

THE GENT

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No. 153

Tales from the corridor of uncertainty

There's a Rao going on down near Slough



Flippin' kids - Waqar takes 7-0-15-5

Sanjay passes Stuart Snelling's 392 wickets

Tippell and Gaurav set new oppo batting record, 13-year-old then takes five

Naveed and Sumit pass 1,000 runs for the Club

Monty match kicks off

Day out at Telugu T20

Averages

Match reports:

Bengal Troopers (lost by 64 runs)

Monty RH (won by 33 runs)

Ashford (lost by 80 runs)

Pak (won by 34 runs)

Pak (won by 99 runs)

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Sanjay beats Snarler's record



Congratulations go to Sanjay Patel, who surpassed Stuart Alexander Snelling's club record haul of 392 wickets when he had Pak's captain Khurshid Ahmed caught at long-off by the impervious Karthik Jampala. He then bowled Naveed Khan next ball to go two wickets ahead. The record-breaking moment was captured by Elite Director of Development Hemin Patel on film, but sadly only seven seconds of it as the cameraman then invaded the pitch.

The Top 5 bowling stats are:
S Patel 318 matches, 394 wickets @ 15.36 average
Snelling 239 matches, 392 wickets @ 11.78
H Patel 183 matches, 258 wickets @ 15.12
D Patel 197 matches, 233 wickets @ 16.31
Ashton 153 matches, 222 wickets @ 11.23

Sanjay is also within sight of 6,000 runs: 5,961 runs @ 25.69 average.

Naveed Khan and Sumit Kumar have both joined the 1,000 runs club this season. Naveed went to 1,008 against Bengal Troopers and Sumit to 1,028 against Northfields. To the end of those games, their impressive records, generating batting averages two decimal points apart, are:
Khan, 59 matches, 1,008 runs @ 21.00
Kumar, 70 matches, 1,028 runs @ 20.98

Hats off too to Gaurav and Tippell of Ashford who beat the opponents' 8th.-wicket record set in 2006 by St. Anne's Nicol and Evans. Young Waqar Rao's 5-15 was the best bowling by an opponent since Xavier's 5-5 for the strange Magdalen CC in 2012. Upender Sanga's 6-11 against Pak was the best Gents bowling since Sachin Desai's stupendous 7-31 against Cheltenham Allsorts, also in 2012.

There is nothing as sweet as a comeback

"There is nothing as sweet as a comeback, when you are down and out, about to lose, and out of time."

Anne Lamott

Naturally after Monty RH the conversation turned to the Gents' greatest comebacks, sundry collapses from good positions and opponents' fightbacks having been understandably disestablished from the collective memory. There is no easy statistical way to decide the best, although it is possible to calculate a metric of % runs scored after each number of wickets and go from there. However you work it out, the feats of the ten will live forever.

Lower-order revivals by the Gents are not rare, possibly because of somewhat randomised Sunday batting orders. The recovery against West XI in 1995 (27-4 to 155-5) is well documented if beyond the recall of the current squad. Recent years have seen recoveries from 21-4 to 229-9 and 56-5 to 268-5 (both v. St. Anne's), and back in 2009 4-3 to 183 v. West One. The 2012 season review remarked "Late order stands saw recoveries against London Saints (twice) and Salix from 106-6 to 224-7, 70-7 to 186 and 95-6 to 252-9."

The Test record was broken in February 2014, when New Zealand recovered from 94-5 in their second innings against India in Wellington to reach 680-8 – that's 586 runs for the last five wickets, led by Brendon McCullum's 302, New Zealand's first Test triple-century. The previous record was 474, by Pakistan against New Zealand in Lahore in 1955-56 - they recovered from 87-5 (and 111-6) to rack up 561 in all. The ODI record also belongs to New Zealand: against Sri Lanka in Dunedin in 2015 they were 93-5 after 20 overs, but ended up scoring 360.

The ODI record is of particular relevance. The Black Caps scored 74% of their runs after five wickets had fallen, the Gents 90%. On the basis of this, the strength of the opponents and the presence of only 10 players, *The Gent* asserts that the deeds on 24 July 2016 constituted the greatest comeback in club history. Those present should be proud.

Gentlemen of West London v. Bengal Troopers

Sunday 17 July, Old Tenisonians. Bengal Troopers won toss. Sunny, 27C

Lost by 64 runs

Bengal Troopers		Gentlemen of West London					
†Kazi	c Chatharaju	b Rajagopalan	19	†*Small	b Anis	13	
Shahiar	c Khan	b H Patel	36	Kota	b Anis	1	
Choudhury	run out		40	Chatharaju	b Shahib	12	
*Islam	c K Patel	b Kota	1	Bocha	c Islam	b Baker	17
Rajib	c Bocha	b H Patel	18	Jampala	b Baker	5	
Hassan		b Jampala	1	Khan	b Baker	16	
Imran Hassan	c Sudireddy	b Rajagopalan	13	Rajagopalan	b Choudhury	8	
Baker	c Jampala	b Bocha	33	Sudireddy	b Choudhury	2	
Mahabub	c and	b Bocha	2	Caveney	b Imran Hassan	20	
Anis		b Jampala	3	K Patel	c Anis	b Islam	1
Shahib	did not bat			H Patel	not out	7	
Extras		w9 nb4 b1 p5	19	Extras		w15 nb3 b1	19
Total	All out	39.2 overs	185	Total	All out	32.4 overs	121
FoW: 26, 86, 89, 120, 121, 122, 160, 180, 185				FoW: 1, 28, 30, 50, 72, 78, 84, 93, 96, 121			
Bowling: Bocha 8-0-48-2, Rajagopalan 8-0-33-2 H Patel 8-0-33-2, Khan 6-0-36-0, Kota 4-0-20-1, Jampala 5.2-1-9-2				Bowling: Anis 7-1-26-2, Shahib 8-2-28-1, Baker 5-0-18-3, Shahiar 5-1-11-0, Choudhury 2-0-7-2, Islam 2-0-10-1, Rajib 2-0-13-0, Imran Hassan 1.4-0-7-1			

The Gents bowled and fielded well but were unable to prevent a second defeat of 2016 to the talented Bengal Troopers, the strongest opponents faced for some years and chock full of Essex league players. A barnstorming fielding performance left the hosts hopeful at tea but though most batsmen got a start, none could push on and the final margin was convincing, if an improvement on the 144 runs drubbing inflicted in May. It was an enjoyable fixture, although bowlers on both sides became stressed by the lack of affirmative lbw decisions granted (see Note). Troopers will be welcome to come over again in 2017 from their Roding Valley CC base.

Troopers' top order attacked from the first over, Kazi striking four fours before falling to the first of seven good catches, mid-on Chatharaju parrying and then calmly snaffling a fiercely-hit drive off the impressive left-arm over bowler Rajagopalan. Shahiar and Choudhury continued the assault before, in the 14th. over, Shahiar chipped Hemin Patel to square-leg Khan who took a neat catch over his shoulder. Choudhury soon perished to Bocha's fine throw and the Gents were fighting back. The bowlers cranked up the pressure and the Gents had their best period of the match. Next to fall was Islam, to a stupendous one-handed slip catch by Ketan Patel. There were three further catches in the deep and although Baker struck hard, the final total of 185 was, given the earlier carnage (44-1 off six overs and 127-3 off 20) a remedial job well done by the Gents. Jampala, Rajagopalan and Hemin Patel were the pick of the bowlers.

Naveed Khan thought it the best fielding display he had ever seen from the Gents, even if the total was sadly inflated by five penalty runs after a visit from Mickey Mouse. A close fielder had left a helmet behind 'keeper Small and when the ball struck it the Law had to take its stern course. This was not a first in the annals - Nick Boddington's MacDonald's burger box was hit by a Weasel batsman some years ago and the same penalty exacted. This is not the place for a Health and Safety gone mad rant about fielders in helmets. Instead, we applaud the young umpire who both spotted the transgression and signalled it correctly. Also worthy of explanation is Shahib's status of did not bat in an all-out total. He was late arriving so the last not out batsman Anis was allowed to complete his innings. Similar bending of the Laws also saw Jampala permitted by captain Islam to bowl immediately after his pre-notified late arrival.

Only five times have the Gents scored 185 or more batting second and tight bowling ensured that there would not be a sixth. Kota unluckily played on but Small, Chatharaju and Bocha all looked good for a few overs. With their demise the Gents were up against it. The scoreboard ticked over but apart from one over when Bocha clobbered Anis for 12 rarely raced. There was no respite in the bowling and despite brave knocks from Khan and Caveney it was all up after 32.4 overs. There was no capitulation but eight were clean bowled, mainly as a result of shots born of frustration. The season remains in credit, by 7-4, an improvement on 2015 when only four of the first 12 matches were won. Yet with half the squad away on T20 duty over the next few weeks, and further tough opponents coming up, the club is facing some serious logistical challenges. It was not easy to assemble this team (only seven had confirmed by the Friday) and it will be the responsibility of the Committee to encourage guests in order that competitive teams can be put out.

Note; Troopers gave three in May so are hardly serial offenders.

Gentlemen of West London v. Monty RH

Sunday 24 July, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Sunny, 25C

Won by 33 runs

Gentlemen of West London		Monty RH					
Small	c Bobby	b Pami	0	*Mehtab Khan	c Kumar	b S Patel	27
Newcombe		b Mehran	3	Bobby		b Desai	0
Dubey	c Majeed	b Mehtab Khan	58	Asim		b Small	93
Desai	c Moin Khan	b Pami	1	Mandeep		b H Patel	4
†Chakravarthy	run out		0	Munier	c Newcombe	b H Patel	11
*Kumar		b Mehran	3	Moin Khan		b S Patel	7
Kota	not out		83	Rinku	c Kumar	b H Patel	7
S Patel	c Moin Khan	b Rinku	6	Majeed	not out		28
Krishna	not out		9	Daud	not out		1
H Patel did not bat				Pani and Rohan did not bat			
Extras		w51 nb6 b11 lb3	71	Extras		w19 nb1 b1 lb2	23
Total	7 wickets	35 overs	234	Total	7 wickets	35 overs	201
FoW: 2, 13, 15, 15, 23, 151, 173				FoW: 1, 104, 130, 142, 150, 153, 200			
Bowling: Pami 6-0-32-2, Mehran 7-1-32-2, Rohan 8-0-51-0, Rinku 7-0-64-1, Moin Khan 3-0-20-0, Mehtab Khan 2-0-8-1, Asim 2-0-13-0				Bowling: Desai 5-0-42-1, Krishna 6-2-24-0, Kumar 2-0-17-0, Kota 5-0-19-0, H Patel 7-0-39-3, S Patel 6-0-37-2, Small 4-0-20-1			

A dramatic and sometimes acrimonious game saw the Gents, inspired by the batting of Nilesh Dubey and Pavan Kota, deliver one of the finest performances in their 29 years history. From a parlous 23-5, with the 17-year-old quick Mehran swinging the ball prodigiously, they recovered to 234-7 before defending the total with pride and passion. Monty outscored the Gents with runs off the bat by 178 to 163 but conceded 51 wides out of an absurd extras total of 71. The hosts batted for 42.2 overs in a 35 over game, the visitors 37.5. This was not only decisive in the context of the result (the Gents conceded 19 wides, 32 fewer in a game won by 33 runs) but also inspired some bad feeling in the second innings, which came to a head after a declined run out. That said, Monty were not bad sports and loaned a fielder for the second innings as Laurie Wright was a no show.

Monty stood in for long-term friends Baker Street Irregulars, who had notified a fortnight earlier that they could not raise a side. Thus we were navigating the turbulent waters of the Fixturelist.org matchmaking website, where sides do not always pitch their strength accurately and always describe themselves as friendly. Such blind dates can backfire, although in fairness three friendly new opponents have been played in 2016 (Bengali Troopers, White Swans and Alexandra Park) who are sure to be on future cards. The only thing we had to go on here was a brief chat with their organiser during the week and their patchily completed scorebook, which featured a mountain of runs against Yarl with Asim scoring 100.

Kumar won the toss and batted. Monty's opening bowlers were right on the money and Pami struck with the fifth legitimate ball of the first over, Small nicking to second slip. Newcombe was bowled by the inswinger before Desai's dismissal provided the first trigger point, the batsman standing his ground after edging to slip Moin Khan off what he thought was a bump ball. Umpire Sanjay Patel thought not but neither he nor square-leg umpire Krishna could confirm a clean catch. The fielder claimed it was and you have to have basis of trust so Desai was given out. The fielder thought that the consultation between the umpires, good practice, had impugned his integrity, a simple misunderstanding but one that somehow seemed to fester. Fifteen for three.

Kalyan Chakravarthy on debut was run out after being sent back by Dubey (he would later keep very well) and Kumar bowled by Mehran to make it 23-5. Monty were by this point understandably confident, chuntering about the Test match, asking Kumar to "keep sending batsmen in until you've used up the 35 overs" and negotiating a later T20 game. Dubey and Kota were inspired. Kota took the rest of Mehran's spell and played him soundly and carefully. Rohan and Rinku presented fewer challenges (although the latter saw Dubey shelled off a tough chance in the slips), the ball was swinging less and the runs mounted. Dubey's edge aside, the batsmen were untroubled. The stand grew and grew, greatly assisted by wides and byes.

Dubey fell in the 26th. over for 58 (eight fours) whereupon Kota, 36* at the time, became a man transformed. He struck a further 47 in nine overs with excellent assistance from Sanjay Patel and Vamsee Krishna. His 83* was his third innings of the weekend after the TAL T20 double header and a club personal best. He hit nine fours. Patel helped add 22 before spiralling to slip and Krishna was serene, as 61 unbeaten runs came up for the 8th. wicket. The final total was scarcely credible given the start.

Desai bowled Bobbv fifth ball of the reply before Mehtab Khan, Asim and latterly Mandeep put on 104 in just 16 overs. Desai and Kumar suffered during this assault but Krishna was economical and with Mehtab Khan the only bowler not to be called wide. The batsmen were secure and scoring at near the required rate when misfortune struck, Khan suffering cramp and having to be helped from the pitch.

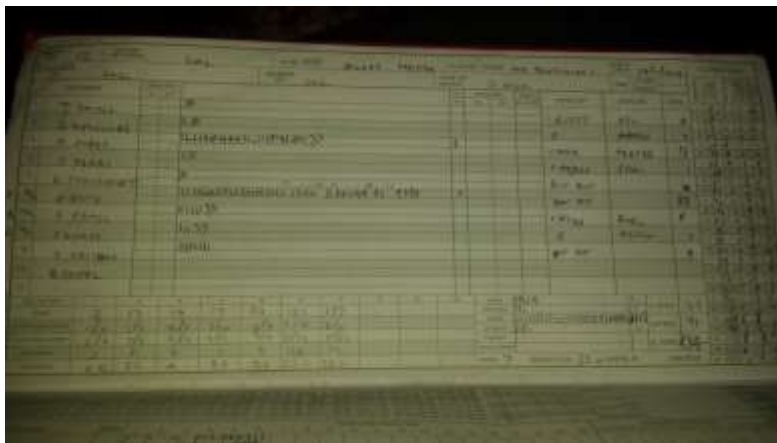
By this time, two of the spin triplets Kota and Hemin Patel were bowling in tandem. Adding the spell of the third, Small, the slows went for 16-0-78-4, impressive when 7.5 an over were needed. The Gents then took four wickets in five overs to edge the game in their favour. Hemin Patel had Munier caught Newcombe at deep mid-wicket and Rinku caught Kumar at silly mid-off. Sanjay Patel, replacing Kota at the Tennyson Avenue end, accounted for the returning Mehtab Khan, another pouch for the captain, and Moin Khan.

Moin Khan then returned for his second stint as umpire and, to the chagrin of the Gents, started to coach his players. The hard-hitting Majeed began to flay the bowling and was involved in the big moment of controversy when Khan declined a run-out appeal. Perhaps it was not wise of Krishna to say “You’re giving us nothing today” but Khan’s response was disproportionate, swearing at the Gents and telling Kumar to send Krishna from the field. Sanjay Patel, very fired up, then took the law into his own hands and had a ding-dong with Khan, thankfully only verbal.

Meanwhile, behind the boundary ropes, events were proceeding oddly. An in no way strange couple came to watch for a few overs announcing that they had permission from the groundsman to spectate here, a state of affairs that raises questions. Why would you need permission? Which grounds have forbidden them entry? Word of advice: if you’re going to watch cricket, don’t stand in front of the scoreboard and don’t bombard players and scorer with a series of fatuous questions about who’s winning, who the teams are and where they live, otherwise people will think you are troubled.

This was not the only bizarre off-field incident, the groundsman having earlier taken an axe to the bonnet of his BMW tourer after it would not start. This did the trick and he went off for his Sunday drive, and surprisingly was allowed to return by the security services, with the axe still protruding. The Gents’ scorer’s capability was then impugned after a number had flipped over on Old Tens’ rubbish scoreboard. It’s the hot weather.

The bowling of Sanjay Patel and Small then guided the Gents to victory, Asim and Majeed being unable to find the ten runs an over needed. The fielding was impervious and the vocal support strong. Asim fell bowled Small seven short of his century in the final over and the Gents were victorious. Where this stands in the list of club performances can wait for another day but it will be one to savour in the winter.



Masterfan Ken Toft, whose ability was called into question after scoring a winning 238-3 for Northfields, has silenced his critics with improved performances in his last two games.

Changing tactics by getting an earlier train from Milton Keynes, he took 5-36 in his first 11 overs against Troopers and followed that up with a masterly display in this game. Arriving after eight overs (Gents 23-5), he added 211-2 in 27.

Darkening our door

ECB Director of Conflict Hemin Patel somewhat modified his position over the following week, having first denounced Monty as “a bunch of twats” before, no doubt cognisant of his three wickets, demanding to play them again in 2017. Monty were not all bad but fit in to the category of graceless visitors. They romantically describe themselves as a travelling side, that is they cannot be blessed to get their own ground. It’s not hard chaps, internet and telephone are widely available. But the fractious Monty were angels compared to the hosts on the top pitch at Greenford on 7 July. Bad feeling was simmering from the word go and the match was abandoned when the visitors stormed off the pitch and went home mid-game, one of them having threatened according to eye-witnesses to stab a home player. Deep joy in the beholding.

Ashford v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 31 July, Ashford CC. Ashford won toss. Sunny, 21C

Lost by 80 runs

Ashford		Gentlemen of West London					
J Khan	c Desai	b Dubey	5 †Small	c Gaurav	b Rao	1	
Malik	c Desai	b Kumar	18 *Kumar		b J Khan	29	
K Khan		b Kumar	0	Dubey	b Butt	7	
Tilt	c Small	b Krishna	22	Bocha	b Rao	2	
Balmer		b Jampala	6	Kota	c M Khan	0	
Butt	c Desai	b Newcombe	17	Desai	c Gaurav	38	
M Khan	c Kota	b H Patel	13	Jampala	c Joshi	4	
†Gaurav	c H Patel	b Bocha	38	Newcombe		b J Khan	6
*Tippell	not out		50	Krishna	lbw	b Rao	2
Joshi	st Small	b H Patel	8	H Patel	c Malik	b K Khan	6
Rao	c Khan	b Kota	0	Khan	not out		0
Extras		w7 nb3 b8 lb1	19	Extras		w14 b5 lb2	21
Total	All out	40 overs	196	Total	All out	32.2 overs	116
FoW: 12, 15, 28, 37, 68, 87, 99, 164, 189, 196				FoW: 2, 11, 17, 17, 90, 90, 97, 109, 113, 116			
Bowling: Dubey 4-0-10-1, Kumar 4-0-16-2, Jampala 5-0-32-1, Desai 6-1-26-0, Newcombe 4-1-21-1, Krishna 4-0-15-1, Kota 6-1-28-1, H Patel 5-0-17-2, Khan 1-0-10-0, Bocha 1-0-12-1				Bowling: Balmer 6-1-21-1, Rao 7-0-15-5, Joshi 8-1-30-0, M Khan 5-0-21-0, J Khan 4-0-18-2, Tilt 1-1-0-1, K Khan 1.2-0-4-1			



Ashford won this entertaining inaugural match easily after the Gents collapsed to the swing bowling of 13-year-old prodigy Waqar Rao. A record eighth-wicket stand of 65 in 64 balls by captain Tippell and 'keeper Gaurav had seen the hosts recover impressively from 99-7 to 196. They were quite a strong team but happily had a friendly attitude. Rarely for a 2016 Gents fixture, not a cross word was passed between the sides, although both sides bitched about their own umpires.

It had all started so well. Hosts and visitors were punctual and we were away on the dot of 1.30pm. Four wickets fell for 37, soon to become seven for 99. Desai at backward point took three catches out of eight fielder dismissals. Eight bowlers of the ten used took a wicket and Small grabbed a stumping. The energy level was high and the visitors were chirpy. Gaurav and Tippell then batted fluently. It has not been a vintage batting season for the Gents, and it is hoped that those present will take heed of the sensible shot selection, backing up and quick calling of these two. Kumar used all his bowlers, mostly giving each four overs. The bowling was steady, if a little unpenetrative. Kota turned only two balls and was flatteringly accused by Ashford of cunningly slipping in doosras, a compliment he was happy with. The total of 196 was a tough challenge.

Wasn't it just. As they had done a week before, the Gents found a useful partnership to restore hopes, but the innings was generally poor stuff. Kumar and Desai are exempt from criticism because they modified their game to the circumstances, but although we would like to draw a veil over what happened before and after, journalistic ethics preclude it. Small edged behind, such things happen and his form will return. Having started in princely form, Dubey drove a full-toss to mid-off, Bocha was bowled and Kota drove to cover second ball. Balmer's skiddy seamers were challenging enough but the batsmen seemed mesmerised by Rao, four feet eleven in his spikes. His control was exemplary and he achieved movement through the air and off the pitch.

Kumar, scoreless for the first ten overs and 16* at 20-over drinks, was defiant and watchful. Desai was easy on the eye. They batted for 18 overs but then fell in successive overs, Kumar off the final ball of the 25th. over, in which he had cover-driven two sumptuous fours, and Desai snaffled by Gaurav off a Tilt rocket. A hundred and six were then needed off 15 overs but it all became of only academic interest as the tail collapsed. Had the target been lower, Tippell may have used different bowlers, though the ones he tried were good enough to bowl the Gents out. We only saw one over, for example, from Tilt, who was express and Tippell – 13 overs for the first XI the day before – did not bowl at all.

This was a perfect venue, with a tea offering variety, an electronic scoreboard (Naveed Khan on the remote console was a slick act) and a true wicket. It is to be hoped that the abject fawning of the Gents' secretary on club bigwigs (an easy task, since there were no diplomatic incidents to smooth over) was not wasted and that the Gents will be invited to return.

Gentlemen of West London v. Pak

Sunday 7 August, LMPF Greenford. Gents won toss (toss agreed in second game). Sunny, 25C

Won by 34 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Pak			
H Patel		b Hamza	6	Harris	run out	7
Caveney	c Hamza	b K Ahmed	26	Anser	b S Patel	4
*Kumar	run out		18	Khalid	run out	7
Dubey	run out		11	Hamza	c Pingili	60
Kota	not out		73	Saj	c Kumar	10
S Patel		b Saj	7	Saad	run out	11
†Jampala	run out		1	Tab	c Nanda	7
Pingili	run out		14	K Khan	not out	15
				Manni	not out	1
Chatharaju, †Krishna and Nanda did not bat				*K Ahmed and N Khan did not bat		
Extras		w6 nb5 b3 lb1	15	Extras		w7 nb2 b5 lb1
Total	7 wickets	20 overs	171	Total	7 wickets	20 overs
FoW: 12, 44, 52, 112, 125, 132, 171				FoW: 18, 19, 53, 86, 99, 113, 137		
Bowling: Hamza 4-0-16-1, K Khan 4-0-34-0, Saad 4-0-31-0, K Ahmed 3-0-38-1, N Khan 3-0-23-0, Saj 2-0-25-1				Bowling: Pingili 3-0-6-0, Jampala 4-0-12-0, S Patel 4-0-43-1, Dubey 1-0-3-0, Kota 2-0-21-2, H Patel 2-0-12-0, Kumar 1-0-9-0, Krishna 2-0-9-1, Chatharaju 1-0-16-0		

Won by 99 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Pak			
Basker		b Hamza	67	*K Ahmed	c Jampala	9
Nanda		b Ahmed	13	N Khan	b S Patel	13
Sanga		b Ahmed	12	Manni	b Sanga	6
Krishna	run out		15	Hamza	c Chatharaju	7
*Kumar	c Manni	b N Khan	38	Saj	b Pingili	1
Chatharaju		b Hamza	0	†Khalid	b Sanga	0
Kota	not out		11	Saad	c Kota	16
S Patel	not out		2	Anser	b Sanga	1
Pingili, Jampala and †Caveney did not bat				Tab	b Sanga	0
				K Khan	b Sanga	1
				Harris	b Sanga	1
				Kevin	c Basker	7
				JT	not out	3
Extras		w12 nb2 b4 lb2	20	Extras		w5 b7 lb2
Total	6 wickets	20 overs	178	Total	All out	16.2 overs
FoW: 48, 88, 108, 162, 162, 165				FoW: 23, 23, 37, 44, 44, 49, 51, 57, 57, 57, 71, 79		
Bowling: Hamza 4-0-33-2, K Khan 2-0-14-0, Saad 3-0-29-0, K Ahmed 4-0-23-2, Manni 4-0-30-0, N Khan-3-0-43-1				Bowling: Pingili 4-0-20-1, S Patel 3-0-13-2, Sanga 4-0-11-6, Jampala 2-0-5-1, Krishna 1-0-7-0, Kota 1-0-8-1, Chatharaju 1-0-5-0, Basker 0.2-0-1-1		

This annual Friendship Day tournament was a logistical triumph with some exciting and some frankly bizarre cricket thrown in on a perfect sunny if windy summer's afternoon. There were contrasting fifties by Gents Kota and Basker and, best of the lot, Pak's Hamza, who struck seven sixes in a remarkable innings of 60 in only 8.1 overs. Sanjay Patel broke the club aggregate wickets record, Upender Sanga, Vijay Basker's team-mate from United Titans, took 6-11 on debut with his slow left-arm, Basker took a wicket in his first Gents over and right-hander Kota, having threatened to do so for a few weeks, bowled an over of left-arm Chinamen, taking a wicket. Twenty20 does strange things to a cricketer.

The watchword for the day was flexibility so it was decided to play two T20s with fielder rotation permitted. The Gents had 13, Hemin Patel and Dubey standing down for Basker and Sanga in the second game and Pak 12, which was increased to 14 when two supporters had a bat in the second game. The flurry of runs and wickets was scored accurately for three-quarters of the day before the scorer had a meltdown, having to correct the data the following day. The Gents knocked up two similar scores in perfect conditions and were met by an inexperienced but exciting batting line-up with two quite different responses.

Bright batting from Caveney got the Gents up and running and contributions came throughout the order, led by Kota (ten fours and a six). Pak started slowly against Pingili and Jampala but Hamza and his middle-order colleagues were brilliant. A Pak win had gone from highly improbable to no more than 2/1 when Hamza fell to a low Pingili catch at long-on off Kota, who with Sanjay Patel bore the brunt of the boundary clearances. It had been a tough contest with little between the teams.

Swerving the overpriced Greenford teas meant that self-catering was the order of the day and Vamsee Krishna procured a fine feast of biryani, vada pav and the deep-fried jelabi sweets. Inspection of the jelabi packaging disappointingly revealed the persistent use by the distributor of metric units of measure. Soon the day will come, now we've got our country back, when children will once again be able to order a furlong of liquorice or a hundredweight of gobstoppers. Vada pavs, spicy potato cakes, are an interesting chap. The credit for invention often goes to a man named Ashok Vaidy, who slung his wares from a stall outside Dadar station in 1971.

Basker's 67 in 18 overs and Kumar's blast again set up a workable total. Ahmed and Naveed Khan set about it with some relish but their historic dismissals to Sanjay Patel presaged a collapse to beautifully-flighted spin by Sanga which was probably not helped by the huge tea.

2016 scorecards and results

1/5	LMPF Greenford	Bengal Troopers 244 (Khan 146, Tawhid 35, Shajib 21, Bocha 5-33) Gents 100 (Basker 26, Choudhury 4-12, Mahmud 3-23)	Lost by 144 runs
8/5	Old Tenisonians	Wimbledon United 157-7 (Herbert 60, Saxby 36) Gents 159-5 (Kota 48*, Bocha 42, H Patel 30, Kumar 20)	Won by 5 wickets
15/5	Ealing SC	Gubbays 135 (Aryuat 28, Mihir 27, Ketan 24, Bocha 3-21) Gents 139-7 (Tewhatu 50, Kota 21, Mihir 3-38)	Won by 3 wickets
22/5	Durston House	Gents 237-9 (Charatla 61, Kumar 43, Caveney 30, Bocha 25, E Redhead 3-27) Northfields 238-3 (D Redhead 112*, Knight-Williams 45, Thompson 30*)	Lost by 7 wickets
29/5	LPOSSA	White Swans (Southall) 86 (Apurva 23, H Patel 4-10, Kota 4-23) Gents 87-3 (Newcombe 35*, Small 25)	Won by 7 wickets
5/6	Paulin Ground	Gents 223-9 (Dubey 55, Newcombe 54, S Patel 49*, Kota 22, Webster 3-28) Judd Street Tigers 202 (Wright 99, Taylor 27, Kota 3-37)	Won by 21 runs
18/6	Ealing SC	Gents 146 (Kumar 44, H Patel 33) Alexandra Park 77	Won by 69 runs
26/6	Old Tenisonians	Yarl 121-8 (Charatla 55*, Harry 27) Gents 122-9 (Kota 62, Harry 3-31)	Won by 1 wicket
3/7	Dundonald RG	St. Anne's Allstars 69 (Krishna 3-8) Gents 71-6 (Hampton 4-29)	Won by 4 wickets
10/7	Old Tenisonians	Gents 136 (S Patel 43*, Sudireddy 30, Oruganti 5-16, Sarfraz 4-12) Hounslow Hurricanes 137-7 (Andy 51*, Darshan 44, Amit 21, Kota 3-31)	Lost by 3 wickets
17/7	Old Tenisonians	Bengal Troopers 185 (Choudhury 40, Shahiah 36, Baker 33) Gents 121 (Caveney 20, Baker 3-13)	Lost by 64 runs
24/7	Old Tenisonians	Gents 234-7 (Kota 83*, Dubey 58) Monty RH 201-7 (Asim 93, Majeed 28, Mehtab Khan 27, H Patel 3-39)	Won by 33 runs
31/7	Ashford	Ashford 196 (Tippell 50*, Gaurav 38, Tilt 22) Gents 116 (S Desai 38, Kumar 29, Rao 5-15)	Lost by 80 runs
7/8	LMPF Greenford	Gents 171-7 (Kota 73*, Caveney 26) Pak 137-7 (Hamza 60) Gents 178-6 (Basker 67, Kumar 38) Pak 79 (Sanga 6-11)	Won by 34 runs Won by 99 runs

Date	Gents	Result	Judd Street Tigers	Result
Sun 26 April	-	-	Southgate Compton	Lost by 2 wickets
Sun 1 May	Bengal Troopers	Lost by 144 runs	Harrowdene	Won by 58 runs
Sun 8 May	Wimbledon United	Won by 5 wickets	Graces	Lost by 71 runs
Sat 14 May	-	-	Porto	Lost by 3 wickets
Sun 15 May	Gubbays	Won by 3 wickets	Porto	Drawn
Sun 22 May	Northfields	Lost by 7 wickets	N2 Casuals	Won by 162 runs
Sun 29 May	White Swans (Southall)	Won by 3 wickets	Southgate Adelaide	Lost by 7 wickets
Sun 5 June	Judd Street Tigers	Won by 21 runs	Gentlemen of West London	Lost by 21 runs
Sun 12 June	Hale	Cancelled (rain)	Old Grumblers	Cancelled (rain)
Sat 18 June	Alexandra Park	Won by 69 runs	Eastons	Drawn
Sun 19 June	-	-	Little Berkhamsted	Lost by 20 runs
Sun 26 June	Yarl	Won by 1 wicket	Fives	Lost by 65 runs
Sun 3 July	St Anne's Allstars	Won by 4 wickets	Spartan	Lost by 87 runs
Sun 10 July	Hounslow Hurricanes	Lost by 3 wickets	Haringey Libraries	Won by 7 wickets
Sun 17 July	Bengal Troopers	Lost by 64 runs	South London Oddballs	Won by 2 wickets
Sun 24 July	Monty RH	Won by 33 runs	Acme	Won by 29 runs
Sun 31 July	Ashford	Lost by 80 runs	Octopus	Lost by 2 wickets
Sun 7 Aug	Pak	Won by 34 runs	Highgate	Lost by 7 wickets
Sun 7 Aug	Pak	Won by 99 runs	-	-
Sun 14 Aug	Clapham In	-	Whalers	-
Sun 21 Aug	Bricklayer's Arms	-	Cincinatti	-
Sun 28 Aug	Battersea Ironsides	-	-	-
Sun 4 Sept	Gubbays	-	Railway Taverners	-
Sun 11 Sept	Salix	-	Mayfield	-
Sun 18 Sept	Hale	-	Railway Taverners	-
Sun 25 Sept	-	-	Highgate	-
Record Runs	P15 W10 L5 Cancelled 1 Kota 334, Kumar 223, Dubey 137, Newcombe 135		P17 W5 D2 L10 Cancelled 1 Wright 559, Taylor 290, Porton 278, Dane 215	
Wickets	H Patel/Kota 20, Bocha 13, Jampala 9, S Patel 8		Dane 20, Wright 19, Taylor 17, Webster 15	
Catches/Stumpings	Kota 6, Small 5/2, Kumar 5		Delanian 10, Boden/Rennie/Taylor 7	

2016 in numbers

Highest score for: 237-9 v. Northfields

Against: 244 by Bengal Troopers

Lowest score for: 100 v. Bengal Troopers

Against: 69 by St. Anne's Allstars

Hundred partnerships for (1): 128 5th. wicket Dubey/Kota v. Monty RH

Against (2): 112 3rd. wicket Khan/Tawhid (Bengal Troopers), 103 2nd. wicket Mehtab Khan/Asim/Mandeep (Monty RH)

Fifties/hundreds for (9): 83* Kota v. Monty RH, 73* Kota v. Pak, 67 Basker v. Pak, 62 Kota v. Yarl, 61 Charatla v. Northfields,

58 Dubey v. Monty RH, 55 Dubey v. Judd Street Tigers, 54 Newcombe v. Judd Street Tigers, 50 Tewhatu v. Gubbays

Against (9): 146 Khan (Bengal Troopers), 112* D Redhead (Northfields), 99 Wright (Judd Street Tigers),

93 Asim (Monty RH), 60 Herbert (Wimbledon United), 60 Hamza (Pak), 51 Andy (Hounslow Hurricanes), 55* Charatla (Yarl),

50* Tippell (Ashford)

Four-wicket hauls for (4): 6-11 Sanga v. Pak, 5-33 Bocha v. Bengal Troopers, 4-10 H Patel v. White Swans (Southall),

4-23 Kota v. White Swans (Southall)

Against (5): 5-15 Rao (Ashford), 5-18 Oruganti (Hounslow Hurricanes), 4-12 Choudhury (Bengal Troopers),

4-12 Sarfraz (Hounslow Hurricanes), 4-29 Hampton (St. Anne's Allstars)

Sixes (14): 4 Charatla, Kumar 1 Bocha, Caveney, Kota, Nanda, S Patel, Pingili

A day out at the cricket



On Saturday 23 July Telugu Daredevils played United Titans at Rectory Park, Northolt, one of four games there on the day. This was a Telugu TAL-20 league match and autograph hunters and groupies were delighted to spot many Gents members and guest players.

The league's rules follow most such documents with two exceptions: no leg byes and no lbws can be given. The former need not detain us and has been advocated by many, but the latter is radical to say the least. "Schoolboy cricket" huffed the Gents' chairman when told about it and he has a point. Certainly this rule seemed worth investigating. Vamsee Krishna, seen above scoring, explains with candour: "Even a run out can take half an hour of debate and as we do not have qualified umpires we dispense with lbws". In the event, the 40 overs bowled on a fast, bouncy pitch saw only one possible lbw and that was likely to be going over.

Once you have got your head around the suspension of Law 36, the cricket proceeds more conventionally. The over rate was low, due to frequent drinks breaks but the cricket played was of a high standard. There are no fielding restrictions other than those prohibited by the Laws and both captains, very experienced, had their men in the right place most of the time.

An outstanding feature of the day was the catching, TDD taking six stormers en route to a win by 36 runs, 155-7 to 119. The match was played on a fine spirit and a large number of friends and relations attended. Although this was not be Titans' year (q/f elimination), TDD have made it through to the final.

Think about it



Which brings us on to Law 36 Leg before wicket. In 2014, our pal John McGirr trained as an umpire. As part of the examination, he had to adjudicate on 20 possible lbws on film. He got six right and was still in the top quartile of candidates. It's a tough job. This is not a new thing, nor is the bemusement shown this season by Gents bowlers (umpires too lenient) and Gents batsmen (umpires too strict). We don't believe that there is a conspiracy against the Gents by the way – Gents' umpires have fingered 11 batsmen in 2016, oppo umpires six and in 2015, the affirmative lbw decisions for and against were equal.

What is irksome is the quality of decision-making and here we have to go back to the 1930s when EW Swanton wrote about lbws in the club game. Stung by what he thought was scandalous umpiring (he was a bowler), he experimented with a friend in his back garden, setting up a pitch with stumps and string tied between the stumps and began to bowl. He was no mean bowler but with his usual action, right-arm over, what he noticed was this. Very few balls hit the stumps and the majority slid down leg. He also had to get very close to the stumps to bowl such a line that an lbw were possible. He concluded that the umpire that afternoon had probably got it right. No batsman is happy about being given out lbw but if you umpire study the Law and take your time.

2016 averages

	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
Basker	3	3	1	95	47.50	3	0.2	0	1	1	1.00
Bocha	8	8	0	110	13.75	2	34.4	2	185	13	14.23
Bowden	2	2	0	1	0.50	2/1	-	-	-	-	-
Caveney	6	5	1	93	23.25	1	-	-	-	-	-
Charatla	4	3	2	81	81.00	1	17	1	52	2	26.00
Chatharaju	7	6	0	19	3.17	2	9	1	52	3	17.33
Denton	2	2	0	5	2.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Desai	3	3	0	56	18.67	4	17	1	92	3	30.67
Dubey	6	5	1	137	34.25	2	23	0	117	1	117.00
Hibbert	3	3	0	7	2.33	-	9	0	47	2	23.50
Jampala	10	7	2	33	6.60	4	43.3	2	165	9	18.33
Khan	3	3	1	24	12.00	2	10	0	58	0	-
Kota	14	13	4	334	37.11	6	63.3	3	338	20	16.90
Krishna	11	8	3	29	5.80	-/1	32	7	126	7	18.00
Kumar	11	11	2	223	24.78	5	42	4	199	5	39.80
Nanda	2	1	0	13	13.00	1	-	-	-	-	-
Newcombe	7	7	1	135	22.50	3	4	1	21	1	21.00
H Patel	12	7	1	89	14.83	2	59.5	6	235	20	11.75
S Patel	7	7	3	123	30.75	2	19.5	0	129	8	16.13
Pingili	6	3	2	30	30.00	2	31	5	75	4	18.75
Rajagopalan	2	2	1	11	11.00	-	12	0	45	3	15.00
Small	8	8	0	75	9.38	5/2	16	0	101	2	50.50
Sudireddy	11	10	0	86	8.60	4	6	0	33	2	16.50

One game: Aguirre 1/-/-, Beckford 1/1/0, 0.1-0-1-0, Buck 1/1/0/3, 3-0-7-1, Chakravarthy 1/1/0/0, Cullingham-Neill 1/1/1/1, 1-0-7-0, Gilkes 1/1/0/5, 1-0-13-0, Kurdu 1/1/0/1, 3-0-23-0, Mamidi 1/1/0/1 (2 ct., 1 st.), Oruganti 1/1/0/2, 3-0-18-1, 4-0-12-1, K Patel 1/1/1/1 (1 ct.), Sanga 1/1/0/12, 4-0-11-6, Sciberras 1/1/0/18, 2-0-7-1, Snelling 1/1/0/7, 4-0-13-1, Tewhatu 1/1/0/50, 7-2-23-1, L Wright 1/1/0/7 (2 st.)

Top 10 Gents bowling analyses

8-33	Snelling v. 12 Angry Men (Albert Road RG, 16 May 1999) ^{Timed game}
8-77	Snelling v. East Harrow Cheetahs (Beverley Park, 4 August 1996) ^{Timed game}
7-31	S Desai v. Cheltenham Allsorts (Victoria Ground, 10 June 2012)
7-44	Ashton v. Enterprise (Victoria RG, 5 May 1996) ^{Timed game}
7-55	Ashton v. New Barbarian Weasels (King's College, 18 June 1994) ^{Timed game}
6-6	Snelling v. London Canaries (Victoria RG, 1 July 2001)
6-8	Hill v. FC Chad (King's College, 25 August 1996) ^{Twenty20}
6-11	Sanga v. Pak (LMPF Greenford, 7 August 2016) ^{Twenty20}
6-15	Ashton v. East Harrow Cheetahs (Cranford Park, 27 May 1989)
6-16	D Patel v. Urban Associates (Victoria RG, 20 May 2001)