

2014 GWLCC AGM

Minutes

Opening:

The Annual General Meeting of the Gentlemen of West London Cricket Club (“the Club”) was called to order at 8.15pm on 8 November 2013 at Club 182, Wembley by Chairman Naveed Khan. The Chairman thanked those who attended.

Present (19):

Committee:

Naveed Khan (Chairman)
Andrew Burman (Secretary)
Horace Hibbert (Captain)
Sachin Desai (Vice-Captain)
Ken Toft (Treasurer)

Members and prospective Members:

Vijay Basker
Praveen Bocha
Wayne Caveney
Peter Denton
Horace Hibbert
Karthik Jampala
Aravind Katragadda
Sumit Kumar
Hemin Patel
Sanjay Patel
Jonny Small
Dane Thoms

Guests:

Dave Bender
Dave Laing

Apologies for Absence:

Morgan Clark
Gregg Cloete
Nilesh Dubey
Richard Gilkes
Mark Jones
Ramanjit Lall
Himanshu Mishra
Greg Newcombe
Noman Qureshi
Mark Sciberras

A. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was unanimously approved as distributed.

B. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous AGM were unanimously approved as distributed.

C. Treasurer's Report

Please see separate report.

D. Secretary's Report

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, Kumar and Pentakota 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 GWLCC AGM

In 2015, the Gents will play their 500th. game and, God willing, Sanjay Patel his 300th. , two important milestones. To date, 320 people have played for the Club, 116 only once. We have been honoured by the presence of 18 Patels and six Khans. The geographical spread has been wide; China, Germany and Japan are among the nations represented.

It is proposed that Old Tenisons, Motspur Park will again be the home venue in 2015. This ground is not available on the first Sunday of May to August inclusive because it is reserved for Surrey League Cup fixtures. On those dates, therefore, the Club will need to play away or arrange alternative home venues. Hale is an excellent if remote venue. Kingston is central but lacks facilities and has variable wickets.

It is proposed to play 22 Sunday fixtures starting Sunday 19 April and ending 27 September. Hyde Farmers needs some discussion but all other opponents will be retained. To the 2014 fixture list would be added:

Wimbledon United (rained off in 2014)
Kensington and Chelsea (rained off in 2014)
Close Premium Finance (old friends, the works team of Sumit Kumar and Nilesh Dubey)
Northfields (upgraded from 1 to 2 fixtures)
Bricklayer's Arms (upgraded from 1 to 2 fixtures)
London Saints (upgraded from 1 to 2 fixtures because the second was rained off in 2014)

With the rump of the 2014 fixtures, that makes 20 matches, leaving room for two new opponents. Perhaps we should play a game against Wombles, in memory of former-Gent Alex Young and make it a charity fundraiser. Perhaps a Cheltenham tour could be arranged. That was a brilliant weekend away back in 2012.

A reminder that home games start at 1pm and players should be on the ground 30 minutes beforehand. We have no control over start times for away fixtures. In the event of bad weather, call or text the Secretary on 07802-788424. No emails or Tweets please.

E. Captain's Report

First, I must say thank you for choosing me as your captain for this past season and a great season it was. I must apologise for my absence in the later part of the season.

I want to thank Andy for his long-standing contribution and dedication once more, without him this Club would be functionless: like a ship without a rudder. To Naveed, for being our chairman and the biggest donor to our Sunday afternoons' cause. Ken for being our treasurer over the years and for keeping us afloat. Vijay without whom I think we would have ended up with a lot of matches being cancelled. Cheers Vijay. To the new players who turned out for the Gents in 2014, your contribution to this club is well and truly noted and I do hope you can afford to do the same next season and for as many more as possible, thank you. I must also give a special mention to Ranjit, whom on his debut slipped out his shoulder, in a very courageous effort and a brilliant piece of fielding to save four runs.

This season has been a fantastic one. We had some very competitive games. Some we won and some we lost. As for losing, it felt really strange since we came into the season unbeaten for a long time. The game against Cairns Fudge where we wanted 11 from the last over and were unable to get them. Some would say it was my fault since I was facing. That game showed me that we have character and guts to play decent cricket in this club. Most of our batting totals were 200 plus and the opponents struggled to get there. We had splendid knocks from Raj 72 v. Judd Street Tigers, Johnny's 106 v. Judd Street Tigers, Sanjay's 71 not out v. Hale and Gregg Cloete's 111 v. London Saints. Superb bowling from the old Trojan horse himself, Sanjay with 4-22 v. St. Anne's Allstars, Karthik 4-25 v. Clapham In, Aravind 4-13 v. Northfields, Prav's 4-10 v. Northfields and Jonny's 4-18 v. London Rams. I must say those performances sure do make my job as captain much easier.

Candid moments: - Vijay top-scoring for the oppo, Gregg's 100 from 41 balls and Vijay whilst keeping, collecting the ball in front of the stumps and stumping the batsman.

Even though I have singled out a few people's performances, I want to thank each and every one who turned out for the Gents this past season and say that every game played win or lose could not happen without your contribution and attendance. Your contribution no matter how small is what makes this club function, so once again, as your captain, thank you all and well played.

2014 GWLCC AGM

F. Proposals for Membership

The following were proposed, seconded and elected nem. con.:

Karthik Jampala
Aravind Katragadda

G. Nets

Nets will again be organised at the Oval and Teddington School.

H. Kit

The Club is losing kit at an alarming rate. The Captain will kindly take the kitbag to and from games and the Vice-Captain will delegate a player to pack it up on match days. The Captain forcefully reminded the Members that kit is a shared asset and a shared responsibility.

I. Subscriptions and match fees

The Members accepted that the Club's income had not covered costs for four years and that the position was deteriorating. There was unanimous agreement that the fees needed to be increased and some Members made an argument for an even larger increase than the Committee proposed. After considerable discussion, in which some Members recommended a higher annual subscription than that proposed by the Committee, the Motion that the Annual Subscription be increased from £50 to £60 and the Match fee from £5 to £7 was carried 10-7. The Members added the caveat that flexibility should continue to be shown by the Treasurer.

J. Vote of Thanks

A Vote of Thanks was passed to Ken Toft, who had done a superb job as Treasurer for seven years.

K. Election of Committee

The following Officers were elected nem. con.:

Chairman	Naveed Khan
Captain	Horace Hibbert
Secretary	Andrew Burman
Treasurer	Hemin Patel

The following Officer was elected after a Vote:

Vice-Captain Sumit Kumar

Sachin Desai was also proposed and seconded for Vice-Captain.

L. Awards

The 2014 Awards were voted for as follows:

All-Rounder	Jonny Small
Batsman	Vijay Basker
Bowler	Aravind Katragadda
Fielder	Praveen Bocha
Most Improved	Vijay Basker
Bob Ashton	Vijay Basker

Conclusion:

Meeting was concluded at 10.30pm by the Chairman. The next AGM will be on 14 November 2015.