

THE ARCHIVE

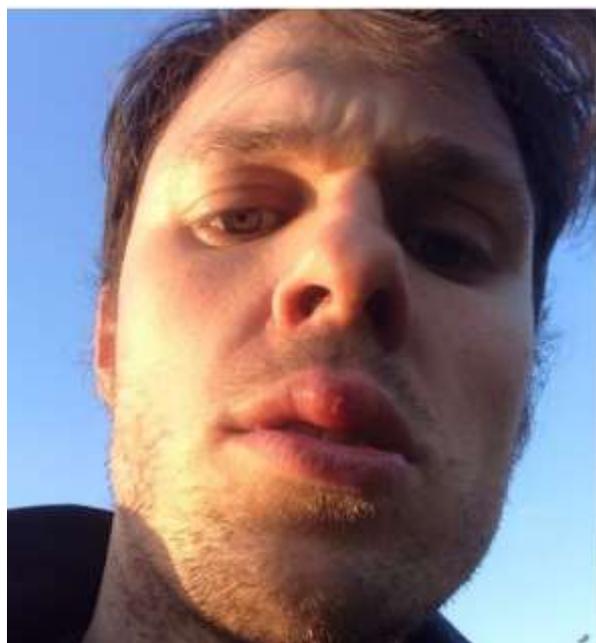
CLASSIC GENTS MATCHES

Northfields v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 24 May 2015, Durston House. Gents won toss. Cloudy, 18C

Lost by 7 wickets

Gentlemen of West London			Northfields			
†Chintam	c Sangster	b Fawkes	9	*Elmes	not out	165
Denton	lbw	b Fawkes	9	†Thompson	b Pingili	1
Dubey		b Murray	18	Murray	c Chalamalasetti	56
Katragadda	c Collins	b Egan	1	Mitchell	lbw	0
Basker		b Fawkes	68	Collins	not out	7
*Kumar	not out		79	Oruganti, Fawkes, Egan, Devalia and Sangster dnb		
Chalamalasetti	lbw	b Fawkes	11			
†Krishna		b Elmes	9			
S. Patel			31			
Pingili and Sudireddy dnb						
Extras	b1 w20 nb4		25	Extras	b4 lb5 w22 nb1	32
Total	7 wickets	40 overs	260	Total	3 wickets	34.1 overs
FoW: 15, 21, 23, 64, 147, 193				FoW: 32, 218, 228		
Bowling: Egan 8-2-24-1, Fawkes 8-0-79-4, Murray 8-0-42-1, Oruganti 6-0-29-0, Elmes 7-0-43-1, Devalia 3-0-42-0				Bowling: Katragadda 7-0-40-1, Pingili 7-0-45-2, Dubey 6.1-0-47-0, Kumar 7-0-55-0, S. Patel 4-0-25-0, Chalamalasetti 1-0-11-0, Sudireddy 2-0-29-0		



An earthquake struck this peaceful ground on a muggy Sunday afternoon. John Elmes, opening batsman for Uxbridge CC on Saturdays and captain of Northfields CC on Sundays, struck 19 fours and six sixes in scoring 165 not out, the highest-ever innings in a Gents match. Helped by Murray (ten fours), with whom he added a record third-wicket stand in Gents matches of 186, he propelled his side to a remarkable victory. Yet at tea the Gents were satisfied, having recovered from 23-3 to 260-7 with big hitting by Kumar, Basker and Sanjay Patel, who struck a six each and respectively 12, 13 and four fours.

There were late changes to the team as Hibbert and the unwell Small withdrew. Chantam debuted and Oruganti kindly volunteered for Northfields, who had only nine men. Fielders were lent in rotation. Basker, deputising at the toss for the delayed Kumar, won the toss and batted.

Fawkes and Egan soon reduced the Gents to 23-3. Dubey struck boldly before playing on via his pads but Basker and Kumar steadied the ship, taking the Gents to 92-4 at 20 overs drinks. They and latterly Sanjay Patel, batting at No.9, hit boldly thereafter as runs came freely. Fawkes had commenced with 3-0-13-2, took his sweater with 5-0-37-2 to his name but was savaged in his second spell, carding the remarkable analysis of 8-0-79-4. Oruganti troubled the batsmen on occasion but there was little help for the bowlers.

The final total represented a job well done by the experienced middle order and Kumar, whose 79 not out was a personal best, got his batting order right.

In May 2014, a Gents total of 256 proved enough by 186 runs and Elmes was bowled Katragadda for a duck. Only four players from that day had returned, two per side. Elmes was off the mark with two fours and a single off Katragadda's first over and a six off his second, weighing in with a six off Pingili's first. Pingili bowled Thompson on 32 which heralded the monstrous second-wicket stand. The bowlers struggled to bowl the right line to the left-hander Elmes and tended to feed his on-drive and pull but once he was set there was little they could do. Murray's support was crucial. Northfields were always up with the required run rate, taking 73 from the first ten overs, 76 from the second and 81 from the third. There were a couple of tough chances in the deep and the Gents were confident that they had Murray caught behind but it was otherwise a metronomic and occasionally brilliant display of batting dominance. There were late, deserved successes for Pingili and Katragadda but the hosts still had 39 balls in hand when Elmes clipped the winning single, having eclipsed Steve Jones's 158 not out for Gents against West XI in 2002 as the highest score in a Gents match.

It is quite difficult to evaluate this performance. The batting was back to form but doom-mongers would draw attention to the paltry total of nine wickets taken by Gents bowlers in three games, during which 563 runs have been conceded in 88.1 overs. The fielding was no better than average here but did not lack effort. Certainly with many changes in personnel there has been a lack of continuity, partly a self-inflicted wound in a month of squad rotation intended to give all members a fair crack. Several players have yet to replicate their form of 2014.

While these issues are being pondered, let the name of John Elmes be lit large.

Records broken in this game were:

Most runs in a game

521 Gents 260-7 Northfields 261-3 (Durston House 24.5.15)

Highest successful run chases

Northfields 261-3 beat Gents 260-7 by 7 wickets (Durston House 24.5.15)

Record partnerships by wicket - opponents

2	186	J. Elmes (165*) and Murray (56) (Northfields)	Durston House	24.5.15
---	-----	---	---------------	---------

Highest individual score

165* J. Elmes (Northfields) (Durston House 24.5.15)