
THE GENT

No.167

August 2019

Superfan meets his hero Chatharaju



Match reports:

Whalers (won by 69 runs)

West London (won by 108 runs)

Battersea Eagles (won by 19 runs)

QMC Pak (won by 25 runs)

Northfields (won by 67 runs)

Clapham In (lost by 49 runs)

News, gossip, averages and statistics

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Read about the Gents on www.gowlcc.org



Cool Sumit takes 100 wickets

We are delighted to recognise the feat of Sumit Kumar, who when he bowled Bradley Cooper of Battersea Eagles took his 100th wicket, the tenth Gent to do so, ascending to this magical figure with a climax of eight in two games. During his 491.4 overs he paid only 3.91 runs per over with a best return of 6-1-20-5 against West London. His 16 wickets so far in 2019 is a personal best, beating his 14 in 2016. Mark Ashton, Tony Buck, Sumit Kumar, Hemin Patel, Dhruv Patel, Sanjay Patel, Mark Sciberras, Stuart Snelling, Daniel Todd and Jim Wright are now members of this exclusive club.

	<i>M.</i>	<i>Inn.</i>	<i>NO</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Ang.</i>	<i>Ct./St.</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Runs</i>	<i>Wck.</i>	<i>Ang.</i>
Kumar	113	99	16	1,695	20.42	14	491.4	54	1,926	100	19.26

Nilesh and Wayne join 100 Club

Congratulations also go to Wayne Caveney and Nilesh Dubey, whose commendable loyalty has catapulted them into the 100 Club, the 16th and 17th to do so. Averages are less important than commitment. The only other player on the horizon for the 100 Club is Sachin Desai, who has not added to his 94 appearances this season.

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Caveney	100	85	16	797	11.55	9	15.5	0	130	1	130.00
Dubey	100	91	14	1,550	20.13	24/3	412.2	49	1,703	66	25.81

Modern sight screens – rubbish!



The Wycombe House backlash has started. No sooner had Girinath Reddy smashed a hole in one of their polycarbonate sight screens (picture © Sri Nivas Agency) than eminent correspondent Steve Bignell unleashed a rant about such pieces of apparatus: “Sight screens are a disgrace these days with their plastic panels. J. Webster hit one last week and the whole thing fell to bits. Due to the wind on Saturday most of them had either disintegrated or blown over. What happened to the solid wooden ones?” The Gents await an invoice for Reddy’s wanton act of vandalism.

The electronic scoreboard panicked the easily distracted David Bender, who mucked up the scores of the individual batsmen and abandoned his post. The poor fellow was inconsolable, choosing to sit on the grass by the old board.

Fixture addition

We confirm a return with the splendid Crossbats away at Marble Hill Park on **Saturday** 21 September. They are touring Montenegro that weekend but have a big squad and their stay at homes were looking for a game. Hale away on Sunday 22 September still goes ahead as far as we know, but it is no secret that Hale are having troubles raising sides. Availability is high that weekend so the intention is to involve everyone.

Plastics shock Tigers

The 2019 Nostradamus Award goes to *The Gent*, which forecast in its previous edition that Plastics CC were a talented side on the way up. By extensively populating their card with established teams, we argued, they were bound to lose more than they win, but long-term, provided the players kept their interest up, this strategy must pay off. And it is beginning to. On 11 August they restricted a strong Winchmore Hill Tigers to 183/8, chasing it down with 186/2. The best win of their short history? Highlights are on [instagram.com/plasticsxi/](https://www.instagram.com/plasticsxi/) twitter.com/plasticsxi

Brentham up to their old tricks

Return fixtures are now being played in the Middlesex CCL Div2. Eager to avenge their June mauling at the hands of local rivals Brentham, Wycombe House hosted them on 10 August. Sadly, having been bowled out for 37 in the first clash, they fell one run shy and scored 36 chasing 107 in the second. Two teams are relegated and at the time of writing Wycombe House are unfortunately in one of those slots, being second last on 40 points, ahead of Eastcote (21) but two behind Enfield (42).

Our old friend lbw

Here is the advice of an ex-professional umpire on the subject of granting an lbw to a right arm bowler bowling over the wicket to a left-handed batsman, or a left arm bowler bowling over the wicket to a right-hander. What would he look for?

If I were the umpire, I'd be looking for a right arm bowler to pitch it in line with the stumps and straighten it (either off the wicket or through the air). The angle of delivery to a left hander is such that without that deviation, any ball that pitches in line will go on to miss and anything hitting the stumps is likely to be pitching outside the line of leg stump (same situation as a left arm over the wicket bowler to a right hand batsman) unless the bowler gets tight into the stumps. But that can leave the bowler prone to kicking the stumps in their delivery stride, or following through into the protected area down the middle of the pitch and neither of these outcomes is desirable. Also don't let it bounce too high – any suggestion of excessive bounce (i.e. hitting above the knee roll or on the batsman's thigh pad) will likely see your appeal turned down. So full and straight is your best bet for success.

A left arm bowler then, bowling over the wicket to a right-hander, can get an lbw appeal correctly upheld, but the ball must pitch and hit the pads in line of the stumps. Wasim Akram did this many times, bowling his insane inswinging yorkers left arm over, and got plenty of lbws. Just so we are all clear.

How the Gents lose their wickets (nobody bowls Pavan)

Player	B.	Ct.	Lbw	St./RO	Total	Player	B.	Ct.	Lbw	St./RO	Total
Namilikonda	6	4	4	1	15	Puli	2	-	-	-	2
Kota	-	8	4	1	13	Z. Ahmed	-	1	-	-	1
Chatharaju	5	3	4	-	12	Antoine	-	-	1	-	1
Sudireddy	7	2	1	2	12	Bocha	1	-	-	-	1
Dubey	5	2	1	1	9	Khan	1	-	-	-	1
Caveney	6	1	-	1	8	R. Kumar	1	-	-	-	1
H. Patel	3	4	-	1	8	Locke	1	-	-	-	1
Kumar	3	2	1	1	7	Mohan	1	-	-	-	1
Gulati	1	1	2	2	6	Newcombe	1	-	-	-	1
Basker	1	4	-	-	5	Pavithran	1	-	-	-	1
Krishna	2	1	2	-	5	Poulter	1	-	-	-	1
S. Patel	2	2	-	1	5	Reddy	-	1	-	-	1
Corbett	1	2	1	-	4	Sciberras	1	-	-	-	1
Francis	1	3	-	-	4	Shaikh	-	1	-	-	1
A. Ahmed	1	2	-	-	3	J. Snelling	-	-	1	-	1
Pentakota	2	-	1	-	3	S. Snelling	1	-	-	-	1

Busy Brick

It was a shame that rain ruined the game with our friends Bricklayer's Arms for the third time in a row. Their July had been exciting up to then. On the evening of Tuesday 2 July, Tom Poulter did the hat-trick for them against Superstars at Wandsworth Park. Two weeks later, they got the better of a confrontation with some young people. Good for them.

“A comprehensive victory was set up with a first Bricklayer's Arms hat-trick as Tom Poulter wrapped up Superstars' innings in style. Superstars were 36/2 in eight overs. Now Mohammed Waqas and Tom Poulter took over the bowling and combined as Tom took a nonchalant one-handed catch at cover off his bowling partner. Tom then took out the off bail with a beauty while Waqas cut one in to knock back off stump. That was the dangerous surviving opener gone, and now Prakhar Chandra came to the party with two wickets, one thanks to Ravi calling and pouching a skier, the other bowled. This set up an over Tom will long remember. The first three balls just brought a single but the fourth was hit back to him low enough to counteract the setting sun. The fifth flicked the pad on route to clipping the leg bail. In came the field for the final ball of his spell. It was straight, it hit the pad, up went the umpire's finger and off came Tom's shirt as he careered towards fine leg celebrating the Brick's first hat-trick. The umpire refrained from booking him.”

“Winning the Cricket World Cup has done marvellous things for the sport. Suddenly young cricketers have poured outdoors in joyous enthusiasm for the game, improvising games wherever they could find a pitch. Like our one, which we arrived to find strewn with boundary markers from the artificial wicket next door, which the local youth refused to move off our square. They hadn't paid for the pitch and we had. So, in the spirit of inclusivity and bringing cricket to all parts of this rainbow nation, we summoned the groundsman to evict them under threat of calling the parks police.”

Junior gluttons pass 1,000 runs



Gluttony, as depicted by Hieronymus Bosch above in his laughalong oil painting *The Seven Deadly Sins and the Four Last Things* (c.1500), is with us everywhere, and is notoriously manifest at Winchmore Hill CC in North London. Colts James Blundell (1,181) and Joe Webster (1,067) have passed 1,000 runs and it is still only August.

These two gallant lads went potty in the 4 and 6 August matches, scoring 433. On the Sunday, Blundell (100) and Webster (84) helped Winchmore Hill Tigers to 342/5, enough to beat Wealdstone Corinthians (242) by 100 runs. Then on the Tuesday for Hill's U.15s, Blundell scored 131* and Webster 118 in a T20 total of 269/2 against Harrow U.15s. Gents visit Tigers on 1 September.

2019 scorecards and results

13/4	Marble Hill Park	Crossbats 167-4 (McAlpine 68, S. Skinner 51, Wright 20) Gents 170-5 (Kota 57, Basker 55, Sudireddy 33*, Ross 4-18)	Won by 5 wickets
21/4	Byfleet	Byfleet 161-9 (Akhtar 57, Fahey 28, Mangineni 4-16) Gents 164-6 (Namilikonda 56, Sudireddy 28*, Kota 20)	Won by 4 wickets
28/4	Cavendish RG	Gents 138 (Dubey 45, Neal 3-22) Gubbays 109 (Aryuat 25, Namilikonda 4-17, Pentakota 3-10)	Won by 29 runs
5/5	Hilly Fields	Millfields 103 (Collis 66*, Cordell 20, H. Patel 4-29, Kumar 3-31) Gents 82 (C. Cooper 3-8)	Lost by 21 runs
12/5	Old Tenisonians	Gents 201-7 (Kota 93*, Namilikonda 28, Dubey 20, Hasan 3-41) Wimbledon United 131 (Patel 40)	Won by 70 runs
19/5	Old Tenisonians	Gents 182-9 (Gulati 43*, Pentakota 41, S. Patel 20, Walsh 4-19) Kempton 186-6 (Little 108*, Newman 31)	Lost by 4 wickets
26/5	CSSC Chiswick	Northfields 152-9 (Ismail 42, Paynter 28, H. Patel 3-20, Namilikonda 3-25) Gents 156-2 (R. Patel 50*, Basker 34, Namilikonda 32, Kota 26*)	Won by 8 wickets
2/6	Wycombe House	Gents 313-6 (Gulati 102*, Z. Ahmed 53*, Shaikh 44, Kumar 34*, Badar 3-43) Brentham 124-8 (Vinay 43, Ankit 29, H. Patel 3-10)	Won by 189 runs
9/6	Old Tenisonians	Gents 242-5 (Kota 88*, Sudireddy 52*, Gulati 48) Plastics 90 (Morgan-Grenville 46, Namilikonda 4-4, Chatharaju 3-11)	Won by 152 runs
16/6	Crown Taverners	Gents 179-7 (Kota 79, Namilikonda 35, Sudireddy 30, Duffy 3-20) Crown Taverners 63 (Hayhoe 25, Namilikonda 3-17)	Won by 116 runs
22/6	Ealing Central SG	St Anne's Allstars 178-3 (Pereira 66*, Chaudhry 61, Rattan 24) Gents 153 (H. Patel 46, Sudireddy 29, Rattan 4-16, Silmon 3-24)	Lost by 25 runs
30/6	Teddington Town	Gents 181 (S. Patel 57*, Namilikonda 50, Poulter 42, Naseri 4-26, Walsh 3-44) Teddington Town 111 (Dobani 39, Poulter 3-18)	Won by 70 runs
7/7	Wycombe House	Gents 207 (A. Ahmed 40, Z. Ahmed 32, Kota 28, Francis 24, Chatharaju 21, Nick 3-37, Daniel 3-38) Whalers 138 (Humphreys 32, Kieran 31, Dillen 24, Kota 5-8, Dubey 3-25)	Won by 69 runs
14/7	Cottenham Park	Gents 233-6 (A. Ahmed 72*, Francis 38, Kumar 20*) West London 125 (Shelby 36, Kumar 5-20)	Won by 108 runs
21/7	Old Tenisonians	Gents 199-8 (Kumar 60, Namilikonda 53, Cooper 4-39) Battersea Eagles 180 (Karan 60, Harris 43, Chatharaju 4-42, Kumar 3-3)	Won by 19 runs
4/8	Old Tenisonians	Gents 185-5 (Chatharaju 57*, H. Patel 28, Namilikonda 26, Gulati 21*, D. Khan 3-32) Pak 160 (H. Khan 70, D. Khan 20, H. Patel 4-28)	Won by 25 runs
11/8	Wycombe House	Gents 246 (Gulati 59, Reddy 42, Chatharaju 38, Kumar 36, Kent 3-27) Northfields 179-7 (David Redhead 67*, Derrick Redhead 28, Garner 20*)	Won by 67 runs
18/8	Old Tenisonians	Clapham In 177-6 (Ferreira 59, Plaja 57, Curtis 22, Shinner 20) Gents 128 (Sudireddy 36, Namilikonda 24, Bage 3-17)	Lost by 49 runs

Date	Gents	Result	W. Hill Tigers	Result
Sat 13 April	Crossbats	Won by 5 wickets	-	-
Sun 21 April	Byfleet	Won by 4 wickets	-	-
Sun 28 April	Gubbays	Won by 29 runs	Harrowdene	Lost by 13 runs
Sun 5 May	Millfields	Lost by 21 runs	Gubbays	Lost by 6 wickets
Sat 11 May	-	-	Porto	Lost by 5 wickets
Sun 12 May	Wimbledon United	Won by 70 runs	Porto	Tied
Sun 19 May	Kempton	Lost by 4 wickets	Shakespeare	Lost by 5 wickets
Sun 26 May	Northfields	Won by 8 wickets	N2 Casuals	Drawn
Sun 2 June	Brentham	Won by 189 runs	Little Berkhamsted	Lost by 6 wickets
Sun 9 June	Plastics	Won by 152 runs	SLOBS	Won by 28 runs
Sun 16 June	Crown Taverners	Won by 116 runs	Railway Taverners	Won by 6 wickets
Sat 22 June	St Anne's Allstars	Lost by 25 runs	Twinstead	Cancelled
Sun 23 June	-	-	Easton	Drawn
Sun 30 June	Teddington Town	Won by 70 runs	Motley Crew	Won by 6 wickets
Sun 7 July	Whalers	Won by 69 runs	Cincinnati	Lost by 4 wickets
Sun 14 July	West London	Won by 108 runs	Harringay Libraries	Won by 3 wickets
Sun 21 July	Battersea Eagles	Won by 19 runs	-	-
Sun 28 July	Bricklayer's Arms	Cancelled (rain)	Spartans	Lost by 28 runs
Sun 4 August	QMC Pak	Won by 25 runs	Wealdstone Corinthians	Won by 100 runs
Sun 11 August	Northfields	Won by 67 runs	Plastics	Lost by 8 wickets
Sun 18 August	Clapham In	Lost by 49 runs	Potter Street	Cancelled
Sun 25 August	Bricklayer's Arms	-	-	-
Sun 1 Sept	Winchmore Hill Tigers	-	Gentlemen of West London	-
Sat 7 Sept	Squirrels	-	-	-
Sun 8 Sept	-	-	Mayfield	-
Sun 15 Sept	Salix	-	Graces	-
Sat 21 Sept	Crossbats	-	-	-
Sun 22 Sept	Hale	-	Fives	-
Sat 28 Sept	-	-	Railway Taverners	-
Record Runs	Played 18 Won 14 Lost 4 Kota 457, Namilikonda 360, Gulati 309, Sudireddy 287, Chatharaju 187, Kumar 178, Dubey 155, H. Patel 119, Basker 117, A. Ahmed 114		Played 16 Won 5 Lost 8 Drawn 2 Tied 1 J. Ranger 462, Greenham 336, Wright 208, Dane 160, Warren 148, Lloyd-Barnes 139, M. Webster 137, Ward 122, Jhangiani 105	
Wickets	Namilikonda 25, Chatharaju 18, H. Patel 17, Kumar 16, Kota 15		M. Webster 22, Jhangiani 11, Wright 11, Warren 10	
Catches/Stumpings	Namilikonda 15/3, Sudireddy 8/1, Kota 7, Dubey 6, Gulati 6, S. Patel 6		Warren 7, J. Ranger 6	

Averages

Player (*debut)	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
A. Ahmed	4	4	1	114	38.00	1	-	-	-	-	-
*Z. Ahmed	2	2	1	85	85.00	-	1	0	1	2	0.50
Basker	6	6	1	117	23.40	1/3	2	0	28	0	-
Caveney	10	9	1	55	6.88	1	0.3	0	4	0	-
Chatharaju	17	14	2	187	15.58	1	85.3	9	340	18	18.89
*Corbett	5	4	-	26	6.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dubey	12	11	2	155	17.22	6	50	4	169	9	18.78
Francis	4	4	-	78	19.50	1	-	-	-	-	-
Gulati	11	9	3	309	51.50	6	49	3	227	7	32.43
Khan	2	1	-	5	5.00	1	6	0	36	1	36.00
Kota	16	16	3	457	35.15	7	44	2	239	15	15.93
Krishna	9	5	-	21	4.20	1	45	5	160	6	26.67
Kumar	10	8	1	178	25.43	2	61	7	199	16	12.44
Namilikonda	16	15	-	360	24.00	15/3	77	6	287	25	11.48
Newcombe	3	3	2	29	29.00	-	6	2	10	3	3.33
H. Patel	14	10	2	119	14.88	2	58	6	238	17	14.00
S. Patel	16	8	3	97	19.40	6	27.1	1	145	2	72.50
*Pavithran	2	2	1	2	2.00	-	3	0	13	2	6.50
Pentakota	4	3	-	71	23.67	-	27	2	109	3	36.33
Puli	3	2	-	18	9.00	1	-	-	-	-	-
Sudireddy	16	16	4	287	23.92	8/1	9	0	47	1	47.00

One match only: *Antoine 1/1/-/0, 3-0-23-0, Bender 1/1/1/5, Bocha 1/1/-/0, (1 ct.), 4-0-23-1, *R. Kumar 1/1/-/1, 1-0-1-0, *Locke 1/1/-/0, *Maddulapalli 1/1/1/2, Mangineni 1/-/-/-, 8-2-16-4, *Mohan 1/1/-/0, R. Patel 1/1/1/50, 8-0-23-1 (1 ct.), *Poulter 1/1/-/42, 8-1-18-3, *Reddy 1/1/-/42, 5-1-8-1 (1 ct.), Sciberras 1/1/-/0, 4-0-26-0, *V. Shah 1/-/-/-, 7-0-24-0, Shaikh 1/1/-/44, 3-0-10-0, J. Snelling 1/1/-/6, 7-2-17-1, S. Snelling 1/1/-/10, 7-1-17-1, *Teja 1/-/-/-, 0-1-0-0-1

2019 in numbers so far

Highest score for: 313-6 v Brentham
Against: 186-6 by Kempton

Lowest score for: 82 v Millfields
Against: 63 by Crown Taverners

50s/100s for (16): 102* Gulati v Brentham, 93* Kota v Wimbledon United, 88 Kota v Plastics, 79 Kota v Crown Taverners, 72* A. Ahmed v West London, 60 Kumar v Battersea Eagles, 59 Gulati v Northfields, 57* Chatharaju v QMC Pak, 57 Kota v Crossbats, 57* S. Patel v Teddington Town, 56 Namilikonda v Byfleet, 53* Z. Ahmed v Brentham, 53 Namilikonda v Battersea Eagles, 52* Sudireddy v Plastics, 50 Namilikonda v Teddington Town, 50* R. Patel v Northfields

50s/100s against (12): 108* Little (Kempton), 70 H. Khan (QMC Pak), 68 McAlpine (Crossbats), 67* David Redhead (Northfields), 66* Pereira (St Anne's Allstars), 62* Collis (Millfields), 61 Chaudhry (St Anne's Allstars), 60 Karan (Battersea Eagles), 59 Ferreira (Clapham In), 57 Akhtar (Byfleet), 57 Plaja (Clapham In), 51 S. Skinner (Crossbats)

100 partnerships for (4): 144 3rd wicket Gulati/Z. Ahmed/Shaiikh/Corbett v Brentham, 116 2nd Basker/Kota v Crossbats, 110 5th A. Ahmed/Francis v West London, 107 3rd Kota/Gulati v Plastics

100 partnerships against (1): 104 1st S. Skinner/McAlpine (Crossbats)

4-wicket returns for (8): 5-8 Kota v Whalers, 5-20 Kumar v West London, 4-4 Namilikonda v Plastics, 4-16 Mangineni v Byfleet, 4-17 Namilikonda v Gubbays, 4-28 H. Patel v QMC Pak, 4-31 H. Patel v Millfields, 4-42 Chatharaju v Battersea Eagles

4-wicket returns against (5): 4-16 Rattan (St Anne's Allstars), 4-18 Ross (Crossbats), 4-19 Walsh (Kempton), 4-26 Naseri (Teddington Town), 4-39 Cooper (Battersea Eagles)

Sixes (40): 9 Sudireddy, 6 Gulati, Kota, 5 Namilikonda, 3 Dubey, Reddy 2 Chatharaju, R. Patel, S. Patel 1 Corbett, H. Patel

Run outs of opponents (13): 2 Gulati, S. Patel 1 Ahmed, Chatharaju, Francis, Kota, Kumar, H. Patel, Pentakota, Reddy, Sudireddy

Ducks (19): 2 A. Ahmed, Chatharaju 1 Antoine, Basker, Bocha, Caveney, Corbett, Kota, Krishna, Kumar, Locke, Mohan, Namilikonda, S. Patel, Pavithran, Puli, Sciberras, Sudireddy

Notes to the Interim Accounts

- Chandrasekhar Puli was going to be asterisked as a debutant but no, he played one game in 2018. Welcome back
- The Mohan above, Prakash, is Praveen Bocha's mate. The Mohan who played in 2013 is Keith Dimond's mate, so yes to the asterisk
- Add in the 12 debutants above to the 2018 total of 375 and 387 have now represented the club
- The total of 38 players used so far is five fewer than in 2018. Not since 2010 (35) have fewer played
- A. Ahmed, Chatharaju, Gulati, Namilikonda and Sudireddy have posted personal highest scores for the club
- Chatharaju, Kota, Kumar, Mangineni and Namilikonda have returned maiden hauls of four or more wickets
- Namilikonda's 15 catches and 18 fielding dismissals are club records
- No opponent has yet carded a total of 200 or more. Gents bowlers last prevented such a score in 2012

Gentlemen of West London v Whalers

Sunday 7 July, Wycombe House. Gents won toss. Sunny, 22C

Won by 69 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Whalers			
H. Patel		b Nick	12	*Humphreys	run out (Kota)	32
†Dubey	c Gaggan	b Nick	14	Gaggan	c A. Ahmed	14
Kota	c Humphreys	b Nick	28	Dillen	b Namilikonda	24
†Namilikonda	lbw	b Amit	4	Kieran	c Namilikonda	31
Z. Ahmed	c Daniel	b Kamalanathan	32	Viren	st Namilikonda	6
Caveney		b Amit	4	Dheeraj		2
Chatharaju	lbw	b Daniel	21	Pavithran		6
Francis	c and	b Dheeraj	24	†Daniel	not out	6
A. Ahmed		b Daniel	40	Amit		3
Kumar		b Daniel	0	Nick	st Namilikonda	0
*S. Patel	not out		5	Kamalanathan	lbw	0
Extras	b4 w13 nb6		23	Extras	b1 lb1 w9 nb3	14
Total	All out	34.4 overs	207	Total	All out	32.2 overs
FoW: 24, 35, 43, 81, 94, 110, 137, 187, 188, 207			FoW: 42, 56, 106, 117, 120, 129, 130, 135, 236, 138			
Bowling: Dheeraj 6-0-28-1, Nick 7-0-37-3, Amit 7-0-52-2, Pavithran 2-0-17-0, Kamalanathan 6-0-31-0, Daniel 6.4-0-38-3			Bowling: Kumar 7-0-24-0, Namilikonda 7-0-31-1, Chatharaju 6-0-24-0, S. Patel 3-0-24-0, Dubey 6-0-25-3, Kota 3.2-1-8-5			



The Gents' second excursion to Wycombe House saw a splendid win against talented and gracious new opponents, who are a certainty for the 2020 card. Intelligent late order batting saw the Gents to a solid 207 all out. The visitors were in the hunt for 20 overs but were prised out by Kota's remarkable spell of off spin, in which he delivered the club's best return since 2016 when Upender Sanga took 6-11.

The 1pm start was delayed by in order that Wycombe House Hon. Cricket Secretary and No.5 bat Zahid Khan could give the pitch a final roll after steady morning rain. It was fun watching the heavy roller behemoth trundle up and down. The groundsman wanted a 2.30pm start but was negotiated back 45 minutes when the sun came out. S. Patel had reflected on the batting order and chose to put specialist batsmen Francis and A. Ahmed, both returning from injury, at No.s 8 and 9. Kumar and S. Patel are also batsmen of great merit, so it was a strong tail.

The hosts scored at a healthy rate but lost wickets on a lively pitch to decline to a collapsible 110/6 after 20 overs. Kota and Z. Khan batted pleasingly and Namilikonda had a nervous breakdown after missing a dipping full toss that he intercepted with his pads on the back foot in front of middle. Whalers had bowlers of skill and variety and were on top. H. Patel was struggling to walk after his innings (he shouldn't have played but is a brave man) and spent the rest of the day on the sidelines.



Credit therefore Chatharaju, Francis and A. Ahmed (left, in civilian clothing), who batted splendidly, scoring 97 off the final 15. Chatharaju hit hard and ran extremely well, Francis was rigid in defence and elegant in attack while Ahmed cautiously played himself in before unleashing some fine shots. His fifth and final four was all-run, an impressive feat of stamina, each run cheered to the echo. Tea – sandwiches, pasta and pizzas – was taken on the decking in the sunshine and play resumed at 4.45pm.

Whalers set about their task carefully, pinned back by the bowled-through Kumar and Namilikonda. Gaggan pulled to mid-wicket in the 10th. Captain Will Humphreys then took on square leg Kota's throw but was run out with a direct hit five overs later. He looked a most competent player. Dillen and Melburnian Kieran then put on 50 in nine overs, surviving a couple of drops then playing some good shots. Chatharaju bowled a challenging spell but could not split them, nor could the captain.

Dubey and Kota then won the match. Dubey bowled Dillen and had Kieran caught behind hooking by Namilikonda, now wearing the gloves. Kota then took the last five wickets in 20 balls. Two were bowled, two stumped while giving it the charge and Kamalanathan lbw on the dot of seven. It was a fine win, for one sensed that the teams were well matched.

Local colts and parents were practising in the nets, so thanks to two randoms, dad in his Barcelona top then son in his Pakistan top, who sub fielded for H. Patel. Vasi Shaikh kindly took over scoring duties when the usual scorer lost it in the heat, and Sijin Pavithran guested for Whalers.

Whalers' report

The Whalers took a variety of different routes to the leafy west London suburbs of Syon Lane for our first game against new opposition the Gentlemen of West London. Despite the use of the heavy roller, the pitch was surprisingly two-paced with the occasional ball popping up all day. The Gents openers started quickly before Nick got them both. But the Gents continued to roll along at 5-6 runs an over, with their No.5 looking especially dangerous until Kamal got him to lob up a simple catch. Amit also picked up a couple of wickets. At 137/7 it could have gone either way.

However, their No.s 7 to 9 all batted very sensibly to push the score over 200 despite three wickets for Dan and one for Dheeraj in a good second spell. The Whalers held up well in the field, with excellent work from Will and Gaggan in particular. Lowlights included a couple of dropped catches, and an all-run four when the fielders decided that the ball was clearly going to go over the boundary.

Tea was excellent despite the absence of the much-promised curry, with pasta and homemade cakes. Will and Gaggan then started well against tight bowling, until Gaggan got one which popped and then Will ran himself out for 32. Dillen and Kieran then kept things going. At drinks we were behind but with lots of wickets in hand, and were still in the game. However, a few tight overs saw the required run-rate climb to nine, and once Dillen and Kieran were out, the rest of the batting line-up were unable to deal with the off spin of Kota as the Whalers quickly subsided to defeat. Overall a reasonable team performance against very friendly opposition, and we did well to stay in the game until the last few overs.

Gentlemen of West London v West London

Sunday 14 July, Cottenham Park. West London won toss. Sunny, 22C

Won by 108 runs

Gentlemen of West London			West London			
Namilikonda	c Daanyaal	b Hashnat	11	Hirash	b Krishna	2
Chatharaju	lbw	b Ashir	1	Hamza	c Francis	13
*Kota	c Daanyaal	b Samuel	10	Umar	c Namilikonda	9
†Sudireddy	c Umar	b Samuel	12	*†Daanyaal	c Chatharaju	6
A. Ahmed	not out		72	Shelby	c Kota	36
Francis	c Ashir	b Omar	38	Hashnat	c Khan	16
Caveney		b Anas	0	Hassan	c Sudireddy	5
Kumar	not out		20	Ashir	c Namilikonda	19
H. Patel, Krishna and Khan	dnb			Samuel	not out	8
				Anas	b Kumar	0
				Omar	b Kota	0
Extras	b32 lb3 w31 nb3		69	Extras	b1 w10	11
Total	6 wickets	35 overs	233	Total	All out	29.2 overs
FoW:	9, 25, 52, 57, 167, 168			FoW:	6, 22, 43, 43, 75, 87, 113, 119, 125, 125	
Bowling:	Ashir 7-1-29-1, Hashnat 7-0-33-1, Shelby 4-0-13-0, Samuel 1-0-9-2, Hirash 6-0-21-0, Umar 1-0-11-0, Hassan 3-0-16-0, Anas 3-0-28-1, Omar 3-0-38-1			Bowling:	Krishna 7-1-30-2, Namilikonda 5-0-21-1, Kumar 6-1-20-5, Chatharaju 5-1-20-1, H. Patel 4-0-20-0, Khan 2-0-13-0, Kota 0.2-0-0-1	

What an afternoon! This should have been the return with Wimbledon United, but the Maroons bailed when England got to the World Cup final. They kindly let the Gents use their ground and West London took up the fixture, describing themselves as of medium strength. The internet revealed no social media footprint, but Northfields CC reported a close win against them in June in a well-spirited game. A long day saw a solid Gents win marred by ugly controversy that could have resulted in abandonment or worse before five overs were out. After order was restored, the sides fought out an entertaining affair in which a stand of 110 between A. Ahmed and Francis, a host of extras and Kumar's bowling proved decisive. Hemin Patel handed over the captaincy to Pavan Kota, who justified his promotion with innovative field placement and deployment of the bowlers.

The Gents' innings was dominated by Ahmed's brave 72*, Francis's elegant 38 and an extras total only two south of the 71 conceded by Monty RH in 2016. Chatharaju, having been hit on the helmet by a bouncer, was lbw to a shooter, the prolific Namilikonda and Kota perished caught behind off top-edged pulls and Sudireddy picked out mid on. Ashir and Hashnat were fast and hostile, loudly encouraged by an extensive cordon of slips. That was 57/4 in the 12th over, extras beginning to mount. Controversy came when Namilikonda hit the ball twice, jabbing down on a yorker and clipping the ball as it bounced towards his stumps. Cue mayhem, dancing up and down, and loud accusations of cheating.

Law 34 Hit the Ball Twice states: "Solely in order to guard his wicket and before the ball has been touched by a fielder, the striker may lawfully strike the ball a second or subsequent time with his bat". This in umpire Krishna's judgement (and he is a sound judge) was what happened. West London were satisfied and play continued, albeit with an undercurrent of simmering tension.

For 17 overs Ahmed and Francis backed their talent with wisdom and authority, punishing the bad ball, defending the good and clipping singles where they could. Francis was possibly run out, the appeal being declined by an unsighted umpire but he was caught soon after, to be followed quickly by Caveney, out of form and in low spirits. Kumar struck a jaunty 20 to push Gents up to 233, by 121 their highest score here. It was a very tired Ameer Ahmed who trudged off for his tea after batting for two hours (24 overs, with 13 fours), applause ringing in his ears. A club highest score was deserved and was a fine way to start his thirtieth birthday celebrations. We wish him many happy returns.

The first innings had lasted five minutes short of three hours. Adding back wides and no balls, West London put down 39.5 overs in that time. Tea comprised vada pavs, jelabi and fruit, a perfect combination on a sultry day. The healthy appetites of the energetic visitors were not quite sated though, and they ordered pizzas to be delivered during their innings.



Sumit Kumar – 5-20 if you please

With no choice but to attack, the visitors went for their shots from the starter's pistol. Krishna bowled three separate spells, castling Hirash in his second over.

Kumar then bowled a superb first spell up the hill, winking out three batsmen courtesy of neat catches. The seamers were on their game throughout, Namilikonda and Chatharaju also among the wickets. The best batting was by the powerful Shelby, who lofted Krishna, Namilikonda and H. Patel into the trees for the day's only sixes. West London could have done with another hour of him.

Only three times have the Gents exceeded the seven catches taken here. With his pair, Namilikonda went to 13 for the season, only one fewer than Ian Maughan's 1993 record. Kumar with his fourth and fifth wickets, and Kota with his second ball, cleaned up the tail to end a day of controversy and incident. Credit too the scorer, who discharged his duties perfectly while being wreathed in the narcotic fug of Omar's reefers.

Kumar's 5-20 was his best Gents return and most deserved. Sudireddy put in a good shift in his third game as 'keeper, sprinting to catch Hassan. What a find. He was in fact lucky to survive the game during his umpiring stint, the helmeted non-striker Kumar wearing a brutal return drive by Ahmed. The day when umpires wear armguards and helmets on a Sunday afternoon cannot be far away. Though the catches stuck, there were a few misfields but they did not prove material.

No cricket match guarantees satisfaction. Still less blind dates. West London's punctuality was appalling. The game had a 1pm start. They phoned ahead requesting a 30 minute delay, which was agreed to. The match did not start until 2.15pm and ended absurdly late at 7.45pm. Had it gone the distance it would not have finished until 8.15pm. Had the format been 40 overs it would still be going on.

A senior player drew attention to an umpiring misdemeanour, citing a run out turned down because he was watching the World Cup on his phone and could not see. "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (John 8:7, KJV) is an apt Biblical quotation. One remembers Sampath dicking about on his iPhone and missing a smart stumping by Brick's Chris Locke.

That said, West London are a new side who deserve encouragement. A tough, young team of working class Muslims, they had some good cricketers, helped out the Gents in their hour of need and paid their match fee without demur. They clapped each Gent in and applauded Ahmed's 50. They were the sixth new side played in 2019 in the third match arranged at the last minute after an opponent had pulled out. "Just young kids," said one player, a wise perspective. Rough and ready, yes, but if you want rudeness then look no further than Baker Street Irregulars, who arrogantly cancelled three days before a Gents home game, causing a financial disaster, and did not offer a penny piece in compensation. Tanks are being massed on their borders.

England won the World Cup towards the end of West London's innings, though play was not suspended as the excitement mounted as there were, to the anger of Lord Tebbit, only two England fans present. The last time England hosted it in 1999, they lost to India on the reserve day, 30 May, to suffer elimination at the Group Stage. The Gents played that day, beating Wandham at Victoria RG with Mike Hughes scoring 84 and the lent Ketan Patel taking 4- 37. Ganguly, Ramesh, Dravid, Tendulkar and Azharuddin were not a bad top five for India.

Gentlemen of West London v Battersea Eagles

Sunday 21 July, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Sunny, 24C

Won by 19 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Battersea Eagles				
†Sudireddy		b Cooper	17	Murphy	b Chatharaju	2	
Kumar	st Malik	b Sanjay	60	Karan	c Dubey	b Chatharaju	60
Dubey		b Cooper	18	†Malik		b Chatharaju	0
Kota	lbw	b McRae	15	Khan		b Chatharaju	10
Namilikonda	lbw	b Cooper	53	†Williamson		b Namilikonda	12
Caveney		b Dittrich	10	*Harris	c Kota	b Namilikonda	43
Chatharaju		b Cooper	0	Karim		b Kota	17
*H. Patel	not out		7	McRae	not out		5
Puli		b Dittrich	0	Dennis	c Sudireddy	b Kumar	4
Pavithran	not out		2	Dittrich	c H. Patel	b Kumar	0
Shah	dnb			Cooper		b Kumar	0
				Wayne and Sanjay	dnb		
Extras	b2 lb3 w9 nb3		17	Extras	b5 lb6 w13 nb3		27
Total	8 wickets	40 overs	199	Total	All out	39 overs	180
FoW: 23, 45, 88, 176, 180, 180, 197, 197				FoW: 31, 35, 53, 90, 139, 156, 172, 178, 178, 180			
Bowling: Cooper 8-0-39-4, Dennis 4-0-20-0, Dittrich 7-0-31-2, Karim 6-2-10-0, McRae 5-0-24-1, Rossi 3-0-25-0, Harris 3-0-10-0, Wayne 1-0-18-0, Sanjay 3-0-17-1				Bowling: Dubey 5-1-15-0, Namilikonda 8-2-27-2, Chatharaju 8-0-42-4, Shah 7-0-24-0, Kota 7-0-35-1, H. Patel 3-0-23-0, Kumar 1-0-3-3			

Don't kick the cat, he might become a lion

On a truly beautiful day for cricket (no rain, gentle breeze and sunshine without the full blaze) the Gents played out an entertaining 40 over match against the always competitive and friendly Battersea Eagles, **writes Naveed Khan**. Their captain Khalid Harris is usually the last one to leave the pub, not because he's a raging alcoholic but because he believes in the "social" element of social cricket.

Gents skipper, Hemin Patel, won the toss and decided to bat first. The club welcomed back Chairman Sumit Kumar last week from his seven-week support of the Indian Cricket Board and he bagged a fantastic five-wicket haul. This time he was given the responsibility to open the batting, along with an enthusiastic Ratnakar Sudireddy; their batting styles could not be any more contrasted. The younger man rattled off boundaries with his first three scoring shots; the older (wiser) head played out nine dot balls before taking a well-judged single to get off the mark. A 23-run partnership was ended in the fifth over when Cooper bowled Sudireddy. This brought to the crease Nilesh Dubey who seemed to be in an even greater hurry than the man he replaced. Smiting the first six of the innings and facing only 11 balls for his 18 runs, a 22-run partnership was over before it really began. At 45/2 in the ninth over there was an air of "We're not built to bat 40 overs" floating around the camp. No. 4 Pavan Kota and Chairman Meow showed the rest of us just how to do it. Their partnership of 39 took the Gents to 88 in the 22nd over and was ended when slow left armer McRae had Kota trapped lbw. All of this was played out during a superb six-over spell by Karim that included two maidens and shed just 10 runs.

At No. 5 out walked the Gents' very own Jane Fonda (but with bigger tits and much better catchphrases). Srinu Namilikonda took the innings from third gear to fifth, his 50 coming off just 40 balls (eight fours and a six). All this while, at the other end, Kumar was accumulating, nudging, nurling, cajoling and stroking his way to a beautifully constructed half century. His 50 came off 78 balls so was definitely not slow. It was the perfect innings for the Gents and one we have not seen too often from an opener bearing the club crest. He finally departed for a well-crafted 60 when the Eagles' ninth bowler, Sanjay, had him stumped in the 35th over. At 176/4 with 25 balls still to play, those on the boundary were hoping for a score of 225.

However, the Eagles did not let their standards slip and started pecking away (well they do have the beaks) at the Gents middle and lower order. Namilikonda departed in the next over for a beautiful 53. A blink and you missed it first ball duck was endured by Ranjith Chatharaju. Skipper Patel joined Caveney at the crease and proceeded to run as if playing on sand but did add 17 useful runs. Dittrich returned for the final over and had Caveney and Puli in successive balls. Sijin Pavithran smote a two off the last ball of the innings and the Gents had crawled their way to 199/8 in their 40 overs.

At the innings break both teams felt a win was attainable. The Eagles thought five runs an over was not too scary a prospect and the Gents knew they had enough skill and depth in the bowling to defend any total on any given day. Dubey and Namilikonda both bowled with great discipline, highlighted by three maiden overs shared between them within the first 10. They were helped by an overly watchful Paul Murphy who was very reluctant to lift his bat and didn't seem keen to get his partner on strike: Umar Karan, who had wrists this author can only dream of and kept turning good length balls on off stump into flicked ones, twos and fours on the leg side. Paul Murphy's dogged resistance (two from 33 balls) was finally ended after 51 minutes (to loud cheers from his team mates) when Chatharaju swung one through the gate. If that ball was good, the next one was a cracker. Eagles had high hopes pinned on their talented No.3 Owais Khan but he got an absolute jaffa first ball and suddenly the Eagles were 35/2 in the 13th over.

It was not getting any easier for them either as at the other end Vimal Shah on debut was bowling with great control, conceding just 24 runs from his seven overs. Chatharaju then had his third clean bowled victim and the Eagles' innings was starting to stall at 53/3 in the 18th. This brought John Williamson to the crease who was finally able to provide Karan the support he needed: finding the gaps, picking up ones and twos without giving any chances. Their partnership of 46 was much needed by the Battersea Eagles and left them at 99/4 in the 25th. Sadly Karan ran out of puff after reaching 60 (eight fours) and was caught by Dubey off Chatharaju's final over.

This was the moment Harris decided to take charge and boy did he do that. Hemin Patel was hit out of the attack when his three overs went for 23. Kota, whose first two overs had yielded just twos, was then hit for a big six. With Williamson now regularly pushing singles and Harris finding at least one boundary per over, the required rate became smaller and smaller. The game was turning and you could feel the pressure transfer from the batsmen onto the fielders. However, some people run from responsibility and others embrace it. The skipper brought Namilikonda back into the attack who immediately bowled Williamson. In his next over he had Harris brilliantly caught by Kota on the boundary and the Eagles' skipper had to depart for a wonderful 43 in just 29 balls (five fours and a six).

The scoring rate then slowed dramatically and the tail tried in vain to keep up with the run rate. Kota bowled Karim for a fighting 17. With 23 needed off the final two overs there was still some hope in the Eagles camp. Then came the Sumit Kumar show and anyone who saw last week's episode knew they were in for a treat. His one over leaked just three runs but more importantly snatched the final three wickets: smart glove work from Sudireddy, a dolly for the skipper and the No.11 clean bowled off the final delivery of the over.

Another good clean contest with the men from Battersea. The Gents won by 19 runs with one over left.

Observations from this week's guest writer:

1. Scoring is bloody hard work, Andy Burman should never have to buy another pint again.
2. The camaraderie of the Gents squad is remarkably improved over previous seasons. It's truly lovely to see so many of the team socialising after every game.

Khalid Harris adds:

Khalid Harris had corresponded before the game: "I hate teams who pull out at the last minute because they do not have a team. I never refuse players. I always give people a game, which is why all are so keen to play regularly. My message to all clubs and captains out there is: why refuse players, when you know that the next morning (or game) you are going to need them, but they might have decided to play elsewhere or take up another sport? What harm does it do to have one or two extra? None. Let's make everyone happy and give them what they love; a game of cricket, some batting, some bowling and some running around."

After the game, he said "Another spectacular game between two good clubs." There is not much wrong with friendly cricket as long as men like him are around.

Gentlemen of West London v QMC Pak

Sunday 4 August, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Hazy, 26C

Won by 25 runs

Gentlemen of West London			QMC Pak				
H. Patel	c H. Khan	b D. Khan	28	George	c and	b Namilikonda	5
Namilikonda		b D. Khan	26	S. Khan		b Namilikonda	11
Francis		b George	6	†H. Khan	c S. Patel	b H. Patel	70
†Sudireddy		b D. Khan	8	S. Ahmed	c and	b Gulati	14
Chatharaju	not out		57	*K. Ahmed	run out (Gulati)		10
Pentakota		b Noman	18	D. Khan	st Sudireddy	b H. Patel	20
Gulati	not out		21	K. Khan	run out (H. Patel)		8
Kumar, Puli, *S. Patel and Teja	dnb			Noman		b H. Patel	11
				B. Khan	c S. Patel	b Teja	1
				M. Khan		b H. Patel	0
				Ayaan	not out		0
Extras	b12 lb2 w5 nb2		21	Extras	b2 lb1 w5 nb2		10
Total	5 wickets	35 overs	185	Total	All out	33.1 overs	160
FoW: 58, 61, 75, 84, 160				FoW: 13, 24, 67, 117, 121, 134, 155, 160, 160, 160			
Bowling: Noman 6-1-24-1, S. Ahmed 5-1-28-0, D. Khan 7-2-32-3, K. Khan 7-1-19-0, B. Khan 3-0-23-0, George 4-2-17-1, K. Ahmed 3-0-28-0				Bowling: Kumar 5-1-17-0, Namilikonda 7-1-11-2, Gulati 6-0-37-1, Chatharaju 3-0-28-0, Pentakota 6-0-36-0, H. Patel 6-0-28-4, Teja 0.1-0-0-1			

Ranjith Chatharaju's maiden 50 inspired the Gents to their 13th win of the season in an exciting game. Pak, led by Hamid Khan's 70, were in the hunt for 31 overs, needing 31 in four, but were shot down by vice-captain Hemin Patel's four wickets, the 15th such return of his long career. Pak so nearly pulled off a tough run chase and were perhaps unlucky not to win a match played in fine spirit.

Such is Srinivas Namilikonda's importance he how opens with bat and ball, putting up 58 with Hemin Patel against a tidy attack. Patel edged behind two balls before 17 over drinks, to be followed quickly by his opening partner, Sudireddy, and Francis. Pak were fielding like terriers, Gents 84/4 off 24. Seven of Chatharaju's first ten scoring shots found the ropes and it was clear that something special was afoot. Pentakota, the late replacement for Kota, and Gulati gave him perfect support but this was Chatharaju's day. He went to his 50 in the grand manner with a four and two sixes off the first three balls of S. Ahmed's second spell, the first maximum clearing the fence and landing in a Tennyson Avenue garden whence, to the relief of all, the ball was lobbed back by a meek chap tending his dahlias.

A hundred runs came from these final nine overs of torrid hitting. It was a daunting target for the visitors, but one they approached with intelligence and vigour. Kumar and Namilikonda bowled miserly spells, reducing Pak to 24/2 off 10. Hamid Khan then lit up the afternoon as had Chatharaju. Older Gents remember his brace of 47s as a schoolboy guest in 2010. In 2018 he hit 99* in this fixture but could not get on strike for the last two balls of the innings. Here he showed peerless control again, taking two sixes off Gulati and one off Chatharaju, the last of which was caught beyond the boundary and signalled six by Chandrasekhar Puli.

S. Ahmed and Khan added 43 in nine before Gulati's high return catch. The running by Khan and his far from young captain was superb in their stand of 50 in just six. But by now Hemin Patel was twirling away and he got Khan in the 25th over caught by the captain at point. Gulati was soon in action again, running out captain Ahmed. This was far from the end of Pak's resistance as the middle order blazed away but Patel now had the light of battle in his eyes. Sudireddy took a neat stumping, two fell in his last over and an excellent contest was shaded by the hosts when the captain caught a shell at mid off from debutant Teja's only ball. Non-playing hero was Ken Toft, who travelled down from Northampton to support, washed up and even swept the festering clubhouse floor, though predictably no dustpan could be located.

With his leaping caught and bowled Srinivas Namilikonda equalled two club records: most catches in a season (14, Ian Maughan, 1993) and most fielding dismissals (17, Sachin Desai, 2010). But for the watchful and correct Plastics umpire denying his two pouches off Sudireddy no balls, he would already be top. In some annals, fielding records do not get the attention they deserve. They do here.

Gentlemen of West London v Northfields

Sunday 11 August, Wycombe House. Northfields won toss. Sunny, 22C

Won by 67 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Northfields				
Namilikonda	c Derr. Redhead	b Kent	0	Iverson	c Reddy	b Krishna	3
Krishna	lbw	b Kent	0	†Derrick Redhead	run out (Reddy)		28
Kumar	c Derr. Redhead	b David Redhead	36	Khan	c Sudireddy	b Dubey	9
Gulati	c David Redhead	b Jas	59	Jaz	c and	b Reddy	1
Chatharaju	c and	b Touboulic	38	*David Redhead	ret. hurt		67
Reddy		b Kent	42	Avi	c Puli	b Chatharaju	2
Puli		b Garner	18	Kent		b Chatharaju	6
†Sudireddy	run out		17	Raj	c Sudireddy	b Gulati	13
Dubey	run out		4	Garner	not out		23
Basker	not out		1	Toubloic	not out		2
*S. Patel		b Garner	9				
Extras	b5 lb1 w12 nb4		22	Extras	b4 lb2 w15 nb4		25
Total	All out	39.2 overs	246	Total	7 wickets	40 overs	179
FoW: 0, 6, 99, 102, 163, 202, 230, 236, 236, 246				FoW: 15, 30, 35, 70, 83, 92, 129			
Bowling: Kent 8-2-27-3, Raj 7-0-61-0, Touboulic 6-0-32-1, Garner 7.2-0-44-2, David Redhead 5-0-33-1, Jas 2-0-18-1, Avi 4-0-25-0				Bowling: Dubey 5-0-19-1, Krishna 5-0-13-1, Namilikonda 5-1-16-0, Reddy 5-1-8-1, Chatharaju 6-0-25-2, Kumar 5-1-22-0, Gulati 5-0-22-1, S. Patel 2-0-20-0, Basker 2-0-28-0			

The Gents won their ninth successive game batting first after an action-packed afternoon. Recovering from losing both openers to ducks, the middle order batted steadily and, in the case of Reddy, spectacularly before the seamers got to work to close out the win. Gents now lead Northfields 6-5. The Gents were honoured to field Ranji Trophy all-rounder Girinath Reddy, the first professional cricketer to play for the club, who plays for Andhra Pradesh state. He influenced, but did not dominate, proceedings, which is as it should be.

David Redhead inserted the Gents who had immediate trouble with Kent's left arm over, Namilikonda top-edging a hook off the first ball of the game to the 'keeper and Krishna pinned lbw. Kumar and Gulati added an entertaining 93 in 17 including a Kumar single upgraded to five by four enthusiastic Namilikonda buzzers. Northfields had ten, supplemented by a rotating Gent, hence his onfield presence. The stand was broken worthily, captain Redhead taking a superb catch running round from long on from Jas's first ball to dismiss Gulati for 59. One brings two, and three runs later, four balls after 20-over drinks, Kumar gloved behind for a brotherly dismissal on 36; two worthy if contrasting innings.

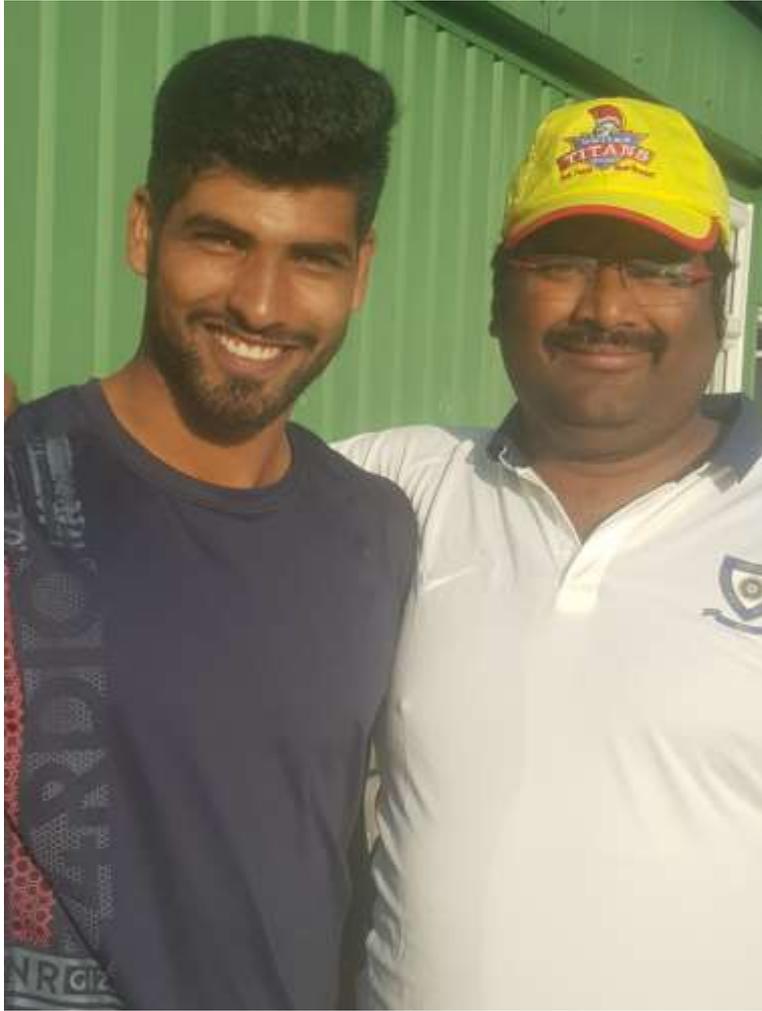
Reddy scored 20 off his first seven balls faced, including a six driven through a sight screen slat at the Osterley Park end, but his stand with Chatharaju was otherwise circumspect, due in large measure to tight bowling and fielding. Chatharaju scored 13 singles with Reddy, ceding the strike as 61 came off 8 overs. After Reddy fell in an identical dismissal to Namilikonda's, Chatharaju played freely and helped by blasts from Puli and Sudireddy (including an enormous six, his eighth of 2019), 146 came off the second 20.

Two spectacular dismissals then rocked Northfields. First Reddy dived forward from mid off to take a low catch inches above the ground to dismiss Iverson off Krishna, then Khan fell caught by a diving Sudireddy after slip Basker had parried an edge off Dubey. Reddy then caught Jaz off his fifth ball.

No praise can be too high for the batting of the Redhead brothers, who saw off Reddy's final four overs of blistering speed from, it should be noted, a shortened run up. Sadly Derrick was run out by an astonishing direct hit while ambling a single, when mid off Reddy threw down the stumps at the 'keeper's end. Chatharaju struck twice to take his 16th and 17th wickets of a productive season, and Gulati had Raj caught behind, but the final few overs saw a bold recovery by Northfields. David Redhead went to a fine 67 before retiring hurt, battered and bruised, and Garner smote with venom at the end. Only seven Northfields wickets fell, but they ended 67 short. Sanjay Patel used nine bowlers.

Lively support from Dave Bender, Aamir Ahmed, Hemin Patel and Dino Francis was appreciated. Self-catering, enforced by the absence of the usual caterers celebrating Eid al-Adha, worked well.

Wiki edit



Girinath Reddy (born 8 October 1998) is an Indian [cricketer](#).^[1] He made his [Twenty20](#) debut for [Andhra](#) in the [2015–16 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy](#) on 4 January 2016.^[2] He made his [List A](#) debut for Andhra in the [2016–17 Vijay Hazare Trophy](#) on 4 March 2017.^[3]

He made his [first-class](#) debut for Andhra in the [2018–19 Ranji Trophy](#) on 20 November 2018.^[4] In January 2019, in the match against Madya Pradesh he took his maiden five-wicket haul in first-class cricket. He bowls at 135-140 km/hr (85-88 mph).

Seeking to test himself at a higher level, he scored 198 not out on 8 June 2019 for his brother Vijay Basker's franchise United Titans CC ^[4] and debuted for Gentlemen of West London CC on 11 August 2019, scoring 42, taking one wicket, two catches and a run out, and breaking a plastic sight screen panel with a six. He also provided a moment of heartwarming comedy fielding when letting a four dribble through his legs. ^[5]



Derrick and David Redhead – guts, determination and skill

Gentlemen of West London v Clapham In

Sunday 18 August, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Sunny, 21C

Lost by 49 runs

Clapham In			Gentlemen of West London			
Shinner		b Krishna	20	Dubey	b Royal	9
Plaja	c Gulati	b Chatharaju	57	Namilikonda	b Bage	24
Ferreira	run out (Sudireddy)		59	Kota	lbw	16
*Curtis	c and	b Kota	22	Gulati	run out	8
Rice	not out		9	A. Ahmed	c Royal	0
Frecknall	lbw	b Dubey	4	Chatharaju	b Bage	6
Langham	c Namilikonda	b Dubey	0	Newcombe	run out	10
†Clack, Bage, Goodman and Royal dnb				†Sudireddy	run out	36
				Krishna	b Frecknall	2
				*S. Patel	c and	0
				H. Patel	not out	10
Extras	b2 w3 nb1		6	Extras	b2 lb1 w4	7
Total	6 wickets	35 overs	177	Total	All out	34.4 overs
FoW: 41, 107, 151, 173, 177, 177				FoW: 14, 52, 52, 52, 64, 67, 95, 111, 111, 128		
Bowling: Namilikonda 5-1-25-0, Krishna 7-2-16-1, Dubey 5-0-20-2, Gulati 4-0-26-0, H. Patel 5-0-35-0, Chatharaju 6-0-27-1, Kota 3-0-26-1				Bowling: Goodman 7-1-24-0, Royal 5-1-21-1, Langham 5-0-24-1, Bage 7-3-17-3, Frecknall 7-1-22-2, Ferreira 4-0-17-0		

It had to end sometime. Clapham In deservedly beat the Gents to end a run of six wins, batting more rationally and bowling with guile on a sporting pitch. Only Sudireddy got to grips with their attack and when he was run out for the fifth comedy dismissal of the innings, Clapham In were beached 49 runs higher up the shore.

This rubber has an honourable and dramatic history. Gents won by 5 wickets in 2018 but only five of that Clapham In team returned. The drama began before spectators were settled in their seats, Shinner cutting a mighty six off a Namilikonda no ball, the first of the day. Thirteen came off the over. Namilikonda and Krishna were steady after that but after Shinner fell to Krishna Plaja and Ferreira sensibly added 66 before Plaja chipped Chatharaju, along with Krishna the pick of the bowlers, to mid off Gulati.

Ferreira and Curtis continued the fun until Kota caught Curtis off his own bowling. Ferreira, who had batted for 23 overs, was run out by the 'keeper after Rice tried to scamper a cheeky single and Clapham In closed on a par 177/6 after three wickets fell in Dubey's fifth over. With his catch Namilikonda set a record for fielder dismissals in a season. The score would take some getting: the side batting first had won the previous ten Gents games, in contrast to 2018 which saw a late-summer glut of successful chases by Gents and opponents. The biryani tea went down well on a cool afternoon and Gents began their innings at a quarter past four.

At 52/1 in the 14th over Gents were handily placed. They had lost Dubey trying to cut a Royal full pitch but the batting looked strong. There then followed a series of events that swung the game irretrievably towards the visitors as three wickets fell without addition. Kota was lbw to left armer Langham. The talented Bage bowled nothing loose, being exhorted by the home fans to give the batsmen something to hit. He started with two maidens and with the first ball of his third over bowled Namilikonda with a beauty. Ahmed strode to the wicket, 72 to his name for Ashford IIIs the day before in a notable winning chase. What possessed him to chip to mid off first ball we can only guess, but 52/4 it was.

The remaining batsmen had the talent to turn this position round but were beset by calamity, induced by a lethal combination of brainstorm and the ability of bowlers who conceded nothing. Bage bowled Chatharaju to end with excellent figures of 7-3-17-3, Gulati and Newcombe were run out (Newcombe blaming the sticky pitch, which prevented his running his bat in) and the spinner Frecknall did for Krishna and, first ball, the captain off a sharp return catch. He might have had a hat-trick, but the No.11's edge was shelled by a diving slip, one of nine men close to the bat. A tenth wicket stand of some levity was birthed but ended when Hemin Patel tried a reverse sweep, admired his handiwork for about five minutes then galloped up the pitch stranding Sudireddy, the best of the batsmen and closing in on 300 runs for the season. It had been an excellent if sometimes barmy game, well won by the visitors.