

# THE GENT

July 2015

No. 147

Tales from the corridor of uncertainty

## 1,175 games and counting



Veterans' Day

Small and Kumar hit Club record stand against St. Anne's Allstars

Where are they now? Suman Rudru and Ahsan Iqbal

Ashton's prog rock export drive

Mark Sciberras

Match reports:

St. Anne's Allstars (won by 141 runs)

Hale (won by 38 runs)

London Rams (won by 15 runs) - with Players' Ratings

Close PF (lost by 6 wickets)



Contact this magazine via email [andrewburman\\_840@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewburman_840@hotmail.com)

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

## Season 28 mid-term review

Eight games have gone and there are twelve Sundays left, with games already planned for ten and negotiations afoot for the other two. Results have so far been mixed, with four defeats followed by three wins and a fifth loss. The batting has been steady and sometimes spectacular but the bowling has had scant reward, with only 48 wickets taken on generally true wickets. Availability has been plentiful and declared early which is important.

Behind the scenes there is good news to report. With a couple of exceptions, subscriptions and match fees have been paid so the Club has been able to meet its financial obligations. The Club clothing looks stylish but a number of bats have been broken which seems to be a quality control problem. Perhaps we need to ask Sanjay Patel to rein in his strokemaking. There is talk of a tour to Croatia in 2016. More when we have it. The Vis CC web-site quotes about £200 per person including three nights' accommodation, transport to and from the ground, match fees, including lunch, team dinner with drinks and presentations at a local restaurant on the Saturday, including transport to and from the restaurant. EasyJet return flights from Gatwick to Split will add another ton to the bill but the price still looks reasonable.

## 2015 results

Date	Gents	Result	Judd Street Tigers	Result
Sun 26 April	-	-	Southgate Compton	Lost by 9 runs
Sun 3 May	United Titans	Lost by 29 runs	Potter Street	Cancelled (rain)
Sun 10 May	Wimbledon United	Lost by 29 runs	Old Grumblers	Lost by 5 wickets
Sat 16 May	-	-	Porto (tour)	Lost by 5 wickets
Sun 17 May	Gubbays	Lost by 8 wickets	Porto (tour)	Lost by 1 wicket
Sun 24 May	Northfields	Lost by 7 wickets	Graces	Won by 11 runs
Sun 31 May	Judd Street Tigers	Cancelled (rain)	Gents	Cancelled (rain)
Sun 7 June	St. Anne's Allstars	Won by 141 runs	N2 Casuals	Drawn
Sun 14 June	Hale	Won by 38 runs	Acme	Lost by 58 runs
Sat 20 June	London Rams	Won by 15 runs	Sampfords	Lost by 42 runs
Sun 21 June	-	-	Eastons	Drawn
Sun 28 June	Close PF	Lost by 6 wickets	Haringey Libraries	Lost by 46 wickets
<b>Record</b>	<b>P8 W3 L5</b>		<b>P10 W1 D2 L7</b>	
<b>Runs</b>	<b>194</b> Kumar <b>177</b> Small <b>172</b> Basker <b>151</b> Desai		<b>172</b> Allerton	
<b>Wickets</b>	<b>11</b> S Patel <b>6</b> Desai, H Patel <b>4</b> Pingili		Not available	
<b>Catches/Stumpings</b>	<b>3/1</b> Denton <b>3</b> S Patel, Hibbert, Turpin		Not available	

## 2015 scorecards

3/5	Boston Manor PF	<b>United Titans 144</b> (Katragadda 56, Basker 30, Krishna 3-28) <b>Gents 115</b> (H Patel 29, Desai 25, Kumar 23, Pawan 3-21)	Lost by 29 runs
10/5	Old Tenisonians	<b>Wimbledon United 199-4</b> (Herbert 83, Shacklock 32, Patel 26) <b>Gents 170</b> (Jampala 39*, Small 35, S Patel 21)	Lost by 29 runs
17/5	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 101</b> (Basker 31, Vandu 4-29, Harsh 4-31) <b>Gubbays 103-2</b> (Harsh 50*, Ashish 46*)	Lost by 8 wickets
24/5	Durston House	<b>Gents 260-7</b> (Kumar 79*, Basker 68, Fawkes 4-79) <b>Northfields 261-3</b> (Elmes 165*, Murray 56)	Lost by 7 wickets
7/6	Boston Manor PF	<b>Gents 268-5</b> (Small 131*, Kumar 74*, Bowman 3-32) <b>St. Anne's Allstars 127-8</b> (Chadwick 30, Murray 28, S Patel 3-20)	Won by 141 runs
14/6	Crown Taverners	<b>Gents 199</b> (Basker 73, S Patel 65, Oruganti 29, Rajesh 4-15, Giles 3-17) <b>Hale 161-9</b> (Giles 52*, Rajesh 44, Kamran 30, S Patel 4-34)	Won by 38 runs
20/6	Fairfield RG	<b>Gents 130</b> (Sciberas 46, D Patel 28, S Patel 22, Severn 3-27, Fisher 3-29) <b>London Rams 115</b> (McLeod 27, Rothwell 23, Desai 3-24)	Won by 15 runs
28/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 203-2</b> (S Desai 114*, Cloete 40, Jones 26) <b>Close PF 206-4</b> (Ahmed 164*)	Lost by 4 wickets

**Highest score for: 268-5** v. St. Anne's Allstars

**Highest score against: 261-3** by Northfields

**Lowest score for: 101** v. Gubbays

**Lowest score against: 115** by London Rams

**Hundred partnerships for (1): 212\*** 6th. wicket Small/Kumar v. St. Anne's Allstars (Gents record for any wicket)

**Hundred partnerships against (2): 186** 2nd. wicket Elmes/Murray (Northfields) (wicket record in Gents games),  
**111** 3rd. wicket Herbert/Shacklock (Wimbledon United)

**Fifties/hundreds for (7): 131\*** Small v. St. Anne's Allstars, **114\*** S Desai v. Close PF, **79\*** Kumar v. Northfields,

**74\*** Kumar v. St. Anne's Allstars, **73** Basker v. Hale, **68** Basker v. Northfields, **65** S Patel v. Hale

**Fifties/hundreds against (7): 165\*** Elmes (Northfields), **164\*** Ahmed (Close PF), **83** Herbert (Wimbledon United),

**56** Katragadda (United Titans), **55** Murray (Northfields), **52** Giles (Hale), **50** Harsh (Gubbays)

**Four-wicket hauls for (1): 4-34** S Patel v. Hale

**Four-wicket hauls against (4): 4-15** Rajesh (Hale), **4-29** Vandu (Gubbays), **4-31** Harsh (Gubbays), **4-79** Fawkes (Northfields)

**Sixes (18): 6** S Patel **3** Kumar, Small **2** Basker, Desai **1** Cloete, Oruganti

**Duck trophy (20): 2** Denton, Jones, Newcombe, H Patel **1** Basker, Buck, Desai, Dubey, Hibbert, Laing, Mamidi, S Patel, Pingili, Small

## Founding Father's export drive puts Britain back on its feet



The Editor spoke recently to Club founder Mark Harvey Wynford Ashton, for whom the noun legend seems inadequate. MHW makes his living these days selling vinyl progressive rock records via on-line tat bazaar eBay, chiefly to citizens of former Communist states who were denied access to such treats under previous administrations, being forced instead to consume martial music. He persuaded a Ukrainian to part with £27 for King Crimson's 1969 classic *In the Court of the Crimson King*, which was fashionable listening at Windsor Grammar School back in the day. A first pressing of Pink Floyd's 1973 *Dark Side of the Moon* went for £276 and Cream's 1967 *Disraeli Gears* fetched a cool ton.

## It's those boys again

News has reached us that Hanwell's Grand Union CC, by their own admission not the strongest side (they have previous in this magazine for a 13 all out *débâcle*), demolished Northfields CC by 91 runs on 10 May. Elmes, who tucked into the Gents' bowling for 165\* a fortnight later, was lbw Vrhovski for a duck. So thrilled were GUCC that, having copiously celebrated the win by taking beer, they reconstructed the key moments late that night on the tiny Old Hanwell village green. At some stage a decision must have been made to use a real cricket ball and bat to do this. You are probably ahead of me now. It was a decision they would regret for within moments there was a telltale tinkle of glass, as predictable as the conjunction of trifle and the Lord Mayor's robes of office in a Norman Wisdom film. Several culprits ran off but the elderly householder attended the scene, one likes to think in nightgown and nightcap, and gave the laggards a good wiggling. Financial recompense was made. What it is to be young.

## 2015 averages



	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
Aguirre	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	0	32	1	32.00
Basker	5	4	0	172	43.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bocha	2	2	0	25	12.50	-	9	1	43	0	-
Buck	1	1	0	0	0.00	-	2	0	6	0	-
Caveney	2	2	0	9	4.50	1	0	0	0	0	-
Chalamalasetti	1	1	0	11	11.00	1	1	0	11	0	-
Chintam	2	2	0	10	5.00	-/1	-	-	-	-	-
Cloete	2	2	0	51	25.50	2	7	0	34	2	17.00
Denton	5	4	0	20	5.00	3/1	-	-	-	-	-
Desai	5	5	1	151	37.75	1	23.4	2	103	6	17.17
Dubey	4	4	0	33	8.25	1	12.1	1	75	2	37.50
Gilkes	1	1	0	5	5.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gorantla	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	13	1	13.00
Hibbert	5	3	0	9	3.00	3	23.2	3	105	3	35.00
Jampala	1	1	1	39	-	-	4	0	19	0	-
Jones	3	3	0	26	8.67	-	-	-	-	-	-
Katragadda	3	3	0	28	9.33	-	18	2	81	1	81.00
Krishna	2	2	0	13	6.50	-	4.5	1	28	3	9.33
Kumar	5	5	3	194	97.00	-	22	2	132	0	-
Laing	1	1	0	0	0.00	-	2	0	16	1	16.00
Mamidi	1	1	0	0	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newcombe	2	2	0	0	0.00	-	5	0	30	1	30.00
Oruganti	4	3	1	37	18.50	1	15	1	76	3	25.33
D Patel	1	1	0	28	28.00	-	2	0	10	1	10.00
H Patel	6	5	2	31	10.33	2	19	1	94	6	15.67
S Patel	7	6	1	145	29.00	3	35	2	161	11	14.64
Pingili	2	1	0	0	0.00	-	11	0	57	4	14.25
Sciberras	1	1	0	46	46.00	-	2	0	15	0	-
Small	5	4	1	177	59.00	2	9	0	76	1	76.00
Sudireddy	3	1	0	9	9.00	-	7	0	65	0	-
Turpin	1	1	0	1	0.00	3	-	-	-	-	-

## Gentlemen of West London v. St. Anne's Allstars

**Sunday 7 June, Boston Manor PF. Gents won toss. Sunny, 20C**

**Won by 141 runs**

Gentlemen of West London			St. Anne's Allstars				
†Small	not out		<b>131</b>	Hampton	b Oruganti	<b>7</b>	
H Patel	lbw	b Bowman	<b>0</b>	Abrahams	lbw	b Hibbert	<b>0</b>
Desai	c Hampton	b Bowman	<b>0</b>	Bowman	c H Patel	b Aguirre	<b>9</b>
Dubey	c Hampton	b Bowman	<b>5</b>	Murray	c Aguirre	b S Patel	<b>28</b>
Bocha		b Khalid	<b>12</b>	Chadwick		b S Patel	<b>30</b>
Mamidi		b Hampton	<b>0</b>	Nicol		b S Patel	<b>2</b>
Kumar	not out		<b>74</b>	†Marshall		b Desai	<b>5</b>
Aguirre, S Patel, Oruganti and *Hibbert did not bat				Khalid	not out		<b>14</b>
				Adams		b H Patel	<b>12</b>
				Stephenson	not out		<b>1</b>
				*Duncan did not bat			
<b>Extras</b>		w22 nb4 b19 lb1	<b>46</b>	<b>Extras</b>		w10 nb3 b6	<b>19</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 wickets</b>	<b>35 overs</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8 wickets</b>	<b>35 overs</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 6, 10, 20, 47, 56				<b>FoW:</b> 10, 12, 34, 89, 92, 97, 99, 118			
<b>Bowler</b>				<b>Bowler</b>			
Bowman	7-0-32-3			Hibbert	5-1-16-1		
Chadwick	7-0-45-0			Oruganti	5-1-14-1		
Hampton	7-1-54-1			Aguirre	4-0-32-1		
Khalid	7-0-42-1			S Patel	7-0-20-3		
Nicol	4-0-32-0			Desai	5-1-13-1		
Murray	3-0-43-0			H Patel	5-1-16-1		
				Bocha	4-1-10-0		

An unbeaten record Gents' stand of 212 in 22.5 overs by Jonny Small (three sixes and 19 fours) and Sumit Kumar (one six and 11 fours) brought the first win of the season. The transformation from 56-5 (including three ducks) had spectators rubbing their eyes in disbelief and St. Anne's, although they battled hard, were unable to threaten a formidable total. The game had a number of similarities to 2014's when the Gents also suffered collywobbles before a record sixth-wicket stand won the day.

It was with consternation that the Gents (hosting, remember) discovered that they had not brought stumps, which are a necessary if not sufficient condition for a cricket match, unless you want to have a mime show. It really was Mickey Mouse. Nearby Northfields CC, a sensible lot, came to the rescue without batting an eyelid. Now that VK Sports in Ealing is not open on the Sabbath, the fallback would have been a SportsDirect cricket set, which comes highly recommended on their website, being "Perfect for kids and adults alike, with the ability to be taken on holiday or to the park for recreational play, they are sure to be fun for all the family."

The game started at 2.10pm, and the excellent Kiwi all-rounder Paul Bowman was soon among the wickets. He pinned Hemin Patel and induced lofted drives to mid-off four balls later from Desai and two overs later from Dubey. Small and Bocha defended dutifully before the latter was bowled by a yorker playing back. Last-minute replacement Mamidi, whose services were obtained by the indefatigable Oruganti, was bowled Hampton and the Gents were 56-5. What followed was historic.

Small and Kumar took the Gents responsibly to 92-5 at 18-over drinks, Small 49\*. As often happens, the introduction of the support bowlers was the catalyst for the batsmen. Small took a four and two leg-side sixes to the short boundary off Murray's first over, the 23rd. of the innings. Kumar began to match him stroke for stroke and the extras piled up, St. Anne's having to bowl an extra 4.1 overs through Wides and No balls. Ninety-three runs came off the final eight overs as various milestones – ground highest total, sixth-wicket record, Small's club personal best and finally record for any wicket – were passed. Bowman carded a good 3-32 but 75 came off the seven overs bowled by Nicol and Murray. Small gave two chances, a steer to gully and a top-edged pull that third-man misjudged in the swirling wind, but by the end the pair were in complete control.

Murray and Chadwick batted attractively for the visitors but an experienced array of bowlers did what they had to do. Tomal Aguirre, a very welcome addition to the Cheltenham crew playing for the Gents, had been padded up for 25 overs, denied permission to remove them by the superstitious element of the Club. He had Bowman caught with his first ball and later took a sharp catch in the covers to see off Murray, one of Sanjay Patel's three. With the wicket of Adams, his 232nd., Hemin Patel went above namesake Dhruv in the career wickets list. When the stumps were returned, Northfields were struggling in the evening sunshine to chase an absurd Magdalen total of 310-5. This certainly was a red-letter day for West London batsmen.

## Gentlemen of West London v. Hale

**Sunday 14 June, Crown Taverners. Gents won toss. Cloudy, 18C**

**Won by 38 runs**

Gentlemen of West London		Hale					
†Small	c and	b Sudeer	<b>0</b>	Rajesh	c Oruganti	b S Patel	<b>44</b>
Basker	c Punchard	b Rajesh	<b>73</b>	Abdul	c H Patel	b Hibbert	<b>0</b>
Desai		b Sudeer	<b>9</b>	Umar		b Oruganti	<b>3</b>
Oruganti		b Kamran	<b>29</b>	Kamran	c Dubey	b S Patel	<b>30</b>
S Patel	c and	b Giles	<b>65</b>	†Giles	not out		<b>52</b>
Kumar		b Rajesh	<b>2</b>	Kris	c Denton	b S Patel	<b>5</b>
*Hibbert		b Rajesh	<b>0</b>	*Weaver		b S Patel	<b>0</b>
Dubey	c Abdul	b Rajesh	<b>10</b>	Punchard		b Dubey	<b>4</b>
Caveney		b Giles	<b>2</b>	†Rao	c Caveney	b Dubey	<b>1</b>
Denton	c Umar	b Giles	<b>0</b>	Jonty		b H Patel	<b>7</b>
H Patel	not out		<b>0</b>	Sudeer	not out		<b>6</b>
<b>Extras</b>		w9	<b>9</b>	<b>Extras</b>		w5 nb1 b2 lb1	<b>9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>32.2 overs</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>9 wickets</b>	<b>35 overs</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 0, 20, 96, 176, 187, 187, 188, 195, 195, 199				<b>FoW:</b> 0, 16, 66, 96, 105, 105, 124, 126, 148			
<b>Bowler</b>				<b>Bowler</b>			
Sudeer	7-1-32-2			Hibbert	5-0-18-1		
Jonty	7-0-48-0			Oruganti	4-0-20-1		
Umar	6-0-44-0			Desai	5-0-19-0		
Kamran	5-0-43-1			S Patel	7-1-34-4		
Giles	4-0-17-3			Kumar	7-0-35-0		
Rajesh	3.2-0-15-4			Dubey	6-1-28-2		
				H Patel	1-0-4-1		

At the end of an eventful day a new-look Hale were beached 38 runs short of the Gents' excitingly composed if lop-sided 199. Sanjay Patel produced a rare 50 and four-for combination, only the eleventh player and seventh Gent to do this in 28 years. His whirlwind 65 took only 33 balls and included five venomous sixes into the trees and five fours. He also broke three new Titan bats, latterly interred with the remnants of the tea in the Crown Taverners wheelie bins, so it was an expensive day for the Club. Vijay Basker's sixth 50 (nine fours and a six) was a watchful, 26-over marathon while Anil Oruganti, promoted up the order, also impressed. The eight others contributed just 23. Hale tracked the required run rate while Rajesh and Kamran were together but once they fell to good catches off Patel slipped behind and never recovered, despite Steve Giles's unbeaten 52.

The Gents dominated early proceedings, weathering the loss of last week's centurion Small in the first over and Desai in the fifth, to proceed ominously to 176-3 in the 27th. over. Basker was composed but severe on the loose ball, Oruganti elegant and Patel brutal. A total of 250 looked likely but Hale's spinners had other ideas. Giles did what he has been doing for years with his off-breaks, catching a shell off Patel's bat, while Rajesh had Basker caught and bamboozled the middle-order. Seven wickets fell for 23 runs and there were 16 balls unbowed when Dubey was the last man out. Hale took five good catches but missed several others.

A strange law of social cricket is the inverse correlation between the distance a team is required to get to a game and its punctuality. All eleven were on time here, a rare treat, and the tea arrangements worked well. It was good to catch up with Jack Davies, still among the wickets for Crown Taverners second XI in his eighth decade.

Hibbert had Abdul caught silly mid-off off the sixth ball of Hale's innings. In the fourth over Oruganti's bouncer hit the base of the stumps via a rather large deflection from Umar's chin, an unlucky dismissal. He was mercifully unhurt. Rajesh and Kamran counter-attacked well, assisted by two chaps delegating a skier to each other, a rare fielding blip in the innings. Sanjay Patel is playing some of the best cricket of his life and he turned the game with the help of excellent deep catches by Dubey, running round from long-on, and Oruganti. Giles was impregnable but could not do it all on his own and the run rate stalled while Desai and Patel were bowling in tandem.

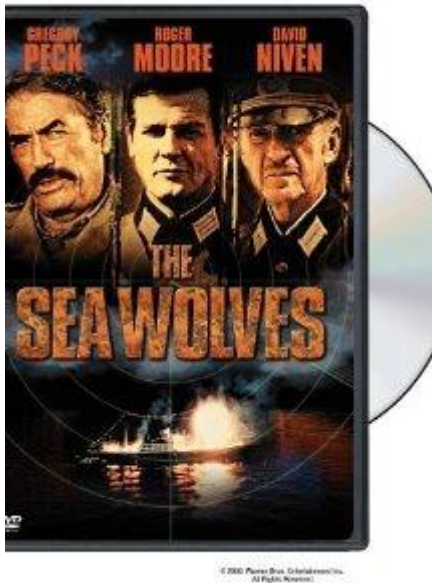
The task became all but impossible for Hale as Sanjay Patel struck twice more, Dubey twice (his first wickets of the season) and Hemin Patel once. Kumar was unlucky in his spell. The outfielding was sound, with Hibbert an absolute rock on the boundary and Caveney not far behind. The Gents thus proceeded to their second successive win but they could not bowl out game and friendly visitors. It was good to see some new faces in the Hale team. It was healthy that they had 13 available and their spare men and plentiful supporters provided entertainment with robust character analysis of sundry local cricket celebrities.

## London Rams v. Gentlemen of West London

Saturday 20 June, Fairfield RG. Gents won toss. Cloudy, 21C

Won by 15 runs

Gentlemen of West London			London Rams				
†Denton	c Murtland	b Fisher	0	Dudonski (1)	c and	b S Patel	0
Gilkes		b Christie	5	Murtland		b S Patel	11
Sciberras	c Rothwell	b Severn	46	*Severn		b D Patel	5
D Patel		b Severn	28	Hagger	c Denton	b Desai	2
S Patel	c Rothwell	b Severn	22	McLeod	c Desai	b Laing	27
Buck	c Murtland	b Hagger	0	Christie	c Denton	b Desai	12
Desai	c Sub. (Sciberras)	b Fisher	3	†Rothwell	st Denton	b H Patel	23
*H Patel	not out		2	Fisher	not out		8
Laing		b Fisher	0	Dudonski (2)		b Desai	14
Extras		w16 nb3 b5	24	Extras		w5 nb3 b4 lb1	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>30 overs</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>23.1 overs</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 15, 24, 82, 118, 121, 121, 130, 130			<b>FoW:</b> 0,17, 19, 46, 46, 78, 86, 115				
<b>Bowler</b>			<b>Bowler</b>				
Christie	5-2-11-1			S Patel	6-1-19-2		
Fisher	6-0-29-3			D Patel	2-0-10-1		
Dudonski	5-0-11-0			Laing	2-0-16-1		
Murtland	2-0-30-0			Sciberras	2-0-15-0		
Hagger	7-3-17-1			Desai	6.1-0-24-3		
Severn	5-1-27-3			H Patel	3-0-20-1		
				Buck	2-0-6-0		



A film that is well worth seeing (it is repeated on the chavbox every month or so) is 1980's *The Sea Wolves* – “A true story. The British must attack a German ship but it's safe in neutral Goa. So they send civilians, ex-soldiers about 60 years old.” The film stars Gregory Peck, David Niven, Roger Moore, Patrick Allen and Patrick Mcnee. The sight of Allan Cuthbertson (Major Hall from the *Fawlty Towers* “Gourmet Night” episode, also with previous in *All Gas and Gaiters* and *Terry and June*) lobbing grenades at Jerry is unsurpassed in post-war cinema. The anachronisms – late-1970s haircuts and clothes, 1970s cars parked at British Army HQ and an S&W Bodyguard revolver not produced until 1955 – are worth the licence fee alone.

The Gents fielded a side of *Sea Wolves* against London Rams. No sooner did one retired player get a pass out from the Day Unit or the missus than another, eager to play with his old mates and reminisce, signed up. On hearing it described as a semi-retro side, Tony Buck quipped from Brinsworth House “That team would do well to get one semi between them” presumably a reference to housing. Other Gents were either playing in the Telugu T20 League or, regrettably, cavorting on the Thames in ladies clothing.

“It's not 2005, grandad” chirped Peter Denton to the coterie of Gents who were demanding the inclusion of Kevin Pietersen in the forthcoming Ashes. Yet it felt like that as the veteran Gents beat London Rams by 15 runs in an exciting game played out in sepulchral light on a spiteful Fairfield pitch. Both sides were beset by late withdrawals but the Gents loaned a fielder to even things up and some good cricket was played.

Denton, whose day was to improve immeasurably, prodded to silly mid-off in the fourth over before in the seventh Gilkes was sent on his way by a Christie grubber. The best stand of the day followed, 58 in 13.5 overs, Sciberras (nine fours) and Dhruv Patel (two) showing courage and technique in watchfully defending the good ball and punishing the bad. Sciberras took Murtland for three fours in an over as the Gents progressed to 82-2. Hagger's spell of spin set a big challenge and his contest with Dhruv Patel was well worth watching. The pint-sized twirler even picked the doosra, a moment of sublime skill. Captain Severn got them both, Sciberras walking when the ball looped behind off either glove or armguard, the umpires being unsure, and Dhruv bowled. Sanjay Patel hit five quick fours, three straight-driven off one Severn over, before revenge came with another caught behind. Hagger and Fisher cleaned up the tail, but the Gents had batted for a creditable 30 overs to achieve a par score.



The Albion PH teas have improved since 2009. Artisanal bread has thankfully yet to be curated in a cricket tea. Play resumed under lowering skies and there was a dispute about whether the ominous rumbling was a train leaving nearby Norbiton station or thunder. A flash or two of lightning mid-innings seemed to confirm the latter diagnosis. It really was murky. The Hertfordshire Association of Cricket Officials rightly states: “Cricketers may take a cavalier attitude to thunder and lightning, possibly because the game is usually suspended as soon as it rains and the thunder might come later. This is not a good idea.”

There was drama first ball of the innings when Dudonski drilled back to Sanjay Patel to give the maestro his 100th. catch. Dudonski’s golden duck put him in pole position for another go as lowest scorer, never a satisfactory rule but one agreed by the two captains as in the spirit of the game. Severn became another victim of the pitch when Dhruv Patel bowled him with a grubber. Sanjay Patel bowled Murtland but Hagger and the powerful McLeod (a tennis player by his own admission but with the concomitant good eye and powerful shoulders) put on 29. Hemin Patel was rotating the bowlers with dizzying speed and the contest was equal. McLeod took Laing for the day’s only six, following up with two fours in his next over, but was undone by a virtuoso piece of field placement. Patel moved Desai to deep backward square leg and was rewarded with McLeod’s wicket when he pulled Laing high and hard.

Desai bowled inspirationally, Hagger gloving to Denton who was excellent behind the timbers. An identical dismissal did for Christie as conclusively as hangman Pierrepoint did for the all-rounder’s controversial namesake in 1953. Rothwell was stumped Denton off Hemin Patel and we were down to the last pair, Fisher and the returning Dudonski, the score 86-7 and 45 needed for the last wicket.

If truth be told, the pair were untroubled in adding 29 but those 29 runs would have been nearer 45 if Dudonski had not chosen to be so protective of Fisher, who is a perfectly competent batsman. He would punch easy singles to deep cover or mid-on and then not run. Nevertheless, runs came steadily, run-rate long having been irrelevant after fast scoring earlier in the dig. The Gents were just beginning to fret when Desai produced a corker to bowl Dudonski and give him 3-24. His bowling career readily splits into pre-2012 nets (two wickets at 52.00) and post-2012 nets (31 at 8.81). At those nets, Horace Hibbert took him in hand and coached him how to bowl the outswinger. In this mood, and on helpful pitches, he can be unplayable.

Eight of the Gents had captained at one time or another, so Hemin Patel, like Richard Gilkes a popular leader whose tenure was too short, was not short of advice. He got his batting order, bowling changes and field placement right. The thought remained that this veteran crew knew every last divot of Fairfield and played accordingly. One doubts that any Gent side from the post-2009 era could have done better.

For a margin of 13 runs in 2015, read 15 in 2015. Two good sides then as now had played it hard but fair and were well-matched. The idea to reconvene such a Gents team on a June Saturday in 2016 met with approval as the Club’s longevity and the Editor’s 60th. birthday were toasted that evening.

## Player ratings

Peter Denton: Brilliant wicket-keeping performance with three victims. Some great thatch-damaging dives \*\*\*\*

Richard Gilkes: A quiet game. Glorious back-foot drive for four before being undone by the pitch \*\*\*

Mark Sciberras: Toughed out an impressive 46. Tried at both ends with the ball but not his day \*\*\*\*

Dhruv Patel: Impressive all-round display. His footwork was a thing to behold \*\*\*\*

Sanjay Patel: Useful innings, wickets and his 100th. catch. It’s what he does \*\*\*\*

Tony Buck: Bowled steadily, otherwise a quiet game. A brief Nine Captains scenario was catnip to him \*\*\*

Sachin Desai: Three important wickets and caught Rams’ best batsman. Man of the Match \*\*\*\*<sup>1/2</sup>

Hemin Patel: Led well, particularly amid the later tension. One good wicket \*\*\*<sup>1/2</sup>

Dave Laing: Attended the match wearing the greatest anorak in the history of Western Europe, fielded gamely and got a big, big wicket \*\*\*<sup>1/2</sup>

## Gentlemen of West London v. Close PF

Sunday 28 June, Old Tenisonians. Toss agreed. Cloudy, 21C

Lost by 6 wickets

Gentlemen of West London			Close PF				
S Desai	not out		114	Ahmed	not out	164	
Jones		b Pradeep	26	Ram	c Hibbert	b Gorantla	8
†Chintam	lbw	b Madhad	1	Dipak	st Chintam	b H Patel	1
Cloete	not out		40	†Inan	c and	b Cloete	9
Denton, *Hibbert, †Basker, Small, H Patel, Gorantla and Sudureddy did not bat				Pradeep	c Hibbert	b Cloete	5
				*†Kumar	not out		10
				Praba, Dubey, Nilo, Anish and Madhad did not bat			
<b>Extras</b>		w10 nb1 b5 lb6	22	<b>Extras</b>	w2 nb2 b5		9
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 wickets</b>	<b>35 overs</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>4 wickets</b>	<b>32.2 overs</b>	<b>206</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 106, 115				<b>FoW:</b> 57, 77, 140, 174			
<b>Bowler</b>				<b>Bowler</b>			
Kumar	6-1-31-0			Desai	2-0-26-0		
Pradeep	7-0-25-1			Gorantla	6-2-13-1		
Anish	3-0-16-0			Hibbert	3.2-0-33-0		
Dubey	7-0-52-0			H Patel	4-0-19-1		
Nilo	4-0-15-0			Small	5-0-40-0		
Madhad	7-0-36-1			Cloete	7-0-34-2		
Ahmed	1-0-17-0			Sudireddy	5-0-36-0		

The Gents' 500th. match was one of utter dominance of bat over ball in which Close Brothers Personal Finance, the works team of Sumit Kumar and Nilesh Dubey, achieved a remarkable victory. Chasing 203, the mainstay of which was Sachin Desai's maiden century (12 fours and two sixes), former Pakistan U.18 player and now stalwart of CPF's finance department Fawad Ahmed pasted the Gents' persevering bowlers all over the park for 164\*, a phenomenal 83% of the runs scored off the bat, including 23 fours and four sixes, the win coming with 16 balls and six wickets to spare. The final visitors' wicket to fall, Pradeep's, was only the 47th. taken in eight matches in 2015, a veritable dearth and a decline in strike rate of 30% compared to 2014.

The Gents batted by agreement, skipper Hibbert being seduced by Kumar's gentle insistence that his side didn't play together very often, and Desai and Jones, opening the batting for the first time since he was 13, posted a composed, competent century stand in 24 overs against steady bowling well supported by feisty outcricket. The batting order attracted some comment with the prolific Basker and Small not in the top five, but Jones batted well against an interesting attack with good spin well to the fore. Desai's innings on a slow wicket was excellent and when Cloete added some typically powerful boundaries in a stand of 88 in 10.2 overs, the Gents were content. Close PF fought hard all innings and come the final reckoning the imperviousness of their boundary scouts was of some significance.

Desai opened the bowling but the tactic misfired, the left-handed Ahmed taking six fours and a two off his only overs. Close PF therefore went ahead of the required rate in the first over and despite challenging spells from Gorantla, the pick of the bowlers, Hemin Patel and Cloete never relinquished that position. Hibbert and Small suffered particular punishment as Ahmed mixed elegant cover drives and powerful pulls with perfect forward defensives that disheartened the Gents as much as the boundaries. Ball after ball hit the middle of his bat with an authoritative crack. There were chances, a skidding drive palmed over the boundary and a swirling skier to long-on, but Ahmed deserved his fortune. There were successes for the bowlers including a neat stumping by Chintam off Patel but with Kumar in control and the powerful Dubey waiting in the wings, the Gents never got a chance to find out how good the tail was.

The bowling was steady enough but a combination of aggressive hitting and darkling skies caused some ragged fielding in the final overs including some untidy footwork. Ahmed ended the innings with his fourth six at 6.30pm, a back-foot pull off Hibbert that landed a few feet from the scorer's chair. His superb knock had much in common with the 165\* from Elmes of Northfields in May. Both were scored at a consistently fast rate, both batsmen were left-handed and there was only one run between them come tally time.

Some curious records fell. Twelve Gents batsmen have recorded 22 centuries, the first being Mark Ashton's 137\* against Enterprise in 1992. Comparatively rare in the early days of poor wickets, nine have come in the past four campaigns. Desai's was unique among the 22 in that it came in defeat. Similarly, no Gents nor opponents side had ever lost a match with only two wickets down. Nor had any completed Gents match seen as few as six wickets fall. It was a very long day for bowlers.



## Mark Sciberras – Charlatan Athletic

We're both pretty busy at the moment. Patrick is great although he doesn't sleep for longer than two hours at any one time which can be hard. Mavis has taken it all in her stride so far but there's self-imposed pressure to compensate because the idea of her feeling any sort of resentment is terrifying. The other thing I had forgotten is the amount of time spent with family. It's often a blessing to have the extra hands and have somebody else cook lunch or dinner, but the flip side is time alone is scarce. But Catherine and I are genuinely happy (although a little tired) and wouldn't want things any other way.

I'm touched that you'd write something about me and I'm just as honoured that you've complimented my writing style. Most of my waking moments last night (there were many) involved thinking about all the wonderful moments I've had with the Gents. There are so many. I could quite happily spend all day writing about them. In terms of the cricket, I feel and always have felt like a charlatan. I've played with and against so many gifted and talented players over the years. If I had to create a team of the best players ever to have played for the Gents during my time, I'd put myself somewhere amongst the 4th. or 5th. teams and I think we'd still be pretty competitive. However I'm delighted to reminisce over some of those moments. I suspect some editorial condensing might be in order once I'm done.

### **1. Gents v. West XI, 15 September 2002, Berkhamsted**

I remember a very tight and tense game where West XI were a few runs away from chasing down our total. It was the last over with Steve Bignell batting down the order who was comfortably playing shots despite quite gloomy conditions. Jimmy Wright was bowling and I was fielding in a deepish gully position, feeling quite despondent and frustrated about the ball not having visited me for some time. Jimmy bowled a short length ball with width and Steve cut hard. I don't recall seeing the ball in the air but I do remember diving to my left and the momentum taking me head over heels into a sitting position facing the pavilion. I looked down to see the ball in my left hand, and looked up to see Andy going nuts on the balcony next to a few less animated West XI players. The next moment I was engulfed by the other Gents, I think I was below all ten of them at one point. More importantly a few balls later we had won the game and the Bob Ashton Cup. Afterwards I remember Tony Buck refusing the customary handshake as he only wanted to shake my left hand. I also remember the excitement of learning that the moment may have been captured on video camera, a rare thing back then. The footage showed the ball being bowled, the batsman cutting and a second later trudging off as Jimmy hurdled the stumps as he and a handful of other Gents sprinted off screen to the left, the camera unmoved and focused upon a now empty square. Proof of the greatest moment of my sporting career thwarted by a matter of a few metres, but a memory I will cherish forever.

### **2. Virgin Casuals v. Gents, 17 September 2000, Shepherd's Bush**

I had the honour of sharing a 9th. wicket stand with Horace Hibbert, who quite frankly obliterated Virgin's league standard attack with some of the most elegant and powerful shots I have ever seen. I batted at No. 10, arriving at the crease when we had barely scraped past 100. I recall a very chirpy Virgin side and my first experience of sledging which to be fair didn't last too long after Horace started playing a few shots, one of which cleared an oak tree on the boundary and bounced off a block of flats between two third-floor windows. As the innings developed you could hear the Gents cheering and laughing at the boundary more loudly than any of the oppo. I only scored 22 that day (my highest Gents score at the time), which I would have gladly donated to see Horace get his century as no innings falling short of the mark deserved one more. Speaking of virgins, this was also the first day that I had ever kept wicket, masochistically to a fired up opening pair of Horace and Snarler who wouldn't have been very far from their prime. After a couple of overs I had caught most deliveries, which stung my hands. I remember a conversation with Neil Hadfield who was fielding at slip at the time. Neil: "Maybe you should try standing a little closer?" Me: "Oh, OK. I've never kept wicket before and wasn't sure." Neil: "You've never kept wicket before? In that case don't listen to me, you just carry on what you're doing!" I took that as a huge compliment. Of course winning the game, comfortably as it turned out by 67 runs, was the icing on the cake that day.

### **3. Malta Tour, March 2011**

This was just a brilliant tour for so many different reasons. Because every indigenous Marsa player who took one look at the scorecard knew that the tourists had one of their own among the ranks I was desperate to play well, I guess in the same way that you often see footballers up a level when playing against their former clubs. The first game didn't start particularly well with captain Hemin demoting me to 10th. in the batting order.

This was particularly hurtful because of the personal importance of this match – I was even below Himanshu who had only started walking after returning from a broken leg! It took at least an hour of sulking around the boundary before Hemin realised how annoyed I was and then graciously (although it may have had something to do with the threat of physical violence) promoted me up the order. Thankfully I gave a reasonable account of myself scoring runs, taking wickets and holding onto a catch at the boundary which was hit so high we lost sight of it for a couple of seconds. Although we lost the game, an unexpected man of the match award and trophy was presented which meant the world to me, although moments later I dropped a glass award which was given to the club as commemoration of the occasion.

I haven't even mentioned the tours to Kidderminster, Cheltenham or Hampshire, the fantastic rivalries we've had with other clubs over the years, the privilege of captaining the side which I've enjoyed on three occasions, that incredible 2009 season where we lost only two games, the huge surprise cheer at my wedding when Catherine and I walked past everyone who had been drinking at the Crown Taverners, the memorable AGMs (which thankfully no longer involve hiding Sanjay's car keys) and the 25th. anniversary celebrations. I'm sure there are more occasions that will come to me. But above all I've enjoyed meeting and playing alongside some of the best friends I've ever made. Although I don't play these days I'm determined to return and have no doubt that those 170-plus appearances will one day fall within the 200s.

## Mark Sciberras – the statistics



“He's taken 150 wickets and I still don't know what he bowls” murmured Tony Buck (clearly glad to be back, pictured left). There is some truth in that assertion, for Mark Sciberras has never conformed to bowling norms. His flight, accuracy and, importantly, patience have got him 150 wickets so far. His tireless and often spectacular fielding, usually in the deep, has reaped a rich reward of 60 catches and saved countless runs. His defiant batting has sometimes been a match-winner. The statistics do not give us context. The fact is that whenever he plays, the Gents look an abler, fitter team. That has applied from 2000 when he debuted, to June 2015 when he made his return.

*Gent 133* (August 2011) featured a rare foray into technical analysis. As match reporter Ken Toft recorded in his Crown Taverners report “One notable aspect of the day was that Naveed Khan scored the Gents' innings on an iPhone application which produced not only a scorecard that added up, but copious diagrams and graphs.” Sciberras scored 14 out of 16 runs that day on the leg side, probably a ratio consistent throughout his career.

M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	HS	Ct.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.	SR	Econ.	BB
171	145	15	1,490	11.55	59	60	601.4	45	2,757	150	18.38	24.07	4.58	5-14

## Mark Sciberras – Top 5 batting and bowling

<b>59</b> v. 12 Angry Men (2006)	<b>5-14</b> v. St. Anne's Allstars (2003)
<b>46</b> v. London Rams (2015)	<b>4-20</b> v. Enterprise (2004)
<b>44</b> v. St. Anne's Allstars (2003)	<b>4-25</b> v. Enville (2001)
<b>43</b> v. London Owls (2005)	<b>4-25</b> v. London Saints (2010)
<b>42</b> v. St. Anne's Allstars (2005)	<b>4-30</b> v. London Rams (2001)

## The first five hundred

**Game 100**, the Battle of Boston Manor, was on 23 July 1995 and has been well documented by war historians: **West XI 154-3, Gents 155-5, won by 5 wickets.** **Game 200** came on 13 August 2000, the Gents taking a pasting on tour in Enville before the rain came: **Bedouins 145-1, drawn.** **Game 300**, 30 July 2005, saw an oversubscribed Gents beat Sunderland SC, the loaned Tony Buck top scoring for the opposition with 28: **Gents 183, Sunderland SC 92, won by 91 runs.** **Game 400** was on 20 June 2010 and was the Gents' third defeat in their third game at Crown Taverners: **Gents 136, Hale 139-3, lost by 7 wickets.** **Game 500** on 28 June 2015 is recorded above: **Gents 203-2, Close PF 206-4, lost by 6 wickets.** Here's to the next 500 and some joyful celebrations for the Club's 1,000th.

## Wear the new shirts against...



Sun 12 July, Baker Street Irregulars, Boston Manor PF  
 Sun 19 July, Bricklayer's Arms, Old Tenisonians  
 Sun 26 July, Pak, Old Tenisonians  
 Sun 2 August, Blue Marlins, Wembley  
 Sun 9 August, London Saints, Old Tenisonians  
 Sun 16 August, Clapham In, Old Tenisonians  
 Sun 23 August, Bricklayer's Arms, Raynes Park  
 Sun 30 August, game to be arranged  
 Sun 6 September, Salix, Imperial College Harlington  
 Sun 13 September, Gubbays, Eastcote  
 Sun 20 September, game to be arranged  
 Sun 27 September, Hale, Hale Common

## Records set in June 2015



### Highest individual scores by Gents

<b>158*</b>	Jones v. West XI (Gunnorsbury Park, 21 July 2002)
<b>143*</b>	Husain v. NB Weasels (Fairfield RG, 7 July 2007)
<b>137*</b>	Ashton v. Enterprise (Victoria RG, 10 May 1992)
<b>131*</b>	Small v. St. Anne's Allstars (Boston Manor PF, 7 June 2015)
<b>128</b>	Lall v. London Saints (Old Haberdashers, 14 August 2011)
<b>126</b>	G Wright v. Clapham In (Crown Taversers, 2 September 2012)
<b>114*</b>	S Desai v. Close PF (Old Tenisonians, 28 June 2015)
<b>111</b>	Cloete v. London Saints (Old Tenisonians, 18 May 2014)
<b>109</b>	Husain v. N B Weasels (CSSC Chiswick, 7 June 2008)
<b>106</b>	Small v. Judd Street Tigers (Paulin Ground, 27 July 2014)

### Highest individual scores by opponents

<b>165*</b>	Elmes (Northfields) (Durstun House, 24 May 2015)
<b>164*</b>	Ahmed (Close PF) (Old Tenisonians, 28 June 2015)
<b>150*</b>	Walker (Rotherham SC) (Battersea Park, 7 May 1995)
<b>140*</b>	Bulmer (London Owls) (Victoria RG, 5 September 1993)
<b>132</b>	Heyman (Village XI) (Old Hamptonians, 30 July 2006)
<b>113</b>	Griffiths (Hale) (Hale Common, 27 September 2009)
<b>112*</b>	AN Other (East Harrow Cheetahs) (Marble Hill Park, 19 June 1988)
<b>111</b>	Groves-Loader (New Barbarian Weasels) (Victoria RG, 26 July 1998)
<b>107</b>	Wilson (Wandham) (Beverley Park, 5 June 1994)
<b>107</b>	Jaques (East Harrow Cheetahs) (Beverley Park, 4 August 1996)

### Highest partnerships for each wicket by Gents (\* = unbroken)

<b>1</b>	<b>121</b>	Bignell (34) and Hubbucks (78) v. Enterprise	Victoria RG	2 May 1993
<b>2</b>	<b>127</b>	H Desai (34) and Lall (61) v. Ham and Petersham	Crown Taversers	7 August 2011
<b>3</b>	<b>166</b>	Husain (100*) and Kain (87) v. London Saints	Old Tenisonians	3 June 2007
<b>4</b>	<b>162</b>	H Desai (46) and Lall (128) v. London Saints	Old Haberdashers	14 August 2011
<b>5</b>	<b>152</b>	Ashton (102) and Hughes (57*) v. London Saints	Victoria RG	15 August 1993
<b>6</b>	<b>212*</b>	Small (131*) and Kumar (74*) v. St. Anne's Allstars	Boston Manor PF	7 June 2015
<b>7</b>	<b>110*</b>	Thompson (66*) and Derriman (47*) v. London Rams	Belair Park	3 July 2004
<b>8</b>	<b>109</b>	H Desai (37) and Bocha (76) v. London Saints	LMPF Greenford	12 August 2012
<b>9</b>	<b>108</b>	Hibbert (81) and Sciberras (22) v. Virgin Casuals	Shepherd's Bush	17 September 2000
<b>10</b>	<b>79*</b>	S Patel (73*) and Pentakota (31*) v. Salix	Imperial College	9 September 2012

### Highest partnerships in a Gents match (\* = unbroken)

<b>1</b>	<b>239*</b>	Bulmer (140*) and Maddock (87*) (London Owls) <small>Record wicket stand against</small>	Victoria RG	5 September 1993
<b>3</b>	<b>215</b>	Heyman (132) and Jones (89) (Village XI) <small>Record wicket stand against</small>	Old Hamptonians	30 July 2006
<b>6</b>	<b>212*</b>	Small (131*) and Kumar (74*) v. St. Anne's Allstars <small>Record wicket stand for</small>	Boston Manor PF	7 June 2015
<b>2</b>	<b>186</b>	Elmes (165*) and Murray (56) (Northfields) <small>Record wicket stand against</small>	Durstun House	24 May 2015
<b>3</b>	<b>169</b>	Giles (34) and Griffiths (113) (Hale)	Hale Common	27 September 2009
<b>3</b>	<b>166</b>	Husain (100*) and Kain (87) v. London Saints <small>Record wicket stand for</small>	Old Tenisonians	3 June 2007
<b>4</b>	<b>162</b>	H Desai (46) and Lall (128) v. London Saints <small>Record wicket stand for</small>	Old Haberdashers	14 August 2011
<b>3</b>	<b>161</b>	Lall (102) and Cloete (97*) v. West XI	Crown Taversers	4 September 2011
<b>2</b>	<b>160</b>	Branch (50*), Susman (50*) and Stanier (37) (Bedouins) <small>Record wicket stand against</small>	Enville	6 August 2006
<b>3</b>	<b>156</b>	Hubbucks (67) and Ashton (137*) v. Enterprise	Victoria RG	10 May 1992

## Highest successful run chases in Gents matches

24/5/15	Durston House	<b>Gents 260-7</b> (Kumar 79*, Basker 68, Fawkes 4-79) <b>Northfields 261-3</b> (Elmes 165*, Murray 56)	<b>Lost</b> 7 wickets
5/9/93	Victoria RG	<b>Gents 235-9 dec.</b> (Hubbucks 45, Ashton 40, Burville 39, Boddington 29, Richmond 22, Burman 21, Heathcote 4-53) <b>London Owls 239-0</b> (Bulmer 140*, Maddocks 87*)	<b>Lost</b> 10 wickets
3/9/00	Victoria RG	<b>12 Angry Men 231-3</b> (Denton 57, Bullock 35, Wilson 31 ret. hurt, Brand 23, Anderson 23*) <b>Gents 235-9</b> (Wright 103, Snelling 42, Harper 3-36)	<b>Won</b> 1 wicket
14/7/13	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 231-9</b> (Lall 61, Bocha 56, Kumar 33, H Patel 23*, Porton 3-23) <b>Judd Street Tigers 231-10</b> (Delanian 55, Herlihy 40*, Wright 32, Porton 20, Bocha 3-31)	<b>Tied</b>
28/6/15	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 203-2</b> (S Desai 114*, Cloete 40, Jones 26) <b>Close PF 206-4</b> (Ahmed 164*)	<b>Lost</b> 6 wickets
1/8/10	Old Tenisonians	<b>Close PF 196-5</b> (Shree 50*, Rohit 47*, Shah 27) <sup>Twenty20</sup> <b>Gents 200-6</b> (Hibbert 51*, S Desai 38, S Patel 33*, Kumar 3-25)	<b>Won</b> 4 wickets
16/9/01	Berkhamsted	<b>Gents 194-8</b> (Wright 47, Ashton 38*, Buck 27) <b>West XI 196-5</b> (Dane 51, Taylor 39, Walton 32*, Rawlings 24)	<b>Lost</b> 5 wickets
19/6/05	King Edward's RG	<b>Gents 187-7</b> (Husain 61, D Patel 48, Sciberras 37) <b>Pak 191-4</b> (Mahmood 81*, Ansar 36, Arshad 30)	<b>Lost</b> 6 wickets
29/4/90	Victoria RG	<b>Enterprise 185-6</b> (Tait 76, Radmall 48, Burville 21, Ashton 3-37) <b>Gents 186-3</b> (Ashton 72*, Maughan 57)	<b>Won</b> 7 wickets
26/6/05	Brondesbury	<b>Gents 184</b> (S Patel 46, Denton 37, C Wright 25, Vyas 23) <b>Brondesbury Casuals 186-7</b> (Saiid 70, Cresswell 66)	<b>Lost</b> 3 wickets

The recent poundings inflicted by Northfields and Close PF inspired us to trawl through the archives and record the Top 10 successful run chases. What memories they bring back and what support they give to the old adage always bat first. There have been 85 occasions when the side batting first in a Gents game has scored 200 or more but on only four of those afternoons (five including the 2013 tie) was the total successfully chased down. The Editor missed the 1990 game but saw all the others. It is difficult to assign a merit order but one thing is for certain, the darkest was the 2000 game, a 40 over match concluded 45 minutes after sunset with streetlights on at Surbiton. Note the identity of 12 Angry Men's top scorer that day. The hardest to keep track of was the Extras-festooned Twenty20 against Close PF in 2010.

## Where are they now? Suman Rudru



And Lo Elvis of the Tribe of Quiff begat Peter who begat Ravi who begat Suman, a player whose statistics did not do his talent justice. Was it really six years ago that this picture was taken? Suman Rudru (68\*) and Sachin Desai (53\*) had just eased the Gents to a famous 9 wicket win against West XI. Mr. Desai's tousled hair is an optical illusion caused by a faraway tree. Suman scored 418 runs and took 20 wickets that season, a remarkable one that saw 21 wins out of 23. Suman is now in India pursuing his dream of Bollywood movie stardom. He is still in touch with the Club, wishes to be remembered to everyone and says he misses those days tremendously. May his dreams come true.

## Where are they now? Ahsan Iqbal



Who's this Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne has sidled up to for advice on the economy? Why, it's Ahsan Iqbal, possessor of the most fluent of bowling actions from which he generated extreme pace off a short run up. His pace came from strong shoulders and arms which would whip round in a blur before the ball was propelled. Ahsan, like Suman did not play that many games but boy did he make them count.

Ahsan, a process engineer at a large energy company, plays little cricket nowadays but enjoys his coaching. Ahsan's and Suman's averages are remarkably similar, their respective batting averages, bowling averages and economy rates being 27.2/27.8, 13.7/11.7 and 3.5/3.3. When they succeeded together it was spectacular. Two 2009 century stands against West One and Hale spring readily to mind, as does their new ball bowling against West XI in Greenford in 2010, some of the best bowling captain Richard Gilkes had ever witnessed.