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# THE GENT

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## There's a Gent lives down in Hampshire swears he's Elvis



Gents back to form in high summer  
85 for Basker and 103 stand with Kumar against White Swans  
London Saints set new partnership record  
Hale jilt Gents  
Averages  
Match reports:

Kingstonian (lost by 59 runs)  
Hounslow Hurricanes (lost by 7 wickets)  
St. Anne's Allstars (won by 114 runs)  
White Swans (won by 142 runs)

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



### **Gents' 2017 rebirth**

A lot of players have left the club and we are rebuilding. We miss the company of Jampala, Kota, Oruganti, Pingili and Sudireddy, and have seen little of Hibbert and the injured Newcombe. However, through the energy of the captain, Mr Basker and Mr Chatharaju we have made some good signings. Four things for new chaps to note. First, please advise the secretary *in writing* of your availability – email, Messenger or WhatsApp. We sometimes have to rotate and this is done fairly. Second, pay £7 match fee in cash to the treasurer Vamsee Krishna or by bank transfer. Third, if you spend money on food the treasurer will reimburse you. Fourth, any problems please speak to the captain. Thank you and enjoy it.

### **Hale refuseniks up to their old tricks**

June saw disappointment when Hale failed to raise a side and advised us on the Thursday night, which was too late for a replacement to be sourced. This was particularly annoying as Vijay Basker had gone to considerable effort to get spare players in the absence of some regulars due to family commitments at the Oval. You may recall (*Gent 152*) that Hale did the same thing a year ago, bailing an hour and a quarter before the match was due to begin. Hale's captain Steve Giles was on holiday for both games and it seems that his stand-in is as useless a communicator as he is an organiser. If a game is in doubt, you prewarn. As a precautionary measure we have withdrawn our ambassador and introduced trade tariffs. The Gents have written to Hale and await a reply. Compare Hale's attitude to Judd Street Tigers'. They had arranged an ambitious Essex tour and such was their shortage of players a week before that the Saturday game was in doubt. But a major heave ensured that both games were honoured. It is this unsullied attitude which also distinguishes Khalid Harris, fixture secretary of Battersea Eagles. He is often seen online offering tranches of spare players to any side who needs them.

### **News from home**

The Gents are on a proud run, not having had a single bollocking all season from the Old 'Tenisonians' committee. Recent seasons were not so untarnished, one email of complaint winging its way to us before the season had even started. We have even received an apology from them for our delayed start against St. Anne's. The juniors should have cleared the ground by 12.30pm but did not. We didn't moan about it because the reduced 35 overs format suited both sides. We have a problem in that the Saturday league boys often leave the ground and the kitchen in a state of devastation, so we have to clear up first to resemble decent hosts. This has been pointed out to the groundsman (who, being less in turmoil this season has only once set his dogs on the secretary) and is being addressed by their chairman. Good news is that we now have a key to the pavilion and as full social members, insured and all, we can run the bar.

### **Gents live on the box**

BBC TV has secured the rights to broadcast live social cricket from 2020 as part of its £1 billion Cricket's Coming Home deal. Their new Cricket Correspondent Jack Davies said "We have driven a hard bargain. We won't show any Tests, but we will have exclusive live coverage of the Putney Cup T20 between Bricklayer's Arms, CAMRA and Sunderland SC, and Gents' home match with Gubbys. There will also be recorded highlights of Judd Street Tigers' tour games. There will be cameras in the dressing rooms to capture the banter and interviews with celebrities from the circuit". Davies added excitedly "Today we also unveil plans for a cricket-themed reality TV show called *Vada Pav* in which the public will vote to expel teams from the card according to how rubbish their teas are and how many twats they have. There will also be a cricket sitcom *Family Commitments* starring the usual BBC sneery funnymen".

## 2017 scorecards and results

30/4	Ealing SG	<b>Gents 154</b> (S Desai 52, Basker 31) <b>Hounslow Hurricanes 152</b> (Nahush 43*, Pai 23, S Patel 3-34)	<b>Won</b> by 2 runs
7/5	Hilly Fields	<b>Gents 186</b> (Bocha 48*, H Patel 29, A Khan 22, C Cooper 3-21) <b>Millfields 190-5</b> (Collis 80, Taylor 24*, Hooper 22, Marshall 21, Small 3-33)	<b>Lost</b> by 5 wickets
14/5	Cottenham Park	<b>Wimbledon United 176-8</b> (Herbert 51, D Hitchman 27, Phillip 23, Dean 21) <b>Gents 53</b> (Cripps 6-1, Dean 3-21)	<b>Lost</b> by 123 runs
21/5	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gubbays 106</b> (Mihir 33) <b>Gents 111-5</b> (Bocha 36*, Ahmed 20, Raj 3-19)	<b>Won</b> by 5 wickets
28/5	Durston House	<b>Gents 257-8</b> (Dubey 46, Kumar 34, S Patel 31*, Pentakota 31, Small 28) <b>Northfields 145-5</b> (Collins 42*, Iverson 28, D Redhead 24)	<b>Won</b> by 112 runs
4/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Kingstonian 160</b> (Wasim 38*, Islam 33, Niazi 30, B. Gola 4-17, Mangineni 3-24) <b>Gents 101</b> (Sampath 29, Wasim 3-20, Shabbir 3-26)	<b>Lost</b> by 59 runs
11/6	Perivale Park	<b>Gents 91</b> (H Patel 43, S Patel 20, Achal 5-20, Vikas 3-15) <b>Hounslow Hurricanes 92-3</b> (Sunil 36*, Darshan 20)	<b>Lost</b> by 7 wickets
25/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 183-8</b> (H Patel 39, Bocha 27, Dubey 22, Kumar 22, Singh 3-27) <b>St. Anne's Allstars 69</b> (Bocha 3-9)	<b>Won</b> by 114 runs
2/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 228-8</b> (Basker 85, Kumar 48, S Patel 22, H Patel 20) <b>White Swans 86</b> (Raj 29)	<b>Won</b> by 142 runs

Date	Gents	Result	Judd Street Tigers	Result
Sun 23 April	-	-	<b>Southgate Compton</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 4 wickets
Sun 30 April	<b>Hounslow Hurricanes</b>	<b>Won</b> by 2 runs	<b>N2 Casuals</b>	<b>Won</b> by 79 runs
Sun 7 May	<b>Millfields</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 5 wickets	<b>Haringey Libraries</b>	<b>Won</b> by 25 runs
Sat 13 May	-	-	<b>Opporto</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 7 wickets
Sun 14 May	<b>Wimbledon United</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 123 runs	<b>Opporto</b>	<b>Won</b> by 72 runs
Sun 21 May	<b>Gubbays</b>	<b>Won</b> by 5 wickets	<b>Graces</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 100 runs
Sun 28 May	<b>Northfields</b>	<b>Won</b> by 112 runs	<b>Cincinnati</b>	<b>Cancelled</b>
Sun 4 June	<b>Kingstonian</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 59 runs	<b>Spartan</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 73 runs
Sun 11 June	<b>Hounslow Hurricanes</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 7 wickets	<b>Beamers</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 1 wicket
Sat 17 June	-	-	<b>Mole Hill Green</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 1 wicket
Sun 18 June	<b>Hale</b>	<b>Cancelled</b>	<b>Eastons</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 6 wickets
Sun 25 June	<b>St. Anne's Allstars</b>	<b>Won</b> by 114 runs	<b>Spartan</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 34 runs
Sun 2 July	<b>White Swans</b>	<b>Won</b> by 142 runs	<b>Motley Crew</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 5 wickets
<b>Record</b>	P9 W5 L4		P12 W3 L9	
<b>Runs</b>	H Patel 148 Bocha 138 Basker 128 Kumar 125		Wright 413 Greenham 203 (to 25 June)	
<b>Wickets</b>	H Patel 12 Bocha/Kumar 7 Dubey 6		Greenham, Taylor 13 Webster 12 (to 25 June)	
<b>Catches/Stumpings</b>	Bocha 5 B Gola, Small 3		Allerton 6, Porton/Wright 4, O'Brien 3/3 (to 25 June)	



**Highest score for:** 257-8 v. Northfields **Against:** 190-5 by Millfields  
**Lowest score for:** 53 v. Wimbledon United **Against:** 69 by St. Anne's Allstars  
**Hundred partnerships for (1):** 103 2nd wicket Basker/Kumar v. White Swans  
**Fifties/hundreds for (2):** 85, Basker v. White Swans, 52 Desai v. Hounslow Hurricanes  
**Fifties/hundreds against (2):** 80 Collis (Millfields), 51 Herbert (Wimbledon United)  
**Four-wicket for: (1)** 4-17 B Gola v. Kingstonian  
**Four-wicket returns against (2):** 6-1 Herbert (Wimbledon United),  
 5-38 Achal (Hounslow Hurricanes)  
**Sixes (15):** Bocha 4, Dubey/Kumar 3, Basker, Gwalla, A Khan, Krishna, Padimalla 1  
**Run outs (6):** Bocha 2, Bandla, A Khan, Kumar, S Patel 1  
**Ducks (19):** Kumar 3, Bandla, Krishna, H Patel 2, Bocha, Caveney, Chatharaju, Dubey,  
 D Gola, Pervez, Petela, Ponnamp, Sampath, Small 1

## Averages

Player (debut*)	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
Ahmed*	3	3	0	40	13.33	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bandla*	6	5	0	29	5.80	-	20	1	78	4	19.50
Basker	3	3	0	128	42.67	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bocha	7	7	2	138	27.60	5	22	2	99	7	14.14
Caveney	7	7	1	53	8.83	-	2	0	4	1	4.00
Chatharaju	5	4	1	6	2.00	-	9.2	2	32	2	16.00
Dubey	8	8	1	88	12.57	2/1	45.3	9	136	6	22.67
A Khan*	5	5	1	63	15.75	2	7.5	0	48	2	24.00
Krishna	6	5	2	27	9.00	2	21	1	75	2	37.50
Kumar	8	8	0	125	15.63	-	31	3	93	7	13.29
H Patel	9	8	0	148	18.50	1	41.1	2	185	12	15.42
S Patel	6	6	2	99	24.75	-	22	1	100	5	20.00
Pervez*	3	2	0	1	0.50	-	1	0	8	0	-
Sampath*	3	2	0	29	14.50	2	3	0	9	1	9.00
Small	4	4	0	54	23.50	3	8	0	50	3	16.66

**One game only:** Desai 1/1/0/52, 5.2-0-21-1 (1 ct.), Francis\* 1/1/0/1, B Gola\* 1/1/0/8, 7.2-1-17-4, D Gola\* 1/1/0/0, 4-0-13-0 (3 ct.),  
 Gorantla 1/-/-/-/, 7-4-5-1, Gwalla\* 1/1/1/14, 6-0-26-0, Hibbert 1/1/1/1/, 3-1-19-0, Lele\* 1/-/-/- 5-0-23-1, Mangineni 1/1/0/9, 7-1-24-3,  
 Nanda 1/-/-/-, 1-0-6-0 (1 ct.), Newcombe 1/1/0/1, 1.1-0-5-0, Padimalla\* 1/1/0/6, 5-3-3-0, Petela\* 1/1/0/0,  
 Pentakota 1/1/0/31, 4-0-11-1 (1 ct.), Ponnamp\* 1/1/0/0, Sharma 8 1/1/1/3, 4-1-12-1 (1 ct.), J Snelling 1/1/0/1, 5-0-21-1,  
 S Snelling 1/1/0/3, 2-0-8-0

## Gentlemen of West London v. Kingstonian

Sunday 4 June, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Sunny, 20C

Lost by 59 runs

Kingstonian		Gentlemen of West London					
†Mustafa	lbw	b Mangineni	12	Sampath	c Mustafa	b Shabbir	29
Ali		b B Gola	5	Caveney		b Wasim	0
Shoaib		b Mangineni	7	*Basker	lbw	b Wasim	12
Erum		b Mangineni	4	D Gola		b Wasim	0
Niazi	c D Gola	b H Patel	30	Mangineni		b Shabbir	9
Islam	c D Gola	b H Patel	33	†Ahmed	c Shabbir	b Shida	16
Shabbir		b B Gola	8	H Patel	run out (Wasim)		0
*Wasim	not out		38	S Patel		b Erum	3
Shida		b B Gola	0	Bandla		b Shabbir	0
Ali	c D Gola	b S Patel	7	B Gola		b Niazi	8
Durab		b B Gola	4	Hibbert	not out		1
Extras	b2 lb3 w6 nb1		12	Extras	b8 w15		23
<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>38.2 overs</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>30.3 overs</b>	<b>101</b>

**FoW:** 9, 28, 32, 33, 90, 101, 120, 120, 151, 160

**Bowling:** B Gola 7.2-1-17-4, S Patel 7-0-22-1, Mangineni 7-1-24-3, D Gola 4-0-13-0, H Patel 7-0-38-2, Bandla 3-0-22-0, Hibbert 3-1-19-0

**FoW:** 2, 24, 24, 69, 71, 71, 85, 86, 98, 101

**Bowling:** Wasim 6-1-20-3, Ali 5-0-13-0, Shabbir 8-1-26-3, Islam 1-0-6-0, Erum 8-1-23-1, Niazi 2-0-4-1, Shida 0.2-0-1-1

A spirited and friendly Kingstonian beat the Gents on a rather fretful day for the hosts, who competed for long periods but lacked consistency in batting. Indefatigable captain Basker, deputising for Kumar, assimilated three debutants, one of whom, the jovial Kushal Sampath, top-scored despite having only deplaned from the Air India three hours before the match. He did not know he was playing until Basker picked him up. Sanjay Patel took his 400th Gents wicket thanks to Dhanu Gola's third catch.

Family commitments, technically defined as going to Edgbaston to watch the South Asian derby, took away seven regulars. Basker, a force of nature, stepped up with the Gola brothers, Bharat and Dhanu, Sampath and Ramkrishna Mangineni, the friend of Ravi Inkollu who last played in 2012 and who introduced Raja Pentakota. The GWLCC family tree sometimes resembles a bramble.

They were stuck in traffic so Sanjay Patel decided to bowl. The Gents then had their best period of the match as the seamers found their line immediately. Bharat Gola bowled Ali with one that kept low before Mangineni struck three times, Kings 33 for four in the 15th over. Their middle order batted assertively against the spinners, who got little help from the wicket. Niazi and Islam added 57 in 11 overs before holing out to long-on off Hemin Patel whereupon captain Wasim shepherded the tail to 160 all out. Several catches were dropped, none expensive, but the groundfielding held up well. Sanjay Patel's personal milestone came when Ali clipped to short cover and Bharat Gola took the first four wicket return of 2017, three coming in his second spell.

Seven Kings players were fasting but this did not affect their bowling and fielding one jot. After two wides, Caveney was bowled for a golden duck, one of four in the innings. Basker looked good before losing his timbers the ball before Dhanu Gola suffered the same fate. The Gents were up with the required run rate for 17 overs, Sampath striking five boundaries. The spinners Shabbir and Erum then shared four wickets as the last seven wickets fell for a miserly 32 runs, despite a strong looking middle-order and tail. Hemin Patel was unfortunately run out after being sent back by Ahmed, who batted well himself before holing out to long-on to give Kings a merited win. To bat for only 30.3 overs, even against an attack of high quality, was below expectations.

The assimilation of guests is a tricky process and Basker did well to involve everyone. The Gents are in flux. Twenty-five players have worn the shirt this season and there were seven changes here from the Northfields game. The Champions Trophy will be over soon and nobody could begrudge the Gents watching their Indian and Pakistani heroes in the flesh. Of greater importance is the East London Sunday T20 league. This has taken away several members and prospective members, and will do so until late July. If nothing else, this contradicts Matthew Engel who insisted recently in the Guardian that Sunday cricket is dying on its feet.

## Talent pathway

To paraphrase James Whitaker when he is in toe-curling HR mode, recent weeks have presented us with an opportunity to incorporate several players who have come through the talent pathway into the senior group. Mates of Vijay, Sumit and Ranjith in other words.



*Kushal Sampath: flew in on the Air India Sunday morning, had only ever played cricket with a tennis ball yet top-scored.*



*L. to R: Ramkrishna Mangineni, Dhanu Gola and Bharat Gola. Shared 7 wickets and 3 catches.*

## Veteran Saint is hat-trick hero



Congratulations to Tony Grimes, 75 years young, who did the hat-trick for London Saints on 4 June against Nascot. Coming on in the tenth over when Nascot were 19 for 2, Grimes took three wickets in his first over including two off the fifth and sixth balls, completing his hat-trick off the first ball of his next. Saints shot Nascot out for 81 (Grimes 4-0-7-5) and surged to victory by 7 wickets, 85 for 3. There are countless slow bowlers on the circuit but few genuine spinners and fewer still offies. Grimes is one. This writer well remembers trying to block a spitting delivery from him. It didn't end well, fizzing up for a c&b.

There is no stopping Saints this year. On the baking hot day of 25 June in Newbury they beat Hermits by one wicket, Hermits 181-8 (Rogers 4-12, Thomas 2-8), London Saints 184-9 (Berkeley 42\*, Grant 23, Jones 17, Pearce 15\*). At 116 for 9 the game seemed gone, but Peter Berkeley and Paul Pearce added an unbeaten club record 68 for the tenth wicket to win with two balls to spare. What a performance. The photo left may not be contemporaneous.

## In Memoriam



We are sad to report that Bill Haddow-Allen, husband of Joy and father of Aurelia, Felix, Maxie and Tristan, died on 23 July. The boys, whom the Gents got to know through St. Anne's Allstars CC and have since become good friends to several in the club, learned their cricket from dad, a great lover of cricket as well as the horses. Maxie was captain of St. Anne's for many years and edited *The Full Toss* blog, taking on and besting Jonathan Agnew in the Kevin Pietersen War of 2014. Tristan is a high quality player who plays Grade cricket in Sydney NSW.

Bill is pictured left quaffing a pint with Tristan, who as a nine-year-old in T-bar shoes is clearly enjoying a session, with what appear to be chasers all round waiting on the tray. Maxie was four when Bill bought him his first cider and he has never looked back. The Gents send their condolences to this inspirational family. May Bill (Pops to the children) rest in peace.

## Hounslow Hurricanes v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 4 June, Perivale Park. Hounslow Hurricanes won toss. Sunny, 21C

Lost by 7 wickets

Gentlemen of Wsat London			Hounslow Hurricanes			
H Patel		b Prashant	43	Sunit	not out	36
Petela	c Raj	b Vikas	0	Pankaj	b J Snelling	14
*Kumar		b Vikas	4	Raj	b Kumar	1
†Krishna	c Raj	b Vikas	0	†Kaushik	b Kumar	10
Bocha	c and	b Achal	9	Darshan	not out	20
Dubey	c Darshan	b Achal	0	Roy, Achal, Amit, Paul, Prasanth and *Vikas did not bat		
S Patel	st Kaushik	b Achal	20			
Bandla		b Achal	0			
S Snelling		b Achal	3			
Chatharaju	not out		4			
J Snelling		b Amit	1			
Extras	w6 nb1		7	Extras	b1 w7 nb3	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>28.3 overs</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3 wickets</b>	<b>22.2 overs</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 0, 11, 11, 29, 29, 63, 63, 80, 86, 91			<b>FoW:</b> 22, 28, 49			
<b>Bowling:</b> Amit 6.3-1-12-1, Vikas 5-0-15-3, Achal 8-1-38-5, Raj 3-0-14-0, Prashant 6-0-12-1			<b>Bowling:</b> Dubey 3-1-10-0, S Snelling 2-0-8-0, J Sn elling 5-0-21-1, Kumar 6-0-16-2, H Patel 3-0-14-0, Bandla 2-0-11-0, Bocha 1-0-3-0, Chatharaju 0.2-0-8-0			



*Consternation during the post mortem*

Wonky Gents batting saw them dismissed for 91 on a slow but true pitch. Hurricanes then did what the Gents did not, applying themselves and knocking off the runs by ten past five with seven wickets and nearly 19 overs in hand.

This was a chastening day for a side which should have done much better. Although Perivale Park was a new venue for most Gents, the Telugu T20 boys know it well. Ealing Council has spent wisely on a new pavilion and it had a clean feel, unusual for a public park. It was a shame that the Gents could not do justice to the pleasant surroundings.

All credit to the hosts though. They have no demon quickies or fizzing spinners, and no powerhouse batsmen, but they concentrate on getting the basics right and the rewards were there for all to see. The Gents were inserted on a breezy afternoon and lost guest Petela caught first slip off a spiralling mistimed pull. Kumar got his head down before playing on but Krishna edged his second ball to second slip, Raj again obliging off Vikas. Bocha hit the first fours of the innings before chipping a caught and bowled to give the off-spinner Achal the first wicket of his quintet. Dubey likes to start assertively but was too early onto his first ball, lobbing to cover, Gents 29 for 5.

Meanwhile Hemin Patel was batting bravely and he finally found support in the trusted shape of Sanjay Patel, who put on 34 with him. Kaushik behind the timbers did the needful when Achal deceived Sanjay in the flight and Bandla was bowled four balls later. The tail was resolute enough but the demise of Hemin to the returning Prashant for a gallant and technically able 43 (four fours) put a three-figure score beyond reach. Four ducks, the same as the previous week, made dismal reading.

Dubey bowled six wides in his first over which rather summed up the visitors' day. Joel Snelling bowled Pankaj to whoops of delight and captain Kumar bowled very well, castling Raj and Kaushik. The Gents might have had a sniff had Sunit's booming vertical skyer not fallen unmolested to earth when he was on 9, when those in the vicinity opted to do a dance near the ball rather than try to catch it. It was that kind of day. Bowlers came and went and the effort was put in, but it was too small a total to defend.

Spare a thought for the captain. He had another debutant to fit in and another much changed team. The batting is challenged at the moment, as all out totals this season of 53, 101 and 91 attest, but the potential is there. Thanks to the Snellings and Elender Petela for guesting so cheerfully on a tough day.

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

Sunday 25 June, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Sunny, 21C

Won by 114 runs

Gentlemen of West London			St. Anne's Allstars				
H Patel		b Seth	39	Cresswell	c Sampath	b Bocha	4
Caveney		b Singh	10	Burgin	c Nanda	b Bocha	2
Sampath		b Singh	0	Bowman	c Sharma	b Bocha	2
Bocha		b Krishnam'rthy	27	O'Rourke	lbw	b S Patel	10
†*Kumar	c Helas	b Bowman	22	Krishnamoorthy		b Dubey	1
Francis		b Krishnam'rthy	1	Regnier-Wilson	lbw	b Sharma	7
†Dubey	c Cummings	b Silmon	22	Silmon	not out		16
S Patel	not out		7	Singh		b Bandla	1
Bandla		b Singh	19	†Cummings	c Dubey	b Bandla	0
Sharma	not out		3	Helas	run out (Bocha)		0
Nanda	did not bat			*Stephenson		b H Patel	2
Extras	b10 lb2 w21		33	Extras	b6 lb5 w12 nb1		24
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 wickets</b>	<b>35 overs</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>30.1 overs</b>	<b>69</b>

FoW: 14, 19, 79, 96, 110, 152, 152, 177

**Bowling:** Bowman 5-0-17-1, Singh 7-0-27-3, Helas 7-0-47-0, O'Rourke 3-0-12-0, Krishnamoorthy 7-0-36-2, Seth 4-0-14-1, Silmon 2-0-18-1

FoW: 9, 10, 13, 18, 27, 50, 55, 55, 55, 69

**Bowling:** Dubey 6-3-7-1, Bocha 5-2-9-3, S Patel 3-1-11-1, H Patel 5.1-1-4-1, Sharma 4-1-12-1, Bandla 3-1-3-2, Kumar 1-0-1-0, Nanda 1-0-6-0, Sampath 1-0-2-0, Caveney 1-0-3-0

The rain threatened by the BBC kept away. The junior game, of quite a high standard despite some idiotic field placings to the leg-spinner, overran (without apology from the modern parents) and the captains agreed a 35 overs format. The Gents won a good toss, batted steadily and won convincingly after taking an early flurry of visitors' wickets. This was a welcome return to form which ties the season at 4-4. Late changes saw the debut of Ranjith Chatharaju's friend Dino Francis (the 32nd. player of 2017) and the return of Sampath and the captain's cheerful friends Nanda and Sharma. The rate of change in the clubs was illustrated by the absence of 17 of those who contested this fixture in 2016. Of the Gents, only Bocha, Kumar and Hemin Patel played both. A monograph could be written on 2017 availability but through sustained, if sometimes eleventh-hour effort by members full teams are being fielded.

Caveney, who is finding opening a tough gig, and Sampath fell early but sensible batting from the middle order saw the overs batted through for only the second time in 2017. Fifties remain elusive (only Sachin Desai's so far, and that in the first game) but Bocha, Kumar, Dubey and Bandla all got in and while never running riot ensured that a workable total was got. Bandla was impressive in that he came in with only five overs to go and played forcibly but correctly from the off. There was a focus to the Gents' play, exemplified by Hemin Patel's workmanlike 39 in 22.3 overs (5 fours) that had been lacking in the previous two games, although too many easy singles are still being declined. The visitors generally bowled well, Bowman, Singh and spinner Seth the pick.

Kumar took the gloves and Dubey and Bocha shared the new ball, delivering spells of pace and accuracy. The innings began to unravel in the fourth over and by the seventh was in disarray as four wickets fell in 21 balls. Bocha had the top three, caught at short mid-off, mid-on and point. Dubey and Sanjay Patel, with a controversial lbw (see Note), then reduced St. Anne's to 27 for 5 in the 14th.

Thereafter they defended, ex-Weasel Regnier-Wilson batting 17 overs and 59 minutes for his 7. Hemin Patel and Bandla bowled spells of attrition, conceding only 7 runs in 8.1 overs and taking three wickets. The slow left-armed took wickets with his tenth and eleventh balls (the latter a catch by second 'keeper Dubey) and ran out Helas off his twelfth after fielding Bocha's throw. Sharma bowled accurately and took his first wicket for the club. After a certain amount of levity by both sides Hemin Patel then wrapped things up at five past six when he bowled Stephenson. Kumar had used ten bowlers. How briefly cannot be foreseen, but after his runs and another wicket Hemin Patel tops both runs and wickets totals after this match. He was not slow in broadcasting this fact.

Note: "Plumb" according to the bowler, "Pitching outside leg" according to the enraged batsman, "Definitely out, he shuffled across his stumps" according to the umpire.

## Gentlemen of West London v. White Swans

Sunday 2 July, Old Tenisonians. Toss agreed. Sunny, 22C

Won by 142 runs

Gentlemen of West London			White Swans				
H Patel		b Raj	20	Gihan	b Lele	4	
Basker	c Raj	b Khalid	85	Khrish	lbw	b Chatharaju	2
†*Kumar	st Patel	b Raj	48	Upen		b Chatharaju	4
A Khan		b Khalid	13	*Raj	c and	b Bocha	29
S Patel	st Patel	b Upen	22	†Patel		b Bocha	9
Bocha	c Bahv	b Gihan	11	Umkar	st Dubey	b H Patel	13
†Dubey	not out		3	Khalid		b Sampath	4
Chatharaju	run out		1	Bhavesh		b H Patel	0
Bandla		b Upen	2	†Rands		b A Khan	1
Caveney	not out		0	Amrish	c Sampath	b Caveney	4
Sampath	did not bat			Bahv	not out		2
Lele	did not bat						
<b>Extras</b>	b11 lb1 w10 nb1		23	<b>Extras</b>	b5 w7 nb2		14
<b>Total</b>	<b>8 wickets</b>	<b>35 overs</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>27.5 overs</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>FoW:</b>	67, 170, 203, 211, 218, 222, 227			<b>FoW:</b>	9, 13, 17, 45, 72, 73, 73, 79, 80, 86		
<b>Bowling:</b>	Patel 7-0-43-0, Upen 6-0-25-2, Raj 7-0-40-2,			<b>Bowling:</b>	Dubey 6-2-10-0, Chatharaju 5-2-5-2, Lele 5-0-23-1,		
	Gihan 6-0-29-1, Umkar 2-0-20-0, Bhavesh 1-0-16-0, Khrish 2-0-16-0,				Bocha 5-0-29-2, Bandla 1-0-1-0, H Patel 1-1-0-2, A Khan 2-0-5-1,		
	Khalid 4-0-27-2				Sampath 2-0-7-1, Caveney 0.5-0-1-1		

The highlights of an entertaining game were dynamic Gents top-order batting and a brush with Law 41 (The Fielder). Basker took full advantage of a drop on 23, Kumar returned to form and there were good cameos lower down. Chatharaju produced an exemplary spell of seam bowling down the hill and wickets were shared around in the fifth victory of the season. White Swans were game opponents who enjoyed little luck. A young, well-led and well-organised team with several teenagers and university students, who really knew their cricket, they lacked a bit of experience but are clearly a side on the up.

The Gents batted by agreement and scored consistently, Basker, Hemin Patel and Kumar efficiently punishingly the loose ball. The black-trousered Basker was sensational; his booming off drives will live long in the memory. Hemin Patel was steady before having a swish in the 13th over. This let in Kumar, he and Basker each adding 48 in a second-wicket stand of 103 in 14.4 overs. Kumar (five fours and a six) and Basker (ten fours and a six) both fell on 170, whereupon the middle order batted brightly. Wickets fell regularly, including two smart Patel stumpings and a brilliant catch by teenager Bahv to see off Bocha.

Mickey Mouse paid a most welcome visit in White Swans' innings. Gents had 12, including the skipper's mate Ashish Lele who would bowl but not bat. Kumar also loaned Lele's mate Umkar to White Swans as they were one short. Twelve Gents then infiltrated the pitch and the Gents had bowled 6.4 overs before their scorer noticed, just after Guhan had been given out lbw to Dubey. After much animated but amiable discussion the umpire called a dot ball. Law 41, a dignified piece of prose, is understandably silent on such buffoonery. The umpire should have done a headcount before the innings started although no harm was done. To those who say that the innings should have restarted we say this. Once the bowler begins his run up previous decisions cannot be changed. And people have homes to go to.

Dubey swung the ball away up the hill and was parsimonious (he's going at under 3 runs per over this season) but on the day was outshone by the very impressive Ranjith Chatharaju. His figures speak for themselves and from 16 for 2 off 11 overs there was no way back for the visitors. Lele's left-arm round troubled the batsmen and Bocha took a sharp low caught and bowled. Batsmen came and went cheerfully, two in three balls from Hemin Patel, who along with Bandla was withdrawn after a singleton to give everyone a go. Wickets were shared around, Sampath and Caveney taking their first for the club and Dubey got a stumping. Caveney finished off proceedings when he had Amrish taken sharply by square-leg Sampath, celebrating with a dance the contents of which need not detain us.

Is a pleasure to report that the fixture was retained for 2018. It will be interesting to see White Swans' evolution. After nearly folding in the winter they have expelled their glory hunters and got in a lot of new, young players. Good luck to them, they were excellent company.