



# Decade 3



Andrew Burman

Gentlemen of West London CC 2008-2017

## 2008 Played 22 Won 13 Drawn 1 Tied 2 Lost 6

**Debuts** Inkollu, Iqbal, Kalidindi, Leeder  
**Runs** Inkollu 459, N. Khan 281, Husain 256, Denton 227, Gilkes 195, S. Patel 169, Sciberras 151  
**Wickets** H. Patel 33, Snelling 29, Inkollu 19, S. Patel 19, Sciberras 18, Iqbal 11  
**Ct./St.** Denton 5/2, Khan 6, H. Patel 6, Sciberras 6  
**Notes** Record winning margin by Gents: 245 runs *v.* Sloane Club (275-3 *v.* 30)

27/4	Fairfield RG	<b>St Anne's Allstars 103</b> (T. Haddow-Allen 32, Begley 21, H. Patel 4-14, Sciberras 3-18) <b>Gents 104-1</b> (N. Khan 66*, Denton 24)	Won 9 wickets
4/5	Victoria RG	<b>Gents 123</b> (Denton 31 ret. hurt) <b>Kingston Left Handers 77-8</b> (Rajveer 39*, S. Patel 4-1)	Drawn
11/5	Burton Court	<b>Gents 275-3</b> (Inkollu 80, Husain 69*, Gilkes 45, N. Khan 24) <b>Sloane Club 30</b> (H. Patel 3-0)	Won 245 runs
18/5	Barn Elms	<b>Gents 162-9</b> (N. Khan 46, Husain 32, Inkollu 28) <b>West XI 79</b> (C. Wright 44, Husain 5-13) <b>BA</b>	Won 83 runs
1/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>London Saints 41</b> (Iqbal 5-7) <b>Gents 42-3</b>	Won 7 wickets
1/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 120-8</b> (Denton 23, Berkeley 4-13) <b>London Saints 117-8</b> (Berkeley 44*, Thomas 31, H. Patel 4-14)	Won 3 runs
7/6	CSSC Chiswick	<b>Gents 253-5</b> (Husain 109, N. Khan 51, J. Wright 47) <b>New Barbarian Weasels 99-7</b> (Jeavons 36, Sciberras 3-16)	Won 154 runs
15/6	Fairfield RG	<b>Cairns Fudge 166</b> (Kent 53, Fargher 33, Carroll 23, Hibbert 5-11) <b>Gents 167-8</b> (Inkollu 63, Sciberras 29, Kent 3-25)	Won 2 wickets
22/6	Fairfield RG	<b>London Rams 71</b> (Snelling 3-11) <b>Gents 72-9</b> (Patel 5-11)	Won 1 wicket
22/6	Fairfield RG	<b>Gents 122-5</b> (Babar 50*) <b>London Rams 83-8</b> (Lee 25, Rothwell 21)	Won 39 runs
29/6	Fairfield RG	<b>Gents 62</b> (Denton 29, Rekhi 5-6) <b>Purley Arms 63-2</b> (Shergold 20)	Lost 8 wickets
6/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Old Tenisonians 141</b> (Kain 49, Perkins Jr. 34, Kalidindi 4-19) <b>Gents 109</b> (Denton 21, Perkins Jr. 3-6)	Lost 32 runs
13/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>West XI 127</b> (Vine 25, Taylor 20, H. Patel 4-12) <b>Gents 125</b> (Iqbal 43*, Husain 23, Hill 3-22) <b>BA</b>	Lost 2 runs
20/7	Alexandra RG	<b>Gents 181-7</b> (Inkollu 33, D. Patel 29, N. Khan 25, Gilkes 24) <b>Enterprise 77</b> (Cloete 57, H. Patel 4-7, Leeder 3-31)	Won 104 runs
27/7	Burntwood Lane	<b>Gents 91</b> (Denton 24, Rapusingha 4-15, Alford 3-15) <b>Battersea Ironsides 92-9</b> (Greenidge 38, Inkollu 4-22)	Lost 1 wicket
3/8	Fairfield RG	<b>Gents 133-9</b> (Inkollu 61*) <b>West One 134-7</b> (Williamson 33, Greig 28, Waddell 22, Zonneveld 20, Snelling 4-39)	Lost 3 wickets
17/8	Old Haberdashers	<b>Gents 189-8</b> (Sciberras 37, Denton 30, Inkollu 24, S. Patel 28, Iqbal 22, Nanton 3-18) <b>London Saints 155-9</b> (Patel 46, Wathan 25, S. Patel 3-19, Sciberras 3-33)	Won 34 runs
24/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 124-10</b> (Wahed 22, Dulaph 3-13, Nimit 3-28) <b>Close PF 108-9</b> (Donald 32, Dubey 28, Kumar 20)	Won 16 runs
24/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>West London Invitation XI 140-8</b> (Bhatt 44, C. Wright 36) <b>Gents 140</b> (Gilkes 37)	Tied
7/9	HSBC	<b>West XI 153-5</b> (Dane 62*, Taylor 24) <b>Gents 57</b> (Taylor 3-13) <b>BA</b>	Lost 96 runs
14/9	GSK Greenford	<b>Gents 89</b> (Inkollu 35) <b>Salix 89</b> (Keaton 23, Snelling 5-7)	Tied
28/9	Hale Common	<b>Hale 120</b> (Davies 20) <b>Gents 124-6</b> (Inkollu 33, Leeder 20)	Won 4 wickets

The club entered 2008 with S. Patel, captain since 2003, leading a side in transition. Two stars dipped below the horizon when Wright moved to Wales and Husain returned to Saudi Arabia, having scored between them eight of the club's then 14 centuries. A varied card saw eight new opponents. Only Hale, Salix and St Anne's Allstars would remain on the card in 2020. New Barbarian Weasels, for years the club who set the standard on and off the pitch, were played for the last time. In June the club was celebrating with misplaced confidence a ten-match unbeaten run. Some wondered when they were going to be tested. Such back-slapping sides inevitably come a cropper and only four of the final twelve matches were won. Yet this period saw much exciting cricket, including ties with West London Invitational XI and Salix, two of only six in the club's history. The main problem was the batting, as pint-sized totals of 57, 62, 89 and 91 attested.

It was a year of often tense cricket with abundant close finishes. Perhaps the team learned more from those nail-biters than the big wins. The Gents were a whisker away from a winning 2-0 lead in the Bob Ashton Memorial Cup, needing seven runs from two overs with seven wickets down, but it was not to be as the visitors held their nerve. West XI's scorer had expressed surprise at the inclusion of four South Asian debutants in the first game, shaking his head and muttering that his own club "had not gone down that road", this term being undefined which was perhaps for the best. West XI's strong side administered a drubbing in the decider on a day when the Gents did not help themselves with poor administration and late withdrawals.

Newcomer Ravi Inkollu made an instant impression. He scored 459 runs and introduced Murali Kalidindi, and Suman Rudru, who would later pursue a career in the Telugu film industry. Chris Beaumont, who played 16 times in the early days, was also a film star but in a *genre* that catered for the adult market. Hale saw Rudru's first appearance. Lent to the opposition in civilian clothing, he promptly lofted H. Patel for two enormous sixes into the trees, an interlude that entered club annals within seconds. Ahsan Iqbal, having found the club on the internet, also debuted and with a model action generated fearsome pace off a short run. He was with Stuart Snelling the fastest bowler to play for the club. More runs needed to be scored but the bowling attacks looked promising. There was talent and spirit in the squad with Khan, who joined in 2007, Denton and Gilkes batting consistently and H. Patel and Snelling sharing 62 wickets. It was therefore possible to be hopeful about the future, but few would have predicted the events of the following year.

## 2009 Played 23 Won 21 Lost 2

<b>Debuts</b>	Caveney, Dubey, W. Khan, Kumar, Lalam, Newcombe, Palmer, Rudru
<b>Runs</b>	S. Patel 432, Rudru 418, N. Khan 332, Iqbal 306, S. Desai 255, Inkollu 243, Gilkes 195, Lalam 173, H. Desai 152, Sciberras 106, Kalidindi 103, H. Patel 101
<b>Wickets</b>	H. Patel 39, Inkollu 31, S. Patel 27, Iqbal 21, Rudru 20, Snelling 16
<b>Ct./St.</b>	H. Desai 13/1, H. Patel 7, Newcombe 6, Toft 6, S. Patel 5

25/4	Barnes Common	<b>Gents 212-3</b> (S. Patel 66*, Rudru 55, N. Khan 46) <b>St Anne's Allstars 170-8</b> (Morgan 42, MacDonald 35, Nicol 29, Hautot 24)	Won 42 runs
3/5	Victoria RG	<b>Gents 120-9</b> (S. Patel 60, Connett 4-23) <b>Kingston Left Handers 86</b> (Wells 20, Connett 20, Rudru 4-5, H. Patel 3-23)	Won 34 runs
10/5	Burton Court	<b>Gents 234-5</b> (S. Desai 53, S. Patel 47*, Inkollu 44, Iqbal 41) <b>Sloane Club 139-9</b> (Buck 39, N. Khan 23, S. Patel 4-22, Lalam 3-11)	Won 95 runs
17/5	Fairfield RG	<b>Gents 153-8</b> (Lalam 44*, Rudru 25, S. Desai 21) <b>London Saints 35</b> (S. Patel 3-6)	Won 118 runs
24/5	Fairfield RG	<b>Kingston 116</b> (Clark 26, Snelling 5-25, H. Patel 4-18) <b>Gents 119-4</b> (Inkollu 35*, Iqbal 28*, Buck 25)	Won 7 wickets
31/5	CSSC Chiswick	<b>West XI 155-9</b> (Boden 40, C. Wright 29, Bhatt 24) <b>Gents 156-1</b> (Rudru 68*, S. Desai 53*) <b>BA</b>	Won 9 wickets
6/6	Fairfield RG	<b>Old Grumblers 157-7</b> (Hull 44, Rough 30) <b>Gents 161-9</b> (Toft 28*, Wahed 26, S. Patel 24*, Sciberras 20, Sidall 3-11)	Won 1 wicket
14/6	Fairfield RG	<b>Gents 111</b> (S. Desai 24, Sechiari 3-11, Moore 3-15) <b>Cairns Fudge 89</b> (Iqbal 3-13, Inkollu 3-22)	Won 22 runs
21/6	Fairfield RG	<b>Gents 217</b> (Kalidindi 37, Rudru 35, Lalam 34, N. Khan 33, Giles 3-31, Weaver 3-41) <b>Hale 72</b> (Giles 22, Weaver 20, Rudru 5-16, H. Patel 3-12)	Won 145 runs
28/6	Raynes Park PF	<b>Gents 183</b> (Iqbal 75, Rudru 52, H. Desai 21, Byrnes 4-10) <b>West One 152</b> (Williamson 69, Greig 26, Iqbal 4-10)	Won 31 runs
12/7	Fairfield RG	<b>Gents 177-7</b> (Inkollu 51, S. Patel 33, Iqbal 31, Buck 20) <b>Enterprise 119</b> (K. Dimond 42)	Won 58 runs
19/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 237-5</b> (Gilkes 68, N. Khan 60, Rudru 31, Taylor 3-33) <b>West XI 143-8</b> (Boden 42, Bhatt 27) <b>BA</b>	Won 94 runs
25/7	Shedfield	<b>St Anne's Allstars 143</b> (De Zoysa 69, Hautot 34, S. Patel 3-2, Snelling 3-9) <b>Gents 145-3</b> (S. Patel 63*, N. Khan 53*)	Won 7 wickets
26/7	Crown Taverners	<b>Crown Taverners 161-4</b> (Rees 47, Comfort 47, Spreadborough 38) <b>Gents 125-6</b> (H. Desai 47*)	Lost 36 runs
2/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 115-8</b> (N. Khan 28, Iqbal 22) and <b>136-6</b> (Lalam 50*, S. Desai 21) <b>Close PF 93</b> (Dubey 23*, Kumar 20, Inkollu 4-17) and <b>100-9</b> (Kumar 25*, Virag 22)	Won 58 runs
9/8	Alexandra RG	<b>Gents 198</b> (Kumar 51, S. Patel 38*, H. Patel 31, N. Khan 20, Mahomed 4-20, Attree 3-45) <b>Northfields 113</b> (John 37, Iqbal 4-12)	Won 85 runs
16/8	Old Haberdashers	<b>London Saints 112-10</b> (Grimes 34, Berkeley 25, Inkollu 3-7) <b>Gents 113-5</b> (Snelling 46*, H. Desai 34)	Won 5 wickets
23/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>British Library 153</b> (Walters 55, Hoffmann 39, Newcombe 3-13, Lalam 3-20) <b>Gents 158-2</b> (Gilkes 63*, S. Desai 35, Shah 35*)	Won 8 wickets
30/8	Victoria RG	<b>Gents 59</b> (Spencely 4-9) <b>Wombles 42</b> (Inkollu 4-16, Rudru 3-9)	Won 17 runs
30/8	Victoria RG	<b>Wombles 114-9</b> (Spencely 21, Rudru 4-8) <b>Gents 115-8</b> (Caveney 26*, Carroll 3-24)	Won 2 wickets
6/9	Fairfield RG	<b>West XI 144-8</b> (Dane 50, R. Allerton 28, S. Patel 4-25) <b>Gents 148-8</b> (Rudru 23, S. Patel 22) <b>BA</b>	Won 2 wickets
13/9	GSK Greenford	<b>Salix 224-8</b> (Goold 67, Singh 38, Fletcher 34, Lumsden 24*, Heaton 22*, Sciberras 4-39) <b>Gents 174-10</b> (N. Khan 55, Inkollu 30, S. Patel 30, Ellis 4-42)	Lost 50 runs
27/9	Hale Common	<b>Gents 247-7</b> (Rudru 85, Iqbal 73) <b>Hale 211</b> (Griffiths 113, Giles 34, H. Patel 5-29)	Won 36 runs

This dry summer was the Gents' best with 21 games won and only two lost. It was a fitting season to end S. Patel's first captaincy stint of seven years, his own game being at the highest pitch. He averaged 54 with the bat and paid only 3.4 runs an over with the ball. Some victories were close but when under pressure the Gents always found men to rise to the occasion. The top five batsmen all posted personal best aggregates. There were seven century partnerships, 19 fifties scored by nine players, then-record stands for the eighth and tenth wickets and five bowlers who took 20 wickets. The Bob Ashton Memorial Cup was won for the first time since 2002 with a 3-0 scoreline and there was a successful tour to Hampshire. Every player produced at least one match-winning display and the 216 wickets taken and 83 catches held have never been beaten. Four all-rounders (Inkollu, Iqbal, S. Patel and Rudru) scored 200 runs and took 20 wickets, a unique achievement. Only Crown Taverners in a T20 and a strong Salix inspired by the brilliant Tasmanian Nick Goold beat the Gents.

Patel perceptively observed that the spirit which defined the 2009 season was forged in the 2008 Salix tie, a week after West XI had bowled out the Gents for 57 in the Gothic mists of New Beckenham. The key was teamwork or as Steve Bignell put it: "The confidence of continued success welded the Gents into a tough, rounded side almost impossible to down."

The Gents took full advantage of the variable RB Kingston home pitches, whose every caprice they knew, winning all seven games there. Victoria RG was seen for the last time – three more wins – as the Gents slowly bade farewell to LB Kingston.

Less was seen of Buck, Denton and Snelling, but in came plenty of new players as the side changed before one's very eyes. Lalam, who suffered at injury at work and would not play again, Palmer and Rudru joined as members. Caveney, Dubey, Kumar and Newcombe all debuted and would become strong future contributors. The Desais, with Sachin back from Hong Kong, played their first full seasons. H. Patel played every game while Toft missed only two. Fifteen played 10 or more games which gave the captain stability and continuity. Such commitment from a small squad would seem barely credible by the end of 2017.

## 2010 Played 25 Won 14 Drawn 1 Lost 10

<b>Debuts</b>	M. Jones, H. Khan, G. Wright
<b>Runs</b>	S. Patel 326, Gilkes 297, Kumar 234, Dubey 224, Hibbert 222, S. Desai 210, H. Desai 172, H. Patel 168, Caveney 124, N. Khan 119, H. Khan 113, Palmer 109
<b>Wickets</b>	H. Patel 41, S. Patel 21, Kumar 13, Hibbert 10, Sciberras 10
<b>Ct./St.</b>	S. Desai 13/4, H. Desai 4/3, S. Patel 7, H. Patel 6, Newcombe 5
<b>Notes</b>	Record winning margin by opponents: 168 runs <i>v.</i> Village (252-5 <i>v.</i> 84)

18/4	Rickmansworth	<b>Gents 146</b> (Dubey 57, S. Patel 30) <b>Jay Bharat 147-6</b> (Anit 66*, Ketan 25, Dubey 3-18)	<b>Lost 4 wickets</b>
25/4	Fairfield RG	<b>Gents 157</b> (H. Desai 41) <b>St Anne's Allstars 122</b> (Morgan 73, Kumar 3-17, H. Patel 3-32)	<b>Won 35 runs</b>
9/5	LMPF Greenford	<b>Ruislip Victoria 125</b> (Patel 62, S. Patel 3-22, Newcombe 3-31)	<b>Won 8 wickets</b>
16/5	Boston Manor PF	<b>Gents 126-2</b> (Gilkes 36, H. Desai 29*, Dubey 27*) <b>Gents 151-6</b> (Kumar 50*, H. Patel 38, Dane 3-14) <b>West XI 132-9</b> (C. Wright 46, Babu 30, Sciberras 3-15) <b>BA</b>	<b>Won 19 runs</b>
23/5	Crown Taverners	<b>London Saints 136</b> (Thomas 45, Sciberras 4-25, H. Patel 3-33) <b>Gents 140-6</b> (Toft 41, Gilkes 34)	<b>Won 4 wickets</b>
30/5	Long Ditton RG	<b>Gents 196</b> (N. Khan 47, H. Patel 29, Dubey 28, Kumar 26) <b>Swinging Googlies 107</b> (H. Patel 4-9)	<b>Won 89 runs</b>
5/6	Fairfield RG	<b>Gents 100</b> (S. Desai 42) <b>Old Grumblers 103-5</b> (Platt 44, James 21*, S. Patel 3-15)	<b>Lost 5 wickets</b>
13/6	Fairfield RG	<b>Gents 124-8 dec.</b> (Kumar 30, S. Patel 26, Owen 3-23) <b>Kingston 127-1</b> (Matthews 70*, Chappell 35*)	<b>Lost 9 wickets</b>
20/6	Crown Taverners	<b>Gents 136</b> (Gilkes 35, Palmer 23, Dubey 21, Comfort 4-15, Larby 3-28) <b>Hale 139-3</b> (Calvert 64, Pegg 55)	<b>Lost 7 wickets</b>
20/6	Crown Taverners	<b>Hale 57-3 Gents 59-2</b> (Caveney 24*)	<b>Won 8 wickets</b>
4/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Old Tenisonians Taverners 251-7</b> (Perkins 88*, Rhoden 66, Kain 54, H. Patel 3-43) <b>Gents 118</b> (Hibbert 29, Newcombe 22, Borgust 4-48)	<b>Lost 133 runs</b>
11/7	LMPF Greenford	<b>Gents 132</b> (S. Patel 35, Rudru 26, C. Wright 4-22, Boden 3-18) <b>West XI 120</b> (Dane 54, Taylor 24, H. Patel 5-17, Iqbal 3-16) <b>BA</b>	<b>Won 12 runs</b>
18/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 229-4</b> (H. Desai 50*, Iqbal 50*, Gilkes 35, Kumar 29) <b>Enterprise 62</b> (Couzens 3-2)	<b>Won 167 runs</b>
18/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Pak 148-8</b> (George 31, Fawad 26, Maani 21) <b>Gents 146-9</b> (Iqbal 40, S. Patel 31)	<b>Lost 2 runs</b>
25/7	Crown Taverners	<b>Gents 191</b> (Caveney 53, Hibbert 40, Sciberras 36*, Griffiths 3-8, Staple 3-63) <b>Crown Taverners 178</b> (Hunt 45, Spreadborough 38, Hibbert 28, Griffiths 24)	<b>Won 13 runs</b>
1/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 141-7</b> (S. Desai 41, Palmer 25) <b>Close PF 142-9</b> (Shah 54*, Rohit 20, H. Patel 3-17)	<b>Lost 1 wicket</b>
1/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Close PF 196-5</b> (Shree 50*, Rohit 47*, Shah 27) <b>Gents 200-6</b> (Hibbert 51*, S. Desai 38, S. Patel 33*, Kumar 3-25)	<b>Won 4 wickets</b>
8/8	Crown Taverners	<b>Northfields 207-6</b> (Murray 85, S. Jones 39, Rugg 31*) <b>Gents 158</b> (Dubey 36, M. Jones 22, Easton 3-38)	<b>Lost 49 runs</b>
15/8	Old Haberdashers	<b>London Saints 92</b> (Hibbert 4-10) <b>Gents 95-6</b> (Gilkes 43, Wathan 4-13)	<b>Won 2 wickets</b>
22/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 164-8</b> (H. Khan 47, H. Desai 32, Young 3-47) <b>Wombles 97</b> (Wahed 22)	<b>Won 67 runs</b>
22/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Wombles 67</b> (H. Patel 4-23, Hibbert 3-14) <b>Gents 70-3</b> (D. Patel 20*)	<b>Won 7 wickets</b>
30/8	Brentham	<b>Brentham 240-6 dec.</b> (Prabhu 42, Sagers 40, Mansi 36, C. Brett 33*, Hamidon 32*, D. Patel 3-52) <b>Gents 170-8</b> (S. Patel 54*, H. Khan 47, Budden 5-33)	<b>Drawn</b>
5/9	Fairfield RG	<b>Village 252-5</b> (Loonstra 69, Harty 51, Littlejohns 45*, Hindle 26) <b>Gents 84</b> (Boa 6-25)	<b>Lost 168 runs</b>
12/9	Imperial College	<b>Gents 130</b> (Dubey 24, Denton 21, Hibbert 20, Kulasingam 3-26) <b>Salix 131-7</b> (Lumsden 36, Shaw 28*, Bhalla 22, H. Patel 3-32)	<b>Lost 3 wickets</b>
26/9	Hale Common	<b>Gents 189</b> (S. Patel 52, Kumar 50, Hibbert 35*, Spreadborough 4-36) <b>Hale 180</b> (Rees 74, Comfort 28, Calvert 20, Rudru 4-21)	<b>Won 9 runs</b>

This was the season the Gents had to circle the wagons. Opponents bruised in 2009 regrouped, while some talented players disappeared. It was therefore to the credit of S. Patel, who bequeathed a happy club, incoming captain Gilkes and vice-captain H. Patel that despite, with one exception, unprepossessing individual performances it was a winning season. The Bob Ashton Memorial Cup was retained with two narrow wins, the second a classic, inspired by a captaincy masterclass from Gilkes. It was an intriguing campaign, with much good cricket. Khan and Newcombe were active in sourcing players, including Mark Jones, who joined as a bowler, sadly struggled with his action yet was always worth his place for inspirational support. Guest contributions were appreciated from late August as holidays, injuries and Ramadan took their usual toll.

Gilkes's runs, H. Patel's wickets (only two shy of Snelling's 1999 record) and S. Desai's fielding dismissals were personal bests, and S. Patel again scored over 300 runs. Gents' attacks went for a record 3,558 runs. Poundings by Old Tenisonians, Northfields, Brentham and Village and more Twenty20 games disfigured the economy rates. Of the 2009 heroes Inkollu had returned to India, Lalam was injured and Iqbal and Rudru were seen less after joining Saturday league teams. Replacements stepped up. Dubey, Kumar and Newcombe and the talismanic Hibbert were regularly available from July. Admirable commitment by club stalwarts ensured a measure of consistency in selection. Ten were fielded in four games and nine in one, other complements being full.

There were two new opponents in 2007, eight in 2008, five in 2009 and four in 2010. Some odd sides tumbled off the list including the entitled British Library, whose website was bang up to date until they met the Gents and upset Treasurer Toft by refusing to pay all their tea money. Their match report is still awaited. The Gents batted 46 overs against Brentham, the most faced in ten years, and copped a wiggling from the umpire for applauding batsmen to the crease. The season ended with a pounding by Village, a narrow defeat to Salix and a close win in a cracker against Hale.

## 2011 Played 22 Won 9 Drawn 3 Lost 10

<b>Debuts</b>	Cloete, de la Perrelle, Devenuri, Lall, Raghothamreddy, Singh
<b>Runs</b>	S. Patel 356, Lall 309, H. Desai 234, Cloete 221, Dubey 184, H. Patel 166, Kumar 160, Gilkes 150, Sciberras 149, Caveney 143, S. Desai 128, Denton 122
<b>Wickets</b>	H. Patel 32, Sciberras 22, Lall 17, S. Patel 16
<b>Ct./St.</b>	H. Desai 9/4, Lall 6, H. Patel 5
<b>Notes</b>	Record fourth-wicket stand by Gents: 162 H. Desai (46) and Lall (128) <i>v.</i> London Saints

19/3	Marsa	Gents 123 (S. Patel 24, Rudru 20, Hewitt 4-10) Marsa 124-8 (Grima 25, R Krishna 21, Carvana 20, Sciberras 3-23)	Lost 2 wickets
20/3	Marsa	Marsa 174-7 (Leeward 42*, Arura 31, Khosla 28, Navos 22) Gents 23-0	Abandoned
24/4	Barnes Common	Gents 181-6 (Kumar 64, Boden 52, H. Patel 25*) St Anne's Allstars 182-5 (Bowman 91, Hindle 28, Hautot 22*, Boden 4-35)	Lost 5 wickets
8/5	Boston Manor PF	Gents 205-9 (Kumar 56, S. Patel 47*, Cloete 31) Baker Street Irregulars 103 (Sinclair 31, Bailey 23)	Won 102 runs
15/5	LMPF Greenford	Ruislip Victoria 165-8 (Chagalani 48, Jani 31, Hobday 28, Virk 22, Kumar 3-32) Gents 116 (N. Khan 22, Joshi 3-15)	Lost 49 runs
22/5	Crown Taverners	Gents 146-6 (Gilkes 50*, H. Desai 34, Nanton 3-28) London Saints 149-6 (Jones 51, Grimes 44, Newcombe 4-24)	Lost 4 wickets
29/5	Long Ditton RG	Gents 212-5 (H. Desai 53, de la Perrelle 31, Hibbert 31, Snelling 22) Swinging Googlies 127 (Vinay 41, Rakesh 31)	Won 85 runs
5/6	King Edward RG	Village 210-4 (Troja 86*, Harty 77) Gents 118-3 (de la Perrelle 34*, S. Patel 31*, Dubey 21)	Abandoned
19/6	Crown Taverners	Gents 172 (S. Patel 58, Gilkes 27, Mutefa 3-24) Hale 173-4 (Spreadborough 46, Weaver 38*, Giles 36*)	Lost 6 wickets
26/6	Boston Manor PF	Ramgarhia 170 (Maharjan 55, Aman 27) Gents 106 (Dubey 28, Maharjan 3-15)	Lost 64 runs
3/7	Old Tenisonians	Clapham In 155-8 (Wildman 76*, Penman 21, Sciberras 3-15) Gents 95 (S. Patel 27 ret. hurt, H. Patel 21, Eberstein 3-7, Penman 3-43)	Lost 60 runs
10/7	LMPF Greenford	West XI 141 (Dane 36, Boden 29, H. Patel 3-22, Sciberras 3-26) Gents 142-7 (Dubey 54, Hibbert 22, S. Patel 20, Hill 3-24, Taylor 3-30) BA	Won 3 wickets
17/7	Old Tenisonians	Gents 126-5 (Dubey 35, H. Patel 28*) Pak 10-1	Abandoned
24/7	Crown Taverners	Gents 207 (Cloete 37, S. Desai 31, Dubey 29, S. Patel 26, Hannaway 3-20, Bone 3-30) Crown Taverners 128 (Spreadborough 46, Dale 24, H. Patel 3-24, D. Patel 3-31)	Won 79 runs
31/7	Old Tenisonians	Gents 182-8 (S. Desai 48, Sciberras 34*, Caveney 33*) 12 Angry Men 132 (Middleton 40)	Won 50 runs
7/8	Crown Taverners	Gents 245 (Lall 61, S. Patel 49, H. Desai 34, Ahluwalia 4-49, Greenway 3-55) Ham and Petersham 218 (Avi 57, Talha 47, Adnaan 45, S. Patel 4-39, Lall 4-44)	Won 27 runs
14/8	Old Haberdashers	Gents 266-5 (Lall 128, H. Desai 46, Raghothamreddy 32, Denton 22, Berkeley 3-34) London Saints 107 (Berkeley 29, Devunuri 3-17)	Won 159 runs
21/8	Old Tenisonians	Raynes Park FP 152-7 (Mobeen 53, Iftikhar 22, D'Rosario 21) Gents 140 (Cloete 41, Caveney 31, Denton 25, Kunal 5-40, Amin 4-11)	Lost 12 runs
28/8	Boston Manor PF	Southwark & Lambeth 185-8 (S. Packer 90, G. Packer 33, Burton 24) Gents 75 (Gordon 4-17)	Lost 110 runs
4/9	Crown Taverners	Gents 279-3 (Lall 102, Cloete 97*, Gilkes 45) West XI 199-7 (Dane 59, R. Allerton 37, C. Wright 34, Taylor 31, Lall 3-32) BA	Won 80 runs
11/9	Imperial College	Gents 93 (N. Khan 27, Ellis 3-23) Salix 98-7 (Padmore 21*, Lall 4-14)	Lost 3 wickets
25/9	Hale Common	Gents 167-9 (S. Patel 33, H. Desai 31, Davies 4-25) Hale 146 (Giles 25, Comfort 25, Calvert 20, H. Patel 5-31)	Won 21 runs

The first losing season since 2005 saw spectacular batsmanship on often damp pitches and a stylish retention of the Bob Ashton Memorial Cup in its final season. The 2010 squad played between them 80 fewer games so replacements had to be found. Two new hard-hitting batsmen were of great influence. South African Gregg Cloete, known from Enterprise, scored 180 of his 221 runs in boundaries and Ramanjit Lall figured in record stands of 162 and 127 with Himanshu Desai. Cloete and Lall put on 161 in just 11.1 overs in the second West XI game at Crown Taverners, Lall's 102 only the second in the series. However, only two of the first 11 matches were won.

Toft was unable to tour Malta because of illness. Gilkes travelled though barely fit while Sachin Desai got injured there. Kumar, having started the domestic season with two fifties, never recovered from a knee injury sustained in May. Within a few weeks members had to drag in guests, S. Patel introducing Lall to some effect. It is not controversial to say that Lall's season improved after innings of 8, 7 and a golden duck against West XI. By the end of the season Denton's promising Sainsbury's colleagues Devunuri and Raghothamreddy were regulars, though they would return to India in 2012.

The side batted poorly chasing, the exceptions being the first West XI game and the truncated tussle with Village which left a trail of diplomatic incidents in its wake resulting in cancellation of the fixture. Eight men scored fifties and Lall pummelled two centuries, the first since Husain's 108 against Weasels in 2008. Seven new sides were played. Jones returned to Cheltenham in June and Iqbal and Snelling played rarely, so the bowling lacked pace until Lall and Raghothamreddy joined, but the slow men stepped up. The penetrative Sciberras went for a miserly 3.7 per over in his best season with the ball. Economy was also provided by seamers Kumar, Lall, Newcombe and S. Patel at around four and latterly Raghothamreddy at three. The fielding was steady, 66 catches being four up on 2010's total in three fewer games. H. Desai was again the best 'keeper on the circuit.

## 2012 Played 18 Won 13 Lost 5

<b>Debuts</b>	Bocha, Mangineni, Pentakota, Qureshi, L. Wright
<b>Runs</b>	S. Patel 274, Dubey 269, Bocha 208, G. Wright 178, Cloete 172, S. Desai 169, Newcombe 140, Inkollu 114, Hibbert 104, H. Desai 101, Butler 100
<b>Wickets</b>	S. Desai 21, S. Patel 15, Pentakota 14, Kumar 11
<b>Ct./St.</b>	L. Wright 2/5, Newcombe 6, S. Patel 6
<b>Notes</b>	Record eighth-wicket stand by Gents: 109 H. Desai (37) and Bocha (76) <i>v.</i> London Saints Record tenth-wicket stand by Gents: 79* S. Patel (73*) and Pentakota (31*) <i>v.</i> Salix

6/5	Ashford	<b>Gents 76 (Ghulum 3-12) Ramgarhia 78-5 (Ali 36, Ash 24, Raghothamreddy 3-17)</b>	<b>Lost 5 wickets</b>
13/5	Wandsworth Common	<b>Gents 92 (S. Patel 40, Donk 3-19) Cairns Fudge 96-7 (Griffiths 22, Davies 20, Snelling 3-20)</b>	<b>Lost 3 wickets</b>
20/5	Crown Taverners	<b>Gents 224-7 (Inkollu 85*, Newcombe 28, S. Desai 22, Cloete 20, van Marle 3-29) London Saints 135-7 (Jones 32, Pearce 32, Sciberras 3-21)</b>	<b>Won 89 runs</b>
27/5	Durstun House	<b>Gents 125 (Hibbert 27, L. Fawkes 3-20, Russell 3-26) Northfields 129-6 (Shill 33)</b>	<b>Lost 4 wickets</b>
9/6	Sinclair Field	<b>Birdlip and Brimpsfield 142 (Hieron 54, H. Patel 4-29) Gents 143-4 (Cloete 98)</b>	<b>Won 6 wickets</b>
10/6	Victoria Ground	<b>Gents 199-8 (Butler 100*, Cloete 34, N. Khan 22) Cheltenham Allsorts 193 (Cropper 42, White 28, A. Waters 27, Ridsdale 26, S. Waters 20, S. Desai 7-31)</b>	<b>Won 6 runs</b>
17/6	Crown Taverners	<b>Hale 93 (Naseem 53, S. Desai 4-8, Dubey 3-21) Gents 96-2 (S. Desai 40, de la Perrelle 38*)</b>	<b>Won 8 wickets</b>
17/6	Crown Taverners	<b>Gents 128-5 (N. Khan 26*, Qureshi 25*, Comfort 21) Hale 110-8 (Calvert 31*, L. Wright 3-17)</b>	<b>Won 18 runs</b>
24/6	Long Ditton RG	<b>Gents 232-7 dec. (Newcombe 50*, H. Desai 43, S. Patel 35*, Dubey 26, Hibbert 23) Swinging Googlies 118 (Rakesh 41, Reuben 22)</b>	<b>Won 114 runs</b>
1/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Magdalen 158 (Hogg 37, L. Caszo 24, Hart 20, Lall 3-33) Gents 54 (Xavier 5-5)</b>	<b>Lost 104 runs</b>
22/7	Crown Taverners	<b>Crown Taverners 151 (Rees 44*, Hayhoe 27, Inkollu 3-19) Gents 152-6 (Bocha 30, Inkollu 27*, Dubey 21, Lall 20, Worstencroft 3-49)</b>	<b>Won 5 wickets</b>
29/7	LMPF Greenford	<b>Baker Street Irregulars 82 (McWilliams 33, Pentakota 4-22, S. Desai 3-6) Gents 83-3 (Dubey 41*)</b>	<b>Won 7 wickets</b>
5/8	Crown Taverners	<b>Gents 249 (G. Wright 51, S. Patel 45, M. Jones 36, Bocha 34, Dubey 23, Chadwick 3-29) St Anne's Allstars 136-9 (MacDonald 43, Hindle 28, Bocha 3-16)</b>	<b>Won 136 runs</b>
12/8	LMPF Greenford	<b>Gents 186 (Bocha 76, H. Desai 37, Grimes 3-33, van Marle 3-36) London Saints 95 (A. Mayhew 23)</b>	<b>Won 91 runs</b>
19/8	LMPF Greenford	<b>Gents 273-7 (Gilkes 93, Dubey 68, S. Desai 44, Ellis 3-54) Salix 125 (Spillane 35, Padmore 27, Gavigan 22)</b>	<b>Won 148 runs</b>
2/9	Crown Taverners	<b>Gents 202-6 (G. Wright 126, N. Khan 25, Ferreira 3-23) Clapham In 110 (Ferreira 54, Clack 37*)</b>	<b>Won 92 runs</b>
9/9	Imperial College	<b>Gents 252-9 (S. Patel 73*, Dubey 42, Bocha 34, Pentakota 31*, Hibbert 26, Jacobs 5-47) Salix 184-7 (Kulasingam 42, Darling 32, Henig 32*, Padmore 22)</b>	<b>Won 68 runs</b>
30/9	Hale Common	<b>Hale 172-9 (Naseem 33, T. Walter 27, Spreadborough 25, Rees 22) Gents 109 (Pentakota 30, R. Larby 3-14)</b>	<b>Lost 63 runs</b>

The Gents had a fine 25th season, recovering from some limp early defeats to win 12 of the last 14 games. Only five were lost, half the number suffered in 2010 and 2011. The revolving door span dizzily, but a keen, improving team emerged who relished the opportunities they were given. Runs were scored at the fastest rate ever, six per over and conceded at only four. Newcombe took over as captain in June after H. Patel's resignation and led impressively while adding a notch or two to his own game. The merger of West XI and Walthamstow Horizontals meant the cessation of the Bob Ashton Memorial Cup after 22 seasons. The first meeting against the Anschluss club Judd Street Tigers was rained off, a fate that would dog this fixture. Fears of a resultant lack of focus proved unfounded and the cricket played on tour in the Cotswolds and twice against Salix was some of the best in the decade.

It was a damp summer and only 18 games were played, the joint lowest since the club began to play weekly in 1993 and four fewer than in 2011. Individual run aggregates were therefore unremarkable. Bocha, S. Desai, Dubey and S. Patel had good all-round returns, but for the first time since 1990 no batsman scored 300. Gents' bowlers, seamers to a man, absorbed H. Patel's bag of wickets and restricted opponents to an average of 128 runs per innings, reversing the trend since 2009 of 132, 142 and 148. The transformed Sachin Desai (taught by Hibbert at nets to bowl the outswinger) took most wickets while Bocha, Dubey, Hibbert, Kumar, S. Patel and Pentakota were miserly. The clouds were injuries, which reduced the appearances of Caveney, de la Perrelle, Denton, H. Desai and Toft, fewer appearances from stalwarts Gilkes, H. Patel, Khan, Sciberras and Snelling, the absence of Buck for the first time since 1995 and the cancellation of the 12 Angry Men game due to lack of players.

With H. Patel's withdrawal, the return to India of Devunuri, Inkollu and Raghothamreddy and reduced commitment, new players had to be taken on board quickly. Inkollu's legacy was three gifted players from his Saturday Twenty20 franchise, Mangineni, who soon moved to Lancashire, Bocha and Pentakota. Newcombe brought in the Wright brothers, two men only in their early twenties but with bags of league experience. Jones, completing the Cheltenham quartet, played more and proved his ability. The experience of the Desais, Dubey, Hibbert, Khan, Kumar, S. Patel and Toft complemented the younger players.

H. Desai and Bocha, and S. Patel and Pentakota set record stands for the eighth and tenth wickets. The nuggety left-hander Desai also figured in a record stand in 2011 with Lall, also against London Saints.

## 2013 Played 20 Won 16 Tied 1 Lost 3

<b>Debuts</b>	Basker, T. Jones, Small, Thoms
<b>Runs</b>	Lall 486, Bocha 265, Small 264, S. Patel 250, Cloete 187, S. Desai 147, Basker 140, Khalid 117, M. Jones 114, Hibbert 111
<b>Wickets</b>	Lall 18, S. Patel 16, H. Patel 14, Hibbert 13, Bocha 11
<b>Ct./St.</b>	Bocha 5, Hibbert 5
<b>Notes</b>	HS by Gents: 325-9 <i>v.</i> St Anne's Allstars (see also 2007)

28/4	Wandsworth Common	<b>Gents 231-3</b> (Cloete 81, Bocha 54, Wahed 42) <b>Cairns Fudge 185-6</b> (Lam 35*, Huxley 33, Howells 28, Griffiths 28, Hibbert 3-20)	<b>Won 46 runs</b>
5/5	Old Tenisonians	<b>Ramgarhia 63</b> (Raipuri 4-7, Pentakota 3-28) <b>Gents 67-3</b> (Lall 43)	<b>Won 7 wickets</b>
5/5	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 97-7</b> (Raipuri 24, Lall 24) <b>Ramgarhia 93-7</b> (Aman 27, Ali 26)	<b>Won 4 runs</b>
18/5	Zeemacht	<b>Gents 61</b> (M. Jones 23, Kajan 3-5) <b>MSV Zeemacht 62-5</b>	<b>Lost 5 wickets</b>
18/5	Zeemacht	<b>MSV Zeemacht 122-8</b> (Rathu 52, M. Jones 3-16) <b>Gents 59</b>	<b>Lost 63 runs</b>
19/5	Zwolle	<b>CC Zwolle 121</b> (Sylvan 28, C. Wright 5-21) <b>Gents 89-9</b> (Dishant 3-14)	<b>Lost 32 runs</b>
2/6	Crown Taverners	<b>London Saints 83</b> (Griffiths 45, Lall 4-25) <b>Gents 86-2</b> (Small 57*)	<b>Won 8 wickets</b>
2/6	Crown Taverners	<b>Gents 151-4</b> (Bocha 44*, Lall 41) <b>London Saints 108-6</b> (Chalmers 22*, T. Jones 4-13)	<b>Won 43 runs</b>
16/6	Crown Taverners	<b>Gents 134</b> (Small 37, S. Patel 25, Bocha 20, Davies 4-21) <b>Hale 111</b> (Gurney 35, R Larby 29*, Bocha 5-37)	<b>Won 23 runs</b>
30/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Pak 128-6</b> (D. Khan 28, K. Ahmed 25) <b>Gents 131-7</b> (Small 28, Caveney 22*, Lall 22, D. Khan 3-20)	<b>Won 3 wickets</b>
30/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Pak 112</b> (H. Khan 47) <b>Gents 113-1</b> (Cloete 65*, Newcombe 21)	<b>Won 9 wickets</b>
14/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 231-9</b> (Lall 61, Bocha 56, Kumar 33, H. Patel 23*, Porton 3-23) <b>Judd Street Tigers 231-10</b> (Delanian 55, Herlihy 40*, C. Wright 32, Porton 20, Bocha 3-31)	<b>Tied</b>
28/7	Barn Elms	<b>Gents 274</b> (Lall 67, Small 52, S. Desai 36, Khalid 34, S. Patel 29) <b>Baker Street Irregulars 126</b> (Manistry 34, McWilliams 21, Khalid 3-16)	<b>Won 148 runs</b>
4/8	Crown Taverners	<b>Gents 325-9</b> (S. Patel 76, S. Desai 71, Bocha 62, Basker 29, M. Jones 24) <b>St Anne's Allstars 106</b> (Chadwick 31)	<b>Won 219 runs</b>
11/8	Old Haberdashers	<b>Gents 271-6</b> (Small 85, Lall 80, S. Patel 35*) <b>London Saints 169</b> (L. Patel 75, Griffiths 27, Hibbert 3-13, H. Patel 3-22)	<b>Won 102 runs</b>
18/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Legends 115-8</b> <b>Gents 119-2</b> (L. Wright 44*, Hibbert 32)	<b>Won 8 wickets</b>
18/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Legends 104-9</b> (S. Patel 42, Lall 3-24) <b>Gents 107-6</b> (Caveney 50*, Snelling 3-24)	<b>Won 4 wickets</b>
1/9	Chiswick House	<b>Gents 279-7</b> (Lall 87, Dubey 70, Pentakota 21, Basker 20, Frecknall 3-39) <b>Clapham In 222-3</b> (Curtis 57, Clack 52*, Carman 42, Hollands 31*)	<b>Won 57 runs</b>
8/9	Imperial College	<b>Gents 238-8</b> (Basker 79, Khalid 61, Pentakota 30, Thoms 30*, Tiffany 3-29) <b>Salix 80</b> (S. Patel 5-17, H. Patel 3-6)	<b>Won 158 runs</b>
29/9	Hale Common	<b>Gents 177</b> (Pentakota 46, Lall 31, Hibbert 21, Singh 21, Larby 4-39) <b>Hale 143-9</b> (Short 37, Giles 31, Rees 20, Sciberras 3-33)	<b>Won 34 runs</b>

The successful Jubilee season under Greg Newcombe and Horace Hibbert is now cherished, but it took some organizing. No fewer than 51 players donned the shirt, the most ever, of whom 13 played only in the 25th anniversary games and seven only on tour. Naveed Khan missed the season through illness and Himanshu Desai and de la Perrelle through injury. Desai, a fine contributor and de la Perrelle would not play again. George Wright went travelling and brother Laurie's blossoming musical career meant he was absent until August. Toft was rarely available apart from the Netherlands tour. It was therefore somewhat chaotic week to week and there was a danger that the tour would have to be cancelled before Judd Street Tigers mustered behind the flag and supplied five players. It was fitting that the best game of the season, tied 231 runs each (the last such result and only the sixth in the club's history), was between the fledging rivals. Tigers lost only twice all season. The Gents remained unbeaten in England, winning 13 of the last 14 games and tying the other, a run that would be extended by five in 2014, a club record. Ramanjit Lall swept the awards and hit a record 27 sixes.

When it became clear that absences were threatening the ability to fulfil fixtures (one was indeed lost) the committee reacted quickly. Caveney, Hibbert, Sciberras and Lall were of great assistance in arranging guests, several of whom proved of high talent. It was a pleasure to welcome three new regulars: Tom Jones, (introduced by Greg Newcombe), who only stayed one season, Jonny Small (introduced by Mark Jones) and latterly Vijay Basker (introduced by Praveen Bocha). Small scored 57\* on debut and would prove with Basker a signing of importance.

The total of games looked nothing out of ordinary but was skewed by unplanned short second ones against Ramgarhia, MSV Zeemacht and London Saints. Seven Sundays were missed before September, none due to the weather. Rams (and their desperate replacements BBC Mishits), Swinging Googlies and Crown Taverners bailed on the Gents, while the Gents bailed on Northfields. Other weekends were left fallow.

An early Twenty20 win over Cairns Fudge was notable for sprung stumps at the batsmen's end, a kitbag masquerading as the stumps at the bowlers' and Cloete (16 balls) leapfrogging Bocha (21 balls), who had just 20 minutes before scored the fastest Gents' fifty. Lall's runs aggregate of 486 was the highest since Husain's 680 in 2007. As the season progressed H. Patel and S. Desai rediscovered their enthusiasm to great effect. Chairman Khan worked tirelessly to market the club, setting up a new website and a Facebook page as the Gents dipped their toes into the freezing waters of social media.

## 2014 Played 16 Won 11 Abandoned 1 Lost 4

<b>Debuts</b>	Jampala, Katragadda, Krishna, Mishra, Oruganti, Pingili
<b>Runs</b>	Cloete 327, Basker 302, Small 289, Pentakota 276, S. Patel 187, Bocha 141, Clark 141, Dubey 124, Kumar 114
<b>Wickets</b>	Small 18, S. Patel 16, Katragadda 13, Bocha 11
<b>Ct./St.</b>	Katragadda 7, Basker 6/3, Bocha 6

27/4	KGF Richmond	<b>Baker Street Irregulars 44 Gents 47-4 (Neighbour 3-6)</b>	<b>Won 6 wickets</b>
27/4	KGF Richmond	<b>Gents 146-4</b> (Cloete 73, Dubey 50*) <b>Baker Street Irregulars 76-9</b> (Neighbour 29, Bocha 4-11)	<b>Won 70 runs</b>
18/5	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 301-9</b> (Cloete 111, Pentakota 49*, Thoms 24, Hibbert 23, Nanton 3-37)	<b>Won 214 runs</b>
		<b>London Saints 87-7</b> (Berkeley 22)	
25/5	Durston House	<b>Gents 256</b> (Small 93*, Newcombe 40, Caveney 24, Westwood 3-32)	<b>Won 186 runs</b>
		<b>Northfields 70</b> (Cave 21, Bocha 4-10, Katragadda 4-13)	
1/6	Fairfield RG	<b>Gents 112</b> (Kumar 28, Thoms 28, Khan 3-22, Fisher 3-28, Brain 3-35)	<b>Won 13 runs</b>
		<b>London Rams 99</b> (Murtland 30, Khan 21*, Small 4-18)	
8/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gubbays 139-8</b> (Neal 48, Mihir 29, Lall 4-28)	<b>Lost 35 runs</b>
		<b>Gents 104</b> (Hibbert 37, Katragadda 25, Mihir 3-9, Ali 3-24)	
15/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 177-6</b> (S. Patel 71*, Jampala 32, Raghu 22, Davies 3-26, Larby 3-49)	<b>Won 61 runs</b>
		<b>Hale 116</b> (Abdul 39, Zeeshan 21, Small 4-5, H. Patel 3-32)	
22/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 215-7</b> (Cloete 43, Clark 37, Newcombe 37, Hunt 3-38)	<b>Won 61 runs</b>
		<b>Hyde Farmers 154</b> (Bailey 70, Katragadda 3-25)	
29/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Cairns Fudge 212-8</b> (Flauker 73, Taylor-Maughan 60)	<b>Lost 3 runs</b>
		<b>Gents 209-6</b> (Lall 56, Basker 53, S. Patel 37*, Flauker 3-50)	
20/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 204-6</b> (Basker 86, Bocha 24, Pentakota 22, Gorantla 20, Roberts 4-44)	<b>Abandoned</b>
		<b>Bricklayer's Arm 54-4</b> (Lombardo 24*)	
27/7	Paulin Ground	<b>Gents 250-9</b> (Small 106, Pentakota 72, Dane 3-33)	<b>Won 20 runs</b>
		<b>Judd Street Tigers 230-8</b> (Basker 66, Herlihy 44, Dane 43, Small 3-47)	
2/8	Barnes Common	<b>Gents 229-9</b> (Cloete 100, Clark 57, S. Patel 29, Adams 3-32, Chadwick 3-36)	<b>Won 23 runs</b>
		<b>St Anne's Allstars 206-7</b> (MacDonald 105, Hampton 35, Begley 31, S. Patel 4-22)	
17/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>United Titans 125</b> (Jampala 28*) <b>Gents 120</b> (Clark 47, Kumar 23, Pathi 4-12)	<b>Lost 5 runs</b>
31/8	Chiswick House	<b>Clapham In 193</b> (Roussouw 83, Wildman 23, Plaja 22, Jampala 4-25)	<b>Lost 6 runs</b>
		<b>Gents 187</b> (Basker 73, Katragadda 26*, Roussouw 3-13)	
7/9	Imperial College	<b>Gents 221-8</b> (Pentakota 63, Basker 40, Kumar 38*, Bocha 23, Unadkat 4-38)	<b>Won 108 runs</b>
		<b>Salix 113-9</b> (Thangarajah 40, Heaton 35)	
28/9	Hale Common	<b>Gents 254</b> (Bocha 59, Kasthala 30, Jampala 28, Giles 3-44)	
27/4	KGF Richmond	<b>Baker Street Irregulars 44 Gents 47-4</b> (Neighbour 3-6)	<b>Won 6 wickets</b>

A century after the start of the Great War the Gents suffered as long a list of missing players as any public school, university or factory team from that benighted year. It was more than symbolic that Gilkes, Sciberras and Snelling were absent for the first time in many years, though they would return. Rapid change was afoot as the new signings put their own stamp on the team. In August 1914, boys just out of school left the cricket field to face the guns of the Imperial German Army. In 2014, the combatants were time's wingèd chariot hurrying near, injuries and work.

Yet full teams were fielded every week but one and nine scores of 200 were compiled in the 16 games played. Vijay Basker drew deeply from the well of talent in his Twenty20 franchise United Titans to complement the remaining regulars. He, Praveen Bocha and Raj Pentakota had extensive club service and were joined by a splendid new bowler, Aravind Katragadda, whose hop, skip and jump run up and unerring accuracy became one of the sights of the season. Karthik Jampala and Anil Oruganti also debuted and impressed. By season's end Titans had contributed more than a third of all appearances.

Basker played for two opponents, first being loaned with great effect (66 runs and two catches) to Judd Street Tigers, who fell only 20 short of a commanding Gents' score of 250-9. This splendid game saw Small's maiden century (106 in 39.4 overs) and No.8 Pentakota's superb 72 off 39 balls, his first club fifty and perhaps the Gents' innings of the year. Connoisseurs of the spinner's art revelled in Small's 18 wickets.

The Gents lost eight times, four times to opponents (batting second each time, three times by margins of six or fewer runs) and four times to the weather. Eleven games were won and the cricket was generally of a high standard against improved opposition. Fixtures were not arranged on three Sundays and only 16 games were played, the lowest since 1992. The game on 2 August saw two tons in a game for the first time. Cloete took only 41 balls to reach his century against London Saints, the club's fastest ever. Saints had been gracious, popular opponents but this was the end of the fixture.

Until called away for his nuptials Hibbert led wisely, while those who stood in followed his self-denying ethos of trying to give everyone a game. They also serve who only stand and wait. Although their seasons were unspectacular, Caveney, Denton, H. Patel, Jones, newcomer Mishra, Newcombe and Thoms all had their moments with bat, ball or gloves. Khan and Toft played only once but gave excellent support behind the scenes and attended the matches when they could. The Gents mourned Alex Young, who died in April aged 32.



## 2015 Played 21 Won 12 Abandoned 1 Lost 8

<b>Debuts</b>	Charatla, Chintam, Kota, R. Patel, Sudireddy, Syed-Aguirre
<b>Debuts</b>	Small 478, Basker 265, Kumar 251, S. Patel 207, Jampala 204, S. Desai 202, Katragadda 142, Oruganti 131, Dubey 126, Kota 105, Bocha 103
<b>Wickets</b>	S. Patel 14, Small 13, Jampala 10
<b>Ct./St.</b>	Denton 6/3, Small 6, Jampala 5
<b>Notes</b>	Record fifth-wicket stand and record stand for any wicket by Gents: 212* Small (131*) and Kumar (74*) v. St Anne's Allstars Record second-wicket stand by opponents: 186 Elmes (165*) and Murray (56) (Northfields) HS by an opponent: 165* Elmes (Northfields) Record successful chasing score by opponents: 261-3 (Northfields) and highest aggregate in a game (521 runs)

3/5	Boston Manor PF	<b>United Titans 144</b> (Katragadda 56, Basker 30, Krishna 3-28) <b>Gents 115</b> (H. Patel 29, S. Desai 25, Kumar 23, Kota 3-21)	<b>Lost 29 runs</b>
10/5	Old Tenisonians	<b>Wimbledon United 199-4</b> (Herbert 83, Shacklock 32, Patel 26) <b>Gents 170</b> (Jampala 39*, Small 35, S. Patel 21)	<b>Lost 29 runs</b>
17/5	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 101</b> (Basker 31, Vandu 4-29, Harsh 4-31) <b>Gubbays 103-2</b> (Harsh 50*, Ashish 46*)	<b>Lost 8 wickets</b>
24/5	Durston House	<b>Gents 260-7</b> (Kumar 79*, Basker 68, L. Fawkes 4-79) <b>Northfields 261-3</b> (Elmes 165*, Murray 56)	<b>Lost 7 wickets</b>
7/6	Boston Manor PF	<b>Gents 268-5</b> (Small 131*, Kumar 74*, Bowman 3-32) <b>St Anne's Allstars 127-8</b> (Chadwick 30, Murray 28, S. Patel 3-20)	<b>Won 141 runs</b>
14/6	Crown Taverners	<b>Gents 199</b> (Basker 73, S. Patel 65, Oruganti 29, Rajesh 4-15, Giles 3-17) <b>Hale 161-9</b> (Giles 52*, Rajesh 44, Kumara 30, S. Patel 4-34)	<b>Won 38 runs</b>
20/6	Fairfield RG	<b>Gents 130</b> (Sciberras 46, D. Patel 28, S. Patel 22, Severn 3-27, Fisher 3-29) <b>London Rams 115</b> (McLeod 27, Rothwell 23, S. Desai 3-24)	<b>Won 15 runs</b>
28/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 203-2</b> (S. Desai 114*, Cloete 40, M. Jones 26) <b>Close PF 206-4</b> (F. Ahmed 164*)	<b>Lost 6 wickets</b>
12/7	Boston Manor PF	<b>Gents 257</b> (Katragadda 58, Syeed-Aguirre 56*, Basker 42, Dubey 36, Jampala 24, Ware 3-40, Neighbour 3-63) <b>Baker Street Irregulars 25-1</b>	<b>Abandoned</b>
19/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 264-5</b> (Oruganti 70, Jampala 49, Hibbert 30, Newcombe 30*, Pingili 25*, H. Patel 20) <b>Bricklayer's Arms 140-9</b> (Ottley 31, O'Keeffe 23, Meek 22)	<b>Won 124 runs</b>
2/8	Northwick Park	<b>Gents 78</b> (Small 20, Prem 3-4, Niraj 3-9) <b>Blue Marlins 79-2</b> (Vamsee 32*)	<b>Lost 8 wickets</b>
2/8	Northwick Park	<b>Blue Marlins 134-8</b> (Mandar 31, Yogi 27, Ashish 23, Jampala 3-16) <b>Gents 116-4</b> (Small 46, Jampala 30)	<b>Lost 18 runs</b>
9/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Pak 121-8</b> (S. Khan 37, Small 4-11) <b>Gents 125-9</b> (Bocha 41, Manni 5-23)	<b>Won 1 wicket</b>
9/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 121-5</b> (S. Desai 33, Bocha 32) <b>Pak 90-8</b> (Ahmed 34, Small 3-15)	<b>Won 31 runs</b>
16/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 200-7</b> (Small 88*, Jampala 30, N. Khan 25) <b>Clapham In 179-9</b> (Carman 54, Frecknall 44, Kumar 3-27, Dubey 3-33)	<b>Won 21 runs</b>
23/8	Raynes Park SG	<b>Gents 219</b> (Dubey 51, H. Patel 34, Laing 3-25) <b>Bricklayer's Arms 117-6</b> (Pasolla 40, Ottley 21)	<b>Won 102 runs</b>
30/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Battersea Eagles 93</b> (A. Khan 32, Oruganti 3-18, Pingili 3-25) <b>Gents 94-7</b> (Small 39, A. Khan 4-20)	<b>Won 3 wickets</b>
30/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 129-6</b> (Krishna 36*, Chintam 27, Katragadda 23) <b>Battersea Eagles 116</b> (A. Khan 42, Small 3-19)	<b>Won 13 runs</b>
6/9	Imperial College	<b>Salix 116</b> (Kulasingam 38, Padmore 35) <b>Gents 118-3</b> (R. Patel 56*, Small 39)	<b>Won 7 wickets</b>
13/9	Cavendish RG	<b>Gents 159-9</b> (Kota 65*, Sudireddy 30, Shyam 4-13) <b>Gubbays 160-5</b> (Harsh 59, Ashish 25, Vishal 23*, Kota 3-24)	<b>Lost 5 wickets</b>
27/9	Hale Common	<b>Gents 136</b> (Charatla 35, Kota 29, Small 26, Davies 3-37) <b>Hale 72</b> (Charatla 3-9)	<b>Won 64 runs</b>

The Gents improved in the second half of a mixed season. They failed to defend, thanks to two stupendous individual innings, totals of 260-7 and 203-2, were skittled for 78 and 101 yet produced some confident performances against strong teams. Small scored heavily to head the batting. After May comprised four defeats, results improved in June before July was pretty well washed out. A run of seven wins in August and September ensured a winning season. Cricket was played on 18 weekends, three more than in 2014, when five fewer games were played. One match was curtailed by rain and two cancelled. The call over the winter had been for stronger teams to be introduced. There were no complaints about cheap victories in 2015.

Some notable batting records were set. Left-handers John Elmes of Northfields (165\* a record 186 added for the second wicket with Murray) and Fawad Ahmed of Close PF (164\*) beat Steve Jones's 158 against West XI in 2002, the previous individual highest innings in a Gents match. A year later, Elmes of Northfields would knock him off his pedestal. The unbeaten stand of 212 between Small (131\*) and Kumar (74\*) for the sixth wicket against St Anne's Allstars, from a flimsy inherited position of 56-5, remains the highest in club history and the only one north of 200.

The Gents were again dependent on Vijay Basker and his talented friends to supplement the stalwarts and, in the opening match, to provide opposition. The Gents missed the ability and focussed commitment of Pentakota, who had moved to Southampton but would return in 2017. Clark (newly a father), Lall (playing league cricket), Mishra (returned to the United States) and Thoms (work) left the club. S. Desai returned while Denton and H. Patel doubled their 2014 appearances. All-rounder of the year Jampala, Kota (who would take his crown one year on), Krishna, Oruganti, Pingili and Sudireddy added youthful energy and talent, as did Syed-Aguirre, who joined mid-season, introduced by his Cheltenham friends Jones and Newcombe. What a rich seam that was. The perennial question of involvement of stalwarts and newcomers was well handled by the captains. The support of Ken Toft, who regularly travelled from Milton Keynes, was greatly appreciated.

## 2016 Played 21 Won 14 Drawn 1 Lost 6

<b>Debuts</b>	Bowden, Chatharaju, J. Snelling
<b>Runs</b>	Kota 480, Kumar 334, Bocha 300, Small 252, S. Patel 185, H. Patel 159, Dubey 149, Newcombe 146, Jampala 116, Basker 115, N. Khan 106
<b>Wickets</b>	Kota 30, H. Patel 25, Bocha 15, Kumar 14, Jampala 13, S. Patel 10
<b>Ct./St.</b>	Small 11/2, Kota 9, Jampala 6, N. Khan 5/1, Kumar 5
<b>Notes</b>	Record eighth-wicket stand by opponents: 65 Gaurav (38) and Tippell (50*) (Ashford)

1/5	LMPF Greenford	<b>Bengal Troopers 244</b> (S. Khan 146, Tawhid 35, Shajib 21, Bocha 5-33) <b>Gents 100</b> (Basker 26, Choudhury 4-12, Mahmud 3-23)	<b>Lost 144 runs</b>
8/5	Old Tenisonians	<b>Wimbledon United 155-7</b> (Herbert 60, Saxby 36) <b>Gents 159-5</b> (Kota 48*, Bocha 42, H. Patel 30, Kumar 20)	<b>Won 5 wickets</b>
15/5	Ealing Central SG	<b>Gubbays 135</b> (Aryuat 28, Mihir 27, Ketan 24, Bocha 3-21) <b>Gents 139-7</b> (Tewhatu 50, Kota 21, Mihir 3-38)	<b>Won 3 wickets</b>
22/5	Durston House	<b>Gents 237-9</b> (Charatla 61, Kumar 43, Caveney 30, Bocha 25, Derrick Redhead 3-27) <b>Northfields 238-3</b> (David Redhead 112*, Knight-Williams 45, Thompson 30*)	<b>Lost 7 wickets</b>
29/5	LPOSSA	<b>White Swans 86</b> (Aparva 23, H. Patel 4-10, Kota 4-23) <b>Gents 87-3</b> (Newcombe 35*, Small 25)	<b>Won 7 wickets</b>
5/6	Paulin Ground	<b>Gents 223-9</b> (Dubey 55, Newcombe 54, S. Patel 49*, Kota 22, Webster 3-28) <b>Judd Street Tigers 202</b> (C. Wright 99, Taylor 27, Kota 3-37)	<b>Won 21 runs</b>
18/6	Ealing Central SG	<b>Gents 146</b> (Kumar 44, H. Patel 33) <b>Alexandra Park 77</b>	<b>Won 69 runs</b>
26/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Yarl 121-8</b> (Charatla 55*, Harry 27) <b>Gents 122-9</b> (Kota 62, Harry 3-31)	<b>Won 1 wicket</b>
3/7	Dundonald RG	<b>St Anne's Allstars 69</b> (Krishna 3-8) <b>Gents 71-6</b> (Hampton 4-29)	<b>Won 4 wickets</b>
10/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 136</b> (S. Patel 43*, Sudireddy 30, Oruganti 5-16, Sarfraz 4-12) <b>Hounslow Hurricanes 137-7</b> (Andy 51*, Darshan 44, Wagh 21, Kota 3-31)	<b>Lost 3 wickets</b>
17/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Bengal Troopers 185</b> (Choudhury 40, Shahiah 36, Baker 33) <b>Gents 121</b> (Caveney 20, Baker 3-13)	<b>Lost 64 runs</b>
24/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 234-7</b> (Kota 83*, Dubey 58) <b>Monty RH 201-7</b> (Asim 93, Majeed 28*, Mehtab Khan 27, H. Patel 3-39)	<b>Won 33 runs</b>
31/7	Ashford	<b>Ashford 196</b> (Tippell 50*, Gaurav 38, Tilt 22) <b>Gents 116</b> (S. Desai 38, Kumar 29, Rao 5-15)	<b>Lost 80 runs</b>
7/8	LMPF Greenford	<b>Gents 171-7</b> (Kota 73*, Caveney 26) <b>Pak 137-7</b> (H. Khan 60)	<b>Won 34 runs</b>
7/8	LMPF Greenford	<b>Gents 178-6</b> (Basker 67, Kumar 38) <b>Pak 79</b> (Sanga 6-11)	<b>Won 99 runs</b>
14/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 206-8</b> (H. Patel 50, Bocha 37, S. Patel 35) <b>Clapham In 167</b> (Plaja 44, N. Khan 25*, Kota 3-24, H. Patel 3-30)	<b>Won 39 runs</b>
21/8	Raynes Park SG	<b>Gents 257-5 dec.</b> (Small 88, N. Khan 75, Kumar 67) <b>Bricklayer's Arms 131-6</b> (Poulter 85, Kumar 3-11)	<b>Drawn</b>
28/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 202</b> (Kota 60, Jampala 53, S. Patel 26, Hettiarachchi 4-24, Sobin 4-26) <b>Battersea Eagles (formerly Imperials) 125</b> (Naem 20)	<b>Won 77 runs</b>
4/9	Hilly Fields	<b>Gents 210</b> (Bocha 68, Kota 33, Small 25, Kumar 23, C. Cooper 3-28) <b>Millfields 159-6</b> (C. Cooper 71, Cordell 37)	<b>Won 51 runs</b>
11/9	Imperial College	<b>Salix 157-7</b> (Padmore 62, Kulasingam 29*) <b>Gents 158-6</b> (Small 58, Bocha 53, Spurr 3-24)	<b>Won 4 wickets</b>
18/9	Hale Common	<b>Gents 125</b> (Bocha 32, Kumar 20, Naseem 3-30) <b>Hale 127-8</b> (Delaney 33, Naseem 28, Basantini 20, Snelling 3-11)	<b>Lost 1 wicket</b>

An enjoyable season, mostly warm and dry, was one of great change. Five opponents tumbled off the card, eight new opponents were added (no season has seen a greater number) and 44 men played, 18 just once. Basker, Denton, Desai, Hibbert, Katragadda, Oruganti and Syed-Aguirre played less, while Jones (travelling), Cloete and D. Patel were absent. But tellingly Kumar, Bocha, Kota, who only missed one game, Newcombe and H. Patel (who scored his maiden fifty) played more. In 2015 Bocha scored 103 runs and did not take a wicket. A year later he carded 300 runs and 15 wickets. Yet the season had started with the Gents on the receiving end of a blitzkrieg from Shanin Khan of Bengal Tigers, who hit nine fours and 10 sixes on his way to 146.

Scorecards rarely tell the tale of fielding, in which, as opponents remarked, the Gents excelled despite the lack of a regular wicket-keeper. There were 99 fielding dismissals (79 caught, eight stumped and 12 run out), level with 2009 when two more games were played. Catches by Charatla, Small and Pingili against Wimbledon United, Clapham In and Salix verged on the supernatural. Jampala, fielder of the year again, put in some great shifts.

S. Patel passed 6,000 runs and overtook Snelling's career haul of wickets, only for Snelling to nearly grab it back again at Hale. Gaurav and Tippell of Ashford set an opponents' eighth-wicket record stand of 65 while the hat-tricks by Kota against Judd Street Tigers and Hettiarachchi of Battersea Eagles were the first since 2008. Kumar captained very well and in Small and Bocha had solid deputies. Kumar's contribution was 334 runs (a personal best), 14 wickets and five catches, his form clearly unaffected by responsibility.

Kota had a splendid season, dominating the returns with 480 runs (four fifties), 30 wickets and 9 catches, such startling statistics not having been recorded since the heyday of M. Ashton who scored 490 and took 38 wickets in 1993. He was capable of defence or attack as the situation demanded and was voted Batsman, Bowler and All-rounder of the season.

The November AGM should have been an evening of celebration. Instead it degenerated into chaos when it came to electing a captain, the process followed not adhering in all aspects to best practice. Battle lines were drawn and it was clear the challenge in 2017 was going to be as much off the pitch as on.

## 2017 Played 19 Won 11 Drawn 1 Lost 7

<b>Debuts</b>	A. Ahmed, Bandla, Francis, A. Khan, Namilikonda, Sampath, Shaikh
<b>Runs</b>	Bocha 349, Basker 300, S. Patel 235, H. Patel 219, Sampath 204, A. Ahmed 146, Francis 135, Kumar 125, Dubey 112, Sanga 100
<b>Wickets</b>	H. Patel 20, Bocha 13, Pentakota 11, S. Patel 10
<b>Ct./St.</b>	Bocha 9, Pentakota 6, Namilikonda 5/1
<b>Notes</b>	BB by an opponent: 6-1 Cripps (Wimbledon United)

30/4	Ealing Central SG	<b>Gents 154</b> (S. Desai 52, Basker 31) <b>Hounslow Hurricanes 152</b> (Nahush 43*, Pai 23, S. Patel 3-34)	<b>Won 2 runs</b>
7/5	Hilly Fields	<b>Gents 186</b> (Bocha 48*, H. Patel 29, A. Khan 22, C. Cooper 3-21) <b>Millfields 190-5</b> (Collis 80, Taylor 24*, Hooper 22, Marshall 21, Small 3-33)	<b>Lost 5 wickets</b>
14/5	Cottenham Park	<b>Wimbledon United 176-8</b> (Herbert 51, D. Hitchman 27, Phillip 23, Dean 21) <b>Gents 53</b> (Cripps 6-1, Dean 3-21)	<b>Lost 123 runs</b>
21/5	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gubbays 106</b> (Mihir 33) <b>Gents 111-5</b> (Bocha 37*, A. Ahmed 20, Raj 3-19)	<b>Won 5 wickets</b>
28/5	Durston House	<b>Gents 257-8</b> (Dubey 46, Kumar 34, S. Patel 31*, Pentakota 31, Small 28) <b>Northfields 145-5</b> (Collins 42*, Ivison 28, David Redhead 24)	<b>Won 112 runs</b>
4/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Kingstonian 160</b> (Wasim 38*, Islam 33, Niazi 30, B. Gola 4-17, Mangineni 3-24) <b>Gents 101</b> (Sampath 29, Wasim 3-23, Shabbir 3-26)	<b>Lost 59 runs</b>
11/6	Perivale Park	<b>Gents 91</b> (H. Patel 43, S. Patel 20, Achal 5-20, Khatri 3-15) <b>Hounslow Hurricanes 92-3</b> (Sunil 36*, Darshan 20)	<b>Lost 7 wickets</b>
25/6	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 183-8</b> (H. Patel 39, Bocha 27, Dubey 22, Kumar 22, Singh 3-27) <b>St Anne's Allstars 69</b> (Bocha 3-9)	<b>Won 114 runs</b>
2/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 228-8</b> (Basker 85, Kumar 48, S. Patel 22, H. Patel 20) <b>White Swans 86</b> (Raj 29)	<b>Won 142 runs</b>
9/7	Crown Taverners	<b>Crown Taverners 258-5</b> (Giles 54, G. Day 44, Delaney 41, Huntingford 38, Turkington 24*, Weaver 23*) <b>Gents 223-8</b> (Francis 74, Sampath 29, Caveney 24, Namilikonda 22, D. Day 3-28)	<b>Lost 35 runs</b>
16/7	Old Tenisonians	<b>Gents 224-7</b> (Bocha 79*, Sampath 41, Basker 30) <b>Bricklayer's Arms 160-6</b> (Poulter 71*, Mercer 21)	<b>Won 64 runs</b>
6/8	Ealing Central SG	<b>Gents 121-7</b> (A. Ahmed 44, Basker 29) <b>Pak 107-9</b> (Maani 25*, Butt 22)	<b>Won 14 runs</b>
6/8	Ealing Central SG	<b>Gents 141-6</b> (D. Gola 36, S. Patel 24) <b>Pak 135-8</b> (Basker 33, S. Ahmed 28, Butt 28, D. Khan 20, Pentakota 3-17)	<b>Won 6 runs</b>
13/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Northfields 161-9</b> (J. Singh 49, Kent 30, Pentakota 3-14) <b>Gents 110</b> (Bocha 33, Francis 23, Egan 4-12)	<b>Lost 51 runs</b>
20/8	Old Tenisonians	<b>Clapham In 173</b> (Robbins 69, Frecknall 36, Krishna 3-13) <b>Gents 175-6</b> (Basker 57, Bocha 26, Sampath 22, Royal 4-26)	<b>Won 4 wickets</b>
27/8	Raynes Park SG	<b>Gents 200-5 dec.</b> (Sanga 100*, A. Ahmed 50*, Chalamalasetti 26) <b>Bricklayer's Arms 181-5</b> (Poulter 100*, Tremain 31, Sanga 4-28)	<b>Drawn</b>
3/9	Shenley CS	<b>Stanmore Warriors 281-7</b> (S-A. Khan 144, N. Borkhatria 61, J. Borkhatria 22) <b>Gents 120</b> (Miriyaala 28, Sampath 24, Pingili 23, Oakley 4-15)	<b>Lost 161 runs</b>
17/9	Imperial College	<b>Gents 220-8</b> (S. Patel 51*, Bocha 33, H. Patel 25, Namilikonda 23, Padmore 5-49) <b>Salix 149-5</b> (Padmore 58)	<b>Won 71 runs</b>
24/9	Hale Common	<b>Gents 207-8</b> (Basker 52, S. Patel 37, Francis 26, Sampath 26, Ive 4-45) <b>Hale 198-8</b> (Basantini 56, Gourav 35*, Naseem 27)	<b>Won 9 runs</b>

Despite the absence of many 2016 regulars and off-field problems lingering from a chaotic and ill-managed AGM, the Gents had a winning thirtieth season. They had more success batting first, failing to defend only twice in 12 but successfully chasing only twice in seven. It was a challenging year but new and old melded well. Kota had returned to India wreathed with garlands, Small was unavailable after May and Desai from April to September, Hibbert played only three matches, Newcombe was crocked in his only game, Kumar damaged his ligaments in July and missed the rest of the campaign, while Denton, Jampala, Oruganti and Sudireddy did not play at all.

New faces but experienced players A. Ahmed, Bandla, Francis, Namilikonda and Sampath (and, briefly, A. Khan and Pervez) were brought in. Pentakota made a most welcome return after two seasons. Full sides were therefore fielded each week, albeit with considerable guest support. Forty-five played, 20 just once. The whistling up of spare players before and even during matches became a niche art form at which Basker and Krishna excelled. It also tested the captains, who had to try to involve everyone. It was a damp summer and home matches with Battersea Eagles and Judd Street Tigers were rained off. Hale and Gubbays bailed for the second year running, which was unfortunate because the club incurred pitch costs but no income.

Bocha's best season yielded 349 runs, 13 wickets, nine catches and three run outs but elsewhere performances were less memorable. Basker's three fifties saw him to 300 runs, three others scored 200, including S. Patel's best aggregate since 2013, and six 100. Seven made a fifty, five fewer than in 2016. Leading bowler H. Patel's 20 wickets and 219 runs propelled him to his first all-rounder's double. Three others took ten wickets.

Bandla, a welcome addition with rarely seen slow left-arm spin, and seamers Chatharaju, Dubey (twice the overs of 2016 with some grudging new-ball spells), Krishna, Kumar, Pentakota and S. Patel were rarely collared and paid around four runs an over, Kumar at 3.31 being the meanest. Chatharaju and Krishna prospered with enhanced responsibility. Ahmed and Namilikonda kept wicket well but catches still fell by 22 in two fewer games. Andrew Cripps of Wimbledon United took 6-1, the best return by an opponent.