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# THE GENT

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No.163

October 2018

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## Legend Richard Gilkes fails Tebbit Test



Season's report, final averages, career averages and Top 10s

2004 and 2018 compared

Oppo team of the year

Tough Yorkshiresmen

Cricket and the Law - the Lintz ruling

Alastair Cook – Maxie Haddow-Allen’s tribute

Tigers’ form improves

QMC Pak (won by 4 wickets)

Squirrels (won by 2 wickets)

Clapham In (won by 5 wickets)

Judd Street Tigers (won by 6 wickets)

Crossbats (won by 6 wickets)

Salix (lost by 5 wickets)

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



## Campaigns compared

A copiously-illustrated instruction manual on how to set a target would be appreciated, but for now let us look at chases. The only season the Gents won nine times batting second before 2018 was 2004, and it may be of interest to compare the two campaigns. 2004 was a bowler's summer, Gents averaging 134 per innings and opponents 121. The highest score chased down was 136, while totals of 163 by West XI and 215 by Old Rutlishians proved too much. Another of 172 by Brondesbury Casuals resulted in a washout with Gents 42 for 6. Captain S. Patel had an excellent 2004 with 306 runs, 21 wickets and 10 catches and Gents won 15 out of 21 matches, though they went down 0-3 to rivals West XI in the Bob Ashton Memorial Cup. *Decade2* on the website has more details. There were more runs around in 2018, please refer to the season's review below. Four of the successful chases figure in the top 10 overhauled totals and the 217 against Eagles was the second-highest ever winning score batting second.

### Nine successful chases in 2004

Gents 43-6 beat St. Anne's Allstars 42 by 6 wickets  
 Gents 139-4 beat 12 Angry Men 136 by 6 wickets  
 Gents 56-3 beat Stumps 55 by 7 wickets  
 Gents 137-8 beat NB Weasels 136 by 2 wickets  
 Gents 108-7 beat NB Weasels 104 by 3 wickets  
 Gents 99-3 beat 12 Angry Men 98 by 7 wickets  
 Gents 129-4 beat Sunderland SC 125 by 6 wickets  
 Gents 129-7 beat London Saints 125-7 by 3 wickets  
 Gents 111-5 beat Salix 110 by 5 wickets

### ...and in 2018

Gents 133-2 beat Wimbledon United 128-8 by 8 wickets  
 Gents 97-9 beat Putney 96-8 by 1 wicket  
 Gents 108-6 beat St. Anne's Allstars 106 by 4 wickets  
 Gents 217-10 beat Battersea Eagles 216-8 by 1 wicket  
 Gents 191-5 beat Pak 190-7 by 4 wickets  
 Gents 196-8 beat Squirrels 193-9 by 2 wickets  
 Gents 156-5 beat Clapham In 152-7 by 5 wickets  
 Gents 173-5 beat Judd Street Tigers 169-7 by 6 wickets  
 Gents 154-4 beat Crossbats 153 by 6 wickets

## Most Gents runs in a season



756	J. Wright 2000
680	N. Husain 2007
586	N. Husain 2005
562	P. Kota 2018
514	N. Hubbucks 1994
503	M. Ashton 1995
493	M. Ashton 1996
490	M. Ashton 1993
486	R. Lall 2013
480	P. Kota 2016

Jim Wright scored three 100s and four 50s in his annus mirabilis of 2000. Nabil Husain scored two 100s and three 50s in 2007, and one 100 and five 50s in 2005. Pavan Kota scored one 100 and six 50s in 2018. Nick Hubbucks scored five 50s in 2004, and Mark Ashton scored three 50s in 1995.

L to R in photo: Jim Wright (hands in pockets looking slovenly), Jason Irvin and Sanjay Patel in 2002 briefly ignoring Steve Jones in the middle scoring 158 not out. Note the ill-carpentered scoreboard.

### Most 50+ scores in a season

7 J. Wright 2000 (3 100s, 4 50s)  
 7 P. Kota 2018 (1 100, 6 50s)  
 6 N. Husain 2005 (1 100, 5 50s)  
 5 N. Hubbucks 1994 (5 50s)  
 5 N. Husain 2006 (1 100, 4 50s)  
 5 N. Husain 2007 (2 100, 3 50s)

### Most successive 50+ scores

5 P. Kota 2018 110 v. Battersea Eagles, 83\* v. QMC Pak, 51 v. Squirrels, 60 v. Clapham In, 55\* v. JS Tigers  
 3 N. Husain 2006 54\* v. Enterprise, 57 v. Urban Associates, 59 v. West XI  
 3 N. Husain 2007 76 v. West XI, 100\* v. London Saints, 69 v. New Barbarian Weasels  
 3 R. Lall 2013 61 v. JS Tigers, 67 v. Baker Street Irregulars, 80 v. London Saints

## 2018 Played 19 Won 11 Lost 8

<b>Ins:</b>	Gulati
<b>Outs:</b>	Hibbert, Sampath, Small
<b>Runs</b>	Kota 562 <b>PB</b> , Basker 334 <b>PB</b> , H. Patel 214, Namilikonda 196 <b>PB</b> , Kumar 142, Dubey 139, Ahmed 123, Chatharaju 113 <b>PB</b> , Krishna 102 <b>PB</b>
<b>Wickets</b>	Namilikonda 15 <b>PB</b> , Dubey 14 <b>PB</b> , H. Patel 13, Kumar 12, Krishna 11 <b>PB</b> , Gulati 10 <b>PB</b>
<b>Ct./St.</b>	Namilikonda 8/1 <b>PB</b> , Dubey 6/2 <b>PB</b> , Kota 6

The Gents ended the 30th anniversary season strongly with six victories in the final seven matches. There were exciting wins, two by one wicket and one off a last ball 6, and some humbling losses. It was a balanced card, in which wins were savoured and defeats instructive. Captain S. Patel sacrificed his merited place centre stage in order to give others opportunities, bowling only 35 overs, and batting twice at 5, once at 6 and the rest of the time 8 to 11 or not at all. Vice-captain H. Patel followed his lead. Their interregnum of nine years (2009-2018) threatened for longevity that of merry clown monarch Charles II (1649-1660). Forty-three played, 19 just once and ten played twelve or more matches.

There was no Hibbert, who had made at least one appearance every season since 2008, Sampath or the prolific Small. Bocha played only twice and Bandla left in June to play league cricket for Pinkneys Green. Injury restricted the appearances of Francis, Khan and Newcombe. However, Kota returned impressively with six 50s and his first century, while powerful bowling all-rounder Gulati joined to great effect.

A feature of 2018 was scurrying around for opponents after Gubbays, Hale, Judd Street Tigers, Northfields and Wycombe House bailed. There was time to secure alternatives but chancers lurk on the dark web who are pleased to confirm a short-notice fixture then weasel out, or heinously to misrepresent their ability as weak-medium when several classes stronger. Blind dates provide variable pleasure.

The Gents batted first only five times, winning two and second 13, winning nine. After early defeats to Hounslow Hurricanes and Millfields (Kota 63 and guest Kataru 51 following a brilliant 150\* by Collis) the Gents won four on the trot. Wimbledon United and Putney were respectively overcome simply (Kota 59\*) and narrowly (Ahmed a gutsy 41\* in 20 overs) before winning totals of 259 and 212 were posted against Northfields and Crown Taverners, guest Shaikh and H. Patel with 55 and 50. Victory in the traditional Saturday game at St. Anne's Allstars was the only success in the next six as Gents' bowlers toiled against Hounslow Hurricanes, Eastside (Basker a superb 69 against a hostile attack), Gubbays (which saw Kota's return from India), Viscount and Wimbledon United (Flannery 113\*), the season's nadir, an utter demolition after a shocking fielding performance.

More settled sides could now be fielded, based around the rock Kota, and fortunes turned round. Kota scored his maiden century, 110 against Battersea Eagles after an inspirational visit by club founder Mark Ashton, and 50s against QMC Pak (83\*), Squirrels (51, Chatharaju's astonishing 80-yard winning six off the day's final ball one for the ages), Clapham In (60) and Judd Street Tigers (55\*). That was 359 runs in five innings. Dubey and H. Patel scored 67 and 50 to notch the sixth successive winning chase, against Crossbats. A vibrant Salix then beat the Gents in the last match with perfect game management.

Kota scored 562 runs in just 12 innings. Basker 334 in 15, a personal best, H. Patel 214 and six 100, three for the first time. Six scored 50s. Only 127 wickets were taken though as the average concession of runs continued its upward curve from 2013 (124) to a whopping 173 in 2018. For the first time since 1989 nobody took four in an innings. Namilikonda carded four three-wicket returns with his brisk medium pace, took most wickets and led the averages, with five others in double figures. Given the true batting wickets, economy was vital: Kumar, bowling his re-engineered slows, and Gulati paid just 3.7 runs per over, Dubey and Krishna 4.4. Only four teams were bowled out, and a mere 39 catches stuck (opponents caught 72), eight in the safe hands of Namilikonda, who with 196 runs and 15 wickets had quite a season. Caveney, in better form from mid-August, Desai, Khan, Newcombe, Pentakota and the returning Sudireddy with his blast at Tigers each had his moment in the sun.

## Tough Yorkshire and Telugu Schools



Verity (top) and Bowes

Vijay Basker's pressers were much enjoyed in the final weeks. After the Tigers game, in which he denounced the last overs bowled by S. Patel and Kumar, one called to mind an incident described by Yorkshire paceman Bill Bowes in his *Express Deliveries* autobiography (1958). Over to him:

*Every night at about 10.30 senior players Wilfred Rhodes and Emmott Robinson would come and collect Hedley Verity and me from the hotel lounge and off we went to a bedroom. There the shaving-stick, toothbrush, hairbrush and contents of a dressing case would be pushed around the eiderdown to represent the fieldsmen as all our mistakes of the day were discussed in detail.*

One day Verity took seven for 26 against Hampshire, Bowes 1 for 43. They returned from a cinema and the quartet convened. To Bowes's surprise, the toiletries did not represent the field he had been using.

*"Now then, Hedley," said Emmott, "what did you do today?" Hedley smiled and replied "Seven for 26, Emmott." Emmott smote the woodwork at the foot of the bed in his disgust. "Aye, seven for 26, an' it owt to 'a' bin seven for 22! Ah nirver saw such bowlin'. Whatirver wa' t'doing' to gie A.K. Judd that fower?"*

In every volume of the books on Yorkshire cricket at Gent House, from the unpleasant lunatic Wardle's to Boycott's via Illingworth's, there is a similar anecdote. Standards have to be maintained and VB is doing just that. It is sad to record that Verity (1905-1943), a captain in the Green Howards, was killed in the war in Italy. Bowes lived a long life, 1908-1987.

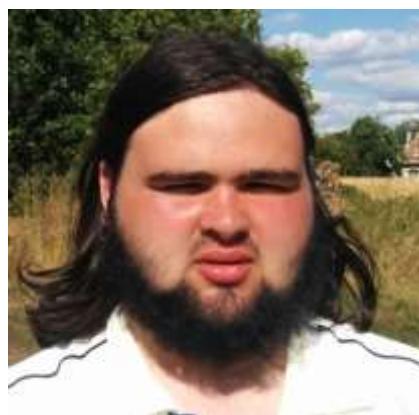
## Oppo team of the year



Battersea Eagle Harris will be a good captain, and if anyone bails on the day of the game he has an infinite supply of contacts he can call on. He will bowl first change. Neal (Gubbays) and Joe Webster (Judd Street Tigers) will take the new ball and Lowell George-lookalike Rea (Putney, right) will rip his leggies. Bone from Putney can do the match report. So here we go for Renegades XI: Collis, Clarke, Ashfaq, Flannery, Khan, Ilangakoon, †Singh, \*Harris, Neal, J. Webster, Rea.

Gents have chased well in 2018, but a total of 648 may present a few challenges. It would need a bright start but look chaps, we can do it.

This had to be hastily rewritten after the brilliant effort of Salix (left). Collis (Millfields) followed his 80 in 2017 with 150\* in May and opens with Viscount's Bajan southpaw Hannibal Clarke. Ashfaq of Eastside, Flannery of Wimbledon United (113\* in July), Hamid Khan of QMC Pak (99\* in August) and the classy Ilangakoon from Salix complete the middle order. Teenager Mandeep Singh from Northfields caught three Gents in May so will take the gloves.



## Too many Cooks?

Our good friend Maxie from St. Anne's Allstars was in fine form below. His threads about A.N. Cook are the most entertaining thing on the internet and date back to the ill-handled freezing out of the great Pietersen. His brother Tristan, no bad judge, agrees with him. Now Cook has retired, Maxie needs somebody new to obsess about. Cook didn't get the pair he hoped for but Maxie will be troubled by him no longer. His soul will no longer be unquiet. At the time of writing Maxie's original FB post has 91 replies but he is still holding his end up, though bets are being taken on when his head will explode. The recent successes of St. Anne's are comforting him.



**Maxie Allen**

September 3 at 9:26 PM ·

...

Good riddance to Cook - a coward, a weasel, and a traitor. Let it never be forgotten that he nakedly sacrificed the career of a team-mate in order to save his own skin, and never had the decency to explain why to the cricketing public. As a batsman he was vastly over-rated and rarely made runs save on the slowest of pitches against the most docile of bowling. He is only the highest England run-scorer because no matter how badly he played, the selectors refused to drop him. As a captain, he was pathetic. I hope he ends his career at the Oval with what he deserves: a pair.



7

9 Comments

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**Maxie Allen** Why on Earth are the lot of you, intelligent, discerning members of the cricket cognoscenti, in such absurd raptures to someone quite so insipid and self-pitying? And of course I still blame Cook for destroying Pietersen's career -because that's exactly what he did. It's impossible to believe anything else.

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## St. Anne's go potty



St. Anne's Allstars finished 2018 strongly. After six defeats and a draw they beat Railway Taverners 206-8/177 by 29 runs, Crossbats 176/164-7 by 12 runs (see later), drew with Mighty Wanderers 256-2 dec./155-4 and beat New Barbarian Weasels 232-6/204-7 by 28 runs. The third game saw a record, extras-inflated first-wicket stand of 214 between Cresswell (91) and Rattan (76). The last was Weasels' final ever game and seven drove from Birmingham to ensure that the fixture was honoured. Allstars rotate team organisation, resulting in an enhanced gene pool. This has worked wonders and it is good to see this amiable bunch win a few.

## The Lintz ruling

Lintz CC, based at Burnopfield on the edge of Newcastle, happily compete in Division One of the Northumberland and Tyneside League, running five youth and three adult teams. But the club's survival hung by a thread when ruthless developers built houses on council land close to a short straight boundary in the mid-1970s.

Bob Jackson, now chairman of the Durham County Board, was named on the court papers in his role as Lintz chairman when a husband and wife, the Millers, sued for £10,000 damages, demanding an end to all cricket on that field. That would be worth eight or nine times that today. He recently recalled how the court action infuriated the local community. "The locals were heavily on our side," he said. "We had difficulty controlling the anger in the village."

Support for the club was overwhelming. A member of the rival Burnopfield CC - England batsman Colin Milburn's old club - pressed £50 into Jackson's hand when they met in the street to bolster a fighting fund when the appeal was launched in the 15 months before the case was heard in London. A key figure was the local Ford car franchise dealer, who supplied a brand new car for raffle, which raised £13,000. That proved to be more than enough to cover legal fees, and the surplus was donated to the Test and County Cricket Board, the ECB predecessors. From that money a coaching film was made.

Lintz, founded in 1905, had to erect a 55ft high net to protect nearby gardens and houses, and they took other safety precautions. There have never been any injuries recorded. These days they have a local builder on standby to replace the half-dozen roof tiles broken each season the following day. The club even kept a large stock of matching tiles until the pile was eventually used up. "The damage is usually done by top edges rather than drives, which tend to be caught by the netting," Jackson commented. "We are on excellent terms with our neighbours. There are arrangements for retrieving the ball, and it all works well."

When the first decision went against Jackson, the judge hinted that the case should go to the Court of Appeal, and it so happened that one of the three appeal judges was the cricket-loving Lord Denning. The Lintz members endured more than a year of stress while the club's existence remained in doubt. Their long-serving secretary John Cromarty died from a heart attack brought on by the Appeal case.

The *Miller v. Jackson* (1977) Court of Appeal two-one ruling cost Lintz some damages, but cricket was not stopped. The precedent probably saved many cricket clubs from folding, and Kenilworth CC, similarly threatened in 2018, could draw some strength, provided they take precautions to minimise risk.

It is worth recalling Lord Denning's words. He noted that Lintz had acted reasonably, adding that the developers should not have built houses so close to a small ground. He admonished the aggressive attitude of the plaintiffs. "Every offer by the club has been rejected," he said. "They demand the closing down of the cricket club. Nothing else will satisfy them. They have obtained legal aid to sue the cricket club."

Lord Denning added that the plaintiffs relied on the words of Lord Reid in *Bolton v. Stone*, decided in 1951, that 'if cricket cannot be played on a ground without creating a substantial risk, then it should not be played there at all.'

Denning commented: "I would agree with that saying if the houses or road was there first, and the cricket ground came there second. We would not allow the garden of Lincoln's Inn to be turned into a cricket ground. It would be too dangerous for windows and people. But I would not agree with Lord Reid's dictum when the cricket ground has been there for 70 years and the houses are newly built at the very edge of it. I recognise that the cricket club are under a duty to use all reasonable care consistently with the playing of the game of cricket, but I do not think the cricket club can be expected to give up the game of cricket altogether. After all they have their rights in their cricket ground."

Soon after the final decision the despised Millers moved away. Part of Lord Denning's speech was framed and hung on the wall of the Lintz clubhouse as a reminder of a dark episode in the village's history.

## 2018 scorecards and results

29/4	Perivale Park	<b>Gents 79</b> (Basker 20, Prabakhar 5-13) <b>Hounslow Hurricanes 82-2</b> (Sachin 32*, Wagh 24*)	<b>Lost by 8 wickets</b>
6/5	Hilly Fields	<b>Millfields 253-1</b> (Collis 150*, Street 44, Cordell 41)	<b>Lost by 27 runs</b>
		<b>Gents 226</b> (Kota 63, Kataru 51, Francis 40, Pingili 22, Street 3-41)	
13/5	Old Tenisonians	<b>Wimbledon United 128-8</b> (Saxby 21, Phillip 20, Gulati 3-18)	<b>Won by 8 wickets</b>
		<b>Gents 133-2</b> (Kota 59*, Basker 37, Namilikonda 26*)	
20/5	Old Tenisonians	<b>Putney 96-8</b> (S. Bendre 23*, Dubey 3-19) <b>Gents 97-9</b> (Ahmed 41*, Rea 4-19, Seaman 3-20)	<b>Won by 1 wicket</b>
27/5	Durston House	<b>Gents 259-9</b> (Shaikh 55, Namilikonda 48, M. Khan 37, H. Patel 35, Ahmed 33, Francis 22*, Garner 3-41) <b>Northfields 206</b> (Derrick Redhead 91*, J. Singh 49, Namilikonda 3-8, Krishna 3-32)	<b>Won by 53 runs</b>
3/6	Crown Taverners	<b>Gents 212</b> (H. Patel 50, Gulati 29*, Namilikonda 22, Chalamalasetti 21, Kumar 21, Dale 3-36) <b>Crown Taverners 175</b> (Huntingford 34, Day 32*, Grannell 30)	<b>Won by 37 runs</b>
10/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Hounslow Hurricanes 217-3</b> (Wagh 85*, Nahush 50*, Prasanth 40) <b>Gents 129</b> (S. Patel 26, S. Desai 24, Chatharaju 20)	<b>Lost by 88 runs</b>
17/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Eastside 215-5</b> (Ashfaq 68, Farkhan 37, Sameer 37, Aftab 26) <b>Gents 95</b> (Basker 69, Zaheer 3-8, Farkhan 3-21, Rezwan 3-40)	<b>Lost by 120 runs</b>
23/6	Barnes Common	<b>St. Anne's Allstars 106</b> (Begley 25) <b>Gents 108-6</b> (Krishna 25, H. Patel 25)	<b>Won by 4 wickets</b>
1/7	Cavendish RG	<b>Gubbays 179-6</b> (Vishal 56, Arjun 34*, Aryuat 29, Neal 25) <b>Gents 126</b> (Pentakota 33*, Chatharaju 29, Neal 4-24, Manish 3-14)	<b>Lost by 53 runs</b>
8/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 134</b> (Kota 31, Basker 27, Namilikonda 22, Walters 3-11, Sediqi 3-25, Morrison 3-31) <b>Viscount 138-3</b> (Clarke 78*, Sobers 24)	<b>Lost by 7 wickets</b>
15/7	Cottenham Park	<b>Wimbledon United 222-8</b> (Flannery 113*, D. Hitchman 28, Kota 3-36) <b>Gents 112</b> (N. Khan 33, Dubey 23, Dean 3-4)	<b>Lost by 110 runs</b>
22/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Battersea Eagles 216-8</b> (S. Khan 40*, Harris 37, M. Singh 35, F. Khan 22, Mangineni 3-17) <b>Gents 217-10</b> (Kota 110, Basker 41, Francis 21, Harris 4-26)	<b>Won by 1 wicket</b>
5/8	LMPF Greenford	<b>Pak 190-7</b> (H. Khan 99*, S. Ahmed 25, H. Patel 3-34) <b>Gents 191-5</b> (Kota 83*, Namilikonda 30)	<b>Won by 4 wickets</b>
12/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Squirrels 193-9</b> (Glavina 54, Carey 52, Holmes 26*, Dubey 3-26, Namilikonda 3-30) <b>Gents 196-8</b> (Kota 51, Kumar 30, Ahmed 26, Basker 25, Chatharaju 20*)	<b>Won by 2 wickets</b>
19/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Clapham In 152-7</b> (Cheetham 42*, Plaja 32, Robbins 27) <b>Gents 156-5</b> (Kota 60, Basker 31, Gulati 24*, Caveney 21)	<b>Won by 5 wickets</b>
2/9	Paulin Ground	<b>Judd Street Tigers 169-7</b> (Dane 36*, Greenham 33, Delanian 29, Namilikonda 3-20) <b>Gents 173-5</b> (Kota 55*, Basker 32, Gulati 25)	<b>Won by 6 wickets</b>
9/9	Raynes Park SG	<b>Crossbats 153</b> (Masini 35, Bendall 28, Treen 27*, Namilikonda 3-20, H. Patel 3-25) <b>Gents 154-4</b> (Dubey 67, H. Patel 50 ret. hurt)	<b>Won by 6 wickets</b>
16/9	Chiswick House	<b>Gents 184-7</b> (Kumar 45, Kota 24, Caveney 21*, Chatharaju 20) <b>Salix 188-5</b> (Ilangakoon 56 ret. hurt, Juma 35, Padmore 29*, Henig 26)	<b>Lost by 5 wickets</b>

Date	Gents	Result	Judd Street Tigers	Result
Sun 22 April	-	-	Southgate Compton	<b>Lost by 151 runs</b>
Sun 29 April	<b>Hounslow Hurricanes</b>	<b>Lost by 8 wickets</b>	Harrowdene	<b>Lost by 4 wickets</b>
Sun 6 May	<b>Millfields</b>	<b>Lost by 27 runs</b>	Graces	<b>Lost by 6 runs</b>
Sat 12 May	-	-	Porto	<b>Lost by 8 wickets</b>
Sun 13 May	<b>Wimbledon United</b>	<b>Won by 8 wickets</b>	Porto	<b>Lost by 159 runs</b>
Sun 20 May	<b>Putney</b>	<b>Won by 1 wicket</b>	Shakespeare	<b>Lost by 8 wickets</b>
Sun 27 May	<b>Northfields</b>	<b>Won by 53 runs</b>	Spartan	<b>Abandoned (rain)</b>
Sun 3 June	<b>Crown Taverners</b>	<b>Won by 37 runs</b>	N2 Casuals	<b>Won by 77 runs</b>
Sun 10 June	<b>Hounslow Hurricanes</b>	<b>Lost by 88 runs</b>	Beamers	<b>Won by 8 wickets</b>
Sun 17 June	<b>Eastside</b>	<b>Lost by 120 runs</b>	Railway Taverners	<b>Lost by 5 wickets</b>
Sat 23 June	<b>St. Anne's Allstars</b>	<b>Won by 4 wickets</b>	Lindsell	<b>Won by 20 runs</b>
Sun 24 June	-	-	Eastons	<b>Lost by 3 wickets</b>
Sun 1 July	<b>Gubbays</b>	<b>Lost by 53 runs</b>	Motley Crew	<b>Lost by 7 wickets</b>
Sun 8 July	<b>Viscount</b>	<b>Lost by 7 wickets</b>	Gentlemen of West London	<b>Cancelled</b>
Sun 15 July	<b>Wimbledon United</b>	<b>Lost by 110 runs</b>	Little Berkhamsted Sahibs	<b>Cancelled</b>
Sun 22 July	<b>Battersea Eagles</b>	<b>Won by 1 wicket</b>	WHCC 6-a-side	<b>Lost in SF</b>
Sun 29 July	<b>Bricklayer's Arms</b>	<b>Cancelled (rain)</b>	Whalers	<b>Cancelled (rain)</b>
Sun 5 August	<b>QMC Pak</b>	<b>Won by 4 wickets</b>	Acme	<b>Lost by 75 runs</b>
Sun 12 August	<b>Squirrels</b>	<b>Won by 2 wickets</b>	Potter Street	<b>Cancelled</b>
Sun 19 August	<b>Clapham In</b>	<b>Won by 5 wickets</b>	Cincinnati	<b>Cancelled</b>
Sun 26 August	<b>Bricklayer's Arms</b>	<b>Cancelled (rain)</b>	-	-
Sun 2 September	<b>Judd Street Tigers</b>	<b>Won by 6 wickets</b>	Gentlemen of West London	<b>Lost by 6 wickets</b>
Sun 9 September	<b>Crossbats</b>	<b>Won by 6 wickets</b>	Mayfield	<b>Won by 4 wickets</b>
Sun 16 September	<b>Salix</b>	<b>Lost by 5 wickets</b>	Railway Taverners	<b>Won by 123 runs</b>
Sun 23 September	<b>Hale</b>	<b>Cancelled</b>	Fives	<b>Cancelled (rain)</b>
Sat 29 September	-	-	South London Oddballs	<b>Won by 3 wickets</b>
<b>Record</b>	Played 19 Won 11 Lost 8		Played 18 Won 6 Lost 11 Abandoned 1 exc. 6-a-side	
<b>Home</b>	Played 8 Won 5 Lost 3		Played 10 Won 3 Lost 6 Abandoned 1	
<b>Away</b>	Played 11 Won 6 Lost 5		Played 8 Won 3 Lost 5	
<b>Runs</b>	Kota 562, Basker 334, H. Patel 214, Namilikonda 196, Kumar 142, Dubey 139, Ahmed 123, Chatharaju 113, Krishna 102		Wright 455, Dane 402, Greenham 267, Taylor 187, M. Webster 180, Warren 178, Sikandar 103	
<b>Wickets</b>	Namilikonda 15, Dubey 14, H. Patel 13, Kumar 12, Krishna 11, Gulati 10		Wright 17, M. Webster 14, Dane/Greenham/Sikandar 13,	
<b>Catches/Stumpings</b>	Namilikonda 8/1, Dubey 6/2, Kota 6		Taylor 9, Greenham 8, Wright 5	

## 2018 averages

Player (debut*)	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
Ahmed	6	5	1	123	30.75	4/1	-	-	-	-	-
Allamneni *	3	3	1	0	0.00	-	9	1	52	1	52.00
Basker	16	15	-	334	22.27	2	2.2	0	16	0	-
Bocha	2	2	-	8	4.00	-	6	0	61	0	-
Caveney	12	12	1	82	7.45	-	1	0	11	0	-
Chatharaju	15	13	3	113	11.30	1	47	3	297	8	37.13
S. Desai	5	4	-	32	8.00	-	24	2	142	5	28.40
Dubey	15	12	4	139	17.38	6/2	67	8	294	14	21.00
Francis	3	3	1	83	41.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gilkes	2	2	-	15	7.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gulati *	7	5	2	83	27.67	-	46	1	172	10	17.20
N. Khan	3	3	1	39	19.50	-	2	0	21	1	21.00
Kota	13	12	3	562	62.44	6	50	1	284	6	47.33
Krishna	12	11	2	102	11.33	1	65	5	283	11	25.73
Kumar	13	10	1	142	15.78	2	72.2	11	270	12	22.50
Namilikonda	16	15	4	196	17.82	8/1	38.5	1	209	15	13.93
Newcombe	2	2	-	19	9.50	-	3	2	6	1	6.00
H. Patel	18	13	1	214	17.83	1	76.5	3	411	13	31.62
Karan Patel *	3	3	-	15	5.00	-	2	0	14	0	-
S. Patel	16	11	2	59	6.56	4	34.4	0	195	5	39.00
Pentakota	3	3	1	53	26.50	-	13	2	44	3	14.67
Pingili	2	2	-	23	11.50	1	8	0	24	0	-
Shaikh	2	2	-	58	29.00	-	13	2	39	1	39.00
Sudireddy	4	2	1	23	23.00	-	2	0	17	0	-

**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, K. Gadige \* 1/1/1/6, M. Gadige \* 1/1/-/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.), Mangineni 1/1/-/0, 7-1-17-3, S. Ponnam \* 1/-/-/3, 3-0-20-0, Ruti \* 1/1/1/0, 2-0-16-0, Santha \* 1/-/-/8, 8-2-13-2 (1 ct.), Sciberras 1/1/-/0, 3-0-11-0, Sekhar \* 1/1/-/4, Shastri \* 1/1/-/1, 5-0-27-1, J. Snelling 1/1/1/6, 7-1-36-1 (1 ct.), S. Snelling 1/1/-/1, 6-0-36-2, Solomon \* 1/1/0/0

## 2018 in numbers

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

**Highest partnerships by wicket for:** 1. 103 H. Patel/Dubey v. Crossbats, 2. 101 Basker/Kota v. Battersea Eagles, 3. 89 Kota/Kumar v. Squirrels, 4. 74 Kota/Namilikonda v. QMC Pak, 5. 34 Kota/H. Patel v. Pak, 6. 68 Francis/Shaikh v. Northfields, 7. 46 Kota/Krishna v. Battersea Eagles, 8. 42 Pentakota/Chatharaju v. Gubbays, 9. 31 Kataru/Krishna v. Millfields, 10. 24 S. Patel/Dubey v. Hounslow Hurricanes

**Highest partnerships by wicket against:** 1. 155 Street/Collis (Millfields), 2. 98 Collis/Cordell (Millfields), 3. 88 Ilangakoon/Juma/Padmore (Salix), 4. 118\* Wagh/Nahush (Hounslow Hurricanes), 5. 61 Flannery/Ahmed (Wimbledon United), 6. 44 Murphy/Harris (Battersea Eagles), 7. 63 Dane/A. Fowkes (Judd Street Tigers), 8. 43 S. Khan/Patel (Battersea Eagles), 9. 63 Grannell/Day (Crown Taverners), 10. 57 (Bendall/Treen (Crossbats)

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

**50s/100s for (12):** 110 Kota v. Battersea Eagles, 83 Kota v. QMC Pak, 69 Basker v. Eastside, 67 Dubey v. Crossbats, 63 Kota v. Millfields, 60 Kota v. Clapham In, 59\* Kota v. Wimbledon United, 55 Shaikh v. Northfields, 55\* Kota v. Judd Street Tigers, 51 Kataru v. Millfields, 51 Kota v. Squirrels, H. Patel 50 ret. hurt v. Crossbats

**Against (12):** 150\* Collis (Millfields), 113\* Flannery (Wimbledon United), 99\* H. Khan (QMC Pak), 91\* Derrick Redhead (Northfields), 85\* Wagh (Hounslow Hurricanes), 78 Clarke (Viscount), 68 Ashfaq (Eastside), 56 Vishal (Gubbays), 56 Ilangakoon (Salix), 54 Glavina (Squirrels), 52 Carey (Squirrels), 50\* Nahush (Hounslow Hurricanes)

**100 partnerships for (2):** 101 2nd wicket Basker/Kota v. Battersea Eagles, 100 1st wicket H. Patel/Dubey v. Crossbats  
**Against (2):** 155 2nd wicket Street/Collis (Millfields), 118\* 4th wicket Wagh/Nahush (Hounslow Hurricanes)

**4-wicket returns against (4):** 5-13 Prabakhar (Hounslow Hurricanes), 4-19 Rea (Putney), 4-24 Neal (Gubbays), 4-26 Harris (Battersea Eagles)

**Sixes (29):** 4 Kota, Namilikonda, Shaikh 3 Basker 2 Chatharaju, Dubey, Kataru, M. Khan, H. Patel 1 Francis, Gulati, Kumar, Pingili

**Run outs of opponents (6):** 2 Basker, Kumar, S. Patel

**Ducks (25):** 3 Dubey, S. Patel 2 Allamneni, Chatharaju, H. Patel 1 Bandla, Bocha, Caveney, Gilkes, Gulati, Krishna, Mangineni, Namilikonda, Karan Patel, Kumar, Ruti, Sciberras, Solomon

**Personal milestones:** S. Patel played his 350th game and has scored 6,317 runs, taken 411 wickets and 110 catches. H. Patel (224) overtook Buck (219) to go third in the appearances list behind Snelling (244 with a tantalising total of 399 wickets) and S. Patel. In doing so he bowled his 1,000th over. He has 296 wickets at an average of 16.43 and an economy rate of 4.84. Kumar played his 100th game and has scored 1,553 runs, ninth in the aggregate list. Kota scored his 1,000th run, becoming the 25th to do so. His average of 47.79 is exceeded only by N. Husain's 49.35, including only batsmen with 10 or more innings.

## Gentlemen of West London v. QMC Pak

Sunday 5 August, LMPF Greenford. QMC Pak won toss. Sunny, 30C

Won by 4 wickets

QMC Pak			Gentlemen of West London				
George	c Namilikonda	b Gulati	14	Basker	b Noman	5	
S. Khan	c Namilikonda	b Dubey	11	Pentakota	b Noman	1	
Noman	lbw	b Gulati	10	Kota	not out	83	
S. Ahmed		b H. Patel	25	Sudireddy		b S. Ahmed	5
†H. Ahmed	not out		99	†Namilikonda	lbw	b George	30
*K. Ahmed	c S. Patel	b H. Patel	3	H. Patel	c K. Ahmed	b N. Khan	14
†N. Khan		b H. Patel	0	Dubey	not out		13
Mozzi		b Dubey	11	*S. Patel, Kumar and Gulati dnb			
Sadqaat	not out		2				
Sajjad and Ayan dnb							
Extras	lb1 w13 nb1		15	Extras	b7 lb1 w21 nb11		40
Total	7 wickets	35 overs	190	Total	5 wickets	26.5 overs	191
FoW: 18, 29, 42, 96, 124, 129, 185				FoW: 7, 15, 41, 115, 149			
Bowling:	Pentakota 2-0-15-0, Kumar 6-2-22-0, Gulati 4-0-25-2, Dubey 6-0-36-2, Kota 7-0-32-0, H. Patel 7-0-34-3, S. Patel 3-0-25-0						
	S. Ahmed 5-0-20-1, Noman 5-0-50-2, K. Ahmed 5-1-36-0, S. Khan 2-0-19-0, George 5-0-30-1, H. Khan 1-0-6-0, N. Khan 2-0-8-1, Sajjad 1-0-9-0, Sadqaat 0.5-0-5-0						



The hot weather may be encouraging lunatic behaviour in our streets but batsmen are loving it. A wonderful unbeaten 99 by Hamid Khan (left) saw the victors set a hefty target but Pavan Kota followed his 110 with an unbeaten 83 to lead the Gents to victory with 8.1 overs to spare. But QMC Pak did so much right and had they held one of two chances offered by Kota might have won. H. Patel's appearance was his 219th (level with Tony Buck) while Sumit Kumar passed the 100 milestone. Gents fielded 10 after the non-appearance of a guest.

Pak's forthright innings saw contributions all down the order with the exception of Naveed Khan, whose entertaining private battle with Hemin Patel ended 1-1. The vice-captain, Dubey and the returning Gulati shared the wickets and Namilikonda took two neat catches. Hamid Khan got steady support from Saad Ahmed and Mozzi in almost unbearable heat and humidity. He hit 10 4s and two 6s in only 25 overs. The fielding wilted a tad in the final 10 overs as 73 came up.

During a tea of quantity if not great quality, the Gents mused on their task. They had achieved something similar a fortnight before, a rarity as noted at the time. The pitch was perfect and the outfield scorched and fast. Runs would surely come quickly, but could someone knuckle down and play the major innings after running around in the heat for over two hours?

The visitors started well, Pentakota undone by a brilliant googly from the leg-spinner Noman, the ball of the season. Noman soon bowled Basker with a fast full-toss before Kota hit him out of the attack. Saad Ahmed castled Sudireddy, returning after his nuptials, and it was 41 for 3. Kota and Namilikonda then smashed 74 in 47 balls to make run rate an irrelevance. Anything loose was dispatched with thundering power. After Namilikonda fell for a valiant 30, H. Patel and Dubey were grim and resolute in helping Kota get the job done, which he did at 7pm having hit 14 4s. Excluding tea and adding back wides and no balls, 66 overs were bowled in 5 hours, a rate not helped by frequent ball searches in the blackberry bushes, from which fielders would emerge scratched but nourished.

QMC Pak outscored the Gents with runs off the bat 175 to 151 but their less experienced bowlers suffered from wides and no balls. Srinivas Namilikonda therefore deserves credit for conceding no byes in an athletic performance behind the timbers.



In 2017 the average temperature at a Gents game was 21C and the maximum, achieved twice, 25C. The ten games ending on 5 August averaged 26C, the maximum 31C against Gubbays. The season's average is 24C. How far away the bitter 9C back in April against Hounslow Hurricanes seemed as players flopped out after recent games in a state of exhaustion! An enjoyable day was not one without blemish. The scorebook, briefly abandoned by its usual carer, was subjected to sustained abuse over a 16-over period. Ten runs were missed off the batsmen's totals and the bowling did not add up, though the total was correct. Social services and police described it as "the worst case they had ever seen". A Care Order has been applied for and arrests are expected soon.

### Withdrawal of vada pavs prevents Indo-Pak conflict



Of Maharashtrian origin, the vada pav, or Bombay burger, is a very popular Indian street food snack, consisting of spiced, deep-fried potato garnished with various chutneys and served with green chilies.

With many vegetarians in its squad, Gents love them and feature them in their teas, but not this year against QMC Pak, whose captain Khurshid Ahmed had put in a request to Gent House requesting that the spice be toned down from 2017.

The meal was therefore outsourced to LMPF Greenford, now under new management after the departure of the insane Trini. Cheese and egg mayo sandwiches driven home with jam scones it was then, and plenty of them. Good old British Imperialist compromise to the rescue.

### Fives CC – cricket and Civil Defence

Fives CC, opponents of Judd Street Tigers, have a most interesting provenance. With the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, the country had been divided into different Civil Defence Zones.



The North London area in which Palmers Green was situated was designated as F5 and the Headquarters was at the Hazelwood Lane sports ground, where a concrete shelter was built and where all the local wardens were based. During the days of the Blitz there was obviously not much time for relaxing, but when things eased off a bit, the members would indulge in sports and pastimes to while away the hours. So in 1941, it was decided to form a club on a proper basis and what better than Fives (F5)? So was born the Fives Sports and Social Club. Cricket and *Dad's Army* combined. It gets no better.

## Gentlemen of West London v. Squirrels

Sunday 12 August, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Cloudy and showery, 22C

**Won by 2 wickets**

Squirrels		Gentlemen of West London			
Prickett	b Dubey	6	Basker	c Barnard	b Holmes 25
Micapo	b Dubey	4	Dubey	c and	b Holmes 6
Glavina	retired out	54	Kota	c and	b Barnard 51
†Aldridge	b Dubey	13	Kumar	†Ahmed	b Barnard 30
Carey	b Namilikonda	52	0	Namilikonda	b Jackson 26
Barnard	run out (Basker)	0	6	c Aldridge	b Jackson 5
Clapson	b S. Patel	10	Krishna	b Mayes 13	
*Alexander	c S. Patel	26	Chatharaju	not out	
Holmes	not out	0	Caveney	run out	20 1
Mayes	b Namilikonda	10	*S. Patel	not out	0
Jackson	not out	12	H. Patel	dnb	
Extras	b2 lb2 w7 nb1	193	Extras	b1 w7 nb11	19
Total	8 wickets	35 overs	Total	8 wickets	35 overs 196
FoW:	12, 14, 33, 121, 122, 131, 151, 155, 156		FoW:	21, 34, 123, 132, 145, 167, 170, 190	
Bowling:	Krishna 1-0-9-0, Dubey 7-1-26-3, Kumar 5-0-21-0, Chatharaju 3-0-20-0, H. Patel 5-0-35-0, Kota 2-0-13-0, Namilikonda 6-0-30-3, S. Patel 6-0-35-1		Bowling:	Holmes 7-0-38-2, Mayes 7-0-51-1, Carey 4-0-21-0, Alexander 3-0-28-0, Barnard 7-0-39-2, Jackson 7-1-18-2	



Ranjith Chatharaju and the captain all smiles

Ranjith Chatharaju finished a tense encounter in astonishing fashion, hitting the day's final ball for six over long on when four were needed to win. Squirrels, a sporting, entertaining team, seemed to have done enough to win after tight death bowling and brave fielding but were undone by a piece of magic that will be long remembered. The Gents are beginning to like chasing. This was the sixth chasing win of 2018, four more than in 2017 and a number not exceeded since 2009. Kota scored his fourth 50 of the season (to set alongside his century) to bring up his 1,000 runs for the club at a healthy average of 45.82.

Squirrels were founded in 1982 by alumni of the University of Nottingham, a serious academic institution where you can study subjects such as chemistry, physics or medicine. The town's popularity mainly derives from its rumoured preponderance of women over men, alas refuted by the 2011 census. Derby and Leicester are the places you need for such shenanigans. And, according to HP Denton, Uxbridge.

The visitors lost three early wickets to Dubey's prodigious swing and movement off the seam that thoroughly tested 'keeper Ahmed. Glavina and Carey then batted well to add 88 in 14 overs before Namilikonda provided the penetration others lacked with three wickets, including a neat stooping catch by short third-man S. Patel to dismiss captain Alexander. Fortunes were swinging in favour of the Gents but Holmes and Jackson had other ideas, thrashing 37 off 29 balls at the end. The concession of 16 runs in his final over, which included a catch not attempted, did not improve the captain's mood.

Holmes struck twice to bowl Dubey and have Basker caught cover after a violent 17-ball cameo that started with 4s off the first, third and fifth balls of the innings. Order was restored with a stand of 89 in 18 overs by Kota and Kumar that provided a platform for the later assault on a formidable total. By his own admission, Kumar is not the fastest runner in the club. What he does have is technique, intelligence and experience and he showed all three qualities here. Kota meanwhile was untroubled in hitting 10 4s en route to his third successive 50. After 22 overs, the Gents were 123 for 2, needing 71 off 12.

Spin twins Barnard and Jackson then turned the game round, Barnard taking sharp c&bs off full-blooded drives in successive overs to end two fine innings. Namilikonda edged behind and although Ahmed was scoring quickly it was becoming clear that it was going to be a cliffhanger. There then followed some athletic and skilful cricket by both sides, Ahmed and Krishna running well and Squirrels flinging themselves around the parched ground. Gents moved to 167 for 5 off 31 overs, 27 needed off four.

Ahmed and Krishna then fell in quick succession but Chatharaju, who had quietly played himself in, went on the attack. He and Caveney ran well, putting on 20, and the Gents entered the final over, to be bowled by Barnard, on 187 for 7. Chatharaju hit a two and a one. Caveney could not score off the next three, being run out off the last. Four were then needed to win off the last ball and the captain and non-facing batsman admitted after that he was ready to shake hands with a valiant winning opposition.

But no! Chatharaju took a step down the wicket and drove the ball on the up like a rocket high towards and over long on. Carey was on the boundary and caught it but had to step back a few paces to do so. Over the boundary in fact and Gents had won. No Gents game had ever ended with a decisive boundary off the last possible ball, let alone a sixer.

During the final overs some Gents were asking the captain to change his batting order (written down 1. to 11. before the innings started). He refused to do so for reasons understood by anyone who understands motivation and leadership, trusted his team and was vindicated.

It needs to be recorded here that secretary Glavina commendably did not misrepresent his side's strength while the fixture was being brokered. Many assert their strength to be weak/medium but are no such thing. The next lot who come down and mock us in such a way will be hunted down and put in a camp. Upon interrogation in the first innings, captain Alexander thought his team a little stronger in batting which largely inspired S. Patel to bowl first. It all made for a balanced game of ebb and flow.

Basker and Krishna had also played, and Chatharaju and Kota had been reserves, in United Titans' T20 semi-final defeat the day before against March Side Kings. Kings posted 211 for 3 with Kakani 173 not out. Titans so nearly did it. They were 209 for 3 with one ball left. Pavan Kumar was then run out for 123 after twisting his leg turning for the second – 210 for 3 and defeat by 1 run.

### **Highest successful run chases by Gents**

2000	Gents 235-9 beat 12 Angry Men 231-3 by 1 wicket
2018	Gents 217-10 beat Battersea Eagles 216-8 by 1 wicket
2010	Gents 200-6 beat Close PF 196-5 by 4 wickets
2018	Gents 196-8 beat Squirrels 193-9 by 2 wickets
2018	Gents 191-5 beat Pak 190-7 by 4 wickets
1990	Gents 186-3 beat Enterprise 185-6 by 7 wickets
1994	Gents 185-5 beat Wandham 184-9 by 5 wickets
2005	Gents 175-3 beat New Barbarian Weasels 174-7 by 3 wickets
2017	Gents 175-6 beat Clapham In 173 by 4 wickets
2018	Gents 173-5 beat Judd Street Tigers 169-7 by 5 wickets

### **Glavina's retirement food for thought**

The retirement of Glavina on 54 was recorded by Ken Toft as Retired out in the scorebook and he is always right in such matters. Under Law 25, a batsman retires out if he retires without the umpire's permission, and does not have the permission of the opposing captain to resume his innings. He kept his pads on and it would have been interesting to see the outcome had the Gents taken one more wicket. Were he to have resumed, he would have needed the permission of S. Patel to continue and might have received short shrift.

On 30 April 1983, C.G. Greenidge became the only Test batsman to be Retired not out. It happened during the fifth Test between West Indies and India in Antigua. After West Indies bowled out India for 457 in their first innings, Greenidge put on 296 runs with D.L. Haynes for the first wicket.

He was on 154 when he got the news that his daughter was ailing. He had to rush from Antigua to Barbados to be beside her. Two days later she died. As a mark of respect, it was decided that Greenidge should be recorded as Retired not out. His 154 is known as the Tragic Century.

## Gentlemen of West London v. Clapham In

Sunday 19 August, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Cloudy then sunny, 26C

**Won by 5 wickets**

Clapham In		Gentlemen of West London				
†Shinner	c Kota	b Kumar	10	Basker	c Cheetham	b Jamieson
Plaja		b Chatharaju	32	Krishna	run out	31
*Curtis	c Pingili	b Gulati	0	Kota	c Ferreira	2
Ferreira		b Gulati	10	Pingili	c Curtis	60
Cheetham	not out		42	Gulati	not out	1
Burgess-Bellay		b Chatharaju	0	Caveney		24
Robbins	c Kota	b Namilikonda	27	†Namilikonda	not out	21
Jamieson		b Namilikonda	3	Chatharaju, Kumar, H. Patel, *S. Patel and †Dubey dnb		
Hassan	not out		1			4
Clack	dnb					
Extras	b4 lb3 w18 nb2		27	Extras	b3 w1 w8 nb1	13
Total	7 wickets	35 overs	152	Total	5 wickets	31.5 overs
FoW:	32, 34, 55, 88, 88, 139, 148			FoW:	24, 64, 76, 120, 151	
Bowling:	Dubey 5-0-22-0, Kumar 7-4-9-1, Gulati 7-0-26-2, Krishna 5-1-24-0, Namilikonda 6-0-33-2, Chatharaju 5-0-31-2			Bowling:	Hassan 6.5-0-41-1, Curtis 4-0-20-0, Jamieson 7-0-39-1, Ferreira 7-2-12-1, Robbins 3-0-18-1, Burgess-Bellay 3-0-16-0, Plaja 1-0-6-0	

The 2018 journey is taking the Gents to some exotic destinations. The physical surroundings were familiar enough here but for the fourth successive game they were set a stiff target and won. Kota has been pre-eminent in this run, scoring 50 or more in each. His consistent and brilliant performances have therefore eclipsed the three successive 50s by Nabil Husain in 2006 and 2007 and Ramanjit Lall in 2013. Mark Ashton and Jim Wright, comparably gifted batsmen, never scored three on the trot. In perfect batting conditions Kumar carded an outstanding analysis of 7-4-9-1 to help restrict the visitors.

Yet there was far more to this win than a couple of impressive individual displays. The fielding was according to the captain the best of the season and an experimental batting order decided by H. Patel proved successful. Hobbling about in his venerable black trackie while nursing a groin strain, the injured vice-captain was not slow to point out that he also won the toss in the absence of the delayed skipper.

Clapham In are always talented, competitive opponents and Shinner and Plaja batted watchfully in their opening stand before Shinner drilled to short mid-wicket Kota. By this time H. Patel had left the field injured and had been replaced by twelfth man Pingili, whom the captain decided not to bowl due to the circumstances of his inclusion. The Gents' seamers bowled tight lines. Dubey and Krishna, carrying a hand injury, were unlucky but Gulati had Curtis snaffled at point and bowled Ferreira while the inspired Chatharaju castled the adhesive Plaja and Burgess-Bellay with his first and third balls.

The cricket during the stand of the South Africans Cheetham and Robbins was of high quality. A combination of left-hander and right-hander challenges a fielding captain. Namilikonda struck twice with his bustling medium pace, Robbins clubbing him to Kota on the mid-wicket boundary and Jamieson bowled. Three neat catches were therefore taken in unconventional positions, though it is always difficult to tell whether the fielders were placed there by design or had wandered there unilaterally.

Krishna was run out by the loaned Chatharaju early but Basker batted soundly with the rock Kota. One day he will score a mountain of runs, and 31 on the day and 292 for the season is not to be sniffed at, but he again fell after his first mistake, caught Cheetham in the covers. Pingili was well caught by a diving slip but Gulati seized his chance up the order to put on 44 with Kota and Caveney batted confidently. Ferreira's off-spin was challenging on a slow wicket but Gents won with 5 wickets and 19 balls to spare.

In the post-match presser, seated in front of a backdrop of corporate logos for Hounslow's Sri Krishna vada pav emporium, the captain said "Winning is great but we have to remember a few talented batsmen did not get a chance today, but as true sportsmen they accepted my decision gracefully. Sometimes talented players will be kept in reserve. If this happens to you please accept that it is a team sport and over a season everyone will get a fair chance".

## Judd Street Tigers v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 2 September, Paulin Ground. Judd Street Tigers won toss. Sunny, 25C

Won by 6 wickets

Judd Street Tigers			Gentlemen of West London		
Delanian	c Dubey	b Gulati	29	Gulati	b Taylor
*Taylor	st Namilikonda	b H. Patel	13	Basker	c Delanian
Burgess		b Gulati	10	Chatharaju	b Taylor
Greenham	c Kota	b Namilikonda	33	Kota	b J. Webster
J. Webster		b Namilikonda	4	Caveney	not out
Rennie	c S. Patel	b Namilikonda	5	†Namilikonda	b R. Fowkes
Dane	not out		36	Sudireddy	b Warren
A. Fowkes	run out (Kumar)		18	Krishna, Kumar, H. Patel, *S. Patel and †Dubey dnb	18
†Boden, Warren, M. Webster, R. Fowkes and Herlihy dnb					
Extras	b5 lb5 w7 nb4		21	Extras	b5 lb1 w7 nb6
Total	7 wickets	40 overs	169	Total	5 wickets 27.2 overs
FoW:	46, 48, 71, 89, 105, 106, 169			FoW:	55, 58, 64, 103, 135
<b>Bowling:</b> Dubey 5-1-17-0, Krishna 6-0-21-0, Gulati 8-0-20-2, H. Patel 6-0-23-1, Kumar 8-0-33-0, Namilikonda 4-0-20-3, S. Patel 3-0-25-0			<b>Bowling:</b> Dane 4-0-31-0, M. Webster 4-1-15-0, J. Webster 6-0-26-1, Taylor 3-0-6-2, R. Fowkes 4-0-26-1, Delanian 1-0-18-0, Greenham 2-0-19-0, Warren 2.2-0-21-1, A. Fowkes 1-0-5-0		



Sudireddy and Kota briskly ended proceedings

Confident Gents' batting ensured a fifth successive chasing victory. They were again indebted to Kota who has been pre-eminent in this run, but there were solid contributions elsewhere. Tigers won a great toss, batted and never looked like being dismissed but the Gents got the breakthroughs when they needed them and latterly took full advantage. How much Tigers missed Wright's bat is a question for them alone, but only when Dane and young Ash Fowkes were together adding 63 in the last nine overs did their innings achieve the necessary vigour. The Gents were able to pace their innings and had 12.4 overs in hand when Sudireddy drove the winning four.

This private club has strict rules governing decorum and its committee were relieved by the surprising late abscondment of David Bender for Brentford festival which sounded a nightmare with "community engagement" and "craft stalls" threatened. It was particularly unfortunate then that one player, eager to get on the field after his late arrival, got changed behind the pavilion sightscreen in full view of local worthies and several females. Society is collapsing quickly enough about our ears without the sight of a senior Gent cavorting in his smalls. The Tigers' secretary administered a merited wigging to the culprit. The match started 24 minutes late at 12.54pm which was squarely the Gents' fault. The hosts batted for the first time in this rubber with a keen air of anticipation after recent frustrations.

Delanian and Taylor gave Tigers a steady start off Dubey and Krishna. Delanian was dropped twice but hit very hard. Taylor was circumspect before he was neatly stumped off H. Patel's third ball. Gulati then had Delanian driving to mid-off Dubey in his third over and yorked Burgess in his seventh, 8-0-20-2 the bowling performance of the day. Namilikonda had a very good day. Doffing the pads after his stumping, he took over from Gulati and in four overs dismissed Joe Webster, Greenham and Rennie. Greenham, new to the Gents, is a correct, powerful bat. The visitors were relieved to see the back of him, neatly held at long on by Kota, whom the captain had moved a few yards to his right the ball before. Decisions like this show why he is captain.

Dane and Fowkes ran well and hit hard, smiting six of the 14 Tiger boundaries, and were only separated after a last-ball run out. Tigers could have done with a few more overs of that but one player who might have provided such impetus, Chris Wright, was touring Italy with Cincinnati CC and another, Chris Boden, did not get a bat. It had been a quiet innings, one of containment by the Gents bringing to fruition the captain's strategy. A surprisingly good over rate of 16 saw tea taken at 3.40pm.

The promoted Gulati (25 from 36 balls) and Basker (32 from 32) hit hard, if not chancelessly off Dane and Matt Webster, and ran well to put up 55 in 9.3 overs, the season's highest opening stand. At the point of Gulati's dismissal bowled Taylor 115 were needed in 30.3 overs, under four per over. It was a solid foundation but Joe Webster and Taylor produced corking spells as Tigers fought back, taking the wickets of Basker and Chatharaju in quick succession. Kota and Caveney settled down before the latter fell the ball before 20-over drinks, 103 for 4 then with Kota ominously 22 not out. The required rate was down to 3.4. If Tigers were to win, the Gents would have to be bowled out.

Refreshed, Kota and Namilikonda savaged poor Delanian's only over. Though Namilikonda fell to Warren runs were coming in a torrent, Kota 55 not out (seven 4s, 55 balls) and Sudireddy 18 not out (three 4s, 10 balls) accelerating with a flurry of boundaries. The final 70 runs came off only 44 balls and Sudireddy confirmed the win with a straight-driven four over mid-off at 6.10pm.

In his jocular match review, Vijay Basker denounced the final overs bowled by the captain and Kumar (13 runs conceded apiece) as "very bad". Mr Patel laughed wryly at this, no doubt with future batting orders firmly in mind. Thanks to the Tigers for hosting so well. The post-match chat was good between two sides who though experiencing different recent fortunes have much in common. Seven Gents and six Tigers also played in the last game, in 2016, so there has been more continuity than one might imagine.

## Thank you

We are grateful for Vamsee Krishna's immaculate scoring, in which, during the usual scorer's absence on a prolonged boundary perambulation, he recorded the balls faced by each batsmen. It is all a matter of routine but to our knowledge elsewhere only Chris Locke of Bricklayer's Arms does this. Nilesh Dubey and Sanjay Patel have also proved capable scorers this season, though fall of wickets data have remained incomplete. We have also seen more umpires volunteering, though there is still a tendency to dick about with phones to record key moments.

## Kota scores another ton...but not for Gents



Pavan Kota had a good weekend with the bat. He guested for St. Anne's Allstars against Crossbats at Marble Hill Park 24 hours before the Tigers game. An artificial track provided true bounce but no lateral movement and he was untroubled in scoring 104 out of Allstars' 176, enough for victory by 12 runs. Captain Haroon Khalid deployed his guests cannily to grab this worthy win, the second on the bounce for St. Anne's. Kota thus finished the weekend with his current account boosted by 159 runs for once out. We trust that he slept well Sunday night.

But he didn't win the Saturday MoM award outright; 14-year-old colt Rayaan Asghar took 2 for 16 off his seven overs of off-spin to share it. How good it was to witness a successful outing for SAA. Crossbats were good guys and in the funny way in which these things often happen were soon nabbed for a fixture to replace the flaky Wycombe House.

English Heritage offers artificial pitches at Marble Hill Park from early April up to the first week of October, perhaps an autumnal alternative for 2019. Old Tens finishes end of August, LPFF and LB Ealing the first Sunday in September, with LB Merton going on until the third week of September.

## Tigers survive tough summer challenges

After recent uncertainties, Tigers were possibly rusty. They have some important strategic decisions to take about their future but the good news is that this fixture will continue.

**8 July** – Gentlemen of West London (A) – only five Tigers available.

**15 July** – Little Berkhamsted (A) – Cancelled for same reason.

**22 July** – Winchmore Hill 6-a-side competition – Tigers reach semi-finals.

**29 July** – Whalers (H) – Cancelled due to wet pitch. Despite weeks of drought, heavy overnight rain fell, but conditions may well have been playable had the pitches been covered.

**5 August** – Acme (H) – Toss lost on hot day as Acme score 281 and win gruelling match by 70 runs.

**12 August** – Potter Street (H) – team available but opposition call game off the day before due to lack of numbers, with no time to arrange substitute fixture. Despite gloomy weather forecast conditions are playable but no one bothers to inform Winchmore Hill staff, culminating in lost pitch and tea money (about £220).

**19 August** – Cincinnati (H) – eight available but opposition do not turn up. Both teams had been struggling for players all week, so the original intention was for emergency opposition to be found so the Tigers and Cincinnati could put out a joint side at Winchmore Hill. Failing that, some sort of match could be arranged to utilize the pitch which had been booked, to avoid the confusion that had occurred the previous Sunday (see above). It became clear that Cincinnati were not keen, but apart from a vague email from their organiser on Sunday morning (which no one picked up in time) there was no indication that their side would not turn up.

The Tigers finally got back on the field again to renew their friendly rivalry with the Gents, a fixture dogged with problems for some years, writes **Steve Bignell**. Indeed, this was only the Tigers second full match in two months and more like a reunion party for some of the players! Amazingly, and despite a notable absentee, fourteen players made themselves available for this match, which somewhat begs the question as to where many of them had been in recent weeks.

But no matter, as a 12-a-side contest was agreed by the captains. The visitors won the match with something in hand, which was unsurprising considering they are a very capable side, hitting their straps on an extended winning streak. For the Tigers it was more a matter of getting back on the pitch and blowing off the cobwebs, with everyone given the opportunity to bat or bowl.

Tigers won the toss and elected to bat in almost perfect conditions, though their innings rarely got above pedestrian mode until some belated urgency from Chris Dane and Ash Fowkes compiled 63 for the seventh wicket in the final nine overs. Mike Delanian, with a trademark aerial 29, and Stewart Taylor (13) had got the innings off to a steady start with 46, though it took up 14 overs against steady bowling and fielding. Mitchell Greenham played a sensible and cultured 33 in 15 overs before holing out on the boundary, but none of the other batsmen made much of an impact until Ash joined Dane at 106 for 6.

The total looked undercooked and Basker and Gulati (25) proved it by knocking up 50 for the visitors in just nine overs without much difficulty. Thereafter Kota, a class above everyone with the bat, dominated the rest of the innings as the Tigers deployed no less than nine bowlers, most of whom trundled away with varying degrees of success, Taylor and Joe Webster being the pick. In the end the visitors coasted in with more than 12 overs to spare.

## Three in a row

Tigers then roared and dined on flesh, beating Mayfield, Railways Taverners and South London Oddballs. They scored almost as many runs as they conceded over the campaign (2,769/2,794) and took only 13 fewer wickets (118/131), yet still ended with a losing 6-11 record. Their individual stats were similar to the Gents', Wright heading the batting and bowling with 455 runs and 17 wickets. However, of more importance is that they had tangible latter success and can continue discussions with Winchmore Hill on their future in a happy frame of mind.

## Gentlemen of West London v. Crossbats

Sunday 9 September, Raynes Park SG. Crossbats won toss. Sunny, 24C

**Won by 6 wickets**

Crossbats			Gentlemen of West London				
Burton	c Ahmed	b Krishna	3	H. Patel	ret. hurt		50
Masini	c Ahmed	b H. Patel	35	Dubey	c Treen	b Bendall	67
Boereboom	c Basker	b Dubey	2	Kumar	c McAlpine	b Bendall	13
*McAlpine		b Namilikonda	10	Krishna	not out		9
Shirley	c Kota	b Namilikonda	6	*S. Patel	c Shirley	b Masini	0
†Barnes		b Namilikonda	16	Caveney		b Masini	0
Sayers		b Kumar	7	Namilikonda	not out		8
Pradeep	lbw	b H. Patel	3	Kota, Basker, Sudireddy and †Ahmed dnb			
Bendall		b Kumar	28				
Jeremy	c Kota	b H. Patel	0				
Treen	not out		27				
Extras	b11 lb2 w3		16	Extras	b2 w5		7
Total	All out	38.2 overs	153	Total	4 wickets	19 overs	154
FoW:	7, 25, 49, 60, 65, 89, 94, 96, 96, 153			FoW:	103, 132, 146, 146		
Bowling:	Dubey 8-3-11-1, Krishna 8-2-32-1, Namilikonda 6-0-20-3, H. Patel 7-1-25-3, Kumar 4.2-1-11-2, Basker 2-0-12-0, Caveney 1-0-11-0, Kota 2-0-18-0			Bowling:	Jeremy 4-0-25-0, Treen 6-0-49-0, Shirley 2-0-18-0, McAlpine 2-0-19-0, Bendall 2-0-19-2, Masini 2-0-15-2, Boereboom 1-0-7-0		



Home of Crossbats. Georgian shagging!

H. Patel and Dubey demolished Crossbats' bowling with an opening stand of 103 in 13.5 overs. Both scored 50s (H. Patel nine 4s, Dubey 13 4s, his 50 coming off just 34 balls) and after a few wobbles Gents were home by 5.25pm with 21 overs and six wickets in hand. Youngsters Bendall and Treen set an opponents' 10th-wicket record stand of 57, beating the 52 put up by Enterprise's Dimond and Heap in 1997. Thanks are due to the Marble Hill Park boys for fulfilling the fixture. Though by their own admission not strong here, they fought hard under McAlpine's cheerful captaincy and enjoyed their successes.

Crossbats batted but were restricted by accurate new ball spells from Dubey and Krishna, both bowled through with impressive economy and a wicket each, to a neat leg-side catch by Ahmed and a high one by mid-on Basker. Masini batted well for 18 overs but Namilikonda (another 3 for 20), H. Patel and Kumar took wickets regularly, helped by improved catching. Barnes caught the eye but the visitors plummeted to 96 for 9. The support bowlers were unable to complete the task and went for a few boundaries as Bendall and Treen played with gusto. A muttering captain brought back Namilikonda and Kumar but runs continued to flow, and quickly. This entertaining passage of play ended with 1.2 overs to go, 153 all out.

Ten Gents had returned from the previous week and the captain had released the batting order on the Tuesday under conditions of maximum security, the plan being to give recent non-batters a go up the order. H. Patel and Dubey therefore opened and mixed elegant cover drives and clips to leg with venomous pulls off anything short. The stand took 49 minutes and ended worthily when Dubey was well caught off a skyer at cover by the feisty No.11 bat Treen off his mate Bendall. H. Patel retired at 50 and upon being told that Retired out is a form of dismissal cannily pled Retired hurt with a recurrence of his groin strain. A medical report is awaited. Kumar went berserk, hitting three successive fours before edging to slip. Masini continued his good day by having the captain and Caveney for ducks. Namilikonda then hit two fours to win the game with Krishna serenely beached on 9 not out.

This was the sixth successive chasing win (a record), the season's ninth (a joint record with 2004) and the eleventh in all, which ensured a winning season. Crossbats, a side of pedigree in existence since the 1940s, were a very sociable team and a return in 2019, possibly at Marble Hill Park with its Palladian villa and scandalous bedroom romps back in the day, would be most welcome.

## Salix v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 16 September, Chiswick House. Salix won toss. Sunny, 23C

**Lost by 5 wickets**

Gentlemen of West London			Salix			
H. Patel	c Padmore	b Kulasingam	17	Henig	c Kota	b Dubey
Kumar	c Kulasingam	b Padmore	45	†Lamont		b Dubey
Kota	c Ilangakoon	b Kulasingam	24	Ilangakoon	ret. hurt	56
Krishna	run out		18	Juma	c Basker	b Namilikonda
Chatharaju	c Sarif	b Ilangakoon	20	*Padmore	not out	29
Basker	run out		10	Kulasingam	st Dubey	b Kota
Caveney	not out		21	Sarif	lbw	b Krishna
Gulati	c Ilangakoon	b Kakumanu	5	Kakumanu	not out	0
†Dubey	not out		8	Spillane, Balasubramaniam and Collins dnb		
‡Namilikonda and *S. Patel	dnb					
Extras	b5 lb2 w8 nb1		16	Extras	b11 lb4 w4 nb1	20
Total	7 wickets	35 overs	184	Total	5 wickets	33 overs
FoW:	40, 90, 93, 122, 133, 158, 174			FoW:	17, 44, 132, 165, 170	
Bowling:	Balasubramaniam 7-0-30-0, Kakumanu 7-0-45-1			Bowling:	Dubey 7-0-36-2, Kumar 5-0-30-0, Gulati 6-0-19-0,	
	Kulasingam 7-1-29-2, Padmore 7-1-23-1, Ilangakoon 7-0-50-1				H. Patel 2-0-16-0, Chatharaju 2-0-14-0, Namilikonda 4-1-22-1,	
					Kota 4-0-24-1, Krishna 3-0-12-1	



Victorious captain - 29 not out

Salix deservedly beat the Gents for the first time in eight games, overcoming a competitive 184 with two overs and five wickets in hand. They paced their innings perfectly and were always up with the required rate. Having cannily hunted down targets in the last six games, the visitors found how difficult it can be to set one: 184 would win many games, but not against a top six of this calibre, on such a perfect batting pitch. They did not help themselves though, bowling too short and having a poor day in the field.

This was the third Gents visit to this sumptuous venue, with only Basker, Caveney, Dubey and S. Patel having played here before. Eight Gents and four Salix returned from the 2017 game. On a beautiful day, Gents were inserted. H. Patel, Kumar and Kota took the score to 90 for only two down, Kumar batting attractively, but it took 20 overs against accurate bowling and highly committed fielding.

The top seven made double figures, but after Kota edged to slip only Chatharaju threatened to dominate, taking three 4s off an Ilangakoon over. Some powerful batsmen were underused, mainly because the batting order was rightly based on who was on the ground at 1pm. Late acceleration was welcome, but Salix seemed confident at tea.

One diving stop by Collins incurred a trip to Charing Cross Hospital and ten stitches in his right hand, but he had saved four runs. Similar drives in the second innings would result in one dance over the ball on the boundary, one lazy attempt to trap it with the right foot and one prolonged speech about how far away it was rather than, as is traditional, an attempt to stop it. Collins was later summoned back by his tough skipper as he owed his match fee and had the key to the pavilion. D.R. Jardine lives!

The confidence exuded by Salix was not misplaced. Lamont was bowled Dubey prodding forward but Henig rattled six 4s in nine overs before driving the same bowler to mid-off. Enter Yovaan Ilangakoon and Sajjad Juma, who were out of the top drawer, hitting nine and four 4s in a 15-over stand. Ilangakoon retired hurt after a hamstring injury incurred turning for a sharp second and when Juma soon fell off a mistimed reverse sweep off Namilikonda Gents had brief hopes of victory. But veterans Kulasingam and Padmore were now together and posted 33 in only four overs, including a remarkable Kulasingam 6 over long on off Kota. The fielding improved as it dawned on the Gents that defeat was nigh, and Kota and Krishna deserved their wickets, but captain Padmore steered Salix home after a hard, very fair game.

## One in a row – the Salix report



*Salix enjoy the highlights*

The first paragraph of the last report I wrote back in June reads as follows: “Gentle Reader, you may by now be tiring of my attempts to reinterpret defeat at King’s House and, to be honest, I wouldn’t blame you. It is fair to say though that this game (and last week’s) although ending in defeat carried some hope for better things to come. Anyway to the events of Sunday last...” Well, it took a bit longer than I hoped but it finally did all come together in time to save me from having to describe another shellacking and us from experiencing a winless UK season. Most of the elements for Sunday’s win were indeed already in place. We had only one debutante, Saj, but we were also bolstered by the welcome return of CK.

Well that was the idea but when we started in the field we were only nine with the above-mentioned pair still not with us. We were forced to field helped by one of the Gents and an elderly substitute fielder who will be described only by the appellation YM. Saj and Bala set the tone with good opening spells – lots of playing and missing, few runs and a drop of Bala at slip by our elderly sub. Let us pause at this point because Saj (when he arrived) was placed at slip and therefore there is a philosophical argument here that this was, in essence, his drop – if so he becomes the first Salix player to drop a catch for us before making his debut.

Anyway, philosophy aside, we were eventually at full strength when suddenly we weren’t as Tim managed to split the webbing on his finger saving a certain four. A trip to the Urgent Care Centre at Charing Cross Hospital beckoned.

On the field, the bowling stayed good with the scoring restricted despite a fast outfield and a shortish boundary on one side. CK and Padders came on first change and kept the pressure up. Big shots were attempted and CK picked up a couple of wickets that his spell merited. Padders picked up the other opener, Yov came on for Padders and continued the thrifty theme and at one point the rate was four an over with half the overs gone. Some smiting ensued but to limited effect and with some good fielding and tight bowling we held the damage to 184 off 35. Two run outs and only two drops with five completed catches (including a spectacular diving take at long off by Yov) went a long way to stopping the runs leaking as they have sometimes done this season.

So to tea. A joint effort from the teams producing a far more edible effort than ever seen in Harlington. I particularly enjoyed the samosas. Post tea Daveski and Dozy opened up and were going well until Dozy copped a beauty that nipped off middle and pinged his off stump and then Daveski slapped one to mid-off. That brought Yov and Saj together for the stand that set the tone for victory - always on the run-rate they added eighty or so runs before Yov felt something pop and was forced to limp off. Saj then went for a reverse sweep and popped up a dolly.

Surely victory was not to be snatched away at the last? CK and Padders added a rapid 33 and we were 20 short. Two quick wickets kept hearts fluttering but Padders and Sia were up to the task and we were home by five wickets (really three as Yov and Tim were unlikely to bat). So then, a win at the very end to salvage a little from a sorry season but rather more importantly a good performance and one that provides hope that next year will be much better. Onwards and upwards! Thanks to the Gents, gentlemen as always in defeat or victory, and to anyone who has waded this far through my tangled prose.

*Until next season, Nurdler, T.*

Ed’s note: Surprisingly this wasn’t even our worst season: in both 2017 and 2000 we lost a greater percentage of games. Secondly I assume Nurdler T. is referring to the well-known Australian balladeer, Sia Furler, well known for her lovely music and also covering her face with a giant wig whilst singing.

**The Editor adds:** Salix are the Gents’ second most venerable opponents after St. Anne’s (2002), the fixture dating from 2004 when Bill Flack spun the visitors to victory. Gents would have to wait a long time for another win, Salix coming out on top in six out of the next seven, one being tied. The hegemony then reversed, Gents winning seven in a row 2012-2017. For spirit and work ethic, no 2018 side equalled the performance of Salix in this match.

## Top 10s

Important milestones await in 2019. Snelling needs probably two overs to take his 400th wicket and H. Patel is four short of 300. He confirms that given the Gents' catching amnesty they'll have to be bowled, lbw or stumped. Caveney, Dubey and Desai are in the 90s for appearances and could notch 100. We always get into trouble with Top 10s because people harbour grudges about somebody who played fewer games but did quite well, but the facts are there. We confirm that qualification is 15 innings or 50 overs.

Appearances	Runs	Batting Average	Catches
S. Patel	350	S. Patel	6,317
Snelling	244	M. Ashton	3,848
H. Patel	224	D. Patel	3,219
Buck	219	J. Wright	3,020
Burman	211	Husain	2,270
D. Patel	198	Gilkes	1,871
Sciberras	174	Buck	1,815
M. Ashton	153	H. Patel	1,611
J. Wright	149	Kumar	1,553
Todd	147	Sciberras	1,521

Overs	Wickets	Bowling Average	Bowling Economy
S. Patel	1,715.5	S. Patel	411
Snelling	1,602	Snelling	399
H. Patel	1,004.5	H. Patel	296
D. Patel	921.5	D. Patel	234
M. Ashton	827.5	Ashton	222
Todd	692.4	Sciberras	152
Sciberras	610.4	Todd	148
J. Wright	589.5	J. Wright	135
Boddington	436.3	Buck	115
Kumar	430.4	Boddington	98

## Career averages of players active in 2017 and 2018 (min. 3 games)

Player	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
Ahmed	13	12	2	269	26.90	7/3	-	-	-	-	-
Allamneni	3	3	1	0	0.00	-	9	1	52	1	52.00
Bandla	12	8	1	46	6.57	-	59	6	226	10	22.60
Basker	60	55	2	1,456	27.47	15/5	4.4	0	27	1	27.00
Bocha	62	58	4	1,374	25.44	26	200.4	14	1,016	57	17.82
Buck	219	195	19	1,815	10.31	44	415.1	15	2,080	115	18.09
Caveney	90	76	15	742	12.16	8	15.2	0	126	1	126.00
Chatharaju	34	29	7	166	7.55	4	94.2	10	523	19	27.53
S. Desai	94	85	5	1,269	15.86	35/3	183.2	8	869	51	17.04
Dubey	91	83	12	1,426	20.08	19/3	376.1	46	1,588	60	26.47
Francis	10	9	1	218	27.25	3	-	-	-	-	-
Gilkes	138	127	7	1,871	15.59	32	42	5	243	15	16.20
D. Gola	3	2	-	36	18.00	3	9.3	1	53	0	-
Gulati	7	5	2	83	27.67	-	46	1	172	10	17.20
Hibbert	77	67	9	795	13.71	22	234	32	1,086	62	17.52
A. Khan	5	5	1	63	15.75	2	7.5	0	48	2	24.00
N. Khan	70	63	8	1,162	21.13	22/1	151	11	701	25	28.04
Kota	37	35	11	1,147	47.79	15	161.1	23	779	44	17.70
Krishna	49	35	10	238	9.52	4/1	189.2	24	761	34	22.38
Kumar	105	92	15	1,553	20.17	12	430.4	47	1,727	84	20.56
Mangineni	8	6	2	30	7.50	-	25	4	82	9	9.11
Namikonda	24	22	6	270	16.88	13/2	44.5	1	240	16	15.00
Newcombe	72	61	12	678	13.84	27	108	8	649	32	20.28
D. Patel	198	182	20	3,219	19.87	42	921.5	69	3,845	234	16.43
H. Patel	224	167	26	1,611	11.43	54	1,004.5	85	4,862	296	16.43
Karan Patel	3	3	-	15	5.00	-	2	0	14	0	-
S. Patel	350	313	60	6,317	24.97	110	1,715.5	222	6,511	411	15.84
Pentakota	34	30	6	568	23.67	13	166	21	672	42	16.00
Pervez	3	2	-	1	0.50	-	1	0	8	0	-
Pingili	22	17	6	155	14.09	9	102	12	379	18	21.06
Sampath	13	11	-	204	18.55	3	4	0	17	1	17.00
Sciberras	174	148	15	1,521	11.44	60	610.4	45	2,798	152	18.41
Small	52	48	5	1,337	31.09	24/3	120.3	7	705	40	17.63
J. Snelling	5	4	2	15	7.50	1	22	3	90	4	22.50
S. Snelling	244	179	48	1,354	10.34	47	1,602	293	4,729	399	11.85
Sudireddy	29	20	2	187	10.39	6	31	2	204	7	29.14

## Planning for 2019

### Fixtures

If we start the 2019 season 20 April and end 22 September, there will be 23 Sundays, or 22 Sundays and a Saturday, to fill. Here is a personal, unofficial proposal for this, adding back unfulfilled games. No doubt it will ruffle a few feathers but please let us have your views. Assuming dates can be agreed, the schema below would give 23 matches in 2019 including the internal VB XI *v.* VK XI clash that seems to be bubbling under like a quiescent volcano.

Team	Keep		New		Reduce		Cancel	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
Hounslow Hurricanes							2	0 b
Millfields	1	1						
Wimbledon United	2	2						
Putney	1	1						
Northfields					2	1 a		
Crown Taverners	1	1						
Eastside	1	1						
St. Anne's Allstars	1	1						
Gubbays					2	1 a		
Viscount							1	0 c
Battersea Eagles	1	1						
Bricklayer's Arms	2	2						
QMC Pak	1	1						
Squirrels	1	2						
Clapham In	1	1						
Judd Street Tigers					2	1 a		
Crossbats	1	2						
Salix	1	1						
Hale							2	0 a
Baker Street Irregulars					1 d			
Old Fallopians					1 e			
Internal game					1 f			
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>17</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
								<b>0</b>

Millfields, Wimbledon United, Putney, Crown Taverners, Eastside, St. Anne's Allstars, Battersea Eagles, Bricklayer's Arms, QMC Pak, Squirrels, Clapham In, Crossbats and Salix should be retained as per the 2018 card. Squirrels and Crossbats should be increased to home and away. Otherwise:

a Good for one away game but perhaps not two – Gubbays, Northfields, Judd Street Tigers.

b They do not socialise, at least not with the Gents – Hounslow Hurricanes.

c Arrogant treasurer who was reluctant to pay match fee – Viscount.

d Old friends who want us back – Baker Street Irregulars.

e Offer of game at Winchmore Hill – Old Fallopians.

f As often discussed – Internal game.

g Unreliable and should be canned after bailing four times in three seasons – Hale.

### Financial planning

The club is solvent and there is no reason to increase charges. AGM and 2019 nets will be subsidised.

### Home venue

Wycombe House is dead in the water because they have shown no interest in communicating with us and Aamir Ahmed has left them to join Ashford in Surrey, so we have no contact there. We all know the frustrations with Old Tens – it lacks atmosphere, JC can be hard work, etc. but truthfully is anywhere better? If there is a desire to change, then we need to road test an alternative with 2/3 games. Sidling up and saying “We need a new ground” doesn’t cut it. A volunteer is needed to organise this.

### Nets

Nets were better attended in 2018 than for some years but a new approach is badly needed.

### Teas

A slicker act than for years – a base of vada pavs and samosas with a few sandwiches prepared in rotation satisfied Gents and opponents.

## Other awards

### Exaggeration of the season

Ranjith Chatharaju's 6 off the final ball to beat Squirrels. Nobody ever saw the like. A four would have done, you flash git.

### Lucky Dip award



Who are we playing next week? Good question. The Social Cricket Random Fixture Generator was a busy piece of software in 2018. Through it we met some true gentlemen and a few teams we would not want to meet again in a hurry.

How did this situation arise? Many independent Sunday sides are folding; others, often from the Asian community, are taking their place. Too many teams tick the middle boxes on the app, describing themselves as weak/medium and friendly. You do not know what you are going to get when an established opponent bails, but better a game than none at all. Or perhaps not, Viscount CC.

### Gents Peace Prize

The Norwegian Nobel Committee decided to award the Peace Prize for 2018 to Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict. Second came Hemin Patel of London for his efforts in preventing thermonuclear war between the captain and a lazy fielder, in which sandwiches were tragically used as a bargaining chip.

### Say what you think quote of the season

"They obviously want to win more than they want us back here."

*Bone, Putney CC captain*

### Catch of the season

For the first time ever, your match reporter can remember every single one there were so few. Satyapal Pingili has a very safe pair of hands and instinctively caught Curtis of Clapham In at gully. We also loved Kota's at Winchmore Hill, because the captain moved him after the previous ball.

### Graphic of the season

