

Gentlemen of West London v. St Anne's Allstars

Sunday 29 May, Wycombe House. Gents won toss. Sunny, 16C

Won by 88 runs

Gentlemen of West London			St Anne's Allstars			
*H. Patel	c Sama	b Waddicor	14	Doshi	b R. Patel	8
Kumar		b Waddicor	2	*Cresswell	b Chatharaju	3
Kota	not out		111	†Ostrowski	c and	2
A. Ahmed	lbw	b Sama	23	Manzoor	run out (S. Patel)	13
Krishna	c and	b Sama	0	Perera	b Namilikonda	5
†Sudireddy	lbw	b Arnott	38	†Kanwal	st Sudireddy	22
S. Patel	not out		28	Deverathippa	b Namilikonda	13
Namilikonda, Chatharaju, Dubey and R. Patel dnb				Arnott	not out	40
				Ranjan	b Krishna	1
				Scott	b Dubey	9
				Waddicor	not out	9
				Sama	dnb	
Extras	w2 b2 lb4		8	Extras	w3 nb4 b1 lb3	11
Total	5 wickets	35 overs	224	Total	9 wickets	35 overs
FOW: 16, 25, 74, 76, 160				FOW: 11, 13, 28, 33, 33, 62, 76, 77, 106		
Bowling: Waddicor 7-1-40-2, Ranjan 7-0-41-0, Sama 7-0-41-2, Arnott 7-0-39-1, Deverathippa 4-0-22-0, Scott 3-0-35-0				Bowling: Dubey 7-1-18-1, R. Patel 7-2-15-2, Chatharaju 6-0-18-1, Namilikonda 5-0-26-2, H. Patel 3-0-19-1, Krishna 5-1-12-1, Kota 2-0-24-0		

Gents won well, posting a par total on a perfect batting strip that 24 hours before had yielded 470 runs for the loss of only 13 wickets. Allstars then collapsed to 33-5 before their brave lower batsmen fought back. Kota scored his fourth Gents century with 14 fours and three sixes, the club's highest score here. He is now one ahead of Jimmy Wright in the register of tons and one behind Nabil Husain.

Poor availability stood Allstars at eight on Saturday, or as it transpired nine. Two House 3s players, Adeel Doshi and Pavan Kanwal plus Hamza Manzoor from the 4s responded to Aamir Ahmed's shout, terrific work from him. It made the day worthwhile as 11 against nine is not fun. Gents wanted 40 overs but the visitors insisted on a mimsy 35, a shame on a sunny but not hot day with great facilities to be enjoyed. The format is the hosts' call.

Allstars started well and had the best of it after two early H. Patel boundaries, Waddicor getting both openers, Patel well caught by long-on running round in front of the sightscreen off a skier and Kumar deceived by a full toss. Ahmed, the new captain of House 3s, played his first Gents game of 2022 and carried on his sound Saturday batting form before copping a plumb lbw. Krishna (58 the day before for Old Isleworthians and Heston CC) spooned a return catch two runs later.

Kota was in sublime touch however and when Sudireddy joined him sparks began to fly, 84 coming up in 11 overs. When the vice-captain was pinned for his best score of 2022, 38, Kota was on 76, with 32 balls left and a belligerent S. Patel striding to the crease. Sixty-four runs came off those 32 balls, 28 to Patel, including a huge straight six, and 35 to Kota who brought up his ton with his third maximum. His was a delightful innings which drew applause from the spectators, and included shots all over this beautiful ground.

The miserly Gents' seamers then won the game. Wickets were shared with each bowler on the money, Chatharaju and R. Patel being particularly impressive on a true wicket. At 33-5 off 14 a heavy defeat for St Anne's loomed. But the batsmen from Kanwal on had different ideas while the tough Arnott batted for 16 overs and played some fine shots. The hosts were unable to dismiss Allstars who showed good spirit.

The innings was a tasty appetiser for the House landlords v. Gents tenants clash on 31 July. Doshi was deceived by an absolute corker from R. Patel who bowled cunningly with clever variations in pace, Manzoor, recently arrived from Pakistan, pulled a six before being run out after a misunderstanding and the elegant Kanwal was fluent and ran well before being done in the flight by the wily H. Patel and neatly stumped. A learning experience there for him. With his neat piece of glove-work Sudireddy equalled Peter Denton's career haul of stumpings (12).

A pleasant aspect of the day was the jolly crowd in attendance including cricket royalty in the form of 1s captain and Director of Cricket Hamza Khan, former Kenya captain and 1s' keeper Irfan Karim and, most notably of all for seekers of autographs and selfies, West London cricket celebrity Dave Bender, who covered all sartorial bases in hat, pullover, gilet, knee-length shorts and hiking boots. You can't be too careful. A good day out, nobody injured, and friendships cemented.