
THE GENT

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Bill Flack RIP



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Contact this magazine via email andrewburman_840@hotmail.com



Around the circuit



On 1 May Crossbats 245-6 beat Village 220 all out by 25 runs, a result the Gents never achieved. Well done to centurion Graeme Winch, 109 (left, unkindly described by Village as resembling controversial doctor Harold Shipman). Village's conspiratorial match reporter had to find an excuse for the defeat of course and readers did not have long to wait to find out what it was. Crossbats bowler Avi (4-31) was tentatively described by Village as having an "unusual action" and later in the report, when the writer was more certain of his position, as a "***ing chucking ***". That's the spirit. Mildly retaliating, Crossbats' reporter noted the inclusion in Village's ranks of a "ranting bowler" who delivered a barrage of beamers. You must decide, gentlemen of the jury, which report to believe.

Crossbats have already played 12 games, testament to their resilient artificial strip and a big squad that can accommodate two games in a weekend.

Groundsman John Crawford has left Old Tenisonians and a new chap installed. More when we have it. We wish JC well.

Wimbledon United was cancelled on the only warm day of the season and much was said. Research has revealed 19 rain cancellations of our games since the start of the 2012 season out of 172 scheduled, or 11%. One might therefore expect two or three games to be pulled in a season of 25 so we have already had our quota. The worst seasons were 2007 and 2012 with five rained off. It has been frustrating but there are still plenty of games to come. Our friend Khalid Harris from Battersea Eagles, whose game also fell victim to the weather, moseyed down to Old Tenisonians on the off chance of a game. Wrong ground, and only an internal five-a-side match because Old Tiffinians were a no show.

Good luck to Wycombe House this season. They have thanked GWLCC for assisting their JustGiving fundraiser after the break-in (the perpetrators also tried to nick a heavy roller from Twickenham CC but were foiled by an eagle-eyed neighbour). Here's what captain Hamzah Khan had to say about the first XI:

"With another couple of young additions we still have an average age in the early 20s which creates great energy in the field. I definitely feel that the boys have learned from last year's experiences and come into this season wiser, stronger and better in our bid to win the Division 2 title and secure promotion: one of the first and most important steps in the exciting future vision of the club."

Stuart Alexander Snelling played his 247th match for GWLCC on 2 May and took his 401st wicket. Leading up to the game, he was careful to manage expectations of his form and fitness but from the scorer's table there didn't seem much wrong. His second ball took a top edge and there was Sudireddy running off towards square-leg to pouch it.

Awards shared after truncated season

The 2020 playing awards were presented after the nets at Wycombe House on 17 April. All that is apart from the Most Improved shield which was resident at the house of Ratnakar Sudireddy who failed to attend. No matter, because he retained the award, the first player to do so. The quality of his batting rocketed in 2019 and was undiminished in 2020. He also caught nine, stumped two and ran out two with direct hits in his 11 games.

Batsman and Bowler went to those with the most runs and wickets. Pavan Kota's 325 runs in 10 games, 93 ahead of Vinitesh Gulati, delivered the Batsman award. He has monopolised this award, winning it in each of his four full seasons. Hemin Patel (16 wickets) won Bowler (the graphic below shows that he got more than his share of wickets of middle-order batsmen). Sudireddy and Srinivas Namilikonda tied for Fielder. Gulati triumphed as All-rounder with 232 runs, 12 wickets, three catches and a run out in his nine games, excellent returns. Well done all.

Batsman	Eagles	Brick	Kempton	Northfields	Clapham In	Brick	WH Tigers	Squirrels	Millfields	Holtwhites	Salix
1	Gulati	H. Patel	Namilikonda				Namilikonda				Namilikonda
2	Gulati			Gulati				Namilikonda			
3	Namilikonda	H. Patel		Namilikonda	Namilikonda						
4	Namilikonda					H. Patel	Gulati		Namilikonda	Gulati	Gulati
5			H. Patel	Namilikonda	Namilikonda	H. Patel	Gulati				Gulati
6			H. Patel			H. Patel			Namilikonda		
7			H. Patel								
8			H. Patel			H. Patel	H. Patel		Namilikonda		H. Patel
9	Gulati					H. Patel	Namilikonda		Gulati		
10							Gulati				H. Patel
11			H. Patel								H. Patel
12							Gulati				

We also congratulate Rakesh Patel, whose senior position within TAUUK has now been ratified, and Ameer Ahmed, newly a father to Layena, who has been promoted to the captaincy of Wycombe House IIs. He leads a young side leavened with the experience of Carl Burdett (140 games, HS 127*).



We wish Northfields and Wimbledon United well with their delayed centenary celebrations. United's website refers to an astonishing match at Cottenham Park on Sunday 24 June 1973 where they dismissed Surrey Grove for 12, winning by six wickets with 15-4. Alas, detailed records only date from 1969.

Crossbats v. Gentlemen of West London

Saturday 10 April, Marble Hill Park. Gents won toss. Cloudy, 8C

Won by 8 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Crossbats				
*Kumar		b A. Skinner	6	S. Skinner	c Kota	b Namilikonda	40
Krishna	c A. Skinner	b Humphrey	0	McAlpine	c R. Patel	b Pingili	9
Kota	c and	b Deoras	14	Ross	c and	b R. Patel	12
Namilikonda		b Humphrey	1	†Felton		b Krishna	18
R. Patel		b McAlpine	75	Carter	run out (Bocha)		22
†Sudireddy	c and	b Deoras	5	*Wright	c Kumar	b Namilikonda	18
Bocha	c and	b S. Skinner	49	Winch		b Pingili	38
Chatharaju	not out		35	A. Skinner	not out		9
Pingili	not out		12	Deoras	not out		4
Karnekanti and Puli	dnb			Humphrey and Boereboom	dnb		
Extras	w5		5	Extras	b3 lb2 w19		24
Total	7 wickets	35 overs	202	Total	7 wickets	35 overs	194
FoW: 2, 9, 14, 89, 97, 102, 173				FoW: 15, 43, 78, 109, 127, 172, 180			
Bowling: A. Skinner 7-3-6-1, Humphrey 7-2-31-2, Deoras 7-1-49-2,				Bowling: R. Patel 7-0-31-1, Pingili 7-1-44-2, Krishna 6-0-41-1,			
Carter 3-0-21-0, McAlpine 3-0-26-1, Felton 4-0-33-0,				Namilikonda 7-0-31-2, Kota 4-0-20-0, Karnekanti 4-0-22-0			
S. Skinner 4-0-36-1							

The Gents edged an exciting match after R. Patel, Pingili and Namilikonda, wisely held back by Kumar for a final blast, conceded only 29 in the last five overs when 37 were needed. Crossbats nearly did it and no Gent could have complained if they had. Earlier, blasts from R. Patel (75 off 38 balls with 14 fours and a six) and the returning Bocha (49 off 32 with seven fours) and Chatharaju (35 off 32 with two fours) had set a large if not insuperable total. That made it 1,532 runs for just 50 wickets in the four matches between the clubs, three of them played on the benign artificial strip of this pretty ground.

This was the earliest domestic game by three days and in sepulchral light worthy of November play started at 12.17. Krishna top-edged to square leg in the second over as A. Skinner and Humphrey dominated with the new ball. The first boundary did not arrive till the twelfth over at the end of which Gents had crawled to 22-3. Patel began with five dot balls. There would be only seven more in his 55 minute stay as boundaries flowed mainly down the ground and square on the off side. The rock Kota (14 off 52) gave him staunch support as the Gents built healthily. Controversy came when Namilikonda declined an appeal for a stumping of Patel. Video evidence filmed rather unconventionally by the umpire himself was inconclusive.

Crossbats bowled with guile but the middle order, chiefly Bocha and Chatharaju, continued the good work of Patel and Kota and the innings closed at five and twenty to three. Few overs would be bowled after this point in the First Class games going on in southern England. It was now very dark, so one could see, or not see, why. Tea and coffee, splendidly supplied by spectators H. and S. Patel, went down a treat.

The left-handed S. Skinner impressed from the word go as Crossbats piled on at five an over. The Gents had their successes, a neat slip catch by second slip Patel followed by the afternoon's fourth caught and bowled. Short mid-off Kota caught Skinner in the fifteenth over but at 18-overs drinks the hosts were 99-3, the required run rate 6.06. By his own admission, this was not Krishna's day but he produced a pearler to get rid of Felton before mid-on Bocha, who was having quite a day, ran out the veteran Carter who was attempting a tight second. But merry swiping from Wright and Winch brought Crossbats right back into it before Kumar clung on to one in the covers, captain catching captain.

Kumar had much to ponder and his decisions on the disposition of the bowlers were impressive. At 30 overs Crossbats had stood at 165-5 with twos aplenty being sprinted and the Gents powerless to stop them. But the fielding then tightened as 23 came from four overs. Thirteen were needed off the last, bowled by Namilikonda, but only six came and the Gents had the win. Puli neither batted nor bowled but otherwise involvement was shared around. Despite the horrid conditions it had been a cracking game and might have gone either way. After months of isolation and, it must be said, disappointing haircuts (or lack of) it was a pleasure to meet up again.

Byfleet v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 25 April, Byfleet. Byfleet won toss. Sunny, 14C

Won by 4 wickets

Byfleet		Gentlemen of West London				
M. Hockin	retired out	50	*Dubey	b Marshall	12	
†J. Hill	c Sudireddy	12	Krishna	c and	b Jones	15
S. Hockin	lbw	29	Puli	c Clough	b Bowman	34
G. Hill	run out (Puli)	9	Karnekonti	c J. Hill	b Denham	8
Clough	retired out	51	†Sudireddy		b Deven	14
Oxborough	not out	8	S. Patel	not out		42
Marshall	c Dubey	2	Namilikonda		b Bowman	0
Jones	not out	9	Kota	not out		55
Denham, *Bowman and Deven	dnb		Kumar, Chatharaju and H. Patel	dnb		
Extras	b4 lb4 w3 nb3	14	Extras	w3 nb2		5
Total	6 wickets	35 overs	Total	6 wickets	31.5 overs	185
FoW: 32, 87, 108, 134, 170, 172			FoW: 18, 39, 52, 83, 89, 89			
Bowling: Namilikonda 5-0-22-1, Chatharaju 6-0-20-1, Puli 1-0-8-0, Kumar 4-0-16-0, S. Patel 4-0-25-0, H. Patel 7-1-32-1, Kota 6-1-34-0, Krishna 2-0-19-0			Bowling: Marshall 6-2-26-1, Jones 6-2-17-1, Denham 4-0-22-1, Deven 7-0-43-1, Bowman 4.5-0-36-2, Oxborough 4-0-41-0			

At six o'clock Sanjay Patel lofted the spinner Bowman high over long on to bring up a famous victory. Such an outcome had seemed unlikely at tea and more so 20.5 overs into the second innings when Namilikonda was bowled for a golden duck. Patel (five fours) and Kota (eight fours) then turned the match on its head with an unbeaten stand of 96 in exactly 11 overs.

Byfleet won a good toss on a bright but windy afternoon when it was far more comfortable keeping warm on the pitch than scoring or spectating. A vastly experienced line-up largely had things its own way in compiling 184-6 including two retired outs by M. Hocking and Clough. Chatharaju was the pick of the seamers and H. Patel and Kota, bowling in tandem, gave Dubey a measure of control until Clough's late blast spoiled their figures. From 87-1 in the 18th over the hosts went serenely on, never cutting loose but able to set a challenge that would beat the Gents five times out of six. There were a few dropped catches but the fielding on a dry, bumpy outfield held up well and the few visitors' successes were hard earned. Puli executed a fine run out from deep and Dubey took a well-judged catch at long off.

Dubey cut two fours in the first over of the reply before driving over Marshall's slower ball. Krishna and Puli got their heads down and ran well before Krishna was caught and bowled. Karnekanti looked good before top-edging a pull to the 'keeper. Puli, whose best innings for the club this was by a distance, and Sudireddy added 31 at exactly a run a ball but the quick demise of Sudireddy bowled, Puli caught by a corker of a one-handed catch by mid-wicket running round, and Namilikonda bowled jabbing forward next ball bequeathed a heap of trouble for the lower middle order.

Dubey, anticipating a game that might go the distance, had given much thought to his batting order, put his best batsman at eight and stuffed the tail with finishers. But Patel and Kota took control, hardly playing a false stroke. The pitch bore up well with true bounce and fours came regularly, allied to tremendous running. After four overs together, the required run rate was down to 6.0 from 6.9.

Byfleet kept at it but the batsmen were masterly, dispatching the loose ball to the boundary, chipping into spaces for leisurely singles and clipping ones and twos. The returning Marshall put a brake on the scoring but from the point of view of the hosts the damage had been done. They fought to the end and can be proud of their efforts under the leadership of Saturday III's captain Bowman (their batting and catching hero Clough captains their IIs).

Byfleet's experience was referred to above. Now we salute it. Till the end of 2020, Clough had played 200 games for the club, Daven 283, S. Hockin 316, Jones 426, M. Hockin 1,142 and Denham 1,390. S. Patel's 379 caps is a magnificent achievement but would only put him 23rd in the Byfleet roll. Their whole team were splendid ambassadors for the club and it was good to see the teams socialise after. They hosted well and the home and away gazebos were an innovative, welcome touch.



Above, batting heroes Sanjay Patel, Pavan Kota (his 19th score of fifty or more) and Chandrasekhar Puli. There is a backstory behind SP's left-knee trouser stain. It is quite a thing for a 49 year-old to save three runs with a rolling and tumbling stop on the boundary. Expect such stains (young Puli's isn't bad either) to be a hot topic on the Gents Wives WhatsApp group when they do the weekly wash.

Binfield v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 2 May, F.W.E. Goates Memorial Ground. Binfield won toss. Sunny, 13C

Won by 3 wickets

Binfield		Gentlemen of West London				
Jones	c Kota	b Krishna	1	Karnekonti	run out (Humphrey)	65
†Harvey		b Krishna	8	Krishna	c Docherty	38
Humphrey	c Kota	b Namilikonda	52	Kota	c Davies	16
Withana	c Sudireddy	b Karnekanti	15	Bocha	c Vines	42
Vines	c Sudireddy	b Karnekanti	13	Chatharaju	c Edgington	4
*Davies	c Sudireddy	b Snelling	16	Raj Patel		2
Edgington	not out		37	Puli	not out	0
Henly	c Bocha	b Krishna	15	†Sudireddy		0
Daivasigamany	not out		12	Namilikonda	not out	7
Docherty and Potter	dnb			*S. Patel and Snelling	dnb	
Extras	b3 w11 nb4		18	Extras	b9 w4 nb1	14
Total	7 wickets	40 overs	187	Total	7 wickets	38.1 overs
FoW: 2, 16, 50, 70, 116, 121, 160				FoW: 97, 109, 152, 171, 180, 180, 180		
Bowling: Krishna 8-1-36-3, Chatharaju 7-0-36-0, Namilikonda 8-0-31-1, Karnekanti 7-0-29-2, Raj Patel 5-0-26-0, Snelling 5-0-26-1				Bowling: Daivasigamany 8-1-20-0, Potter 7-0-43-0, Docherty 7-0-37-3, Henly 8-0-33-1, Davies 5-0-41-0, Vines 3-1-1-5-2		

A brilliant maiden fifty by Praneeth Karnekanti, well supported by Vamsee Krishna and the hard-hitting Praveen Bocha, took the Gents to the brink of victory. A convincing win looked likely at 97-0 off 20 overs and 152-2 in the 32nd. Players then got changed, never a wise thing to do, and the Gods punished the Gents' hubris when 14 year-old Docherty and the veteran Vines caused mayhem. The visitors just scraped home at a quarter to seven in an atmosphere of baffled excitement.

The match itself had been two years in the making, the Snellings now playing their cricket here. Covid put paid to it in 2020 but after some toing and froing on dates it at last went ahead and what a splendid affair it was. A pretty ground, a green but true and bouncy pitch, a sunny if cool day: all the ingredients were there for a classic and that is what we got.

Binfield batted consistently, with seven batsmen in double figures and notable if contrasting knocks from Humphrey, who batted 27 overs and hit three fours, and Edgington (12 overs, five fours). The visitors' bowling was steady, Krishna and Karnekanti the pick. Snelling took a wicket second ball, one of three catches by Sudireddy to set alongside two tough ones by Kota and a well-judged effort on the boundary by Bocha to give Krishna his third victim. The club's twentieth Patel, Raj, got turn and bounce with his off-breaks. The fielding was competent once everybody listened to the captain with Chatharaju outstanding.

Karnekonti and Krishna nearly became only the sixth Gents' openers to put up a century stand (opponents have done so 13 times). Runs flowed all over the ground and with brisk running only 91 were needed in the final 20 overs with all wickets in hand. A smart direct-hit run out did for Karnekanti first ball after the resumption and Krishna holed out to square-leg five overs later for his highest club score.

The weather was set fair for the Gents it seemed with Kota ceding the strike to Bocha, who lit up the afternoon with a flurry of boundaries, driving Davies's last three balls for the only six of the day, a four and a three. Zoe Docherty's first three overs were wicketless. Eighteen runs came from them. However, her second spell was deadly. Kota drove to mid-on, Bocha also holed out and Raj Patel was bowled. Two more wickets fell on 180 as Chatharaju edged to slip and a dumbfounded Sudireddy was castled.

Now came the undignified sight of puffer jackets, jeans and other items of civilian clothing being hurriedly discarded and whites being pulled on. The scene lacked only that immortal soundtrack to the Benny Hill Show, *Yakety Sax*, blasting away in the background. Namilikonda might have been timed out but Binfield kindly did not appeal. The burly all-rounder did the needful with Puli 0* and Gents had won by three wickets with nine balls to spare. A feature of the innings was the high number of threes, 10 in all. Thanks to Binfield for being such gracious hosts and to Theo Snelling for scoring.

Karnekti's 65 the match-winner



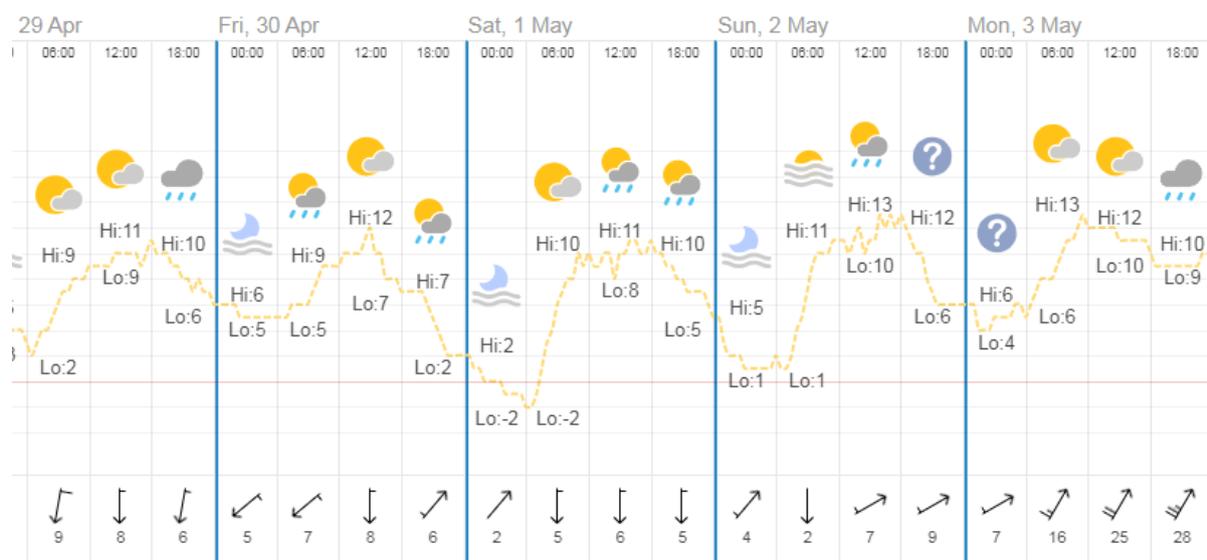
We congratulate Praneeth Karnekti (left), player No. 391 (differentiated alphabetically from No. 392 and most recent Theo Snelling, whose debut was in the same match) for his maiden fifty in his sixth game. Theo was also on the ground, and as expected did a faultless job in operating the electronic scoreboard. Father Stuart was stiff and sore the next day but loved every minute. It was good to see Joel too.

The thought arose how many more wickets Snarler might have taken had the Gents had a regular 'keeper in his heyday. The club has been blessed in recent seasons with Ameer Ahmed, Basker, Namilikonda, Small and Laurie Wright taking the gloves and the current man, Sudireddy, might prove to be the best of the lot.

The Gents' glovesman is in the form of his life with 32 victims in his 29 games as 'keeper (including St Anne's). That's up there with Paul Turpin (24 caught and two stumped in his 25 games). Against Binfield, he took a regulation nick, a low one diving to leg and a sprinting one for Snarler. But he ain't getting the most improved award for a third time.

Sanjay Patel slams weather report

Past Weather in Bracknell — Graph



Players often dispute details in the match reports and we are pleased to correct genuine mistakes. It shows that people pay attention and ensures that the right people get credit. Then Sanjay Patel took things to a new level by arguing that the temperature recorded at Binfield was wrong, thus adopting a position of denial of official scientific data, a first even for him.

We stand our ground. It felt like Christmas on Neptune, and it is possible that a fantasist invents these weather records, but they exist on the internet so must be true. See above snip from a Norwegian site renowned for its accuracy: www.timeanddate.com/weather/uk. While on this subject, we note that the 8C witnessed on 10 April was the coldest matchday temperature since May 2012 when Ramgarhia demolished Gents at Ashford CC.

Note: Wiki states: "The coldest planet in the solar system is **Neptune** with an average temperature of -353 degrees Fahrenheit or -214 degrees Celsius. Temperatures at cricket matches on Earth may feel as cold due to wind chill."

Gentlemen of West London v. St Anne's Allstars

Sunday 30 May, Wycombe House. St Anne's Allstars won toss. Sunny, 21C

Won by 4 wickets

St Anne's Allstars			Gentlemen of West London				
*†Cresswell	run out (Karnekanti)		6	Kota	lbw	b Singh	74
Krishna	c Sudireddy	b Dubey	7	Kumar	run out (Biss)		0
Biss		b Z. Ahmed	10	Puli	lbw	b Waddicor	1
Singh	c Kota	b Shaikh	30	†Sudireddy		b Waddicor	20
Mohammed		b Z. Ahmed	8	Chatharaju	lbw	b Krishna	12
Bowman	c Kota	b Chatharaju	31	S. Patel	lbw	b Krishna	0
Grant		b H. Patel	0	Karnekanti	not out		14
Rizvi		b Shaikh	24	Z. Ahmed	not out		22
Scott	c Puli	b H. Patel	2	Shaikh, *Dubey and H. Patel	dnb		
Waddicor	not out		36				
Duncan		b Dubey	3				
Extras	b7 w6 nb1		14	Extras	b9 lb4 w16		29
Total	All out	39.3 overs	171	Total	6 wickets	26.2 overs	172
FoW: 7, 21, 23, 33, 89, 99, 99, 120, 131, 171			FoW: 11, 27, 84, 113, 113, 139				
Bowling: Z. Ahmed 6-1-27-2, Dubey 6.3-0-19-2, Karnekanti 6-0-18-0, Chatharaju 6-0-24-1, Shaikh 6-2-23-2, H. Patel 7-1-36-2, S. Patel 2-0-17-0			Bowling: Bowman 5-1-23-0, Waddicor 8-0-48-2, Krishna 6-0-25-2, Scott 2-0-22-0, Singh 3-0-26-1, Grant 2.2-0-15-0				

After three cancellations the sun returned for the long-awaited match against the club's oldest opponents (2002). The previous meeting, in June 2019, saw the University of Oxford alumni regain the 42-11 Trophy, losing only three wickets and spinning out the Gents on a turner. Here the hosts dismissed St. Anne's for 171 before Kota led them to a brisk if sometimes nervy win.

The day needed much organisation. Wycombe House 1sts kindly swapped the venue of their postponed Middlesex Trophy cup game to Chiswick in order to accommodate the Gents. Then St Anne's had five overnight drop outs from 13 before a rescue mission from Aamir Ahmed and Vasi Shaikh on House's WhatsApp secured them the services of dual-passport holder Krishna, Mohammed and Rizvi. These late changes set Cresswell a challenge in terms of deployment of manpower to which he was equal.

Cresswell ran himself out going for a second, Zahid Ahmed avenged two early fours by bowling Biss and the lent Krishna top-edged Dubey behind. Ahmed soon bowled his House colleague Mohammed. Gents were on top, but Singh and Bowman constructed a stand of 56 in 12 overs. Kota caught them both, Bowman at gully and Singh in the covers, and when Hemin Patel span one past Grant's forward-defensive it was 99-7. Powerful but intelligent hitting by Rizvi and Waddicor then provided the best batting of the innings and 72 came in the final 14 overs. Patel struck again with a Puli slip catch before Shaikh and Dubey – the pick of the bowlers – cleaned up. The visitors were the first side to be dismissed in a 2021 Gents match.

Captain Dubey configured the order classically, with the day's non-bowlers constituting the top four. Confusion between the openers led to Kumar's calamitous run out in the third over. Puli soon followed, the first of four lbws. It was clear from the first ball though that Kota was in one of his impervious moods and provided he got enough support, a Gents' win looked probable.

The first to provide it was Sudireddy, who rounded off a cameo with three successive fours before losing his timbers. Chatharaju pulled a gigantic six over mid-wicket before becoming the second of the lbw victims. Next ball, Sanjay Patel become the third then, on 139, Kota (11 fours) the fourth, having equalled with his excellent innings Nabil Husain's haul of 20 scores of fifty or more (Mark Ashton – in his sights – retired with 25 and Sanjay Patel has 31).

It must have been dispiriting for Allstars to see batsmen of the calibre of Karnekanti and Ahmed at seven and eight. Ahmed quickly hit three fours and a towering six to bring up victory with 82 balls unbowled. Cresswell fairly noted that it had been a "terrific display by a depleted Allstars." To end a good day in beautiful, warm sunshine, news broke from London W4 that Wycombe House had beaten Chiswick by 190 runs.

2021 fixtures

10/4	Marble Hill Park	Crossbats (won 8 runs)	18/7	Old Tenisonians	Battersea Eagles
25/4	Byfleet	Byfleet (won 4 wickets)	25/7	Abbey RG	Bricklayer's Arms
2/5	F.W.E. Coates MG	Binfield (won 3 wickets)	1/8	Wycombe House	Kempton
9/5	Wycombe House	Wimbledon United (rain)	8/8	Old Tenisonians	Northfields
16/5	Kempton	Kempton (rain)	15/8	Wycombe House	Clapham In
23/5	Durston House	Northfields (rain)	22/8	Old Tenisonians	Bricklayer's Arms
30/5	Wycombe House	St Anne's (won 4 wickets)	29/8	Old Tenisonians	Ottershaw
6/6	Old Tenisonians	Plastics	4/9	Long Ditton RG	Squirrels
13/6	Teddington Town	Teddington Town	5/9	Wycombe House	Millfields
20/6	Chiswick House	Salix	12/9	Holtwhites Hill	Holtwhites Trinibis
27/6	Old Tenisonians	Ottershaw	19/9	Nursery Road PF	Salix
4/7	King's House	Whalers	26/9	Hale Common	Hale
11/7	Cottenham Park	Wimbledon United	-	-	-

50s/100s for (M = first 50 or 100, D = on debut)	50s/100s against
75 R. Patel <i>v.</i> Crossbats, 74 Kota <i>v.</i> St Anne's Allstars, 65 Karnekanti <i>v.</i> Binfield, 55* Kota <i>v.</i> Byfleet	52 Humphrey (Binfield), 51 Clough (Byfleet), 50 M. Hockin (Byfleet)
Sixes (4): 1 Z. Ahmed, Bocha, Chatharaju, R. Patel	Run outs of opponents (3): 1 Bocha, Karnekanti, Puli

Averages

Player	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.
Bocha	2	2	-	91	45.50	1	-	-	-	-	-
Chatharaju	4	3	1	51	25.50	-	19	0	82	2	41.00
Dubey	2	1	-	12	12.00	1	6.3	0	19	2	9.50
Karnekanti	4	3	1	87	43.50	-	17	0	69	2	34.50
Kota	4	4	1	159	53.00	5	10	1	54	0	-
Krishna	3	3	-	53	17.67	-	16	1	96	4	24.00
Kumar	3	2	-	6	3.00	1	4	0	16	0	-
Namilkonda	3	3	1	8	4.00	-	20	0	84	4	21.00
H. Patel	2	-	-	-	-	-	14	2	68	3	22.67
S. Patel	3	2	1	42	42.00	-	6	0	42	0	-
Puli	4	3	1	35	17.50	1	1	0	8	0	-
Sudireddy	4	4	-	39	9.75	5	-	-	-	-	-

One game only: Z. Ahmed 1/1/1/22, 6-1-27-2, Raj Patel 1/1/-/2, 5-0-26/0, Rakesh Patel 1/1/-/75, 7-0-31-1 (2 ct.), Pingili 1/1/1/12, 7-1-44-2, Shaikh 1/-/-/1, 6-2-23-2, Snelling 1/-/-/1, 5-0-26-1

Cricket suffers Russian cyber attack

PlayCricket, used by all league clubs, is the vogue software for recording fixtures and results. As mandated by the MCCL Darpat Shah uses it to score all Wycombe House 1sts games on his tablet. The statistics feed through to the league tables and playing averages and everybody is happy.

Or are they? Samizdat scorecards and spurious fixtures sometimes appear, doubtless hacked by teenagers from their bedrooms or more probably Putin's agents, with devastating results. We are asked to believe, for example, that in a 2017 T20, played on Tuesday 2 May, Zahid Ahmed and his mate Carl Burdett both notched all-run hundreds in a win over Mustard Fields, whose openers scored 100* and 99* (also all run). The symmetry of the scores has raised chilling security concerns, and the government must act.

FRIENDLY		02 MAY 2017 @ 17:00		Wycombe House		
W		WON BY 1 RUN		MUS		
Wycombe House CC			Mustard Fields			
BATSMAN		RUNS	BALLS	4s	6s	SR
Carl Burdett	not out	100	0	0	0	
Zahid Ahmed	not out	100	0	0	0	
Captain	Wicket Keeper	EXTRAS: 0 Total: 200 (20 Overs, 0 Wickets)				

Bill Flack



Bill Flack, the founder of New Barbarian Weasels CC and friend of the Gents, died on 27 February. Nobody in our experience made a greater contribution to S.W. London social cricket in the 1990s and few played at a higher pitch, his panache with the bat and accurate off-spin contributing to many an enjoyable fixture. It was a pleasure to meet him as teammate or opponent. His health declined in recent years and he had spent most of the past three years in St Thomas' hospital, so his early passing aged 60 was not a surprise.

He had had many seasons in club cricket before founding New Barbarian Weasels in 1990. As recruiting sergeant he impressed both cricketing virgins and experienced players into the squad. In their early years the Gents had played on council pitches which though adequate discouraged strokeplay. Helped by a grant from the Home Office Sports and Social Association, Bill arranged home grounds at the Peel Centre in Hendon and King's College in Berrylands. These venues showed the fledgling Gents that good facilities inspire better cricket, a lesson they perhaps took too long to learn when establishing their own base.

His batting had it all. He was correct in defence (Stuart Snelling has said he prized Bill's wicket above all others) and an excellent hooker and driver through the off side. Like many batsmen of large build he cut an elegant, almost graceful figure. Once he was set hardened opponents could do little but stand back and admire his batting.

He bowled off breaks with perfect flight and turned them. His slip fielding was immaculate. He scored three fifties against the Gents. Only Trevor Mayhew of London Saints (four) and Chris Dane of West XI (seven) have scored more. In Weasels' colours he scored a century against Urban Associates, no mean side and one who gave opponents nothing. No Gents XI came near this feat. His finest hour against the Gents was the final of the 1999 President's Cup when his 3-6 helped demolish a useful batting side for 87 before a bustling 53* saw the Weasels home by eight wickets. One sensed with him that the bigger the challenge, the better the performance. He battled politics in the Weasels until becoming worn down and disillusioned. These travails were well documented and called to mind a Southern version of Yorkshire CC c. 1978 with players and committee members queuing up to have a pop at each another in the public prints.



He was a loyal, constructively critical supporter of the Gents and five years later, out of the blue, he joined. It was an honour to have him in the side when he played four games in 2004 and 2005, carding 4-25 against St Anne's Allstars and 4-30 in the first ever game against Salix when he took a brilliant slip catch that those present still remember. In 2005 he retired for good. How well might he have complemented and mentored Hemin Patel in the following seasons? The two in tandem would have been a dream.

Bill was a career civil servant, a singer in several bands in the 1980s and a loyal supporter of Millwall FC. He was cremated on 17 February. The club sent its condolences to brother Laurence (who also has GWLCC on his CV) and will raise a glass in his memory on 3 August. He was a good man and we are proud to have known him.

Ten years ago – Gents stumble

It is on the first half 2011 – exactly ten years ago – that we now focus with attention paid to the guests who helped us out. It was a strange campaign with no fewer than 48 players, a total only exceeded in 2013 with 51. Eighteen played only once and there were 21 debutants. It witnessed the simultaneous debuts of two of the hardest hitters in club history, Gregg Cloete and Ramanjit Lall. But only two of the first eleven matches were won and despite a second-half recovery it ended up a losing season.

Naveed Khan brilliantly organised a well-supported weekend in Malta. A host of talking points arose from extra-curricular activities and poor Sachin Desai's tour lasted nine balls: c&b for a golden duck before retiring after eight balls with a finger injury incurred by an Ahsan Iqbal thunderbolt. Rain – *Xita* in Maltese – dominated Sunday's proceedings.

Bowman's 91 for St Anne's proved too good on a warm day at Barnes Common despite an excellent all-rounder's double of 52 and 4-35 by West XI's Chris Boden in his only game for the club. This was also Dave Laing's first game. No boundary markers were supplied so spectator David Bender resourcefully sourced a pile of twigs to do the job. All went well till they were played with and chewed by a happy dog and thereby lost their moorings. St Anne's captain Maxie Haddow-Allen denounced the consistency of the Gents' umpiring with Old Testament fervour, his voice thundering like the Psalms.

To the list of debutants were then added Gregg Cloete and Sanjay Patel's friends Rinku Lall and Pradip Kumar. All contributed. Cloete struck a violent 31 (three sixes, two fours) in a counterattacking stand of 62 in only seven overs with Kumar (his second fifty in a row) before putting in a sound shift behind the timbers. Lall scored a "promising if somewhat aerial 8 before two fast late overs," while Kumar took a wicket and helped Sanjay Patel bat out the overs. *The Gent* noted: "These lads are a welcome addition to a squad diminished by injury and retirements," but Pradip would only play twice more.

The debutants kept coming against Ruislip Victoria: Sumit Kumar's brother-in-law Grover and Wayne Caveney's pal Lee Burford brought the total of players to 25 in only five games. Michael de la Perrelle starred in his first two games on 29 May and 5 June, the match report for the latter game incurring a meltdown between the clubs that resulted in cessation of the fixture. The batsmen of London Saints, Hale and the Heston Sikhs of Ramgarhia then proved too good. Clapham In's Wildman and Thompson added a still-intact record seventh-wicket oppo stand of 82 on 3 July in the first game of what remains an enjoyable fixture. Elsewhere from the list only Hale, Salix and St Anne's Allstars survive.

2011 debutants: games played that season/total games played:

Chris Boden 1/1, James Bullock 1/1, Lee Burford 3/3, Chaudhry 1/1, Gregg Cloete 5/25, Santosh Devenuri 4/7, Foster 1/1, Grover 1/1, Khalid 1/1, Pradip Kumar 3/3, Dave Laing 11/2, Ramanjit Lall 7/28, Methra 1/1, Bhaven Patel 1/3, Jignesh Patel 1/1, Michael de la Perrelle 2/8, Gaddam Raghothamreddy 4/6, Andy Rees 1/1, Suraj Singh 3/6, Sohail 2/2, Vischal Patel 1/1

2011 Played 22 Won 9 Abandoned 3 Lost 10

19/3	Marsa	Gents 123, Marsa 124-8	Debuts Cloete, de la Perrelle, Devenuri, Lall, Raghothamreddy	Lost 2 wickets
20/3	Marsa	Marsa 174-7, Gents 23-0		
24/4	Barnes Common	Gents 181-6, St Anne's Allstars 182-5	Runs 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	Lost 5 wickets
8/5	Boston Manor PF	Gents 205-9, Baker Street Irreg. 103		Won 102 runs
15/5	LMPF Greenford	Ruislip Victoria 165-8, Gents 116	Wickets H. Patel 32, Sciberras 22, Lall 17, S. Patel 16	Lost 49 runs
22/5	Crown Taverners	Gents 146-6, London Saints 149-6		Lost 4 wickets
29/5	Long Ditton RG	Gents 212-5, Swinging Googlies 127	Ct./St. H. Desai 9/4, Lall 6, H. Patel 5	Won 85 runs
5/6	King Edward RG	Village 210-4, Gents 118-3		Abandoned
19/6	Crown Taverners	Gents 172, Hale 173-4	Lost 6 wickets	
26/6	Boston Manor PF	Ramgarhia 170, Gents 106		Lost 64 runs
3/7	Old Tenisonians	Clapham In 155-8, Gents 95	Lost 60 runs	
10/7	LMPF Greenford	West XI 141, Gents 142-7 BAMC		Won 3 wickets
17/7	Old Tenisonians	Gents 126-5, Pak 10-1	Abandoned	
24/7	Crown Taverners	Gents 207, Crown Taverners 128	Won 79 runs	
31/7	Old Tenisonians	Gents 182-8, 12 Angry Men 132	Won 50 runs	
7/8	Crown Taverners	Gents 245, Ham and Petersham 218	Won 27 runs	
14/8	Old Haberdashers	Gents 266-5, London Saints 107	Won 159 runs	
21/8	Old Tenisonians	Raynes Park FP 152-7, Gents 140	Lost 12 runs	
28/8	Boston Manor PF	Southwark and Lambeth Imperials 185-8, Gents 75	Lost 110 runs	
4/9	Crown Taverners	Gents 279-3, West XI 199-7 BAMC	Won 80 runs	
11/9	Imperial College	Gents 93, Salix 98-7	Lost 3 wickets	
25/9	Hale Common	Gents 167-9, Hale 146	Won 21 runs	

