubey (50\*) scoring heavily. Cloete (111) then scored the club's fastest ever century against Saints, in only 41 balls. Small's 93\* then set up the win against perennially tough opponents Northfields, Bocha (4-10) and Katragadda (4-13) proving unplayable, using the ridge to great effect in the best bowling performance of the year. Small (4-18) spun the lucky Gents to victory against the game London Rams before Gubbays' talented opening bowlers Mihir and Ali ended the long unbeaten run of 19 matches.

Sanjay Patel's blast of 71\* batting No.7, his 27th. club 50, and seven wickets for the spinners (Small 4-5, Hemin Patel 3-32) were too much for Hale and steady batting, including 37 on debut from the talented Western Australian Morgan Clark, capped an enjoyable outing against new opponents, Hyde Farmers, whose 70 from Bailey was top-class. Cairns Fudge then edged the Gents in a high-scoring game by 3 runs, Flauker (73) and Taylor-Maughan (62) for Cairns, and Lall (56) and Basker (53) for the Gents all passing 50.

The Gents and Bricklayer's Arms were abandoned after Basker's 86. He would go on to play for two opponents, first being loaned with great effect (66 runs and two catches) to Judd Street Tigers, who fell only 20 short of a commanding Gents' score of 250-9. This splendid game saw Small's maiden century (106 in 39.4 overs) and No.8 Pentakota's superb 72 off 39 balls, his first club 50 and arguably the Gents' innings of the year. Cloete's second 100 coupled with Clark's maiden 50 (a club record sixth-wicket stand) and Sanjay Patel's venomous 4-22 then saw off St. Anne's Allstars in a rare Saturday game despite MacDonald's brave 105. United Titans, well led by Basker, then eclipsed the Gents by 5 runs a week before another narrow defeat (6 runs) by Clapham In in which Basker (73) and the tail fought all the way but were undone by the impressive South African Roussouw (83, 3-13 with express pace and an important catch). The Gents' good record when batting first continued against Salix, Pentakota leading the charge with 63, Kumar thrashing 38\* and perfect catching sealing the win. Bocha returned to form at Hale in the final match with 59, the Gents' 254 proving more than adequate.

Cloete scored 327 majestic runs in only four innings, with Basker (302), Small (289) and Pentakota (276) also past 200. Sanjay Patel (187), Bocha and Clark (141), Dubey (129) and Kumar (124) passed 100. Small (18) took most wickets to the delight of leg-spinners everywhere, with Sanjay Patel (16), Katragadda (13) and Bocha (11) also in double figures. Hibbert was by his own high standards unprolific with the bat but bowled some good spells. Katragadda conceded under three runs per over, Bocha, Dubey, Hibbert, Katragadda and Kumar under four. Improved fielding saw 52 catches, six stumpings and 11 run outs. Until called away for his nuptials Hibbert led well, while those who stood in followed his self-denying ethos of trying to give everyone a game.

They also serve who only stand and wait. Although their seasons were unspectacular, Caveney, Denton, H Patel, Jones, newcomer Mishra, Newcombe and Thoms all had their moments with bat, ball or gloves. Khan and Toft played only once but gave excellent support behind the scenes and travelled to the matches when possible.

## 2014 averages

|            | M. | Inn. | NO | Runs | Avg.  | Ct./St. | O    | M  | Runs | Wck. | Avg.  |
|------------|----|------|----|------|-------|---------|------|----|------|------|-------|
| Basker     | 12 | 11   | 1  | 302  | 30.20 | 6/3     | -    | -  | -    | -    | -     |
| Bocha      | 9  | 9    | 0  | 141  | 15.67 | 6       | 26.1 | 2  | 93   | 11   | 8.45  |
| Caveney    | 4  | 4    | 0  | 37   | 9.25  | -       | -    | -  | -    | -    | -     |
| Clark      | 4  | 4    | 0  | 141  | 35.25 | 2       | 23   | 3  | 101  | 4    | 25.25 |
| Cloete     | 5  | 4    | 0  | 327  | 81.75 | 3/1     | 14   | 1  | 64   | 2    | 32.00 |
| Denton     | 6  | 4    | 0  | 15   | 3.75  | -       | -    | -  | -    | -    | -     |
| Dubey      | 11 | 10   | 3  | 124  | 12.71 | 2       | 42   | 8  | 133  | 6    | 22.17 |
| Hibbert    | 10 | 7    | 1  | 94   | 15.67 | 1       | 32.4 | 8  | 112  | 9    | 12.44 |
| Jampala    | 7  | 5    | 0  | 81   | 16.20 | 1       | 16.2 | 1  | 72   | 8    | 9.00  |
| Jones M    | 7  | 7    | 3  | 36   | 9.00  | -       | -    | -  | -    | -    | -     |
| Katragadda | 11 | 9    | 3  | 88   | 14.33 | 7       | 63.4 | 13 | 164  | 13   | 12.62 |
| Kumar D    | 2  | 2    | 1  | 2    | 2.00  | -       | -    | -  | -    | -    | -     |
| Kumar S    | 8  | 7    | 2  | 114  | 22.80 | 2       | 20.2 | 1  | 79   | 8    | 9.88  |
| Lall       | 2  | 2    | 0  | 56   | 28.00 | 2       | 9    | 1  | 51   | 4    | 12.75 |
| Mishra     | 5  | 5    | 1  | 57   | 14.25 | 1/1     | -    | -  | -    | -    | -     |
| Nethani    | 2  | 1    | 0  | 19   | 19.00 | 2       | 9    | 1  | 45   | 3    | 15.00 |
| Newcombe   | 4  | 4    | 0  | 77   | 19.25 | -       | 3.5  | 0  | 37   | 1    | 37.00 |
| Orugant    | 4  | 2    | 0  | 27   | 13.50 | 1       | 2    | 1  | 1    | 2    | 0.50- |
| Patel H    | 5  | 2    | 1  | 15   | 15.00 | 1       | 25   | 2  | 128  | 8    | 16.00 |
| Patel S    | 10 | 10   | 2  | 187  | 23.38 | 1       | 51   | 2  | 216  | 16   | 13.50 |
| Pentakota  | 12 | 11   | 2  | 276  | 30.67 | 4       | 53   | 8  | 210  | 8    | 26.25 |
| Pingili    | 2  | 2    | 1  | 1    | 1.00  | 2       | 11   | 1  | 45   | 2    | 22.50 |
| Small      | 12 | 11   | 2  | 289  | 32.11 | 2       | 52.1 | 5  | 269  | 18   | 14.94 |
| Thoms      | 5  | 5    | 1  | 60   | 15.00 | 2/1     | 2    | 0  | 12   | 0    | -     |

**Also played (1 game only):** Bagchi 1/1/0/7, Chalamalasetti 1/1/1/12, Doma 1/1/1/13, 2-0-10-1 (1 ct.), Gorantha 1/1/0/20, Hebis 1/-/-/-, Hussain 1/1/0/0, 3-0-13-2, P Jones 1/1/0/1, Kasthala 1/1/0/30, 2-0-11-0 (1 ct.), Khan 1/1/0/0, 1-0-6-0, Krishna 1/1/0/3, 3-0-8-0, McGirr 1/1/1/7, 7-0-43-2, K Patel 1/-/-/-, Raghu 1/1/0/22 (1 ct.), Rajasekhar 1/1/0/18, 2-0-9-0, Sharma 1/1/0/0, Toft 1/1/0/0. Sub. Fielder (1 ct.)

**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. wicket Basker/Lall v. Cairns Fudge, **106** 6th. wicket Cloete/Clark v. St. Anne's Allstars (club record 6th.-wicket partnership)

**Highest partnerships by wicket; 1. 61** Cloete/H Patel v. London Saints, **2. 113** Basker/Lall v. Cairns Fudge, **3. 85** Cloete/Hibbert v.

London Saints, **4. 61** Basker/Nethani v. Clapham In, **5. 95** Bocha/Jampala v. Hale, **6. 106** Cloete/Clark v. St. Anne's Allstars,

**7. 94** Small/Pentakota v. Judd Street Tigers, **8. 64** Orugant/Kasthala v. Hale, **9. 51** Small/Caveney v. Northfields,

**10. 46** Pentakota/Katragadda v. London Saints

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

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

**Fifties for (15): 111** Cloete v. London Saints, **106** Small v. Judd Street Tigers, **100** Cloete v. St. Anne's Allstars, **93\*** Small v. Northfields,

**86** Basker v. Bricklayer's Arms, **73** Cloete v. Baker Street Irregulars, **73** Basker v. Clapham In, **72** Pentakota v. Judd Street Tigers,

**71\*** S Patel v. Hale, **63** Pentakota v. Salix, **59** Bocha v. Hale, **57** Clark v. Cairns Fudge, **56** Lall v. Cairns Fudge, **53** Basker v. Cairns Fudge,

**50\*** Dubey v. Baker Street Irregulars

**Fifties against (6): 105** Macdonald (St. Anne's Allstars), **83** Roussouw (Clapham In), **73** Flauker (Cairns Fudge),

**70** Bailey (Hyde Farmers), **66** Basker (Judd Street Tigers), **62** Taylor-Maughan (Cairns Fudge)

**Four-wicket hauls for (8): 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, **4-25** Jampala v. Clapham In,

**4-28** Lall v. Gubbays

**Four-wicket hauls against (3): 4-12** Pathi (United Titans), **4-38** Unadkat (Salix), **4-44** Roberts (Bricklayer's Arms)

**Sixes (47): 12** Cloete **8** Clark **5** Dubey, S Patel **3** Hibbert, Thoms **2** Caveney, Newcombe, Pentakota, Small **1** Katragadda, Lall, Mishra

**Duck trophy (20): 3** Bocha, **2** Jones, Newcombe, Pentakota **1** Basker, Clark, Hibbert, Katragadda, Khan, D Kumar, Lall, S Patel, Pingili, Sharma, Toft

## Unleash the dogs of W4

The signs behind the Chiswick Park boundary read "Cricket is played here. No dogs". Clear, yes? Not to the local Monstrous Regiment of Women, whose misplaced sense of entitlement resulted in two disappointing incidents. One female, who may well have won Rear of the Year c. 1976, jogged across the outfield oblivious of the cricket, heinously interrupting play. Worse, another stood by while her three dogs attacked Andrew Burman, enjoying an innocent circumnavigation of the ground. Her reply to his justified protest (in which the F-Bomb was admittedly detonated several dozen times): "If you weren't so aggressive I'd call them off." The damage was one pair of jeans, bitten through. The potential damage was far greater. An hour before, Vijay Basker had asked Burman to take his two-year-old daughter for a walk. He was happy to oblige, but refrained from doing so when he noticed the lass playing with the toddler of one of the Clapham In players. Thank Heavens he didn't. It could have been a real tragedy. Just a thought.

## 2014 results

| Date                     | Gents   | Result                  | Judd Street Tigers  | Result                   |
|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Sun 27 April             | <b>Baker Street Irregulars</b>  | <b>Won</b> by 6 wickets | <b>Potter Street</b>  | <b>Won</b> by 5 wickets  |
| Sun 27 April             | <b>Baker Street Irregulars</b>  | <b>Won</b> by 70 runs   | -   | -                        |
| Sun 4 May                | -   | -                       | <b>CAMRA</b>  | <b>Lost</b> by 6 wickets |
| Sun 11 May               | <b>Wimbledon United</b>   | <b>Cancelled (rain)</b> | <b>Old Grumblers</b>  | <b>Cancelled (rain)</b>  |
| Sat 17 May               | -   | -                       | <b>Oporto</b>   | <b>Won</b> by 88 runs    |
| Sun 18 May               | <b>London Saints</b>  | <b>Won</b> by 214 runs  | <b>Oporto</b>   | <b>Won</b> by 4 wickets  |
| Sun 25 May               | <b>Northfields</b>  | <b>Won</b> by 186 runs  | <b>Graces</b>   | <b>Won</b> by 7 wickets  |
| Sun 1 June               | <b>London Rams</b>  | <b>Won</b> by 13 runs   | <b>Eastons</b>  | <b>Won</b> by 2 wickets  |
| Sun 8 June               | <b>Gubbays</b>  | <b>Lost</b> by 35 runs  | <b>London Saints</b>  | <b>Won</b> by 17 runs    |
| Sun 8 June               | -   | -                       | <b>Sunderland SC</b>  | <b>Won</b> by 9 wickets  |
| Sun 15 June              | <b>Hale</b>   | <b>Won</b> by 61 runs   | <b>N2 Casuals</b>   | <b>Lost</b> by 5 wickets |
| Sun 22 June              | <b>Hyde Farmers</b>   | <b>Won</b> by 61 runs   | <b>Octopus</b>  | <b>Lost</b> by 3 wickets |
| Sun 29 June              | <b>Cairns Fudge</b>   | <b>Lost</b> by 3 runs   | <b>Fives</b>  | <b>Lost</b> by 4 wickets |
| Sun 6 July               | -   | -                       | <b>Racqueteers</b>  | <b>Won</b> by 49 runs    |
| Tue 8 July               | -   | -                       | <b>Beamers</b>  | <b>Cancelled (rain)</b>  |
| Sun 13 July              | <b>Kensington and Chelsea</b>   | <b>Cancelled (rain)</b> | <b>Southgate Adelaide</b>   | <b>Cancelled (rain)</b>  |
| Sun 20 July              | <b>Bricklayers Arms</b>   | <b>Abandoned</b>        | <b>Cincinnati</b>   | <b>Won</b> by 151 runs   |
| Sun 27 July              | <b>Judd Street Tigers</b>   | <b>Won</b> by 20 runs   | <b>Gentlemen of West London</b>   | <b>Lost</b> by 20 runs   |
| Sat 2 August             | <b>St. Anne's Allstars</b>  | <b>Won</b> by 23 runs   | -   | -                        |
| Sun 3 August             | -   | -                       | <b>Little Berkhamsted</b>   | <b>Lost</b> by 5 wickets |
| Sun 10 August            | <b>London Saints</b>  | <b>Cancelled (rain)</b> | <b>Spartans</b>   | <b>Cancelled (rain)</b>  |
| Sun 17 August            | <b>United Titans</b>  | <b>Lost</b> by 5 runs   | <b>Whalers</b>  | <b>Lost</b> by 6 wickets |
| Sun 24 August            | -   | -                       | <b>Graces</b>   | <b>Won</b> by 7 wickets  |
| Sun 31 August            | <b>Clapham In</b>   | <b>Lost</b> by 6 runs   | <b>Acme</b>   | <b>Lost</b> by 7 wickets |
| Sun 7 Sept               | <b>Salix</b>  | <b>Won</b> by 108 runs  | <b>Railway Taverners</b>  | <b>Won</b> by 119 runs   |
| Sun 14 Sept              | -   | -                       | <b>Saracens</b>   | <b>Lost</b> by 85 runs   |
| Sun 21 Sept              | -   | -                       | <b>Luton Royals</b>   | <b>Lost</b> by 91 runs   |
| Sun 28 Sept              | <b>Hale</b>   | <b>Won</b> by 130 runs  | -   | -                        |
| <b>Record</b>            | Played <b>16</b> Won <b>11</b> Lost <b>4</b> Abandoned <b>1</b>           |                         | Played <b>21</b> Won <b>11</b> Lost <b>10</b>                               |                          |
| <b>Runs</b>              | Cloete <b>327</b> Basker <b>302</b> Small <b>289</b> Pentakota <b>276</b> |                         | Dane <b>439</b> Wright <b>419</b> Pinfield <b>417</b> Herlihy <b>320</b>    |                          |
| <b>Wickets</b>           | Small <b>18</b> S Patel <b>16</b> Katragadda <b>13</b> Bocha <b>11</b>    |                         | Webster <b>22</b> Taylor <b>16</b> Wright <b>14</b> Dane/Delanian <b>13</b> |                          |
| <b>Catches/Stumpings</b> | Katragadda <b>7</b> Basker <b>6/3</b> Bocha <b>6</b>                      |                         | Pinfield <b>6/6</b> Bignell <b>6</b> Porton <b>5/2</b> Allerton <b>5</b>    |                          |

## 2014 scorecards

|      |                  |   |  |
|------|------------------|---|--|
| 27/4 | KGF Richmond     | <b>Baker Street Irregulars 44 Gents 47-4</b> (Neighbour 3-6)<br><b>Gents 146-4</b> (Cloete 73, Dubey 50*)   | <b>Won</b> by 6 wickets<br><b>Won</b> by 70 runs |
| 27/4 | KGF Richmond     | <b>Baker Street Irregulars 76-9</b> (Neighbour 29, Bocha 4-11)  |  |
| 18/5 | Old Tenisons     | <b>Gents 301-9</b> (Cloete 111, Pentakota 49*, Thoms 24, Hibbert 23, Nanton 3-37)<br><b>London Saints 87-7</b> (Berkeley 22)  | <b>Won</b> by 214 runs                           |
| 25/5 | Durston House    | <b>Gents 256</b> (Small 93*, Newcombe 40, Caveney 24, Westwood 3-32)<br><b>Northfields 70</b> (Cave 21, Bocha 4-10, Katragadda 4-13)                                      | <b>Won</b> by 186 runs                           |
| 1/6  | Fairfield RG     | <b>Gents 112</b> (Kumar 28, Thoms 28, Khan 3-22, Fisher 3-28, Brain 3-35)<br><b>London Rams 99</b> (Murtland 30, Khan 21*, Small 4-18)                                    | <b>Won</b> by 13 runs                            |
| 8/6  | Old Tenisons     | <b>Gubbays 139-8</b> (Neal 48, Mihir 29, Lall 4-28)<br><b>Gents 104</b> (Hibbert 37, Katragadda 25, Mihir 3-9, Ali 3-24)  | <b>Lost</b> by 35 runs                           |
| 15/6 | Old Tenisons     | <b>Gents 177-6</b> (S Patel 71*, Jampala 32, Raghu 22, Davies 3-26, Larby 3-49)<br><b>Hale 116</b> (Abdul 39, Zeeshan 21, Small 4-5, H Patel 3-32)                        | <b>Won</b> by 61 runs                            |
| 22/6 | Old Tenisons     | <b>Gents 215-7</b> (Cloete 43, Clark 37, Newcombe 37, Hunt 3-38)<br><b>Hyde Farmers 154</b> (Bailey 70, Katragadda 3-25)  | <b>Won</b> by 61 runs                            |
| 29/6 | Old Tenisons     | <b>Cairns Fudge 212-8</b> (Flauker 73, Taylor-Maughan 60)<br><b>Gents 209-6</b> (Lall 56, Basker 53, S Patel 37*, Flauker 3-50)   | <b>Lost</b> by 3 runs                            |
| 20/7 | Old Tenisons     | <b>Gents 204-6</b> (Basker 86, Bocha 24, Pentakota 22, Gorantha 20, Roberts 4-44)<br><b>Bricklayer's Arm 54-4</b> (Lombardo 24*)  | <b>Abandoned</b>                                 |
| 27/7 | Winchmore Hill   | <b>Gents 250-9</b> (Small 106, Pentakota 72, Dane 3-33)<br><b>Judd Street Tigers 230-8</b> (Basker 66, Herlihy 44, Dane 43, Small 3-47)                                   | <b>Won</b> by 20 runs                            |
| 2/8  | Barnes Common    | <b>Gents 229-9</b> (Cloete 100, Clark 57, S Patel 29, Adams 3-32, Chadwick 3-36)<br><b>St. Anne's Allstars 206-7</b> (MacDonald 105, Hampton 35, Begley 31, S Patel 4-22) | <b>Won</b> by 23 runs                            |
| 17/8 | Old Tenisons     | <b>United Titans 125</b> (Jampala 28*) <b>Gents 120</b> (Clark 47, Kumar 23, Pathi 4-12)  | <b>Lost</b> by 5 runs                            |
| 31/8 | Chiswick House   | <b>Clapham In 193</b> (Roussouw 83, Wildman 23, Plaja 22, Jampala 4-25)<br><b>Gents 187</b> (Basker 73, Katragadda 26, Roussouw 3-13)                                     | <b>Lost</b> by 6 runs                            |
| 7/9  | Imperial College | <b>Gents 221-9</b> (Pentakota 63, Basker 40, Kumar 38*, Bocha 23, Unadkat 4-38)<br><b>Salix 113-9</b> (Thangarajah 40, Heaton 35)   | <b>Won</b> by 108 runs                           |
| 28/9 | Hale Common      | <b>Gents 254</b> (Bocha 59, Kasthala 30, Jampala 28, Giles 3-44)<br><b>Hale 124</b> (Short 22, Thacker 21, Jampala 3-23)  | <b>Won</b> by 130 runs                           |

The final game continued the remarkable success enjoyed when batting first. Since returning from the Netherlands in May 2013, the Gents have batted first 20 times, winning 18 with one game tied and one abandoned. The average score in these games was 222.

## Gentlemen of West London v. United Titans

Sunday 17 August, Old Tenisons. United Titans won toss. Sunny and blustery, 21C

Lost by 5 runs

| United Titans  |                | Gentlemen of West London |               |  |                |                   |            |
|--|----------------|--------------------------|---------------|--|----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Pawan  | run out        | 3                        | Small         | c R Patel  | b Pathi        | 8                 |            |
| *†Basker   |                | 18                       | Rajasekhar    |  | b Pathi        | 18                |            |
| Pathi  |                | 6                        | Jones         | c Nethani  | b Pathi        | 0                 |            |
| Patel  | c Clark        | 16                       | Newcombe      |  | b Pathi        | 0                 |            |
| Krishna  | run out        | 13                       | Clark         | c Krishna  | b Pingili      | 47                |            |
| Nethani  |                | 4                        | S Kumar       | run out  |                | 23                |            |
| Jampala  | not out        | 28                       | S Patel       |  | b Krishna      | 1                 |            |
| Reddy  | c Kumar        | 0                        | Hussain       |  | b Patel        | 0                 |            |
| Chalamalasetti                                       | lbw            | 6                        | *Dubey        | c Katragadda   | b Krishna      | 4                 |            |
| Pingili  | run out        | 13                       | †Mishra       | not out  |                | 6                 |            |
| Katragadda   | c Clark        | 10                       | D Kumar       | run out  |                | 0                 |            |
| <b>Extras</b>  |                | w5 nb3                   | <b>Extras</b> |  | w5 b6 lb2      | 13                |            |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>All out</b> | <b>23.5 overs</b>        | <b>125</b>    | <b>Total</b>   | <b>All out</b> | <b>24.3 overs</b> | <b>120</b> |
| <b>FoW:</b> 19, 23, 45, 45, 63, 66, 67, 74, 100, 125 |                |                          |               | <b>FoW:</b> 13, 19, 19, 30, 107, 107, 108, 113, 117, 120 |                |                   |            |
| <b>Bowler</b>  |                |                          |               | <b>Bowler</b>  |                |                   |            |
| Clark  | 4-0-21-0       |                          |               | Pathi  | 5-3-12-4       |                   |            |
| Dubey  | 4-0-11-1       |                          |               | Chalamalasetti   | 4-0-22-0       |                   |            |
| S Patel  | 3-0-23-2       |                          |               | Katragadda   | 3-3-0-17-0     |                   |            |
| Kumar  | 3-0-5-0        |                          |               | Krishna  | 5-0-28-2       |                   |            |
| Hussain  | 3-0-13-2       |                          |               | Patel  | 5-0-21-1       |                   |            |
| Small  | 3-0-25-1       |                          |               | Nethani  | 1-0-11-0       |                   |            |
| Rajasekhar   | 2-0-9-0        |                          |               | Pingili  | 1-0-1-1        |                   |            |
| Newcombe   | 1.5-0-18-1     |                          |               |  |                |                   |            |

United Titans, summoning up every last joule of energy after a draining Twenty20 final the previous day, shaded a tight, rain-reduced 25 overs game by 5 runs, inflicting upon the Gents their third defeat of 2014, all batting second. After a heavy shower at 12.30pm the pitch predictably flooded, but two hours later had dried sufficiently under sun and brisk wind for the game to go ahead. Titans are something of a streetfighting team, with few star batsmen (especially here in the absence of Bocha and Pentakota through injury) but a powerful, varied attack backed up by keen, youthful fielding. They are highly experienced at defending low totals in their Saturday league and did so again here after the Gents were within sight of the win.

In Greek mythology the Titans were a race of powerful deities, descendants of Gaia (Earth) and Uranus (Sky). Giants possessed of incredible strength, they originally numbered 12, which chillingly was the number of players the immortal Basker brought along here. He won the toss and interestingly decided to bat with the pitch still wet. Pawan was run out in the fifth over, one of five such victims over the course of the day. Patel struck with successive balls and Titans were wounded. They batted very deep, however, and 51 came up for the last two wickets in eight overs, Jampala impressing with 28\*. It had been a consistent innings, with six men into double figures. The bowling was steady, although Small and Newcombe received a bit of tap in the final overs.

After a quick changeover, Vivek Rajasekhar (on debut with Sayed Hussain) and Small put up 13 before Pathi produced the best figures of any 2014 Gents opponent, carding 5-3-12-4 with penetrative swing bowling. Small edged to slip, Jones and Newcombe were dismissed for ducks and then Rajasekhar bowled, 30-4. Clark and Kumar batted well to add 77, the Australian, given two lives, clearing the ropes four times in his 17 over knock in which he exactly maintained his season's batting average. They bequeathed a solid position of 106-4 off 21 overs but fell within a few balls of each other, Clark caught in the deep and Kumar run out by an impossible call. Titans then sensed an opening, pounced and the task proved beyond the Gents, whose last six wickets only added 13. Patel drove over a straight one and was bowled. Dubey found the impervious Katragadda at long-off. Rakesh Patel's excellent spell of off-spin accounted for Hussain and a final run out left the Gents beached five runs short with three balls unbowed. Titans dropped a few catches but their outfielding was faultless, typified by Krishna's full-length goalkeeper's dive on the boundary to intercept a venomous Clark drive.

The close co-ordination between the teams has suited both sides this season. The Gents would have been unable to fulfil fixtures without the support of Titans, who for their part enjoy their Sunday forays into longer formats. One devout Titan spectacularly described the teams as bonded by prayers and blessings. The teams get along well, although there was no lack of penetrative banter between them. This is therefore another fixture nailed on for 2015. Greg Newcombe remarked after that he was simply glad that a game could be played at all after the earlier hostile weather. That is a good way of looking at it.

## Titans denied in final over

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A bumper attendance of 150, swelled by Gents Andrew Burman and Sanjay Patel, plus out-of-contract Dave Bender, made their way to Perivale Park for this festival of cricket. There was bhangra and biryani in abundance, and an exciting 3rd./4th. place play-off to whet the appetite. In the final, holders Global Warriors met United Titans, who batted first but lost quick wickets, mainly to excellent catching in the deep. The tail then wagged, the total 110. Warriors started well, fell behind the rate but recovered. Needing 18 off two overs with four wickets in hand, 13 came off the 19th. Five were therefore needed off the last. A single and a dot ball came. Things then, shall we say, warmed up.

Titans had been getting visibly wound up after two run outs were declined by one of the professional umpires and when a third was declined by the same official off a direct hit, it all kicked off. Captain Basker surrounded the umpire (not an exaggeration, he is a big man) and wagged his finger in the manner of Mike Gatting having it with Shakhoo Rana. Moments later, he led his team off the field, the match apparently conceded.

Chaos ensued. Officials were summoned and tense negotiations took place as Global Warriors cavorted, celebrating their victory. But no, the teams reconvened after an hour and the last three balls were played out, two dots and a four resulting to give Warriors an undisputed win by three wickets. It was a competition of very high standard. Every run had to be scrapped for in the teeth of strong bowling attacks and keen fielding.

## The Salix view

A look at our recent record against the Gents would not have given many grounds for optimism on a balmy September afternoon, and indeed we once again fell to a heavy defeat. The good news started and ended early with Padmore winning the toss, and an early breakthrough from a run-out following good work by Thangarajah and Shaw. Twenty overs later we finally got another wicket when Heaton took a smart caught and bowled, Gents having had plenty of luck on the way with a number of shots falling annoyingly between fielders. We rallied a bit, Unadkat taking four and nearly completing a five-for when another ball dropped between fielders, but then a late whack-fest took Gents to a score that we would have to bat well to beat.

Spillane kindly added to tea with some Farmer's Market pork pie before the inevitable. Darling was out in the second over, though thereafter Thangarajah and stand-in opener Heaton put together a good stand. But the run rate started to slow and the wickets started to fall, as Gents made a series of tricky catches look easy, in particular a stunning backward diving catch on the boundary to dismiss Padmore. On so to the pub, where talk turned to next year's tour, with Italy being seriously considered. And we left the pub to the as ever unfailingly nice Gents applauding us. Next year we'll give them a game surely?

## Whaddyamean, pal...ye dinnae take our poond?



The Scotch have spoken. Perhaps worried about a Yes vote in their gerrymandered referendum and keen to offload some potentially dud currency, Vijay Basker paid his Salix match fee on 7 September with one of their comedy fivers, which was laundered at an impressive 1:1 exchange rate with sterling that very evening. Despite much whining to the contrary, Scotch currency is not legal tender anywhere, even in Scotland, comprising as it does promissory notes. To avoid misunderstandings, it is wise to stick to English coin of the realm as captains Kumar and Padmore (left) did for the toss.

## Clapham In v. Gentlemen of West London

**Sunday 31 August, Chiswick House. Clapham In won toss. Sunny, 21C**

**Lost by 6 runs**

| Clapham In  |                | Gentlemen of West London |            |  |                |                   |            |
|---|----------------|--------------------------|------------|--|----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Marais  | lbw            | b Katragadda             | <b>0</b>   | *Small   | c Clack        | b Goodman         | <b>5</b>   |
| †Plaja  | lbw            | b Nethani                | <b>22</b>  | Denton   | c Wilson       | b Wildman         | <b>1</b>   |
| *Clack  |                | b Bocha                  | <b>6</b>   | Basker   |                | b Roussouw        | <b>73</b>  |
| Roussouw  | c Katragadda   | b Jampala                | <b>83</b>  | Bocha  | c Clack        | b Goodman         | <b>0</b>   |
| Curtis  | c Nethani      | b Jampala                | <b>10</b>  | Nethani  | lbw            | b Curtis          | <b>19</b>  |
| Wilson  |                | b Small                  | <b>3</b>   | S Patel  | c Roussouw     | b Curtis          | <b>6</b>   |
| Hollands  |                | b Jampala                | <b>4</b>   | Jampala  |                | b Roussouw        | <b>14</b>  |
| Shiner  |                | b S Patel                | <b>11</b>  | Katragadda   | not out        |                   | <b>26</b>  |
| Wildman   | c and          | b Katragadda             | <b>23</b>  | †Mishra  |                | b Shinner         | <b>13</b>  |
| Frecknall   |                | b Jampala                | <b>16</b>  | Caveney  | c Plaja        | b Roussouw        | <b>3</b>   |
| Goodman   | not out        |                          | <b>5</b>   |  |                |                   |            |
| <b>Extras</b>   |                | w3 b2 lb5                | <b>10</b>  | <b>Extras</b>                                      |                | w22 nb1 b3 lb1    | <b>27</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>All out</b> | <b>38.2 overs</b>        | <b>193</b> | <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>All out</b> | <b>35.5 overs</b> | <b>187</b> |
| <b>FoW:</b> 0, 17, 84, 98, 114, 129, 138, 169, 173, 193 |                |                          |            | <b>FoW:</b> 3, 27, 27, 88, 106, 130, 149, 180, 187 |                |                   |            |
| <b>Bowler</b>   |                |                          |            | <b>Bowler</b>                                      |                |                   |            |
| Katragadda  | 8-1-16-2       |                          |            | Goodman  | 8-0-35-2       |                   |            |
| Bocha   | 7-0-30-1       |                          |            | Wildman  | 4-0-32-1       |                   |            |
| S Patel   | 5-0-38-1       |                          |            | Frecknall  | 8-1-47-0       |                   |            |
| Nethani   | 5-1-30-1       |                          |            | Curtis   | 5-0-30-2       |                   |            |
| Small   | 7-0-47-1       |                          |            | Hollands   | 2-0-14-0       |                   |            |
| Jampala   | 6.2-0-25-4     |                          |            | Roussouw   | 6.5-2-13-3     |                   |            |
|   |                |                          |            | Shinner  | 2-0-12-1       |                   |            |

Clapham In edged a fine, see-sawing game, the Gents' fourth successive defeat batting second (the last three by frustrating margins of 3, 5 and here 6 runs) but they fought the talented hosts all the way and can be proud of their efforts. The innings were similar, comprising early collywobbles, contrasting innings from Roussouw and Basker (his third successive club 50), and assertive hitting by the tail. This result ties up the series at 2-2.

The Gents had eleven, or so the organiser thought, but were reduced to nine by 1pm, one apology for absence being conveyed by a text that never arrived. Two withdrawals on matchday is a tough blow but Karthik Jampala, who had turned up to support, became a most effective eleventh-hour inclusion. Had young Basker been given a bit more notice an eleventh might have been made flesh.

The miserly Katragadda and Bocha struck early but Plaja and the formidable South African Roussouw restored the position. Debutant Nethani Nethani pinned Plaja before Jampala took four good wickets, including Roussouw caught at long-on for 83 soon after drinks, Katragadda's seventh of the season. Wise field placement by Small ensured that the eleventh man was not missed too much, late blasts by Wildman and Frecknall owing more to power of shot than gaps in the field. It was also brave of the captain to bowl his leg-spin from the School End and risk repeated cartings over the short leg-side boundary. Clapham In thought 193 to be 40 runs light, but students of Gents' history know their dismal record in successfully chasing anything over 190 (one miserly occurrence in 27 seasons). The match looked well balanced.

Denton lofted to mid-on in the second over before Clack took two sharp slip catches in two balls from Goodman to see off Small and Bocha. That's five catches by him there in these past two fixtures including Small twice. To misquote Emperor Hirohito, the innings was not at this point necessarily proceeding to the advantage of the Gents. Vijay Basker (13 fours) then led the run chase and so well did he bat that the Gents were above the required run rate from the 12th. over, when he cover-drove three successive fours off Frecknall, to the game's conclusion.

He could not, however, do it on his own and was well-supported in a series of gritty stands, although Sanjay Patel's two-ball 6 might perhaps not be thus described. Nethani, Jampala (Titans' top-scorer in the recent Gents match), Katragadda and Mishra all impressed, the latter two taking up the charge after a missile from Roussouw took out Basker's leg-stump. The responsibility in the end fell upon Katragadda and Caveney, who struck Roussouw for a two into the deep before picking out Plaja at point. The ten had fought a good fight, only to be denied at the last.

Clapham In again hosted very well. This is a superb, if expensive venue and the teas were tasty and generous. The 2015 fixture cannot come soon enough.

## Salix v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 7 September, Imperial College, Salix won toss. Sunny, 22C

Won by 108 runs

| Gentlemen of West London                          |                  |                 | Salix      |  |                  |                 |            |
|---|------------------|-----------------|------------|--|------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Dubey   | run out          |                 | 10         | Heaton   | lbw              | b Kumar         | 35         |
| Basker  | c and            | b Heaton        | 40         | Darling  | c Pentakota      | b Dubey         | 0          |
| Pentakota   | lbw              | b Thangarajah   | 63         | Thangarajah                                    | c Nethani        | b Clark         | 40         |
| Clark   |                  | b Unadkat       | 0          | †Shaw  |                  | b S Patel       | 0          |
| Bocha   | c Padmore        | b Unadkat       | 23         | Kulasingam                                     | c Bocha          | b S Patel       | 3          |
| S Patel   | st Shaw          | b Unadkat       | 14         | *Padmore                                       | c Pingili        | b Nethani       | 16         |
| Krishna   |                  | b Unadkat       | 3          | Collins  |                  | b Nethani       | 0          |
| †Mishra   |                  | b Kulasingam    | 14         | Ellis  | c Pentakota      | b Kumar         | 0          |
| *Kumar  | not out          |                 | 38         | Henig  | c Pingili        | b Bocha         | 5          |
| Pingili   | not out          |                 | 1          | Spillane                                       |                  | not out         | 3          |
| Nethani   | did not bat      |                 |            | Unadkat  |                  | not out         | 0          |
| <b>Extras</b>                                     |                  | w13 b2          | 15         | <b>Extras</b>                                  |                  | w9 b2           | 11         |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>8 wickets</b> | <b>35 overs</b> | <b>221</b> | <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>9 wickets</b> | <b>35 overs</b> | <b>113</b> |
| <b>FoW:</b> 16, 103, 103, 149, 150, 156, 167, 211 |                  |                 |            | <b>FoW:</b> 1, 67, 67, 80, 96, 99, 99, 99, 107 |                  |                 |            |
| <b>Bowler</b>                                     |                  |                 |            | <b>Bowler</b>                                  |                  |                 |            |
| Heaton  | 7-0-53-1         |                 |            | Pingili  | 5-1-18-0         |                 |            |
| Padmore   | 7-0-32-0         |                 |            | Dubey  | 4-0-17-1         |                 |            |
| Ellis   | 7-0-33-0         |                 |            | Clark  | 7-0-20-1         |                 |            |
| Unadkat   | 7-0-38-4         |                 |            | Krishna  | 3-0-8-0          |                 |            |
| Darling   | 2-0-26-0         |                 |            | Nethani  | 4-0-15-2         |                 |            |
| Thangarajah                                       | 2-0-13-1         |                 |            | S Patel  | 6-0-24-2         |                 |            |
| Kulasingam  | 3-0-24-1         |                 |            | Kumar  | 2-1-5-2          |                 |            |
|   |                  |                 |            | Pentakota                                      | 2-0-2-0          |                 |            |
|   |                  |                 |            | Bocha  | 2-1-2-1          |                 |            |

The Gents put behind them the disappointment of two recent narrow defeats to gain their fourth successive win in this series and their first in five weeks. The series dominance began in 2012 after Salix had won six games out of seven, the 2008 game being a tie. Here, consistent batting and penetrative bowling, supported by the best fielding performance of the season, ensured a large margin of victory against friendly and spirited hosts.

The captaincy baton passed to Sumit Kumar who lost the toss on a fine, warm day. The wicket was green and patchy and Salix's predominantly spin attack got turn and lift but were batted out of the game by some steady batsmanship. Dubey was run out in the second over chancing a wild second but two of only three Gents who played in the 2013 fixture, Basker and Pentakota, reprised their stand from that rainy day. Then it was 53, here 87 in 18 overs before Basker drove back to the bowler for 40. Clark followed immediately, the first of four for the leg-spinner Unadkat who unravelled the middle order. Bocha's promising knock ended with a good catch in the deep by Padmore, Thangarajah then pinning Pentakota for an excellent 63 (nine fours, his second successive 50). Unadkat cleaned up Krishna (on debut with Pingili) and, after an exciting flurry including one of the only two sixes in the innings, Sanjay Patel. With the Gents 167-7 after 27 overs the game was finely balanced, but Kumar's impressive 38\* and the improving Mishra's 14 (his the second six) saw them to 221-8.

Darling cut Dubey to point in the second over of the reply before anchorman Heaton (only one four in his 29 over dig, but what guts and determination) and the strokemaking Thangarajah dug in. A very good stand for the second wicket it was too, although the required run rate was creeping up. By now Ken Toft had arrived to double the away support and whether causally or not the Gents' fortunes took an immediate turn for the better. As Salix's match reporter had it "The Gents made a series of tricky catches look easy, in particular a stunning backward diving catch on the boundary to dismiss Padmore".

Pingili was the culprit there and two days on his agility seems scarcely credible. Padmore laced the ball hard to long-on right by the boundary. Pingili dived backwards and caught the ball in the approved Australian way with his hands cupped outwards. Although knocked off his feet he managed to cling on and signalled the catch to general astonishment. Four other tough chances were offered to deep fielders, all of which were taken with nonchalance.

In the context of the game, the most important was Nethani's, over at deep mid-wicket, to break the second-wicket stand off Clark's fine spell. Kumar must be given credit for his field placing which had people in the right position to take the catches and to the bowlers, who bowled to the fields given them. Nine bowlers were used by the time stumps were drawn at 6.30pm.



## Hale v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 28 September, Hale Common, Gents won toss. Sunny, 24C

Won by 130 runs

| Gentlemen of West London                                 |                | Hale            |  |                |                   |            |
|--|----------------|-----------------|--|----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Dubey  | c Rajesh       | b Giles         | 15 †Short  | b Katragadda   | 22                |            |
| †Basker  |                | b JA Davies     | 14 Thacker   | c Bocha        | b Pingili         | 21         |
| †Mishra  | lbw            | b Giles         | 19 Abdul   | c Orugant      | b Pingili         | 5          |
| Bocha  | c Rao          | b Thacker       | 59 †Giles  | c Doma         | b Jampala         | 5          |
| †Katragadda  | c and          | b Giles         | 8 Rao  |                | b Jampala         | 14         |
| Jampala  | c Thacker      | b Abdul         | 28 Rajesh  | c Mishra       | b Doma            | 13         |
| Orugant  |                | b Punchard      | 17 Krishna   |                | b Jampala         | 0          |
| Doma   |                | b Abdul         | 13 JO Davies   | c Kasthala     | b Orugant         | 10         |
| Kasthala   | run out        |                 | 30 Punchard  |                | b Kumar           | 1          |
| Pingili  | st Giles       | b Punchard      | 0 *Weaver  |                | b Orugant         | 3          |
| *Kumar   | not out        |                 | 5 JA Davies  | not out        |                   | 0          |
| <b>Extras</b>  |                | w33 nb3 b10     | <b>46 Extras</b>                                       |                | w15 nb5 b5 lb5    | <b>30</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>All out</b> | <b>35 overs</b> | <b>254 Total</b>                                       | <b>All out</b> | <b>30.2 overs</b> | <b>124</b> |
| <b>FoW:</b> 27, 46, 63, 71, 166, 167, 186, 250, 250, 254 |                |                 | <b>FoW:</b> 47, 52, 61, 65, 89, 89, 114, 114, 124, 124 |                |                   |            |
| <b>Bowler</b>  |                |                 | Dubey  |                | 6-0-28-0          |            |
| Giles  | 7-1-44-3       |                 | Pingili  |                | 6-0-27-2          |            |
| JA Davies  | 7-0-33-1       |                 | Katragadda   |                | 6-1-9-1           |            |
| Rao  | 4-0-28-0       |                 | Jampala  |                | 5-0-23-3          |            |
| Krishna  | 4-0-35-0       |                 | Kasthala   |                | 2-0-11-0          |            |
| Thacker  | 5-0-40-1       |                 | Doma   |                | 2-0-10-1          |            |
| Abdul  | 4-0-36-2       |                 | Orugant  |                | 2-1-1-2           |            |
| Rajesh   | 2-0-17-0       |                 | Bocha  |                | 1-0-5-0           |            |
| Weaver   | 1-0-6-0        |                 | Kumar  |                | 0.2-0-0-1         |            |
| Punchard   | 1-0-5-2        |                 |  |                |                   |            |

Bright batting led by Praveen Bocha and aided and abetted by a large number of extras, saw the Gents post a formidable 254 all out. Hale started well, but were worn down by accurate bowling in the mild evening sunshine. Questions must, however, be asked about the disposition and commitment of club members, only five of whom were available for this attractive fixture. Absentees missed a rip-roaring day's cricket played on a sporting pitch in perfect weather and the best cricket tea this writer has ever enjoyed.

The first test of the day was passed when three cars with drivers and nine passengers duly mustered at Hounslow Asda at 11 o'clock. The team travelled down the M3 in convoy, Dubey driving his BMW well within its limits, arrived early and were pleased to help remove the chains and posts from the square. Kumar decided to bat. Spectators arriving late due to security checks missed an entertaining first over off which 18 came, including a four and a six from Dubey and the first of three five Wides bowled by Hale (there would also be a rare four Wides, i.e. one for a Wide and three more run). Dubey toe-ended to cover in the third over. Basker and Mishra batted patiently but Giles and Davies were getting help from the pitch as Weaver bowled them through. Giles got more wickets, but Davies conceded fewer runs and the teams could not be split at 14 overs, Gents 77-4.

Bocha (11 fours) and Jampala (five fours) put up 95 in 11 overs, running well and hitting boldly. This stand was the mainstay of the innings and as the heat shimmered and the fielders wilted, runs continued to come quickly. The lower middle-order were fluent, Orugant playing some fine shots and Doma and Kasthala impressing on debut. Punchard took two wickets in two balls. Adding back bowling extras, Hale were in the field for 38 overs.

Tea was delicious. Mindful of the increasing presence of Indians and Pakistanis in her own team, Hale's tea-lady Mrs Giles assembled delicious chicken tikka, vegetable curry, rice, samosas and nan which was driven home with trifle. The match resumed with Hale's young league first XI players, Short (Crown Taverners) and Thacker (Horley) opening. Very well they batted too, scoring at a run a ball after a tough early chance had been missed in the slips. After that, most of the catches stuck, starting with Bocha's at cover-point by the short Ball and Wicket boundary to dismiss Thacker. Pingili then took his second wicket with a juggling, diving catch by Orugant at wide mid-off.

Katragadda has bowled excellently all season and in cahoots with Jampala put the game beyond Hale. Orugant finally got his first club bowl and had JO Davies caught by silly mid-on Kasthala first ball. The afternoon was now extremely relaxed and Basker and Katragadda had a spell of wicket-keeping. Freed of his blue pads, Mishra took a fine catch at mid-wicket. Having batted No.11 captain Kumar brought himself on seventh change and ended proceedings by bowling Punchard. Hale hosted superbly and will no doubt be out for revenge in 2015.

## Measuring up

*Cricket would be sterile if achievements were merely gluttonous statistical feats, but to ignore them altogether would be foolhardy. (Gaurav Kalra, Economic Times of India)*

In 2006, those cheerful chappies at the Professional Cricketers' Association undertook an extensive review of all player-performance related statistics. Results highlighted that cricket statistics are:

1. Too focussed on individual elements of the game – averages, run rates, wickets taken.
2. Not clear and not relevant to all cricket – ICC rankings and other international stats.
3. Not reflective of a player's total contribution to his team.

Quite so, even if these arguments are somewhat self-evident and in the case of 2. question begging. However, such mimsiness did not deter Salix CC's Department of Mathematics from devising a clever formula to rank their players, and clearly enjoying it too. Please check out their website (Statto Corner is the bit you want). Now it is our turn to do the Lord's work. An all-rounder is defined as a player who is able to command his place in the side for either his batting or bowling. In order to keep things simple, we have ranked batting and bowling aggregates and averages only (although run rate, strike rate, economy, fielding and strength of opposition might profitably be considered were all data available) subject to a minimum qualification of 10 games or 10 wickets. Thus, 90 of 322 Gents qualify.

How do we combine batting and bowling data for the Gents to calculate the best All-rounder? Very cleverly. For batting, we rank Runs and Batting Average and take the mean of each ranking. For bowling, it is similar, for Wickets and Bowling Average. Batting and bowling rankings are then added together and ranked. Gregg Cloete, Ian Maughan, Jonny Small and Nick Hubbocks are ranked in the Batting Top 10 but do not make the All-rounders' Top 10. Sachin Desai, Hemin Patel and Chris Wright are Top 10 Bowlers but not top 10 All-rounders. It is all just a bit of fun, so don't start, but we would as ever welcome comments. The system is not foolproof, but accusations that we have worked back from the answer of Mark Ashton No.1 in order to avoid a troubling late night telephone call would be unjust.

|    | <b>Batsman</b> | <b>Runs</b> | <b>Avg.</b> |    | <b>Batsman</b>  | <b>Runs</b> | <b>Avg.</b> |
|----|----------------|-------------|-------------|----|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1  | Nabeel Husain  | 2,270       | 49.35       | 11 | Ravi Inkollu    | 816         | 27.20       |
| 2  | Mark Ashton    | 3,848       | 30.54       | 12 | Mike Hughes     | 1,121       | 21.56       |
| 3  | Sanjay Patel   | 5,631       | 25.83       | 13 | Naveed Khan     | 958         | 21.77       |
| 4  | Gregg Cloete   | 907         | 47.74       | 14 | Nick Boddington | 1,416       | 18.39       |
| 5  | Jim Wright     | 3,020       | 23.97       | 15 | Praveen Bocha   | 614         | 26.70       |
| 6  | Ramanjit Lall  | 887         | 36.96       | 16 | Nilesh Dubey    | 900         | 22.50       |
| 7  | Dhruv Patel    | 3,184       | 19.78       | 17 | Richard Gilkes  | 1,846       | 15.91       |
| 8  | Ian Maughan    | 1,131       | 23.08       | 18 | Ahsan Iqbal     | 501         | 27.83       |
| 9  | Jonny Small    | 553         | 36.87       | 19 | Suman Rudru     | 517         | 27.21       |
| 10 | Nick Hubbocks  | 1,094       | 21.88       | 20 | Steve Bignell   | 1,025       | 18.64       |

|    | <b>Bowler</b>   | <b>Wickets</b> | <b>Avg.</b> |    | <b>Bowler</b>    | <b>Wickets</b> | <b>Avg.</b> |
|----|-----------------|----------------|-------------|----|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1  | Stuart Snelling | 391            | 11.77       | 11 | Dhruv Patel      | 231            | 16.36       |
| 2  | Mark Ashton     | 222            | 11.23       | 12 | Jim Wright       | 135            | 16.01       |
| 3  | Ravi Inkollu    | 54             | 11.81       | 13 | Praveen Bocha    | 28             | 12.54       |
| 4  | Ahsan Iqbal     | 41             | 11.68       | 14 | Steve Bignell    | 51             | 15.10       |
| 5  | Sanjay Patel    | 372            | 15.20       | 15 | Suman Rudru      | 32             | 13.69       |
| 6  | Nabeel Husain   | 76             | 13.41       | 16 | Horace Hibbert   | 55             | 15.44       |
| 7  | Hemin Patel     | 229            | 15.37       | 17 | Phil Hill        | 66             | 16.29       |
| 8  | Ramanjit Lall   | 43             | 12.67       | 18 | Dave Thornicroft | 33             | 15.94       |
| 9  | Sachin Desai    | 30             | 11.80       | 19 | Nick Boddington  | 98             | 17.05       |
| 10 | Chris Wright    | 23             | 9.87        | 20 | Mark Sciberras   | 150            | 18.28       |

|    | <b>All-rounder</b> | <b>Batting</b> | <b>Bowling</b> |    | <b>All-rounder</b> | <b>Batting</b> | <b>Bowling</b> |
|----|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1  | Mark Ashton        | 2              | 2              | 11 | Steve Bignell      | 20             | 14             |
| 2  | Nabeel Husain      | 1              | 6              | 12 | Suman Rudru        | 19             | 15             |
| 3  | Sanjay Patel       | 3              | 5              | 13 | Sachin Desai       | 28             | 9              |
| 4  | Ramanjit Lall      | 6              | 8              | 14 | Jonny Small        | 9              | 27             |
| 5  | Jim Wright         | 5              | 12             | 15 | Nick Boddington    | 14             | 19             |
| 6  | Ravi Inkollu       | 11             | 3              | 16 | Horace Hibbert     | 33             | 16             |
| 7  | Dhruv Patel        | 7              | 11             | 17 | Wayne Thompson     | 23             | 21             |
| 8  | Ahsan Iqbal        | 18             | 4              | 18 | Wright Chris       | 38             | 10             |
| 9  | Stuart Snelling    | 36             | 1              | 19 | Gilkes Richard     | 17             | 32             |
| 10 | Praveen Bocha      | 15             | 13             | 20 | Patel Hemin        | 45             | 7              |

## Tigers' heartbreak

It has been a slow season for records, so we have gone perving on other teams. And my how Judd Street Tigers' opponents delivered in September. Saracens and Luton Royals were last minute replacement oppo, both batted first and both amassed a gigantic third-wicket partnership after losing two early wickets. No fielding side likes to be on the business end of a huge stand but those for the third wicket, especially after two early successes, are perhaps the cruellest. This writer had to have counselling after what Arthur and Seale did at Surbiton in 1992. On 14 September, Saracens stood at 21-2 before Archer (86) and Wallis (124) put up 219. A week later, Luton Royals were wobbling at 20-2 before Shah (92) and Wajid (100) added 180. Shah was dropped first ball of the match ("missed by a dozing 'keeper and slip").

This brought to mind the early reprieve for Heyman of Village XI when the Gents visited on the hot afternoon of Sunday, 30 June 2006. That would have been 12-3 rather than what it became about a fortnight later, 227-3. Tigers' match reporter records a further 10 drops off Shah. History does not record how fortunate or not Heyman or Jones were for the rest of that stand, because the Gents' match reporter spent the time mumbling to himself in the clubhouse, glancing up every few minutes to see Tony Buck, Dhruv or Ketan Patel retrieving another boundary.

## The changing face of cricket



"Crikey, they're having a team hug!" said Hale, or, ahem, words to that effect. Normal at professional level, the only side in our orbit who ever did this was Urban Associates, a fine team from the 90s and 00s who usually beat the Gents. Urbans notoriously used it as a tactic of procrastination. Steve Bignell recalls opening the batting for West XI against them and being kept waiting for five minutes while the man love took place. He lost his concentration and his wicket.

Titans enjoy a huddle, so it seemed only a matter of time before the Gents succumbed. All innocent enough, but it would have been unheard of under some previous regimes.

## You're in, Jack



It is now time to resurrect a tradition from a few years ago and pick our Best Opponents XI of 2014. It all works out jolly neatly.

1. \*Bailey (Hyde Farmers)
2. Flauker (Cairns Fudge)
3. Herlihy (Judd Street Tigers)
4. Roussouw (Clapham In)
5. MacDonald (St. Anne's Allstars)
6. Khan (London Rams)
7. †Shaw (Salix)
8. Neighbour (Baker Street Irregulars)
9. Mihir (Gubbays)
10. Pathi (United Titans)
11. Davies (Hale)

The most attractive quality in this side is its balance. There is a rock-steady No.3 Herlihy to complement the stroke-makers around him. Pathi and Mihir can open the bowling, they can move the ball both ways, with Roussouw and Neighbour first and second change. Khan can also send a few down. If the pitch offers turn, Davies (pictured above) can come on early with his flighted slows. Shaw, as he has been doing for over a thousand years, will despatch any batsman foolish enough to nick one off or wander out of his crease.

## A Score to Settle



The cricketing world was spun off its axis this morning with the long-awaited publication of former West XI and Gents all-rounder David Bender's autobiography "A Score to Settle". Mass contradictions leap off most pages, but dozens of perceived enemies are wounded as Bender aims and fires the shotgun at all points of the compass. A member of the very successful West XI side of 2003-2008, one of his central claims is that a culture of bullying existed in the dressing room, particularly among the clique of Phil Hill and Kevin Allerton. "As a young guy coming into the team, they did nothing to help me. They would demand lifts to and from their homes, which are all over London, and never pay petrol money."

Another target is Andy Cox, who made the mistake upon his retirement of earning a brief tribute by the West XI captain. "He had played only a third of my games and never carried the kit, and there he was being praised all over the internet. I ask you." He also believes insufficient credit was given for his quip ("my best ever") when West XI played Sunderland. "We had a spare player, Coles, and as they were one short he played for them. I joshed that it was a case of bringing Coles to Sunderland but only Bignell understood it. Hill and Allerton just threw pads at me." He also cites sabotage by the Press. "The Fourth Estate, the fools, almost ignored my match-turning 5 for 32 against London Saints and just banged on about what a rubbish tea it was."

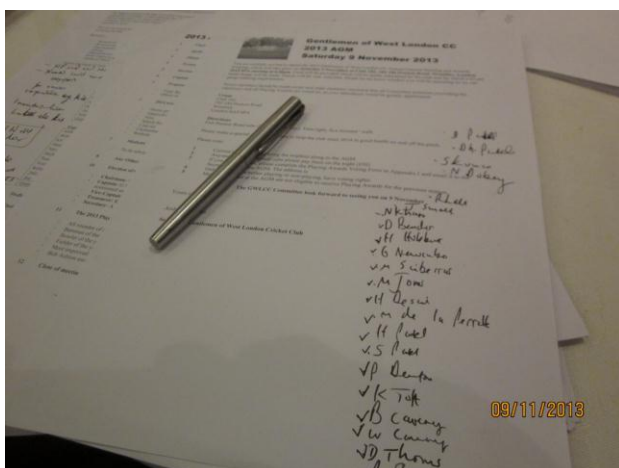
Nobody who plays cricket can be miserable all the time and Bender is a big enough man to celebrate the good times, in the final chapter "You Lucky People". Whether hitting Sachin Desai for six, and clonking a visiting journalist on the nut with his helmet in boisterous celebration, vitally catching Lloyd Wahed at Old Tenisons in a famous Bob Ashton Cup win, or gleefully writing in to Radio 4 denouncing grammatical infelicities in their weather forecasts, his is a life well lived, the rough with the smooth.

He will be signing copies of his book in the Wetherspoons near Ealing Broadway on Friday 7 November at 6pm

## GWLCC career averages for absent and retired legends

|           | M.  | Inn. | NO | Runs  | Avg.  | Ct./St. | O     | M   | Runs  | Wck. | Avg.  |
|-----------|-----|------|----|-------|-------|---------|-------|-----|-------|------|-------|
| Buck      | 216 | 192  | 19 | 1,808 | 10.45 | 44      | 409.1 | 15  | 2,057 | 114  | 18.04 |
| Desai H   | 61  | 49   | 10 | 740   | 18.97 | 33/8    | 16    | 1   | 82    | 5    | 16.40 |
| Desai S   | 71  | 65   | 3  | 910   | 14.68 | 26/4    | 80.5  | 2   | 354   | 30   | 11.80 |
| Gilkes    | 134 | 123  | 7  | 1,846 | 15.91 | 32      | 41    | 5   | 230   | 15   | 15.33 |
| Sciberras | 170 | 144  | 15 | 1,444 | 11.19 | 60      | 599.4 | 45  | 2,742 | 150  | 18.28 |
| Snelling  | 238 | 174  | 46 | 1,327 | 10.37 | 47      | 1,572 | 290 | 4,604 | 391  | 11.77 |

## Annual General Meeting 2014



**Saturday 8 November**

**7.30pm**

**Club 182  
182-184 Preston Road  
Wembley  
Middlesex HA9 8PA**

**Directions**

Exit Preston Road tube (Metropolitan line). Turn right, five minutes' walk on opposite side of road. The meeting will be held in the function room at the rear of the restaurant.

