

# THE ARCHIVE

## CLASSIC GENTS MATCHES

### Gentlemen of West London v. New Barbarian Weasels

Sunday 25 July 1999, King George's Field, Tolworth. Weasels won toss. Sunny, 27C

Drawn

New Barbarian Weasels			Gentlemen of West London				
Tattersdill	c H. Patel	b Todd	48	Boddington	c Lynch	b Owen	7
Flack		b S. Patel	46	Hughes	c Blackley	b Owen	0
Comber	c Naish	b Wright	15	Townley	c Sier	b Owen	2
Newlands	not out		29	S. Patel	c Comber	b Sier	8
Sier	not out		15	D. Patel	c Comber	b Newlands	4
*†Lynch, Alphe, Owen, Blackley, Cowie and Kirkwood dnb				H. Patel	c Alphe	b Flack	24
				Wright	c Lynch	b Owen	14
				Buck	c Lynch	b Kirkwood	0
				Todd		b Kirkwood	0
				*Snelling	not out		0
				†Naish	not out		0
<b>Extras</b>	b11 lb6 w2 nb2		21	<b>Extras</b>	b10 lb2 w9 nb1		22
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 wickets dec.</b>	<b>41 overs</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>9 wickets</b>	<b>40 overs</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>FoW:</b> 75, 120, 127				<b>FoW:</b> 0, 9, 21, 29, 29, 75, 76, 78, 81			
<b>Bowling:</b> Snelling 11-2-23-0, Boddington 7-1-26-0, S. Patel 6-2-32-1, Wright 10-1-34-1, D. Patel 4-0-29-0, Todd 3-0-13-1				<b>Bowling:</b> Owen 10-8-5-4, Kirkwood 10-3-15-2, Newlands 6-0-14-1, Sier 6-0-27-1, Flack 4-0-4-1, Comber 4-2-4-0			

In a rerun, one year on, of the Gents' blocked draw at Victoria RG, Colin Naish straight-batted the last three balls of the match. The Gents thus escaped by the closest possible margin. In 1998 the side was denuded of batsmen and Weasels- 227 was always beyond reach. Here, the hosts batted deep and the target was only 4.3 an over. Early wickets fell, however, and the Gents were grateful for the long partnership between Jim Wright and young buck Hemin Patel, who looks a star in the making. As the Weasels hurtled through the final overs of the remarkable 24 bowled in the final hour, there was real tension as the tail defended against nine close fielders.

Weasels batted without hesitation, anxious to improve on their display against Meopham, who had taken them for 313 the previous weekend. Tattersdill (46 in 34 overs) gave two chances and he and Flack made the Gents pay. Flack had a 50 in his sights before S. Patel bowled him, but Comber hit well before edging behind to Naish off the persevering Wright.

The Tattersdill vigil when he skied to mid-off, H. Patel's first catch for the club. Springbok Newlands and Sier then drove d. Patel all over the park to bring up the declaration after the allotted two and a half hours. The fielding held up well on a hot day.

Time was when the Gents would have gone gung ho in the chase, but by five o'clock the wind had veered to the east and it was to prove a sorrowful breeze for West London's finest. Poor Mike Hughes had hiked down from Knebworth on the train, run around in broiling heat and scooped a gentle leading edge to mid off second ball. His placement in picking out one of only eight fielders (three still finishing tea) had to be applauded. Boddington edged the outswinger in the fifth over. Townley, scoreless after 11 overs at the crease having survived a withdrawn appeal for run out when he had gone gardening, and S. Patel batted with resolution before Townley holed out off Owen's slower ball.. D. Patel nearly wore a Newlands beamer and called for the helmet, whereupon he opted to pull and picked out the only fielder on the leg side, who took a sharp, juggling catch. The self-destruction continued when S. Patel holed out off Sier's first ball, Gents 29-5 off 16 overs.

At the crease when the final 20 overs began were Wright and H. Patel. With freak synchronicity, both had played the day before and both had scored 39 in winning causes, Wright for West XI. They provided the best batting of the innings, adding 46 runs and crucially using up 14.3 overs. Patel hit three fours and Wright one, and as often happens when two fit, young players get in together, a fair sprinkling of threes, four if fact, split identically to the boundaries.

Flack split them – Patel trying to clear the claustrophobic close field but only picking out mid wicket who good a good running catch. The youngster had earned his corn and what turned out to be only 10.2 overs remained when he was out. He trudged back and advised the tail to be streetwise by delaying their entrance to the field of play but his advice was ignored as the incoming batsmen sprinted out to their fate like young subalterns going over the top at the Somme.

The fast Kirkwood had now returned and got Buck's edge with his fourth ball. He followed up bowling Todd with his seventh. By now a win for the Weasels was the most probable outcome but Snelling (a 12-ball nought not out) dug in to give Wright staunch support. Wright nearly saw it through but with four balls left edged Owen behind to huge roars of delight. Naish coolly blocked the rest of the over with his usual impassivity and lack of foot movement, and the Gents had the draw.

### Editor's 2020 note

Critics of the declaration or timed format, and there are a few vocal ones in our midst including an eminent ex-captain, should have been at the above game. Two results were possible up to the very last ball, whereas the result of an overs match would have been decided an hour before. Of the 57 declaration matches the Gents have played, only nine were drawn (three more were abandoned to the weather). This fact alone may be cited in defence of the format, if defence were needed.

Of the draws (below), the chasing side was hanging on in seven, one, the first Brick game, was a stalemate and one, the second Brick game, saw the chasing side on the brink of victory (only denied by the generous retirement of their opener Poulter).

Timing is all in the declaration. In 2010, H. Patel declared the Gents' innings closed against Kingston on 124-8 off 42. He then took 2.5-0-34-0 as the hosts, 127-1 off 23.5, romped home. In 2017, Krishna declared on 200-5 off just 25.2 overs against Brick, who had 44 in their dig, spinners bowling 32 of them, before players shook hands with the sides having battered each other to a standstill. What would have been the point in batting 40 overs that day and scoring 300?

### The drawn games

Date	Venue	Scores
29/5/94	Victoria RG	12 Angry Men 196-5 dec. (Hadfield 102, Davies 33, Ashton 3-42) Gents 50-5 (Shannon 3-7)
25/6/94	Town Park	Gents 147-6 dec. (M. Ashton 62, Bignell 59) London Saints 66-9 (Hill 5-22)
26/7/98	Victoria RG	NB Weasels 227 (Groves-Loader 111, Seddon 26, Snelling 5-38) Gents 67-8 (Owen 3-7, Kirkwood 3-14)
25/7/99	KGF Tolworth	NB Weasels 174-3 dec. (Tattersdill 48, W. Flack 46, Newlands 29*) Gents 81-9 (H. Patel 24, Owen 4-5)
14/5/00	Fire Brigade	Gents 185-9 dec. (J. Wright 102, Evans 23, Wardle 5-53) Wandham 80-7 (Carbro 27*, Snelling 4-19, S. Patel 3-11)
4/5/08	Victoria RG	Gents 123 (Denton 31 ret. hurt) Kingston Left Handers 77-8 (Rajveer 39*, S. Patel 4-1)
30/8/10	Brentham	Brentham 240-6 dec. (Prabhu 42, Sagers 40, Mansi 36, C. Brett 33*, Hamidon 32*, D. Patel 3-52) Gents 170-8 (S. Patel 54*, H. Khan 47, Budden 5-33)
21/8/16	Raynes Park SG	Gents 257-5 dec. (Small 88, N. Khan 75, Kumar 67) Bricklayer's Arms 131-6 (Poulter 85, Kumar 3-11)
27/8/17	Raynes Park SG	Gents 200-5 dec. (Sanga 100*, A. Ahmed 50*, Chalamalasetti 26) Bricklayer's Arms 181-5 (Poulter 100*, Tremain 31, Sanga 4-28)