
THE GENT

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International guest Rakesh blasts 50*



Matches 2, Innings 2, Not Out 2, Runs 106, Average ∞

Gents 5-2 for the season

The death cries of 300 batsmen

Steve Bignell writes

Fielding analysed

Pavan Kota's 93 stifles Wimbledon United

Aussie's ton breaks Gents' hearts

Joe Webster scores 80

British Library and Harold Pinter

Mad Latin teachers

Match reports:

Millfields (lost by 21 runs)

Wimbledon United (won by 70 runs)

Kempton (lost by 4 wickets)

Northfields (won by 8 wickets)



The death cries of 300 batsmen



Since June 2018 Hemin Patel has modestly demanded to know how close he was to his 300th wicket. He had access to the information and could have worked it out for himself but of course in the office he has people to do this sort of thing for him, so fair enough. Anyway, his skills are more intuitive than arithmetical as the pogrom of his treasury showed.

Hemin passed his milestone against Byfleet when Gardiner swatted to square leg. A tribute is deserved. He claims he should have done it many matches before, but there were those drops, rubbish field placings, etc.

100th wicket: 31 May 2009 *v.* West XI, Bignell c S. Desai b H. Patel 2
200th wicket: 25 September 2011 *v.* Hale, Weaver lbw b H. Patel 7
300th wicket: 5 May 2019 *v.* Millfields, Gardiner c Sudireddy b H. Patel 0

H. Patel	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Ang.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Ang.
1st 100 wickets	79	60	9	438	8.59	28	325.3	45	1,363	100	13.63
2nd 100 wickets	63	50	5	420	9.33	14	325	17	1,723	100	17.23
3rd 100 wickets	85	60	12	760	15.83	12	362.2	23	1,805	100	18.05
All	227	170	26	1,628	11.24	54	1,012.5	85	4,891	300	16.30

H. Patel	Econ.	SR	BB
1st 100 wickets	4.19	19.53	5-17 <i>v.</i> West XI 11.7.10 (1 b, 3 ct., 1 st.)
2nd 100 wickets	5.30	19.50	5-29 <i>v.</i> Hale 27.9.09 (3 b, 2 ct.)
3rd 100 wickets	4.98	21.74	5-31 <i>v.</i> Hale 25.9.11 (2 b, 3 ct.)
All	4.83	20.26	4 wickets 11 times

The opportunity to fawn on him for his 5 for 17 against West XI must never be spurned. He took advantage of a turning pitch to nab Dane, Taylor, Rowan Allerton, Cattie and Laing as the Gents edged home by 12 runs, West XI losing their last six wickets for 17. The consistency is striking. He pays 4 to 5 runs per over but takes a wicket every 20 balls. Study also his batting, improved in recent years, a product of skill and opportunity. He has scored 50 against Clapham In, Crown Taverners and Crossbats since he took his 200th wicket.

D. Patel	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Ang.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Ang.
All	198	182	20	3,219	19.87	69	921.5	69	3,845	234	16.43

Dhruv Patel introduced Hemin and a comparison of the merits of their bowling cannot be avoided. In 198 matches the pint-sized twirler took 234 wickets at 16.43 (up to the end of 2018 his average could only be separated from Hemin's by the third decimal place), an economy of 4.17 (cf. Hemin's 4.19 in a similar era) and a strike rate of 23.64. Nobody can persuasively argue who was the better spinner. They played in different eras for a start and pitches have improved. Perhaps Dhruv had the greater variety, Hemin the greater calm when under fire. The Gents have been lucky to have both of them and we shall leave it there. Here's to the next hundred, Hemin. Congratulations.

Bigger wickets...? Game's gone!

Amongst the items hoovered up in my visits to Spitalfields Market was the *Daily Express Cricket Annual 1930*, cost four old pence, writes **Steve Bignell**. These wonderful little volumes were forerunners of the modern *Playfair Annual*. It is time-worn and browning but well readable. During the 1929 season changes were made to the Laws, which included higher and wider wickets and batsmen given out lbw even if the ball had hit the bat first. The idea behind this was seemingly to reduce the number of drawn matches by giving a greater advantage to the bowling side. The lbw change was abandoned in 1933. All counties now had to play the same number of games (28 x three days).

In the pen pictures of the visiting Australian team D.J. Bradman was described as “*a pianist who plays more jazz than classics. A batsman with all the shots, though not playing them in the classic style*”. He went on to score 974 runs in the Tests, including three double hundreds. Other highlights included ‘Poultry Keeping Simplified’ - Price 1/6d, 1/9d by post, and all the Northern League fixtures listed.

Hey Joe, where you going with that bat in your hand?

Hats off to 14-year-old Joe Webster, who played so well for Judd Street Tigers against Gents last September. Last seen trying the crossbar challenge at the Paulin Ground, he stormed it on 11 May playing for Winchmore Hill IIIs against Ealing IVs, scoring 80 in Hill's 305 for 6 in 45 overs, following with a wicket and a run out when Ealing batted (119 all out). We applaud him and look forward to seeing him again on 1 September. Father Matt is among the wickets again for Tigers and 10-year-old brother Frank plays for Hill's U.11s. Quite a dynasty.

The new model for Tigers is full affiliation with Winchmore Hill, which has increased their pool of players, though the stalwarts remain. It was encouraging to see that against Shakespeare CC, Bignell, Dane, Rennie and Wright played with seven chaps new to us. Apart from a tie in the oldest British ally, Portugal, they have started slowly but with an enhanced gene pool expect results to improve.

Fielders compared

During a recent break on the WhatsApp board from discussion of the Indian election, there was speculation by the Patels about the club's best 'keeper. You will not be surprised to discover that we were sent away to do some analysis. This article is titled Fielders not Wicketkeepers, though 13 of the 16 below had the gauntlets at one time or other. Catches taken both behind the timbers and in the outfield are included. Paul Turpin is remembered mainly as a 'keeper but took three in one game as an outfielder at Berkhamsted in 2006. Here then, with a qualification of five games, are those who have caught or stumped a victim every two games. Two of the squad have the chance to ascend further.

Individual fielding dismissals in an innings

5 ct.	Jolin <i>v.</i> London Saints (Town Park 25.6.94) Timed. All as wicket-keeper
3 ct., 1 st.	Turpin <i>v.</i> Sloane Club (Burton's Court 10.5.09) All as wicket-keeper
4 ct.	S. Desai <i>v.</i> West XI (CSSC 31.5.09) All as outfielder
4 ct.	Sub. Fielder (Colicci) <i>v.</i> Wombles (Victoria RG 30.8.09) All as outfielder
4 ct.	McCabe (Northfields) (Old Tenisonians 8.8.10) All as wicket-keeper

Player	Matches	Caught	Stumped	Total	Total/game
Paul Turpin	25	24	2	26	1.04
Aabid Culasy	6	5	1	6	1.00
Prakash Patel	5	4	-	4	0.80
Srinivas Namilkonda	26	17	3	20	0.77
Laurie Wright	13	2	8	10	0.77
Richard Sambrook Smith	28	14	7	21	0.75
Aamir Ahmed	14	7	3	10	0.71
Himanshu Desai	61	33	8	41	0.67
Ian Maughan	64	40	2	42	0.66
Ian Harper-Dallas	7	4	-	4	0.57
Ryon Derriman	14	8	-	8	0.57
Bhavesh Vyas	13	7	-	7	0.54
Jason Irvin	38	16	4	20	0.53
Aravind Katragadda	21	11	-	11	0.52
Jonny Small	52	24	3	27	0.52
Dane Thoms	8	3	1	4	0.50

2019 scorecards and results

13/4	Marble Hill Park	Crossbats 167-4 (McAlpine 68, S. Skinner 51, Wright 20) Gents 170-5 (Kota 57, Basker 55, Sudireddy 33*, Ross 4-18)	Won by 5 wickets	
21/4	Byfleet	Byfleet 161-9 (Akhtar 57, Fahey 28, Mangineni 4-16) Gents 164-6 (Namilikonda 56, Sudireddy 28*, Kota 20)	Won by 4 wickets	
28/4	Cavendish RG	Gents 138 (Dubey 45, Neal 3-22) Gubbays 109 (Aryuat 25, Namilikonda 4-17, Pentakota 3-10)	Won by 29 runs	
5/5	Hilly Fields	Millfields 103 (Collis 66*, Cordell 20, H. Patel 4-29, Kumar 3-31) Gents 82 (C. Cooper 3-8)	Lost by 21 runs	
12/5	Old Tenisonians	Gents 201-7 (Kota 93*, Namilikonda 28, Dubey 20, Hasan 3-41) Wimbledon United 131 (Patel 40)	Won 70 runs	
19/5	Old Tenisonians	Gents 182-9 (Gulati 43*, Pentakota 41, S. Patel 20, Walsh 4-19) Kempton 186-6 (Little 108*, Newman 31)	Lost by 4 wickets	
26/5	CSSC Chiswick	Northfields 152-9 (Ismail 42, Paynter 28, H. Patel 3-20, Namilikonda 3-25) Gents 156-2 (R. Patel 50*, Basker 34, Namilikonda 32, Kota 26*)	Won by 8 wickets	
Date	Gents	Result	Judd Street Tigers	Result
Sat 13 April	Crossbats	Won by 5 wickets	-	-
Sun 21 April	Byfleet	Won by 4 wickets	-	-
Sun 28 April	Gubbays	Won by 29 runs	Harrowdene	Lost by 13 runs
Sun 5 May	Millfields	Lost by 21 runs	Gubbays	Lost by 6 wickets
Sat 11 May	-	-	Porto	Lost by 5 wickets
Sun 12 May	Wimbledon United	Won by 70 runs	Porto	Tied
Sun 19 May	Kempton	Lost by 4 wickets	Shakespeare	Lost by 5 wickets
Sun 26 May	Northfields	Won by 8 wickets	N2 Casuals	Drawn
Record	Played 7 Won 5 Lost 2		Played 6 Lost 4 Drawn 1 Tied 1	
Home	Played 2 Won 1 Lost 1		Played 4 Drawn 1 Lost 3	
Away	Played 5 Won 4 Lost 1		Played 2 Lost 1 Tied 1	
Runs	Kota 213, Namilikonda 142, Basker 116		Greenham 179, J. Ranger 140	
Wickets	Namilikonda 12, H. Patel 8		Jhangiani 6, Wright 4	
Catches/Stumpings	Namilikonda 4/1, Basker 1/3		Warren 4	

2019 in numbers

Highest score for: 201-7 *n.* Wimbledon United **Against:** 186-6 by Kempton

Lowest score for: 82 *n.* Millfields **Against:** 103 by Millfields

Highest partnerships by wicket for: 1. 75 Basker/Namilikonda *n.* Northfields, 2. 106 Basker/Kota *n.* Crossbats, 3. 79* R. Patel/Kota *n.* Northfields, 4. 38 Namilikonda/Kota *n.* Wimbledon United, 5. 30 Pentakota/S. Patel *n.* Kempton, 6. 56 Namilikonda/Sudireddy *n.* Byfleet, 7. 35 Kota/Chatharaju *n.* Wimbledon United, 8. 58* Kota/Newcombe *n.* Wimbledon United, 9. 40 Dubey/Krishna *n.* Gubbays, 10. 8 Krishna/Chatharaju *n.* Gubbays

Highest partnerships by wicket against: 1. 104 S. Skinner/McAlpine (Crossbats), 2. 66 Collis/Cordell (Millfields), 3. 69 Newman/Littler (Kempton), 4. 32 Little/Axten (Kempton), 5. 45 Little/Taylor (Kempton), 6. 51 Akhtar/Fahey (Byfleet), 7. 36 Fahey/R. Hockin (Byfleet), 8. 10 Wijegoonawardena/J. Hitchman (Wimbledon United), 9. 6 Collis/M. Cooper (Millfields), 10. 5 Vinny/Shyam (Gubbays)

100 partnerships for (1): 116 2. Basker/Kota *n.* Crossbats **100 partnerships against (1):** 104 1. S. Skinner/McAlpine (Crossbats)

50s/100s for (5): 93* Kota *n.* Wimbledon United, 57 Kota *n.* Crossbats, 56 Namilikonda *n.* Byfleet, 55 Basker *n.* Crossbats,

50* R. Patel *n.* Northfields

50s/100s against (5): 108* Little (Kempton), 68 McAlpine (Crossbats), 62* Collis (Millfields), 57 Akhtar (Byfleet), 51 S. Skinner (Crossbats)

4-wicket returns for (3): 4-16 Mangineni *n.* Byfleet, 4-17 Namilikonda *n.* Gubbays, 4-31 H. Patel *n.* Millfields

4-wicket returns against (2): 4-18 Ross (Crossbats), 4-19 Walsh (Kempton)

Sixes (11): 3 Kota, 2 Dubey, Namilikonda, R. Patel 1 Corbett, Gulati

Run outs of opponents (7): 1 Ahmed, Chatharaju, Francis, Gulati, Kumar, S. Patel, Pentakota

Ducks (4): 1 Basker, Bocha, Corbett, Sudireddy

Pavan Kota and Greg Newcombe top the averages

Player (debut *)	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
Basker	5	5	-	116	23.20	1/3	-	-	--	-	-
Caveny	3	2	1	8	8.00	-	0.3	0	4	0	-
Chatharaju	7	5	1	52	13.00	-	32.3	2	146	5	29.20
Corbett *	3	2	-	11	5.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dubey	5	4	1	93	31.00	3	21	2	68	1	68.00
Gulati	5	3	1	63	31.50	2	23	3	104	3	34.67
Kota	7	7	2	213	42.60	1	21	1	120	2	60.00
Krishna	5	3	-	19	6.33	1	26	2	101	2	50.50
Kumar	4	3	-	28	9.33	2	30	4	90	7	12.86
Namilikonda	6	5	-	142	28.40	4/1	28	1	111	12	9.25
H. Patel	5	4	-	13	3.25	1	20	1	62	8	7.75
S. Patel	7	3	1	25	12.50	2	7	0	40	1	40.00
Pentakota	3	2	-	53	26.50	-	21	2	73	3	24.33
Sudireddy	6	6	2	68	17.00	3	1	0	5	0	-

One match only: Ahmed 1/1/-/2, Bocha 1/1/-/0 (1 ct.), Francis 1/1/-/10, R. Kumar * 1/1/-/1, 1-0-1-0, Maddulapalli * 1/1/1/2, Mangineni 1/-/-/-, 8-2-16-4, Newcombe 1/1/1/15, 3-0-5-2, R. Patel 1/1/1/50, 8-0-23-1 (1 ct.)

Millfields v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 5 May, Hilly Fields. Gents won toss. Cloudy, 11C

Lost by 21 runs

Millfields			Gentlemen of West London				
Street	c Namilikonda	b Dubey	1	Basker	c M. Cooper	b C. Cooper	11
†Collis	not out		66	Krishna	c Gardiner	b C. Cooper	1
Cordell	lbw	b H. Patel	20	Kota	lbw	b Ahmed	1
Hewitt	c S. Kumar	b H. Patel	2	S. Kumar	lbw	b M. Cooper	13
*C. Cooper	c Dubey	b S. Kumar	1	Sudireddy		b Ahmed	2
Bird		b S. Kumar	0	†Namilikonda		b Lemon	19
Mellor		b S. Kumar	0	Chatharaju	lbw	b Bird	9
Lemon	st Namilikonda	b H. Patel	4	*S. Patel		b Bird	5
Gardiner	c Sudireddy	b H. Patel	0	Dubey	not out		13
M. Cooper		b Chatharaju	2	H. Patel		b M. Cooper	1
Ahmed		b Chatharaju	0	R. Kumar		b C. Cooper	1
Extras	b1 lb1 w5		7	Extras	b2 lb2 nb2		6
Total	All out	30.5 overs	103	Total	All out	30.1 overs	82
FoW: 1, 67, 71, 72, 74, 74, 93, 97, 103, 103				FoW: 5, 14, 14, 20, 45, 56, 64, 66, 81, 82			
Bowling: Krishna 5-1-14-0, Dubey 6-0-20-1, S. Kumar 8-1-31-3, H. Patel 8-0-29-4, Chatharaju 2.5-0-6-2, R. Kumar 1-0-1-0				Bowling: C. Cooper 6.1-3-8-3, Ahmed 8-3-16-2, Lemon 5-0-23-1, M. Cooper 7-2-14-2, Bird 4-0-19-2			

The Gents bowlers used the conditions well to restrict a talented batting team to 103. They then made the mistake of batting, found out how hard it was, and finished 21 runs short. With the dismissal of Gardiner, Hemin Patel took his 300th career wicket in his 227th game. Stuart Snelling (399) and Sanjay Patel (411) remain ahead and perhaps out of reach. As Fairport Convention sang, Time will show the wiser.

A wet wicket helped the bowlers throughout and with an unmown outfield a low-scoring game was in prospect. Dubey had Street caught behind in his first over before Cordell joined Collis for what proved to be a match-winning stand of 66. Cordell was dropped three times before falling to Patel in the 18th over, Collis 20 not out at the time and looking ominous. He survived one chance to carry his bat for 66 (seven fours) and brought up his average in this rubber to 296, following scores of 80 and 150 not out. The only Gent to dismiss him was Jonny Small with a catch by Praveen Bocha.

The period of play after Cordell was out belonged to the visitors. Hemin Patel and Sumit Kumar loved the seaming, turning pitch and, assisted by improved catching and a fine stumping, fairly rattled through the middle order and tail. They shared seven wickets with Chatharaju cleaning up. The innings ended at 11 minutes past three.

In Test cricket, the lowest total not to include a duck is 75 by Australia at Durban in the 1949-50 series. The Gents were seven runs shy of that. By definition, all batsmen got a start, but were worn down by the pace of Cian Cooper and the leg-spin of his father and Ahmed. Kota and Sumit Kumar patiently blocked five maidens. With plenty of time and some good batsmen to come Gents were sanguine about their prospects. Ahmed then signed off with two wickets.

That the highest stand of the innings was 25 testified to the depressed and nervous condition that then afflicted the batsmen. Namilikonda was assertive, driving a 6 and two 4s, but that was as good as it got for the visitors. Kumar showed a lot of guts in his vigil of 18 overs and Dubey hit a 6 and a 4 before he ran out of partners, three batsmen falling leg-before. The Millfields attack was the best faced in 2019, and Collis the best batsman.

There was much subsequent discussion of the ball that got Hemin Patel, bowled by Cooper senior. We know that that he bowled it, Hemin missed it, and the ball hit the stumps. Efforts by *The Gent* to establish more detail have been beset, as inquiries often are, by contradictory evidence. The batsman, the bowler and his captain confirmed a leg-break that Shane Warne would have been proud of, dipping, spitting, turning and clipping the top of off stump. Non-facing batsman Dubey and umpire Kota saw none of that. Dubey believed it was a straight delivery that Hemin missed. He said *"The ball went through the gate, as indeed a car could have too"*.

Gentlemen of West London v. Wimbledon United

Sunday 12 May, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Sunny, 17C

Won by 70 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Wimbledon United			
H. Patel	c J. Hitchman	b Brown	6	Ahmed	b Gulati	15
Gulati	lbw	b Wije'wardena	1	Phillip	lbw	1
†Dubey		b Brown	20	Iyengar	c Namilikonda	3
†Namilikonda	c J. Hitchman	b Hasan	28	Hasan	c Namilikonda	13
Kota	not out		93	Yousuf	c Kota	19
Sudireddy		b Hasan	4	Patel		40
Caveney		b Hasan	6	Kotze		11
Chatharaju		b Kotze	15	Wije'wardena	lbw	15
Newcombe	not out		15	†J. Hitchman	run out (Kumar)	1
*S. Patel and Kumar dnb				*Dean	c Kumar	0
				Brown	not out	1
Extras	b9 lb1 w3		13	Extras	b5 lb1 w4 nb2	12
Total	7 wickets	40 overs	201	Total	All out	39.3 overs
FoW: 6, 8, 36, 74, 97, 108, 143				FoW: 9, 21, 22, 40, 63, 99, 117, 127, 127, 131		
Bowling: Brown 8-1-34-2, Wijegoonawardena 5-0-33-1, Hasan 8-0-41-3, Kotze 8-0-28-1, Yousuf 7-1-24-0, Dean 4-0-31-0				Bowling: Kumar 8-1-16-2, Gulati 5-2-14-2, Chatharaju 7-1-25-0, H. Patel 5-0-13-1, Kota 4-0-22-0, S. Patel 4-0-18-1, Namilikonda 2-0-3-1, Newcombe 3-0-5-2, Sudireddy 1-0-5-0, Caveney 0.3-0-3-0		



The Gents won their fourth game of 2019 with an impressive batting recovery against popular oppo Wimbledon United. Kota showed exemplary concentration for 33 overs to glue the innings together with 93 not out and oversee a total that was better than hoped for, but credit should be also given to Mitesh Patel, who scored 40 with a broken hand in a brave reply by the Maroons. Captain Patel used ten bowlers.

In bright if cool sunshine Old Tenisonians looked a picture for the first home game of the season. The well-attended AFC Wimbledon Ladies v. QPR Ladies football match finished on time 2-2 and the groundsman jovially doled out bowls of chili to early arrivals, happy in the knowledge that within six hours his work would be done and he could binge-watch his favourite TV series, *Star Trek*. The pitch had been relaid over the winter and the wise ones were looking forward to discovering how it would play. The answer came: truly, with some seam movement and slow turn.

Maroons' batsmen D. Hitchman, teaching in Athens, and 2018 centurion Flannery, footballing at Anfield, were absent as was demon bowler Andrew "Six for one" Cripps who broke Gents' hearts in the Cottenham Park massacre of 2017. Father-to-be Newcombe returned for the Gents, his wonderful news a welcome distraction from the increasingly intemperate conversation about IPL and association football.

H. Patel and Gulati fell early but Dubey and Namilikonda batted briskly before a varied visiting attack got among the wickets. Dubey hit over a straight yorker, Namilikonda was neatly taken off a leg-glance. Sudireddy and Caveney did not prosper and the Gents declined to 108 for 6 in the 26th over. Maroons were on top. Kota was 35 at the time and with intelligent support from Chatharaju and Newcombe he batted gloriously, hitting nine 4s and three 6s as the seventh and eighth wickets added 93. Hasan, Brown, Kotze and Yousuf were the pick of the bowlers.

It was the first time Gents had batted first in this series and they had ultimately made good use of a sporting pitch. They had only failed to defend 200 four times so were favourites at tea, a lavish affair supplied by H. Patel that had a generous hint of outsourcing to Waitrose. Tasty, though.

Kumar and Gulati were accurate and challenging with their new ball. Phillip was pinned early, Ahmed yorked having driven a startling six into the Tennyson Avenue trees, Iyengar well taken by a diving keeper and Hasan caught off a top-edged pull. Maroons then needed 161 off 26 overs. Yousuf and Patel added 23 before Kota clung on to a drive at long on to give H. Patel a wicket. No batsman is stouter in defence than a fourteen-year-old with something to prove and Kotze's technique was admirable. It took captain S. Patel's outswinger to dislodge him, the highlight of the captain's first bowl in six games. Patel went bravely on before Namilikonda bowled him. Newcombe struck twice in a neat spell and Kumar, having caught Dean, then ran out the unfortunate Hitchman to end the game at ten to seven.

The aftermath was painful. H. Patel suffered a hairline fracture of the wrist in the field. With the long-term absence of Ahmed and Francis, that's three senior players crocked. We wish them a quick recovery.

Kota's deeds were relayed to Bluster House, the Northern Home for Retired Cricketers. Resident M.H.W. Ashton reminisced about his own identical score, against New Barbarian Weasels in 1991. Denied a century that day by selfish batting from his partner, he beefily recalled that he rectified the matter in 1992. Cricketers never forget.

And now David Hitchman's report from WUCC...

A beautiful sunny afternoon under fair weather fluffy clouds provided the perfect backdrop for some eagerly contested cricket against the Gentlemen at the open expanse of the Archbishop Tenison's ground in Motspur Park. The longish grass in the outfield however would no doubt mean that every run would have to be earned the hard way. With Gary having done his knee midweek Greg Dean came in as skipper for his first outing of the season, promptly lost the toss and was invited to field.

Pete Brown and Rowan opened the bowling and made encouraging inroads in the early overs. Pete struck first with the last ball of his second over as a clear edge was well taken by keeper Hitchman in front of slip to dismiss H. Patel for 6. Rowan took the second wicket to fall in the next over, trapping Gulati lbw for 1. Three wickets were down by the end of the seventh over, as Pete captured his second, bowling Dubey with a cracker for 20. 36 for 3 was a healthy start for Wimbledon, but at this point Namilikonda and Kota put together a stand of 38 to take the score along to 74 as Farrukh and young James Kotze took over the bowling duties. Farrukh took the next wicket, that of Namilikonda, when an attempt at a leg-side glance took the batsman's glove and the ball looped up to be well snaffled round the corner by the keeper. Kota however continued and his knock proved to be the backbone of the home side's innings.

He was aided by a succession of cameos, firstly by Sudireddy and Caveney, both winkled out fairly cheaply (both bowled) by Farrukh during a productive spell of eight overs that yielded 3 for 41. With the Gentlemen on 108 for 6 Wimbledon could be forgiven for thinking that a fairly reasonable target might be in the offing, but Kota had other thoughts in mind. Chatharaju and Newcombe joined in to assist Kota while Imran Yusuf (press ganged as a last minute substitute for Gary and making a welcome return a) to England and b) to Wimbledon colours) and Greg Dean tried out their bowling skills. Another 35 runs were added before James, returning for a second spell, burst through the defences of Chatharaju with a remarkable delivery, clean bowling him for 15. In the remaining seven overs however, Kota in particular put the Wimbledon bowling to the sword and he and Newcombe added 58 without further loss to take the Gentlemen's final score to 201 for 7, Kota finishing on 93. Ouch.

After tea Curtis Phillip and Hash Ahmed opened the Wimbledon innings. Curtis' renowned last minute.com batting style didn't unfortunately secure him much time at the crease as he was caught incontrovertibly smack in front and out lbw to the second ball of Kumar's second over. Chaitanya took over and commenced a dogged resistance operation against Kumar and Gulati. The speedy Gulati was looking the more dangerous of the two so it was a complete surprise when out of the blue Hash smacked the second ball of his third over for a straight 6 into the netting guarding the distant houses. This outrage (from the bowler's viewpoint of course) followed an opening dot ball and was in turn followed by four more dot balls! Gulati got his revenge in his next over however as he cleaned up Hash midway through a wicket maiden, Hash having made 15 out of 21 by this point. Chaitanya's dogged 26-ball innings came to an end in Gulati's next over as he nicked one behind to be caught by wicketkeeper Namilikonda. Namilikonda it was who captured the next wicket as he ran forward to take a catch roughly where silly mid-on might have been to dismiss Farrukh for 13 and give Kumar his second wicket (before said gentleman exchanged his keeping gloves with Dubey and took up bowling).

40 for 4 in the fifteenth over became 63 for 5 in the nineteenth when Imran, who had been looking impressively composed after a long time away from the game, was caught at mid-off for 19 off H. Patel. With two new batsmen at the crease it was time for some consolidation and Mitesh and James Kotze proceeded to do just that. James, with some solid and correct defence, took a while to get off the mark but gradually he and Mitesh began to find some runs and they added 36 before James was bowled by S Patel for 11. Mitesh too had made a slowish start but by the time Rowan joined him he had upped the scoring rate and had made 40 before being bowled by keeper turned bowler Namilikonda. At 117 for 7 in the 36th over there was no chance of a Wimbledon victory but there was no giving in either. Rowan made a determined 15 before being judged lbw to Newcombe in the penultimate over, which the incoming Greg failed to see out as he chipped the last ball of Newcombe's over down the throat of Kumar at mid-on. This left last man Pete Brown to see out the final over in the company of Hitchman, who by this time was a tired and rather stiff veteran after 40 overs of wicketkeeping, but alas no sympathy for this condition was on offer as a call for a sharp (for sharp read ridiculous) single resulted in an easy run out to bring the innings to an ignominious conclusion.

So a convincing win for the Gents has to be recognised, the 70 run margin being a not unfair reflection of the teams' performances on the day. Wimbledon's new all-rounder, young James, put in a commendable performance – a tight spell of bowling was particularly impressive as time and again he put the ball on the spot at a decent pace. Mitesh deserves credit for a solid knock of 40 to stiffen the middle order and Farrukh bowled well for his three wickets. However there is merit in encouraging youth so the award for Man of the Match this week is going to James Kotze. Well done.

British Library and Harold Pinter

Earlier this year the British Library held an exhibition titled *Harold Pinter: A Line, A Word, an Image*. They had acquired his archive in 2007 for £1.1m and in 2014 more than a hundred letters written by him between 1948 and 1960, when he was between 18 and 30.

The curators struggled to date the letters until they noticed that almost all had a reference to a contemporary game of cricket. They then discovered the existence of *Wisden* and Cricinfo. For example in one letter he wrote about the young cricketer Doug Padgett. "*Didn't he get a century yesterday, to bear out your words? We shall certainly bear more of Padgett. And what about Wilson being called back to continue his innings? A unique happening.*"

British Library breathlessly revealed to *The Guardian*, who even more breathlessly referred to county workhorse Padgett, whose first-class batting average was 28.58, as "great", that after research the century Pinter referred to was the 115 for Yorkshire against Warwickshire at Edgbaston on 23 July 1955. Thus their archivists ponderously established something that would have taken an average schoolboy less than a minute. One despairs, one really does.

British Library still owe Gents £20 for the cricket tea served them in 2009. This sum has not been written off, and we await notice of the hearing from the Small Claims Court.

Gentlemen of West London v. Kempton

Sunday 19 May, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Cloudy then sunny, 18C

Lost by 4 wickets

Gentlemen of West London			Kempton				
Pentakota	lbw	b Walsh	41	Smith	c Bocha	b Kumar	5
Kumar	c K. Armstrong	b Pandya	6	Newman	run out (Chat'ju)		31
Dubey	lbw	b Axten	15	Pandya	c Gulati	b Kumar	13
Kota	c Hershman	b Smith	9	Little	not out		108
Chatharaju		b Smith	16	Axten	c Dubey	b Kota	7
*S. Patel	st K. Armstrong	b Hershman	20	Taylor	run out (Pent'ota)		10
Gulati	not out		43	†K. Armstrong	run out (Gulati)		1
†Bocha		b Walsh	0	*Walsh	not out		0
Sudireddy		b Walsh	1	Sethi, C. Armstrong and Hershman	dnb		
Corbett	c Taylor	b Walsh	11				
Maddulapalli	not out		2				
Extras	b2 lb1 w13 nb2		18	Extras	b2 lb4 w5		11
Total	9 wickets	35 overs	182	Total	6 wickets	34.4 overs	186
FoW: 15, 37, 62, 84, 114, 158, 158, 164, 179			FoW: 11, 26, 95, 127, 172, 173				
Bowling: Pandya 7-0-45-1, Taylor 7-0-18-0, Axten 7-1-22-1, Smith 5-1-19-2, Hershman 2-0-1-6-1, Sethi 3-0-33-0, Little 1-0-7-0, Walsh 3-0-19-4			Bowling: Kumar 7-1-23-2, Dubey 7-1-11-0, Gulati 2-0-18-0, Pentakota 6-0-39-0, Kota 6-0-40-1, Chatharaju 4-0-28-0, S. Patel 2.4-0-21-0				



Large by Little

A magnificent century by Australian Jarod Little, the 47th in Gents games and the 23rd scored by an opponent, saw Kempton to a close victory with just two balls remaining. The Registered Overseas player hit 15 4s and a 6, was dropped on 0, 31 and 99 but deserved his good fortune, playing strokes that reminded veteran spectators of West XI's Cameron Vine. A century in an innings total of under 200 is rare. The Gents so nearly defended their score, but as the captain pointed out, victory would have masked some weaknesses that need attention.

Rain fell prematch and with more forecast the captains agreed 35 overs after Kempton asked for 30. They fielded three first XI in Axten, Little and Walsh, and an excellent 15-year-old wicketkeeper. The Gents ground their way in mizzle and murk to 95 for 4 in 25 overs against a probing attack, Pentakota dropping anchor with 41 in 32 overs and others contributing steadily. In the last 10 overs Gulati struck a personal best 43 in 11 overs (seven 4s, one 6), Corbett hit an aircraft-endangering 6 and Walsh took four wickets with his slow left-arm as 87 came. Maddulapalli was confident at the end.

The visitors' innings was similar to the Gents': early struggle followed by late turbulence. Kumar and Dubey bowled through to deliver impressive figures, Kempton 36 for 2 off 14. Kumar had both, Smith nicking behind to Bocha and one taking the shoulder of Pandya's bat high to slip Gulati. Little was dropped before he had scored, a tough one to gully's right, but thereafter batted with composure. Newman was solid and 69 came up in 16 overs for the third wicket before a good throw saw him short going for a second.

Kota winkled out Taylor after a brisk stand, Kempton 127 for 4 in the 27th. Little was now playing shots all round the ground, peppering the gaps square of the wicket and in easing conditions for batting the bowlers were powerless to stop him. Run outs seemed the most likely source of a wicket and indeed two more came as batsmen ceded the strike to him. He was dropped on 99 at deep mid-wicket, sprinted to his ton, celebrated gleefully as he had the right to do and scored eight off the final over to win the day.

It was a shame that Kempton left straight after to socialise back at their clubhouse. It would have been good to toast Little. They tentatively offered Gents a rematch in 2020 at theirs, Walsh warning that they would be stronger at home than here. That's fine but let's not be too fierce: had this been a league game Kempton would have forfeited the points after their late arrival. Was there a hint of sniffiness there?

Thanks to Srinivas Namilikonda, Hemin Patel and Ken Toft for lively support, though it is fair to say that, like Sanjay, Hemin is not a great watcher, even invading the pitch at one point to move a fielder. He was moved back and it was comedy gold when the next ball went straight to him. Commiserations to Kumar and Maddulapalli who were injured.

Four-two is not a bad start and despite the injuries fewer players have been needed this season, always a good sign. In their first six games have Gents have had 28 fielding dismissals: 19 catches, two stumpings and seven run outs. Unspectacular until you study the execrable fielding from the 19 games in 2018: 39 catches, four stumpings and six run outs. A glimmer of light indeed, being twice as efficient.

The captain put the disappointment into perspective when he messaged the squad: "Result aside this was an excellent team performance. You should be proud of the effort put in today. Let's keep going."

Centuries by opponents († Gent scored 100 in same game)



	165*	Elmes (Northfields) (Durston House 24.5.15)
	164* †	Ahmed (Close PF) (Old Tenisonians 28.6.15)
	150*	Walker (Rotherham SC) (Battersea Park 7.5.95)
	150*	Collis (Millfields) (Hilly Fields 6.5.18)
	146	Shanin Khan (Bengal Troopers) (LMPF Greenford 1.5.16)
	144	Sayf-Ali Khan (Stanmore Warriors) (Shenley CS 3.9.17)
	140*	Bulmer (London Owls) (Victoria RG 5.9.93)
	132	Heyman (Village XI) (Old Hamptonians 30.7.06)
	113	Griffiths (Hale) (Hale Common 27.9.09)
	113*	Flannery (Wimbledon United) (Cottenham Park 15.7.18)
112*		David Redhead (Northfields) (Durston House 22.5.16)
112*		AN Other (East Harrow Cheetahs) (Marble Hill Park 19.6.88)
111		Groves-Loader (New Barbarian Weasels) (Victoria RG 26.7.98) ^{Timed}
108*		Little (Kempton) (Old Tenisonians 19.5.19)
107		N. Wilson (Wandham) (Beverley Park 5.6.94)
107		Jaques (East Harrow Cheetahs) (Beverley Park 4.8.96) ^{Timed}
105 †		MacDonald (St Anne's Allstars) (Barnes Common 2.8.14)
103*		Best (New Barbarian Weasels) (Peel Centre 1.9.91)
102		Hadfield (12 Angry Men) (Victoria RG 29.5.94) ^{Timed}
101		T. Mayhew (London Saints) (Beverley Park 17.8.96)
101*		Atkins (Exiles) (Victoria RG 5.8.01)
100		D. Wilson (12 Angry Men) (Victoria RG 29.7.01)
100* †		Poulter (Bricklayer's Arms) (Raynes Park SG 27.8.17) ^{Timed} Retired not out

Centuries by Gents († opponent scored 100 in same game)



	158*	S. Jones <i>v.</i> West XI (Gunnersbury Park 21.7.02)
	143*	Husain <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels (Fairfield RG 7.7.07)
	137*	M. Ashton <i>v.</i> Enterprise (Victoria RG 10.5.92)
	131*	Small <i>v.</i> St Anne's Allstars (Boston Manor PF 7.6.15)
	128	Lall <i>v.</i> London Saints (Old Haberdashers 14.8.11)
	126	G. Wright <i>v.</i> Clapham In (Crown Taverners 2.9.12)
	114* †	S. Desai <i>v.</i> Close PF (Old Tenisonians 28.6.15)
	111	Cloete <i>v.</i> London Saints (Old Tenisonians 18.5.14)
	110	Kota <i>v.</i> Battersea Eagles (Old Tenisonians 22.7.18)
	109	Husain <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels (CSSC Chiswick 7.6.08)
	106	Small <i>v.</i> Judd Street Tigers (Paulin Ground 27.7.14)
	104*	Husain <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels (King's College 11.6.05)
	103	J. Wright <i>v.</i> 12 Angry Men (Victoria RG 3.9.00)
	103	Husain <i>v.</i> London Saints (Old Haberdashers 4.6.06)
102		M. Ashton <i>v.</i> London Saints (Victoria RG 15.8.93)
102		J. Wright <i>v.</i> Wandham (Fire Brigade Epsom 14.5.00) ^{Timed}
102*		Buck <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels (Victoria RG 15.7.01) ^{Timed} Retired hurt
102		Lall <i>v.</i> West XI (Crown Taverners 4.9.11)
100*		J. Wright <i>v.</i> London Canaries (Victoria RG 25.6.00)
100*		S. Patel <i>v.</i> London Rams (Belair Park 3.7.05)
100*		Husain <i>v.</i> London Saints (Old Tenisonians 3.6.07)
100*		Butler <i>v.</i> Cheltenham Allsorts (Victoria Ground 10.6.12)
100 †		Cloete <i>v.</i> St Anne's Allstars (Barnes Common 2.8.14)
100* †		Sanga <i>v.</i> Bricklayer's Arms (Raynes Park SG 27.8.17) ^{Timed} Retired not out

Northfields v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 26 May, King's House SG. Northfields won toss. Cloudy, 20C

Won by 8 wickets

Northfields		Gentlemen of West London				
*Ivison		b Gulati	16	†Namilikonda	b Paynter	32
Redmond	c R. Patel	b Chatharaju	12	†Basker	b Akshit	34
Ismail	c and	b H. Patel	42	R. Patel	not out	50
Paynter		b R. Patel	28	Kota	not out	26
Ahmed	st Basker	b H. Patel	9	Corbett, Caveney, Gulati, Chatharaju, *S. Patel, Krishna and H. Patel dnb		
Abdullah		b Namilikonda	4			
†Norledge	not our		19			
Afridi	c S. Patel	b Namilikonda	3			
Akshit		b Namilikonda	1			
Touboulic	st Basker	b H. Patel	1			
Dugdale	not out		1			
Extras	b2 lb2 w12		16	Extras	b1 lb1 w11 nb1	14
Total	9 wickets	40 overs	152	Total	2 wickets	21.4 overs
FoW: 18, 68, 105, 116, 121, 127, 133, 140, 141				FoW: 75, 77		
Bowling: Krishna 6-2-12-0, Chatharaju 5-0-33-1, R. Patel 8-0-23-1, Gulati 7-0-36-1, H. Patel 7-1-20-3, Namilikonda 6-0-25-3, S. Patel 1-0-1-0				Bowling: Abdullah 6-0-32-0, Afridi 4-0-20-0, Paynter 4-0-35-1, Akshit 4-0-41-1, Ahmed 2-4-0-13-0, Touboulic 1-0-13-0		

Ten years after their winning 156 for 1 here against West XI on 31 May 2009, a match inspired by a captaincy masterclass from Hemin Patel, the Gents scored 156 for 2 to beat an amalgam XI. Blistering batting from the top four saw to that, after three-wicket hauls from H. Patel and Namilikonda had reined in the home batting. King's House Sports Ground, formerly known as the Civil Service Sports Ground, a desolate ground but not without character, has some history. The Civil Service hosted the Australians here in 1926 and the New Zealanders in 1927, the second designated first-class after a bribe from a cricket-loving Mandarin. More importantly, CSSC saw the debut of New South Welshman Steve Jones in 2002, a limp defeat to a New Barbarian Weasels side inspired by Courtney Perry.

Hosting the Gents was a hybrid of two short-handed teams, Agricola from the Government Department Defra and Northfields, whose formidable Redhead brothers were at a wedding in Capri. Northfields could cancel their Durston House pitch with impunity. Agricola, short on a Bank Holiday weekend and with no opposition arranged could not, so the venue was switched and the teams combined. By contrast, the Gents were able to field a strong team with the formidable guest Rakesh Patel making up the XI.

Northfields chose to bat which they did steadily, reaching 105 for 2 after 25 overs. Redmond cut Chatharaju to point while his new-ball partner Krishna bowled immaculately. Ivison and Ismail put on 50 before Gulati yorked the opener in the 19th over. Paynter, a teacher of Maths and Science, was stylish but R. Patel's fizzing leg-cutter did for him. Ismail batted for 24 overs to top score with 42 but his remarkable dismissal marked the turning point of the innings, H. Patel taking a brilliant return catch off a meaty drive. The vice-captain and Namilikonda sniffed blood and helped by two smart Basker stumpings and a high swirling catch reeled in at mid-on by the captain the innings stalled. Seventy-six runs came in each 20 over segment and a dainty tea was taken at ten to four.

Corbett was promoted to five and Caveney to six. Neither would bat. Basker and Namilikonda survived three drops to put up 75 in 13 overs with some fine shots. They fell within three balls leaving Rakesh Patel and Kota to pick up the pieces. They did rather more than that. Patel, with a pedigree stretching back to India South Zone's U.18s, maintained his Gents batting average of infinity, with six 4s and two 6s here to add to the six 4s and three 6s in his 56 not out against Salix in 2015. He is some player, even with black pads, and did not give a chance. Kota had less of the strike and survived two. Patel drove the winning four at five past six after 79 runs had come in 50 balls. The rain came at seven.

Thanks to Luke's parents Niall and Miranda, and Dino Francis, for splendid support. Northfields and Agricola should be congratulated for honouring the fixture and being cheerful hosts in difficult circumstances. Expect them to be back to full vigour and fired up for the return on 11 August.

Barking mad

Case	Singular	Plural
Nominative	agricola	agricolae
Genitive	agricolae	agricolārum
Dative	agricolae	agricolīs
Accusative	agricolam	agricolās
Ablative	agricolā	agricolīs
Vocative	agricola	agricolae

Agricola is a first declension masculine Latin noun meaning farmer. The first two Latin teachers the editor came up against at Windsor Grammar School were Mr Bowers and Mr Barker. Bowers is probably still on the run from the Yewtree police but did promote him to the only position of authority he enjoyed at school, secretary of the Dirty Book Club while in 2A. Mr Barker was clinically insane and obsessed with Roman catapults. He erected a *ballista* in his classroom which he used to fire fusillades of chalk at inattentive pupils. He was a jolly good shot, too good in fact. One day a piece of chalk was ejected at 50mph down the throat of M.J. Walker (Allen House). He didn't quite die, thanks to the Heimlich Manoeuvre. Grade 4 O Level wasn't bad given all this.

A warm Wycombe House welcome awaits



Wycombe House, a superb ground where the Gents will play home games on 2 June, 7 July and 11 August, has great history. Celebrated recent alumni are Ben Scott (Middlesex), his nephew Joel Pope (Leicestershire) and Owais Shah (Middlesex and England), who broke many club records there including a score of 154 aged only 12 for their seniors' first XI. And, greatest of all, Ameer Ahmed.

Perhaps more games will be played there in 2020, we'll see. Those who live two miles away in Hounslow will certainly find it more convenient. However, the Club has a sound relationship with Old Tenisonians (eight games in 2019) which it would be foolish to burn. This is one for the AGM.

Forthcoming fixtures

Sun 2 June	Gubbays	Wycombe House	1.00	TW7 5PJ
Sun 9 June	Plastics	Old Tenisons	1.30	KT3 6LX
Sun 16 June	Crown Taverners	Crown Taverners	1.30	GU17 9UA
Sat 22 June	St. Anne's Allstars	Ealing Central SG	1.00	UB6 8LA
Sun 30 June	Baker Street Irregulars	Old Tenisonians	1.00	KT3 6LX

Read about the Gents on www.gowlcc.org and on Facebook