

THE ARCHIVE

CLASSIC GENTS MATCHES



Congratulations to Salix for becoming only the second side to beat the Gents in 2009. Time and again the team has turned around losing positions and when Salix underwent a tremor from 80-2 to 102-6 it looked like more of the same, however deep they have traditionally batted. Pundits had, however, reckoned without Tasmanian Tornado Nick Goold (left, being congratulated by Ravi Inkollu after his dismissal), whose brutal driving in his spectacular 67 had to be seen to be believed. GSK Greenford will be no more, so the game will be at Imperial College, Harlington, adjacent to the QPR training ground.

Chairman Richard Gilkes wrote:

I think they were the best team I have ever played against at this level. They batted all the way down and our bowlers all got taken apart. We did well to wrestle the game back in their innings but then their No.8 Goold who was excellent with the ball in his hand as well as the bat showed us all how to clean hit. It was a 200 wicket and they were above par. Thought we gave it a good go. No hard feelings about losing to them. The game was played in an excellent spirit and it is sad that this was the last game ever at that venue. Major well dones to Scibo for his bowling and Naveed for his batting. Also well done though to the whole team who fought damned hard. It was a good game to be part of. Salix's match report is up if you go to their site on the links page.

Salix v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 13 September 2009, GlaxoSmithKline SC Greenford. Salix won toss. Cloudy, 18C

Lost by 50 runs

Salix			Gentlemen of West London				
Clews	c Sciberras	b S. Patel	0	†Khan	c Shaw	b Ellis	55
Fletcher	c Rudru	b Inkollu	34	Gilkes		b Singh	15
*Padmore	lbw	b Sciberras	11	Rudru	lbw	b Kulasingam	5
Singh	lbw	b H. Patel	38	†H. Desai		b Lumsden	11
Darling	lbw	b Sciberras	8	Inkollu	c Lumsden	b Ellis	30
Kulasingam		b Sciberras	2	Kalidindi	st Shaw	b Ellis	10
†Shaw		b Inkollu	6	*S. Patel	c Shaw	b Fletcher	30
Goold	c Newcombe	b Sciberras	67	Sciberras		b Ellis	4
Lumsden	not out		24	Snelling	c Kulasingam	b Fletcher	3
Heaton	not out		22	H. Patel	run out		1
Ellis	dnb			Newcombe	not out		0
				Toft	not out		0
Extras		b2 lb1 w9	12	Extras		b1 lb2 w5 nb2	10
Total	8 wickets	35 overs	224	Total	10 wickets	35 overs	174
FoW: 13, 44, 80, 94, 102, 152, 183			FoW: 31, 46, 63, 119, 129, 146, 168, 171, 174, 174				
Bowling: Snelling 7-0-44-0, Inkollu 7-1-25-2, Rudru 5-0-39-0, H. Patel 5-1-39-1, S. Patel 4-0-37-1, Sciberras 7-0-39-4			Bowling: Singh 7-2-36-1, Kulasingam 5-0-26-1, Lumsden 5-0-19-1, Goold 7-1-27-0, Ellis 7-0-42-4, Heaton 3-0-19-0, Fletcher 1-0-2-2				

Salix put Gents to the sword

The Gents lost only their second game in 24 matches when they were blown away by brilliant Salix batting. It was going to take something special to beat the 2009 Gents in a 35 over game and three Salix batsmen provided it: the veteran Tony Fletcher, the elegant Kunwar Singh and the violent Tasmanian Nick Goold, whose 67 scored in only 11 overs at the crease transformed the match. When Salix lost four wickets quickly and stood at 102-6 in the 22nd. over the visitors were on top, but 122 quick runs then came to shatter Gent hopes. The truly impressive aspect of the innings, the highest against The Gents since 2006, was that it was achieved against a talented attack, lacking perhaps only Iqbal and Lalam from the best the visitors could possibly have fielded.

The warm sunshine of the Saturday had disappeared to leave the ground swathed in cloud with a biting northerly wind. This was to be the last game here and both sides were hopeful, Salix because of their inherent strength and excellent record against The Gents and the visitors because of the self-belief engendered by a record-busting season. The captain warned his men to be careful of extras. So it was, then, that Stuart Snelling opened the game with three wides. Inkollu had Clews caught by mid-on running in but Fletcher pulled and drove strongly, putting up his 34 in only 11 overs before holing out to long-on. Padmore, a centurion the previous week, became the hundredth wicket for Sciberras, who went on to take three more in a sound spell. Him apart, only Inkollu provided economy. Singh flourished in his ten-over dig, striking seven fours, the same as Fletcher.

Although runs were coming at five an over, The Gents kept taking wickets and when Darling, Singh, Kulasingam and Shaw fell in five overs their tails were up. Enter Goold. Not since Village XI's youthful Roland Heyman (132) and Robert Jones (89) of Village XI pounded 215 in July 2006 has a Gent attack been subjected to such a venomous assault. He hit seven fours and three sixes, one off Rudru and two in successive balls off Sciberras. The innings was not chanceless, Newcombe putting down a couple of vicious drives in the deep, but he deserved his fifty and plaudits from team-mates and opponents. After Goold fell, Lumsden and Heaton carried on the assault.

The temperature plummeted and the light began to fail but The Gent fought a good fight. After four overs they were 29-0 but that was the only time they were ahead of the required rate. Khan's 55 glued the innings together and there were solid contributions down the order, but the task was just too great. A chasing score of 174 was far from shoddy, but still left the visitors 50 short. There were four wickets for the slow left-armer Ellis and no weak links in the bowling but the standout performer was, once more, Goold, who was very tight. A flurry of wickets came in pitch darkness to add to the gaiety of nations, including the run out of Hemin Patel, who having made his ground forgot to ground his bat and was run out by a direct hit. Fielding twelve batsmen, The Gents were ten down and so Salix just failed to take all the wickets, an achievement reserved for only five of The Gents' 2009 opponents. The result was the right one and Gents were pleased to toast the victors after the match.

Salix's report was fair and continued the noble tradition, maintained to this day, of never mentioning an opponent by name.

“Part of me suspected, given our track record over the years, that losing the final ever match at Glaxo would somehow be apt; but boy did I want to win, probably more so than any other game I've ever played for Salix. And win we did, possibly by having one of the strongest teams that Salix can put out; nine of our 11 had scored a 50 and only wicket-keeper hadn't taken a wicket this season. After a little juggling with the batting order, Yesterday's Man and Monkey went out to bat, carefully seeing out the first few overs before the former spanked a few long hops for four to get the innings going. Unfortunately Monkey, obviously a little frustrated at not being able to spank a few himself, didn't last long and holed out to mid off. With the exception of Texas, who played a number of fine cut shots through the covers in a quickfire 38, the rest of the middle order didn't offer much on a relatively easy batting wicket and I was beginning to get nervous that we wouldn't reach the 200 minimum I felt we'd need. However, the Tassie Tornado, feeling a little aggrieved at batting No.8, hit an exceedingly quick 50 to put us back on course and then VCGC and Rog put a few bonus runs on the board down the order to see us reach a fairly hefty 224, our highest score for two years.

After years of slightly bizarre teas, including a selection of nefarious sandwiches and muffins with a best before date pertaining to the previous season, the staff at Glaxo sheepishly informed us that this week's allsorts selection of sarnies had been erroneously eaten the night before by revellers and had to prepare us burgers, hot dogs and chips instead, complemented with a fine selection of biscuits for afters.

It was undoubtedly the best tea in the nine seasons that I've played at Glaxo, although it did have the potential to make the team sluggish in the field. However, while our catching wasn't great, our ball stopping was excellent (notably Ginge and Monkey) and combined with some superb bowling from CK1, Texas, TT and VCGC kept the pressure on throughout the innings, so that by the time I came on to bowl, Gents were forced to hit out and the wickets began to tumble accordingly. Special mention to VCGC for taking a catch in the deep that hung over him for a good five seconds and to some excellent wicket-keeping by Captain Ben.

And so came the final over, with Gents needing 50 odd to win; who else to bowl it but the man who started it all? His first ball lobbed and stitched up the Gents' captain who played it tamely in the air for Captain Ben to take an easy catch. His second ball flew towards me at mid on, but with failing light I didn't pick the depth correctly and it bounced just short (poor judgement boys, not catch avoidance, take it off the dropped catch list). His third ball was played out to deep mid off, where Arsey scampered round to field and his throw hit the stumps from 30 yards to run out their No.8. His fourth ball was drolled to short fine leg for CK1 to snaffle and the remainder of the over was blocked out, such was the lower order's fear of Yesterday' Man's bowling.

In the end a relatively easy win against a good team, who played with a sense of humour and who've had a very successful season themselves. It was sad to see the end of cricket at Glaxo after 70 years, but I think we said farewell in style and for once played as the old place deserved."