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# THE GENT

No.166

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## Wycombe House boards past and present



### Match reports:

Brentham (won by 189 runs)

Plastics (won by 152 runs)

Crown Taverners (won by 116 runs)

St Anne's Allstars (lost by 25 runs)

Teddington Town (won by 70 runs)

Contact this magazine via email [andrewburman\\_840@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewburman_840@hotmail.com)

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



## Around the circuit

The earliest ever start to a domestic campaign and fine weather have ensured that all 12 games scheduled by the end of June could be played, and were. The Gents have met four new opponents, two of whom were last minute. There are 12 matches left, so there is plenty of opportunity for enjoyment, the pursuit of team and individual glory, and, no doubt, the odd meltdown. Nileshe Dubey (99) and Wayne Caveney (98) are eyeing 100 caps. With 388 runs, Pavan Kota has a fighting chance of beating Jim Wright's record of 756, set in 2000. Try not to run him out or finger him with daft lbws.

Of greater importance is that players are fit and well. Spare a thought for Tiger Stewart Taylor, out for the season. It is a pleasure to report that Bill Flack is now out of hospital. He is a good friend of the club and played four games in 2004 and 2005 to some effect, taking 4-25 and 4-30 to twirl Gents to wins against St Anne's and Salix with his beautiful off spin. One hoped that he would stay to mentor young Hemin Patel, but health issues intervened and Hemin grew wings. Brother Lawrence (11 games) gave staunch help to Bill when he needed it, which is his way. All strength in your recovery, Bill.

The Putney Cup has a new name on the trophy – that of the Sunderland Supporters Club. Congratulations to John McGirr and his team, who beat South West London CAMRA in the final of this four-way T20 competition. Bricklayer's Arms, who had won it for the previous three years, beat Trafalgar Freehouse to nab bronze. McGirr described Sunderland's season as Beckettian and then quoted *Waiting for Godot*: "I can't go on, I'll go on. You're on earth. There's no cure for that."

Winchmore Hill Tigers' transfer kitty has been upgraded to a war chest and they have gone on a spending spree, brandishing the chequebook to sign Dhruv Kothri from Edmonton and Campbell Lloyd-Barnes from Battersea Eagles. Mitchell Greenham (326 runs) is in good form for them and is on the radar of Hill's Saturday league teams, but Tigers have issued a hands-off warning. Tigers have so far used 39 players, 17 playing just once. This seems high but Gents have had 34, with 19 singletons. Forty-three Gents played in 2018 and 45 the year before.

A new TV series must be commissioned. *Extreme Weather: Caught on Camera* has had its day, so its cricket equivalent *Extreme Scoring* is needed now. In June Girinath Reddy of Vijay Basker's United Titans T20 franchise hit a monstrous 198 off 90 balls (11 sixes, 22 fours). The professional record is 175\* by Chris Gale for RCB against Pune Warriors. On 8 June, *The Gent* took the 297 bus to the splendours of Brentham to support Wycombe House in the Middlesex CCL Div.2 league. On arrival at 3pm, stumps were being pulled after a strange clash that saw just 75 runs, Brentham winning by 10 wickets. Sixty-two of the planned 90 overs were unused.

In contrast a day later, Winchmore Hill Tigers and SLOBS exchanged 582 runs (Tigers 305/7, SLOBS 277). Add Tigers' previous Sunday's escapades and that made 1,127 runs at the Paulin Ground in two matches, with three large centuries. A completed Gents game has had neither fewer than 83, nor more than 521 runs. Wycombe House are sixth out of ten (two are relegated) in the league while Brondesbury are top. The league is currently being played to a timed format (typically 55 overs in the first innings, 45 in the second), the fixtures topped and tailed with 45 over games.

St. Anne's brilliant all-rounder Ashwin Rattan bowled off spinners with no run up, the first bowler we recall doing this since Upender Sanga gusted so memorably. Ashwin said that his action was coached because it strengthens the shoulders and enables him to generate extra power.

## Connected Plastics

News from the cultural hinterland. Fair play to Plastics who filmed the whole of the game on 9 June and uploaded it to YouTube, where it will stay forever, Hemin Patel's refusal to run twos, Sanjay Patel's hunt for a plaster, Ratnakar Sudireddy's sixes, healthy pavilion banter and all. A vignette on Instagram was also made with a soundtrack of jaunty British film comedy music. Their excellent match report is printed later and their website is always bang up to date.

This is the first extensive Gents footage since West XI away at Berkhamsted 2002, when a static camera missed the famous late catch by Mark Sciberras. In 1997 Gavin Fryer-Kelsey taped large chunks of several games, including a chunk of Gents *v.* London Saints at Town Park, on his huge VCR, capturing wickets by Chainsaw Mitchell and Dhruv Patel's elderly relative Prakash. Reviewers were particularly delighted by the sideshow of the Timote Twins of fond memory. As KJV has it, *My lust shall be satisfied upon them.* They're probably in a civil partnership now, living in Islington.

Plastics will play Tigers at Winchmore Hill on 11 August, live on Sky.

Tom Morgan-Grenville, their classical No.8 who scored 46, is the son of cricket writer Roger and great-grandson of eminent environmentalist Gerard, who died in 2009 aged 77. His obituary in the Daily Telegraph in 2009 said: "(He) was an environmental pioneer who founded the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in a disused Welsh quarry in 1973, when the threat from carbon emissions and global warming was little recognised. He also pursued a number of other interests, writing in his memoirs that "the holy writ of the career ladder somehow got lost, and, mercifully, was never refound".

## Tea allegation rocks cricket circuit

During a pleasant conversation on the eve of the St Anne's game with Joy Haddow-Allen, mother of Allstars Maxie, Tristan, Felix and Aurelia (married to Allstar Anthony Foster), the subject of cricket teas came up. The editor recalled the wondrous St Anne's tea of 2009, prepared, Tristan claimed, by his good self. The highlight for carnivores was delicious sliced roast beef in mini Yorkshire puddings. The duties of preparation were central to the outcome of the match, for Tristan blamed his dismissal (c H. Patel b S. Patel 3) on tiredness, having been up all night roasting the beef, baking 22 individual Yorkshires and assembling the treats on the morning of the match. What an effort, no wonder he was tired.

When told this, Joy looked quizzical: "I remember that day very well. I bought sliced roast beef and Aunt Bessie's Yorkshires from Tesco. Tristan had nothing to do with the tea. He didn't even help me dilute the horseradish with crème fraiche for the garnish. He just sat there. Mind you, he used to be a good cook."

Tristan, we love you and your family more with each passing day.

## The birthday paradox

Peter Denton remarked that he knew two other cricketers who shared the editor's 18 June birthday, one being David Hylden, who played four times for the Gents. If you want to earn some money and you are in a group of 23 or more, it is more likely than not that two or more will share a birthday. So you bet on this occurrence. It is a good party piece, and you will win more often than not, making friends while taking their money which is a happy state of affairs. In the 2018 FIFA World Cup there were 24 national squads of 23 players. Sixteen of the 24 squads included two or more players who shared a birthday.

The probability of at least three people sharing one is  $> 0.5$  in a group of 88. So if Peter knows such a number of cricketers, which given his long experience in the game is plausible, then it is more likely than not that three or more do so share.

This is the Birthday Paradox, a paradox being a seemingly absurd or contradictory statement or proposition which when investigated may prove to be well founded or true. It is based on sound mathematics and is only a paradox because our brains can't handle the compounding power of exponents. We expect probabilities to be linear, a false assumption. Mathematics is a powerful friend in understanding the world.

## Scorebook horror haunts plucky Maroons



Wimbledon United lost by 2 runs to Sheen Park on 26 May. “Another dodgy decision that brought a crucial error then occurred in the penultimate over. As Brown had to pad up, the scoring pencil was given to Patel. He was the closest person, but definitely not the right one – he had no real idea how to score despite having played the game from a very young age. This resulted in real confusion on the number of overs remaining for the remainder of the match. By the time Ian’s debut innings ended on 4, a more reliable check of the scorebook showed that WUCC had just seven balls left (rather than the initially thought 13) to get the remaining 12.”

Blame was then apportioned in a manner that in this sensitive age can only be applauded:

### Individual Blame Game Executive Summary:

*Hash – Dropped their best batsman*

*Chai – Duck*

*Flannery – three crucial byes conceded as wicketkeeper*

*Furrukh – Ropy post-wicket bowling (though fine 67 also gets MoM)*

*Saxby – As skipper, takes partial responsibility for all other team members’ faults as he chose to put them in that position*

*Mit – Inability to score and did not give a clear wide while umpiring*

*Greg – Ball went between legs in field for an additional three runs*

*Rowan – Ran himself out when well poised to see us home*

*Ian – Distracted batting effort with talk of great sounding Thai food offering*

*Curtis – Injuring himself in attempt to win catch of season again*

*Peter – Gave the scoring pencil to Mit, and could not produce the batting blows needed at the end*

Mitesh Patel is now nicknamed Specialist Scorer.

Steve Bignell once eloquently denounced scorebook errors. They cannot be tolerated and prison sentences can be imposed under the Social Cricket Act of 1920. Even the multi-coloured St Anne’s book (above) was out by one run! Umpires should keep track of the score and inform the scorers of any mistakes. For them to work in harmony, the scoreboard must be updated at least every over, if not after every run. The scoreboard should be visible to both umpires and unlike the dilapidated one at Old Tenisonians contain all digits. This attention to detail takes more time, but so does anything worthwhile.

This from an Australian website:

We had an incident occur yesterday in a local game and would like to know what people's thoughts are on how the outcome should be resolved. Our team batted first and set a total 140 for the other side to chase down. We were down to the last over and the scorers for the batting team yelled out that they needed seven to win the game off the last over (six to draw). We got down to the last ball and the scorers shouted that the batting side needed three to win (two to tie) off the last ball. The ball was bowled, play and miss, batsmen run one bye. Game over, fielding side win by 1 run. After the sides had shaken hands and left the ground the scorers realise that they have missed a bye in the score, so 10 minutes after the game has ended the scorebook confirms it’s actually a draw. Does the draw now become the official score or does it stay with the way the game was played out? We would love feedback so we can implement a rule for this in our local league.

The rule for league cricket is that umpires must sign off on the scorebooks. The result then stands.

## Anne Naysmith, pianist - obituary

Former concert pianist who worked with Sir Adrian Boult and ended her life living rough on the streets of West London



Anne Naysmith in Chiswick Photo: Rob Bodman

We are sad to record that Anne Naysmith, who used to score cricket matches at Chiswick House, has died. She had a tragic life, but got pleasure from watching the cricket and developed a good relationship with the players. Her scoring system was unique but accurate; her profound knowledge of musical scores no doubt an inspiration. She was a concert pianist who latterly became homeless, living in an old Mercedes. She had no shoes, and wore pigeon feathers on her feet to keep warm.

Sanjay Patel sought her out and would invite her for tea, as other captains did, but she never accepted. She was vulnerable but also dignified and fiercely proud. Life dealt her a poor hand. To quote Larkin:

*We should be careful  
Of each other, we should be kind  
While there is still time*

She was there with her book and pencil for the Clapham In games in 2013 and 2014, but not against Salix in 2018. Now we know why not.

### Club caps (\* played in 2019)

362	Sanjay Patel*	138	Richard Gilkes
245	Stuart Snelling*	137	Ken Toft
233	Hemin Patel*	129	Peter Denton
219	Tony Buck	112	Ian Richmond
211	Andrew Burman	110	Sumit Kumar*
198	Dhruv Patel	99	Nilesh Dubey*
175	Mark Sciberras*	98	Wayne Caveney*
153	Mark Ashton	94	Sachin Desai
149	Jim Wright	82	Nick Boddington
147	Daniel Todd	77	Horace Hibbert

## 2019 scorecards and results

13/4	Marble Hill Park	<b>Crossbats 167-4</b> (McAlpine 68, S. Skinner 51, Wright 20) <b>Gents 170-5</b> (Kota 57, Basker 55, Sudireddy 33*, Ross 4-18)	<b>Won</b> by 5 wickets	
21/4	Byfleet	<b>Byfleet 161-9</b> (Akhtar 57, Fahey 28, Mangineni 4-16) <b>Gents 164-6</b> (Namilikonda 56, Sudireddy 28*, Kota 20)	<b>Won</b> by 4 wickets	
28/4	Cavendish RG	<b>Gents 138</b> (Dubey 45, Neal 3-22) <b>Gubbays 109</b> (Aryuat 25, Namilikonda 4-17, Pentakota 3-10)	<b>Won</b> by 29 runs	
5/5	Hilly Fields	<b>Millfields 103</b> (Collis 66*, Cordell 20, H. Patel 4-29, Kumar 3-31) <b>Gents 82</b> (C. Cooper 3-8)	<b>Lost</b> by 21 runs	
12/5	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 201-7</b> (Kota 93*, Namilikonda 28, Dubey 20, Hasan 3-41) <b>Wimbledon United 131</b> (Patel 40)	<b>Won</b> 70 runs	
19/5	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 182-9</b> (Gulati 43*, Pentakota 41, S. Patel 20, Walsh 4-19) <b>Kempton 186-6</b> (Little 108*, Newman 31)	<b>Lost</b> by 4 wickets	
26/5	CSSC Chiswick	<b>Northfields 152-9</b> (Ismail 42, Paynter 28, H. Patel 3-20, Namilikonda 3-25) <b>Gents 156-2</b> (R. Patel 50*, Basker 34, Namilikonda 32, Kota 26*)	<b>Won</b> by 8 wickets	
2/6	Wycombe House	<b>Gents 313-6</b> (Gulati 102*, Z. Ahmed 53*, Shaikh 44, Kumar 34*, Badar 3-43) <b>Brentham 124-8</b> (Vinay 43, Ankit 29, H. Patel 3-10)	<b>Won</b> by 189 runs	
9/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 242-5</b> (Kota 88*, Sudireddy 52*, Gulati 48) <b>Plastics 90</b> (Morgan-Grenville 46, Namilikonda 4-4, Chatharaju 3-11)	<b>Won</b> by 152 runs	
16/6	Crown Taverners	<b>Gents 179-7</b> (Kota 79, Namilikonda 35, Sudireddy 30, Duffy 3-20) <b>Crown Taverners 63</b> (Hayhoe 25, Namilikonda 3-17)	<b>Won</b> by 116 runs	
22/6	Ealing Central SG	<b>St Anne's Allstars 178-3</b> (Pereira 66*, Chaudhry 61, Rattan 24) <b>Gents 153</b> (H. Patel 26, Sudireddy 29, Rattan 4-16, Silmon 3-24)	<b>Lost</b> by 25 runs	
30/6	Teddington Town	<b>Gents 181</b> (S. Patel 57*, Namilikonda 50, Poulter 42, Naseri 4-26, Walsh 3-44) <b>Teddington Town 111</b> (Dobani 39, Poulter 3-18)	<b>Won</b> by 70 runs	
Date	Gents	Result	W. Hill Tigers	Result
Sat 13 April	<b>Crossbats</b>	<b>Won</b> by 5 wickets	-	-
Sun 21 April	<b>Byfleet</b>	<b>Won</b> by 4 wickets	-	-
Sun 28 April	<b>Gubbays</b>	<b>Won</b> by 29 runs	<b>Harrowdene</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 13 runs
Sun 5 May	<b>Millfields</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 21 runs	<b>Gubbays</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 6 wickets
Sat 11 May	-	-	<b>Porto</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 5 wickets
Sun 12 May	<b>Wimbledon United</b>	<b>Won</b> by 70 runs	<b>Porto</b>	<b>Tied</b>
Sun 19 May	<b>Kempton</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 4 wickets	<b>Shakespeare</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 5 wickets
Sun 26 May	<b>Northfields</b>	<b>Won</b> by 8 wickets	<b>N2 Casuals</b>	<b>Drawn</b>
Sun 2 June	<b>Brentham</b>	<b>Won</b> by 189 runs	<b>Little Berkhamsted</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 6 wickets
Sun 9 June	<b>Plastics</b>	<b>Won</b> by 152 runs	<b>SLOBs</b>	<b>Won</b> by 28 runs
Sun 16 June	<b>Crown Taverners</b>	<b>Won</b> by 116 runs	<b>Railway Taverners</b>	<b>Won</b> by 6 wickets
Sat 22 June	<b>St Anne's Allstars</b>	<b>Lost</b> by 25 runs	<b>Twinstead</b>	<b>Cancelled</b>
Sun 23 June	-	-	<b>Easton</b>	<b>Drawn</b>
Sun 30 June	<b>Teddington Town</b>	<b>Won</b> by 70 runs	<b>Motley Crew</b>	<b>Won</b> by 6 wickets
Sun 7 July	<b>Whalers</b>	-	<b>Cincinnati</b>	-
Sun 14 July	<b>Wimbledon United</b>	-	<b>Harringay Libraries</b>	-
Sun 21 July	<b>Battersea Eagles</b>	-	<b>WHCC 6-a-side</b>	-
Sun 28 July	<b>Bricklayer's Arms</b>	-	<b>Spartans</b>	-
Sun 4 August	<b>QMC Pak</b>	-	<b>Acme</b>	-
Sun 11 August	<b>Northfields</b>	-	<b>Plastics</b>	-
Sun 18 August	<b>Clapham In</b>	-	<b>Potter Street</b>	-
Sun 25 August	<b>Bricklayer's Arms</b>	-	-	-
Sun 1 Sept	<b>Winchmore Hill Tigers</b>	-	<b>Gentlemen of West London</b>	-
Sat 7 Sept	<b>Squirrels</b>	-	-	-
Sun 8 Sept	-	-	<b>Mayfield</b>	-
Sun 15 Sept	<b>Salix</b>	-	<b>Graces</b>	-
Sun 22 Sept	<b>Hale</b>	-	<b>Fives</b>	-
Sat 28 Sept	-	-	<b>Railway Taverners</b>	-
<b>Record</b>	Played 12 Won 9 Lost 3		Played 11 Won 3 Lost 5 Drawn 2 Tied 1	
<b>Home</b>	Played 5 Won 3 Lost 2		Played 9 Won 3 Drawn 2 Lost 4	
<b>Away</b>	Played 7 Won 6 Lost 1		Played 2 Lost 1 Tied 1	
<b>Runs</b>	Kota 388, Namilikonda 242, Gulati 221, Sudireddy 197, Basker 116, Dubey 110		J. Ranger 401, Greenham 326, Wright 177, Ward 108, Warren 102	
<b>Wickets</b>	Namilikonda 19, H. Patel 13, Chatharaju 10		M. Webster 13, Jhangiani 10	
<b>Catches/Stumpings</b>	Namilikonda 10/1, Dubey 5		Warren 6, J. Ranger 6	

## Bint drivers

It was pleasing that Hemin Patel saw Bobby Gulati's 102 against Brentham, because he missed Rinku Lall's ton in 2011 against London Saints. History records that South-west London traffic was diverted that day because of a bicycling contest competed for by gits. *Gent 133* reported: "Two players who missed the Saints fiesta were Hemin Patel and Sachin Desai, innocent victims of a rearenden en route to Elstree. Both were alright, though Hemin's Facebook posts regarding cyclists and 'bint drivers' were a sight to behold. A career as a Northern nightclub comedian surely beckons if only he can add some mother-in-law material. Thus his successive appearances stalled at 86". Nobody has come near to 86 successive appearances since.

## Averages

Player (debut *)	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
Basker	5	5	-	116	23.20	1/3	-	-	-	-	-
Caveney	7	6	1	41	8.20	1	0.3	0	4	0	-
Chatharaju	11	8	1	64	9.14	-	51.3	8	174	10	17.40
*Corbett	5	4	-	26	6.50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dubey	8	7	2	110	22.00	5	29	3	90	3	30.00
Gulati	8	6	2	221	55.25	4	34	3	142	5	28.40
Kota	12	12	3	388	43.11	4	30.2	1	170	7	24.29
Krishna	6	3	-	19	6.33	1	26	2	101	2	50.50
Kumar	5	4	-	62	15.50	2	37	4	113	8	14.13
Namilikonda	10	9	-	242	26.89	10/1	40	2	156	19	8.21
Newcombe	2	2	2	19	-	-	6	2	10	3	3.33
H. Patel	9	6	-	62	10.33	1	40	6	132	13	10.15
S. Patel	12	5	2	83	27.67	4	21.3	1	101	2	50.50
Pentakota	3	2	-	53	26.50	-	21	2	73	3	24.33
Sudireddy	11	11	4	197	28.14	4	9	0	47	1	47.00

**One match only:** A. Ahmed 1/1/-/2, \*Z. Ahmed 1/1/1/53, 1-0-1-2, \*Antoine 1/1/-/0, 3-0-23-0, Bender 1/1/1/5, Bocha 1/1/-/0, (1 ct.), Francis 1/1/-/10, Khan 1/1/-/5, 4-0-23-1, \*R. Kumar 1/1/-/1, 1-0-1-0, \*Locke 1/1/-/0, \*Maddulapalli 1/1/1/2, Mangineni 1/-/-/0, 8-2-16-4, \*Mohan 1/1/-/0, \*Pavithran 1/1/-/0, 3-0-13-2, \*Poulter 1/1/-/42, 8-1-18-3, R. Patel 1/1/1/50, 8-0-23-1 (1 ct.), Sciberras 1/1/-/0, 4-0-26-0, Shaikh 1/1/-/44, 3-0-10-0, J. Snelling 1/1/-/6, 7-2-17-1, S. Snelling 1/1/-/10, 7-1-17-1

Highest partnerships by wicket for			Highest partnerships by wicket against		
1	89	Namilikonda/Poulter <i>v.</i> Teddington Town	1	104	S. Skinner/McAlpine (Crossbats)
2	106	Basker/Kota <i>v.</i> Crossbats	2	66	Collis/Cordell (Millfields)
3	144	Z. Ahmed/Gulati/Shaikh/Corbett <i>v.</i> Brentham	3	94	Chaudhry/Pereira (St Anne's Allstars)
4	38	Namilikonda/Kota <i>v.</i> Wimbledon United	4	56*	Chaudhry/Rattan (St Anne's Allstars)
5	52	Kota/Sudireddy <i>v.</i> Crown Taverners	5	45	Little/Taylor (Kempton)
6	87*	Kota/Sudireddy <i>v.</i> Plastics	6	51	Akhtar/Fahey (Byfleet)
7	35	Kota/Chatharaju <i>v.</i> Wimbledon United	7	36	Fahey/R. Hockin (Byfleet)
8	58*	Kota/Newcombe <i>v.</i> Wimbledon United	8	26	Morgan-Grenville/Jamieson (Plastics)
9	40	Dubey/Krishna <i>v.</i> Gubbays	9	33	Morgan-Grenville/Sunil (Plastics)
10	19	S. Snelling/Bender <i>v.</i> St Anne's Allstars	10	14	Finlay/Walsh (Teddington Town)
HS for			HS against		
102*	Gulati <i>v.</i> Brentham		108*	Little (Kempton)	
93*	Kota <i>v.</i> Wimbledon United		68	McAlpine (Crossbats)	
88	Kota <i>v.</i> Plastics		66*	Pereira (St Anne's Allstars)	
79	Kota <i>v.</i> Crown Taverners		62*	Collis (Millfields)	
57	Kota <i>v.</i> Crossbats		61	Chaudhry (St Anne's Allstars)	
57*	S. Patel <i>v.</i> Teddington Town		57	Akhtar (Byfleet)	
56	Namilikonda <i>v.</i> Byfleet		51	S. Skinner (Crossbats)	
53*	Z. Ahmed <i>v.</i> Brentham				
52*	Sudireddy <i>v.</i> Plastics				
50*	R. Patel <i>v.</i> Northfields				
50	Namilikonda <i>v.</i> Teddington Town				
BB for			BB against		
4-4	Namilikonda <i>v.</i> Plastics		4-16	Rattan (St Anne's Allstars)	
4-16	Mangineni <i>v.</i> Byfleet		4-18	Ross (Crossbats)	
4-17	Namilikonda <i>v.</i> Gubbays		4-19	Walsh (Kempton)	
4-31	H. Patel <i>v.</i> Millfields		4-26	Naseri (Teddington Town)	

**Sixes (27):** 7 Sudireddy, 6 Kota, 5 Gulati, 2 Dubey, Namilikonda, R. Patel, S. Patel 1 Corbett

**Run outs of opponents (8):** 2 S. Patel 1 Ahmed, Chatharaju, Francis, Gulati, Kumar, Pentakota

**Ducks (11):** 1 Antoine, Basker, Bocha, Chatharaju, Corbett, Kota, Locke, Mohan, Pavithran, Sciberras, Sudireddy

## My friend scored 102 so I bought him a tree



## Gentlemen of West London v. Brentham

Sunday 2 June, Wycombe House. Brentham won toss. Humid, 23C

Won by 189 runs

Gentlemen of West London		Brentham			
Z. Ahmed	retired hurt	53	Mike	b H. Patel	1
Chatharaju		7	*Krishna	c Namilikonda	14
Gulati	retired not out	102	Haroon	c Gulati	11
Kota	c Krishna	2	Ankit	c Gulati	29
Shaikh	c Haroon	44	Vinay	b Kota	43
Corbett	c sub. (Gulati)	14	†Kelly	not out	11
†Namilikonda	c Haroon	14	Jignesh		0
Sudireddy	not out	17	Vaz	c Namilikonda	2
Kumar		34	Badar I	c Kota	0
*S. Patel and H. Patel	dnb		Badar II	not out	0
Extras	b3 lb1 w19 nb3	26	Extras	b5 w6 nb2	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>6 wickets</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8 wickets</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 52, 85, 229, 252, 258, 313	<b>40 overs</b>		<b>FoW:</b> 4, 21, 34, 89, 120, 121, 124, 124	<b>40 overs</b>	
<b>Bowling:</b> Krishna 4-0-29-0, Jignesh 2-0-26-0, Vaz 10-1-83-2,			<b>Bowling:</b> H. Patel 8-3-10-3, S. Patel 8-1-23-0, Kumar 7-0-23-1,		
Vinay 8-0-63-0, Mike 1-0-15-0, Haroon 8-0-50-1, Badar 7-0-43-3			Sudireddy 6-0-28-0, Shaikh 3-0-10-0, Gulati 3-0-18-0,		
			Chatharaju 3-1-2-0, Kota 1-0-4-2, Z. Ahmed 1-0-1-2		

The Gents' long-awaited first game at Wycombe House's splendid ground saw a convincing win inspired by Vinitesh Gulati's 102 off only 57 balls. Thanks are due to Brentham for stepping in after Gubbays, not for the first time, pulled out. They fielded a youthful, friendly team with two experienced old hands, but only had nine men after two were kidnapped by their Chess Valley League Sunday XI. The Gents could have garnered them guests had they been notified earlier and lent two fielders in rotation throughout, one of whom took a catch. The captains also agreed that two Brentham could bat twice. By their own admission they were weak but judging by the socialising between the teams during and after play they seemed to enjoy the day.

The inserted Gents scored freely with debutant Zahid Ahmed elegantly lacing his cover drives before retiring hurt on 53. They raced to 52 off five overs, including an all-run Chatharaju four. This was not Kota's day with the bat, but Gulati was majestic. He joined the Pantheon of Gents centurions after 19 overs at the crease, striking 15 fours and four sixes, two of which cleared the faraway southern boundary. He, Buck, Butler, Jones and Sanga hit the machismo jackpot, scoring tons without first recording a 50.

Liberal scoring continued before late arrival Haroon and Badar pegged it back. Shaikh looked good for a 50 before holing out, Corbett and Namilikonda cracked it about before Sudireddy and Kumar added 58. Sudireddy driving a memorable six, his first ever. The club's record total of 325 was briefly threatened but 313 it was, still an intimidating score against a game bunch of lads who kept their pecker up.

Bangladesh v. South Africa held the attention in the opulent clubhouse at tea before the captains prised out the players to resume batting at two minutes past five. Adding back the wides and taking off the drinks break, Gents bowled at 20 overs per hour for the first time in recorded history, a rate enabled by Brentham's tactics. Their likeable young captain Krishna impressed on his team the need for crease occupation. They may not win, he argued, but batting practice in such circumstances would be invaluable should they have to chase, say, 160 (where he set the bar) in a Saturday league match. The Gents therefore found it hard to take wickets, but went for few runs. When the Patels had bowled straight through, Brentham were 35/3, needing an unlikely rate of 11.6 per over.

H. Patel took three wickets to go to 11 in his sixth game. He had quite an eventful day, which started when he demanded to open. He put his pads on and grabbed his bat whereupon discussions took place which jettisoned him to No.11. Vinay batted well and deserved a 50. The catching was up to scratch and Namilikonda took a remarkable one in the final over, when Vaz kneeled, played the ramp shot and scooped it into the gloves. Statisticians had some fun. The Gents' total was their third-highest, the third-wicket stand of 144 their eighth-highest (though not a record for that wicket) and the tireless Vaz's concession of 83 runs in 10 overs, having opened with a wicket maiden, has only been exceeded once.



Vinitesh Gulati – first 100



Zahid Ahmed – 53 on debut

### **A new chapter opens?**

Wycombe House CC made all welcome and supported the day on and off the pitch. Ameer Ahmed played here for years before moving to Ashford (Surrey) for the 2019 season. Though injured, he put in a great shift tending the scoreboard (see *Note*), engaging the Brentham youngsters in entertaining if blood-curdling conversation about the politics of Pakistani cricket and manning the bar. When the Gents were short of players he kindly brokered the playing services of brother Zahid (IIs) and old friend Vasi Shaikh (Is) who also worked hard behind the scenes to ensure that the day ran smoothly. The tea of devilled chicken and chana chickpea curry went down well. The beauty of having the host club supply tea is that there is no faffing around with buying the stuff, unloading cars and washing up. Once the game is done social relations can begin immediately. Nothing was too much trouble for them and the Committee sent a message of thanks to WHCC for their efforts.

The Daktronics electronic scoreboard is similar to Byfleet's, though the 'Horn' facility had to Hemin Patel's disappointment not been enabled, perhaps out of fear, perhaps because of the absence of a soundcard. What a thing of magic it is to press a button, say 'Player A +4 Runs' and see the score brightly updated a hundred yards away. Batsmen can even see their own score! Simple pleasures are best. The old scoreboard (shown on the front cover of this magazine) has correctly not been decommissioned. It should have a preservation order slapped on it. As a young boy Ameer Ahmed tended it, being paid in sweets and pop. It would be interesting to discover if the no doubt wholesome graffiti scrawled by him and his mates survive.

Gents have three games at Wycombe House in 2019 and hope to increase their allocation in 2020, though if fewer pitches were taken at Old Tenisonians CC their unit price may rise. Demand to play here on Sundays is higher than at Old Tens, though perusal of the 2019 handbook indicates a few gaps in May, August and September. No regular guest sides play there, one-off fixtures supplementing a clutch of Middlesex Development League matches. What we can conclude is that this was a successful first date, one the Gents are keen to repeat.

*Note: as pointed out here before, it is not recommended that one person should tend both scorebook and scoreboard.*

## The Gulati 102



No – we are not an app

. 4 2 . . . 4 4 . . . . 1 6 . 4 . 4 . 2 4 . 4 2 . 4 . 4 . . 1  
. 4 . 4 . 1 . . . 4 2 6 4 . 6 . 1 1 1 4 1 1 2 6 4

102\* (57 balls, 4 6s, 15 4s, 5 2s, 8 1s, 25 dot balls)

This was thought to be the Gents' fastest ever, but it wasn't. Burly South African Gregg Cloete scored 111 off 44 balls in 2013 against London Saints, going to 102 off 41. Like Gulati, he hit four sixes and 15 fours. We apologise for publishing wrong information in our euphoria after the game. A smart research intern is urgently needed.

### Top 10 totals in Gents games

325-5	Gents <i>v.</i> London Saints (Old Tenisonians 3.6.07) <sup>40</sup> overs Batting first, won
325-9	Gents <i>v.</i> St Anne's Allstars (Crown Taverners 4.8.13) <sup>35</sup> Batting first, won
313-6	Gents <i>v.</i> Brentham (Wycombe House, 2.6.19)
301-9	Gents <i>v.</i> London Saints (Old Tenisonians 18.5.14) <sup>35</sup> Batting first, won
290-3	Gents <i>v.</i> London Rams (Old Tenisonians 25.6.06) <sup>35</sup> Batting first, won
284-3	12 Angry Men <i>v.</i> Gents (Victoria RG 29.7.01) <sup>35</sup> overs Batting first, lost
281-7	Gents <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels (Fairfield RG 7.7.07) <sup>35</sup> Batting first, won
281-7	Stanmore Warriors <i>v.</i> Gents (Shenley CS 3.9.17) <sup>40</sup> Batting first, lost
279-3	Gents <i>v.</i> West XI (Crown Taverners 4.9.11) <sup>30</sup> Batting first, won
279-7	Gents <i>v.</i> Clapham In (Chiswick House, 1.9.13) <sup>35</sup> Batting first, won

### Top 20 partnerships in Gents games

1	239*	Bulmer (140*) and Maddock (87*) (London Owls) Record wicket stand against	Victoria RG	5.9.93
3	215	Heyman (132) and Jones (89) (Village XI) Record wicket stand against	Old Hamptonians	30.7.06
6	212*	Small (131*) and Kumar (74*) <i>v.</i> St Anne's Allstars Record wicket stand for	Boston Manor PF	7.6.15
2	186	Elmes (165*) and Murray (56) (Northfields) Record wicket stand against	Durston House	24.5.15
3	169	Giles (34) and Griffiths (113) (Hale)	Hale Common	27.9.09
3	166	Husain (100*) and Kain (87) <i>v.</i> London Saints Record wicket stand for	Old Tenisonians	3.6.07
3	163	Sanga (100*, Ahmed 50* and Chalamalasetti 26*) <i>v.</i> Bricklayers' Arms	Raynes Park SG	27.8.17 <sup>Timed</sup>
4	162	H. Desai (46) and Lall (128) <i>v.</i> London Saints Record wicket stand for	Old Haberdashers	14.8.11
3	161	Lall (102) and Cloete (97*) <i>v.</i> West XI	Crown Taverners	4.9.11
2	160	Branch (50*), Susman (50*) and Stanier (37) (Bedouins)	Enville	6.8.06
3	156	Hubbucks (67) and M. Ashton (137*) <i>v.</i> Enterprise	Victoria RG	10.5.92
1	155	Collis (150*) and Street (44) (Millfields)	Hilly Fields	6.5.18
5	152	M. Ashton (102) and Hughes (57*) <i>v.</i> London Saints Record wicket stand for	Victoria RG	15.8.93
1	149	S-A Khan (144) and S. Borkhatra (61) (Stanmore Warriors)	Shenley SC	3.9.17
3	144	Gulati (102*), Z. Ahmed (53*), Shaikh (44) and Corbett (14) <i>v.</i> Brentham	Wycombe House	2.6.19
4	138	Jaques (107) and Torbe (65) (East Harrow Cheetahs) Record wicket stand against	Beverley Park	4.8.96 <sup>Timed</sup>
3	138	N. Khan (75) and Small (88) <i>v.</i> Bricklayer's Arms	Raynes Park SG	21.8.16 <sup>Timed</sup>
3	137	Hadfield (102) and Davies (33) (12 Angry Men)	Victoria RG	29.5.94 <sup>Timed</sup>
3	137	Harper-Dallas (59) and S. Patel (69) <i>v.</i> Enterprise	Beverley Park	1.7.00
3	136	J. Wright (95*) and Husain (76) <i>v.</i> London Rams	Old Tenisonians	25.6.06

### Gents centuries

5	N. Husain 143* <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels, 109 <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels, 106 <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels, 103 <i>v.</i> London Saints, 100* <i>v.</i> London Saints
3	J. Wright 103 <i>v.</i> 12 Angry Men, 102 <i>v.</i> Wandham, 100* <i>v.</i> London Canaries
2	M. Ashton 137* <i>v.</i> Enterprise, 102 <i>v.</i> London Saints
2	G. Cloete 111 <i>v.</i> London Saints, 100 <i>v.</i> St Anne's Allstars
2	R. Lall 128 <i>v.</i> London Saints, 102 <i>v.</i> West XI
2	J. Small 131* <i>v.</i> St Anne's Allstars, 106 <i>v.</i> Judd Street Tigers
1	A. Buck 102 <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels
1	A. Butler 100* <i>v.</i> Cheltenham Allsorts
1	S. Desai 114* <i>v.</i> Close PF
1	V. Gulati 128 <i>v.</i> Brentham
1	P. Kota 110 <i>v.</i> Battersea Eagles
1	S. Jones 158* <i>v.</i> West XI
1	S. Patel 100* <i>v.</i> London Rams
1	U. Sanga 100 <i>v.</i> Bricklayer's Arms
1	G. Wright 126 <i>v.</i> Clapham In

That's 25 centuries scored by 15 players. Who'll be next?

## Gentlemen of West London v. Plastics

Sunday 9 June, Old Tenisonians. Plastics won toss. Cloudy, 19C

Won by 152 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Plastics				
H. Patel	c R. Bishop	b Saril	3	†Oliver	c S. Patel	b Chatharaju	0
†Dubey	c Jamieson	b Doy	8	R. Bishop		b Namilikonda	2
Kota	not out		88	P. Bishop		b Namilikonda	2
Gulati		b Sandham	48	Webster		b Chatharaju	0
Caveney		b Sandham	14	*Webb		b Namilikonda	0
Namilikonda		b Doy	1	Scott-Coombes	lbw	b Namilikonda	0
Sudireddy	not out		52	Sandham		b Chatharaju	0
Chatharaju, Krishna and *S. Patel dnb				Morgan-Grenville		b Kota	46
				Jamieson	c Namilikonda	b Sudireddy	8
				Saril	not out		13
				Doy		b Kota	2
<b>Extras</b>	b3 lb6 w17 nb2		28	<b>Extras</b>	b9 lb4 w1 nb3		17
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 wickets</b>	<b>35 overs</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>20.2 overs</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 14, 18, 125, 154, 155				<b>FoW:</b> 4, 6, 6, 7, 7, 23, 49, 82, 90			
<b>Bowling:</b> Doy 7-0-36-2, Saril 6-1-42-1, Jamieson 7-0-56-0,				<b>Bowling:</b> Chatharaju 7-3-11-3, Namilikonda 2-1-4-4,			
Morgan-Grenville 7-1-46-0, Scott-Coombes 3-0-26-0, Sandham 5-0-27-2				H. Patel 3-0-27-0, Sudireddy 2-0-14-1, Kota 3.2-0-14-2, Gulati 3-0-7-0			

The Gents gained their seventh win of the season after an enjoyable day that one hopes was not to the complete displeasure of the visitors. Plastics, the Gents' 94th opponent, were founded in 2016 when they tested the water with one game. They have 21 scheduled for 2019 against established sides. They are a club on the up who provided worthy opposition but enjoyed little luck, dropping Sudireddy before he had scored and then having to bat in humidity under cloud cover where the ball seamed and swung alarmingly. They have some talented players, are well captained and own a drone.

Namilikonda and Chatharaju were devastating with the new ball, returned their best analyses and induced an alarming Plastics collapse before an excellent recovery led by Morgan-Grenville with 46. Earlier, Kota had scored 88\*, Sudireddy a violent 52\* (his maiden 50) and Gulati 48. After the early loss of two early wickets to Saril's medium pace and Doy's classical slow left-arm, Kota and Gulati consolidated with a stand of 107 in 95 balls. After Gulati drove over one of Sandham's slows Caveney batted brightly but Namilikonda fell to a poor shot, attempting a switch-hit and playing on. This gave Sudireddy a chance to support the tiring Kota and how he responded as they put up 87 in 50. He struck four venomous sixes and five fours to bring up his 50 off only 20 balls faced, four shy of Cloete's 2013 record against Cairns Fudge. Kota hit two sixes and 10 fours in his 15th score of 50 or more and the Gents scored their seventh highest total ever in the 87th game here.

When Plastics subsided to 7/6, soon to become 23/7, Captain Webb was ready to conduct an internal enquiry. There was no explanation for it. Namilikonda, opening the bowling for the first time as the captain continued to experiment, took four wickets with inswingers before he was withdrawn after two overs. Chatharaju, bowled through, took three. There could have been a finish inside 10 overs which would have been in nobody's interests. Morgan-Grenville then rendered such speculation irrelevant as he clubbed H. Patel (eager to atone for his innings with the ball) for four and six in his first over before mangling his figures further in overs two and three. The tail gave him stout support before Kota ended the match at one minute to six. Sudireddy was denied two more wickets off successive balls in a bizarre interlude. Twice he bowled the high full-toss, the first hitting the stumps and the second clubbed to mid-wicket Namilikonda who thought he had reprised his catch a few minutes before. Alas for him, the umpire was up on Law 41.7: *"Any delivery, which passes or would have passed, without pitching, above waist height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, is to be deemed dangerous and unfair, whether or not it is likely to inflict physical injury on the striker. If the bowler bowls such a delivery the umpire shall immediately call and signal No ball"*. Note the absence in the Law of such desperate pleas of mitigation, heard here, as "The catch deserved a wicket" or "He's only a spinner". Laws are Laws and the umpires knew them.

The evening saw pleasant mixing of the teams in the garden of the Earl Beatty, the bar at Old Tenisonians now being off limits for reasons known only to God. Thanks to Ken Toft for support.

## You were what for how many after five overs?

Hopes were high when the Plastics faced the unusually named Gentlemen of West London on the back of four consecutive defeats, Plastics were keen to bounce back from a tough start to the season. A sleepless night had been spent studying the opposition's beautifully maintained statistics page for any tactical insights, upon which it was discovered that their captain had not only scored more runs personally (6,258) than the Plastics as a team have ever, but had repeated this trick for bowling (406 wickets), and catches (106) too. Undeterred, when the Plastics arrived there was an unmistakable air of optimism.

The match started well, with Saril and Jamie bowling some tight, deceptive lines and enjoying the rewards of doing so, with Jamie picking up the wicket of Dubey (8) (caught by Jerry at point), and Saril (never to be outdone) repeating the trick with the other opener H. Patel (3) (caught by Robert at mid on). Things were going worryingly well for the Plastics at this stage with the Gentlemen seemingly struggling at 18/2. Reassuringly, normal service was soon resumed thanks to a fine innings by both Kota (88\*) and Gulati (48) who put on a partnership of 107; after a few overs of Tom Morgan-Grenville and Jerry to get their eye in, they soon found their rhythm. Tom enjoyed a productive spell, the quality of which was not reflected in his figures, before Jevs reminded everybody of his rightful place at the top of the bowling hierarchy: bowling with furious intent (either derived from his demotion to second change, or the as-yet lack of socials footage), he prised Gulati out moments before his half century, before delivering what can only be described as the 'fifth ball of the over' to bowl an incredulous Caveney for 14.

The good times kept coming for the Plastics, with Jamie soon picking up his second as Namilikonda (1) attempted a reverse-sweep switch-hitty thing. The Plastics have seen a fair few strange things on cricket pitches (usually from one of their own), but Namilikonda's incredulous fury as to how and why he got out did raise a few bemused (and very empathetic) eyebrows.

Not much happened for the rest of the innings. Nothing at all. Certainly not a 20-ball maiden 50 from Sudireddy (52), half of it coming via smacking the author over his head for six, repeatedly. It really was a very uneventful (and most importantly, forgettable) 10 overs, at the end of which the Gentlemen found themselves with a very healthy score of 242 from 35 overs.

Tea was tasty – perhaps too tasty, as the Plastics were lulled into a slumber that was abruptly broken in the second over of the Plastics' innings as the ball careered into the top of Robert Bishop's (2) middle stump. Pete Bishop strode out, and quickly strode back in that same over (diplomatically achieving the same score as his brother) – suddenly the Plastics appeared to be in treacherous water.

If the water was treacherous when Pete Bishop got out, it quickly transformed into a tsunami after Peter Oliver (0), Alex (0), Matt (0), and Tom (0) fell in the next three overs leaving the Plastics 7/6 (yes, really), the two Gentlemen new ball bowlers of Namilikonda and Chatharaju running rampant.

The Plastics' lowest-ever score of 52 seemed an impossibly high objective when Jevs and Tom Morgan-Grenville came to the crease, and although Jevs fell for a Plastics record-equalling 5th duck, he had played an important anchoring role in a 16 run partnership which brought the Plastics to a heady 23/7.

You may have wondered where all the runs had been coming from for the Plastics. Under the pretence that readers only remember the start and finish of anything over two paragraphs long, I have chosen to save any mention of Tom Morgan-Grenville's batting performance until the end, to truly reflect the heroism that his innings represented. In the middle for 75 of the Plastics' 90 run total, Tom's 46 runs represented a flagrant disregard of the bowling which was carving through his fellow teammates; sixes and fours were struck with abandon - epitomised when Morgan-Grenville (presumably having come to the conclusion that this was getting unfair on the bowlers) felt that he should bat left-handed to even things out somewhat. Top marks, and a new personal Plastics high score is a just reward.

The Gentlemen of West London were a lovely opposition who played with exactly the right spirit. Whilst we regret not being able to give them more of a game, we hope to have an opportunity to right those wrongs in a rematch next summer.

## Crown Taverners v. Gentlemen of West London

**Sunday 16 June, Crown Taverners. Gents won toss. Sunny, 20C**

**Won by 116 runs**

Gentlemen of West London			Crown Taverners				
Namilikonda		b Day	<b>35</b>	†Higginbotham	c and	b Namilikonda	<b>9</b>
Chatharaju	lbw	b Duffy	<b>0</b>	Bowles	c Kota	b Gulati	<b>2</b>
Kota	run out		<b>79</b>	M. Walter	lbw	b Gulati	<b>4</b>
Gulati	lbw	b Shillingford	<b>8</b>	Muralidharan	c and	b Namilikonda	<b>0</b>
Caveney	run out		<b>4</b>	Hayhoe		b Newcombe	<b>25</b>
Sudireddy	c Higginbotham	b Duffy	<b>30</b>	Duffy		b Namilikonda	<b>1</b>
Corbett		b Duffy	<b>1</b>	*Grannell		b H. Patel	<b>4</b>
Newcombe	not out		<b>4</b>	Berry	c Namilikonda	b Chatharaju	<b>1</b>
†Dubey	not out		<b>7</b>	Day		b H. Patel	<b>1</b>
*S. Patel and H. Patel dnb				Prakash	not out		<b>1</b>
				Shillingford	c Kota	b S. Patel	<b>4</b>
<b>Extras</b>	b2 lb2 w6 nb1		<b>11</b>	<b>Extras</b>	b11 lb1 w9		<b>11</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7 wickets</b>	<b>35 overs</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>25.3 overs</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>FoW:</b>	1, 80, 100, 114, 166, 167, 168			<b>FoW:</b>	12, 22, 23, 23, 24, 32, 32, 38, 58, 63		
<b>Bowling:</b>	Duffy 7-2-20-3, Prakash 7-2-20-0, Berry 1-0-13-0, Grannell 5-0-32-0, Day 5-0-26-1, Shillingford 5-0-24-1, Muralidharan 3-0-31-0, Bowles 2-0-9-0			<b>Bowling:</b>	Gulati 5-0-13-2, Namilikonda 5-0-17-3, Chatharaju 5-2-5-1, H. Patel 5-2-15-2, Newcombe 3-2-5-1, S. Patel 2.3-0-6-1		

The Gents won their fourth successive game after shooting out Crown Taverners on a damp, variable pitch that alternately spat and kept low. They had earlier batted studiously and skilfully with the rock Kota scoring his fourth 50 of 2019. Despite the absence of bad feeling throughout the long history of matches between the clubs, tempers flared in the second innings and articles in the ICC Code of Conduct Levels 1, 2 and 3 were breached. These incidents cannot be ignored and will be discussed later.

Taverners fielded three first XI players, Bowles, Grannell and Michael Walter (son of the famous Trevor), and five second XI, Day, Duffy, Higginbotham, Muralidharan and Shillingford. Chatharaju fell to the fifth ball of the day but Namilikonda (seven fours) and Kota (12 fours and a six) added 79 in 17 overs, marrying watchful defence with thrilling strokeplay. Namilikonda was bowled by a shooter, by no means the day's last. Gulati and Caveney did not prosper, Caveney failing to ground his bat to be run out, but Sudireddy scored a spectacular 30 (two fours and two sixes). Three players therefore scored 144 runs out of 168 off the bat (86%) as wickets fell around them. Having held the fort for 31 overs, Kota was run out after charging up the pitch to the crease of the spellbound Corbett, who was bowled soon after. Newcombe and Dubey added a few sensible runs against tight late bowling and neither Patel batted. Taverners' mostly accurate bowlers were supported by brave and sometimes spectacular outfielding, so 179 was not a bad total. The tea, as always here, was tasty and varied with identifiable sandwich fillings.

The pitch had been covered, and rolled just before the game, but there had been heavy rain in the week and Gulati and Namilikonda found conditions to their liking. Perhaps inspired by the unfairness of what he felt was zealous calling of wides, Namilikonda took two caught and bowleds, and castled a third. Gulati was hostile and had Walter leg-before and Bowles caught Kota at short cover. That was 24/5 in the eighth over and the match was pretty much over. The bowling was outstanding.

The six bowlers used by captain Patel presented a host of challenges. H. Patel, bowling slower than usual, got turn and bounce, bringing one back a foot from outside off-stump to bowl Grannell. Chatharaju induced Berry to hole out to mid off to give Namilikonda his third catch of the day and 10th of the season. Hayhoe then fought back with a series of meaty clubs to the leg-side boundary but it was 63 all out when Shillingford chipped the captain to mid on Kota at 23 minutes to six. Drinks with Taverners were gratefully consumed and Gents were invited back in 2020.

A strange day ended with a novel experience for your correspondent when he was accosted by a gypsy from County Kerry, who with his tribe had recently invaded Hanwell and whose standards of personal hygiene were not high. He keenly listened to the crackpot reminiscences of the Irishman, who was clearly a benign man of peace, with a fund of goodwill. It was better to have met him than not.

## Seconds out



**Crown Taverners CC 16.6.19: Daniel Bowles is persuaded to leave the field**

The barometer of Srinivas Namilikonda's emotional nature was set for a spell of riot, which duly arrived when umpire Trevor Walter wided him eight times. It is an offence under ICC Code of Conduct Level 1 to show dissent at an umpire's decision by word or action. Like many players, he needs a competitive edge to give of his best, but cavorting in front of an umpire and performing an arcane war dance may not be the best way to get him inside.

Immediately after the dismissal of Bowles the game lost all sense of discipline. Perhaps Bowles thought it was a bump ball. The umpires later confirmed that it was not; he scooped the ball off the toe of his bat. Whatever upset him he was reluctant to leave the crease. According to a Gents club official close to the incident, whose word we trust, Newcombe, for reasons known only to himself, then proffered a handshake but was rebuffed with an expletive, which he instantly returned. Bowles had to be escorted from the pitch by Dubey and Namilikonda with the phrase "Calm down" ringing in his ears. Telling an angry person to calm down is always effective and never results in an escalation of tensions. Bowles rejoined his team bellowing dire imprecations, threatening to "fix" the former Gents captain who would "have to take the consequences of his actions". While it was all kicking off, the Gents scorer was meekly trying to ascertain the new batsman's name and record the fall of the wicket, such details being of prime importance to him.

Shades of Cuntgate in 2007 when bequipped Gents 'keeper HP Denton was alleged to have used a vile term to the Weasels' captain, the argumentative Gregg Dyer. The accusation was forcefully denied.

The Gents had breached the Level 2 offence of deliberate physical contact between players during play, although the restraint of Bowles did not seem to be aggressive. By his action Bowles had ascended, or descended, to the Level 3 offence of threat of assault on a player, team official, or spectator. To the credit of the protagonists, apologies were offered and accepted during the drinks break, but both clubs are better than that and a recurrence would be unwelcome. The local Facebook Crime page was ablaze. "A poor example to any children watching on TV", ranted J. Davies of Farnham. "Get the F\*\* In", said someone called Mooncat G, who was later blocked by Admin.

More importantly, who would have won a fight between Newcombe and Bowles? Based on his bloodcurdling tales of putting in reducers on girls in mixed netball games, our money would have gone on the younger man Newcombe in the fourth simply because of this more recent combat experience.

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

**Saturday 22 June, Ealing Central SG. St Anne's Allstars won toss. Sunny, 23C**

**Lost by 25 runs**

St Anne's Allstars		Gentlemen of West London					
*†Cresswell	b S. Snelling	<b>1</b>	H. Patel	b Rattan	<b>46</b>		
Chaudhry	b J. Snelling	<b>61</b>	Caveney	b Shah	<b>6</b>		
Singh	lbw	<b>5</b>	Kota	b Shah	<b>6</b>		
Pereira	not out	<b>66</b>	†Sudireddy	b Rattan	<b>29</b>		
Rattan	not out	<b>24</b>	Sciberras	b Silmon	<b>0</b>		
Dhasari, Shanmugan, Thompson, Silmon and Shah	dnb		Khan	b Rattan	<b>5</b>		
			J. Snelling	lbw	<b>6</b>		
			*S. Patel	c Chaudhry	<b>1</b>		
			S. Snelling	b Singh	<b>10</b>		
			Antoine	b Rattan	<b>0</b>		
			Bender	not out	<b>5</b>		
<b>Extras</b>	b3 lb2 w13 nb3	<b>21</b>	<b>Extras</b>	b15 lb3 w 21	<b>39</b>		
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 wickets</b>	<b>35 overs</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>32.2 overs</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>FoW:</b>	19, 28, 122			<b>FoW:</b>	36, 52, 106, 107, 123, 130, 130, 133, 134, 153		
<b>Bowling:</b>	J. Snelling 7-2-17-1, S. Snelling 7-1-17-1, H. Patel 4-0-18-0, Khan 4-0-23-1, Antoine 3-0-23-0, S. Patel 4-0-32-0, Sciberras 4-0-26-0, Kota 2-0-17-0			<b>Bowling:</b>	Shah 6-1-20-2, Dhasari 3-0-20-0, Thompson 6-0-24-0, Shanmugan 3-0-28-0, Silmon 7-2-24-3, Rattan 7-1-16-4, Singh 0.2-0-3-1		

St Anne's beat the Gents in a cracking old-school game, spinning out the hosts on a slow turner, Ashwin Rattan taking four wickets and Joe Silmon three. Earlier, Chaudhry (seven fours) and Pereira (four fours) had scored 50s. They outscored the hosts with runs off the bat by 157 to 114, only sound innings by H. Patel and Sudireddy and a host of extras keeping the Gents in contention. Stuart Snelling took his 400th wicket in his 245th game going back to 1995. It was the Oxford university alumni's third win in 20 games in this rubber, and was thoroughly deserved. Well played the brilliant Allstars.

The annual reunion game was honoured with the presence of the Snellings, Sciberras, Khan and Bender. Dan Antoine debuted. St Anne's were much changed from 2018: only Cresswell, Silmon and Singh remained. The early overs belonged to the Gents, with terrific spells from the Snellings. Stuart bowled Cresswell in the 10th over and Khan pinned Singh in the 12th with his first legitimate ball. Gents had their tails up but only one more wicket would fall as Chaudhry, Pereira and, latterly, Rattan took control. When the Snellings returned for their second spells, Rattan asked for a helmet to face Joel, then handed it to the umpire when his dad took the next over. Chortling was incurred.

After tea, which Cresswell kindly observed was better than that professionally catered by Sir Tim Rice's Heartaches the previous Sunday, the Gents set about their task. And very good it looked for a while as extras flowed and H. Patel scored three fours off Dhasari. Shah had Caveney and Kota, a long way forward, lbw (Joel Snelling had no doubt) but Patel and Sudireddy, transformed as a batsman this season, added 54. The Gents were 106/2 in the 19th over needing 4.4 runs per over.

The spinners, Silmon with looping leg-spin and Rattan with off-spin off no run up, generated bounce and turn and the match was transformed. Rattan bowled Sudireddy in his first over and Silmon bowled Sciberras in the next, his second. Khan and H. Patel soon fell and the Gents' fortunes were plummeting southwards. Batsman after batsman watching from the sidelines thought "This looks easy". Minutes later they would trundle back asserting that it wasn't.

Joel Snelling and Antoine were trapped lbw and captain Patel opted to go aerial but was comfortably caught at mid off. Snelling senior and Bender saw off the spinners with no little resolution and had no option but to take on the returning seamers. They did well enough too but another leg-spinner Singh did for Snelling with 16 balls unbowled and Gents 25 runs shy.

It was good to see the facilities in full use here with several friends from other clubs playing. Brentham were on pitch 1, captain Krishna popping over to say hello. On pitch 3, Matt Webster's son Joe was helping Winchmore Hill IIIs to a win against Perivale Phoenicians.

## Allstars shine in epic victory over Gents



Rattan and Silmon celebrate their seven wickets

Ealing Central SG comprises a picturesque collection of cricket pitches, well shielded from the neighbouring A40 by a substantial hedge, centred on a pretty clubhouse with a nice bar, **writes Pete Cresswell**. The ground is right next to Perivale Station on the Central Line, though TFL's weekend engineering schedule forced many Allstars to shuttle to the ground via Alperton station instead.

The Gents are one of the Allstars' favourite opponents, with plenty of good-natured games down the years. Their Fixture Secretary regularly drops in on our matches, chipping in with the scorebook on occasion.

The junior Snelling, Joel, opened up tightly on the back of some prodigious outswing, a handful of leg-byes and swing-induced byes being the only source of scoreboard relief. At the other end his father Stuart was swinging and seaming the ball back in off his Mike Procter-esque wrong-foot action. Both Snellings were to finish with excellent figures of 1-17 off their allotted seven overs.

Allstars were reeling at 28/2 in the 12th. But this was the moment when Sam Pereira joined Vikash at the wicket, and the pair built a superb 94 run stand, taking advantage of the copious green space in the big outfield to bat the Allstars into a strong position. Joel Snelling eventually slipped one through Vikash's defences for an excellent 61 when he returned for a second spell, which brought Ashwin Rattan to the crease. Twenty-eight runs off the last three overs helped the Allstars reach 178/3, comfortably our highest total this season, with Sam's unbeaten 66 the highest individual score.

Hemin Patel was positive early, getting the run rate going. Cavaney was more circumspect at the other end before being bowled by Zain in the 7th over. He was replaced by Pavan Kota, who advanced down the track to a straight ball from Zain and was given out lbw – the delivery was straight, but most village level umpires would have given a team-mate the benefit of the doubt. Patel and Sudireddy built a brisk 50 partnership, with a brutal attack against Shanmugan who'd replaced Zain at the clubhouse end. When drinks were taken at the end of the 17th the Gents were handily placed at 98/2.

Immediately after the break the complexion of the match changed completely with the introduction of spin, on a slow, low pitch with a few cracks appearing. Joe Silmon and Ashwin Rattan both bowled superbly, proving hard to get away getting turn and drift, while the tiring Patel was struggling a little between the wickets. Sudireddy was bowled at the end of Ash's first over, and Joe bowled Mark Sciberras for a duck the next over. Gents were 109/4 off 20 – game on!

Ash bowled Khan and Hemin Patel (for a well-crafted 46) in successive overs, and the Gents collapse was on. Joe trapped Joel Snelling in front and had Sanjay Patel smartly caught by Vikash in the next over. Ash trapped number 10 Antoine in front for a duck the next over, and in five overs five wickets had fallen for 11 runs. Stuart Snelling Senior and last man Bender managed to play out the remainder of the spin twins' spells, leaving 37 to win off the last 4 overs. Some aggressive swinging off the returning Thompson got the target down to 29 off three, but Sachin finished the job as he got a leg break to turn from outside leg and hit middle to bowl Snelling for 10.

So the 42-11 Trophy comes the Allstars' way for just the third time in 20 attempts. Both of our prior wins over the Gents were mainly down to one batsman playing out of his skin – Simon Begley in 2005, and Paul Bowman in 2011 – but this was a team performance which belongs firmly among the Allstars' greatest victories. Thanks to the Gentlemen of West London for being proper Gents during a friendly-spirited match on a lovely day, and to Krysia Burman for a phenomenally good afternoon tea. We look forward to defending the 42-11 Trophy against them next year.

## Teddington Town v. Gentlemen of West London

**Sunday 30 June, Teddington. Gents won toss. Sunny, 23C**

**Won by 70 runs**

Gentlemen of West London			Teddington Town				
Namilikonda	lbw	b Chandras	<b>50</b>	Dobani	c Sudireddy	b Dubey	<b>39</b>
Poulter		b Walsh	<b>42</b>	Singh	lbw	b Chatharaju	<b>2</b>
Kota	c Rose	b Walsh	<b>0</b>	Shegionkar	lbw	b Poulter	<b>5</b>
†Sudireddy	lbw	b Walsh	<b>1</b>	Rose	c Dubey	b Poulter	<b>3</b>
Dubey		b Naseri	<b>2</b>	†Young		b Kota	<b>16</b>
Mohan		b Naseri	<b>0</b>	Naseri	c Caveney	b Dubey	<b>4</b>
Chatharaju	c Chandras	b Naseri	<b>5</b>	*Phillips	c S. Patel	b Poulter	<b>0</b>
Caveney	c Shegionkar	b Naseri	<b>9</b>	Chandras	run out (S. Patel)		<b>0</b>
*S. Patel	not out		<b>57</b>	McLeod		b Pavithran	<b>11</b>
Pavithran		b Phillips	<b>0</b>	Finlay	not out		<b>5</b>
Locke		b Phillips	<b>0</b>	Walsh	c Dubey	b Pavithran	<b>7</b>
<b>Extras</b>	b5 lb2 w8		<b>15</b>	<b>Extras</b>	b6 lb3 w9 nb1		<b>19</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>30.5 overs</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>All out</b>	<b>31 overs</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 89, 89, 97, 104, 104, 106, 110, 135, 173, 181				<b>FoW:</b> 22, 53, 57, 66, 81, 81, 81, 93, 97, 111			
<b>Bowling:</b> McLeod 6-0-16-0, Phillips 6.5-1-26-2, Walsh 5-0-44-3, Naseri 8-2-26-4, Chandras 5-0-62-1				<b>Bowling:</b> Namilikonda 5-0-24-0, Chatharaju 4-0-10-1, Poulter 8-1-18-3, Dubey 8-1-22-2, Kota 3-0-15-1, Pavithran 3-0-13-2			



This game very nearly did not happen. The Gents' scheduled visitors Baker Street Irregulars bailed very late on Thursday night for the third and final time. Teddington Town had Barnes Occasionals and Ham and Petersham cancel on them. Fixture matchmaking websites were full of sides able to host but few wanted to travel, the Cricket World Cup being cited as the most likely reason. The Gents were offered this game late Friday night and chose to forfeit the £150 charge for the booked Old Tenisonians pitch.

Had this game not taken place it would have been a great shame. The Gents got a chance to play on a beautiful ground in Bushy Park against gracious opposition, both sides producing some skilful if sometimes barmy cricket. Sanjay Patel scored his thirtieth Gents 50, off only 30 balls, Namilikonda with his second 50 put on a season's best 89 for the first wicket with guest Tom Poulter (42), while the other eight batsmen could muster only 16, with four painful ducks. The hosts started steadily but were shot down by tidy bowling and great catching, including stunners from Caveney and the captain.

Teddington Town CC was founded in 1891. Its players are fortunate to play at such a scenic ground. Eccentrics can obscure the scorer's view by using the path in front of the pavilion to walk along rather than sit and watch cricket as they ought, but that is a small price to pay. The Gents pitched up to be told that Ham and Petersham were expected. At this point the fixture secretary was ready to go and live in a cave, shunning all human contact forever. It was to his great relief that matters were soon resolved.

Four Gents debuted: Pavan Kota's friends Prakash Mohan and Sijin Pavithran, and our old sparring partners from Bricklayer's Arms Chris Locke and Tom Poulter, who with scores of 85, 71\* and 100\* famously averages 256 against the Gents. They took the number of Gents players up to 384. The incorporation of guests poses challenges to a captain, but he was fully briefed and deployed his resources perfectly. Guests used to bat 11 and rarely bowl, and people wondered why they rarely returned. Thanks are given to these four who all put in a splendid effort.

The innings split neatly into three segments: a masterful opening stand, 31 minutes of farce in which seven wickets fell for 21 runs in five overs, and a renaissance led by the captain. Namilikonda (eight fours) and Poulter (five fours) developed a good understanding in their 51 minutes together. Walsh then bowled Poulter and took two more wickets with his leg-cutters. Naseri then caused mayhem from the southern end and estimates of the final total were shortening by the minute. Kota (cursed by the scorer who announced to Mr Locke that he had been in good form), Sudirreddy, Dubey and Mohan fell within minutes. What is it with the Gents and spin? The Devil's work is afoot.

Caveney hit two defiant fours before the captain took control. Initially watchful, he targetted Chandras and took all his boundaries off him, ten fours and two sixes. Pavithran kept his end up and Locke saw him to his first 50 since September 2017, since when he has rarely batted up the order.

The tea, supplied by Bombay Wok (chilli chicken and Singapore noodles, artisanal sides of cheese sandwiches and hand-sliced Battenberg cake) was delicious. London Saints have a tea committee whose job is to review the catering deployed in their away games. When the Gents used to play them, their reports were awaited with trepidation. This was a B+ and like Saints we are tough markers.



Town then set about their chase. The odd ball was creeping at the pavilion end but Town know their pitches well and were untroubled as 53 came up in 13 overs for the loss of Singh. A galvanic moment then arrived. The Gents were looking flat, but 62-years-young Chris Locke stopped a certain four with an excellent dive down at third man. This visibly lifted the team.

The combination of Poulter's off breaks and Dubey's cunning swing bowling then turned the game on its head. They were outstanding. Town had some good batsmen but rarely have the Gents caught as well as this. Sudireddy, who kept well, caught Dobani off a glance, though the batsman thought it was pad strap. Dubey caught Rose running in from square leg, Caveney took a nasty swirler running back from mid off before the captain pounced captain Phillips one-handed above his head at square cover off a full-blooded cut. Two catch of the season contenders in 90 seconds! Patel ran out Chandras and Kota bowled Young with the arm ball.

Sijin Pavithran (left) is the latest victim of our poorly lit amateur photogallery. He finished the game by bowling McLeod with a shooter and having Walsh caught at cover, Dubey's second. The teams had between them failed to bat 18 of their overs. "I like these 30 over games," quipped Chandras, who deserved a better day.

Town were generous hosts and the Gents stayed back with them for over two hours. Negotiations have begun for a return visit in 2020. This is a fixture to be savoured and was the third new ground visited in 2019, all being of the highest quality.

This match mitigated the financial loss incurred by Baker Street's selfishness but the waste of a home pitch still angers. However, new friends were made.