

# THE ARCHIVE

## CLASSIC GENTS MATCHES

### Judd Street Tigers v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 27 July, Paulin Ground, Winchmore Hill. Gents won toss. Sunny. 25C

Won by 20 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Judd Street Tigers				
Bocha	c Basker	b Webster	16	Basker	st Thoms	b Small	66
Small	c Herlihy	b Wright	106	Herlihy		b S. Patel	44
Caveney	st Pinfield	b Dane	7	Delanian		b Small	1
Dubey	lbw	b Dane	2	†Pinfield		b Hibbert	12
S. Patel		b Dane	13	Dane		b Kumar	43
Jones	c Basker	b Delanian	16	Wright	c and	b Small	15
Kumar		b Daffern	4	Rawlings	c Katragadda	b Bocha	18
Pentakota	c Bignell	b Wright	72	Daffern	run out		0
†Thoms	not out		0	*Murray	not out		7
Katragadda	run out		0	Webster	not out		1
*Hibbert	did not bat			Bignell	did not bat		
<b>Extras</b>		b1 lb5 w5 nb3	14	<b>Extras</b>		b10 lb7 w6	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>9 wickets</b>	<b>40 overs</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>8 wickets</b>	<b>40 overs</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 43, 64, 66, 88, 133, 156, 250, 250, 250				<b>FoW:</b> 109, 112, 133, 148, 171, 205, 206, 226			
<b>Bowling:</b> Webster 7-0-53-1, Wright 8-0-61-2, Dane 8-0-33-3, Murray 8-0-29-0, Delanian 4-0-33-1, Daffern 3-0-20-1, Bignell 2-0-15-0				<b>Bowling:</b> Katragadda 6-1-27-0, Dubey 6-1-33-0, S. Patel 6-0-28-1, Pentakota 3-0-12-0, Small 8-0-47-3, Hibbert 4-0-27-1, Kumar 4-0-18-1, Bocha 3-0-21-1			

In the clubs' inaugural fixture in 2013, the Gents' 231 was tied by Tigers off the day's final ball. One year on, the Gents won a tight victory after a marathon game played on a perfect batting wicket, recovering impressively from 88-4 to post 250-9. Jonny Small's maiden club century (16 fours) and Raj Pentakota's maiden 50 (ten fours and a six) were the Gents' batting highlights, 94 coming in just 10 overs when they were together. The loaned Vijay Basker and Jim Herlihy laid a solid platform for the hosts with the first century opening stand in a Gents game in four years, 109 in 21 overs, but tight bowling and impervious fielding in the second half of the innings won the day. Only three Gents games have produced more runs.

The Gents had 13 players on the ground so Vijay Basker was transferred on a fixed-term contract to the hosts, to no little effect. Indeed, by the end of the day the 'Tigers' Human Resources Department was getting sign off on a temp to perm contract to net him, to no avail. Basker it was who caught Bocha off a top-edged pull that landed five minutes later in the slip cordon and who would later catch Jones at mid-on. From a healthy 43-0 after 7 overs the Gents entered a Dane-induced stall with Caveney stumped after hopping out of his crease yelping in pain, Law 39 being enacted in all its sternness, Dubey lbw in the same over and Patel bowled after a bright start. Small was batting with calm grace, playing each ball on its merits and stroking his fours across the fast outfield through cover and mid-wicket.

Mark Jones introduced Small to the club in 2013 so it was pleasant to see the two pals bat together, every shot of Jones attracting healthy barracking from Pinfield, barracking doubtless birthed in the lower parts of Amsterdam during the tour. Several wisecracks gripped and turned. For this writer, it brought back happy memories of the sophisticated Ashton/Hill repartee in Gents v. West XI clashes of the 1990s. The baton gets handed on. The Gents passed 100 in the 20th over, the unruffled Small surviving the loss of Jones and Kumar, bowled after the captain had a funny turn, invading the pitch to give him some unwonted advice. Dane and the spinner Murray bowled well in tandem and there was brief stalemate between bat and ball, in contrast to the Sri Lankan school alumni game on the next pitch, which was peppered with sixes and howled appeals.

Enter Raj Pentakota. The stand that followed was a match-winner. Pentakota's artillery found its range immediately while Small proceeded through the 80s and 90s. The sidelined Taylor might have put on a brake on their escapades but Tigers' support bowlers could not, the returning Webster and Wright also taking a bit of a bashing. Small went to his hundred with a rare false shot, an edge over slip, but he deserved this small slice of luck. Three wickets then fell off the final three balls of the innings, Small and Pentakota holing out and Katragadda run out without facing, moments of success that the hosts had deserved for their tireless outcricket. Hibbert could take credit for his rejigged batting order which bequeathed considerable power in the tail and he was the happier of the two captains at tea.

Basker and Herlihy batted very well for the Tigers, although Herlihy was gifted several easy fours off his legs. A run rate of 6.3 is easy to sustain over a few overs, but onerous over 40. In truth, it was difficult to split the sides at drinks, for although the required rate had crept up to 7.5, Tigers had some big hitters to come. The persevering Sanjay Patel broke the stand by bowling Herlihy, the dangerous Delanian following in the next over bowled Small, attributing his fate to being padded up for nearly two hours. By now Hibbert, with his looping off-spin was operating in tandem with Small's leg-spin and the Gents' fortunes improved. Hibbert bowled Pinfield with a full-toss before Small deceived Basker in the flight, a neat Thoms stumping the result, and induced a low caught and bowled to finish Wright's cameo of two sixes and three singles.

Dane and Rawlings batted powerfully but the choice of the accurate Kumar and Bocha to round off the innings was wise, Kumar bowling Dane and a juggling Katragadda obliging Bocha at long-on to dismiss Rawlings. The game was closed out but there was little in it, the earlier blast of Pentakota and Small having proved the differentiator. An excellent day out then with some superb batting from both teams and much lively banter. Both clubs have their challenges but friendly rivalry has been established and the fixture should prosper.

### **Steve Bignell's report**

At the present moment Blackpool FC look to have a better chance of getting a full side on the field than the Tigers! Yet again they were forced to take on one of the toughest fixtures of the season without a full allocation of members, with some players injured and one failing to appear on the day. Such are the travails of a Sunday cricket team. Fortunately, the opposition were oversubscribed and very kindly loaned out a highly efficient player – Vijay Basker – who top-scored in the Tigers' innings in addition to fielding excellently and taking two catches.

A highly competitive and entertaining match thus proceeded, with 480 runs scored in 80 overs. With the contest relegated to the Winchmore Hill junior pitch, remarkably recovered from Friday's biblical floods, it was always going to be a high-scoring match with the toss crucial. The Gentlemen won it and therefore had the advantage of a harder ball (loaned by the home side), with the fielding team having to endure the hottest part of the day. The Gents' innings was held together by a measured century from opener Small, who launched his account with two boundaries in the first over, rode his luck occasionally, but also played some excellent strokes, being dismissed in the final over for 106. Their innings was in the balance at 88-4, thanks to another Trojan shift from Chris Dane (3-33), and again at 156-6, but Pentakota – coming in at No.8 – struck a rapid 72, adding a vital 94 with Small for the seventh wicket in short order. With Taylor and Boden both injured, then Webster being crocked during the game, the Tigers' bowling was always going to struggle, only Dane and Murray (29 from 8 overs) being reasonably economical.

A total of 250 was about par for the ground, with its short boundaries and quick outfield (The Tigers had scored 240 in 40 overs batting first the week before) and openers Basker (66) and a back-to-form Mike Herlihy (44) seemed fairly untroubled as they put together a record century stand of 109 in 21 overs. But the Tigers were always slightly behind the run rate and the innings slowly began to run out of steam. The Gents bowled steadily and the fielders defended the shorter boundaries more productively. Small's day got even better as he bagged 3-47, including the vital wicket of Chris Wright for 15 with a sharp return catch after Wright had commenced his knock with two huge sixes. Barnaby Pinfield made a mess of a Hibbert full toss, bowled for only 12, though Chris Dane (43) and Dave Rawlings (18) gave some brief hope with 34 in five overs, but when Dane was dismissed at 226 the match fizzled out disappointingly, with no repeat of the exciting tied game of 2013.