
THE GENT

No.161

July 2018

Bat sensibly – the captain's message



Gents to visit Chiswick House

Averages

Hale gone?

Here lies Fred – cricket and the Royals

H Bomb hits second club 50

Two heavy home defeats

Match reports:

Crown Taverners (won by 37 runs)

Hounslow Hurricanes (lost by 88 runs)

Eastside (lost by 120 runs)

St. Anne's Allstars (won by 4 wickets)

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



Salix book Chiswick House for September game

After Imperial College put their rents up, Salix moved away but their new ground, Civil Service Sports Ground in Chiswick, will not be available for our 16 September game. They have only gone and booked the wonderful Chiswick House. The teams will share the catering and split the costs.

The Gents played Clapham In here in 2013 and 2014. Basker, Bocha, Caveney, Dubey, Newcombe and S. Patel remain from those days. The rest of you are in for a treat.



Hale achieve ignominious hat-trick

Hale bailed again and their secretary has said that the club may fold altogether. They have only played one game this season. It would be a shame if the famous white and green kit were never to be seen again while the prospect of a beautiful village green ground being converted by the council into a transgender wicker-weaving school or feminist eco-homes is too sad for words. Better to focus instead on the September match, hope it goes ahead, but plan an alternative.

Anecdotal evidence suggests Hale's problem is not uncommon. Certainly cricket is played less in state schools, due to a lack of playing fields and venal teachers who insist on being home at 4 o'clock so they can line their pockets doing lucrative private tuition before whining about their workload.

Here is ESPN's George Dobell on the malaise:

The water has been rising round our feet for some time. We have seen reports of falling participation numbers, we have seen England teams disproportionately reliant upon cricketers who learned the game either abroad or in public schools, and we have seen newspapers that used to take pride in their county cricket coverage abandon it almost completely. We have seen poorly attended international games - only the Ashes seems to be immune from the decline - we have seen club sides amalgamate and fail, and the days when domestic Lord's finals sold out appear long gone. The absence of a cricketer from the Sport's Personality of the Year list - whatever the imperfections of that contest - is the latest symbol of the decline. We're fools to ignore it.

This is not meant to sound pessimistic. Were there a fire in the building, one could remain optimistic of escape while still sounding the alarm. We have a great game to offer. But, as Bob Dylan put it, let us not talk falsely now, for the hour is getting late.

Cricketing royals



His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, 97, has claims, amid stiff competition, to be the most talented cricketing royal. He is certainly in the medal positions. He served two terms as President of MCC, in 1949 and 1974. When not unveiling plaques or insulting Devon Malcolm, he could actually play the game. The Corfu Compton first gave notice of his sporting prowess at Cheam prep school. The blue-blooded biffer, 'highly unsympathetic to stonewalling', crashed a quickfire 19 coming in as last man. At Gordonstoun he captained the 1st XI and had to contend with beastly Scottish pitches that had only just been grazed by sheep. The establishment only taught him how to waft the willow – gentlemen didn't bowl – but he got bored with lolling around at long leg.

As an admirer of Bodyline brute Harold Larwood, Philip took up pace but gave it up as a bad job ('much too energetic') and switched to off-spin. At Windlesham Moor, the royal couple's Surrey bolthole, Philip set up stumps on the tennis lawns. On Sunday mornings he would prise the servants out of the pantry for practice sessions. In 1949 Philip led a victorious English invitation XI against Hampshire, piloting his own helicopter from Balmoral to Bournemouth. Coming on just before lunch, the toff's teasing line and length claimed a wicket to break a century stand.

He possessed 'the perfect action' according to no less a judge than Don Bradman. A dozen dazzling runs made for a cracking cameo, putting trenchant *Daily Telegraph* correspondent E.W. Swanton in raptures: 'Strokes of a pedigree not normally seen on English greens.'

The Prince's cricketing CV lists honorary membership of Teddy Bears CC and Kenya Kongonis CC. There was even talk of his turning out for the Gentlemen of Essex, an endangered species. He sometimes played in brogues. In a 1957 game he snaffled four wickets and had the mighty Tom Graveney in a pickle. Amid much hilarity, the Gloucestershire legend, subsequently branded the Duke's rabbit, was caught by a wing commander. Critical and in no way obsequious footage of HRH poncing about on the cricket field exists on YouTube. Yet he must have had something about him; 30,000 once turned up to watch him play at Arundel.

Another castle caper, at Highclere, saw Philip's last hoorah. Ted Dexter upset the applecart by collaring him for successive sixes – practically treason – before immediately being undone by a spitting cobra. The Duke was initially dropped on nought, as cover point did the decent thing, but summoned a long-handled bat to make a cavalier 33. The crusty consort finally hung up his brogues in 1958. He went on to accompany Her Majesty to the Lord's Test over the decades and didn't pull any punches.

In the 1950s, other commitments supervened not necessarily compatible with cricket. He got tangled up with the Thursday Club, a raffish Soho outfit that met for weekly shenanigans. Habitues included James Robertson-Justice, David Niven and Peter Ustinov. Disparate guests included John Betjeman, the Kray twins and Communist bastard Kim Philby. Writer Miles Kington was surprised to find totty in attendance but Lord Mountbatten assured him: 'These girls are great women in their own right... the Duchess of Northumberland, the Lady Devonshire.' An astonished Kington interjected, 'These are their titles?' 'No,' came the reply. 'They are the pubs they work at.'

Her Majesty the Queen's father, George VI, was obituarised in the 1953 *Wisden*. He could play a bit.

H. M. KING GEORGE VI died at Sandringham on February 6. He was Patron of the Marylebone, Surrey and Lancashire clubs. When Prince Albert he performed the bat-trick on the private ground on the slopes below Windsor Castle, where the sons and grandsons of Edward VII used to play regularly. A left-handed batsman and bowler, the King bowled King Edward VII, King George V and the present Duke of Windsor in three consecutive balls, thus proving himself the best Royal cricketer since Frederick, Prince of Wales, took a keen interest in the game. The ball is now mounted in the mess-room of the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

Here lies Fred



The weirdest royal death, among many rum 'uns, must be that of cricket fanatic Frederick, Prince of Wales who died in 1751 after being hit with a cricket-ball, although revisionists have claimed it was a pulmonary embolism.

He sounded worth knowing, being a keen patron and player of the noble game, which he turned to when fishing, shooting and rowing palled. Fulsome praise was lavished on him by Queen Caroline and George II, whose eldest son he was. Caroline is reported as saying 'Our first-born is the greatest ass, the greatest liar, the greatest canaille and the greatest beast in the world, and we heartily wish he was out of it. My God, popularity always makes me sick, but Fretz's popularity makes me vomit.'

George suggested that perhaps 'Fretz might be a Wechselbag, or changeling' – suppositious births were quite the thing then.

When in 1737 Queen Caroline lay dying, George refused to let Fretz say goodbye to his mother, and Caroline was very thankful, saying 'At last I shall have one comfort in having my eyes eternally closed, I shall never have to see that monster again.' This family rift may have been caused by Fred's Radicalism, or more likely his obsession with cricket. Gents who have been asked to scale back their appearances due to family commitments will understand.

Frederick married Augusta of Saxe-Gotha-Altenborg, but he did not live to become king. He died in 1751. The future George III, who was a teenager at the time, was genuinely unhappy when his father died. He said 'I feel something here (putting his hand on his heart) just as I did when I saw two workmen fall from the scaffold at Kew.'

But what of the cricketer Fred? By the time he arrived in Great Britain, cricket had developed into the country's most popular team sport and it thrived on gambling. Perhaps because he wished to Anglicise and so fit in with his new society, Frederick developed an academic interest in cricket and soon became a genuine enthusiast. He began to make wagers and then to patronise and play the sport, even forming his own team on several occasions.

He began to obsess in 1731, playing in and attending many matches. By the 1733 season, he was seriously involved in the game, in effect as a county cricketer for Surrey. He was said to have given a guinea to each player in a Surrey *v.* Middlesex match. He awarded a silver cup to a combined Surrey and Middlesex team which had just beaten Kent. This is the first reference in cricket history to any kind of trophy (other than hard cash) being contested. In the years following 1733, there are frequent references to the Prince of Wales as a patron of cricket and as an occasional player.

When he died on 31 March 1751 (N.S), cricket suffered a double blow as his death closely followed that of Charles Lennox, 2nd Duke of Richmond and the game's greatest financial patron at the time. Accordingly, the number of top-class matches declined for several years, although economic difficulties and priorities from the wars of the period against Johnny Frenchman certainly inhibited many potential investors. On his demise a moving epitaph was published:

*Here lies poor Fred who was alive and is dead,
Had it been his father I had much rather,
Had it been his sister nobody would have missed her,
Had it been his brother, still better than another,
Had it been the whole generation, so much better for the nation,
But since it is Fred who was alive and is dead,
There is no more to be said!*

Thank you for having us

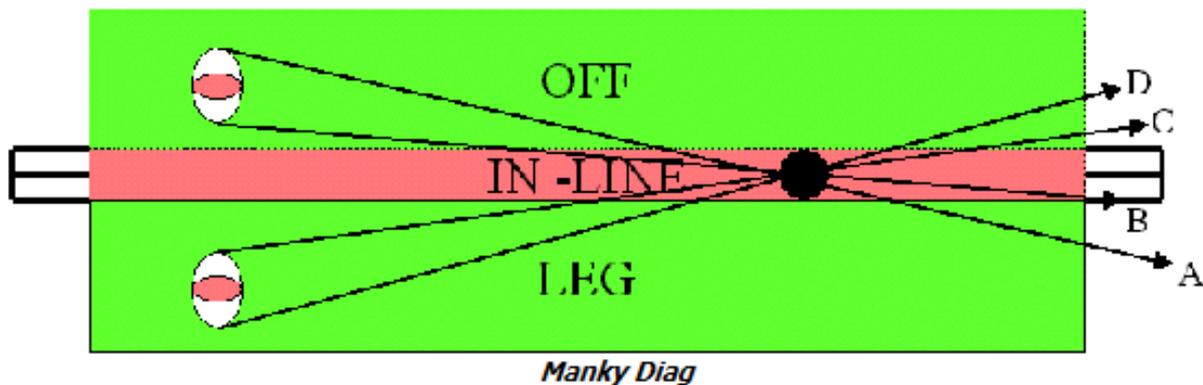
It is a principle of his that no man who ever was a true gentleman at heart, ever was, since the world began, a true gentleman in manner. He says, no varnish can bide the grain of the wood; and that the more varnish you put on, the more the grain expresses itself.'

It was with a deep sense of our own failings that we set off on our journey, into the big smoke on our quest to see how we'd fare against true gentlemen. Great Expectations soon gave way to grave disappointment. As Pip himself discovered there is more to being a gentleman than simply calling yourself one. For example would a gentleman refuse to walk having been caught and bowled? Would a gentleman consistently refuse to raise the finger to balls hitting 'the middle of middle'? Would a gentleman proclaim to have a bar that was 'open all day' yet serve no beer? Would a gentleman agree to a 'liberal approach to wides' appreciate that we gave almost none and then proceed to wide almost every ball not hitting the stumps? These self-proclaimed gentlemen were soon found out to be mere scoundrels. Oh well, they'll sleep soundly no doubt, sated by a day of bloody good skulduggery.

Blimey! From Charles Dickens to paranoia in one paragraph. There was plenty more where that came from:

So with nowhere near enough on the board we set about the mental disintegration of the opposition. Were lines crossed? Maybe. Was a quiet word had between skippers about the quality of umpiring to see if we could align our opinions on the Spirit of the Game? Possibly. Had any of S. Bendre's two or three plum lbw's been given it would've been a fantastic win. A great day for the young lad who showed not only skill but class in accepting some poor umpiring shouts.

Thus captain Bone's report of the Putney game. Gents' umpires gave six wides, two no balls and upheld one lbw appeal. Putney's umpires respectively gave six, three and upheld none. It is not impossible for a left-arm over bowler (Trajectory C in the graphic below, nicked from Salix's website) to get an lbw appeal upheld but he would have to bowl very close to the stumps and bring it back a long way. If the ball pitches in line, a prerequisite for an lbw, the usual trajectory would take the ball to first slip. Young Sohma Bendre bowled left-arm over and his lbw appeals were fairly declined by experienced umpires.



The c&b incident came when Basker claimed a bump ball, a glorious club tradition with many battle honours conferred. There was a hint of doubt so the bowler's end umpire correctly referred it to square leg and up went the finger. Basker had no problem with the decision. We don't like what happened about the bar. It was open all day, although untended. It is an honesty bar with till open and prices clearly marked. It did not show class to march down the offie for supplies; nor did quaffing their own spirits in the away dressing room after the match rather than sharing a drink with the Gents. Old Tenisonians is a private club - you wouldn't take your own drinks into a pub or your own food into a restaurant. 'They obviously want to win more than they want us back here,' shouted Bone – perhaps we did.

Mind you, it would not be wise to be too pompous or defensive about the above events. This writer remembers the loss to Urban Associates by 1 wicket in 1996 and the damage done by a certain angry fast bowler to the pavilion door. Breaking news is that we have received an email from Putney's Sunday captain Brook, who did not play against us, expressing a wish to keep the fixture going. It is time for reflection all round.

2018 scorecards and results

29/4	Perivale Park	Gents 79 (Basker 20, Prabakhar 5-13)	Hounslow Hurricanes 82-2 (Sachin 32*, Wagh 24*)	Lost by 8 wickets
6/5	Hilly Fields	Millfields 253-1 (Collis 150*, Street 44, Cordell 41)		Lost by 27 runs
13/5	Old Tenisonians	Gents 226 (Kota 63, Kataru 51, Francis 40, Pingili 22, Street 3-41)		
		Wimbledon United 128-8 (Saxby 21, Phillip 20, Gulati 3-18)		Won by 8 wickets
		Gents 133-2 (Kota 59*, Basker 37, Namilikonda 26*)		
20/5	Old Tenisonians	Putney 96-8 (S. Bendre 23*, Dubey 3-19)	Gents 97-9 (Ahmed 41*, Rea 4-19, Seaman 3-20)	Won by 1 wicket
27/5	Durston House	Gents 259-9 (Shaikh 55, Namilikonda 48, M. Khan 37, H. Patel 35, Ahmed 33, Francis 22*, Garner 3-41)	Northfields 206 (Derrick Redhead 91*, J. Singh 49, Namilikonda 3-8, Krishna 3-32)	Won by 53 runs
3/6	Crown Taverners	Gents 212 (H. Patel 50, Gulati 29*, Namilikonda 22, Chalamalasetti 21, Kumar 21, Dale 3-36)	Crown Taverners 175 (Huntingford 34, Day 32*, Grannell 30)	Won by 37 runs
10/6	Old Tenisonians	Hounslow Hurricanes 217-3 (Wagh 85*, Nahush 50*, Prasanth 40)		Lost by 88 runs
		Gents 129 (S. Patel 26, S. Desai 24, Chatharaju 20)		
17/6	Old Tenisonians	Eastside 215-5 (Ashfaq 68, Farkhan 37, Sameer 37, Aftab 26)		Lost by 120 runs
		Gents 95 (Basker 69, Zaheer 3-8, Farkhan 3-21, Rezwan 3-40)		
23/6	Barnes Common	St. Anne's Allstars 106 (Begley 25)	Gents 108-6 (Krishna 25, H. Patel 25)	Won by 4 wickets
Date	Gents	Result	Judd Street Tigers	Result
Sun 22 April	-	-	Southgate Compton	Lost by 151 runs
Sun 29 April	Hounslow Hurricanes	Lost by 8 wickets	Harrowdene	Lost by 4 wickets
Sun 6 May	Millfields	Lost by 27 runs	Graces	Lost by 6 runs
Sat 12 May	-	-	Porto	Lost by 8 wickets
Sun 13 May	Wimbledon United	Won by 8 wickets	Porto	Lost by 159 runs
Sun 20 May	Putney	Won by 1 wicket	Shakespeare	Lost by 8 wickets
Sun 27 May	Northfields	Won by 53 runs	Spartan	Abandoned
Sun 3 June	Crown Taverners	Won by 37 runs	N2 Casuals	Won by 77 runs
Sun 10 June	Hounslow Hurricanes	Lost by 88 runs	Beamers	Won by 8 wickets
Sun 17 June	Eastside	Lost by 120 runs	Railway Taverners	Lost by 5 wickets
Sat 23 June	St. Anne's Allstars	Won by 4 wickets	Lindsell	Won by 20 runs
Sun 24 June	-	-	Eastons	Lost by 3 wickets
Record	Played 9 Won 5 Lost 4		Played 12 Won 3 Lost 8 Abandoned 1	
Runs	Basker 149, Kota 139, H. Patel 121, Namilikonda 111		Wright 261, Dane 181, Webster 144, Warren 138, Greenham 120, Taylor 106	
Wickets	Krishna 7, Dubey/Kumar 5		Dane/Wright 12, Sikandar 11	
Catches/Stumpings	Namilikonda 4, Dubey 3		Taylor 9	

Highest score for: 259-9 v. Northfields **Against: 253-1** by Millfields

Lowest score for: 79 v. Hounslow Hurricanes **Against: 96-8** by Putney

50s/100s for (6): 69 Basker v. Eastside, **63** Kota v. Millfields, **59*** Kota v. Wimbledon United, **55** Shaikh v. Northfields, **51** Kataru v. Millfields, **50** H. Patel v. Crown Taverners

100 partnerships against (2): 155 1st wicket Street/Collis (Millfields), **118*** 4th wicket Wagh/Nahush (Hounslow Hurricanes)

50s/100s against (5): 150* Collis (Millfields), **91*** Derrick Redhead (Northfields), **85*** Wagh (Hounslow Hurricanes), **68** Ashfaq 68 (Eastfield), **50*** Nahush (Hounslow Hurricanes)

4-wicket returns against (2): 5-13 Prabakhar (Hounslow Hurricanes), **4-19** Rea (Putney)

Sixes (21): 4 Namilikonda, Shaikh **3** Kota **2** Kataru, M. Khan, H. Patel **1** Basker, Francis, Gulati, Pingili

Run outs (2): 1 Basker, S. Patel

Ducks (15): 2 Allameni, Dubey, S. Patel **1** Bandla, Bocha, Chatharaju, Gilkes, Gulati, Krishna, Namilikonda, Karan Patel, Sciberras

2018 averages

Player (debut*)	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
Ahmed	3	3	1	85	42.50	1/1	-	-	-	-	-
Allameni *	3	3	1	0	0.00	-	9	1	52	1	52.00
Basker	6	6	-	149	24.83	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bocha	2	2	-	8	4.00	-	6	0	61	0	-
Caveney	5	5	-	21	4.20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chatharaju	8	7	2	38	7.60	-	28	3	169	4	42.25
S. Desai	3	2	-	28	14.00	-	16	2	65	4	16.25
Dubey	5	4	1	15	5.00	3	21	3	96	5	19.20
Francis	2	2	1	62	62.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gilkes	2	2	-	15	7.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gulati *	3	2	1	29	29.00	-	21	1	82	4	20.50
Kota	3	3	1	139	69.50	-	16	1	90	1	90.00
Krishna	5	5	1	49	12.25	1	31	2	117	7	16.71
Kumar	5	5	1	41	10.25	2	23	2	87	5	17.40
Namilikonda	7	7	2	111	22.20	4	4.5	0	27	3	9.00
Newcombe	2	2	-	19	9.50	-	3	2	6	1	6.00
H. Patel	8	6	-	121	20.17	1	32.5	2	177	4	44.25
S. Patel	8	7	-	41	5.86	1	13.4	0	78	4	19.25
Shaikh	2	2	-	58	29.00	-	13	2	39	1	39.00

One game only: Bandla 1/1/-/0/, 4-1-13-1, Buck 1/1/-/4, 1-0-10-0, Chalamalasetti 1/1/-/21, 3-0-24-1, Gangapatnam * 1/-/-/3, 3-1-3-1,

B. Gola 1/1/-/5, 7-0-28-1, Kataru * 1/1/-/51, 9-0-43-0, M. Khan * 1/1/-/37 (1 ct.), Karan Patel * 1/1/-/0, 2-0-14-0,

Pentakota 1/1/-/19, 4-1-4-1, Pingili 1/1/-/22, 8-0-24-0, S. Ponnamm * 1/-/-/3, 3-0-20-0, Santha * 1/-/-/3, 8-2-13-2 (1 ct.),

Sciberras 1/1/1/0, 3-0-11-0, Sekhar * 1/1/-/4, J. Snelling 1/1/1/6, 7-1-36-1 (1 ct.), S. Snelling 1/1/0/1, 6-0-36-2, Sudireddy 1/-/-/3, 2-0-17-0

Crown Taverners v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 3 June, Crown Taverners. Crown Taverners won toss. Sunny, 27C

Won by 37 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Crown Taverners				
H. Patel	st Nayamunga	b Dale	50	Delaney	lbw	b Dubey	1
Kumar	run out		21	Huntingford		b Chatharaju	34
†Namilikonda	c Nayamunga	b Dale	22	†Nayamunga		b Gulati	9
Krishna		b Dale	18	Barapatre	lbw	b Krishna	16
Dubey	c Dale	b Grannell	6	Gomez		b Chalamalasetti	14
Gilkes		b Huntingford	15	Dale	c and	b Kumar	12
Chalamalasetti	c Worstencroft	b Grannell	21	Bannister		b Chatharaju	5
Gulati	not out		29	Overend		b Kumar	4
Chatharaju	c Huntingford	b Delaney	3	*Grannell	c Namilikonda	b S. Patel	30
Basker	c Nayamunga	b Delaney	3	Day	not out		32
*S. Patel		b Huntingford	4	Worstencroft		b S. Patel	0
Extras	b3 lb1 w13 nb3		20	Extras	b4 w13 nb1		18
Total	All out	35.3 overs	212	Total	All out	39.5 overs	175
FoW: 49, 98, 111, 129, 129, 156, 185, 194, 204, 212				FoW: 13, 31, 56, 73, 92, 105, 112, 112, 175, 175			
Bowling: Worstencroft 5-1-24-0, Day 6-0-26-0, Bannister 4-0-16-0, Overend 2-0-20-0, Dale 5-0-36-3, Grannell 7-0-42-2, Huntingford 4.3-0-32-2, Delaney 2-0-12-2				Bowling: Dubey 7-0-42-1, Krishna 8-0-24-1, Gulati 8-0-26-1, Chalamalasetti 3-0-24-1, Kumar 5-1-13-2, Chatharaju 5-2-20-2, H. Patel 3-0-20-0, S. Patel 0.5-0-2-2			

The Gents beat a Crown Taverners side fielding two firsts and five seconds players on a scorching day in deepest Surrey. Sportingly inserted by Grannell, the visitors, inspired by Hemin Patel's violent if immobile 50, passed 100 for only two down before losing wickets regularly and sometimes irresponsibly. Yet even with 27 balls wasted they penetrated the boundary often enough to set a winning total, hitting 28 4s and two 6s. Taverners, pinned back by tight bowling, managed only five 4s and two 6s before Grannell and Day added nine 4s and a 6 in the highest partnership of the day.

Patel and Kumar mixed lumbered singles with booming drives and pulls. Twos were off the menu and few were shocked when Kumar was run out after failing to ground his bat. Patel hit eight 4s, one a disturbing switch hit, went to his 50 in the grand manner with a drive for 6 but was stumped next ball, the first of three for spinner Dale and the first of three victims for 'keeper Nayamunga. Tavs' slows would go on to take all nine wickets that fell to bowlers.

There were attractive contributions from Namilikonda, settling into the troublesome No.3 slot, Krishna, who relished his bat up the order, Chalamalasetti and Gulati, while the returning Gilkes batted with calm authority for 10 overs. The problem was that several batsmen hit an early boundary, got ideas and suffered the consequences. A word of thanks to Basker who brought along guest Chalamalasetti then ceded his place at No.7 to him in the interests of the team. Taverners were undaunted by a 20-over total of 115 for 3 and fought back hard, though seven must have been tired after Saturday exertions in fierce heat. There can have been few early seasons with such hot weather, and all coming after the freezing opener to 2018.

The wicket has been covered this season and was slow and true all day. Gents seamers used the new ball well. Krishna and the quick Gulati were impressive, taking out the hard-hitting No.3 and No.4 before they could do too much damage. Krishna struck with his last ball and Kumar with his first, Dale scooping up a c&b. Chalamalasetti took out Gomez with a swinging full-toss. Huntingford dropped anchor for 27 overs before the subtle Chatharaju, who recovered after some early wides, got him with the inswinger. Hemin Patel suffered three more drops and demanded the publication of What might have been averages before, in a numbers frenzy, consoling himself that the skipper's first-ball four had increased his batting average.

Grannell and Day provided late fireworks with a terrific stand of 63 in seven overs, only five short of the opponents' record. Sanjay Patel then came on to end a friendly, entertaining and generously-hosted match with his first wickets of the season, a top-edge taken by a sprinting Namilikonda and a bowled of young Worstencroft. Both captains tried to involve everyone and used eight bowlers.

Captains in cahoots and clever Trevor

The card records that Grannell won the toss but that does not tell the whole story. He asked Sanjay Patel what he would have done had he called correctly. 'Batted,' replied Sanjay. 'Okay then, you bat,' replied Grannell. We hear a lot about The Sunday Spirit and what a privilege it was to see it exemplified. The Gents were made very welcome, the tea was good and there was a crowd of twenty or so spending freely at the bar. All this cost £55, an absolute bargain. Crown Taverners is a club on the up. They have made a steady start to their league season and are proud of their £4k covers, mainly funded by an ECB grant and sponsorship.



One of the joys of the Surrey games is the opportunity to see and hear in person local character Trevor Walter. We first came up against him in 2012 at Hale. Mark Sciberras wrote:

Hale's openers Davies and Walter (Senior) were comfortable against Sciberras although Bocha was more penetrative, runs mainly coming off the edge. They lasted nine overs until Boycottesque running from Walter ended his partner's innings. Naseem was dropped first ball by Pentakota off a full-blooded drive to mid-off, resulting in Walter's most prudent nugget of advice amongst many throughout the day of 'You'll regret that'.

At tea, Trevor appeared, as he is wont to do, perused the scorebook and addressed the gathering. The Gents had scored thirty too few (in fairness several of their own players held this view), especially because 'half of the Tav's weren't proper bowlers'. When the second innings started he sat down next to the Gents' scorer and really got the bit between his teeth. 'Look at the state of them, I can't see any fit fast bowlers there,' he smirked. He then embarked on a sustained critique of the field placings ('I have never seen a field like that and I've played cricket all my life. They've got a new ball, no slip and a 5-4 field'). There was more in this vein until the scorer had to move lest he lost his sanity. A surgeon, airline pilot or ship's captain expects to go about his business without interference, so why do people think a cricket scorer, whose responsibilities are as great, is fair game? No, no, no. In time and with patient handling, Trevor Walter could be in the Jack Davies class, although Davies does not use disparagement as a weapon.

Where, people were wondering, was Jack? In a niche example of the phenomenon of family commitments so well known to the Gents, he claimed last year that he had a brother over from Australia, and disappeared. Although genealogy websites have failed to prove the existence of such a brother, it is possible because Jack used to send the cricket section of *The Age* newspaper to Gent House (never with adequate postage).

Walter's observation about the lack of a slip was correct but in truth this has not been a profitable recent position for GWLCC. Naveed Khan took three there against Bricklayer's Arms in August 2016 but in 2017 only three catches out of 57 were at slip. The guilty men were Krishna against Gubbays, Hibbert against Clapham In and Francis against Hale (lifer Emile Cilliers).

Gentlemen of West London v. Hounslow Hurricanes

Sunday 10 June, Old Tenisonians. Hounslow Hurricanes won toss. Sunny, 26C

Lost by 88 runs

Hounslow Hurricanes			Gentlemen of West London			
Darshan		b Dubey	14	H. Patel	b Yella	4
Prasanth	c Dubey	b Kumar	40	Kumar	c Vikas	3
Wagh	not out		85	†Namilikonda	lbw	0
Andy		b S. Desai	1	S. Desai	c Yella	24
Nahush	not out		50	Gulati	run out	0
†Samy, Aravind, Jinno, Prabakhar , *Vikas and Yella dnb				Chatharaju	c and	20
				Caveney		1
				Sekhar	c Yella	4
				Newcombe		9
				*S. Patel	b Prabakhar	26
				Dubey	not out	9
Extras	b3 lb2 w20 nb2		27	Extras	lb1 w25 nb3	29
Total	3 wickets	35 overs	217	Total	All out	31.3 overs

FoW: 32, 90, 99

Bowling: Dubey 4-0-31-1, Gulati 6-0-38-0, S. Desai 7-1-22-1, Kumar 7-1-33-1, Chatharaju 6-0-42-0, H. Patel 4-0-36-0, S. Patel 1-0-10-0

FoW: 8, 12, 21, 35, 51, 67, 68, 78, 105, 129

Bowling: Jinno 7-1-23-1, Yella 7-0-21-2, Vikas 5-0-28-2, Prabakhar 5.3-1-20-2, Aravind 6-0-29-2, Prasanth 1-0-7-0

Hurricanes easily beat the Gents who fought hard but were bedevilled by seven dropped catches. The visitors' batsmen took full advantage in compiling 217 for 3, the fourth-highest score by an opponent at Old Tenisonians and the highest since Judd Street Tigers' epic 231 in 2013. A response of 129 all out was 88 short, but still more than looked likely when the eighth wicket fell at 78.

Dubey bowled Darshan with a swinging full-toss after five overs. Hurricanes continued to score at a run a ball for 10 more until Desai and Kumar exerted control. Kumar had Prasanth well held by Dubey at long on and when Desai struck two overs later Gents' tails were up. Nobody could match the frugality of Desai and Kumar though and the score mounted against defensive fields. The outfielding held up well though there were a few buzzers. The problem again was the catching. Three half-chances went to a diving Newcombe but others were more routine and should have been held. Amit Wagh batted for 20 overs and deserved his big score but gave four chances, Prasanth two and Nahush one.

With eight overs left there was a chance of containing Hurricanes, then 142 for 3. But 75 came off those eight and the visitors were almost out of sight. There were 20 wides (Hurricanes would bowl 25) as the captains had agreed that all deliveries outside leg were to be so denominated. Hemin Patel has so far in 2018 had 12 catches dropped, some difficult. Only once in this rubber have Gents bowlers got into the Hurricanes' middle order and that game was won. History records Wagh b H. Patel 0 that day.

On the hunt for a grievance to marinade and serve at the post-match bitching session, the Gents found one as early as the ninth over with the misapplication of Law 21.1 by a Hurricane umpire. The returning Desai was no balled for not informing the umpire of his action. In fact, it is the umpire's duty to ascertain the action and inform the batsman, *viz.*

21.1 Mode of delivery 21.1.1 *The umpire shall ascertain whether the bowler intends to bowl right handed or left handed, over or round the wicket, and shall so inform the striker.*

The Gents' dismal batting record in this rubber had read four matches, 460 runs, 40 wickets, average 115 all out. They exceeded that here thanks to wides, spirited knocks by Desai and Chatharaju (his club personal best) and some tail wagging but were shot down by high-class bowling and catching. Gulati was run out after stepping out of his crease. Time will tell whether the captain's decision to put three top six batsmen at Nos. 9-11 was a success. They all played themselves into some sort of form. Newcombe batted for five overs, the captain 13 and Dubey seven as a complete trouncing was averted, the final two wickets adding 51. The margin of defeat was not unfair. Thanks to guest Chandra Sekhar, the 30th player of 2018, and to Chatharaju who brought him along.

Gentlemen of West London v. Eastside

Sunday 17 June, Old Tenisonians. Eastside won toss. Cloudy, 18C

Lost by 120 runs

Eastside		Gentlemen of West London				
Sameer	c S. Patel	b H. Patel	37 †Dubey	b Rezwan	0	
Aftab	c and	b J. Snelling	26 Basker	c and	b Farkhan	69
Ashfaq	lbw	b S. Snelling	68 Chatharaju	c Yahaah	b Rezwan	4
*Farkhan		b S. Desai	37 S. Desai	c Sameer	b Rezwan	4
Smit		b S. Snelling	1 Gilkes	c Sayaad	b Farkhan	0
Jawaad	not out		13 *S. Patel		b Zaheer	0
†Sayaad	not out		5 Caveney	c Sameer	b Farkhan	1
Yahaah, Aswad, Rezwan and Zaheer	dnb		Allamenni		b Zaheer	0
			Karan Patel		b Zaheer	0
			J. Snelling	not out		6
			S. Snelling	c Rezvan	b Yahaah	1
			H. Patel	dnb		
Extras	b3 lb2 w22 nb1		28 Extras	b2 lb3 w3 nb2		10
Total	5 wickets	35 overs	215 Total	All out	20.4 overs	95
FoW: 59, 112, 187, 195, 197			FoW: 1, 23, 44, 67, 67, 81, 87, 89, 89, 95			
Bowling: S. Snelling 6-0-36-2, S. Desai 6-0-41-1, Karan Patel 2-0-14-0, H. Patel 5-0-28-1, J. Snelling 7-1-36-1, S. Patel 6-0-35-0, Chatharaju 3-0-20-0			Bowling: Aswad 5-2-20-0, Rezwan 6-0-40-3, Farkhan 5-0-21-3, Zaheer 4-1-8-3, Yahaah 0.4-0-1-1			

There can have been few more talented teams to have played the Gents than Eastside. Bigger drubbings have been inflicted, but often on the back of an individual innings. What distinguished their display was team work. They were a well differentiated side. Each of their top four scored heavily, their bowlers, only one of whom batted, were accurate. They bowled to their fields and they caught everything. It was good fun against good people, but a huge defeat, the second such in seven days.

This was a late notice (Friday) internet fixture after Hale and an annoying, uncommunicative outfit called Southfields had bailed, but Eastside did not misrepresent their strength. A brief perv on their scorebook revealed a win by 7 wickets at Millfields in May. Gents were missing a few regulars but bowled pretty well and caught two of their three chances. The first was by long on Sanjay Patel to see off Sameer in the 11th over. Joel Snelling, 15 now and bowling at a good pace, got a low c&b, unleashed a corking bouncer and with his father was the pick of the bowlers. Ashfaq with eight 4s and a 6 batted 21 overs with high class. There were a few late blips in the field and too many wides but a commendable level of energy. Farkhan batted powerfully and Eastside closed just two runs shy of Hurricanes' 217 for 3 a week before.

The Gents then delivered a classic scorecard unequalled in its lopsidedness in the club's 30 years. Not since 2003 when Sanjay Patel scored 50 out of 85 all out against 12 Angry Men has a 50 scored in a two-digit all-out Gents total, though three opponents have since done so, including Gregg Cloete's famous 57 of Enterprise's 77 all out in 2008. Basker was excellent, batting for 19 overs for his twelfth 50, hitting 13 4s and a 6, as the bowlers caused carnage at the other end. He survived being bowled by a no ball in the tenth over. No other batsman made double-figures.



Gents' Top 10 defeats by runs

- 2010 lost to Village by 168 runs
- 2017 lost to Stanmore Warriors by 161 runs
- 2001 lost to Exiles by 159 runs
- 1992 lost to West XI by 144 runs
- 2016 lost to Bengal Troopers by 144 runs
- 2006 lost to Village XI by 143 runs
- 2010 lost to Old Tenisonians by 133 runs
- 2017 lost to Wimbledon United by 123 runs
- 2001 lost to 12 Angry Men by 120 runs
- 2018 lost to Eastside by 120 runs

There also seven defeats by margins of 100 to 116 runs, including two more by West XI which makes them the only side to inflict more than one defeat by 100 or more runs.

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

Saturday 23 June, Barnes Common. St. Anne's Allstars won toss. Hazy sunshine, 25C

Won by 4 wickets

St. Anne's Allstars		Gentlemen of West London					
†Cresswell	b S. Desai	1	H. Patel	c Begley	b Langridge	25	
Halladay	b Chatharaju	8	Buck	lbw	b Langridge	4	
Stephenson	b S. Desai	0	†Krishna		b Seth	25	
Begley	lbw	25	Chatharaju		b Seth	6	
Aslam	c H. Patel	7	Newcombe		b Singh	10	
Salmon	b Kumar	6	Namilikonda	not out		1	
Sirnand	c Kumar	11	Sciberras		b Singh	0	
Singh	b Buck	16	Kumar	not out		10	
Khalid	b S. Patel	1	S. Desai, *S. Patel and S. Ponnam	dnb			
Langridge	not out	8					
*Seth	b S. Patel	0					
Extras	b6 lb2 w12 nb3	23	Extras	b15 lb1 w10 nb1		27	
Total	All out	25.5 overs	106	Total	6 wickets	25.1 overs	108
FoW: 7, 12, 14, 28, 58, 65, 75, 98, 106, 106				FoW: 40, 52, 68, 92, 95, 95			
Bowling: Chatharaju 3-1-9-1, S. Desai 3-1-2-2, Newcombe 3-2-6-1, Namilikonda 3-0-19-0, Sciberras 3-0-11-0, Kumar 3-0-15-2, H. Patel 3-0-20-0, S. Ponnam 3-0-20-0, Buck 1-0-10-1, S. Patel 0.5-0-0-2				Bowling: Khalid 6.1-0-28-0, Langridge 7-0-26-2, Singh 7-2-14-2, Seth 3-0-17-2, Silmon 2-0-7-0			

A splendid day of reunion ended in a Gents win by four wickets, their third chasing victory of the summer. St. Anne's fought hard but were perhaps thirty runs light on a muggy, hazy day in which the pink ball swung prodigiously and sometimes uncontrollably. The captain was able to give ten men a bowl as wickets fell regularly. Only Vamsee Krishna, the Gents' leading wicket-taker of 2018 but on 'keeping duties here, did not bowl. The Ulsterman Begley, who scored a match-winning 89 not out in the 2005 clash, scored 25 as did, with pleasing symmetry, Hemin Patel and Krishna. Eight current or former Gents captains played and S. Ponnam debuted.

Sirnand, Singh and Khalid were recruited to St. Anne's via a text message sent while their secretary was travelling back from Paris on the Eurostar. They are therefore unique in being that eminent club's only players recruited underwater. Seth won the toss and decided to bat. Desai struck in his first and second overs and Chatharaju in his third. Newcombe got his first wicket since 2016. The hosts' middle-order fought back before H. Patel and Kumar took two leg-side catches, the latter a brilliant parry and snaffle at short-leg. Kumar struck with the first balls of his second and third overs. St. Anne's ended on 106, their highest score of 2018 and a solid recovery. Buck took his 116th. wicket in his latest final game. According to the cynics S. Patel saw the tail-ender alert beacon flashing before he came on for his two for nought. In truth he had planned for a while to come on in the 26th over.

Though a pretty ground, Barnes Common lacks facilities. More accurately, it has them but you have to cross the level-crossing to get to them and it is a trek. And a wait when the barriers come up which they do sixteen times an hour of a Saturday. Tea, a varied and tasty affair, was therefore taken by the side of the pitch. Particularly welcome was the provision of five million litres of squash.

Buck was promoted to opener and the highest stand of the day resulted with H. Patel hitting four fours to the delighted squawks of celebrity supporter Bender, who had earlier performed splendid work in fetching pop for the scorer and re-enacting his sharp slip catch the previous Sunday for Judd Street Tigers. Chatharaju and Newcombe looked sound while Krishna batted stylishly, hitting five fours. Gents moved to 92 for 3 before losing three quick wickets. They were grateful to the dogged Newcombea, Kumar and extras who got them over the line. Langridge, Singh and Seth each took a brace of wickets to ensure that the Gents did not have everything their own way.

There was much to talk about after the game in the Sun Inn, usually a whelping pen for the local monied youth but on this occasion, and refreshingly, swamped by dozens of Swedes in for the football, an ultimately disappointing evening for them. Thanks are due to St. Anne's for arranging a fine ground and catering so well. Long may this fixture against the Gents' longest-standing opposition be played.

No surrender



The thirtieth anniversary game was Putney (actually two days shy) but that fractious affair was no sort of celebration at all. Better by far to designate this game, against worthy, long-standing opponents.

The Gents were able to field a team representative of all eras. Tony Buck and Mark Sciberras, who debuted in 1996 and 2000, returned. Ken Toft and Dave Bender kindly came to support. Andrew Burman scored. After this game 1,655 caps had been awarded to those present with approximately the same number of arguments about batting orders and fielding positions.

Hemin Patel (214) has now overtaken Burman (211) in the appearances and should overhaul Buck (219) in 2018, leaving him third behind Snelling (244) and Sanjay Patel (currently 342).

After the match Mark Sciberras recalled being instructed by staunch Loyalist Eddie Fitch always to shine the Reader ball on the Horse side, not the Crown side, as it was disrespectful to rub Her Majesty like that. Other characters from the 30 years were recalled, some with affection. Tony Buck, resplendent in black shoes and a retro Chivers Easton Brown shirt, wanted to know how many different opening partners he had had. That's one for the winter but it will be in the dozens.



Forthcoming fixtures

- Sun 1 July Gubbays v. Gents (Cavendish RG, HA4 9PA)
- Sun 8 July Gents v. Judd Street Tigers (Old Tenisonians, KT3 6LX)
- Sun 15 July Wimbledon United v. Gents (Cottenham Park, SW20 0DJ)
- Sun 22 July Gents v. Battersea Eagles (Old Tenisonians, KT3 6LX)
- Sun 29 July Gents v. Bricklayer's Arms (Old Tenisonians, KT3 6LX)
- Sun 5 August Gent v. Pak (T20 day, Old Tenisonians, KT3 6LX)