
THE GENT

No.170

October 2020

Through adversity to the stars A majestic season



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Match reports:

Bricklayer's Arms (won by 5 wickets)
Winchmore Hill Tigers (won by 42 runs)
Squirrels (lost 1 wicket)
Millfields (won by 137 runs)
Holtwhites Trinibis (won by 3 wickets)
Salix (won 4 wickets)

Read about the Gents on www.gowlcc.org

Contact this magazine via email andrewburman_840@hotmail.com



Around the circuit



Season's end is traditionally time to assemble an opposition XI of the year but that is rather difficult when only eleven games were played. Instead we praise two of the most friendly, committed, and best organised sides on the circuit; Bricklayer's Arms (who played 16 games) and Battersea Eagles (17). Eagles played three midweek and Brick four. Brick's season ended with a defeat to Khukuri, a team of rather talented Nepalese Gurkhas from Hounslow, several of whom are Brick regulars. Nobody was disembowelled but poor skipper Tremain, who took 1-0-25-0 and was bowled third ball for a duck, felt as if he had been. Tigers used 33 players and had a 7-4 season after a strong finish, winning three of their last four. It is a pity that they are reluctant to travel away to play the Gents.

Wycombe House 1sts and 2nds had good seasons in the Middlesex County Cricket League. There was no promotion or relegation, but Hamzah Khan's young 1sts, average age 22, were a point off the top in late August before their form fell away after they were docked 12 points for a dangerous pitch when, after eight overs, their game with Eastcote had to be abandoned. The appointment of their new groundsman will be welcomed by all and should stop future such problems. Said captain Khan:

"Due to Covid we have struggled greatly with loss of revenue/ sponsorship and therefore losing our groundsman at a time when we were not expecting any cricket this season. Over the last few months there has been a massive effort from players and club volunteers to prepare the ground on a weekly basis (without any expert leading us). Unfortunately this Saturday, despite regular effort during the week, from the first few overs it was quite obvious the track was not safe or of an acceptable standard."

In better news for our Wood Lane friends, Blake Cullen, their 18-year-old all-rounder, made his first class debut for Middlesex against Sussex in the Bob Willis Trophy, taking 14-2-51-2 and scoring 34 in Middlesex's win. House 2nds won their league under the captaincy of ophthalmic surgeon Adnaan Haq. Old Tenisonians 1sts lost only once all season. Like Wycombe House they were playing for points but no promotion was possible.

Planning for 2021

We have now entered the planning phase for 2021. Coronavirus deprived the Gents to trips to good grounds we are familiar with – Marble Hill Park, Byfleet, King's House in Chiswick, Teddington Town, Chiswick House and Hale Common – and the pleasures of Binfield and Kempton where we have never played.

We don't yet know the disposition of our home grounds in 2021, and have insight into neither the nation's health nor the possible imposition of martial law, but the worst thing an organiser can do is sit there and do nothing. We will therefore try to arrange a similar card to the one originally planned for 2020 starting early in April and ending late in September. Nor do we know if we will be allowed to have an AGM but rest assured the usual reports from the Committee and voting forms for the awards will be made available. At the very least we'll do something on Zoom. Some things cannot be put off.

2020 Played 11 Won 9 Lost 2

Debuts:	Kandakuri, Karnekanti, Mandava, T. Snelling
Runs	Kota 325, Gulati 232, Sudireddy 204, Namilikonda 187, S. Patel 122, Francis 116
Wickets	H. Patel 16, Namilikonda 14, Gulati 12 PB
Ct./St.	Sudireddy 9/2

When on 23 June the Prime Minister described a cricket ball as “a natural vector of disease” it seemed catastrophic. Would no cricket be played in 2020? But glory be, 12 days later the Gents enjoyed the first of two hard, structured outdoor nets at Wycombe House and 26 days later embarked on a thrilling campaign uninterrupted by the weather. Eleven weekends of play was a blessed holiday from the horrors of the outside world. Coronavirus played havoc with the pitches but Old Tenisonians and, for one game, Wycombe House hosted well amid the chaos.

The Gents scored at 5.4 runs per over and conceded at 4.2, the fewest since 2008. They took 4.6 fielding dismissals (caught, stumped and run out) per game, the highest since 2016, many catches being made possible by the captains’ excellent field placement. Though the sample size was small, these dry statistics confirmed an improvement in outcricket noted by the club’s most experienced player S. Patel.

Guests played no little part, supporting a well-rounded, confident squad of members. In two memorable recoveries the Gents were skittled for 98 at Northfields and were struggling at 101-7 at Winchmore Hill Tigers. They won both with astonishing bowling and fielding; it was as hard to defend 187 on the benign Paulin Ground pitch as 98 on the Durston House minefield. However, the best performance was not reflected in the scorebook; a past and present Gents team and Squirrels raised £500 for the Snellings’ nominated charity, the Sue Ryder Hospices. This will make a real difference to the folk helped by the hospices in a time when their revenue is in decline. This relaxed gathering of the clans, with legends and their children appearing alongside newer players is now an established annual event. Thank you all.

Bricklayer’s Arms and Squirrels deservedly beat the Gents. Brick’s talented batsmen chased a large total with vigour and intelligence, while Squirrels showed guts and determination to overcome a moderate score on a troublesome pitch. Only one new ground was visited, the splendid Holtwhites Hill.

The concept of batting and bowling averages was defined in the era of three day, five day and sometimes timeless matches. There remains a tendency at the recreational level to ignore bowling economy rates. Not here. R. Patel and Krishna paid under three runs per over with Kumar, Chatharaju, Pingili and Gulati under four. H. Patel took 16 wickets, including two five-wicket hauls, Namilikonda 14 and Gulati 12. Some of the catching and fielding had to be seen to be believed; Pingili’s run out of Tiger Ranger and his slip catch to see off Rosa of Millfields will remain in the mind’s eye forever. Sudireddy, the only ever-present, caught nine, stumped two and ran out two.

Two partnership records were broken, 144 by Namilikonda/Kota *v.* Clapham In and 140 by Sudireddy/Gulati *v.* Kempton. Sudireddy’s 96 was a personal best. Only three fifties were scored, though there were seven forties. The consistent Kota twice notched 49! He scored most runs (325), Gulati in a strong season and Sudireddy ticked off 200, and Namilikonda, S. Patel and Francis 100. The Ahmeds, Kumar, Newcombe and Pentakota each had his moment in the sun.

Dubey captained nine times, Kumar and Sudireddy once each. Their ethos was to involve everyone. The current Cricket Clubmark framework describes leadership in terms of governance, policies and stakeholder engagement. But that isn’t leadership, or it isn’t all of leadership. Keeping interest high with a reduced fixture card, trying to accommodate players keen to bat and bowl every time, is. The captains, and other senior players who sacrificially stood down from time to time, rose to the challenge.

Twenty-five played, 16 fewer than in 2019. Four debuted, taking the roster to 391. H. Patel (247) overtook Snelling (246) to go second in the appearances total behind S. Patel (378). Kota overtook Gilkes to go sixth in the career runs total, in which Kumar jumped two places to seventh, overtaking Gilkes and Buck. It was a pity that our friends Basker, Khan, Puli and Toft could not play or support, Basker and Khan missing a campaign for the first time since 2013. We hope to see them all next year.

Gentlemen of West London v. Bricklayer's Arms

Sunday 23 August, Old Tenisonians. Bricklayer's Arms won toss. Sunny, 22C

Won by 5 wickets

Bricklayer's Arms			Gentlemen of West London				
Poulter	c Pingili	b Krishna	8	*Dubey	c Tremain	b Ottley	2
*Tremain		b R. Patel	24	Kumar	lbw	b Thapa	0
McCracken	c Gulati	b S. Patel	5	Kota	lbw	b Basnet	29
Thapa	lbw	b H. Patel	35	Pingili		b Thapa	2
Sah	c Pingili	b H. Patel	7	†Sudireddy		b Ottley	13
Gul	c Dubey	b H. Patel	12	S. Patel	not out		43
Foister	c Krishna	b Kota	1	Namilikonda	not out		14
Basnet	lbw	b H. Patel	0	R. Patel, Gulati, Krishna and H. Patel dnb			
Meek	c Kumar	b H. Patel	0				
Ottley	lbw	b R. Patel	4				
†Locke	not out		4				
Extras	w7 nb3		10	Extras	b9 lb1 w3		13
Total	All out	34.4 overs	110	Total	5 wickets	21.1 overs	116
FoW: 8, 17, 72, 80, 98, 100, 100, 100, 104, 110			FoW: 3, 10, 21, 35, 95				
Bowling: Krishna 5-1-15-1, S. Patel 5-1-12-1, Namilikonda 3-0-17-0, Gulati 3-0-24-0, H. Patel 7-1-26-5, R. Patel 7-2-11-2, Kota 2.5-1-3-1, Pingili 2-1-2-0			Bowling: Thapa 7-2-18-2, Ottley 5-0-31-2, Sah 4-1-17-0, Poulter 1-0-18-0, Basnet 3-0-9-1, Meek 1.1-0-13-0				



This was quite an afternoon for the Patels. Firstly, Hemin and Rakesh demolished Brick's batting from a promising 80-3, combining to take 14-3-37-7 with their off-breaks on a turning wicket. Sanjay took an eighth and in the second innings blasted 43 in 35 balls (nine fours), well assisted by the stoical Kota, and Namilikonda. The rubber was therefore fairly tied 1-1.

One can often gauge how a game here might go from looking at the Saturday scoreboard and talking to the groundsmen John Crawford. He confirmed that Wandgas 1sts had been bowled out the day before for 73, Old Tens 1sts winning in 11 overs, the game over at three o'clock. This evidence was partially corroborated by the scoreboard, though with half the numbers absent or broken it can be hard to tell.

Tremain won the toss and batted, opening with himself, having a prolific season with the bat, and Poulter. The drama started off the final ball of the third over, Poulter edging to gully where Pingili took an excellent low catch. McCracken soon followed, clipping S. Patel low to mid-wicket Gulati.

Tremain, who faced 58 balls, and Thapa restored Brick's fortunes in a worthy partnership, seeing off the opening pair then scoring more freely off Namilikonda and Gulati. They added 55 in 73 balls.

By now H. Patel, from the Tennyson Avenue end and R. Patel from the Pavilion end were in tandem. Hemin's flight and loop are well known and contrasted well with Rakesh's bouncy, almost medium-pace bowling.

Consciously or subconsciously match reporters always inject an element of bias. In describing a collapse to spin – and there have quite a few here (Xavier's 5-5 for Magdalen in 2012 the best analysis) – the tendency is to unfairly berate the batsmen or overpraise the bowlers.

What one can confidently aver is that runs that had flowed quite freely dried up, the bowlers fed off each other and, helped by sound catching and very fair umpiring (five lbws were given in the match), Brick lost eight wickets for 38 runs in 16.3 overs which turned the game on its head.

Rakesh Patel struck first, bowling Tremain with his sixth ball for a brave 24 off 58 balls. Thapa had batted confidently with three fours and a six off Namilikonda's no-ball but was pinned lbw 14 balls later, 80-4. Sah and Gul added 18 before H. Patel struck again, Pingili again the catcher, this time at long on off a monstrous drive. This was his ninth catch in 25 games, some of them outstanding.

Three more wickets fell on 100, all to H. Patel, courtesy of a sharp Dubey catch in the covers, another lbw, and a neat take by slip Kumar. R. Patel got a deserved second wicket and Kota finished off the innings after an entertaining last-wicket stand, Krishna obliging him at mid-wicket. The spin twins' wickets split 5:2, not quite in the Laker/Lock 19:1 class from Old Trafford 1956 but interesting nonetheless.

Captain Dubey's policy is to rotate the batting in order to give every chap a fair shake. He and vice-captain Kumar therefore strode out to open at 22 minutes to four against Thapa's seam and Ottley's spin. They both strode back within three overs – Dubey caught at mid-off and Kumar lbw – perhaps not the start the hosts wanted. It got worse for the Gents with the fall of Pingili, after a few overs of stout defence, and Sudireddy, after a demented five-ball cameo. That was 35-4. Ottley whooped and roared. Brick were back in the game and both sides knew it.

Future cricket historians might be tempted to pay little attention to Kota's 29 which would be a mistake. This was a patient, valuable innings, composed over 61 minutes and 49 balls, in which he supported S. Patel who batted at his absolute peak. He savaged poor Poulter's only over, dancing down the pitch and driving four fours through mid-wicket and long on, as sixty came up off 62 balls to take the Gents to the brink of victory. Kota then fell lbw to Basnet, the tenth such decision awarded in favour of the bowler by Gent umpires this season. Enter Namilikonda to finish off proceedings. The scores were level when he launched Meek high into the stratosphere, the ball hitting the top of the fence ten seconds later. Brick competed to the end and might have done it with 50 more runs but both results were fair and the 2021 fixtures will be eagerly awaited. Tom Poulter will need to do a bit of work, his batting average in this series having plummeted from 256 to 132.

So it was farewell to Old Tenisonians for another year. The ground authority had reacted magnificently to the Covid-19 crisis, and the Committee wrote to thank them for their efforts. The crisis meant rescheduling opponents and grounds, but we got there.

Best bowling returns at Old Tenisonians

To conclude on a statistical note, six bowlers have taken a five-wicket haul at this ground, but only H. Patel has done it twice. Iqbal's return included a hat-trick. Oruganti was loaned by the Gents which backfired a tad.	5-7 5-26 5-30 5-41 5-5 5-16 5-40	A. Iqbal <i>n.</i> London Saints 1.6.08 H. Patel <i>n.</i> Bricklayer's Arms 23.8.20 S. Patel <i>n.</i> London Saints 3.6.07 H. Patel <i>n.</i> Kempton 2.8.20 A. Xavier, Magdalen 1.7.12 A. Oruganti, Hounslow Hurricanes 10.7.16 Kunal, Raynes Park FP 21.8.11
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Fun with numbers

What links Gulati and Pentakota (three); Francis, Kota, Kumar and Namilikonda (two); and A. Ahmed, Chatharaju, Dubey, Krishna, S. Patel and small (one)? You've got it, the number of times they were given out lbw in 2020. The annual lbw conspiracy theory got its first airing in July and reached a crescendo by the final game. The facts are interesting. We studied the percentage of bowlers' wickets that were lbw, thus excluding run outs, hit the ball twice (in theory, it's never happened), obstructing the field (Horace Hibbert did this once) and Glavina's bizarre retired out in 2018, correctly recorded as a dismissal by scorer Toft. Twenty of the 84 wickets taken by opponents were lbws given by our umpires, 24%. Oppo umpires gave 12 (14%). This discrepancy was similar in 2019 but not 2018. Why should this be? Perhaps the Laws are not widely known (unlikely); or the slow pitches militated against our batsmen's classic strokeplay; or Gents' umpires are more honest.

<i>Year</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>
% wickets that were lbw taken by opponents	6	18	24
% wickets that were lbw taken by Gents	12	9	14

Winchmore Hill Tigers v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 30 August, Paulin Ground. Gents won toss. Cloudy, 17C

Won by 42 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Winchmore Hill Tigers			
A. Ahmed	c Ranger	b Sikander	13	Adejumo	b Namilikonda	12
Pentakota	lbw	b Hodges	28	†J. Ranger	run out (Pingili)	9
Kota	c Dane	b Lloyd-Barnes	15	Greenham	b Pingili	18
R. Patel	c Read	b Lloyd-Barnes	3	Rennie	b Gulati	0
Gulati	lbw	b Hodges	5	Nawagamuwa	c Kota	0
Namilikonda	c Rennie	b Webster	15	Read	c R. Patel	0
†Sudireddy		b Webster	11	Hodges	not out	52
Francis	c Ranger	b Warren	19	Dane	c Sudireddy	0
S. Patel	c Greenham	b Webster	16	Sikander	c Pingili	33
*Kumar	not out		32	Lloyd-Barnes	b Gulati	5
Pingili	c Warren	b Sikander	2	Warren	run out (Gulati)	1
H. Patel	not out		10	*Webster	b Gulati	1
Extras	b5 lb2 w10 nb1		18	Extras	b1 lb4 w6 nb3	14
Total	10 wickets	40 overs	187	Total	All out	38.4 overs
FoW:	22, 40, 46, 65, 85, 96, 101, 134, 138, 156			FoW:	13, 25, 26, 37, 40, 59, 64, 119, 127, 129, 145	
Bowling:	Sikander 8-1-28-2, Lloyd-Barnes 8-1-34-2, Hodges 8-0-30-2, Webster 8-1-33-3, Warren 4-0-32-1, Dane 4-0-23-0			Bowling:	S. Patel 1.3-0-9-0, Gulati 7.4-4-15-4, Kumar 1.3-0-7-0, Namilikonda 7-0-40-2, Pingili 6-1-11-2, R. Patel 8-2-20-0, H. Patel 7-0-38-1	



The Gents won a scrappy contest on a damp, worn wicket played out on a cool, dark and windy day. Both sides should be congratulated for producing some good cricket with plenty of talking points. The plot of the match was similar to 2019's for the first 60 overs but unlike then the Gents' bowlers and fielders played to their abilities and strangled the batting.

To Vinitesh Gulati must go the crown for his four wickets but this was a team effort with everybody contributing with the bat, ball or in the field. Four of Tigers' dismissals were spectacular.

Kumar won the toss and play began at 12.51, 21 minutes late because the juniors' game had overrun. This was an important detail, bespeaking a worn pitch also used the day before. He had stroke makers all through the order but with the ball not coming on to the bat scoring was tough. Everyone got a start, but wickets fell regularly. Ahmed started well but edged behind to a tumbling Ranger, Kota picked out mid-off, Rakesh Patel square leg and Namilikonda edged to slip. Gulati fell lbw.

Meanwhile Pentakota went serenely on, surviving a fraught Mankad appeal from Lloyd-Barnes. The boundaries had begun to flow from his bat when 20-over drinks were taken. He fell two balls later to neatly bring up 100 runs in his two innings on this pitch.

When Sudireddy became Webster's second victim the Gents were in peril at 101-7 in the 24th over. Step forward batsmen 8-12 who added 86 in 16.1 overs. Francis caught the eye with a majestic straight six and bat slowly began to dominate ball in a series of neat partnerships. He and S. Patel added 33 off 26 balls before they fell in quick succession, 138-9. Pingili fell at 156 having given valuable support to Kumar.

Kumar and H. Patel are no mean batsmen and had opened five weeks before. The captain drove powerfully, hitting two sixes and three fours. Patel essayed a reverse sweep last ball of the innings and the pair had put up 31 in 35 balls. Nobody knew how good a score 187 was. Everyone agreed to judge it at seven o'clock after both sides had batted. Tigers had bowled steadily for the most part and one sensed there would be drama to come.

Research revealed Jon Ranger to be a powerful opener. He scored 507 @ 42.25 in the 2019 season and was already among the runs this. He showed his talent with two early boundaries before being run out in the third over; Pingili, who lifts the fielding up a class, throwing down the stumps from fine leg with a 45-yard throw as Ranger gambled on a second. This writer cannot remember seeing a better run out in a Gents game. Namilikonda soon bowled Adejumo with the inswinger, trimming the leg bail. Gulati bowled Rennie and Kota took a marvellous diving catch at gully to see off Nawagamuwa.

In the 2019 game Tigers, chasing 199 to win in 40 overs, had been 67-3 at the halfway point but romped home with three wickets and 11 balls to spare. The situation here was not dissimilar after 20 overs, Tigers needing 135 in 20. Their match reporter calculated that there were only 15 scoring shots here in those 20 overs. Pingili and Rakesh Patel bowled particularly well in tandem, going for a combined 14-3-31-2 and sprinting through their overs with minimal run ups.

Pingili struck again with another fine low catch, this time in the covers by Rakesh Patel, to send back Read. Kumar's 6:3 field placement was exemplary. Pingili ended Greenham's 56-ball vigil and Sudireddy took a tough catch off Dane's inside edge to give H. Patel a wicket.

Hodges and Sikander began the assault (perhaps a little too late in the innings) and batted commendably. Runs came quickly before the returning Namilikonda had Sikander beautifully caught low down by long on Pingili. Gulati, bowling fast in indifferent light then cleaned up the innings, bowling Lloyd-Barnes and Webster, and running out Warren. He took four wickets for the first time, the club's first such return against the Tigers.

A telling statistic was the boundary count; four sixes for each side but the Gents hit 19 fours, eight more than Tigers. Sound groundfielding supported the dismissals. S. Patel, having been clobbered for two fours, promptly retired with a pulled muscle but was soon back, diving about in the covers turning twos or fours into ones. The disposition of fielders was perfect and every player did his job. In summary, a most satisfactory win against a strong side who did not quite do themselves justice.

Wanton vandalism



Joseph Dino Francis became only the second Gent to twat a ball through a sightscreen (above). The first was Girinath Reddy at Wycombe House in 2019. The hole inflicted by the young railway signal designer is clearly visible at the top left of the structure. Speaking from his Southall home, he said "I didn't even go through with the shot. It was a checked drive. It's all down to my new £400 bat from VKS."

I Love The Sound Of Breaking Glass (recorded by Nick Lowe in 1978 and sung many times since) was a perfect soundtrack for two later incidents. A huge six from Mark Hodges demolished Jon Ranger's full pint glass that was quietly residing on a table. Then the irrepressible Campbell Lloyd-Barnes, always in the action, dropped a tray of drinks outside the clubhouse. He seemed to lose his footing.

Gentrification

The Tigers went down to a second successive defeat, despite fielding one of their strongest ever batting line-ups, against what was easily the best side they have played in a long while, whose miserly bowling and fielding proved too much for the home side **writes Steve Bignell**.

Unlike the previous Sunday, this game, on the lower pitch, was never going to be a batsman's day. The wicket had seen considerable use in the previous 24 hours (though it stood up well), the air was cold and the outfield slow. An aggregate of 332 runs was posted – over 200 less than last weekend's game – at the cost of 21 wickets.

Opting to bat first, the visitors' innings never really got away, thanks to a distinct improvement in the Tigers' outcricket. No batsman was able to consolidate, though nine of the twelve made double figures, with No.10 Kumar top-scoring with 32. There were excellent returns from Ali Sikander (2-28), Campbell Lloyd-Barnes (2-34), Mark Hodges (2-30) and Matt Webster (3-33), the only lapse being the fifth bowler combination which conceded 55 in 8 overs. Seven catches were taken, though a couple were later spilled. The Gents were in some trouble at 101-7, but the last four wickets rallied to add 86, including an unbeaten 31 for the eleventh. This was perhaps where the match was lost.

The Tigers got off to another brisk start from Jon Ranger and debutant Abdullah Adejumo, until Jon was thrown out by a direct hit from Pingili at fine leg. From then on the home side could barely score effectively, such was the stranglehold of the bowlers, backed up by an almost faultless fielding display. Mitchell Greenham (18) was restricted to just six scoring shots in 56 balls. In fact, only 15 batting scoring shots were posted in the first 20 overs as the total limped to 50-5, after which the Tiger stellar middle order failed to accumulate a single run between them, undone by some great bowling and catching. The innings was never to recover from this disaster!

Only Mark Hodges stayed afloat amidst the carnage, making 52 not out from 70 balls as the net tightened, until a belated counter-attack from Ali Sikander (33 from 27) briefly shifted the initiative, helping to add 55 in nine overs for the eighth wicket, but the damage had already been done. The boundaries were well populated by now and only singles were allowed, although one mighty blow from Mark scattered players and spectators alike in front of the pavilion, scoring a direct hit on a beer glass! But Gulati, almost unplayable on the day, polished off the innings with 4-15.

Statistics can possibly prove or disprove anything, but a rough analysis of the scorebook shows that the Tiger batsmen failed to score from 163 balls in 38.4 overs. They managed four sixes, 11 fours and 48 singles, but only six twos and not one run three! A team can hardly chase down a modest score on this basis. One yearns for the days of Mike "Two it!" Herlihy, rotating the strike whilst pressurising the fielders and the sight of Chris Wright lapping his batting partner!

600 up for Gents

Newer members might be interested in a little history here as we recall each hundredth game culminating in the August Northfields classic. No.100 was the well-documented Battle of Boston Manor against West XI, Mark Ashton and Jim Wright seizing the day in an epochal victory. This match came in the club's eighth season, so few games then being played. Five years later on the first Kingswinford tour in No.200, Enville racked up 145-1 before the rain spared the Gents a beating.

In 2005 (No.300) Gents beat Sunderland SC – the lent Tony Buck top-scoring for the Mackems. Hale easily chased down a low score in No.400 and Sumit Kumar's Close PF, inspired by Fawad Khan's 164*, a rather larger one in No.500 despite Sachin Desai's 114*. No.600 is still fresh in the memory.

100	23/7/95	Boston Manor Park	West XI 154-2, Gents 155-5	Won 1 wicket
200	13/8/00	Enville	Bedouins 145-1, Gents dnb	Drawn
300	30/7/05	Victoria RG	Gents 183, Sunderland SC 92	Won 91 runs
400	20/6/10	Crown Taverners	Gents 136, Hale 139-3	Lost 7 wickets
500	28/6/15	Old Tenisonians	Gents 203-2, Close PF 206-4	Lost 6 wickets
600	9/8/20	Durston House	Gents 98, Northfields 82	Won 16 runs

Squirrels v. Gentlemen of West London

Saturday 5 September, Long Ditton RG. Gents won toss. Cloudy, 18C

Lost by 1 wicket

Gentlemen of West London			Squirrels				
Small	lbw	b Sweeting	41	Glavina	lbw	b S. Patel	14
Francis	run out (Chapman)		0	Clapson	c Small	b Namilikonda	0
Kota	c Aldridge	b Sweeting	44	Aldridge	c Small	b Karnekanti	32
Gilkes	c Aldridge	b Sweeting	3	Archibald	c S. Snelling	b Karnekanti	0
*†Sudireddy		b Alexander	1	*Chase	not out		45
S. Patel	run out (Chase)		0	†Scott	c Small	b T. Snelling	26
Namilikonda	lbw	b Sweeting	0	Holmes	run out (Sudireddy)		0
T. Snelling		b Holmes	0	Chapman		b Oruganti	4
S. Snelling		b Chapman	16	Alexander	run out (Namilikonda)		0
Oruganti	st Scott	b Chapman	1	Sweeting	c Francis	b Oruganti	0
Karnekanti	not out		3	Bateman	not out		1
H. Patel dnb							
Extras	b8 w5 nb10		23	Extras	b7 lb1 w2 nb3		13
Total	All out	30.2 overs	132	Total	9 wickets	30.3 overs	135
FoW: 1, 94, 95, 99, 103, 103, 104, 116, 126, 132				FoW: 0, 50, 50, 50, 87, 87, 119, 119, 129			
Bowling: Chase 5-0-18-0, Bateman 6-2-19-0, Sweeting 7-1-23-4, Chapman 4-2-0-33-2, Alexander 4-0-16-1, Holmes 2-0-5-1, Glavina 2-0-10-0				Bowling: Oruganti 6.3-2-30-2, Namilikonda 4-0-17-1, S. Patel 4-0-20-1, Karnekanti 5-2-15-2, H. Patel 3-0-15-0, T. Snelling 5-2-25-1, S. Snelling 3-2-5-0			



Squirrels, as always a delightful opposition, inflicted the narrowest of defeats on the Gents, their first loss in six games. The winning runs came from a classic cover-driven four by captain Chase, one of seven fours and two sixes by him. Wickets fell in clusters all day on a grim pitch, Gents losing nine in 12.1 overs bowled in 52 minutes. Small and Kota hit 85 of the 109 runs from the bat.

Close inspection of the centre of the park revealed to trained eyes what appeared to be the outline of a cricket pitch. Sudireddy decided to have first use of it. He then had to juggle his resources with two debutants in Karnekanti and Theo Snelling, and returning veteran Gilkes. He did well.

All went smoothly for five balls before Francis was run out by a sharp throw from colt Chapman at square leg into Scott's safe gloves. Small (eight fours) and Kota (seven fours) so much restored the Gents' fortunes that 93 came up in the next 17.1 overs, speedily delivered in 57 minutes. Spread-betting markets had Gents on for 220-230.

It didn't quite work out like that as Sweeting's medium-pacers precipitated a collapse of epic proportions. Aldridge took two smart matches at silly mid-off, Namilikonda attempted no shot in padding up to a straight one and S. Patel was daftly run out, setting a high bar for bat hurl of the season. A powerful middle order contributed four between them. Young Ted Chapman bowled a fine second spell of leg spin, Stuart Snelling batted sensibly with Karnekanti and that was it.

Squirrels' innings was no less dramatic and followed a plot similar to the Gents'. Namilikonda had Clapson caught Small at silly mid-on (one of three for him) before Glavina and Aldridge added 50 in 10.2 overs. Glavina's first scoring shot was a mighty pull off for six from a head-high beamer from Oruganti, who had opened with two maidens. Three wickets fell on 50 before Chase and Scott added a brisk 37. Wickets continued to fall and a Namilikonda run out and a diving Francis catch made it tight but the captain carried his side over the line. They had hit five sixes in an entertaining knock. Perhaps neither side deserved to lose; but someone had to, and the Gents did.

Squirrels, as well as generously supporting the club's collection for the Sue Ryder hospices, donated a replica shirt to be awarded to the Gents' MoM. This was correctly given to Theo Snelling who before Chase launched him for two sixes and a four had, with his father, kept the Gents in it. Thanks are due to ECB-qualified umpire Andy Chapman, who kindly stood all day at the bowlers' end and thereby ensured consistency.

Gentlemen of West London v. Millfields

Sunday 6 September, Wycombe House. Gents won toss. Cloudy, 19C

Won by 137 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Millfields				
A. Ahmed		b Lachlan	28	Rosa	c Pingili	b Oruganti	19
Krishna		b Raja	22	†Hughes		b Z. Ahmed	8
Gulati	c Miller	b Jackson	44	Clark		b Oruganti	0
Kumar	lbw	b Lachlan	5	Parker	c Oruganti	b Namilikonda	8
Namilikonda		b Miller	5	Dodd		b Dubey	11
R. Patel	c Miller	b Jackson	45	Gregory		b Namilikonda	1
Z. Ahmed		b Jackson	4	Jackson (1)		b Kota	4
Kota	not out		32	Miller	lbw	b Namilikonda	0
†Sudireddy	c Gregory	b Jackson	0	Shaz		b Gulati	4
Pingili	not out		20	Raja	not out		9
Oruganti and *Dubey dnb			4	Jackson (2)	c Oruganti	b R. Patel	21
			4	*Lachlan dnb			
Extras	b11 lb4 w3 nb2		20	Extras	b2 lb1		3
Total	8 wickets	35 overs	225	Total	All out	24 overs	88
FoW: 53, 68, 90, 109, 165, 170, 181, 187			FoW: 23, 27, 28, 49, 50, 51, 51, 56, 62, 88				
Bowling: Parker 5-1-29-0, Raja 6-0-29-1, Lachlan 6-0-24-2, Miller 7-0-39-1, Shaz 7-1-62-0, Jackson 4-0-27-4			Bowling: Z. Ahmed 6-2-19-1, Oruganti 6-1-27-2, Dubey 3-0-6-1, Namilikonda 3-2-1-3, Gulati 2-0-11-1, Kota 2-1-2-1, Pingili 1-0-9-0, R. Patel 1-0-10-1				



Ameer and Zahid Ahmed – brotherly peace and love

Steady batting throughout the order enabled Gents to post a commanding total on a day marred by an injury suffered by visiting captain Sam Lachlan, who dislocated his shoulder diving on the boundary.

The hosts proceeded to a commanding win, but there is no doubt that Millfields were quite understandably knocked back by this misfortune. They were in any event missing Collis (three innings in this rubber of 80, 150* and 66*) and the holidaying Coopers.

Gents had seven returning from the 2019 match, Millfields none, so it was difficult to gauge how things might turn out. Ameer Ahmed and Krishna set by 31 runs the highest opening stand of 2020, full of cracking cuts, drives and pulls. Krishna was bowled before we witnessed Ahmed's spectacular dismissal, middle stump cartwheeling towards 'keeper Hughes (Simon's son). Gulati then anchored the innings for 18.4 overs with 44 (four fours and a six). Kumar fell lbw, though he looked a long way forward. Video evidence is awaited.

Slow left-armer Miller bowled Namilikonda before Rakesh Patel entertained the fans with three fours and four giant sixes, one of which landed on the clubhouse roof whence it was retrieved by S. Patel, helped by the club's ladder. Forty-three runs came up in three overs from him and Gulati before Miller caught them both at slip. It was neither Zahid Ahmed nor Sudireddy's day with the bat but Kota and Pingili added 38 in 22 balls to set a tough chase.

Rosa and Hughes put on 23 in 4.2 overs for the first wicket before Zahid Ahmed got deserved reward for a fiery spell, bowling Hughes. Oruganti, weekending from Coventry (good to see him again), struck twice in two overs. Pingili obliged him with a stupendous one-handed catch at third slip to dismiss Rosa before he bowled Clark.

The rest of the wickets fell in a heap though Parker and Jackson (batting twice) played some good shots. Namilikonda took three for his startling analysis. The end came when Jackson lofted Rakesh Patel for a four and a rare six before Oruganti took a second well-judged catch at mid-off.

The day was greatly enlivened by edgy joshing between the Ahmeds and magnificent rants by the irrepressible H. Patel, who by the end of the afternoon had offered the captaincy to six different players and canned most of the opponents on the card. Thanks to the Ahmeds for ensuring great facilities and a good wicket at this superb ground. Thus a busy weekend involving 20 players ended 1-1.

Holtwhites Trinibis v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 13 September, Holtwhites Trinibis. Holtwhites Trinibis won toss. Sunny, 25C

Won by 3 wickets

Holtwhites Trinibis				Gentlemen of West London			
*Smith	lbw	b Karnekanti	47	Francis	c Evans	b Mahachi	21
T. Prime		b Dubey	11	Pentakota	lbw	b Cawte-Davie	3
Popat	run out (Namilikonda)		89	Kota	c T. Prime	b Popat	49
†Evans		b Gulati	24	Pingili		b Mahachi	0
Mahachi	not out		10	†Sudireddy		b Mahachi	10
Guy	not out		1	Gulati	lbw	b Popat	26
Jones, Watterson, Younis, S. Prime and Cawte-Davie dnb				S. Patel	c Evans	b Jones	17
				Karnekanti	not out		17
				Namilikonda	not out		23
				Krishna and *Dubey	dnb		
Extras	lb2 w10		12	Extras	b8 lb1 w17 nb6		32
Total	4 wickets	40 overs	194	Total	7 wickets	35 overs	198
FoW: 23, 89, 182, 185				FoW: 11, 50, 52, 72, 115, 138, 151			
Bowling: Krishna 5-1-17-0, Dubey 5-1-17-1, Namilikonda 7-0-36-0, Gulati 7-1-36-1, Karnekanti 4-0-19-1, Kota 5-0-14-0, Pentakota 4-0-32-0, S. Patel 3-0-21-0				Bowling: Cawte-Davie 5-0-25-1, S. Prime 5-1-18-0, Younis 5-0-15-0, Mahachi 5-0-31-3, Popat 7-0-34-2, Smith 3-0-23-0, Jones 4-0-22-1, Watterson 1-0-21-0			

This was the first new ground and first new opposition of 2020 and it is a pleasure to record an enjoyable, even contest; one that the hosts are keen to repeat in 2021. They kindly said that this was their best game of the season. The Gents won with a measured run chase, following in the footsteps of the hosts who batted through their 40 overs in a controlled manner, losing only four wickets.

This is a peach of a ground built in a natural amphitheatre abutting the railway line and houses. There are two squares, each with an electronic scoreboard, and an attractive clubhouse manned by friendly staff. A sizeable crowd of 50 or 60 was in attendance on a fine, warm afternoon, some flitting between the two games, which lent a lively atmosphere.

Impressive young captain Smith won the toss and batted on what appeared to be, and was, a true strip. After a Krishna maiden runs came not in a torrent, but by patient accumulation married to ruthless despatch of the loose ball. Dubey struck in the eighth over after which fours (30 in all) came in more overs than not. The long stand between university student Smith and his equally young partner Popat was sound. There were a few half-chances but they were largely untroubled in putting up 65 in 94 balls before Karnekanti pinned Smith lbw (nine fours). Thus was birthed a sublime stand between Popat and 13-year-old glovesman Evans, five feet nothing but with bags of guts. They added 93 in 77 balls, Popat hitting 14 fours and Evans three, piercing the defensive fields rightly enforced by Dubey. Hardened Gents admitted it was a pleasure to watch. The Gents bowled at a commendable rate of 17 per hour and both sides needed their half-time snap and water.

Dubey impressed upon his batsmen the need for crease occupation and that is what he got. Though Pentakota fell lbw in the fifth over Francis and Kota fought back with a stand of 39 in 37 balls, Francis striking another of his memorable straight sixes and Kota hooking and pulling sweetly. Holtwhites had a varied attack and it was the spinners and slower seamers who got among the wickets. Mahachi saw off Francis with a fine low one-handed low catch to Evans's right, and then bowled Pingili and Sudireddy, whose dismissal was the fault of the scorer who was still purring at his violent six from the previous ball.

A succession of sensible stands then followed. Gulati and Kota added 43 in 35 balls before the latter clumped leg-spinner Popat to long on for his second 49 of 2020. S. Patel drove four quick fours with Gulati holding steady at the other end. The 150 had come up in the 29th over when Gulati fell to Popat, the 18th lbw of the season. Gents then needed 44 in 11 overs with only three wickets left, a moderate challenge provided they kept wickets intact. Karnekanti and Namilikonda, restraining his natural aggression, did precisely that. They took the total to 177 off 34, whereupon poor Watterson lost his line in his only over, conceding a host of wides and a boundary to each batsman. It was most unfortunate for him but like every Holtwhites player, he had given his all and could be proud of his efforts.



The Gents' fourth-highest successful run chase, and the eleventh in all Gents games (see *Gent 169* for details), was confirmed on the excellent scoreboard:

Gents 235-9 beat 12 Angry Men 231-3 by 1 wicket (Victoria RG 3.9.00)
 Gents 217-10 beat Battersea Eagles 216-8 by 1 wicket (Old Tenisonians CC 22.7.18) ^{12-a-side}
 Gents 200-6 beat Close PF 196-5 by 4 wickets (Old Tenisonians CC 1.8.10) ¹²⁰
 Gents 198-7 beat Holtwhites Trinibis 194-4 (Holtwhites Trinibis CC, 13.9.20)

Inspection of the board revealed the necessity for a training course, with four of the nine numbers incorrect. The batsmen in the middle were No.s 8 and 9, not 3 and 5; the final total was 198, not 197; and overs bowled was 35 not 34. But you get the gist. No blame attaches to scoreboard operator Pentakota, whose family are standing behind him at this difficult time, for the board seemed to have a gremlin which randomly changed the numbers every few overs, perhaps to keep the operators up to the mark.

Match fees and subs

As confirmed in the Committee's statement in July, match fees and subs will be treated as follows:

- No refunds on annual subscriptions will be given for 2020 and match fees will remain at £10 per game. The reason for this is that we still want to see a cash flow into the club as we still to pay for some grounds, equipment etc. and need cash to be available for us to do this.
- The annual subscriptions for this year will be £35 and match fees will be £5.
- Once the season has been completed the committee will review those who are entitled to a refund on annual subscriptions of £35 and the amount we owe back to individuals for the £5 match fees.
- We will provide two options to each individual which will either be a full cash refund or a deposit towards next year's annual subscriptions and prepayment of match fees to the value that you are owed. For example, Joe Bloggs pays his £70 annual fee and plays 10 games at £10. He would be entitled to a £35 refund on his annual fee plus £50 on match fees, a total of £85. He could either take the £85 or use it for annual subscription and 1.5 match fees for next year. Our preference is for players to roll over the balance as that will allow us to pay for pitches next year but if you would like the cash refund that is perfectly fine.

We are now at the stage defined in the third bullet. The Treasurer will therefore revert individually to conclude the Club accounts. From 2021 guests will be charged and the previous funding structure will apply. The accounts will be published in due course but the draft indicates reasonable financial health.

Gentlemen of West London v. Salix

Sunday 20 September, Haydons Road RG. Salix won toss. Sunny, 24C

Won by 4 wickets

Salix		Gentlemen of West London					
Sadhra	c and	b Namilikonda	6	Francis	lbw	b Ellis	31
*Ilangakoon	lbw	b Pentakota	11	Kumar		b Holloway	8
Webster	c Newcombe	b Dubey	20	Krishna	lbw	b Holloway	6
Kulasingam		b Gulati	8	Karnekti		b Sadhra	6
Balasubramaniam		b Gulati	2	Newcombe		b Balasubramaniam	26
Fernando	lbw	b Dubey	0	S. Patel	lbw	b Balasubramaniam	7
†Mehta	st Sudireddy	b Newcombe	19	†Sudireddy		b Holloway	8
Darling		b H. Patel	10	Gulati	not out		37
Ellis		b Krishna	6	H. Patel	not out		5
Holloway	not out		39	Namilikonda, Pentakota and *Dubey dnb			
Chatterji	c Sudireddy	b H. Patel	0				
Collins	c Gulati	b H. Patel	3				
Extras	b7 w7 nb2		16	Extras	b1 w5 nb1		7
Total	All out	35.1 overs	140	Total	7 wickets	35.1 overs	141
FoW: 12, 24, 47, 54, 56, 66, 91, 95, 101, 102, 140				FoW: 9, 21, 40, 52, 71, 95, 109			
Bowling: Namilikonda 6-1-27-1, Pentakota 6-4-7-1, Gulati 5-0-15-2, Dubey 5-0-11-2, Newcombe 3-0-19-1, H. Patel 4.1-0-14-3, Krishna 4-1-22-1, S. Patel 2-0-18-0				Bowling: Holloway 8-1-23-3, Kulasingam 6-2-29-0, Sadhra 7-1-19-1, Ellis 5-0-26-1, Balasubramaniam 6-0-31-2, Chatterji 2-1-6-0, Darling 1-0-2-0, Ilangakoon 0.1-0-4-0			

Mature batting led the Gents home in an exciting match played out on a dusty and unpredictable pitch. Salix dropped five catches, including top scorers Francis (on 5), and Gulati (on 4 and twice on 20). It was a shame for them because there was little to split the teams and the exceptional South African debutant Richard Holloway did not deserve to be on the losing side.

The potential of Salix's batting is well known. A week before openers Sadhra and captain Ilangakoon had scored 88* and 85 in their winning 246-2 against Aston Rowant. In 2018 Ilangakoon had flayed 56 in his side's demolition of a presentable Gents' total of 184. While these thoughts were swirling around the captains agreed a 12-a-side contest after late availability shenanigans.

Ilangakoon won the toss and batted in the first 40-over match between the clubs with all the extra chances of involvement this format bequeaths. Both captains would use eight bowlers. Ilangakoon smote a huge six in the second over but Pentakota, on his way to a remarkably tight analysis, got him lbw. Sadhra scooped up a return catch and Gulati induced two played-ons. Dubey was among the wickets; a low lbw (one of five given during the day) and a neat Newcombe catch at cover to send back the adhesive Webster. Mehta looked good but Newcombe had him stumped Sudireddy, the first such dismissal for the bowler. H. Patel (twice) and Krishna struck. It looked all up for Salix at 102-10 but Holloway did not hang around and blasted 39* in 28 minutes with eight fours. A heart-warming comedy moment came when he was dropped at mid-off. Sensing a run out, Namilikonda confiscated the ball and shied at the stumps only to see it race away to the pavilion boundary for four buzzers to language that might fairly be described as industrial. Collins gave Holloway staunch support and the Gents were relieved when he drove the returning H. Patel to mid-off Gulati. Salix had failed by 29 balls to bat their overs.

The Gents' reply was based around three differing innings of technical merit. Francis played the dangerous Holloway immaculately, cover-drove beautifully and had taken three fours off successive balls when Ellis had him with his slow left-arm; Newcombe batted with terrific resolution for 16.4 overs playing mostly off the back foot; and Gulati smashed the hosts to victory with 37* in 10.5 overs. They couldn't do it all on their own and every batsman applied himself.

The innings divided into bite-sized chunks with consistent stands accrued. Salix worked their way through the batting as best they could, Holloway being a handful, but by their own admission were let down by their catching. Had Francis or Gulati fallen early it might have been a different story. We stress "might"; Gents 10, 11 and 12 are purposeful batsmen. At 95-6 and 109-7 Salix were buoyant, but Holloway was bowled out in the 29th over and Gulati, with stout support from H. Patel, saw the Gents home at 5.20pm. He had hit four fours and a six, the rock Newcombe four fours and Francis seven.



If you read through a number of my old match reports and your own subconscious hasn't taken it as a challenge to rip your psyche apart, you'll find a common lament: catches win matches and too often we lose games we could have won because that side of our game has been lacking **writes Mike Ellis**. A glance down the page at the drop catch list will tell you all you need to know about our performance against Gents on Sunday, the lack of any catches taken a further damning indictment.

This really was a match we could have won. The pitch at Haydons Road looked well prepared, but came packed with a fair few surprises, which meant that ultimately it was a bowler's wicket. Batting first, we made a cautious start after Raj did well to keep out a first delivery that came in quickly and never made it higher than six inches off the ground. Eventually his partner Yov opened up the bat with an enormous straight six down the ground, but then fell shortly thereafter to an lbw that looked obvious from square leg. Raj followed to a beast of a ball that popped up off a length and against which he could do nothing but loop it gently back to the bowler. A new recruit, Tommy, enlisted by CK from CAC, played well to add a further 20, but overall the Salix innings was mainly one of fits and starts: there wasn't really the usual Salix collapse, but then nobody seemed to push on and it looked like we would come in somewhat below par. Thankfully our other CK CAC recruit, Rich, was in fine form, clearly brimming with confidence having taken six wickets and a hat-trick for CAC the previous day. He played a chanceless innings coming in at No.10, shepherding the tail and taking us to what should have been a defensible total, well assisted at the end by President Smut defending more sensibly than those higher up the order.

With knowledge of his bowling prowess the previous day and clearly a fine all-round cricketer (please come back and play for us again, please, we love you, we're not desperate, we just, er, have trouble meeting the right cricketers) Rich opened the bowling and immediately had the Gents' openers in trouble. He should have taken a wicket early in his second over when the ball was skied to me at mid-off and I would have done a better job if I'd have just stood there and let it fly down my capacious gob, although with the general paucity of my fielding on Sunday, it probably would have skittled through my digestive tract and fallen out the other side. Gross. It wasn't too critical a mistake on that occasion because Rich got his man lbw the following ball, but it was a signifier of what was to come: although CK and Raj kept it tight and Saiborg maintained his good form from last week, picking up a couple of wickets, we made drops that just took the pressure off at exactly the times when we needed a breakthrough. Of those dropped only Amar's was particularly difficult, a full-length dive across first slip to a ball that would have died before it got to that position.

This should take nothing away from the performance of the Gents, who clearly bat in depth and as per usual were delightful opposition, fun to play against and gracious in (another) victory. Thanks to them for hosting and to our stand-ins from CAC for helping us get a little closer than we might otherwise have done. Please come again. Really, please. This week if you can. And the week after if you like.

2020 scorecards

19/7	Old Tenisonians	Gents 184 (A. Khan 36, Kota 35, S. Patel 24, Chatharaju 21*, Siddiq 3-17) Battersea Eagles 164 (Shoiab Khan 38, Naseem 23, Atta 22, Gulati 3-8, Mandava 3-21)	Won by 20 runs
26/7	Abbey RG	Gents 200-9 (Gulati 38, Francis 32, Kota 30, Chatharaju 20, Newcombe 20*, Sudireddy 30, Sah 3-42) Bricklayer's Arms 201-4 (Waqas 48*, Gul 46, Tremain 40, Thapa 39)	Lost by 6 wickets
2/8	Old Tenisonians	Gents 252-7 (Sudireddy 96, Gulati 66*, Kota 35, Mather 3-47, Burson 3-48) Kempton 213 (Pipe 68, Axten 45, Armstrong 43, H. Patel 5-41)	Won by 39 runs
9/8	Durston House	Gents 98 (Sudireddy 29, Namilikonda 20, Egan 5-50, Derrick Redhead 3-19) Northfields 82 (Darren Redhead 29, Dubey 3-8)	Won by 16 runs
16/8	Old Tenisonians	Gents 246-5 (Namilikonda 91, Kota 49, Kumar 35*) Clapham In 148-7 (Cheetham 46, Ferreira 20)	Won by 98 runs
23/8	Old Tenisonians	Bricklayer's Arms 110 (Thapa 35, Tremain 24, H. Patel 5-26) Gents 116-5 (S. Patel 43*, Kota 29)	Won by 5 wickets
30/8	Paulin Ground	Gents 187-10 (Kumar 32*, Pentakota 28, Webster 3-33) Winchmore Hill Tigers 145 (Hodges 52*, Sikander 33, Gulati 4-15)	Won by 42 runs
5/9	Long Ditton RG	Gents 132 (Kota 44, Small 41, Sweeting 4-23) Squirrels 135-9 (Chase 45*, Aldridge 32, Scott 26)	Lost by 1 wicket
6/9	Wycombe House	Gents 225-8 (R. Patel 45, Gulati 44, Kota 32*, A. Ahmed 28, Krishna 22, Pingili 20*, Jackson 4-27) Millfields 88 (Jackson 21, Namilikonda 3-1)	Won by 137 runs
13/9	Holtwhites Hill	Holtwhites Trinibis 194-4 (Popat 89, Smith 47, Evans 24) Gents 198-7 (Kota 49, Gulati 26, Namilikonda 23*, Francis 21, Mahachi 3-31)	Won by 3 wickets
20/9	Haydons Road RG	Salix 140 (Holloway 39*, Webster 20, H. Patel 3-14) Gents 141-7 (Gulati 37*, Francis 31, Newcombe 26, Holloway 3-23)	Won by 4 wickets

Date	Gents	Result	W. Hill Tigers	Result
Sun 12 July	Golden XI	Cancelled	Haringey Libraries	Won by 8 wickets
Sun 19 July	Battersea Eagles	Won by 20 runs	Cincinnati	Lost by 12 runs
Sun 26 July	Bricklayer's Arms	Lost by 6 wickets	Hendon	Won by 6 wickets
Sun 2 Aug	Kempton	Won by 39 runs	Acme	Won by 57 runs
Sun 9 Aug	Northfields	Won by 16 runs	Plastics	Won by 66 runs
Sun 16 Aug	Clapham In	Won by 98 runs	-	-
Sun 23 Aug	Bricklayer's Arms	Won by 5 wickets	Mayfields	Lost by 45 runs
Sun 30 Aug	Winchmore Hill Tigers	Won by 42 runs	Gents	Lost by 42 runs
Sat 5 Sept	Squirrels	Lost by 1 wicket	-	-
Sun 6 Sept	Millfields	Won by 137 runs	Graces	Won by 146 runs
Sun 13 Sept	Holtwhites Trinibis	Won by 3 wickets	Whalers	Won by 2 wickets
Sun 20 Sept	Salix	Won by 4 wickets	Fives	Lost by 7 wickets
Sat 26 Sept	-	-	Railway Taverners	Won by 9 wickets
Record Runs	Played 11 Won 9 Lost 2 Kota 325, Gulati 232, Sudireddy 204, Namilikonda 187, S. Patel 122, Francis 116		Played 11 Won 7 Lost 4 Greenham 300, Nawagumuwa 253, J. Ranger 169, Hodges 163, Adejumo 128 M. Webster 21	
Wickets	H. Patel 16, Namilikonda 14, Gulati 12		M. Webster 21	
Catches/Stumpings	Sudireddy 9/2		Parr 8/1	

2020 in numbers

Highest score for: 252-7 *n.* Kempton **Against:** 213 by Kempton, **Lowest score for:** 98 *n.* Northfields **Against:** 82 by Northfields
100 partnerships: 144 Namilikonda/Kota *n.* Clapham In (2nd wicket record), 140 Sudireddy/Gulati *n.* Kempton (7th wicket record),
 100 Pipe/Axten, Kempton

50s/100s for (M = first 50 or 100, D = on debut)	50s/100s against
96 Sudireddy <i>n.</i> Kempton	89 Popat, Holtwhites Trinibis
91 Namilikonda <i>n.</i> Clapham In	68 Pipe, Kempton
66* Gulati <i>n.</i> Kempton	52* Hodges, Winchmore Hill Tigers
4-wicket returns for (M = maiden 4/5 wickets return)	4-wicket returns against
5-26 H. Patel <i>n.</i> Bricklayer's Arms	5-50 Egan, Northfields
5-41 H. Patel <i>n.</i> Kempton	4-23 Sweeting, Squirrels
4-15 Gulati <i>n.</i> Winchmore Hill Tigers M	4-27 Jackson, Millfields

Sixes (29): 8 Namilikonda 4 Gulati, R. Patel 3 Kumar, Sudireddy 2 A. Ahmed, Francis, Kota 1 S. Patel
Run outs of opponents (8): 2 Namilikonda, Sudireddy 1 Dubey, Francis, Gulati, Pingili

Milestones for Kota and Namilikonda

The second Brick game saw Kota score his 2,000th run and Namilikonda his 1,000th. A game later at the Paulin Ground, Namilikonda took his 50th wicket. Batting statistics up to Brick were:

Pavan Kota		Srinivas Namilikonda	
Matches	65	Matches	51
Innings	63	Innings	47
NO	15	NO	9
Runs	2,006	Runs	1,011
Batting avg.	41.79	Batting avg.	26.61
50s/100s	16/1	50s/100s	5/1

Gulati and H. Patel top averages after last-game drama

“Nobody cares about averages,” declare the pious observers of our Sunday cricket scene. “Except of course everybody who has ever played,” is our response. Exciting tussles at the top of both batting and bowling went to the final game against Salix. Before this Kota had led the batting with 36.11 (from Gulati on 32.50), and Pingili the bowling with 11.00 (from H. Patel on 11.69). But in the absence of these two Gulati and Patel took their chances, 37* and 3-14 seeing them to the top of the board by close margins.

Had Gulati not earned the not out asterisk (if one of three Salix players had caught him, for example) then Kota would have held him off. Had we reduced qualification to two games Newcombe would have been top. Dubey brought H. Patel back for a second spell, comprising one successful ball, after the incumbent bowler at that end (his namesake, who must remain anonymous) refused to continue. Had he not bowled again, his average would have been 11.07, 0.07 behind Pingili. Before Salix one also needed the second decimal place in the economy list to split R. Patel (2.56) and Krishna, whose 2.57 increased to a still commendable 2.83 after Holloway’s assault.

Before Salix H. Patel and Namilikonda had been tied on 13 wickets, three ahead of Gulati, but Patel pulled ahead in the final overs of Salix’s innings to end on 16. Sudireddy was streets ahead in the catching as a wicket-keeper should be but seldom was in days gone by.

Player (*debut)	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
A. Ahmed	5	5	1	87	21.75	1	-	-	-	-	-
Chatharaju	5	5	2	62	20.67	-	22	4	80	1	80.00
Dubey	9	5	-	34	6.80	2	27.2	2	120	8	15.00
Francis	8	8	-	116	14.50	3	-	-	-	-	-
Gulati	9	8	2	232	38.67	3	51.4	11	201	12	16.75
Karnekonti*	3	3	2	26	26.00	-	9	2	34	3	11.33
Kota	10	10	1	325	36.11	2	18.5	2	81	4	20.25
Krishna	9	5	1	54	13.50	2	46	10	130	5	26.00
Kumar	7	7	2	93	18.60	1	13.3	2	49	2	24.50
Namilikonda	10	9	2	187	26.71	2	52	6	237	14	16.93
Newcombe	2	2	1	46	46.00	1	3	0	19	1	19.00
Oruganti	2	1	-	1	1.00	2	12.3	3	57	4	14.25
H. Patel	6	4	2	34	17.00	1	35	2	166	16	10.38
R. Patel	3	2	-	48	24.00	1	16	4	41	3	13.67
S. Patel	9	7	1	122	20.33	2	23.3	1	128	4	32.00
Pentakota	5	3	-	31	10.33	-	21	4	100	1	100.00
Pingili	6	4	1	24	8.00	4	15	2	55	5	11.00
Sudireddy	11	11	1	204	20.40	9/2	-	-	-	-	-

One game only: Z. Ahmed 1/1/-/4, 6-2-19-1, Gilkes 1/1/-/3, Kandakuri* 1/1/-/0, Mandava* 1/1/-/6, 4-1-21-3 (1 ct.), Small 1/1/-/41 (3 ct.), S. Snelling 1/1/-/16, 3-2-5-0 (1 ct.), T. Snelling* 1/1/-/0, 5-2-25-1

Top 10 batting averages (5 innings)

Player	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.
Gulati	9	8	2	232	38.67
Kota	10	10	1	325	36.11
Namilikonda	10	9	2	187	26.71
A. Ahmed	5	5	1	87	21.75
Chatharaju	5	5	2	62	20.67
S. Patel	9	7	1	122	20.33
Kumar	7	7	2	93	18.60
Sudireddy	11	11	-	204	18.55
Francis	8	8	-	116	14.50
Krishna	9	5	1	54	13.50

Top 10 bowling averages (10 overs)

Player	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
H. Patel	35	2	166	16	10.38
Pingili	15	2	55	5	11.00
R. Patel	16	4	41	3	13.67
Oruganti	12.3	3	57	4	14.25
Dubey	27.2	2	120	8	15.00
Gulati	51.4	11	201	12	16.75
Namilikonda	52	6	237	14	16.93
Kota	18.5	2	81	4	20.25
Kumar	13.3	2	49	2	24.50
Krishna	46	10	130	5	26.00

Top 10 bowling economy rates (10 overs)

Player	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Econ.
R. Patel	16	4	41	3	2.56
Krishna	46	10	130	5	2.83
Kumar	13.3	2	49	2	3.63
Chatharaju	22	4	80	1	3.64
Pingili	15	2	55	5	3.67
Gulati	51.4	11	201	12	3.89
Kota	18.5	2	81	4	4.30
Dubey	27.2	2	120	8	4.39
Namilikonda	52	6	237	14	4.56
Oruganti	12.3	3	57	4	4.56

Top 10 bowling strike rates (10 overs)

Player	O	M	Runs	Wck.	SR
H. Patel	35	2	166	16	13.13
Pingili	15	2	55	5	18.00
Oruganti	12.3	3	57	4	18.75
Dubey	27.2	2	120	8	20.50
Namilikonda	52	6	237	14	22.29
Gulati	51.4	11	201	12	25.83
Kota	18.5	2	81	4	28.25
R. Patel	16	4	41	3	32.00
S. Patel	23.3	1	128	4	35.25
Kumar	13.3	2	49	2	40.50

Career Top 20s

Updated career stats are now available on the website. They incorporate the deeds of all 391 players in our history, even the 146 who played just once. The Excel includes a wonderful Pivot Table so you can slice the data however you like. The qualification for batting averages is 15 innings and for bowling metrics 50 overs. Of the 6,647 appearances recorded, 892 (13%) were by the 19 Patels. The new generation are now mixing it with the old guard.

Appearances		Runs		Wickets	
S. Patel	379	S. Patel	6,606	S. Patel	417
H. Patel	247	Ashton	3,848	Snelling	400
Snelling	246	D. Patel	3,219	H. Patel	337
Buck	219	Wright	3,020	D. Patel	234
Burman	211	Husain	2,270	Ashton	222
D. Patel	198	Kota	2,146	Sciberras	152
Sciberras	175	Kumar	1,908	Todd	148
Ashton	153	Gilkes	1,874	Wright	135
Wright	149	Buck	1,815	Buck	115
Todd	147	H. Patel	1,808	Kumar	104
Gilkes	139	Dubey	1,624	Boddington	98
Toft	137	Basker	1,604	Dubey	79
Denton	129	Mark	1,521	Husain	76
Kumar	125	Small	1,439	Dolan	74
Dubey	116	Boddington	1,416	Hill	66
Richmond	112	Snelling	1,380	Kota	66
Caveney	104	Bocha	1,374	Hibbert	62
S. Desai	94	S. Desai	1,269	Bocha	57
Boddington	82	Khan	1,172	Namilikonda	55
Newcombe	79	Maughan	1,131	Inkollu	54
Catches		Batting averages		No. of 50s (inc. 100s)	
S. Patel	119	Husain	49.35	S. Patel (1)	31
Sciberras	60	Cloete	43.82	Ashton (2)	25
Ashton	59	Kota	42.08	Husain (5)	20
H. Patel	57	Gulati	40.12	Kota (1)	18
Snelling	48	Lall	36.96	Wright (3)	17
Buck	44	Small	31.98	Basker	13
D. Patel	42	Ashton	30.54	Kumar	10
Maughan	40	Wahed	28.20	Small (2)	10
S. Desai	35	Iqbal	27.83	Dubey	9
H. Desai	33	Rudru	27.21	D. Patel	9
Wright	33	A. Ahmed	26.44	Bocha	8
Gilkes	32	Basker	26.30	Hubbucks	8
Namilikonda	31	Minhas	26.13	Lall (2)	8
Dubey	29	Namilikonda	25.71	Cloete (2)	7
Newcombe	29	Bocha	24.98	Gilkes	7
Small	29	S. Patel	24.93	Maughan	7
Bocha	27	Wright	23.97	Hughes	6
Denton	27	Pentakota	23.30	Khan	6
Sudireddy	27	Maughan	23.08	Namilikonda (1)	6
Kota, Toft	25	Francis	22.52	S. Desai (1), Inkollu	5
Bowling averages		Bowling economy		Bowling strike rate	
C. Wright	9.87	Thompson	2.54	C. Wright	16.17
Ashton	11.23	Snelling	2.95	Lall	16.88
Iqbal	11.68	Ashton	3.01	Small	18.52
Inkollu	11.81	Fitch	3.03	Husain	19.22
Snelling	11.88	Katragadda	3.09	Oruganti	19.24
Lall	12.67	Inkollu	3.20	Newcombe	19.78
Oruganti	12.76	Iqbal	3.35	H. Patel	19.85
Thompson	13.13	Hill	3.51	Burman	20.35
Husain	13.41	Rudru	3.54	Iqbal	20.93
Rudru	13.69	C. Wright	3.66	Bocha	21.12
Bignell	15.10	Wright	3.67	Alderman	21.14
Jampala	15.52	Dolan	3.68	Namilikonda	21.36
H. Patel	15.82	Pingili	3.71	S. Desai	21.57
Thornicroft	15.94	Krishna	3.81	Buck	21.66
Wright	16.01	Boddington	3.83	Kota	21.83
Hill	16.29	Bandla	3.83	Inkollu	22.13
S. Patel	16.32	S. Patel	3.85	Bignell	22.18
D. Patel	16.43	R. Ashton	3.86	Ashton	22.37
Namilikonda	16.47	Kumar	3.91	Jampala	22.45
Shanvare	16.54	Oruganti	3.98	Wilman	22.46