THE GENT

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| **September 2006** | **No. 109** |

Tales from the corridor of uncertainty

**Scibo took the sun with him**

**…but we’re winning again**



INSIDE…

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| * **Weasels shock Pak to hand PALs League to Gents** * **Gents win four in a row as July heatwave turns to August gloom** * **Quiz horror – Nelson bad boy Rennie scores 96%** * **Match reports Bedouins (lost by 80 runs) London Saints (won by 73 runs) London Owls (won by 98 runs) Wombles (OTCC Twenty20) (won by 8 wickets) Enterprise (OTCC Twenty20) (won by 89 runs)** |

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Autumnal miasma brings welcome wins

July, traditionally such a good month for The Gents, was poor this year, the heatwave (and, more relevantly, patchy availability) bringing five defeats out of six. Scibo took the sun with him but the side has come back to form, maintaining its unbeaten record at King George’s PF, Tolworth (1), winning at the third time of asking at Fairfield RG, beating both oppos in the Old Tenisonians Twenty20 and retaining the PALs League. The return of the talismanic, talented Nabil Husain certainly helped. The Gents have won all nine of the 2006 games he has played but only two of the other ten, though some of those were very tough fixtures.

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| Stormclouds gather over Vice-Captain  **Summer’s Lease – Gents/Saints @ Tolworth, probably when Husain and Snelling were bowling in tandem. Photo courtesy of *Waterloo Sunset*** | Mr. Husain will be moving to Dubai later this year. We wish this loyal player and deeply religious man *bon voyage* and will welcome him back anytime. Meanwhile, the club has some big questions to address, not least the hardy perennials of how many games and where.  If handled correctly, The Gents could broker a strategic alliance with Old Tenisonians, who have not only been very courteous and welcoming to The Gents, but are thinking of scrapping their second XI due to lack of players, surely an opportunity for greater alignment. We have the players, they the infrastructure. Now, nobody is saying The Gents should take over OT’s seconds’ fixtures lock, stock and smoking two hundred run defeat, but a merger for some fixtures might be possible. Moreover, regular use of the OTCC clubhouse could generate some serious income with the creation of a post-match Legends Bar, where fans could mix and be photographed with great names from the club’s past like Mark Burville and Chris Beaumont. A few readies would not go amiss for such ex-members who are down on their luck either. We could also go in for more corporate sponsorship, with customers being wined and dined and getting the chance to meet current stars like H Bomb and Buck. |

(1) *The Gent*, 1999, describing a draw at KGF (NBW 174 for 3 dec., Gents 81 for 9): “In 1998, the side was denuded of batsmen and the Weasels’ 227 was always beyond reach. Here, the side batted long 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.” You read it here first.

**2006 awaits a “season-defining moment”**

A phenomenon on which several astute observers have remarked is the lack of close calls (or “season-defining moments” to use Mr. Buck’s apt term) this year, nothing to compare with the Pak, West XI and Brondesbury nailbiters of 2005, for example. That said, eleven 2006 wins for the mighty GWLCC is four more than in 2005. A scan of West XI’s results reveals a similar pattern, only three being close, one the loss to West XI Past, a game mysteriously not acknowledged by their statistician (not the first time he has played this game).

No club playing records likely to fall this season, as success has been more shared about, no fewer than 46 players having been used so far (three more would be a record, come to think of it). It is strange, therefore, that the usually placid waters of the record stands in Gents’ games have been churned up four times in 2006, thrice by the oppo and once by our good selves. The new list is therefore updated overleaf.

**PALs triumph**

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| **1 The Gents** Played **4** Points **5**  **2= Pak** Played **4** Points **3**  **2= NB Weasels** Played **4** Points **3** | Glory be, The Gents won the 2006 PALs League after the Weasels completed a convincing double over Pak CC on 13 August, bowling them out for 147 then winning by nine wickets at a canter. |

It was redolent of Derby County winning the football league in 1971-72 while sitting on a beach, Leeds United losing 2-1 at Wolves in the season’s final game when all they needed was a point. It was GWLCC’s second outright triumph after 2004 while Pak and The Gents shared the 2005 trophy, a pretty good run. Now, this league has its critics (though typically none has come up with a constructive suggestion for a better format), and it has to be acknowledged that it is a freak set of circumstances that sees the champions win only won one game out of four (though one was won by default), with one lost and one abandoned but those are the competition’s rules. Well played, Sanjay and his men.

**Boys of summer**

The OTCC Twenty20 was fun, in the main due to the facilitation by the groundsman and the sunny attitude of the three teams, though poor HP, who had 25 pounds stolen during the day, may disagree. After the games, we were treated to a BBQ run by Italian Womble Marcello Cimino, accompanied by a pilaff cooked by Reika Patel, which rounded the day off a treat. The mellow evening sunshine saw the three teams exchange tales of great deeds done and to come, the youngsters in rapt attention as wisdom was passed on. That piece of sententiousness having been dispensed with in three minutes flat, the true business of the evening began, in-depth character assassination, fault by fault, of some of the circuit’s major dysfunctional personalities.

**Record partnerships in Gents’ games**

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| Record Gents’ partnerships for each wicket (\* = unbeaten) | | |
| **1** | 121 | Steve Bignell (34) and Nick Hubbocks (78) v. Enterprise | | 2 May 1993 | Victoria RG |
| **2** | 122 | Jim Wright (67) and Mark Sciberras (59) v. 12 Angry Men | | 14 May 2006 | Old Tenisonians |
| **3** | 156 | Nick Hubbocks (67) and Mark Ashton (137\*) v. Enterprise | | 10 May 1992 | Victoria RG |
| **4** | 127\* | Nabil Husain (104\*) and Sanjay Patel (33\*) v. New Barbarian Weasels | | 11 June 2005 | Berrylands |
| **5** | 152 | Mark Ashton (102) and Mike Hughes (57\*) v. London Saints | | 15 August 1993 | Victoria RG |
| **6** | 100 | Sanjay Patel (100\*) and Neepam Bhatt (51) v. London Rams | | 3 July 2005 | Belair Park |
| **7** | 110\* | Wayne Thompson (66\*) and Ryon Derriman (47\*) v. London Rams | | 3 July 2004 | Belair Park |
| **8** | 85 | Justin Norcott (35) and Jim Wright (50) v. Enville | | 14 August 2004 | Edgecliffe School |
| **9** | 108 | Horace Hibbert (81) and Mark Sciberras (22) v. Brondesbury Casuals | | 17 September 2000 | Shepherd’s Bush |
| **10** | 51\* | Sanjay Patel (38\*) and Phil Hill (15\*) v. 12 Angry Men | | 28 July 2002 | Victoria RG |

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| Record opponents’ partnerships for each wicket (\* = unbeaten) | | |
| **1** | 239\* | Richard Bulmer (140\*) and Craig Maddocks (87\*) of London Owls | | 5 September 1993 | Victoria RG |
| **2** | 160 | Branch (50\*), Susman (50\*) and Stanier (37) of Bedouins | | 6 August 2006 | Enville |
| **3** | 215 | Roland Heyman (132) and Robert Jones (89) of Village XI | | 30 July 2006 | Old Hamptonians |
| **4** | 138 | Andy Jaques (107) and D Torbe (65) of East Harrow Cheetahs | | 4 August 1996 | Beverley Park |
| **5** | 84\* | Bill Flack (67\*) and Derek Kirkwood (35\*) of New Barbarian Weasels | | 24 July 1994 | Victoria RG |
| **6** | 100 | Chris Dane (73) and Phil Walton (53) of West XI | | 10 September 2000 | KGF, Morden |
| **7** | 62 | Eugene Snyman (14) and Ed Attenborough (55) of Plums | | 2 September 2001 | Victoria RG |
| **8** | 64 | Paul Nicol (31) and Mike Evans (56) of St. Anne’s Allstars | | 29 April 2006 | Barnes Common |
| **9** | 68 | Anthony Heafield (40) and Tony Wall (19) of London Rams | | 28 July 2001 | Belair Park |
| **10** | 52 | Keith Dimond (37) and Graham Heap (11\*) of Enterprise | | 31 August 1997 | Victoria RG |

Notes: Branch and Susman (opponents’ second-wicket) retired not out according to the agreed rules of the game. Wright (Gents’ eighth-wicket) retired out, as no such retirement rule had been agreed.

**Reader’s letter**

**Dr. Jonathan Wasse**

Just to say thanks to all for the excellent cricket match last Sunday. Please pass on the thanks to the guests as well (and The Gents). Hope you all enjoyed it, and are willing to play for the London Owls next season.

Andy B - thanks to you and Ken for the help in organising the match. Always a fixture we look forward to.Quizfinder General

News has reached Gent House, via the West XI captain, that during a quiz competition held in the Lord Nelson public house after a Beggar cricket victory against GSK, all-rounder Steve Rennie distinguished himself by answering 48 questions right out of 50, his team thereby winning the competition. He thereby atoned for his spot of larceny there after a cricket A.G.M. in 2004, when he stole the landlady’s takeaway Chinese meal.

Captain Wright described Steve’s performance as “fantastic” and so it was. There are certainly some clever chaps in that club, and perhaps a Gents/West XI quiz night might be arranged in the winter as a teambuilding/fundraising session, though to avoid festering resentment it would have to be less of a swindle than the St. Anne’s quiz in April 2006, when each participant, of whom there were about 50, had to pay a tenner. The top prize was a cheap tin-plated cup to be held on a timeshare basis by the winning team. The manufacture of said item might have kickstarted the Romanian economy but did little to motivate the winners. The Russian revolution started for less.

The maximum possible score in a quiz is of course 100% and all Beggars should be made aware that the Editor of *The Gent*, in the company of Mr. I. Richmond, achieved this in late August 1997 in a Kingswinford pub. This would surprise nobody who saw Burman’s stellar *seven* correct answers while watching a recent *Mastermind* featuring the specialist subject of *Dad’s Army*, though his score on the history of World Cup football some weeks later was a disappointing five, chiefly because several questions were unfair and ambiguous. Surprisingly, the contestant specialising in the timeless sitcom did not know that Private Pike took his sweet ration in Hundreds and Thousands!

The Burman/Richmond perfect thirty was a glorious intellectual *tour de force*, as important to civilisation in its way as Cranmer’s Book of Common Prayer or the plays of Shakespeare. The team was completed by Victor’s mate Martin, both quiz regulars at the pub in question. The team got stuck in to the questions. About a third of the way through, one came “Which Tottenham footballer shares a name with a Norfolk town?” Burman opined that it could not be Sheringham, who had left for Man United earlier that summer. “Just put Sheringham,” said Victor with suspicious certainty, and indeed that was given after as the correct answer.

Thirty out of 30 was duly achieved, but instead of an immediate prize the quizmaster gave the winning team a raffle ticket with a No.1 on it, the team that finished second got a ticket with No.2, and so on through to the team of special needs council workers who trailed in eighth. The quizmaster then proceeded to draw the numbers out of a hat and No.1 got third prize, a bar meal for two not to exceed five pounds. Not too bad for a night’s work and a better ROI than the St. Anne’s jag, if not full reward for the cerebral prowess earlier displayed. The conversation then ensued:

**Burman:** Good fun mate but I was surprised about Sheringham being right though

**Richmond:** Don’t be, it came up here before

**Burman** (beginning to smell a rat)**:** So some of them weren’t entirely new questions, then?

**Richmond:** No, it’s always exactly the same thirty questions each week, Martin and I always get ’em all right, have done for weeks.

*The Gent* would be interested to hear of any other club quiz escapades. Perhaps the Snellings once appeared on the Home Counties classic *Ask the Family* in the great Robert Robinson era, young Stuart resplendent in his lime green pullover? Mother and eldest child only on this round please.

**Glorious failure culminates in VC**

**The campaign of Her Majesty’s imperial expeditionary force under General Patel to crush insurrection in the Bedouin-held foothills of the Midlands saw heavy losses and a strategic withdrawal after two days of heavy fighting. For his gallant actions on the Sunday, a Victoria Cross was awarded to Captain Snarling of The Royal West Surrey Regiment (The Queen’s) who despite withering enemy fire, rescued a badly wounded man, Private Toft, secured him to his horse and rode him safely back to camp. The** citation read: “Snarling’s magnificent display of initiative, outstanding guts and gallant leadership inspired the rest of the company in the face of heavy casualties.” Also Mentioned in Despatches was Corporal Burman of **The City of London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers) who risked his life tending a wounded and delirious soldier, Drummer Boy Richmond, for over four hours as expected reinforcements did not arrive.**

**Game 15: Enville CC, Staffordshire, Sunday 6 August. Bedouins won toss. Humid, 26°**

#### Wily Black Countrymen leave tourists battered and bruised

Cricket history is replete with speculation surrounding the composition of touring parties. David Gower was left out of the India tour of 1992/3 to universal consternation, while an older generation would have loved to see the unavailable Geoffrey Boycott face Lillie and Thomson in 1974/5. The late Fred Trueman was surprisingly left out of the 1954/5 Ashes tour, though his replacement Tyson did rather well. But none of these touring squads omitted a wicketkeeper, nor did they go into such tough games with only 10 men, one of whom, the game, heroic Brummie mate of Sanjay’s, 22-stone Yogi Patel, had never played cricket before.

In the circumstances, though we have to acknowledge possible structural problems, in addition to changing work patterns in society, as being the reasons for such a thin squad, The Gents did well to keep a talented batting line up to one run shy of 200, though for the second weekend running they suffered a record stand. Thus is deleted the 127 posted by Mason and Walker of Rotherham SC on Snarler’s 1995 debut. The rule of this game was retire at 50 (Sanjay negotiated away the maximum six overs per bowler clause, though the homesters adopted it anyway) so three Bedouins contributed to a stellar 160 for the second wicket, with only a couple of half chances going begging, such was the quality of the batsmanship and evenness of the wicket.

It was a well up to par Gent attack that tied down the Bedouins openers until Hill senior was run out by the Sanjay/Gilkes combo, the skipper having first shelled the catch, though retaining the presence of mind to get a good throw into the stand-in stumper Mr. Gilkes. Apart from a few dodgy overs either side of the first drinks break, The Gents kept at it well in hot, draining conditions. H Bomb’s first spell was expensive; the poor bloke would go for his second successive 50, but that apart you could not fault bowling, fielding or attitude. This attack with a regular ’keeper and eleven men would have conceded no more than 150. But nine cricketers and dear, heart of gold Yogi it was, with able batsmen scoring freely, led by the aggressive Susman and Stanier, with the moustachioed Branch playing the anchor role. A total of 230 plus looked likely at one point but the last few overs saw some welcome successes, Snarler taking three wickets in his second spell, Hemin and SP two each. However, the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, and poor Ken was badly injured fielding (Snarler would kindly drive him home), while Rich had to cede the gloves to Jim after a nasty finger injury.

Half-time here sees a cup of tea and some delicious home made cakes, with the main buffet served after. The Gents were happy enough, and looked to have a decent batting line-up, though it would be weakened by Ken having sadly to be Absent Injured. Jim, in his best form since 2000 in recent weeks, was given out caught behind by umpire Susman senior in the first over of the reply, though he was adamant it was bat on ground. Snarler soon feathered to the ’keeper and it was 5 for two. All hail then some indomitable middle order resistance, Hemin and to an extent SP opting for attack, while Dhruv played an excellent anchor role knock for the team. Hemin fell after batting briskly, runs coming at a tidy rate and The Gents were, when Dhruv and Sanjay were together, entitled to hope just a little. But alas, one wicket brought two and then a clutch, Mr. Gilkes posting a brave unbeaten 22 in great pain. Whether an away game involving an overnight stay qualifies as a tour others can decide. What is certain is that once again it was a superb weekend, which provided the chance to play on a fine ground that has hosted cricket since 1821 (coincidentally the last time the changing rooms were cleaned). One day Ken may actually get to bat here. Well played Bedouins, fine and generous hosts, commiserations GWLCC, battered, bruised tourists.

**Bedouins**; Branch 50 not out (retired), A Hill 1, Susman 50 not out (retired), Stanier 37, Gregory 9, George 0, Bywater 4, J Hill 1, Fellows 2, Barnsley 8, Pearson 0 not out, Extras 37, **199 for 8 (40 overs)**

**FoW;** 10, 170, 181, 185, 187, 190, 191, 199

**Bowling;** Snelling 3-24, Wright 0-29, S Patel 2-33, H Patel 2-50, D Patel 0-33

**Catches;** S Patel 2, Substitute fielder 1

**Gents**; †Wright 0, Snelling 2, D Patel 32, H Patel 21, \*S Patel 27, †Gilkes 22 not out, Burman 2, Richmond 6, Y Patel 0, Toft absent injured, Extras 7, **119 all out (33 overs)**

**FoW;** 0, 5, 36, 81, 91, 97, 119, 119

**Bowling;** Barnsley 1-5, Susman 1-23, Pearson 1-22, Bywater 0-21, Fellows 1-11, George 1-9, Gregory 1-13, Stanier 0-7, Hill 2-3

**Catches;** Not recorded

### Lost by 80 runs

**Game 16: King George’s PF, Tolworth, Sunday 13 August. London Saints won toss. Stormy, 22°**

#### Gents dodge storms to earn welcome victory

The Gents got back on track after four successive losses with a 73 run victory after a chaotic but fun day in which the game was cancelled at 9.30am, declared back on at 11am and played out to the accompaniment of thunder and lightning that skirted this pleasant ground before, a minute after the last ball was bowled, drenching Tolworth with torrential rain. Fifteen miles down the A3 at Woking Met. Office, trainee BBC weatherman Master Gilkes reported that it had “f\*\*\*ed it down all afternoon,” so it was fortunate a game could be played.

Burman stood in for Paul Turpin, who had arranged family duties after the cancellation, and Saints inserted The Gents on a straw-coloured pitch that played fairly true. Buck and Denton both struck two fours in a steady start, while Dhruv posted his second successive score of 32 with five fours, a total matched by the returning Husain, who took a shine to Griffiths’s off-spin and Berkeley’s seamers in a whirlwind 36, though his scoring rate would be overhauled during the astonishing unbeaten seventh-wicket stand between Wahed and SP. Husain pulled Berkeley for a six (shelled by Hemin in front of the pavilion) before holing out to rightful Saints’ jubilation after a mere eight overs at the crease, Dhruv having spiralled a top edge to gully in the previous over.

The Wahed/Carroll stand, featuring some aesthetically pleasing shots and first-rate running between the wickets, turned the screw, but wouldn’t have had Keenan not shelled a hard caught and bowled opportunity ball one or an early appeal for a catch off Wahed’s glove off a fizzing inswinger from Keenan been upheld, the umpire ruling it was off the torso. Saints were disappointed but persevered, outing Carroll and, for a golden duck, Hemin, their fielding and throwing being top-notch, but were undone by a blistering cameo from SP, who clubbed the first three balls of Dewhirst’s third over for four, four and six en route to 29 not out off a stay at the wicket of only four overs and one ball. Wahed was left unbeaten on 34 (five fours), his highest score for the club, as was Carroll’s. The total looked defendable but Saints have always batted a long way down.

After no more than a 15 minute tea break, the powerful Wathan took a shine to Snelling’s first spell in a feisty response to the hosts’ big total before carving a full-toss high to SP at second slip. Keenan and Griffiths continued to fight the good fight until SP opted to replace the miserly Wahed (4-0-12-0) with the Patel spin twins. It worked a treat as the twirlers rushed through their overs under darkling skies, a smart HP stumping off Hemin accounting for Keenan. The dangerous skipper Berkeley miscued a high caught and bowled to Dhruv who then induced a hole out by the adhesive Griffiths to deep mid-wicket SP two overs later. Hemin bowled Van Marle with a pearler and Saints, having to take risks, were 82 for five, needing around eight an over.

The skipper, mindful of forked lightning and ear-splitting thunder approaching from the north, urged great haste upon the bowlers and fielders, his estimate (which proved to be spot on) being that the downpour would happen within 30 minutes. By now Husain was on at the Trading Estate End and the returning Snelling at the Station End, both bowling off a few paces. Toft took a well-judged running catch at backward point off Husain to see off Nanton before SP brought himself on for three overs of slow-medium and one of spin, bowling Speedtwin and earning HP his second stumping off Frood. Gary Burrell was left stranded on 19 not out, an innings of guts and determination. Nobody would have begrudged Saints an abandoned draw, such was their flexibility regarding whether the fixture should be played, the distance some of them had to travel and their positive attitude, but the weather held just long enough for The Gents to record the first win since 8 July.

**Gents**; †Denton 11, Buck 13, D Patel 32, Husain 36, Wahed 34 not out, Carroll 14, H Patel 0, \*S Patel 29 not out, Toft, Snelling and Burman did not bat, Extras 32, **201 for 6 (35 overs)**

**FoW;** 17, 50, 108, 108, 157, 158

**Bowling;** Loomes 0-16, Frood 1-21, Van Marle 1-23, Griffiths 0-28, Keenan 1-19, Berkeley 1-33, Nanton 0-26, Dewhirst 2-24

**Catches;** Frood 1, Griffiths 1, Nanton 1, Wathan 1, Van Marle 1

**London Saints**; Griffiths 19, Wathan 14, Keenan 15, \*Berkeley 13, Van Marle 7, Burrell 19 not out, Nanton 6, Dewhirst 7, †Speedtwin 6, Frood 2, Loomes 0 not out, Extras 16, **128 for 9 (35 overs)**

**FoW;** 20, 48, 67, 69, 82, 90, 99, 118, 121

**Bowling;** Snelling 2-28, Wahed 0-12, H Patel 2-21, D Patel 2-27, Husain 1-22, S Patel 2-11

**Catches;** S Patel 2, D Patel 1, Toft 1

**Stumpings;** Denton 2

### Won by 73 runs

**Game 17: Fairfield RG, Kingston, Sunday 20 August. London Owls won toss. Showery, 21°**

#### Sanjay and Madhu masterclass rescues Gents

A match played out in sepulchral gloom and drizzle ended in a comfortable Gents’ win against an inexperienced but game bunch of lads, yet the margin of victory belied the drama of the first innings, in which an astonishing opening spell of four for 8 from visiting skipper Jonathan Wasse reduced The Gents’ top order to rubble. Andy Morton followed in Wasse’s footsteps, and at 31 for 6, and later 61 for 7, the hosts were almost dead and buried before a superb eighth-wicket stand of 83 turned the game on its head. Skipper Sanjay Patel went on to a masterful, chanceless 78 (10 fours) in 26 overs at the crease. He was brilliantly supported by debut boy Madhu Ramaiah with 39 (seven fours) in the major stand plus, for the penultimate wicket, David Bender, one of three Beggars who helped out as their own match was rained off. Though the Owls’ openers, one of whom was Chris Wright, resisted a compelling opening blast from Nabil Husain and the evergreen Snarler Snelling, spin brought its reward and Hemin’s two wickets off his first two balls gave The Gents an advantage they never surrendered, despite Bignell’s plucky and attractive 32.

The game was played in a relaxed spirit, except perhaps when the Gent quicks were making Mr. Wright hop about, though it had a slightly surreal (and far from unpleasant after some recent intense battles) jumpers for goalposts feel, with nobody, least of all the respective organisers, sure of how many players were going to turn up or for which side they would play. Neither Ketan Patel, nor his neighbour and pal, schoolboy Kamran Khan nor Madhu Ramaiah (originally slated to play for the Owls) was on the Gent teamlist at 12.30pm – it was that sort of day! The captains decided that whoever turned up would get a game, quite the correct decision.

For a while, it seemed that any stragglers might miss the whole game, such was the clatter of early Gent wickets to Wasse and Morton. Snelling and Husain, the latter playing on off a mistimed pull, were bowled, while Buck spiralled a catch to ’keeper Bignell. Ken, discombobulated no doubt by the day’s organisational kerfuffle (he had raised the Owls’ team only to see his careful selection be dismantled in front of his very eyes) cut too early to short cover, Mr. Gilkes swatted to Wasse for 12 and Hemin reprised Buck’s dismissal.

Sanjay had a grin on his face and was merrily chatting to the oppo. Beware him in this mood, for he is dangerous. Unobtrusively at first, he won the game for his side, beautifully supported by Ramaiah, who played a masterful wet wicket innings. The 83 stand came in only 11 overs and was fittingly ended by a contender for catch of the season, an athletic one-hander by Woolfson at backward point. Sanjay, having overhauled Nabil and Jim at the northern tip of the aggregate list, was stumped Wright (his first ever such dismissal) after he and Dave Bender had added a useful 25. The innings closed on 172.

The Owls’ openers added a brave 13, surviving two tough, finger-breaking chances to Ken at slip, before Wright’s dismissal, bowled Hemin, heralded a flurry of wickets. Mansha was caught and bowled next ball (H Bomb would go on to take his first four-wicket haul) and when Nabil also did a two in two the win was assured. There is no point in going into triumphalist detail hereafter as a lot of the Owls were not regular cricketers. Bowlers were changed, chances were given and catches were caught in the gloaming, the match ending at 6 o’clock. The main point is that thanks to no small effort by Ken, a match was played and 24 players plus scorer Ian Colley (to whom thanks are due) and umpire Burman had a good day out.

**Gents**; Snelling 0, Buck 1, Gilkes 12, Husain 3, Toft 0, \*S Patel 78, H Patel 1, †Denton 2, Ramaiah 39, K Patel 0, Bender 8 not out, Khan 0, Extras 28, **172 all out (33.4 overs)**

**FoW;** 1, 8, 16, 18, 23, 31, 61, 144, 147, 172, 172

**Bowling;** Wasse 5-21, C Wright 0-9, Morton 2-13, Mathias 0-11, Barnes 3-37, Mansha 0-33, Hennessy 0-19, Bignell 0-24

**Catches;** Bignell 3, Hennessy 1, Meaton 1, Wasse 1, Woolfson 1

**Stumpings;** Wright 1

**London Owls**; Meaton 7, †C Wright 1, Mansha 0, Hennessy 2, Morton 0, Mathias 6, Barnes 0, †Bignell 32, \*Wasse 0, Rickett 10, Woolfson 1, Goodfellow 1 not out, Extras 14, **74 all out (28.3 overs)**

**FoW;** 13, 13, 18, 18, 18, 18, 24, 26, 54, 55, 74

**Bowling;** Snelling 1-13, Husain 3-6, H Patel 4-8, K Patel 2-11, Ramaiah 0-15, Buck 1-5, Gilkes 0-7, Bender 0-1

**Catches;** Bender 1, Denton 1, H Patel 1, S Patel 1, Ramaiah 1

### Won by 98 runs

### Games 18 and 19: Old Tenisonians, Motspur Park, Sunday 27 August. Sunny, 22°

#### To Gents the honours as fours and sixes rain over Motspur Park

A feast of cricket in the spirit of the old President’s Cup saw 765 runs scored, including 59 fours and 19 sixes, on a cool but sunny day. The Old Tenisonians’ firsts had been rained off the day before as the run ups were too slippery, and since the Monday would see torrential downpours the players here were blessed with the weather. The competition was a round robin Twenty20, batsmen retiring at 50, bowlers limited to four overs a game and, for consistency, umpires under orders to wide anything down leg side. The net run rate concept was researched in the event of a two- or three-team tie but was not needed, to the chagrin of the researcher.

It promised to be a fascinating competition. Messrs. Wahed, Babar, Carroll and Young have added some oomph to The Gents in 2006. Would they and their Wombling mates perform to their undoubted ability? Would the pre-match banterings of their mentor H Bomb come true? Enterprise are old friends and it was with delight that we welcomed not only big Keith and his dad Bill, but other ex-Gents Graham Heap, now the proud father of five, and Chris Beaumont, Gent ’keeper in 1999 and early 2000 and a man for whom the word enigma seems inadequate. Every man has a special male buddy who is heartily disapproved of by the wife. It is natural and healthy. Loudon Wainwright sang about it in “I Don’t Think That Your Wife Likes Me.” Mr. Beaumont fulfils this important role in the Dimond household, as Ashton does in many others.

The Gent were beefed up by Beggars Chris Wright and Tommy Banter, Bangalore guest Madhu Ramaiah plus 12 Angry Men’s Luton Town supporter Dave Hylden. Dhruv, kit in his boot, drove off at 10am on one of his family errands, the paragon of which was the legendary four-hour detour to meet an aunt’s flight from India at Heathrow (on a West XI match day!). Thus was caused universal Gent consternation, but the pint-sized twirler reappeared within half an hour and game one got underway at 11am. Play finished on the dot of seven, so had all 120 overs been bowled (nearly 16 were not) it could have been a floodlit finish.

**Game 1: Gents v. Wombles (Wombles won toss):** This game would ultimately decide the competition. The Gents restricted Wombles on a wet wicket, which dried fast and became progressively easier for batting as the day wore on. Lloyd initially decided to bowl, then changed his mind (possibly because he only had seven chaps on the ground at scheduled bully off) and saw his talented top order become bogged down against tip-top Gents bowling, led by the fast men. Sean Carroll’s brave, patient 23 held the Wombles’ innings together but the first four (of only two in the innings) did not arrive until the 13th. over. Three batsmen, including Wahed, perished to run outs. Eighty-three looked a bit light but nobody knew what a par score was.

The Wombles’ opening bowlers were the best seen in many a moon, the ’keeper, standing a long way back, taking Spencley’s bullets at shoulder height. Gilkes cut to gully after a period of swishing, Buck was bowled and after eight overs Gents were 22 for two, the same total as Wombles had managed at the same stage. Moreover, Madhu Ramaiah was struggling with an injury and wanted a runner. But after Sanjay told him to stick it out or retire, Madhu looked increasingly composed and began to play beautifully. He would win The Gents’ Player of the Day cup for this knock. A Sanjay-led assault on Wahed (ten off his first three balls faced) kicked off a spate of runs, 56 coming in just 5.3 overs to win the game, Madhu driving Rob Babar’s only two balls for four and a behemoth six over long-on to seal victory. This violent late assault made the win look more comfortable than seemed likely for a while, with The Gents’ experience of Twenty20 perhaps being pivotal.

**Wombles**; Young 2, Carroll 23, Babar 0, \*Wahed 1, Barrett 9, Spencley 11, Nicklin 7, Cimino 9, Rooney 3 not out, Collicci and Keith did not bat, Extras 18, **83 for 8 (20 overs)**

**FoW;** 7, 14, 20, 37, 56, 67, 72, 83

**Bowling;** Snelling 0-15, C Wright 2-6, Husain 0-18, D Patel 2-17, Buck 1-13, S Patel 0-11

**Catches;** Hylden 1

**Gents**; Gilkes 5, Ramaiah 45 not out, Buck 2, \*S Patel 17 not out, Husain, C Wright, D Patel, Bender, †Denton, Snelling and Hylden did not bat, Extras 12, **84 for 2 (13.2 overs)**

**FoW;** 14, 20

**Bowling;** Spencley 2-10, Keith 0-12, Wahed 0-29, Young 0-22, Babar 0-10

**Catches;** Not recorded 1

### Gents won by 8 wickets

### Game 2: Enterprise v. Wombles (Enterprise won toss): Enterprise went gung ho in reply to Wombles’ mammoth 197, itself perhaps an innings born of frustration, and were shot down valiantly, charging the guns. Wombles’ Player of the Day Sean Carroll took a five-for, some accomplishment off four overs. Keith, who did not bat in the first game, retired on 50, there were brutal knocks for Spencley, Young and Babar, while Wahed took only four scoring shots in his 18. Enterprise kept their shape and persevered, but were powerless to stop the assault, which ended with, for one game anyway, a record score in a Gents’ Twenty20 game beating 174, set by The Gents v. NBW in 2000, a game which Dimo, Heapo and Beaumontey should remember as they played in it. Before that the 159 mauling by NBW off a strong Gent attack in 1995 was the apex.

Funny things can happen in this form of cricket though and when Johnston smashed the first three balls of the second innings for four, two and four, accompanied by riotous applause, people sat up. Was an Enterprise win a possibility or a chimera? At 19 off 2.2 overs, we still did not know but alas for the outsiders Johnston was caught and their hopes vaporised. Big Keith smote four, four and six but the ask was too great and Enterprise subsided in 11 overs. An interesting phenomenon in this game was an apparent change of name from the Witless Wombles to the Urban Wanderers, though Lloyd’s men fell short of administering the sack to him mid-competition, a fate that once befell Mr. Buck in his FC Chad days.

**Wombles;** Cimino 6, Keith retired not out 55, Collicci 9, Spencley 28, Wahed 18, Young 37 not out, Babar 21, Rooney 0, Nicklin 0 not out, Barrett and Carroll did not bat, Extras 23, **197 for 6 (20 overs)**

**FoW;** 11, 41, 101 (not recorded thereafter)

**Bowling;** K Dimond 1-40, D Starkey 1-21, T Starkey 0-32, W Dimond 2-35, Johnston 0-24, Heap 2-30

**Catches;** K Dimond 1, Kitchener 1, D Starkey 1

**Stumpings;** Beaumont 1

**Enterprise (won toss)**; Johnston 18, Lilly 0, Heap 10, Trienor 0, Riggs 0, †Beaumont 1, \*K Dimond 18, D Starkey 8, W Dimond 1, T Starkey 0 not out, Bourne 0, Extras 19, **76 all out (11 overs)**

**FoW;** 19, 20, 22, 22, 26, 51, 68, 74, 76, 76

**Bowling;** Carroll 5-23, Cimino 1-20, Babar 2-17, Spencley 2-8

**Catches;** Spencley 1

### Wombles won by 121 runs

**Game 3: Enterprise v. Gents (Gents won toss):** Sanjay Patel kept the same batting order as game one, starting with those who had not batted. Furious knocks from Chris Wright (three fours and four sixes) and Nabil Husain (four fours and four sixes) was the basis of a record total in a Gents’ Twenty20 game, 119 of them coming for the fourth wicket, Snelling and Denton both posting pleasant knocks and running well. The innings included a 24 ball over from Enterprise’s poor Mr. Lilly. His triple bouncers and full tosses over the batsmen’s heads were soberly but correctly No balled by Mr. Toft. Big Keith, aware that he could ask for another player to complete the over, rightly let Lilly do so himself and he gamely completed his over with a dot ball, thus vindicating his skipper’s policy of tough love.

Tony Buck, bowling a superb spell of wobblers, and Dave Hylden then shared five wickets before a brilliant 50 from ex-Gent Beaumont, their Player of the Day, enabled Enterprise to depart with their self-respect intact. It delighted everyone who saw it. The margin of the victory was not important. The bonding over the course of day certainly was.

**Gents;** D Patel 10, C Wright 48, Husain 54 retired not out, Bender 1, Denton 30 not out, Snelling 31 not out, Gilkes, Ramaiah, Buck and \*†S Patel did not bat, Extras 34, **207 for 3 (20 overs)**

**FoW;** 40, 85, 88

**Bowling;** D Starkey 0-30, Kitchener 0-20, W Dimond 0-28, K Dimond 0-34, Heap 0-40, T Starkey 0-20, Lilly 0-25, Johnston 0-8

**Catches;** T Starkey 1

**Enterprise;** \*K Dimond 0, Heap 5, Kitchener 1, Johnston 1, Rigg 3, †Beaumont 50 not out, Lilly 11, D Starkey 24, W Dimond 2, T Starkey 1 not out, Bourne did not bat, Extras 22, **118 for 8 (20 overs)**

**FoW;** 1, 9, 19, 19, 23, 46, 85, 116

**Bowling;** Buck 3-2, Ramaiah 0-20, Hylden 2-25, Bender 0-21, D Patel 0-13, Gilkes 2-22, Denton 0-20

**Catches;** Denton 1, Gilkes 1, S Patel 1

### Gents won by 89 runs

The 2006 season so far

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Gents** | **Result** | **West XI** | **Result** |
| Sun 16 April | **-** | - | **Addington (1743)** | **Lost** by 105 runs |
| Sun 23 April | **Jay Bharat** | **Cancelled** (rain) | **All India** | **Lost** by 73 runs |
| Sat 29 April | St. Anne’s (42-11 Cup) | **Won** by 7 wickets | **-** | - |
| Sun 30 April | - | - | **Dinder and Croscombe** | **Won** by 74 runs |
| Sun 7 May | **Hale** | **Won** by 4 wickets | **Acme** | **Cancelled** (rain) |
| Sun 14 May | 12 Angry Men | **Won** by 154 runs | **Prince’s Head** | **Lost** by 80 runs |
| Sat 20 May | - | - | **Menorca** | **Lost** by 134 runs |
| Sun 21 May | Pak (PALs) | **Drawn** (abandoned) | **Menorca** | **Won** by 7 wickets |
| Sun 28 May | **West XI (BAMC)** | Cancelled (rain) | **Gents (BAMC)** | **Cancelled** (rain) |
| Sun 4 June | **London Saints** | **Won** by 110 runs | London Rams | **Lost** by 23 runs |
| Sat 10 June | - | - | **-** | - |
| Sun 11 June | NB Weasels (PALs) | **Won** by 60 runs | **Walthamstow Horizontals** | **Won** by 95 runs |
| Sat 17 June | Sunderland SC | **Lost** by 4 wickets | **-** | - |
| Sun 18 June | Pak (PALs) | **Lost** by 73 runs | **Captain’s Select** | **Won** by 3 wickets |
| Sat 24 June | **-** | - | **London Saints (LNC)** | **Won** by 5 wickets |
| Sun 25 June | London Rams | **Won** by 72 runs | **-** | - |
| Sat 1 July | - | - | **West XI Past** | **Lost** by 2 wickets |
| Sun 2 July | Brondesbury Casuals | **Lost** by 62 runs | **Dinder and Croscombe** | **Won** by 41 runs |
| Sat 8 July | **Wantage**† | **Won** by 7 wickets | **-** | - |
| Sun 9 July | - | - | **Sunderland SC** | **Won** by 10 runs |
| Sun 16 July | **West XI (BAMC)** | **Lost** by 6 wickets | **Gents (BAMC)** | **Won** by 6 wickets |
| Sat 22 July | - | - | **Hinton St. Mary** | **Cancelled** (no pitch) |
| Sun 23 July | **Jay Bharat** | **Lost** by 5 wickets | **Plums** | **Lost** by 5 wickets |
| Sun 30 July | **Village XI** | **Lost** by 143 runs | **London Saints** | **Won** by 8 wickets |
| Sat 5 Aug | - | - | **-** | - |
| Sun 6 Aug | Bedouins | **Lost** by 80 runs | **St. Anne’s Allstars** | **Won** by 99 runs |
| Sun 13 Aug | **London Saints** | **Won** by 73 runs | **Acme** | **Lost** by 5 wickets |
| Thur 17 Aug | ~~-~~ | - | **GSK (Twemty20)** | **Won** by 5 wickets |
| Sat 19 Aug | - | - | **North Star** | **Cancelled** (no oppo) |
| Sun 20 Aug | London Owls | **Won** by 98 runs | **Staefa** | **Cancelled** (rain) |
| Sat 26 Aug | **-** | - | NB Weasels | **Lost** by 81 runs |
| Sun 27 Aug | **Wombles (Twemty20)** | **Won** by 8 wickets | **-** | - |
| Sun 27 Aug | Enterprise (Twenty20) | **Won** by 89 runs |  |  |
| Sun 3 Sept | Urban Associates | Fairfield RG | **Octopus** | Gunnersbury Park |
| Sun 10 Sept | **West XI (BAMC)** | Berkhamsted CC | **Gents (BAMC)** | Berkhamsted CC |
| Sun 17 Sept | Salix | GSK Greenford | **-** | - |
| Record  **Runs**  **Wickets**  **Catches**  **Stumpings** | Played **19** Won **11** Drawn **1** Lost **7**  Husain 340, S Patel 305, Wright 268, D Patel 176  H Patel 19, S Patel 17, Buck 16  S Patel 9, Gilkes/H Patel 7, Turpin 6, D Patel 5  Denton/Turpin 2 | | Played **20** Won **11** Lost **9**  Bhatt 442, Wright 437, Bapu 339, Barling 264  Bignell 22, Laing 17, Dane 15, R Allerton 14, Bhatt 13  Wright 9, Bender 7, Bapu 6, Norcott/Rennie 5  Barling 7, Bapu 2, Denton 1 | |

† Wantage replaced NB Weasels (PALs League), which was won by default as the opposition withdrew

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **M.** | **I.** | **NO.** | **R** | **Av.** | **Ct./St.** | **O** | **M** | **R** | **W** | **Avg.** |
| R Babar | 7 | 4 | 0 | 17 | 4.25 | 2 | 35 | 6 | 108 | 9 | 12.00 |
| D Bender | 5 | 3 | 2 | 11 | 11.00 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 22 | 0 | N/A |
| A Buck | 18 | 13 | 1 | 76 | 6.33 | 3 | 45.3 | 4 | 217 | 16 | 13.56 |
| A Burman | 4 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 2.50 | - | - | - | - | - | N/A |
| S Carroll | 9 | 6 | 1 | 26 | 5.20 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 29 | 3 | 9.67 |
| P Denton | 10 | 8 | 2 | 79 | 13.17 | 2/2 | 1 | 0 | 20 | 0 | N/A |
| R Gilkes | 13 | 12 | 1 | 175 | 15.91 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 29 | 2 | 14.50 |
| N Husain | 9 | 8 | 3 | 340 | 68.00 | 3 | 35.3 | 8 | 121 | 12 | 10.08 |
| D Patel | 12 | 10 | 0 | 176 | 17.60 | 5 | 47.2 | 3 | 209 | 12 | 17.42 |
| H Patel | 17 | 14 | 1 | 139 | 10.69 | 7 | 79.5 | 8 | 414 | 19 | 21.79 |
| S Patel | 16 | 15 | 6 | 305 | 33.89 | 9 | 55.3 | 8 | 208 | 17 | 12.24 |
| M Sciberras | 6 | 5 | 0 | 124 | 24.80 | 1 | 20 | 2 | 76 | 5 | 15.20 |
| S Snelling | 11 | 6 | 1 | 63 | 12.60 | - | 62.5 | 7 | 219 | 12 | 18.25 |
| K Toft | 8 | 5 | 3 | 23 | 11.50 | 2 | - | - | - | - | N/A |
| P Turpin | 5 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 3.50 | 6/1 | - | - | - | - | N/A |
| L Wahed | 8 | 7 | 3 | 141 | 35.25 | 2 | 26.1 | 3 | 101 | 7 | 14.43 |
| J Wright | 7 | 7 | 2 | 268 | 53.60 | 1 | 24.2 | 1 | 87 | 7 | 12.43 |

**Also played (3 or fewer games);** R Bailey 1/1/0/4, 2-0-22-0, B Bhatt 1/1/1/4, 6-1-25-0 (1 ct.), N Bhatt 3/3/0/104, 12-2-50-1 (1 ct.), S Bignell 1/1/0/16, 2-0-19-1, G Butt 1/-/-/-/, 4-0-22-1, S Dev 1/1/0/26, R Crouse 1/1/0/5, S Desai 1/1/0/1, K Dimond 1/1/0/0, C Gilkes 1/1/1/11, P Gregg 1/1/1/2, T Haddow-Allen 2/2/0/35, 11-2-24-4, D Harris 1/1/0/21, 7/3/22/2, P Hill 2/1/0/10, 11-3-23-2, D Hylden 2/0/0/0, 4-0-25-2 (1 ct.), K Khan 1/1/0/0, R Miller 1/1/0/28, C Naish 1/1/0/0, J Norcott 2/2/0/3 (1 ct.), Darpan Patel, 1/-/-/-, 4-0-29-1, Ketan Patel 3/2/0/3, 12-0-66-5 (1 ct.), Keyur Patel 1/1/0/3, Y Patel 1/1/0/0, M Ramaiah 3/2/1/84, 4-0-35-0, M Udani 1/1/0/7, 2-0-10-0, B Vyas 1/1/0/14, 7-1-25-1 (1 ct.), C Wright 2/1/0/48, 4-0-6-2, A Young 3/3/0/53, 2-0-17-1 (1 ct.), (Sub. fielder 1 ct.)

Stormclouds gather over Vice-Captain

**Report by Peter Berkeley (London Saints)**

With Southern England treated to a deluge on Sunday morning any possibility of play was unlikely. The respective organisers agreed around 10am to cancel the match as it appeared that the bad weather was to continue. A quick ring round to all the players and plans were underway for the more traditional Sunday pursuits of lunchtime pints followed by footie on TV. However, an hour later saw a few rays of sunshine and we decided that we were not happy to accept that summer was over so the match was on again after more phone calls.

Incredibly we managed to get away with four and half hours of cricket totally uninterrupted, despite being played against a backdrop of heavy storms with forked lightning. And yet as soon as the players left the field, the heavens opened. The Gents’ score may not have reflected it but London Saints’ team was heavily biased towards bowling with no recognised batsmen present.

For the fourth time in the past year, I was given the honour of captaining the team in DT’s absence and I now have a tossing record of:

Tossed 4, won 4!

Unfortunately, the playing record is:

Played 4, lost 4!

Quite frankly, having won it I didn’t have a clue what to do (secretly wished I’d lost it) but chose to field for two reasons. One being that we had a fine quality bowling line-up and would no doubt skittle The Gents out for next to nothing and secondly that it was about to chuck it down and the game would never get finished anyway!

Eight bowlers were used in total, and on another day Garry Burrell and Wath would have turned their respective arms.

Little John and ‘Swampy’ Frood took the first 10 overs and bowled extremely well, beating the bat regularly and deserved more than the one wicket in that period – Arran taking Denton via the safe hands of Dave Nanton.

The Wath caught the other opener, Buck, off Gavin Van Marle’s bowling. However, respective bats 3 and 4, Dhruv Patel and Husain proved to be the backbone of Gents innings as the run rate increased. When Patel holed out to Gavin from Steve Keenan’s bowling we looked as we were making inroads – the catching was first class with only one spillage (see Champagne Moment)!

Then came the game’s moment of controversy! Wahed, facing his second ball from Keenan received a ball that reared up and in attempting to fend of the delivery appeared to brush his gloves on the way to being claimed by wicketkeeper Speedtwin. We’re sometimes guilty of not being vociferous enough in our appealing, but not this time – all eyes went to the umpire and to the player expecting to see him walk. It was not to be and Wahed went on to bat superbly for his 34 not out. To be fair, The Gents are the most sporting of teams and I’m sure that if they felt there was any doubt, the wicket would have been given.

Martin Dewhirst bowled well and deservedly took a couple before, in true DT style, I messed up who was to bowl the important final overs, intending to bring John Loomes back for overs 33 and 35 – trouble was Dewy was already bowling over 33 before I realised it. Ignoring memories of Little John’s final over versus Norton when he went for 20, he was bought back to face Wahed and Sanjay who were in fine fettle – he went for just 3 runs – an excellent final over.

The impending storms meant for a quick turnaround which saw John Griffiths and The Wath open.

Snarler versus Wath developed into the most entertaining period of the game as Wath decided that we should get ahead of the run rate from the start which basically meant him playing the only way he knows. Wath top edged Snarler for 14 following a period of Wath swinging his bat and Snarler, well, Snarling!

As a result of Saturday night beer enduced bragging of his batting abilities, Steve Keenan wiped away his nosebleed and came in at 3 and played some impressive shots but as he got in, he then got out! This was to be the order of the innings. Gents bowling was tight and proving difficult to get away. With an eye on the increasing required run rate, rash shots were played with the inevitable results. John Griffiths and Garry Burrell stayed around longer than the rest but long before the end of the 35 overs it was clear that our only chance of a result was the overhanging storm clouds.

**Champagne moment**

On a day when every chance offered was snapped up, Steve Keenan, not the youngest member of the team, had the ball blasted at him off his own bowling and came close to taking the catch of the season. Instead, the ball bounced off his hands and Steve’s attempts to take the ball at the second attempt saw him produce a perfect horizontal belly flop!

**Man of the match**

As the figures below show, there were not really any obvious candidates as no one LSSC player dominated with bat or ball. John Griffiths and Garry Burrell for their batting and Martin Dewhirst for his two wickets are ‘highly commended’ but I’m taking the unusual decision of giving it to a bowler who didn’t take any wickets but sure as hell deserved to….**John Loomes**.