

Gentlemen of West London v. Mpingwe

Sunday 5 June, Raynes Park SG. Gents won toss. Cloudy, 15C

Won by 84 runs

Gentlemen of West London		Mpingwe				
Dubey	c Bassit	b Kashif	29	†Asif	b Kamida	32
Chatharaju		b Najeeb	47	Abdullah	c Kamida	2
Kota	lbw	b Kashif	6	Niket	c Parvathaneni	19
*†Sudireddy	lbw	b Bassit	28	*Gaffar	b Kamida	5
Puli		b Najeeb	7	Daar	c Kota	9
S. Patel	c Kashif	b Batti	10	Kashif	b Chatharaju	37
Namilikonda		b Obaid	28	Bassit	c Dubey	0
Kollipara	c Kashif	b Najeeb	0	Najeeb	b Dubey	0
Krishna	c and	b Batti	1	Obaid	b Chatharaju	0
Parvathaneni	c Najeeb	b Kashif	26	Batti	c Kota	5
Kamida	not out		0	Patel	not out	0
Extras	w10 nb5 b9		24	Extras	w8 b3 lb2	13
Total	All out	34.5 overs	206	Total	All out	26.1 overs
FoW:	45, 53, 95, 114, 148, 138, 140, 141, 191, 206			FoW:	3, 47, 58, 69, 97, 103, 104, 116, 122, 122	
Bowling:	Kashif 7-1-44-3, Patel 4-0-36-0, Najeeb 7-0-34-3, Obaid 6.5-0-34-2, Bassit 6-0-30-1, Batti 4-0-19-2			Bowling:	Krishna 5-1-23-0, Parvathaneni 4-0-18-1, Kamida 7-1-29-5, Namilikonda 4-0-30-0, Dubey 4-1-7-2, Chatharaju 2-0-10-2, Puli 0.1-0-0-1	

Nilesh Dubey should have a pavilion named after him in honour of his endeavours preceding the match. Two bailed on the Thursday. He then had a new player commit to the game then withdraw for our old friend 'personal reasons' five minutes later, which must be a record. Such is the life of a team secretary, but instead of shouting at clouds he calmly got on with the job and secured, very late, the services of debutants Sruthanth Kamida, proud servant of South Yorkshire's Rother Valley CC who was down south for a party, and Mani Kollipara. Thanks also to Messrs. Parvathaneni and Kota who helped him.

A fascinating day's cricket, played out in murk on a green, seaming pitch, then saw Gents victorious. There was little between the teams but the late blast by Namilikonda and Parvathaneni of 50 off 25 balls gave the hosts a position of slight advantage that they never relinquished. Mpingwe, well led by Aadil Gaffar, fought all the way and it was no surprise to learn that they had won all four previous games in 2022. Kamida took five wickets on debut and Chatharaju batted watchfully and with excellent technique for 28 overs for his 47 (four fours). This was Sudireddy's first win as captain and was well deserved.

Low, misty clouds made sighting the ball difficult and in the half-light a number of chances were shelled by both sides, though some good ones were taken. Dubey and Chatharaju, both in fine form, put up 45 at a run a ball but of the middle order only captain Sudireddy hung around. Kota, having been reprieved when Gaffar withdrew an upheld appeal for lbw, fell in the next over. From 95-3 off 17.2 the innings stalled to 141-8 off 29.2, Mpingwe's impressive array of seamers and spinners making Gents fight for every run.

A hundred and fifty looked a realistic target when Parvathaneni, who had arrived late and batted No.10, strode out to join Namilikonda. His late arrival worked in the Gents' favour in that he had licence to play his shots which he did, hitting two sixes and three fours. Nor was his partner going to die wondering and he was last man out having hit four fours and a six. The last 34 balls had seen 65 runs.

Asif, young Niket and Kassif were good batsmen. Abdullah fell early, caught by short mid-wicket Kamida off his mate and chauffeur Parvathaneni, but Asif and Niket hit well, adding 44 off 57 balls. The introduction of Kamida, who generated alarming lift with his whippy action, changed the course of the game. He bowled two – Asif unluckily via bat and pad – had Niket taken by mid-on Parvathaneni, Daar snaffled by a tumbling Kota in the gully and Bassit well caught one-handed by third man Dubey. Kashif kept Mpingwe interested with five fours and a towering six but Gents had plenty of bowling resources and Dubey, Chatharaju and Puli, who struck with his only ball, finished the job. The weather was not ideal and the pitch, uncovered during the overnight rain, was variable but the ground and facilities were otherwise clean and decent. LB Merton's pitches are an acceptable fallback when, as here, the main home grounds are unavailable.