

# THE ARCHIVE

## CLASSIC GENTS MATCHES

### Gentlemen of West London v. West XI

Sunday 19 July 2009, Old Tenisons Sports Club. West XI won toss. Cloudy, 21C

Won by 94 runs

Gentlemen of West London			West XI			
Khan	lbw	b Taylor	60	Taylor	b Inkollu	3
Gilkes		b Taylor	68	Boden	c S. Patel	42
Rudru	c Bhatt	b Taylor	31	*Wright	run out	14
Sciberras	st Bignell	b G. Dave	15	Bhatt	c Khan	28
Iqbal	c G Dave	b Bhatt	15	M. Dave	c and	10
*S Patel	not out		15	G. Dave	c Khan	9
Inkollu	not out		11	Norcott		3
S. Desai, †H. Desai, Toft, H. Patel and Snelling dnb				Rennie	run out	4
				†Bignell	not out	7
				Laing	not out	0
				Hill	dnb	
<b>Extras</b>	b16 2lb w3 nb1		22	<b>Extras</b>	b13 lb1 w4 nb5	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 wickets</b>	<b>35 overs</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8 wickets</b>	<b>35 overs</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 113, 180, 180, 201, 221				<b>FoW:</b> 5, 55, 78, 110, 115, 128, 129, 137		
<b>Bowling:</b> Wright 3-0-13-0, Hill 3-0-14-0, Bhatt 7-0-59-1, Boden 3-0-15-0, M. Dave 6-0-36-0, G. Dave 3-0-26-1, Taylor 7-0-33-3, Laing 3-0-22-0				<b>Bowling:</b> S. Patel 3-0-11-1, Inkollu 5-0-18-2, Iqbal 6-0-29-0, Snelling 7-2-20-0, Rudru 5-0-20-0, H Patel 6-1-23-2, Sciberras 2-0-5-1, S. Desai 1-0-3-0		



The Bob Ashton Memorial Cup returned for the first time since 2002 after a vibrant performance at a gusty Motspur Park. A series-record opening stand of 113 in 18.5 overs between Khan (60 with seven fours) and Gilkes (68 with twelve fours and a six), carried on by the middle order, set up a mammoth score. West XI replied with guts and skill but in the teeth of some accurate bowling gradually fell behind the required rate to finish 94 runs short. The game was played in a good spirit and roll on the third match in September.

Wright inserted The Gents on a green wicket that played very true all day, though the captain of Old Tenisonians IIs had advised a Gent reconnaissance party on the Saturday night that it was a bowl first strip. After five quiet overs, Gents 18-0, Gilkes hit Hill out of the attack with three fours before a similar fusillade caused Bhatt to retire from the fray after just two overs. Something special in the club's history was being made flesh, both batsmen playing to the peak of their powers. Gilkes's fifty, full of withering drives, cuts and pulls, came up to huge applause in the 14th over, the century partnership two overs later.

Gilkes fell in the second over of left-armed Taylor's pacy spell, but Khan and Rudru added a quick 67 against testing bowling from Taylor, who deserved his figures and the twirl of Laing and the Daves. Both fell in Taylor's final over, the latter to a fine catch at long on by Bhatt off a skier. Sciberras, Iqbal, Sanjay Patel and Inkollu (off the mark with a majestic six that landed ten yards over the long-on boundary) then scored heavily to take Gents to a position from which they would have to bowl and field extraordinarily badly, or West XI bat extraordinarily well, to lose. The wise ones knew that neither scenario was an impossibility.

With no time to die wondering, Wright put his best batsmen in the top four positions, but Taylor was bowled in the second over by a corker from Inkollu which pitched leg and clipped the off bail. Boden and Wright then batted attractively before the latter was run out by Rudru off his own bowling, the Beggar captain sportingly walking after the umpire was unsighted. Boden looked to be on for a big score but clipped Hemin Patel to silly mid-off Sanjay Patel, who took a smart diving catch. Snelling then embarked on a spell of parsimony, opening with the day's first two maidens, the first No. 43 of the game, so true was the wicket. The required run rate rose to ten after 20 overs and victory drew closer with the sensational dismissal of Bhatt off Inkollu. In a reprise of Rudru's dismissal, he launched a ball into the clouds high over deep mid-wicket. Three fielders converged on the ball, but Khan it was who ran and caught it running away from the wicket, a marvellous feat of hand-eye co-ordination. The bowlers and fielders were inspired by this and the innings was smothered until life became extinct, the Patels and Sciberras gaining further scalps.

So after defeats in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2008 and drawn series in 2006 and 2007 (the cup therefore being retained by West XI) the Bob Ashton Memorial Cup is once more in the hands of the Gents. Though the new players have undoubtedly strengthened the 2009 team, the most satisfying facet of the decisive victory on 19 July was that the club stalwarts contributed so much to it. Though Naveed Khan had already scored a 46 and a 33 this season, poor Richard Gilkes was down in the dumps with scores of 0, 7, 0 and 0 in his only four innings. It was an inspirational move by Sanjay Patel – dreamed up in the car on the way to the ground – to give him the opener's berth. Both batsmen posted their highest scores for the club.

### West XI's report

Sunday's match against the resurgent Gents was more predictable and the tired Beggars put in a good effort against a side currently off the radar by social cricket standards **writes Steve Bignell**. Any chance Wright's invalids had effectively disappeared when Richard Gilkes (68) and Naveed Khan (60) put up 113 for the first wicket in 19 overs. The bowlers had no answer to Gilkes's controlled hitting, Neepam Bhatt taking a particular pounding conceding 59 in his seven overs. Khan's innings was more measured (scored from 180 in 29 overs) but no less valuable. The rest of the batsmen all contributed and only a superb effort from Stewart Taylor (3-33) put any kind of control on the scoring.

West XI's outside hopes more or less disappeared when a jaffa from Inkollu took the top of Taylor's off stump, though another excellent cameo of 42 from Chris Boden kept the game interesting. All expectation finally evaporated when Wright was run out and Bhatt brilliantly caught by Khan from a skier. The remaining batsmen did their best but there was no respite in the quality of the bowling and fielding and in the end a 94-run defeat was good damage limitation against a side with a 100% record this season.

Beleaguered Director of Cricket Steve Bignell told the website, "Obviously it was disappointing to give up the trophy after six years but it was no disgrace losing to a team of the Gents' present quality, though I was not happy with a couple of players who appeared to throw in the towel very early on in the day."