
THE GENT

No.172

July 2021

Marathon Man hits 12 in 20 overs (and heads the bowling)



Ten years ago – Gents recover but it's still a losing season

The Invalids CC

Averages

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Plastics (lost by 81 runs)
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Ottershaw (won by 4 wickets)

Ottershaw (won by 8 wickets)
Whalers (won by 2 wickets)
Wimbledon United (won by 99 runs)
Mpingwe (won by 17 runs)

Read about the Gents on www.gowlcc.org

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Around the circuit

Where have the runs gone? There has been a scarcity of them in Gents matches and we are not alone; three recent results then from the Surrey County League Division 2, the Yorkshire Premier League North and the Huntingdonshire CCL Division 4:

Saturday 10 July 2021

WHITELEY VILLAGE CC, SURREY WON BY 10 WICKETS

Whiteley Village CC, Surrey - 1st XI

25 / 0(2.5)



Vs



Old Tenisonians CC - 1st XI

24 / All out(24)

Saturday 10 July 2021

EASTRINGTON CC WON BY 10 WICKETS

Eastrington CC - 1st XI

8 / 0(1.2)



Vs



Hillam & Monk Fyston CC - 2nd XI

7 / All out(8)

Saturday 19 June 2021

FALCON XI CC WON BY 258 RUNS

Falcon XI CC - 2nd XI

260 / 6(40)



Vs



Buckden CC - 2nd XI

2 / All out(8.3)

Win the toss and bat or bowl? Usually bat but it depends on the conditions. A friend captained a side in an Australian grade match, 65 overs a side played over two Saturdays. A matting wicket, a bare, treeless ground and a temperature of 42C. He won the toss and fielded because it was forecast to be even hotter the following weekend.

Congratulations to those hard hitters of Mpingwe Mitha and Azhar who on 18 July set a new seventh-wicket record stand by all opponents, the first record broken in three years. Usually a record stand propels a side to victory but this was not so here, nor with the Rams and Crossbats ninth and tenth wicket records.

Record partnerships by wicket - opponents

1	239*	R. Bulmer (140*) and C. Maddock (87*), London Owls	Victoria RG	5.9.93
2	186	J. Elmes (165*) and Murray (56), Northfields	Durston House	24.5.15
3	215	R. Heyman (132) and R. Jones (89), Village XI	Old Hamptonians CC	30.7.06
4	138	A. Jaques (107) and D. Torbe (65), East Harrow Cheetahs	Beverley Park	4.8.96
5	90	V. Junani (74) and Ahluwalia (49), Gubbays	Cavendish RG	2.9.07
6	100	C. Dane (73) and P. Walton (53), West XI	KGF Morden	10.9.00
7	102*	K. Mitha (77*) and Azhar (32*), Mpingwe	Normandy	18.7.21
8	65	D. Gaurav (38) and A. Tippell (50*), Ashford	Ashford CC	31.7.16
9	68	A. Heafield (40) and A. Wall (19), London Rams	Belair Park	28.7.01
10	57	R. Bendall (28) and T. Treen (27*), Crossbats	Raynes Park SG	9.9.18

The Invalids



THE INVALIDS CRICKET CLUB

since 1919

Invalids CC, for whom Cullity of Mpingwe plays, is a wandering club, founded in 1919 by J.C. Squire, poet, critic and editor of the *London Mercury* magazine. The name was given in honour of several players wounded in WW1. Squire, no great cricketer himself but passionate about the game, led his motley group of literary acquaintances to do battle against village sides each weekend.

Club colours are hospital blue and old gold (inspired by the army officers' hospital pyjamas), with a crest representing a pair of crossed crutches. Teams in the early days included writers, journalists and actors, whose thirst for refreshment and approach to cricket was immortalised in A.G. Macdonell's *England, Their England*. Students of cricket records will be familiar with the name of another wandering club, the Stoics (1877) who were immortalised in 1886 when Andrew Stoddart, later an England captain, hit 485 against them for Hampstead CC in a total of 813, leaving no time for Stoics to bat. Upon reading this you might think that Hampstead were selfish twats and the game a complete waste of time, but those were the days before declarations were permitted. A change in the Laws followed three years later after farcical incidents in county cricket, which involved fielding sides trying to prevent batsmen from deliberately losing their wickets.

Averages and results

Player (debut*)	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
Bocha	2	2	-	91	45.50	1	-	-	-	-	-
Chatharaju	11	9	1	145	18.13	-	47	1	223	7	31.86
Dubey	9	6	2	112	28.00	3	37.3	5	109	7	15.57
Gulati	6	6	3	86	28.67	3	26	4	90	2	45.00
Karnekonti	12	11	4	205	29.29	1	29	0	136	3	45.33
Kota	11	10	1	222	24.67	6/1	29	1	152	3	50.67
Krishna	10	9	-	82	9.11	-	52	6	222	13	17.08
Kumar	7	6	1	89	17.80	2	19.2	5	55	11	5.00
Namilikonda	10	9	2	112	16.00	-	45.4	5	169	10	16.90
Hemin Patel	6	4	1	13	4.33	2	27.5	4	143	5	28.60
Jay Patel*	2	1	-	5	5.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Raj Patel*	4	4	-	12	3.00	1	8	0	52	0	-
Sanjay Patel	11	8	1	95	13.57	1	23	1	94	4	23.50
Pingili	2	2	1	13	13.00	-	14	1	68	4	17.00
Puli	11	9	2	109	15.57	6	1	0	8	0	-
Soni*	2	1	1	0	0.00	-	2	0	18	0	-
Sudireddy	6	5	-	49	9.80	6/1	-	-	-	-	-

One game only: A. Ahmed 1/1/-/4, Z. Ahmed 1/1/1/22, 6-1-27-2, Amberkar* 1/1/-/0, Gilkes 1/1/-/0, N. Khan 1/1/-/16, Malik* 1/1/1/11, 6-1-16-0, Mohan 1/1/-/1, Rakesh Patel 1/1/-/75, 7-0-31-1 (2 ct.), Shaikh 1/-/-/-, 6-2-23-2, Snelling 1/-/-/-, 5-0-26-1

2021 Played 11 Won 9 Lost 3

10/4	Marble Hill Park	Gents 202-7 (R. Patel 75, Bocha 49, Chatharaju 35*) Crossbats 194-7 (S. Skinner 40, Winch 38, Carter 22)	Won 8 runs
25/4	Byfleet2	Byfleet 184-6 (Clough 51, M. Hockin 50, S. Hockin 29) Gents 185-6 (Kota 55*, S. Patel 42*, Puli 34)	Won 4 wickets
2/5	F.W.E. Goates MG	Binfield 187-7 (Humphrey 52, Edgington 37*, Krishna 3-36) Gents 188-7 (Karnekonti 65, Bocha 42, Krishna 38, Docherty 3-37)	Won 3 wickets
30/5	Wycombe House	St Anne's Allstars 171 (Waddicor 36*, Bowman 31, Singh 30, Rizvi 24) Gents 172-6 (Kota 74, Z. Ahmed 22*, Sudireddy 20)	Won 4 wickets
6/6	Old Tenisonians	Plastics 179 (Anderson 71, Webster 48, Davies 22, Kumar 5-4) Gents 98 (Kota 30, Jamieson 5-18)	Lost 81 runs
13/6	Teddington Town	Gents 148 (Kumar 42, Karnekonti 36, Potdar 3-18) Teddington Town 151-6 (Singh 44, Potdar 26, Namilikonda 3-20)	Lost 4 wickets
20/6	Chiswick House	Gents 143-8 (Puli 34*, Kumar 32, Namilikonda 29, Sadhra 3-21) Salix 145-4 (Ilankoon 60*, Kulasingam 27*, Henig 20, Sadhra 20)	Lost 6 wickets
27/6	Old Tenisonians	Ottershaw 76-4 (Singh 46, Charlton 25*)	Won 4 wickets
27/6	Old Tenisonians	Gents 77-6 (Namilikonda 29, Gulati 20*)	Won 8 wickets
4/7	King's House	Whalers 101 (Johnstone 28, Dubey 3-12)	Won 2 wickets
11/7	Cottenham Park	Gents 102-8 (Namilikonda 27, Bramley 4-18) Gents 151-9 (Dubey 40, Chatharaju 36, Puli 26, O. Watson 4-17) Wimbledon United 52 (Kumar 4-6)	Won 99 runs
18/7	Normandy	Gents 193-9 (S. Patel 31, Karnekonti 26, Dubey 25*, Chatharaju 23, Rees 3-40) Mpingwe 176-6 (Mitha 77*, Azhar 32*, Junaid 28)	Won 17 runs

Gentlemen of West London v. Plastics

Sunday 6 June, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Cloudy, 23C

Lost by 81 runs

Plastics			Gentlemen of West London				
†Webster	c Puli	b Pingili	48	H. Patel	c Bishop	b Jamieson	9
†Webb	c Puli	b Chatharaju	11	Karnekonti	c Webb	b Jamieson	10
Bishop		b Krishna	3	Kota	c I. Whitfield	b Morgan-Grenville	30
Byrne		b Pingili	7	Krishna	c Webb	b Jamieson	1
Anderson		b Kumar	71	†Puli	lbw	b Jamieson	0
Davies	c H. Patel	b Kumar	22	Amberkar	c Byrne	b Jamieson	0
N. Whitfield		b Kota	0	Raj Patel	c Davies	b Morgan-Grenville	5
Morgan-Grenville		b Kumar	0	S. Patel	c Webb	b Jamieson	15
*Jamieson		b Kumar	11	Chatharaju		b Jamieson	13
I. Whitfield		b Kumar	0	Pingili		b Jamieson	1
Doy	not out		1	*Kumar	not out		0
Extras	w4 nb1		5	Extras	b3 w3 nb3 p5		14
Total	All out	31.2 overs	179	Total	All out	21.3 overs	98
FoW: 41, 64, 69, 73, 157, 158, 159, 176, 176, 179				FoW: 17, 41, 46, 48, 48, 62, 69, 95, 98, 98			
Bowling: Chatharaju 5-0-33-1, Karnekanti 4-0-27-0, Krishna 3-0-25-1, Pingili 7-0-24-2, Raj Patel 2-0-22-0, H. Patel 2-0-23-0, Kumar 4.2-2-4-5, Kota 3-0-18-1, S. Patel 1-0-3-0				Bowling: I. Whitfield 5-0-25-0, Jamieson 5-0-18-5, Doy 4-0-34-0, Morgan-Grenville 4-2-6-2, Davies 2-1-2-1, N. Whitfield 1.3-0-5-2			

Plastics hammered the Gents in an incident-packed game. Australian Joe Anderson's sublime 71 off 40 balls in only 53 minutes with ten fours and three sixes was the most important batting contribution but Plastics also outfielded the Gents, catching seven and dropping only one. In contrast, Gents dropped four and were dogged by misfields. Kumar delivered his best bowling figures, Pingili was no-balled for throwing and a dismal total of 98 was inflated by five penalty runs when the ball rolled into Webb's discarded helmet. Thornicroft and Todd both took five wickets against London Owls in 1994 but never before had both a Gent and an opponent delivered such returns in the same match.

In the only previous clash, exactly two year previously, Plastics were reduced to an irrecoverable 7-6, going on to lose by 152 runs. But these were two much-changed sides with only five Gents and six Plastics returning. Inserted, the visitors set a blistering pace, Webster scoring 48 off 42 balls with seven fours and two sixes. Though wickets fell, the hundred came up as early as the 17th over with only Pingili exerting control in this phase of the innings. By now Anderson was causing mayhem, taking full advantage of the short boundaries.

At drinks, Plastics had lodged a concern with Kumar about Pingili's bowling action and when the seamer knocked back Anderson's stumps the umpire no-balled him under Law 24. It was a dramatic moment (it had never happened to Pingili before), but irrelevant in the context of the game as Kumar had the batsman next over, the dismissal embellished by a lusty roar that made spectators think he had enjoyed a gentleman's moment. The outgoing batsman misinterpreted it but all was later smoothed over. Inspired, Kumar demolished the innings as Plastics fell from 157-4 to 179 all out. The Patels carded 0-48 off five overs (though Hemin took a sharp catch at cover) and Puli had a good debut as 'keeper, conceding no byes and taking two catches. Yet this decline was somehow outdone by the Gents in their knock. From a promising 41-1 in the sixth over they contrived to lose nine wickets in 14 bowled in 66 minutes. Jamieson was the main culprit with 5-18 and he saw the five penalty runs exacted by umpire S. Patel off his first ball. It was at least more dignified than the previous such occurrence in a Gents game in 1999 when the traversal of the ball to the ropes was hampered by a McDonald's bag shamefully discarded by Nick Boddington.

By the end of the tenth over Jamieson had his fifth wicket and the Gents were well on their way to a first loss in eight. Kota batted for 45 minutes, and S. Patel and Chatharaju knuckled down, but that was pretty much it as a steady-looking batting line up was shot down by accurate bowling and excellent catching. Plastics confirmed a hugely-deserved win at eleven minutes past five. Students of the curious may be interested to know that this was only the fifth Gents' all-out score of fewer than 100 since the start of the 2018 season. And of course one of those – Northfields in 2020 – was actually won.

Teddington Town v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 13 June, Teddington Town. Gents won toss. Sunny, 28C

Lost by 4 wickets

Gentlemen of West London			Teddington Town				
A. Ahmed		b Phillips	4	A. Hilmy	lbw	b Krishna	16
Chatharaju	lbw	b N. Hilmy	13	Avetoom		b Namilikonda	14
†Puli		b N. Hilmy	6	Braun		b Karnekanti	6
Kota	c Dorgan	b Potdar	11	Grieve	c Karnekanti	b Namilikonda	11
S. Patel	c Tushar	b Potdar	2	Singh	c Puli	b Namilikonda	44
Kumar	st Tushar	b Dorgan	42	Potdar	c and	b Dubey	26
Krishna	c Routs	b Dorgan	0	Dorgan	not out		12
Namilikonda	c A. Hilmy	b Routs	0	*Phillips			3
Karnekanti	c Tushar	b Phillips	36	†Tushar, Routs and N. Hilmy	dnb		
*Dubey	lbw	b Potdar	6				
Soni	not out		0				
Extras	w15 b8 lb5		28	Extras	w12 nb3 b3 lb1		19
Total	All out	37.3 overs	148	Total	6 wickets	39.4 overs	151
FoW: 5, 26, 29, 37, 61, 73, 78, 135, 142, 148				FoW: 22, 36, 40, 57, 130, 132			
Bowling: Phillips 5.3-1-29-2, N. Hilmy 8-6-11-2, Potdar 6-0-18-3, Hinde 5-0-16-0, Routs 5-0-31-1, Dorgan 8-0-30-2				Bowling: Krishna 8-3-16-1, Dubey 8-3-24-1, Karnekanti 5-0-16-1, Namilikonda 7.4-1-20-3, Kota 5-0-19-0, Soni 2-0-18-0, Chatharaju 3-0-24-0, Kumar 1-0-10-0			



Tony Buck makes a welcome return

The Gents did plenty right on a hot and humid afternoon but could not quite prevent Teddington Town from breasting the tape with two balls left of a draining encounter. The match was played out in oppressive, still heat and credit must go to all 22 players for conjuring up such a close run thing. At 78-7 the Gents were in danger of a second batting capitulation in two Sundays before Kumar and Karnekanti put on 57. The hosts then found the necessary late boundaries after Singh and Potdar (a stand of 73) had fallen in quick succession. There was nothing between the teams and Town's friendly captain Phillips invited the Gents back in 2022.

Aamir Ahmed was bowled in the first over having pulled a sumptuous four and though Chatharaju (with the day's only six) and Kota made double figures, the innings barely limped along against skilful bowling with the U.14s leg-spinner N. Hilmy proving almost impossible to score off. Kumar (six fours) and Karnekanti (seven fours) were together for 15.1 overs which showed what could be done. The total was disappointing but the pitch was not easy and took spin from the off.

Town's openers were resolute and correct. The board ticked over slowly (the score at 10 overs was 15-0) until drinks were taken at 41-3 off 20. When Grieve cut to Karnekanti the game was in the balance but Singh and Potdar scored prolifically and quickly, taking bowlers 6-8 for 52 off six overs. They fell in quick succession and the equation was 17 off 13 balls with two new batsmen at the crease. The Gents did their best but Dorgan and Phillips got them over the line. The bowling was steady and the returning Namilikonda deserved his three wickets.

Successive defeats has been a rare phenomenon for the Gents in recent years. The last time it happened was in July 2018 when Gubbays, Viscount and Wimbledon United did the needful.

A comparison of the two sides from their only previous game is of interest. Gents were short that day in 2019 and had three guests. Town too had a substantially different XI with only two returning. The sides seem well matched whoever is playing which is as should be.

Salix v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 20 June, Chiswick House. Salix won toss. Cloudy, 17C

Lost by 6 wickets

Gentlemen of West London		Salix			
H. Patel	b Unadkat	4	Sadhra	b Namilikonda	20
Kumar	b Sadhra	32	Henig	b Gulati	20
Karnekonti	b Unadkat	1	*Ilangakoon	not out	60
Mohan	lbw	1	Winston	c H. Patel	12
Namilikonda	b Kulasingam	29	Dean	b Kumar	0
Kota	c Darling	14	Kulasingam	not out	27
Gulati	b Ilangakoon	5	Darling, †Mehta, Spillane, Balasubramaniam and Unadkat	dnb	
S. Patel	b Sadhra	5			
†Puli	not out	34			
Malik	not out	11			
*Dubey	dnb				
Extras	w3 nb2 b2	7	Extras	w2 b1 lb3	6
Total	8 wickets	35 overs	Total	4 wickets	30.5 overs
		143			145
FoW: 5, 7, 10, 49, 84, 85, 94, 101			FoW: 41, 47, 93, 94		
Bowling: Balasubramaniam 7-3-8-1, Unadkat 7-1-31-2, Kulasingam 5-0-33-1, Sadhra 7-0-21-3, Ilangakoon 5-0-23-1, Darling 4-0-25-0			Bowling: Dubey 6-0-26-0, Malik 6-1-16-0, Gulati 7-1-33-1, Namilikonda 4-0-17-1, Kumar 4-0-19-2, H. Patel 3.5-1-31-0		



In the end this was a convincing win for Salix though Gents fought with spirit, captain Yov Ilangakoon (60 with nine fours) leading his side to victory with six wickets and 4.2 overs in hand. Though the visitors did not help themselves with dropped catches in Salix's first-wicket stand, debutant Mac Malik being particularly unlucky, Ilangakoon's dig was chanceless.

Salix's win was their ninth in this long-running series of 20. One was tied. After uncertainties in recent years they are in 2021 a compelling side with talent through the order. They fight hard, but with humour.

Inserted on a damp pitch and in light that remained gloomy all day, Gents slumped to 10-3 before seven overs were out. They were therefore grateful for Kumar's vigil of 32 in 24 overs and lusty hitting by Namilikonda to take them to 49-4. Kota also dug in but after they fell the innings declined to 101-8. Great credit must go to Puli's 34 in just seven overs and veteran Malik's wise support but 143 felt a little light on a pitch that was now easing. Salix dropped three catches but their ground-fielding help up well and they seemed the more pleased at tea.

The Gents, winless since 30 May, needed early wickets and should have got them, three catches going down in the opening stand. Two were off Malik, the fourth debutant of 2021 and the 396th player in the club's roster. He had introduced himself during the match against Plastics, so it may fairly be said that he knew what he was letting himself in for. The returning Gulati cleaned up Sadhra and Namilikonda had Henig. There followed the second of three stands of 40-plus in the reply before Kumar took two in four balls in his second over. Salix were 94-4 off 24, needing 50 in 11, Ilangakoon ominously 36*.

This was the peak of the Gents' fortunes as Kulasingam, well known to the Gents as a sterling competitor with bat and ball, drove with impunity, he and his captain posting an unbeaten 51 in 53 balls to win the game. Salix's cricket had been better all day and they deserved the win. What fun opposition they are too. This was the third successive defeat for the Gents but from the scorer's chair there doesn't seem to be anything irretrievably wrong. Heads didn't sag and much of the cricket played was perfectly acceptable. But anyone looking for easier fixtures in the next few games will look in vain.

The last report I wrote was in September 2019 which I suppose in a minor way sums up the past 18 months **writes Salix's T. Nurdler**. I'm still just happy to put on whites and wander round a cricket pitch. Anyway, less philosophy and more report. In as an injury sub for Irwin, I pulled up outside Chiswick House to find only three other Salixites present – clearly little has changed in that respect over the years. The Gents are one of our oldest opponents (2004) (we lost). We've had some close tussles over the years and although the past few seasons have been mostly heavy losses, we did manage a positive result three years ago to record what was our only UK win of the 2018 season and the boys had won really well last week – could we keep it up and extend our unbeaten run to three whole matches? Well, obviously the answer is yes otherwise I wouldn't bother posing the question. Let's see how it happened.

It was an overcast day, the previous day had been dry but Friday had seen apocalyptic amounts of rain in west London so, in marked contrast to last week, this was clearly a bowl-first day – which is exactly what we did. The pitch was lively and the bowling even better with Sai, generating good pace and movement with some spiteful bounce from the pitch, and Tuffers turning it square at the other end. We opened with some tight overs. Rob took the field, Tuffers got hit for four and struck back immediately by clean bowling the offending batsman next ball. He repeated the trick an over later and a tight and exciting period ensued with numerous appeals, balls beating the edge, a wicket for Sai and a sweep on how long Arsey would take to get changed. By the end of the opening bowlers' stints we had three wicket for not too many and eleven men on the field. Both bowlers had produced excellent spells and could easily have had greater reward in the wicket column. Yov brought on CK and our specialist purveyor of slow right-arm as the change bowlers and the pressure was maintained with wickets falling regularly and runs hard to come by. The fielding was good – there were one or two lapses but apart from one comedy drop from Raj and my pushing one over the bar at slip, we were solid in the field and with Arsey and the skipper chipping in with some good overs, we held the Gents to 143-8 despite some clean blows late on.

Post solitary teas, Daveski and Raj opened carefully against some challenging bowling and saw off the opening burst before they both fell in short order (both bowled) Daveski heaving across the line and Raj cleaned up by a super ball that swung in late from what had looked to be a driveable length. Yov came in and upped the scoring rate and although Delilah went after a steady innings and Rob followed soon after, CK combined with the skipper to take us home with overs to spare, finishing it with 4.6.4. off consecutive balls. In the end it looked easy but in truth that was far from the case. Thanks to the Gents, always a great team to play against. Yes I'm back writing reports and so it would seem are Salix CC as a winning side.

Ten years ago – Gents recover

In *Gent 171* we left the 2011 season with Gents played 11 won two and lost seven with two rain abandonments. Three more losses would follow before season's end but seven would be won in a sound second half. The Gents retained the Bob Ashton Memorial Cup by beating West XI in the first of a two-game rubber, Dubey's 54 the difference. A three-way T20 day with Pak and the sniffy Old Grumblers was ruined by the weather, the main talking point being a sensational rant issued by Hemin Patel (standing in for injured captain Richard Gilkes) against players who wouldn't help to clear up. One player was dropped from the following match.

At Crown Taverners Gents played T20 cricket in a 35-over game, Cloete smashing 37 in 15 minutes and the Patels taking eight wickets, three for Dhruv. Naveed Khan scored the Gents' innings on an iPhone application which produced not only a scorecard that added up, but copious diagrams and graphs. Ten years on, the vogue software for scorers is the equally unusable PlayCricket app. Wins against the reconfigured 12 Angry Men, Ham and Petersham and London Saints put the lads in good heart but an astonishing collapse against Raynes Park FP (from 108-2 to 140 all out) and a torrid hammering by Southwark and Lambeth Imperials brought an end to a promising run. Two wins, against West XI in the clubs' final meeting, and Hale sandwiched the usual loss to Salix and a campaign of contrasts ended Played 22 won 9 abandoned 3 lost 10. The season's statistics were those of a team in transition but 12 passed 100 runs with S. Patel (356) and Lall (309) at the top. H. Patel took 32 wickets and Sciberras 22, a good season for the slow bowlers. H. Desai caught nine and stumped four. As the old guard slowly withdrew, new players were waiting in the wings.

Gentlemen of West London v. Ottershaw

Sunday 27 June, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss in Game 1, Ottershaw in Game 2. Cloudy, 20C

Won by 4 wickets

Ottershaw		Gentlemen of West London				
†Charlton	not out	25	Namilikonda	c and	b Ramasamy	29
McMahon	run out (Kota)	0	†Sudireddy	c Stapleton	b Kunari	10
Halstead	st Sudireddy	b Krishna	Gulati	not out		20
Singh	c S. Patel	b Kota	J. Patel		b McMahon	5
*Stapleton	run out (Kota)	0	Puli		b Stapleton	0
Kunari, Park, Ramasamy, Bowden and Matthew	dnb		Kota		b Stapleton	0
			Chatharaju	run out (Kunari)		4
			Karnekonti			3
			*Dubey, S. Patel and Krishna dnb			
Extras	w4 lb1	5	Extras	w6		6
Total	4 wickets	20 overs	Total	6 wickets	13 overs	77
FoW:	0, 3, 71, 71		FoW:	40, 41, 53, 55, 55, 59		
Bowling:	Krishna 4-1-5-1, Chatharaju 4-0-8-0, S. Patel 4-0-17-0, Karnekanti 3-0-24-0, Kota 3-0-9-1, Dubey 2-0-12-0		Bowling:	Matthews 2-0-19-0, Park 2-0-12-0, Kunari 3-0-13-1, Ramasamy 2-0-9-1, McMahon 1-0-1-1, Stapleton 2-0-20-2, Singh 1-0-3-0		

Won by 8 wickets

Ottershaw		Gentlemen of West London					
Park	c Gulati	b Krishna	24	*Dubey	c Park	b Halstead	29
†Bowden	lbw	b Krishna	7	Krishna	c and	b Halstead	14
Ramasamy	c Puli	b Krishna	2	Karnekonti	not out		13
Kunari		b Krishna	3	Gulati	not out		24
McMahon	not out		22	Kota, Chatharaju, Puli, †Sudireddy, S. Patel, J. Patel and Namilikonda dnb			
*Stapleton	not out		4				
Halstead	not out		19				
Singh, Charlton and Matthews	dnb						
Extras	w1 nb1 b2	4	Extras	w2 b1 lb3			6
Total	5 wickets	25 overs	Total	2 wickets	18.4 overs		86
FoW:	32, 32, 36, 41, 47		FoW:	46, 54			
Bowling:	Namilikonda 5-3-7-0, Gulati 5-0-22-0, Krishna 5-0-14-4, Dubey 5-0-11-0, Kota 3-0-17-1, Chatharaju 2-0-12-0		Bowling:	Singh 4-1-17-0, Matthews 4-0-15-0, Halstead 5-0-20-2, Kunari 5-0-26-0, McMahon 0-4-0-8-0			



Jay Patel, Player No. 397 and Patel No. 21

The end of June traditionally represented the halfway point of the cricket season and was always deemed a good time to take stock. With the advent of cricket into late September and at some clubs (e.g. Ottershaw) even into October, the fulcrum is now a few weeks into July. No matter, here goes with a few observations on the season so far: availability has been strong though the occasional guest has been needed; (a supplement to the first) there has been too much late attrition which has not helped the captain and match secretary; absence of several senior players has weakened the team but since they are now back matters should improve; the Gents lost momentum when three May games were cancelled; and though the bowling has held up well the batting has been patchy at best with only four fifties scored and one or two dismal averages.

The Gents therefore arrived on a cloudy, muggy Sunday with a feeling of brooding introspection exacerbated by three successive defeats. They exited it with two wins, the first a harum scarum affair and the second convincing, against a game and friendly Ottershaw who never quite got to grips with the unusual format of two separate games. In the end the forecast heavy rain did not arrive until the evening, so a full 40-over game could have been played, but the captains were not to know that.

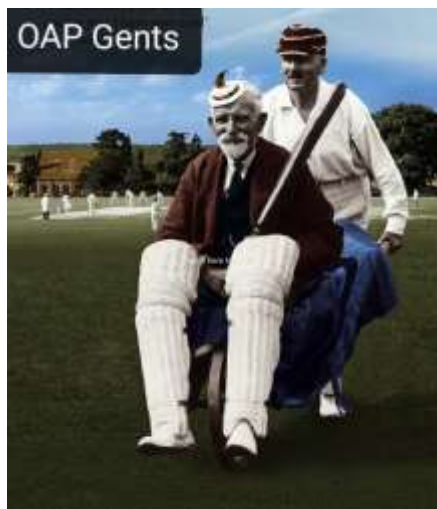
After the run out of McMahon off the second ball and a brilliant stumping by Sudireddy off the eleventh, Charlton and the more expansive Singh (who fell to a superb diving catch by S. Patel at mid-wicket) added 68 in 17.3 overs against tight bowling. A required run rate of under four ought not to have been onerous, especially after Namilikonda and Sudireddy had blasted 40 off the first five. But somehow the Gents got into a pretty pickle and lost six wickets for 19 runs. The bowling was accurate and the catching impervious but there was no excuse. Gulati rose above the mayhem to score 20 in eight overs and with Karnekanti's sensible support dragged the hosts over the line.

The original plan had been to play two T20s but as the players grimly checked rain radar websites the wind swung to the north, holding off the rain forecast to arrive at four o'clock. Five overs were therefore added to give an outlier T25 format. Park and Bowden put up 32 for the first wicket but it took them 14.3 overs against canny bowling. It had to be hit out time and Krishna was the beneficiary with his first-four-wicket haul for the club, supported by a neatly-judged catch by Gulati at long on and a startling reaction catch by Puli at short mid-wicket seconds after he had buttered an easier one.

With 7.2-0-11-3 for Old Isleworthians and Heston 2s 24 hours before in their league win against Kenton, Vamsee Reknar Krishna, purveyor of outswing bowling to the nation, ended his weekend with a hoard of 16.2-1-30-8. He is in the form of his life and when Kota produced a banger of a fizzing off-break to dismiss captain Stapleton one sensed that the Gents had partially restored their early-season form.

Dubey led from the front and a series of neat stands won them the game with 26 balls in hand. He and Krishna fell to fine catches but Karnekanti and Gulati are no mean batsmen and did the needful, Gulati pulling two huge sixes over mid-wicket as victory hove into view. Thanks to the visitors and welcome Jay Patel on debut. He did well.

Forthcoming fixtures



Sun 25 July	Bricklayer's Arms	Abbey RG
Sun 1 August	Kempton	Wycombe House CC
Sun 8 August	Northfields	Old Tenisonians CC
Sun 15 August	Clapham In	Wycombe House CC
Sun 22 August	Bricklayer's Arms	Old Tenisonians CC
Sun 29 August	Ottershaw	Old Tenisonians CC
Sat 4 September	Squirrels	Long Ditton RG
Sun 5 September	Millfields	Wycombe House CC
Sun 12 September	Holtwhites Trinibis	Holtwhites Hill
Sun 19 September	Salix	Nursery Road PF
Sun 26 September	Hale	Hale Common

The season will be over before we know it, but we still hope to arrange an October fixture, which would be our first. Those may cancellations hurt. We will involve some veterans in the Sat 4 September fundraiser game. Note seven home games from 1 August when we may be able to provide teas or something resembling them..

Highest score for: 202-7 *v.* Crossbats **Against:** 194-7 by Crossbats **Lowest score for:** 98 *v.* Plastics **Against:** 52 by Wimbledon United

50s/100s for (M = first 50 or 100)	50s/100s against
75 Rakesh Patel <i>v.</i> Crossbats 74 Kota <i>v.</i> St Anne's Allstars 65 Karnekanti <i>v.</i> Binfield M 55* Kota <i>v.</i> Byfleet	77* Kassam (Mpingwe) 71 Anderson (Plastics) 60 Ilangakoon (Salix) 52 Humphrey (Binfield) 51 Clough (Byfleet) 50 M. Hockin (Byfleet)
4-wicket returns for (M = first 4 wickets return)	4-wicket returns against
5-4 Kumar <i>v.</i> Plastics 4-6 Kumar <i>v.</i> Wimbledon United 4-14 Krishna <i>v.</i> Ottershaw M	5-18 Jamieson (Plastics) 4-17 O. Watson (Wimbledon United) 4-18 Bramley (Whalers)
Sixes (15):	Run outs of opponents (5):
4 Chatharaju 3 Gulati, Namilikonda 1 Z. Ahmed, Bocha, Rakesh Patel, S. Patel, Puli	2 Kota 1 Bocha, Karnekanti, Puli

Whalers v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 4 July, King's House. Gents won toss. Cloudy, 21C

Won by 2 wickets

Whalers			Gentlemen of West London			
Johnstone		b Chatharaju	28	Karnekonti	b Howells	19
Dickenson		b Dubey	4	Krishna	c Srivastava	12
Kuhliyim	c Puli	b Namilkonda	11	Kota	lbw	0
Humphreys		b Dubey	1	†Puli	c Srivastava	8
Hogg	retired hurt		4	Chatharaju		5
†Judd	c Kota	b Chatharaju	2	Raj Patel	lbw	3
Khan	not out		17	Gulati	not out	19
Srivastava		b S. Patel	12	†Namilkonda		27
Curtis	c Raj Patel	b Dubey	13	S. Patel		0
*Bramley	not out		3	*Dubey	not out	0
Howells	dnb			Soni	dnb	
Extras	w1 nb1 b4		6	Extras	w5 nb1 b3	9
Total	7 wickets	35 overs	101	Total	8 wickets	29.1 overs
FoW: 6, 23, 24, 52, 53, 78, 97			FoW: 24, 25, 37, 44, 50, 60, 100, 100			
Bowling: Namilkonda 5-1-14-1, Dubey 6-2-12-3, Gulati 7-3-8-0, Krishna 5-0-26-0, Chatharaju 6-1-18-2, S. Patel 4-0-8-1, Kota 2-0-11-0			Bowling: Howells 5-0-10-1, Srivastava 5-1-13-1, Bramley 7-1-18-4, Khan 5-0-21-0, Humphreys 4-0-20-0, Johnstone 3-0-15-2, Curtis 0.1-0-2-0			

The pattern of this match was repeated all over west London on a sepulchral weekend as rain late in the week hindered pitch preparation. The day before on the adjacent Chiswick CC ground, Wycombe House 2s had defended 118, winning a game that stretched to 80.3 overs by 9 runs. Identical conditions obtained here, the weather muggy, the pitch damp and seaming and the outfield overgrassed. Both attacks were extremely happy with all of this, the batsmen perhaps less so. The result was a thriller that ebbed and flowed all day. The Gents were indebted to a Gulati/Namilkonda stand of 40, the highest of the day, and earlier to a dogged 20-over vigil from Krishna. Such efforts with the bat complemented an accomplished display of seam bowling backed up by tight fielding. Both teams' bowlers were on the money and runs were at a premium all day.

Six times the Gents have played at this ground and six times they have been late. Excuses have ranged from the publication of an incorrect official postcode to misleading signage along what should have been a pleasant ten-minute ramble from Barnes Bridge station but which took your reporter half an hour. But at least everyone found the correct ground. In May 2019 Vijay Basker famously pitched up at Chiswick CC and fielded for a few overs before realising his mistake. The sight minutes later of his BMW 4x4 being floored at 80mph down Riverside Drive was much chuntered about that afternoon on the Facebook pages of the local Residents Association and environmental group.

The left-handed Australian Johnstone defied the demons in the pitch to bat for 17 overs, even pulling a six off a Krishna full-toss, but the rest of the Whalers' top order found it hard work. Dubey, Gulati, Chatharaju (who brilliantly struck twice in his first over) and S. Patel were miserly, going at only two per over. It was a pleasure to record "bowled S. Patel" in the book for the first time in a year. Puli and Kota took neat catches at the wicket and gully, and Raj Patel bravely held on to a fierce drive at mid-on. Drive after drive stuck in the long grass and only two fours and a six were hit in each innings.

The weather turned even gloomier with a hint of rain: Whalers' bowlers began to lick their lips. They were initially thwarted by Karnekanti and Krishna in a useful stand of 24 in 8.3 overs, featuring two Karnekanti threes. But his dismissal was the first of six in 12 overs, starting with Kota for a rare duck, captain Bramley having fun with his inswing on a wicket that was now beginning to misbehave. Krishna was above the mayhem as the middle order marched to the middle, went for their shots and marched back a few overs later. Gulati was dropped first ball but he and Namilkonda are proven finishers and they fought back with resolution, adding 40 in 51 balls amid great tension to take the Gents to within two runs of victory. Johnstone then cleaned up Namilkonda and S. Patel in two balls. Dubey blocked the last ball of the over before Gulati drove the winning two at ten past six. Support from Dino Francis, the Gilkeses and David Roy was much appreciated.

The Whalers and the Gents originated at the University of York. Whalers played in a 20-over evening league for three years starting in the sultry summer of 1995. After a few years' break the club was reformed in London in 2001 with a core of original York players supplemented by increasing numbers of friends and colleagues. Gents bided their time for ten years after graduation before starting in 1988. The teams get on well and perhaps home and away fixtures might be arranged in 2022.

It was not Marathon Man Vamsee Reknar Krishna's day with the ball (the six off him was a rarity) but his 12 off 20.1 overs with the bat in trying conditions was just what was needed. Gents oldsters recall a 3 off 90 balls from John Townley batting out the draw against 12 Angry Men in 1994 and a 38* in 50 overs by Steve Bignell against London Saints in 1993 (game lost). Krishna's effort takes its place worthily alongside them. Get stuck in. New Zealand's left-arm fast bowler Geoffrey Ian Allott, was dismissed for a duck having faced **77 balls** in **101 minutes** the first innings of the first Test played in Auckland against South Africa in 1999. It is the slowest innings played in the history of Test cricket.

Whalers lose out to Gents in low-scoring encounter

Following a strong run of recent results, **writes the Whalers Match Reporter**, ten Whalers gathered to take on the Gentlemen of West London at King's House, with Roland due to make up the numbers upon his arrival at 2pm. More on that later. Russell lost the toss and was put into bat on a tacky wicket with some suspiciously long grass in the outfield. Dean and Al opened the innings, although the latter was dismissed in only the second over, bowled for 4. Fraser joined Dean at the crease and began building a partnership, including some rarely seen boundaries – a consequence of a very sluggish outfield. Fraser was nicked off for 11, sparking a mini-collapse with Will, newly arrived Roland (retired hurt) and Geoff falling in quick succession to leave the Whalers 52-4 at drinks.

Roland was particularly unfortunate having to retire hurt after very kindly stepping in to make up the numbers at the last minute. Sadly, the old 'hold a cold beer against your knee' treatment failed to spark a recovery and he hobbled off to A&E, donating some spare beers to grateful teammates before he left (these were later stolen by the Club Treasurer though). Get well soon Roly!

Back to the cricket. Dean was bowled almost straight after drinks for a battling 28. Suhaib and Vishal hung around for a while and nudged the Whalers towards something nearing respectability until Suhaib was bowled by a great delivery for 12. Josh joined Vishal and combined good running with some calculated boshing to get the Whalers towards a prized three-figure total. Josh departed for 13 just before the end of the innings leaving the skipper to finish things off with Vishal. By virtue of some quite entertaining running between the wickets, the Whalers finished their 35 overs on 101-8.

The Gents started cautiously and it became increasingly clear that, as the Whalers had shown, it wasn't the easiest pitch to bat on. The first wicket did not arrive until the ninth over when Nick bowled the Gents' opener for 12. Fellow opening bowler Vishal then got in on the act, continuing his fine all-round game, pinning the No.3 bat lbw for 0.

Skipper Russell then brought himself on and tore into the Gents middle-order taking three quick wickets to leave the Gents 50-5 in the 17th over. It was very nearly 50-6 but for an unfortunate dropped catch. Russell didn't have to wait long, however, soon dismissing the Gents' remaining opener for 19, caught by Vishal at square leg. Russell finished his seven-over spell with the outstanding figures of 4-18.

The Gents' No.s 7 and 8 launched a fightback, coupling good running between the wickets with the odd boundary, taking advantage of some occasional loose bowling. The game began to ebb away from the Whalers. Step-forward Dean, who with only two runs needed, ripped out two of the Gents' batters in consecutive balls to give the Whalers a fighting chance and leave the Gents 100-8.

Unfortunately, new bowler Josh was unable to prevent the Gents getting over the line in the 31st over, but his figures of 0.1-0-2-0 provided much laughter at the post-match fines meeting.

Thanks to the Gents for a great game.

Wimbledon United v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 11 July, Cottenham Park. Wimbledon United won toss. Cloudy with sunny spells, 22C

Won by 99 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Wimbledon United			
*Dubey	c Prytherch	b Bhinder	40	Nayak	b Krishna	0
Namilikonda	c Flannery	b Prytherch	1	Iyengar	b Chatharaju	8
Kumar	c Saxby	b O. Watson	9	†Flannery	c Gulati	0
Krishna	c Patel	b O. Watson	0	Saxby	b S. Patel	7
Gulati	lbw	b O. Watson	0	Patel	c Kumar	0
Chatharaju		b Brown	36	Williams	c Dubey	9
†Puli		b O. Watson	26	S. Watson	b Kumar	3
Raj Patel	run out (Prytherch)		2	O. Watson	b Kumar	1
Karnekonti		not out	10	Brown	not out	15
S. Patel	run out (Brown)		0	Bhinder	b Kumar	0
H. Patel		not out	0	Prytherch	b H. Patel	0
Extras	w16 b11		27	Extras	w1 nb6 b2	9
Total	9 wickets	35 overs	151	Total	All out	25 overs
FoW: 20, 44, 45, 45, 61, 137, 138, 149, 150			FoW: 0, 4, 15, 15, 33, 33, 34, 37, 39, 52			
Bowling: Brown 7-1-20-1, Prytherch 7-0-34-1, O. Watson 6-0-17-4, S. Watson 5-0-18-0, Saxby 3-0-18-0, Bhinder 7-1-33-1			Bowling: Krishna 5-1-6-2, Chatharaju 5-0-14-2, S. Patel 4-0-10-1, Kumar 6-3-6-4, H. Patel 4-1-10-1, Raj Patel 1-0-4-0			

Three times the teams have met here and three times the side batting second has been skittled. In 2017 and 2018 Gents plummeted to all out totals of 53 and 112, losing by 123 and 100 runs. Seven Gents from those games returned on this muggy afternoon where accomplished knocks by captain Dubey, Chatharaju and Puli, complemented latterly by fine seam bowling, led to a crushing win. The Maroons were in shock and all one can say by way of consolation to a good bunch of chaps is that every side has days like this.

Inserted on a green, seaming strip with uneven bounce, Dubey batted 17.2 overs and hit six fours in his 40 as wickets tumbled around him, O. Watson taking three in his second over. He was dropped twice but deserved a slice of luck. When he fell at 61 Gents were looking at a total in double-figures, so hats off to Chatharaju, back to form with a bang after a few recent uncertainties, and the consistent, resilient Puli whose stand of 76 in 86 balls proved to be a matchwinner. Wise shot selection, good judgement of a run and fast running were its hallmarks and Chatharaju treated the crowd to another of his trademark monster sixes over long on, a shot first trialled against Squirrels in 2018 in that famous last-ball victory. Their dismissals heralded two overs of utter barminess as Karnekonti hustled 10 quick runs but took out two Patels in the process, S. Patel expressing his position on the matter with vigour and clarity.

O. Watson, the slowest of United's seamers, had used the pitch well. The ball was jaggging around and lifting off a length, and he had been briefly unplayable. Dubey the alchemist looked and pondered. Perhaps this would not be the day for his fast men Gulati and Namilikonda? He opened with Krishna, in a rich vein of form, and Chatharaju, who had been a little unlucky in recent weeks.

The carnage began with the fourth ball when Krishna bowled Nayak. Flannery had scored 113* in the 2018 game but this was not his day and he drove to mid-off Gulati two overs later, taking Krishna to 13 wickets for the season, a personal best. Chatharaju struck with the third and fourth balls of his third over, castling Iyengar and having Patel neatly caught by silly mid-off Kumar. The double-change to S. Patel and Kumar saw no respite for the batsmen, Patel producing a devilish inswinger to bowl captain Saxby while Kumar embarked on a remarkable spell. After a quiet first over (five runs) he carded three wicket-maidens on the spin, and conceded only one run off his fourth. Brown at least refused to put up with this nonsense and counterattacked well, but ten overs were left unbowled when H. Patel went round the wicket and bowled Prytherch. United's total of 52 was the lowest in a Gents match since 2014, when Baker Street Irregulars, a bunch of complete tossers who sadly still exist, scored 44.

A consequence of damp weather and green, unprepared wickets is that we are seeing 50 fewer runs per game in 2021 compared to the last two campaigns. Totals of 150 are beginning to look very good indeed. Thanks to Naveed Khan for support and Mr Dean's daughter Ruby for tending the scoreboard and, let it be said, doing it more competently than most adults who have attempted to perform this task in 2021.

Gentlemen of West London v. Mpingwe

Sunday 18 July, Normandy. Gents won toss. Sunny, 30C

Won by 17 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Mpingwe				
H. Patel		b Rees	0	Sufiyan	lbw	b Namilikonda	2
Gilkes	c Cullity	b Najeeb Khan	0	Junaid	c Gulati	b S. Patel	28
†Kota	run out (Aadil Gaffar)		8	*Aadil Gaffar	lbw	b Dubey	14
Gulati	c Junaid	b Batti	18	Butt	lbw	b S. Patel	4
Krishna	lbw	b Mitha	2	†Cullity	st Kota	b H. Patel	8
Karnekanti	lbw	b Batti	26	Mitha	not out		77
N. Khan	c Mitha	b Abdullah Gaffar	16	Abdullah Gaffar		b Gulati	0
Chatharaju	c and	b Rees	23	Azhar	not out		32
S. Patel	c Butt	b Rees	31	Najeeb Khan, Rees and Batti dnb			
Namilikonda	not out		18				
*Dubey	not out		25				
Extras	w10 nb5 b9 lb2		26	Extras	w7 nb2 b1 lb1		11
Total	9 wickets	35 overs	193	Total	6 wickets	35 overs	176
FoW: 0, 5, 9, 22, 50, 75, 99, 148, 149				FoW: 20, 47, 53, 53, 73, 74			
Bowling: Rees 6-0-40-3, Najeeb Khan 9-0-53-1, Mitha 5-1-20-1, Batti 7-0-22-2, Azhar 5-0-19-0, Abdullah Gaffar 3-0-28-1				Bowling: Krishna 6-0-34-0, Namilikonda 4-0-27-1, Dubey 4-0-5-1, S. Patel 4-1-14-2, Gulati 7-0-27-1, H. Patel 4-0-11-1, Chatharaju 3-0-32-0, Kota 3-0-24-0			

The Gents won a splendid game when Mitha and Azhar, needing to score 22 off the final over, were restricted by Gulati to four. In adding 102 for Mpingwe's seventh wicket, they had broken the all-opponents' record of 82 set by Clapham In's Wildman and Thomson in 2011. This was a late-notice fixture with the ground not confirmed till Wednesday and the opposition a day later after Old Tenisonians could no longer host and Battersea Eagles responsibly folded due to an outbreak of Covid-19 and seamlessly got their pals to fulfil the fixture.

Dubey won a good toss on a relentlessly hot afternoon and set about configuring his batting order, with Gilkes playing his first game for a year and Khan his first since 2019. The middle order and tail bailed out the top order for the fourth time this season, a result of guts, determination and, by design, fluid batting orders. Analysis reveals that the club's most productive wicket in 2021 is the seventh.

H. Patel and Gilkes fell off the fourth and twelfth balls, Kota in the third over run out having being sent back and when Krishna became the day's first lbw it was 22-4 which became 50-5 off 14 when Gulati holed out to long off Junaid. Five minutes shy of three hours later he would return the compliment, standing in exactly the same position.

The batsmen from Karnekanti onwards were excellent, punishing the bad ball and running well. Mpingwe are a young, fit side but in searing heat fielding became harder. Boundaries flowed, Chatharaju, S. Patel and Namilikonda smiting sixes. S. Patel (31 off 15 balls) and Dubey (25 off 14) scored fastest but one has to praise the cricketing intelligence of all these batsmen.

With shade non-existent on this pretty ground the scorer's table (or more likely its nearby parasol) became a destination venue in the second innings. Batti, South Woodford CC's Junaid and the Australian 'keeper Cullity (whose interpretation of his dismissal was that he had been "done by a wily old bastard") helped with the scoreboard and supplied splendid stories. Gents bowlers worked their way methodically through the top order, though Junaid hit hard. At 74-6 off 22.2 Mpingwe needed 120 in 76 balls when Azhar joined Mitha. They strode to 133-6 off 30 and Dubey brought back Gulati and Krishna to seal a narrow win. The game had been exciting but more importantly fairly contested, Gents' umpires upholding two lbw appeals and Mpingwe's three. Gents' catching was poor, but the bowling and fielding were generally tight, Gilkes being impervious, and they conceded 15 fewer extras than Mpingwe. The captains agreed that a match in 2022 would be a good thing.

The days ended with both sides enjoying the final overs of the U.21 game on the first XI pitch between Normandy and Valley End which saw 431 runs in 78.5 overs in front of a large crowd.