THE GENT

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| **November 2006** | **No. 110** |

Tales from the corridor of uncertainty

**GWLCC – controlling the midfield**



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**Not drowning but waving**

A season that was in danger of fizzling out in August ended as it began with a starburst of wins and may therefore be judged ultimately successful, with 13 games won and only eight lost, seven of those coming in nine games mid-season. It was the most prolific batting season in The Gents’ history, the totals of runs both for (3,383) and against (2,943) being records, as was the total of catches taken (73). There were three new record stands and an unprecedented number of six 200-plus totals for (including a club best 290) and two, plus a 199 on tour, against. Village XI’s Roland Heyman and Nabil Husain scored hundreds. Husain (twice), Hemin Patel and three opponents returned four wicket hauls. Though it had its frustrations, 2006 was a pleasant season of promising new players, run gluts and silverware (42-11 Cup, PALs League and the inaugural Old Tenisonians Twenty20), though The Gents had to make do with a 1-1 in the Bob Ashton Memorial Cup, each side gaining a convincing away win after the first game had been cancelled due to rain.

Disappointing aspects of 2006 were the resignations of Justin Norcott and Mark Sciberras, poor timekeeping at the more northerly games and the lack of support for the prestigious Bedouins match on one of the most beautiful and historic grounds in England, which ended a period in which mass absences drove the club’s organisers frantic. This nine-game slump from 17 June to 6 August saw hot weather, resignations, illness, holidays and strong opposition conjoin to deadly effect. Since Black Sunday in May 1992, Gent fans have clung to the hammering inflicted that day by West XI as proof that things could be worse, but those who made the journey to Hampton to watch or play in the Village XI game now have a new badge of honour.

Nobody was irresponsible regarding availability. It was just that there was not much of it in those high summer weeks! Everyone was solicitous, Lloyd Wahed even introducing Alex Young to replace him, yet there were six guests against Jay Bharat and three, none of whom stand-in captain Richard Gilkes had met before, against Brondesbury Casuals. Nabil Husain significantly missed all seven defeats in the dog days, while Messrs. Wright, Snelling and Dhruv Patel made only nine combined appearances. Lack of continuity is a fact of cricket life but it is to be hoped that in 2007 more members will be available midsummer, traditionally when the fixtures are toughest. With a modicum of planning it ought to be so. If not, perhaps electronic tagging should be introduced to stop players wandering off. Let it here be noted that the effort put in by Richard Gilkes to honour the Jay Bharat fixture, even persuading his bookmaker and brother to play, was exemplary. The guests were too numerous to mention but thanks are due to them and those who procured their services. In all, 47 men played.

The positives were plenty. Keen, talented and above all friendly new players in Lloyd Wahed, Sean Carroll, Rob Babar and, later, Alex Young and Darpan Patel gave The Gents a fresh look and it is to be hoped that they will stay with us to complement the old guard for years to come. Their introductions were well managed by Sanjay Patel, an increasingly subtle leader who had to ensure that everyone was involved. He often batted sacrificially low himself to ensure this. There was a rugged, vibrant atmosphere in the team, fine away wins at St. Anne’s, Hale, New Barbarian Weasels, London Saints and West XI, the long-overdue demolition of Urban Associates at Kingston and the sheer luxury of the facilities at Old Tenisonians.

Nabil Husain dominated the batting with four fifties on top of his hundred in an aggregate of 461 in only 11 innings. Jim Wright (twice), Mark Sciberras, Sanjay Patel and Richard Gilkes scored the other Gent fifties. Sanjay contributed 364 runs, 19 wickets, 10 catches and a stumping: Jim Wright 268 runs and 8 wickets in only 8 games, ending just 2 runs shy of Richard Gilkes in the batting. Dhruv Patel, Hemin Patel and Lloyd Wahed ended around the respectable 150 mark and had solid all-round seasons. Nabil also jointly headed the bowling on 20 wickets with Hemin Patel, though at a tidier economy rate, typical of what was more of a seamer’s year. Nabil’s low economy rate (3.4), so vital in limited over games, was bettered by Stuart Snelling (whose bag of wickets did not reflect his excellent, sometimes fearsome spells) and nearly matched by Rob Babar, Sanjay Patel and Jim Wright. The slow men, Tony Buck (18 wickets), Hemin (20), Dhruv (12) and Ketan Patel (7) had some good spells but still averaged four or five an over, copping flak against the likes of Village XI and Brondesbury, when the strike bowlers were absent. There was nowhere to hide if you bowled a long-hop or half-volley on one of the princely 2006 strips. The wicket would not bail you out. In this context, the fielding had to be applauded. It never went to pieces and Sanjay Patel and Paul Turpin enjoyed their spectacular returns of catches.

Yet of more moment than the statistical contributions were the loyalty and commitment shown by Messrs. Buck, Hemin and Sanjay Patel, who missed only seven games between them. The regular latter availability of Messrs. Gilkes and Denton was also greatly appreciated. A special mention must also be made of Ken Toft, who although injured for much of the season came along to support, score, umpire and introduce guest players.

May everyone winter well.

**Breaking rocks in the Herts sun**

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| **IMG_2032.JPG**  **All done for another year** | The 2006 season-defining moment took its time but duly arrived on a hot early autumn day in Hertfordshire, as chairman Richard Gilkes, visibly under the weather due to illness, and The Gents’ own Islamic nuclear weapon, Nabil Husain, smashed 110 runs in 14 overs in one of the great club stands to thrash West XI, both men scoring fifties. The West XI and Urban contests, played on successive Sundays, saw Nabil complement his fifties with four-wicket hauls, the first Gent to do this twice. But despite these feats, we are sure he will doff his cap to Richard, whose outstanding knock, both elegant and masterful, so delighted his many friends in the club. |

Nabil’s superb 50 was his third in successive innings, a feat that escaped even the great Mark Ashton. Indeed, only Nick Hubbocks has done it before, 12 years ago. Nick was a stocky, powerful, free-scoring left-handed batsman and seam bowler who did the Hat-Trick against West XI in 1988. In 1994 he became the first Gent to score 500 runs in a season (514 to be precise). Nostalgists feast your eyes below on the details of those games and the characters who starred in them. Oh, for a left-arm twirler today of the quality of the chap who spun Gents to victory against NELPS with 3 for 17. It would have been four too had there not been dogged resistance from the oppo No.11, who although he had never played cricket before actually boasted a jolly sound defence.

June 1994 truly was the Golden Age of the prosperously trousered, Messrs. Wilson, Thornicroft, Burman, Tupling and Best probably tipping the scales at 220 inches of waist and 90 stones between them.

**5-6-94:** **Wandham 184** (Wilson 107, Penny 41, Daly 20, Thornicroft 3-41) **lost to Gents 185 for 5** (Hubbocks 96, Wright 28, Tupling 3-61) **by 5 wickets**

**12-6-94:** **Gents 196** (Hubbocks 63, Maughan 59) **beat NELPS 71** (Hinde 27\*, Burman 3-17, Wilman 3-24**) by 125 runs**

**18-6-94:** **New Barbarian Weasels 171 for 9 dec.** (Best 75, Raderecht 30, Patrick 27, Ashton 7-55) **lost to Gents 172 for 6** (D Patel 56, Hubbocks 51, Tinker 4-37) **by 4 wickets**

**27-8-06:** **Gents 207 for 3** (Husain 54\*, C Wright 48, Snelling 31\*, Denton 30\*) **beat Enterprise 118 for 8** (Beaumont 50\*) **by 89 runs**

**3-9-06:** **Gents 218 for 5** (Husain 57, S Patel 46\*, Darpan Patel 31, Bell 3-36) **beat Urban Associates 134 for 9** (Howard 34, Bush 33, Husain 4-5) **by 84 runs**

**10-9-06: West XI 146** (Wright 54, Husain 4-25) **lost to Gents 147 for 3** (Husain 59, Gilkes 53, Wright 3-40) **by 7 wickets**

The Berkhamsted performance gained sporting plaudits from the Beggars, gasps of admiration elsewhere on the circuit and even praise from Geoffrey Boycott, who blustered on his web-site “This result were no surprise to me. Chris Wright must love The Gents, he’s put no pressure on Vine or Taylor to play and he’s put all his eggs in one basket in the second innings by bowling Dane reet through. That were crazy cricket were that. T’West XI captaincy comes with a shelf-life. And Wright has just reached the end of his.”

Controversy, seldom far submerged in these West London derbies, nearly surfaced with a jovial comedy attempt by West XI to introduce a new ball at the start of the second innings, an “honest mistake” according to the perpetrator and one picked up on by the eagle-eyed umpires before the Comedy Fraud Office was alerted. And there the matter shall rest, if tricky opening seamer Mr. Dane says his action was unintentional that is good enough for us.

The day concluded with some pleasant socialising from which certain Beggars excused themselves at intervals, only to return fifteen minutes later with glazed expressions, mumbling about how cool the Grateful Dead are and how America should get out of Vietnam. Spotted amid this bunch of felons was the winner of the 2003 ‘Strictly Come Puking’ competition and former Gent, who should have learned his lesson.

**The Bignell angle**

**Parity for Gents as Beggars’ season falls flat**

The Gentlemen of West London levelled the 2006 Bob Ashton Memorial Cup series at 1-1 after a convincing seven-wicket victory over West XI at Berkhamsted CC. Despite yet another 50 plus three wickets from Chris Wright, The Gents passed the Beggars’ total of 146 with 14 overs to spare thanks to half-centuries from Richard Gilkes and Nabil Husain. This victory, played out in perfect conditions on a flat pitch, was as impressive as the scoreline suggests and accurately reflected the current form of both sides.  
  
After suffering a mid-season slump and losing two of their long-standing players, The Gents have recovered well to record a string of credible victories in recent weeks, in direct contrast to West XI who, after retaining both the Lord Nelson Cup and the Bob Ashton Memorial Cup during a run of eight wins in nine outings between June and August, slumped to their fourth defeat in five games. This reverse would have been worse but for the Herculean effort of captain Chris Wright, who has carried the side over the past few games, his erstwhile colleagues all suffering a downturn in fitness, form and commitment. Indeed, Wright apart, only Vine and guest HP Denton have topped 30 in the batting column during the recent bad run, whilst only Steve Bignell of the regular bowlers has looked like taking any wickets. Having had seemingly fifteen players available for this fixture a week ago, the roster was reduced to thirteen by midweek, with Taylor and Bapu (not for the first time) then pulling out at the eleventh hour, selector Bender being obliged to pick himself and the injured Bignell, though fortunately local hero Phil Walton pitched up in time to prevent Stevie B aggravating a torn thigh muscle still further. The Beggar vice captain appears to have fallen out of love with cricket, if not with his team-mates, and his immediate future is shrouded in mystery.  
  
West XI were never at the races in this contest and did not recover from a highly impressive new ball spell from Snelling and Husain, the latter trapping a promising Barling leg before, then bowling Dane and Norcott with unplayable deliveries to leave the Westies tottering at 26 for 3. When Rennie fell to Sanjay Patel and Neepam Bhatt surrendered to Hemin Patel’s spin, the innings was in disarray at 67 for 5 in the 22nd. over, but a sensible stand between Wrighty and the dependable Andy Robinson added 56 in 11 overs. Chris was yorked by the returning Snelling, but the tail-enders scraped some useful runs together to lift the final total to 146.  
  
It was not an imposing score, and was soon put into context by Gilkes and Denton, who started the reply with some intent. Wrighty yorked Denton at 28, but this only brought Nabil Husain to the crease, who soon set about the bowling. Richard Gilkes is a vastly improved batsman, though he still has a habit of stepping to leg and hitting to the off side, though he rarely gave a chance on this occasion before reaching only his second fifty for The Gents. Despite some athletic fielding, particularly from Phil Walton, looking back to his agile best, the bowlers could do nothing to stem the tide as 110 were added for the second wicket in 14 overs. Wrighty returned to out both batsmen, Husain taken superbly by Rennie running back from mid-off and Gilkes fencing a short-pitcher to Walton at cover, but it was all too little, too late, The Gents coasting to victory with a massive 14 overs to spare.

**2006 Honours Board**

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| Batting  **132** Roland Heyman for Village XI 30 July  **103** Nabil Husain v. London Saints 4 June  **95\*** Jim Wright v. London Rams 25 June  **89\*** Robert Jones for Village XI 30 July  **78** Sanjay Patel v. London Owls 20 August  **76** Nabil Husain v. London Rams 25 June  **72** Abdul Ghaffar for Pak 18 June  **67** Jim Wright v. 12 Angry Men 14 May  **63** Mike Severn for London Rams 25 June  **59** Mark Sciberras v. 12 Angry Men 14 May  **59** Nabil Husain v. West XI 10 September  **57** Nabil Husain v. Urban Associates 3 September  **56** Mike Evans for St. Sanne’s Allstars 20 April  **54\*** Nabil Husain v. Enterprise 27 August  **54** Chris Wright for West XI 10 September  **53** Richard Gilkes v. West XI 10 September | **Batting (continued)**  **52** Ronesh Nathwani for Jay Bharat 23 July  **52\*** Ben Shaw for Salix 17 September  **50\*** Branch for Bedouins 6 August  **50\*** Susman for Bedouins 6 August  **50** J Rogersfor Brondesbury Casuals 2 July  **50\*** Chris Beaumont for Enterprise 27 August  **Bowling**  **6-38** Len Baker for Sunderland Supporters 17 June  **5-21** Jonathan Wasse for London Owls 20 August  **4-5** Nabil Husain v. Urban Associates 3 September  **4-8** Hemin Patel v. London Owls 20 August  **4-25** Nabil Husain v. West XI 10 September  **4-28** Nick Johnson for Brondesbury Casuals 2 July |

**The best captain The Gents never had?**

The Gents should be more like a business, thundered a senior player late last season, and introduce succession planning. A good point well made, though let us long desist from promoting, as happens in the real world, the crawlers and the felchers. Like major corporations, The Gents would also do well to have a disaster recovery plan to manage mass departures but that is for another time.

We now have a chance to plan, for in the most potentially seismic world event since Martin Luther shattered the geometry of global religion, politics and power by nailing his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of Wittenberg Church on 31 October 1517 (just six weeks after the end of the cricket season), Tony Buck has resigned as Gents vice captain! How prescient was Luther with Thesis 92: Away, then, with all those prophets who say to the people of Christ, ‘Peace, peace,’ and there is no peace! (Jeremiah 6:14)? In Tony’s own words, he was never so proud as when he captained The Gents, but is retiring to the backbenches, having been offered a peerage by Sanjay Patel. He will be known henceforth as Sir Swiss of Surbiton. Thus the man some have called the best captain The Gents never had (others would opt for Jim Wright) has stepped down, though a Churchillian resurrection can never be ruled out.

We well remember the days of 1997, with Mr. Wright, the Ashton protégé, the seemingly irresistible heir assumptive. Jim then went travelling in 1998, leading to Snarler’s appointment in time for the 1999 season. After his excellent tenure, Sanjay took over after 2002 and Tony was appointed his 2-i-c after a cameo appearance of one season from Mark Sciberras. A hard won promotion for Tony, then, at a difficult time for the club, but he showed his worth as a skilled, popular and, when leading himself, sometimes inspired V/C, blessed with judgement that Scibo described in 2005 as almost paranormal.

He has not been afraid to argue his case with the captain (perhaps as little too forcefully in 2006) and has represented the cases of players well. His high water mark of leadership was Pak 2005 (won without Snarler or Sanjay) with the tie against Weasels in 2003 not far behind: his low the late arrival at Brondesbury 2006 due to the crumbling rail infrastructure and his deposition on the day by Richard Gilkes.

A noble facet of Tony’s character is that he is a good listener and respects confidences. One player sent a list of grievances almost as long as Luther’s Ninety-Five Theses to him at the end of the season, yet nobody else has seen it as it was sent in confidence. He could, however, occasionally be misanthropic, moaning after Berkhamsted that he “hated having nobody to c\*\*t off after a match,” though judging by the smile on his face he seemed to be enjoying himself. Nor did he always keep any divergence of opinion with Sanjay to himself. Always his own man, he might not have lasted long playing for Henry VIII’s Tudor Nomads. “His Majefty had a fhocker today, Wolfey. He bowled total toff.”

The Gents enter the AGM with two candidates to replace Tony, in the blue corner thrusting young buck Hemin Patel and in the red HP Denton, differing personalities but both as keen as mustard and with many leadership qualities. May the best man win. Good luck to whoever takes over from Tony. Though not necessarily leading to the captaincy, it is far more than a tick on the CV. It is a position of influence and power, carries heavy responsibilities and is the second most important job in the club. Meanwhile, we thank Tony for his tireless and successful efforts in the role.

*Note – this discussion is for general information only and does not constitute legal, constitutional, moral or any other form of advice on the vice captaincy. You should not rely on this information to make (or refrain from making) any decisions. Always obtain independent, professional advice.*

**Oh, Had-dow!**

Some people are born in the wrong place and time. When school globes were coloured red, men like Tristan Haddow-Allen fought glorious colonial battles, ending their career festooned with medals before spending their twilight years in Esher bungalows. A pleasant recent encounter with this moral giant of a man revealed that not only did he score a magnificent 1,000 runs for St. Anne’s in 2006 (“Nobody could get me out from August, even when I batted one-handed”) but in doing so overcame **TWO** road traffic accidents when his bicycle was in collision with motor vehicles (and since you ask yes, they were both women drivers). His latest ambition is it seems to rejoin the Royal Navy, though whether on boats or submarines is unclear, but in either case God help the Queen’s enemies.**Whither shall I wander?**

**By Kit Rant**

It was disquieting to see our good friend Dhruv Patel in less than fine fettle after Berkhamsted. The poor lad was not shy in letting his fellow passengers on the way home know that he was unhappy at not bowling in a 40 over match. It seemed he was then down to bat high up – indeed SP was heard to say to him at half-time “Your day starts now” – but as victory hove into view the batting order was juggled to his personal disadvantage, giving Paul Turpin and Rob Babar the chance to knock off the remaining runs, which they took. You can argue the rights and wrongs all day but Paul and Rob have not been given that many opportunities at the north end of the batting and it was good to see their promotion. Incidentally, Sanjay himself did not bat on three occasions in 2006, and on four other occupied positions in the lower order. Most got a fair shake in 2006, Dhruv included.

Of more concern, and here the pint-sized twirler really does have a point, the kit was stored permanently at his drum for the last five weeks of the season, which caused some angst as he only played in two of those matches. He was thus deprived of full value for his family Sundays, having to wait in while the gear was collected.

The tradition is that the captain should carry the kit, but, ever in the vanguard of avant garde planning, The Gents, shocked to be told one year ago that the kit would winter in a Berkhamsted CC ante-room, appointed Graham Butt as Kit Manager. Now Graham, being a healthy red-blooded sort of cove, duly spilled his beans and got his lady friend up the duff over the winter, thereby missing all but one game. In passing, what is it with these rampant 12 Angry Men implants? SP was also going to offer a contract to Luton Town supporter David Hylden, who performed so valiantly in the final few matches, only to learn that he too had impregnated his young lady. HP – it really is time to source some confirmed bachelors from your alma mater.

The kit was strewn around eight Gent garages and hallways in 2006, a risible state of affairs. Although only one loss was reported, it was material, the new wicket-keeper’s pads purchased by the Editor lasting one whole week before disappearing. At thirty quid, it was biggest haemorrhage of club assets since Mr. Snelling mislaid a pile of sponsored shirts in 2002, having thought he had left them ‘on the side’ at home.

If somebody owed the club thirty nicker in match fees there would be hell to pay, and rightly so! The club’s assets are vested in players’ subscriptions/match fees and the kit but whereas the former has been managed correctly, the latter has been a shambles. A kit manager – preferably one who will spend the winter firing blanks – is badly needed. Someone has to take ownership of this problem.

**An unusual occurrence**

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| http://newsimg.bbc.co.uk/media/images/40189000/gif/_40189702_umpire_signals_short_298.gif | The Urban tussle was notable for One Short being signalled in both innings, by umpires Denton and Clive Howard’s dad. Scorer Gilkes correctly debited the former run, but Howard’s signal was missed by Urban scorer Burman, in no way his fault as he was fending off banter from several Urbs. Another unusual event was the non-dismissal of captain Sanjay Patel to a tasty Ian Johnson bouncer that brushed his glove en route to ’keeper Clift. The umpire saw it, SP was ready to walk…but nobody (apart from recent SP run out victim Ketan Patel gallivanting behind the boundary) appealed. He was right to stand his ground, as otherwise he might have been perceived, in the absence of an appeal, as retiring himself out, a condescending act, though sadly one perpetrated in days of yore by Gents Ashton and Wright. |

The morality of ‘walking’ is so convoluted that serious misinterpretation can result. On the MCC’s 1964-65 tour of South Africa, the last for many years, England player Ken Barrington (Surrey) walked in a Test after the umpire had declined the appeal for a catch. Doubtless expecting approval for his action, imagine his surprise when the Saffer press climbed on their high horse, accusing him of humiliating the umpire. Perhaps the safest course is to leave it up to the men in the middle.

**Game 20: Fairfield RG, Kingston, Sunday 3 September. Gents won toss. Sunny, 26°**

#### Nabil and Sanjay whistle down the wind

On a hot, windy day, sterling batsmanship, led by Nabil Husain and Sanjay Patel after a fruitful start by the top three, earned the first Gents’ victory against Urban since 2001. The Gents’ 218 was their highest in this long-running series and Nabil’s only the second Gent fifty after Mark Ashton’s in 1996. Though Clive Howard and Mark Bush posted 72 in reply after Alex Bell’s head injury, Urban fell behind the rate and Sanjay was able to utilise eight bowlers before stumps were drawn at 7pm with the hosts convincing winners. The game never quite caught fire, though it provided plenty of entertainment for the largest home crowd in many a moon.

Most two-hundred totals in the club’s history have contained at least one comedy low score, but one searched in vain for such dysfunctionalism here. HP was away with a straight four driven off the back foot and dominated the opening stand before being bowled Van der Merwe, who had moved to round the wicket and tucked him up. Gilkes and the stylish Darpan, in his first Gent innings, were serene in scoring at four an over and though Rich fell to one of three Young catches, the halfway point saw Gents 89 for 2 off 17 overs. Darpan, like Gilkes, was out propping one up to short cover, having hit four fours. Hemin edged behind after lofting a giant four but Nabil (eight fours) and Sanjay (four) added 57 in no time, though umpire HP was sorely tempted to give Nabil out lbw to the ten-year-old Charlie Bush. Reprieved, Nabil took three fours off Young’s first three balls and The Gents were building a very healthy total indeed. The Saudi’s latest extravaganza (that’s 397 runs in nine 2006 knocks) ended on 57 with a well-judged catch at long on, whereupon Sanjay, now back to his prolific best, took command. Forty-nine came for the sixth wicket, of which Buck’s score was 8. The skipper ended 46 not out.

Paceman Alex Aitchison, introduced via 12AM, was The Gents’ 47th. player of 2006. He went wicketless after five torrid overs and it is to be hoped that he will play again, lest he remembered by future cricket historians as The Man Who Poleaxed Bell, a vicious lifter third ball clumping the journalist just below the conk, blood dripping onto the princely batting strip. Alex was helped to the boundary, patched up and bravely resumed his innings at the fall of the ninth wicket. Howard and Bush are accomplished batsmen and rarely looked in trouble, though they were unable to score freely, Alex, H Bomb and Ketan conceding only 69 runs in their 19 overs. Ketan’s leg-spinners had them both, Sanjay taking a well-judged catch at long on to dismiss Bush before Howard was pinned lbw. Buck soon had South African Plum guest Hein Van der Merwe, also lbw, as The Gents began to make a series of incisive cuts into the Urban underbelly. Nabil bowled four men, Urban’s pristine white stumps cartwheeling in the early evening sun, to end up with 4 for 5. Master Gilkes took two before Bell bravely returned to score 11 out of an unbroken tenth wicket stand of 17 with Steve Young.

Though to their great credit they did not blame their defeat on it, Urban were definitely weakened without Scott Kirk, Adrian Gathercole, Graham Young and George Joseph. Indeed, The Gents, like schoolboys enjoying their first adult periodical, feasted their eyes on the lower Urban batsmen, never having seen any of them get his pads on before. You half expected one of the old campaigners like Buck to prod one to see if he was real.

A solid victory was rounded off with some good socialising by both teams and supporters in the Albion, whose landlord promised to sort The Gents for teas, free parking, etc. in 2007, a pleasant and welcoming touch. The pitch played better than Victoria RG and this venue is rapidly gaining popularity.

**Gents**; Denton 18, Gilkes 19, Darpan Patel 31, Husain 57, H Patel 10, \*S Patel 46 not out, Buck 8 not out, Hylden, †Turpin, Aitchison and K Patel did not bat, Extras 33, **218 for 5 (35 overs)**

**FoW;** 30, 69, 90, 112, 169

**Bowling;** Van der Merwe 2-31, I Johnson 0-40, P Johnson 0-30, Bell 3-36, M Bush 0-36, C Bush 0-15, Young 0-23

**Catches;** Young 3, Clift 1

**Urban Associates**; Bell 11 not out, Howard 34, \*M Bush 33, Van der Merwe 6, Naidoo 14, C Bush 0, I Johnson 2, Adams 0, Young 13 not out, P Johnson 0, †Clift 0, Extras 22, **134 for 9 (35 overs)**

**FoW;** 72, 88, 88, 103, 106, 106, 106, 113, 117

**Bowling;** Aitchison 0-17, H Patel 0-28, K Patel 2-24, Hylden 0-13, Husain 4-5, Buck 1-17, Gilkes 2-14, S Patel 0-10

**Catches;** S Patel 1

### Won by 84 runs

**Game 21: Berkhamsted CC, Sunday 10 September. West XI won toss. Sunny, 26°**

#### Blistering Gents’ stand destroys the Beggars

What a victory! It has been over four years since The Gents produced such a spectacular display against their old rivals, fielding first on a hot day, bowling West XI out then winning at a canter with 7 wickets and 14 overs in hand. Nabil Husain, with four wickets and 59 with the bat, produced one of the great all round performances in this series, though Chris Wright was not far behind him, Richard Gilkes struck his second fifty as 110 came for the second wicket in only 14 overs, and Paul Turpin took three spectacular catches. Only the groundfielding (“A 4/10 performance” according to the gruff Mr. Buck) let The Gents down; three sloppy boundaries were conceded, which ultimately spared the hosts a nine-wicket defeat. Future historians will gaze in amazement at a scorecard in which Jim Wright, Dhruv, Sanjay and Hemin Patel, a potential top four, did not bat.

Tails failed for SP and Wright chose to bat. Nabil, bowling downhill very fast, immediately troubled the openers, Norcott and Barling, whose recent 137 against St. Anne’s was the second highest individual innings for West XI in a record club total of 297 for 6. The powerful ’keeper struck three fours though but became the first of three victims in the Saudi’s blistering first spell, pinned lbw. Dane was then yorked middle stump, Norcott bowled pushing forward and The Gents were on fire. The rest of the innings was built around a responsible 54 in 26 overs from Wright, containing only three fours and a six, such was his self-restraint. Rennie and Robinson (in a 50 partnership) gave him stout support, but this was not to be newly married Neepam Bhatt’s day, beautifully caught low down at mid-wicket by Paul Turpin in H Bomb’s first over. When Paul clung on to a another tough low chance at fly slip off Rob Babar to dismiss Robinson, to be followed seven runs later by Wright’s demise to a pearler of a Snelling yorker, The Gents were well on top and though the tail eked out a few the innings closed early for a below par 146. Sanjay had controlled his troops well, even administering a loud team wigging, in the manner of previous club captains, coincidentally just after conceding seven runs off an over.

Wright decided that with such a fast outfield The Gents could not be restricted, they would have to be bowled out. It was therefore total attack with himself and Chris Dane charging in for the first ten overs, supported by attacking fields. HP and Mr. Gilkes were resolute in scoring 28 off the first eight overs before Wright bowled HP. Enter Nabil Husain, given the three berth. What followed was a glorious episode in the annals of the club, a boundary-strewn, chanceless partnership of 110, only the second Gent centurion stand against the Beggars after Ashton and Wright’s 127 in 1995. Nabil’s eleven fours came all round the ground, six of Richard’s seven on the off side, where his timing and placement, despite heavy fielder reinforcements, were exemplary.

Drinks were taken with The Gents 110 for one, prompting Mr. Hill to observe that, had The Gents batted first, they might even have overhauled the West XI total of 263 posted on Black Sunday 1992. Certainly, the batsmen were playing like men with pressing evening engagements. At one point, when Nabil charged Wright and lifted him for successive fours to deep long-off, the batsmanship was sensational. Both men fell in quick succession with victory in sight, leaving Paul Turpin and Rob Babar to steer a very happy ship calmly to harbour.

West XI were powerless to stop the onslaught and took their defeat in good spirit, having held onto the Bob Ashton Memorial Cup rather tenuously, as only two games could be played. They had been weakened by the late withdrawal of Taylor and Bapu, who seems to be fitting nicely into the role of official team eccentric, a prestigious living with much history attached and much current competition. Any man who turns up at the Bank of England looking for the Bank of England cricket ground is alright by us. Honours even, bring on 2007.

**West XI**; †Barling 13, Norcott 2, Dane 3, Rennie 9, \*Wright 54, Bhatt 7, Robinson 13, Bender 7, Hill 1, Walton 6 not out, Laing 2, Extras 28, **146 all out (37.1 overs)**

**FoW;** 16, 25, 26, 51, 67, 121, 128, 136, 139, 146

**Bowling;** Husain 4-25,Snelling 2-25, Wright 1-22, S Patel 1-22, H Patel 1-17, Babar 1-26

**Catches;** Turpin 3

**Gents**; †Denton 9, Gilkes 53, Husain 59, Turpin 3 not out, Babar 5 not out, Wright, D Patel, \*S Patel, H Patel, Buck and Snelling did not bat, Extras 18, **147 for 3 (26 overs)**

**FoW;** 28, 138, 141

**Bowling;** Wright 3-40, Dane 0-28, Bhatt 0-28, Hill 0-14, Laing 0-29

**Catches;** Rennie 1, Walton 1

### Won by 7 wickets

**Game 22: GSK Sports Club, Greenford, Sunday 17 September. Gents won toss. Sunny, 23°**

#### Wrong Greenford! Classy Salix end unbeaten run

Greenford has two claims to fame. One, Brian Wilson and his shrink Eugene Landy flew in incognito in 1988 to surprise and delight a Beach Boys fans convention in a local church hall, performing three numbers at the piano (including the sublime ‘Surfer Girl’) and two, it hosted the only benign Gents/West XI game to date, the 1997 May friendly. Thus, in this gentle place, with only the minor controversy of Bhatt’s dismissal, a season of promise ended in Gents’ disappointment as Salix edged a nervy encounter by 12 runs. On the back foot due to late arrivals and, latterly, injury, the visitors fought hard but Salix gained crucial momentum in the final overs of their innings and then dismissed key batsmen Husain and Bhatt cheaply. Though the lower order fought well, victory was Salix’s with 14 balls to spare. Thus The Gents were unable to win what would have been a record seventh successive game, deprived by a worthy opposition. Though few cricketers relish the end of the season, a look around the clubhouse post-match – Snarler and the skipper hobbling, Gilkes unwell and Toft long-term crook – meant that the 2006 season, enjoyable as it was, did not finish a moment too soon.

Missing late arrivals Husain, Wahed and Carroll, Sanjay’s tactical options were limited. He chose to field and soon bowled Kluth. He kept Snarler – handicapped by a leg injury in his last few overs – on for his entire allotment, the big man striking off his short run, HP taking the catch off Dyson. A sensational one-handed Husain catch saw off Kulasingam but captain Ben Shaw found a resilient partner in Padmore, adding 60. As Snarler, such a good death bowler, had been bowled out and Husain used up, to surprisingly little effect, in the middle of the innings, Wahed bore the brunt of the inevitable late assault with the bizarre figures of 3-0-33-4, including a rocket of a caught and bowled via a sensitive part of his anatomy. Salix doubled their score in the last eight overs, good going on a dead, end of season pitch.

It was the highest score in the clubs’ three fixtures to date but one The Gents, with solid form in recent weeks, felt confident of chasing down. What followed was a competent enough but somewhat atomized reply, in which wickets fell at crucial times. Denton and Gilkes began to reprise their sensible Berkhamsted showing before HP was again yorked. Bhatt then fell caught behind, though he was adamant the ball had clipped his rather comedically outsize pads. He hung around, clearly disappointed at the umpire’s decision.

There were no weaknesses in Salix’s attack, the pivotal moment of the innings arriving when Heaton deceived Husain with a well-conceived and executed slower ball, bowling him off stump. Gilkes fell bowled by the spinner Lumsden three runs later and Salix were on top. But lo and behold if the middle and lower order did not knuckle down and rally round. Each batman from five to eleven got in, defended well and played some good shots, only to fall when looking well set. There were a couple of panicky shots that were perhaps unnecessary as The Gents were up with the rate, despite canny bowling changes and wise field placing by captain Shaw. Master Snelling’s suicide by reverse sweep, for example, rightly caused a minute’s silence to be observed.

Wise Buck, the gutsy Carroll, the elegant Wahed, the dashing Snarler and the brave, injured skipper, unable to play anything off the front foot and batting with a runner, gave their team-mates heart but each fell, leaving Hylden and Bender to try to finish it off. Alas, Husain fingered Hylden plumb lbw to a Lumsden full-toss and it was all over. When three batsmen of the calibre of Bhatt, Husain and Sanjay Patel score just 19 runs between them you are not going to win many games of cricket, but the other Gents so nearly did enough. It was not, however, to be.

**Salix**; Spillane 20, Kluth 1, Dyson 5, \*†Shaw 52 not out, Kulasingam 1, Padmore 31, Fletcher 1, Harvey 2, Lumsden 5, Heaton 1 not out, Sanwalka did not bat, Extras 27, **150 for 8 (35 overs)**

**FoW;** 16, 20, 50, 64, 124, 127, 131, 144

**Bowling;** Snelling 1-17, S Patel 1-25, Buck 1-24, Bhatt 1-16, Husain 0-38, Wahed 4-33

**Catches;** Husain 2, Carroll 1, Denton 1, Gilkes 1, Wahed 1

**Gents**; †Denton 8, Gilkes 23, Bhatt 1, Husain 5, Buck 11, Carroll 13, Wahed 18, Snelling 11, \*S Patel 13, Hylden 5, Bender 6 not out, Extras 24, **138 all out (32.4 overs)**

**FoW;** 17, 24, 39, 42, 71, 89, 107, 110, 132, 138

**Bowling;** Kulasingam 1-24, Heaton 2-28, Padmore 1-20, Lumsden 2-16, Harvey 1-16, Fletcher 3-29

**Catches;** Dyson 1, Shaw 1

**Stumpings;** Shaw 1

### Lost by 12 runs

The 2006 season has now finished

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 (Twenty20)** | | | | **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 (Twenty20)** | | | | **Won** by 8 wickets | | | **-** | | | | - | | |
| Sun 27 Aug | | Enterprise (Twenty20) | | | | **Won** by 89 runs | | | **-** | | | | - | | |
| Sun 3 Sept | | Urban Associates | | | | **Won** by 84 runs | | | **Whalers** | | | | **Lost** by 1 wicket | | |
| Sun 10 Sept | | **West XI (BAMC)** | | | | **Won** by 7 wickets | | | **Gents (BAMC)** | | | | **Lost** by 7 wickets | | |
| Sun 17 Sept | | Salix | | | | **Lost** by 12 runs | | | **-** | | | | - | | |
| Record  **Runs**  **Wickets**  **Catches**  **Stumpings** | | Played **22** Won **13** Drawn **1** Lost **8**  Husain 461, S Patel 364, Gilkes 270, Wright 268  Husain/H Patel 20, S Patel 19, Buck 18, Snelling 15  S Patel 10, Turpin 9, Gilkes 8, H Patel 7, D Patel 5  Denton 2, S Patel/Turpin 1 | | | | | | | Played **22** Won **11** Lost **11**  Wright 526, Bhatt 455, Bapu 339, Barling 277  Bignell 23, Wright 18, Laing 17, Dane 15  Wright 9, Bender 8, Bapu/Norcott/Rennie 6  Barling 7, Bapu 2, Denton 1 | | | | | | |
|  | **M.** | | **I.** | **NO.** | **R** | | **Av.** | **Ct./St.** | | **O** | **M** | **R** | | **W** | **Avg.** |
| R Babar | 8 | | 5 | 1 | 22 | | 5.50 | 2 | | 40 | 6 | 144 | | 10 | 14.40 |
| D Bender | 6 | | 4 | 3 | 17 | | 17.00 | 1 | | 5 | 0 | 22 | | 0 | N/A |
| N Bhatt | 4 | | 4 | 0 | 105 | | 26.25 | 1 | | 18 | 3 | 66 | | 2 | 33.00 |
| A Buck | 21 | | 15 | 2 | 95 | | 7.31 | 3 | | 52.3 | 4 | 258 | | 18 | 14.33 |
| A Burman | 4 | | 2 | 0 | 5 | | 2.50 | - | | - | - | - | | - | N/A |
| S Carroll | 10 | | 7 | 1 | 39 | | 6.50 | 4 | | 8 | 0 | 29 | | 3 | 9.67 |
| P Denton | 13 | | 11 | 2 | 114 | | 12.67 | 3/2 | | 1 | 0 | 20 | | 0 | N/A |
| R Gilkes | 16 | | 15 | 1 | 270 | | 19.29 | 8 | | 9 | 3 | 43 | | 4 | 11.75 |
| N Husain | 12 | | 11 | 3 | 461 | | 57.63 | 5 | | 55.3 | 11 | 189 | | 20 | 9.45 |
| D Hylden | 4 | | 1 | 0 | 5 | | 5.00 | 1 | | 6 | 0 | 38 | | 2 | 19.00 |
| D Patel | 13 | | 10 | 0 | 176 | | 17.60 | 5 | | 47.2 | 3 | 209 | | 12 | 17.42 |
| H Patel | 19 | | 15 | 1 | 149 | | 10.64 | 7 | | 91.5 | 11 | 459 | | 20 | 22.95 |
| K Patel | 4 | | 2 | 0 | 3 | | 1.50 | 1 | | 19 | 1 | 90 | | 7 | 12.86 |
| S Patel | 19 | | 17 | 7 | 364 | | 36.40 | 10/1 | | 71.3 | 11 | 265 | | 19 | 13.95 |
| M Sciberras | 6 | | 5 | 0 | 124 | | 24.80 | 1 | | 20 | 2 | 76 | | 5 | 15.20 |
| S Snelling | 13 | | 7 | 1 | 74 | | 12.33 | - | | 77.5 | 9 | 261 | | 15 | 17.40 |
| K Toft | 8 | | 5 | 3 | 23 | | 11.50 | 2 | | - | - | - | | - | N/A |
| P Turpin | 7 | | 4 | 2 | 10 | | 5.00 | 9/1 | | - | - | - | | - | N/A |
| L Wahed | 9 | | 8 | 3 | 159 | | 31.80 | 3 | | 29.1 | 3 | 134 | | 11 | 12.18 |
| J Wright | 8 | | 7 | 2 | 268 | | 53.60 | 1 | | 29.3 | 2 | 109 | | 8 | 13.63 |

**Also played (3 or fewer games);** A Aitchison 1/-/-/-, 5-2-17-0, R Bailey 1/1/0/4, 2-0-22-0, B Bhatt 1/1/1/4, 6-1-25-0 (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, 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, 2/1/0/31, 4-0-29-1, Keyur Patel 1/1/0/3, Y Patel 1/1/0/0, M Ramaiah 3/2/1/84, 4-0-35-0, (1 ct.), I Richmond 1/1/0/6, 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.)

**Sanjay threatens mentor’s records**

There is breaking news from the Gent House madrassa, where pupils rock backwards and forwards reciting old match reports and rambling AGM speeches, while denouncing the enemies of Gentlam. The imam reports that Sanjay Patel has overhauled Mark Ashton in the career aggregate list of wickets and catches, and is within sniffing distance of the great man’s runs record, though Snarler Snelling’s mammoth wickets aggregate looks safe for many years. Great days.

A recent conversation with the iconic Ashton on this matter was revealing. Expecting a beefy, post-9pm watershed rant along the lines of “The question I would ask, mate, is how many more f\*\*\*ing games did it take ’im to geddem?” he merely posited a gentle “It would be interesting to look at how many not outs I got compared to people like Bignell” the implication being that the dual passport holder spent his Gent career in average-protection mode. In fact, there was little difference between them, Ashton’s innings being denoted by asterisks 19 times in 144, Steve’s 10 in 64.

Sanjay, who passed his 3,000 runs milestone in 2005, posted 364 more in 2006 and now stands on 3,381, just 441 shy of Lord Aycliffe’s 3,822, with an average of 25.4 compared to Mark’s 30.2. Jim Wright and Dhruv Patel now stand respectively on 2,942 (average 24.1) and 2,851 (average 20.1). Mr. Ashton is therefore likely to forfeit his jewelled crown soon, possibly in 2007 if Sanjay were to bat up the order more. Furthermore, with the stumping of London Saint Frood in pitch darkness by HP Denton at Tolworth, Sanjay overtook Mark in the wickets column to go second. Dhruv is now only 20 away from Mark, having taken his 200th. wicket, also at Tolworth, when Griffiths was caught by, yes you’ve guessed it, Sanjay.

Sanjay is growing into the job of captain each year and The Gents were most grateful for his wisdom at Berkhamsted. The likely-looking Wright/Bhatt pair had been made flesh when H Bomb was brought on to bowl, whereupon Paul Turpin, lurking on the leg side, began receiving conflicting, multilingual advice from bowler, ’keeper and, inimitably, third man Dhruv on precisely where he should be fielding. He escalated the matter to the captain, who moved him five yards fine of his original position. Neepam then clipped a catch straight to the adhesive young architect, a learning experience for any youngsters watching out there.

As with Snarler, however, Sanjay has begun to assume Mr. Ashton’s mannerisms. They all end up like him, mumbling and mooching and dispensing pep bollockings willy nilly. The tour bollocking – as The Gents were sweating blood in searing heat to keep the runs down – was a classic of its kind. The weird thing is though, it worked. Having like Masher a strong throwing arm on him, SP often captains from the deep (something Stuart rarely did) which will give him the chance in quieter 2007 moments to practice the one Ashtonism that has so far eluded him: stalwart baiting. Ashton had this down to a fine art, once calling the Editor of *The Gent* “a pervert” after a minor misfield and was usually on his case for some trivial misdemeanour.

Shaun Mathias is a good pal of GWLCC whom we would like to see again in 2007 yet his dismissal c S Patel b K Patel in August did not at first sight seem of particular moment, but it meant that SP overhauled Mark at the head of the all-time catching table. The respective totals now stand at 62 to 59. An interesting fielding metric is catches per game. With a qualification of ten matches, Paul Turpin, 14 catches in 16 games, currently heads this.

Note also the coming megastar, Nabil Husain, who despite mysteriously disappearing for large chunks of 2006 has crashed the top 10 batting, at an impressive average of 43.0. We are currently not expecting to see the young man in 2007 but he has revealed his plans are still up in the air so he might be around.

**Top 10 Gent career aggregates**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Runs** |  | **Wickets** |  | **Catches** |
| Mark Ashton | 3,822 | Stuart Snelling | 310 | Sanjay Patel | 62 |
| Sanjay Patel | 3,381 | Sanjay Patel | 225 | Mark Ashton | 59 |
| Jim Wright | 2,942 | Mark Ashton | 222 | Ian Maughan | 40 |
| Dhruv Patel | 2,851 | Dhruv Patel | 202 | Dhruv Patel | 39 |
| Tony Buck | 1,485 | Daniel Todd | 148 | Mark Sciberras | 38 |
| Nick Boddington | 1,416 | Jim Wright | 130 | Tony Buck | 37 |
| Nabil Husain | 1,334 | Nick Boddington | 98 | Stuart Snelling | 37 |
| Ian Maughan | 1,131 | Tony Buck | 89 | Jim Wright | 33 |
| Mike Hughes | 1,121 | Des Dolan | 74 | Mike Hughes | 24 |
| Nick Hubbocks | 1,094 | Mark Sciberras | 73 | Nick Boddington | 23 |

**Terry and June – The Cricket AGM**

**Series 9 Episode 8 (not broadcast due to industrial action)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| C:\Documents and Settings\grfinab\My Documents\terryscotttransporter0zs.bmp | **Terry:** Oh no, June, June! What a bad day. I drove my brand new company car into the river!  **June:** Oh, Terry.  **Terry:** This is a disaster. My shiny Cortina is a complete write off. I’m sorry, darling, now I won’t be able to take you and Beattie to the new garden centre tomorrow. But never mind, instead I’ll be able to go to see the boys at the cricket AGM in Surbiton.  **June:** But Terry… |

**Terry:** It’ll be marvellous, June. I’ve played a lot of games this season and I’m hopeful I might be nominated for the committee. I’m widely respected, you know.

**June:** But darling, you never score any runs.

**Terry:** That’s not true, June. I scored 26 not out in August…

**June:** …against aunt Lucy bowling a tennis ball underarm in the garden, darling! In any case, how will you get down there?

**Terry:** I’ll get the train, June. It’s quite simple. Purley to East Croydon, then Clapham Junction, then…

**June:** But remember last time, Terry? You got confused.

**Terry:** I know and ended up in Berkhamsted.

**June:** Alright then darling, you go. I know you enjoy it. Oh, I forgot to say, Sir Dennis phoned.

**Terry:** Sir?! Oh marvellous, June. I invited him over to dinner next week to discuss my promotion. Only don’t cook him rice again, he was a prisoner of war under the Japanese and ate nothing but rice for three years. When can he come over?

**June:** No, darling, it wasn’t about your invitation to dinner. He wanted to talk about cricket. He wants a lift to the AGM *and* wants to join the cricket club as well next season. He said you could propose him as a member.

**Terry:** Oh no, June!

**June:** He said to pick him up in your new company car at five!

**Terry:** Oh no, June, June!

**June:** It’ll help your promotion prospects though, darling. But don’t get him to take the train.

**Terry:** Why not?

**June:** He said after building the Burma Railway he never wanted to set foot in a train again!

**Terry:** Oh, Ju-u-u-une! (close-up of despondent Terry, cue theme music and credits).