
THE GENT

No.175

July 2022

151 in 72 balls with a record 12 6s – Srinivas on fire



Pavan makes history
Srinivas goes very big indeed
Curse of wides

Northfields (lost by 4 wickets)
St Anne's Allstars (won by 88 runs)
Mpingwe (won by 84 runs)
Teddington Town (won by 7 wickets)
Salix (won by 154 runs)

Match reports
Records overload
High scores in the Middlesex League

Ottershaw (won by 115 runs)
Whalers (won by 7 wickets)
Putney (won by 111 runs)
Squirrels (won by 158 runs)

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Pavan stands alone

It is still only July but records are tumbling by the week: 1,000 career runs were passed by Ratnakar Sudireddy and Vinitesh Gulati on 12 June and 10 July. On 26 June Hemin Patel carded his best bowling return, 4-0-8-5. On 10 July Srinivas Namilikonda scored the club's second 150 hitting a record 12 sixes. A week later Pavan Kota recorded the club's highest innings, 160*, eclipsing Jim Wright's season's haul of 756 in doing so. Kota's career total is now 3,639, third behind Mark Ashton (3,848) and Sanjay Patel (6,919). It is interesting to see the volume of the wickets Wright and Husain took on top of their runs.

2022 Pavan Kota 160* <i>v.</i> Squirrels 123 <i>v.</i> Ottershaw 111* <i>v.</i> St Anne's Allstars 107* <i>v.</i> Binfield 912 runs, 5 wickets, 6 ct.	2000 Jim Wright 103 <i>v.</i> 12 Angry Men 102 <i>v.</i> Wandham 100* <i>v.</i> London Canaries 756 runs, 21 wickets, 7 ct.	2007 Nabil Husain 143 <i>v.</i> New Barbarian Weasels 100* <i>v.</i> London Saints 680 runs, 17 wickets, 12 ct.
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However you will not be surprised to learn that in GWLCC appearances are as respected as individual batting or bowling feats. We welcome Pavan Kota and Vamsee Krishna to the 100 Club as its 18th. and 19th. members. And doff our caps to Sanjay Patel, the first Gent to 400 appearances.

Wide ball

Extras fetishists should study the cards of the matches played in the lower reaches of the Middlesex County Cricket League, where panel umpires are not supplied and the Council pitches used are to say the least doing a bit and are sometimes not fit for purpose. The most spectacular card we have spotted was the innings of Burhani at Chandos RG in Edgware on Saturday 2 July. Their 291 all out against CRS Cardinals, a winning score by 147 runs, profited by 107 extras (76w 2nb 19b 10lb).

This is believed to be a record wides total and it was no surprise for it has been coming all season. On 14 May Wycombe House 2s, who have a steady attack, conceded 63 wides out of 74 extras on the appalling Seven Kings Park minefield hired by Tower Hamlets. Their left-arm spinner had balls taken by first slip (without intervention of bat or pad) and length balls from the seamers would rear and go over the batsman's head for five wides. Salix's Unadkat did the same on the dreadful Chiswick House wicket, our least favourite ground because of the sarcastic and entitled dog walkers who infest the place. The most extras conceded in Gents games is 71 by Monty Pak in 2016. The most extras in a Test match innings is 76 (35 byes, 26 leg byes, 0 wides, and 15 no balls), conceded by India against Pakistan in the third Test in 2007. The most extras in a One Day International innings is 59, achieved twice against Pakistan: by West Indies in the ninth ODI in 1989 and by Scotland in the 1999 World Cup. The hot weather has seen some silly scores in the league. Imagine fielding in the first innings of this Div.6 match (with only 71 extras).



2022 Played 14 Won 11 Lost 3

9/4	Marble Hill Park	Crossbats 181-7 (S. Skinner 56, Shirley 38, Winch 24)	Gents 109 (S. Patel 29, Shirley 4-30)	Lost 72 runs
17/4	Hollyfield School	Gents 170 (Kota 53, Chatharaju 50, S. Patel 23*, Kulasingam 22, Moseley 3-26)	Hook and Southborough 80 (Sadiq 22)	Won 90 runs
24/4	Hayes	Hayes 221 (Sam 46, Jyoti 30, G. Singh 30, Bittu 25, B. Singh 25, Varasala 4-40)	Gents 180 (Kota 49, Kumar 29, Chahal 5-40)	Lost 41 runs
1/5	F.W.E. Goates MG	Gents 215-4 (Kota 107*, Gulati 52)	Binfield 134-9 (Sugumar 24, Hesketh 23, Chatharaju 3-26)	Won 81 runs
8/5	Old Tenisonians	Gents 217-8 (Kota 76, Parvathaneni 63, Prytherch 3-51)	Wimbledon United 90 (Khan 39)	Won 127 runs
22/5	Durston House	Gents 189 (Gulati 60, Krishna 31, Sudireddy 25, Akhtar 3-27)	Northfields 193-6 (David Redhead 84*, Derrick Redhead 37, Chatharaju 3-40)	Lost 4 wickets
29/5	Wycombe House	Gents 224-5 (Kota 111*, Sudireddy 38, S. Patel 28*, A. Ahmed 23)	St Anne's Allstars 136-9 (Arnott 40*, Kanwal 22)	Won 88 runs
5/6	Raynes Park SG	Gents 206 (Chatharaju 47, Dubey 29, Namilikonda 28, Sudireddy 28, Parvathaneni 26, Najeeb 3-34, Kashif 3-44)	Mpingwe 122 (Kashif 37, Asif 32, Kamida 5-29)	Won 84 runs
12/6	Teddington Town	Teddington Town 216-3 (Hunt 100*, Pereira 62*, Hilmy 21)	Gents 220-3 (Kota 72*, Dubey 54, Sudireddy 43*, Chatharaju 22)	Won 7 wickets
19/6	Chiswick House	Gents 200-5 (Gulati 49, Kota 37, Namilikonda 32, Krishna 22*, Kumar 21)	Salix 46 (Chatharaju 3-4, Dubey 3-16)	Won 154 runs
26/6	Old Tenisonians	Gents 250-9 (Kota 123, Namilikonda 40, R. Patel 33, T. Chaudhry 3-60)	Ottershaw 135 (O. Timizi 43, Halstead 31, Ahmed 20, H. Patel 5-8)	Won 115 runs
3/7	King's House	Whalers 178-5 (Humphreys 50*, R. Singh 40)	Gents 182-3 (Kota 82*, Namilikonda 52)	Won 7 wickets
10/7	Cottenham Park	Gents 312-9 (Namilikonda 151, Gulati 39, Dubey 26, Kota 24, Kumar 20, Taylor 4-54)	Putney 201 (Sorger 39, Burney 28, Bedson 22, Kota 3-27)	Won 111 runs
17/7	Old Tenisonians	Gents 324-6 (Kota 160*, Namilikonda 76, Sudireddy 24, Holmes 3-37)	Squirrels 166 (Aldridge 106, Singh 4-22, H. Patel 3-48)	Won 158 runs
24/7	Redbourn			
31/7	Wycombe House			
7/8	Northfields			
14/8	Clapham In			
20.8	Prince's Head			
21.8	Plastics			
28/8	TBD			
4/9	Millfields			
10/9	Lydd			
11/9	New Romney			
18/9	Salix			
25/9	Ottershaw			

100 partnerships for 168 Kota/Namilikonda <i>v.</i> Squirrels (3rd. wicket record) 135 Kota/Gulati <i>v.</i> Binfield (4th. wicket) 115 Kota/Sudireddy <i>v.</i> Teddington Town (4th. wicket) 115 Kota/R. Patel <i>v.</i> Ottershaw (4th. wicket) 114 Kota/Parvathaneni <i>v.</i> Wimbledon United (6th. wicket) 107 Namilikonda/Gulati <i>v.</i> Putney (5th. wicket)	100 partnerships against 133 Hunt, Pereira, Hussain and Tusher (Teddington Town) (4th. wicket)
50s/100s for (M = first 50 or 100) 160* Kota <i>v.</i> Squirrels (highest score by a Gent) 151 Namilikonda <i>v.</i> Putney 123 Kota <i>v.</i> Ottershaw 111* Kota <i>v.</i> St Anne's Allstars 107* Kota <i>v.</i> Binfield 82* Kota <i>v.</i> Whalers 76 Namilikonda <i>v.</i> Squirrels 76 Kota <i>v.</i> Wimbledon United 73 Kota <i>v.</i> Teddington Town 63 Parvathaneni <i>v.</i> Wimbledon United M 60 Gulati <i>v.</i> Northfields 54 Dubey <i>v.</i> Teddington Town 53 Kota <i>v.</i> Hook and Southborough 52 Gulati <i>v.</i> Binfield 52 Namilikonda <i>v.</i> Whalers 50 Chatharaju <i>v.</i> Hook and Southborough	50s/100s against 106 Aldridge (Squirrels) 100* Hunt (Teddington Town) 84* David Redhead (Northfields) 76* Pereira (Teddington Town) 56 S. Skinner (Crossbats) 50* Humphreys (Whalers)
4-wicket returns for (M = first 4 wickets return) 5-8 H. Patel <i>v.</i> Ottershaw 5-26 Kamida <i>v.</i> Mpingwe 4-22 A. Singh <i>v.</i> Squirrels 4-40 Varasala <i>v.</i> Hayes	4-wicket returns against 5-40 Chahal (Hayes) 4-30 Shirley (Crossbats) 4-54 Taylor (Putney)
Sixes (48) 22 Namilikonda, 16 Kota, 4 Parvathaneni 1 Chatharaju, Gulati, Kumar, S. Patel, Puli, Sudireddy	Run outs of opponents (7) 3 Kota 1 Kumar, Puli, S. Patel, Wagharalkar

Northfields v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 22 May, Durston House. Toss agreed. Sunny, 23C

Lost by 4 wickets

Gentlemen of West London			Northfields				
†Sudireddy		b David-Joseph	25	†David-Joseph	c Sudireddy	b Dubey	14
Kumar	c Derr. Redhead	b Abz	10	Derrick Redhead	c Kota	b Chatharaju	37
Kota	c and	b Afridi	9	Akshit		b Chatharaju	8
Dubey	c David Redhead	b Afridi	13	*David Redhead	not out		84
Krishna	lbw	b Abz	31	Haider	c Gulati	b Chatharaju	4
Puli	c Malhotra	b David Redhead	0	†Darren Redhead	c Dubey	b Kumar	9
Chatharaju		b Akhtar	0	Malhotra		b H. Patel	12
S. Patel	c Darr. Redhead	b Akhtar	10	Akhtar	not out		14
Gulati	c Malhotra	b David Redhead	60	Abz, Afridi and Kent	dnb		
Namilikonda	c Haider	b Akhtar	5				
H. Patel	not out		4				
Extras	w11 b6 lb5		22	Extras	w7 nb1 b3		11
Total	All out	39.2 overs	189	Total	6 wickets	38.4 overs	193
FoW: 21, 44, 46, 63, 67, 69, 89, 107, 165, 189				FoW: 39, 50, 70, 87, 110, 142			
Bowling: Abz 8-1-38-2, Kent 8-2-45-0, David-Joseph 3-0-8-1, Afridi 7-2-25-2, David Redhead 2.2-1-6-2, Akhtar 6-0-27-3, Malhotra 5-0-29-0				Bowling: Gulati 8-0-41-0, Krishna 8-1-20-0, Dubey 6-0-24-1, Chatharaju 8-0-40-3, S. Patel 2-0-18-0, Kumar 2-0-14-1, H. Patel 4.4-0-33-1			

A well-judged 84* by skipper David Redhead saw Northfields to a narrow but deserved success, their first in five games in this rubber. Earlier a blistering 60 by Gulati and a brave 31 by Krishna, who had retired hurt with a head injury, had lifted Gents to a par score that they were just unable to defend. This was a fiercely-fought clash with no issues between the teams, and plenty of hard but fair cricket. Srinivas Namilikonda returned to make an unplanned appearance.

The toss was agreed and we immediately had the first of the day's many talking points when Sudireddy drove the day's first two balls for six and four. Nor was Kumar going to die wondering, and he also took Abz for four and six before edging behind. Despite this brisk start the middle overs of the innings belonged to Northfields as wickets tumbled. Kota wafted at a bouncer two feet over his head and gave a return catch: a wide had he played no shot. Dubey was well caught at slip off a quick away-swing, Puli and Chatharaju scored ducks and S. Patel chipped to mid-wicket.

Krishna had had little of the strike but had moved quietly to 16* when he top-edged a pull into his face, a nasty bruise the result. Namilikonda fell (107-8) and the injured man strode out again to partner Gulati in a first-rate stand of 58 in 11 overs, the Gents' best spell of the day. Gulati (nine fours and a six) and Krishna were largely untroubled and even after Krishna's departure captain H. Patel ceded the strike, Gulati got his 50 and it was 189 all out, a sound recovery with 100 coming up for the final three wickets.

A word on the Northfields fanbase. They gave terrific, voluble support, inspired by a spectacular range of narcotics that would have left West XI c. 2002 green with envy. But they were a harmless bunch, and the Gents' scorer soon trained them to do the scoreboard to an acceptable standard. A word also on the talented, clean-living Redhead family; three brothers and their younger cousin David-Joseph played, all to some effect. Better sports one could not meet.

Though they had their moments, it didn't quite happen for Gents in the second innings. David Redhead survived an early drop and would go to smite 12 fours and two sixes. He received good support. David-Joseph fell caught of a lifter from the ridge in the 13th overs, the first of three for Chatharaju (into double-digit wickets already) who bowled Akshit, had the solid Derrick Redhead caught by long-off running round and Haider well caught by a diving long-on. Kumar and H. Patel struck in their first and second overs but the captain was imperious, losing a ball in a Windmill Road garden and hitting boundaries all over the compact ground. Krishna and Dubey were the pick of the bowlers.

So, Gents stand at 3-3. The last losing season was 2010 but 2022's oppo are resolute and extremely keen to bring Hemin Patel's boys down a peg or two. This is healthy and an interesting season looms.

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. Gents wanted 40 overs but the visitors insisted on a mimsy 35, a shame on a sunny 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 glovework 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.

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	b Parvathaneni	2
Kota	lbw	b Kashif	6	Niket	c Parvathaneni	b Kamida	19
*†Sudireddy	lbw	b Bassit	28	*Gaffar		b Kamida	5
Puli		b Najeeb	7	Daar	c Kota	b Kamida	9
S. Patel	c Kashif	b Batti	10	Kashif		b Chatharaju	37
Namilikonda		b Obaid	28	Bassit	c Dubey	b Kamida	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	b Puli	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	122
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.

Teddington Town v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 12 June, Teddington Town. Teddington Town won toss. Sunny, 21C

Won by 7 wickets

Teddington Town			Gentlemen of West London			
Hunt	ret. not out	100	Dubey	lbw	b Singh	54
Hilmy	run out (Wagharalkar)	21	Chatharaju		b Meyer	22
D. Kanwalkar	c Kumar	4	Kota	not out		72
S. Kanwalkar		1	R. Patel		b Singh	0
Pereira	ret. not out	62	†Sudireddy	not out		43
Hussain	not out	9	Namilikonda, Wagharalkar, Puli, Krishna, Kumar and *H. Patel			
†Tushar	not out	2				
*Thomas, Meyer, Young and Singh dnb						
Extras	w6 nb4 b7	17	Extras	w14 nb2 b12 lb1		29
Total	3 wickets	40 overs	Total	3 wickets	31.2 overs	220
FoW: 73, 79, 83			FoW: 65, 105, 105			
Bowling: Krishna 8-1-28-0, Puli 4-2-10-0, Kumar 8-0-54-0, Namilikonda 3-0-21-0, H. Patel 8-0-44-2, Chatharaju 3-0-11-0, Dubey 5-0-38-0, R. Patel 1-0-3-0			Bowling: Thomas 5-0-43-0, Meyer 5-0-24-1, Singh 4-0-24-2, Hilmy 5-0-34-0, Hussain 7-0-42-0, D. Kanwalkar 3-0-22-0, Hunt 2.2-0-18-0			

The Gents beat their friendly hosts on a successful day on and off the field. Symmetrical innings each comprised a large opening stand, a fourth-wicket partnership of more than 100 and only three dismissals. On a pitch that remains perfect, it is better to chase and so it proved here. Sixteen-year-old Town opener Freddie Hunt scored his maiden century, adding 133 with their 1s player Pereira. It was steady going against a persevering attack who enjoyed their few successes, including a direct hit run out by Wagharalkar on debut and the day's only catch, by Sumit Kumar at silly mid-off. At 62-0 off 20 both sides were satisfied but though 154 came in the second half Gents were not downcast. The bowling was generally accurate and the fielding a competent 7/10.

Teddington Town CC Sunday 1st XI Innings

14.6 1st Wicket: 50 runs in 93 balls, 54 minutes, Freddie Hunt 32 (48), Nik Hilmy 13 (45), 7 extras
 14.6 Teddington Town CC Sunday 1st XI: 50 runs in 15.0 overs, 54 minutes, 7 extras
 21.2 Freddie Hunt: 50 runs in 68 balls, 82 minutes (2x4)
 24.5 Teddington Town CC Sunday 1st XI: 100 runs in 24.5 overs, 97 minutes, 7 extras
 28.5 4th Wicket: 50 runs in 39 balls, 25 minutes, Freddie Hunt 29 (25), Jackson Pereira 19 (14), 2 extras
 32.5 Teddington Town CC Sunday 1st XI: 150 runs in 32.5 overs, 128 minutes, 11 extras
 36.1 4th Wicket: 100 runs in 83 balls, 52 minutes, Freddie Hunt 45 (48), Jackson Pereira 46 (35), 10 extras
 36.3 Jackson Pereira: 50 runs in 37 balls, 53 minutes (3x4, 2x6)
 37.2 Teddington Town CC Sunday 1st XI: 200 runs in 37.2 overs, 145 minutes, 17 extras
 37.6 Freddie Hunt: 100 runs in 120 balls, 148 minutes (7x4)

Captain Patel and his batsmen were undaunted at tea. A score of 216 can seem intimidating but 40 overs were available, on a flat, true pitch and 65 off 58 balls by the retained opening pair of Nilesh Dubey and Ranjith Chatharaju was a dream start. After they went Pavan Kota and Ratnakar Sudireddy were in no mood to hang about and struck 10 and four fours in adding 115 off 102 balls. Dubey scored his tenth 50 and his first since 2018 in just 40 balls and Kota his third of 2022 to set aside his two centuries, poor Raj Patel notched a golden duck and Sudireddy, forever captured on Twitter, survived a first-ball drop that would have given Singh a hat-trick to smash 43. It was pleasant to get to know a few of the hosts after the match and share tales of the circuit's criminals and eccentrics.

Gentlemen of West London CC 1st XI Innings

8.3 1st Wicket: 50 runs in 51 balls, 34 minutes, N Dubey 24 (24), Chatharaju Gents 22 (27), 7 extras
 8.3 Gentlemen of West London CC 1st XI: 50 runs in 8.3 overs, 34 minutes, 7 extras
 13.2 N Dubey: 50 runs in 40 balls, 52 minutes (7x4)
 13.2 Gentlemen of West London CC 1st XI: 100 runs in 13.2 overs, 54 minutes, 14 extras
 21.1 Gentlemen of West London CC 1st XI: 150 runs in 21.1 overs, 89 minutes, 25 extras
 21.5 4th Wicket: 50 runs in 46 balls, 32 minutes, Kota Gents 22 (27), R Sudireddy 18 (19), 10 extras
 25.5 Kota Gents: 50 runs in 55 balls, 65 minutes (8x4)
 28.5 Gentlemen of West London CC 1st XI: 200 runs in 28.5 overs, 114 minutes, 29 extras
 29.3 4th Wicket: 100 runs in 92 balls, 57 minutes, Kota Gents 49 (52), R Sudireddy 37 (40), 14 extras

There is the question of retirements. At New Romney and Littlestone in 2021 Payton and Harding, having hit 29 off the 29th. over to take their stand to 121, both retired. Their mates added 11 in the final six overs and Gents hunted down the 203 needed. Here Hunt and Pereira, having by coincidence also added 121, walked off to give their pals a bat, 11 runs coming in the final two overs off a tiring attack. Town believed they had enough credit in the bank to see out the game. They hadn't. This is Sunday cricket with no points at stake, and it is good for the captains to try to involve everyone, but Hemin Patel was correct in both matches to insist on no retirements. This is now club policy.

The Gent recorded Payton and Harding as retired out though they later resumed their innings for a few balls. The Law states:

A batsman retires out if he retires without the umpire's permission and does not have the permission of the opposing captain to resume his innings. If such a return does not occur, the batsman is marked as 'retired out' and this is considered a dismissal for the purposes of calculating a batting average.

Though the catching by both sides in Bushy Park was, shall we say, imperfect, it was remarkable that only six wickets fell all day. Excluding abandoned and short-format games, this has only happened once before (2015, Gents 201-4, Close PF 206-2). Only against 12 Angry Men in 2000 have Gents overhauled a bigger total than Town's 216.

There were two firsts for dark side technocrats. Singh's hat-trick ball was captured on Twitter and went viral, and the whole game was scored live on PlayCricket, Gents' innings by Vamsee Krishna to whom thanks are due. Teddington Town kindly invited Gents to return in 2023 and the wise ones will make themselves available.

Salix v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 19 June, Chiswick House. Gents won toss. Cloudy, 19C

Won by 154 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Salix				
Namilikonda	lbw	b Spurr	32	Kulasingam	c Sudireddy	b Dubey	17
Kumar	c Dodd	b Islam	21	Henig		b Chatharaju	2
Kota	c Henig	b Sadhra	37	*Sadhra		b Chatharaju	0
Gulati	c Long	b Kulasingam	49	Dodd		b Chatharaju	0
R. Patel	c Long	b Sadhra	0	†Long	c Gulati	b R. Patel	1
Krishna	not out		22	Islam	lbw	b R. Patel	9
Puli	not out		18	Spur		b Dubey	6
†Sudireddy, Chatharaju, Dubey and *H. Patel dnb				Dean		b Dubey	0
				Sarif	c Sub. (Sadhra)	b Krishna	3
				Balasubramaniam		b Gulati	0
				Unadkat	not out		0
Extras	w14 nb4 b2 lb1		21	Extras	w5 b2 lb1		8
Total	5 wickets	35 overs	200	Total	All out	21.1 overs	46
FoW: 37, 81, 109, 109, 168				FoW: 2, 2, 12, 21, 23, 30, 30, 44, 44, 46			
Bowling: Spurr 7-0-37-1, Balasubramaniam 5-0-41-0, Unadkat 7-1-42-0, Islam 7-0-32-1, Sadhra 5-0-26-2, Kulasingam 4-0-19-1				Bowling: Dubey 7-4-16-3, Chatharaju 4.1-2-4-3, R. Patel 5.5-1-13-2, H. Patel 2-0-7-0, Gulati 2-1-3-1, Krishna 0.1-0-0-1			

After a mature batting performance the Gents' seamers shot out Salix for the lowest score by any club in eight years to record a huge margin of victory. They certainly bowled well but the filthy wicket, which was the centrepiece of a £295 rental fee but had not seen a roller all year, had deteriorated and become unplayable. Batsman after batsman trudged to the middle fortified only by gallows humour, to see length balls fly over their heads or pearroll before being mercifully bowled or caught.

The day was marred by a serious injury to Ranjith Chatharaju, who was hit a fearfully hard crack on the head by the ball during his follow through. He attended West Middlesex A&E who eventually gave him the all clear. Chandrasekhar Puli, who had already treated the team to pizzas to stave off the cold, kindly did taxi and a convoy was set up to ensure the poor man's car was driven back to Hounslow. Salix provided two substitute fielders and behaved very well throughout an appallingly difficult day for them.

The run up to the game was instructive. The ground authority Chiswick CC was reluctant to honour the booking which was made by Salix in December. No alternative was available but Chiswick eventually let the game go ahead. Upon arrival it was clear that the facilities were run down. The bathrooms were dirty and the mottled pitch had a prominent ridge.

Despite being urged to bowl first Hemin Patel batted without hesitation and again rotated the order, sensible tactics with a preponderance of all-rounders in the team. He hoped for 150. Namilikonda and Kumar started well, Namilikonda hooking for six in the third over before being pinned in the seventh for an exciting 32. Kumar went through the gears before holing out in the 17th. The battle between the leg-spinner Unadkat and Kota was one to savour. He fizzed several past the maestro's bat but could not find the edge. Upon his dismissal poor Raj Patel lasted only one ball, being adjudged to have glanced Sadhra to a diving 'keeper, great athleticism from Long. Gulati (seven fours) was in prime form before skying to Long and it was left to Krishna and Puli to see up the 200, Puli assisting the cause with a huge straight six into the trees though he couldn't quite clear them as he did in 2021.

Eager for involvement, Chatharaju and Dubey set to their task. Here in 2019 Raja Pentakota produced one of the great spells of swing bowling in the modern era of the club, bowling four Salix. Chatharaju was as good here, and from the same end. Here's the timeline:

3.4 overs Chatharaju hoops one in to bowl Henig, 2-1
3.5 ditto, captain Sadhra goes for a golden, 2-2
6.0 ditto, Dodd is castled, 12-3
7.0 Dubey produced an astonishing lifter which Kulasingam gloves high to Sudireddy, 21-4
9.1 Long drives a full-toss and fells Chatharaju. Play is delayed for 20 minutes
11.2 Long clubs Raj Patel to long-off Gulati, 21-5
12.4 Spurr is bowled Dubey, 30-6
13.0 Dean is bowled by a Dubey delivery that keeps low, 30-7
19.3 Islam is lbw to a well-crafted slower ball from Raj Patel, 44-8
20.1 Balasubramaniam is bowled Gulati, 46-9
21.1 Match ends when Krishna's only ball spits and takes Sarifs's edge into slip Sadhra's safe hands, 46-10

The players were shaken up by the injury and there was no socialising after. Salix to their credit recognise that they need a new home ground and are in discussions with Marble Hill Park for 2023. We wish them well as this is a premium fixture.

Two statistical footnotes arose. Fourteen times opponents have been dismissed for fewer than 46. And seventeen times a Gents game has yielded a score of 200 or more without a 50, most recently two weeks before against Mpingwe.



Gentlemen of West London v. Ottershaw

Sunday 26 June, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Sunny, 21C

Won by 115 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Ottershaw				
*H. Patel	c Halstead	b T. Chaudhry	1	Ramasamy	c Sudireddy	b Gulati	4
Namilikonda	c Toop	b R. Timizi	40	*†Halstead	c S. Patel	b Gulati	31
Kota	run out		123	O. Timizi	st Sudireddy	b H. Patel	43
†Sudireddy		b R. Timizi	2	O. Chaudhry		b Gulati	0
R. Patel	c Kanuri	b O. Timizi	33	Ahmed		b H. Patel	20
S. Patel		b T. Chaudhry	0	Kannuri	c Namilikonda	b H. Patel	0
Pingili	c Halstead	b T. Chaudhry	7	Mahesh	c Sudireddy	b H. Patel	3
Puli	run out		15	Stapleton	not out		10
Tanniru	c Ahmed	b O. Timizi	10	T. Chaudhry		b H. Patel	0
Gulati	not out		7	R. Timizi	c and	b S. Patel	13
Krishna	not out		0	Toop	run out (Puli)		0
Extras	w5 nb3 b3 lb1		12	Extras	w3 nb4 b3 lb1		11
Total	9 wickets	40 overs	250	Total	All out	27.3 overs	135
FoW: 8, 77, 85, 200, 210, 218, 241, 250				FoW: 5, 57, 57, 99, 109, 112, 118, 135, 135			
Bowling: T. Chaudhry 8-0-60-3, Ahmed 8-0-33-0, R. Timizi 7-0-39-2, Toop 4-0-36-0, Halstead 2-0-8-0, Kanuri 3-0-32-0, Stapleton 4-0-30-0, O. Timizi 4-0-8-2				Bowling: Krishna 4-0-27-0, Gulati 6-0-16-3, Tanniru 4-0-42-0, Pingili 4-0-16-0, H. Patel 4-0-8-5, Puli 2-0-11-0, S. Patel 2-0-10-1, R. Patel 1.3-0-1-0			

The Gents welcomed Ottershaw to our favoured home ground for what was a wonderful game of cricket played in good spirit, writes **Hemin Patel**. The ground was immaculate, the groundsman had prepared a glorious batting wicket and once Gents' skipper and his helpers had moved the boundaries we were ready for battle. Hemin had subbed in Gents' vice-captain Ratti to go for the toss due to his luck in gambling and he did not disappoint, won it and elected to bat. Hemin and Srini opened the batting against world-class swing bowling with both batsmen struggling to time the ball. A few overs in, Hemin made a match-winning decision and selflessly got out, edging behind, to get Gents' superstar Pavan into bat, as he knew that he would not disappoint and score yet another 100.

Srini and Pavan took the attack to the bowlers scoring at ease and putting the pressure back on them. Srini was then caught and with Ratti bowled soon after, in came the under-pressure, double golden-duck superstar Raj. Could Raj survive at least one ball? Yes he could, met with cheers from the bench and the umpires. Raj soon got into the groove and his confidence grew. A strong partnership with Pavan of 115 ensured that the run-rate was high and increased the momentum. Pavan was at his fluent best and to his surprise brought up his third ton of the year and looked like he would beat the club's highest individual score of 158. The Gents continued to score freely and as wickets fell each batsmen did his best to keep the runs ticking along. Gents ended on 250-9 and felt confident going into the break.

Vamsee and Bobby opened the bowling and an angry Bobby, who was not invited to Amsterdam by his friend, took it out on the batsmen and was aggressive and accurate. His consistency soon earned him his first wicket of Shan Ramasamy, caught behind. Sanjay took a clinical fumbling catch to give Bobby his second and shortly after he cleaned bowled Omar Chaudhry. With three wickets falling, the skipper felt confident we would secure victory easily, but brilliant batting from Omar Tirmizi and Sarosh Ahmed soon quietened the Gents, both batsmen using the pace of the bowlers to score quickly and effectively. The skipper decided this was the time to take the pace off the ball, thought world-class spin bowling the way to go and bought himself on: a decision that changed the course of the game. Aiming for the rough outside the off stump Hemin was in the groove straight away bowling Sarosh Ahmed. The ball turned a mile! He then had the wicket of Kannuri, neatly caught by Srini.

Then it was the key wicket of Omar Tirmizi, a ball that can only be described as the ball of the day. Flight and guile confused the batsman who ran past it and Ratti neatly took off the bails. With a five-for in sight the skipper ignored the will of the team to take a breather and took two further wickets. Some would say this is probably the best spell of bowling the Gents have ever seen and the writer has no grounds to disagree. Old-timer Sanjay then took a clean caught and bowled and superstar fielder Chandra, who had been excellent all day, ran out Toop to secure the victory. Overall a great game of cricket, with standout performances from Pavan, Raj, Srini and Chandra but Hemin Patel outshone them all.

Whalers v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 3 July, King's House. Whalers won toss. Sunny, 23C

Won by 7 wickets

Whalers			Gentlemen of West London				
Johnstone	c Namilikonda	b R. Patel	18	Gulati	lbw	b Bramley	26
Kushwaha	lbw	b Dubey	15	Namilikonda	c Judd	b Kamal	52
A. Singh	lbw	b Dubey	15	Kota	not out		82
R. Singh		b R. Patel	40	Krishna	c A. Singh	b R. Singh	0
Humphreys	not out		50	Reddy	not out		16
†Judd	c Dubey	b Gulati	15	†Puli, S. Patel, R. Patel, Parvathenini, *H. Patel and Dubey dnb			
*Curtis	not out		7				
Khan, Bramley, Howes and Kamal dnb							
Extras	w12 b6		18	Extras	w3 nb1 b2		6
Total	5 wickets	35 overs	178	Total	3 wickets	30.4 overs	182
FoW: 34, 42, 62, 129,155				FoW: 54, 100, 106			
Bowling: Krishna 7-0-31-0, R. Patel 7-1-34-2, Dubey 7-1-24-2, Parvathenini 3-0-25-0, Gulati 7-2-18-1, H. Patel 4-0-40-0				Bowling: Howes 7-3-29-0, Khan 3-0-25-0, Bramley 4-0-39-1, R. Singh 6-0-25-1, Kamal 5-0-23-1, Johnstone 3-0-24-0, A. Singh 2-4-0-15-0			

M.S. Dhoni never had to worry about when his players would arrive for a game, writes **Hemin Patel**. Ricky Ponting never had to worry about who opened the bowling or batting as captaincy as this level is a lot easier than Sunday cricket. Even the best resources at your disposal don't warn you about the perils of being in charge of a Sunday team full of talented all-rounders. It's a completely different game that is governed by the same Laws but its most important difference is that Sunday team players turn up to have fun, be competitive but most importantly be involved and contribute. This balancing act will cost us some games but as long as you give everyone a go, you've done your job. This week the captain failed in his duties as he was not clear in his mind and made knee-jerk reactions.

I do not regard anybody as a token player who just turns up to make up the numbers and have tried my best to ensure that everyone is involved, and yes, unfortunately sometimes this does not happen. In this particular instance Hemin Patel would like to publicly apologise to Gents all-time legend Sanjay Patel for his failure to implement the basic rules of Sunday cricket.

On another wonderful Sunday afternoon the Gents got together to take on the classy Whalers. The Gents lost the toss and were asked to bowl on what looked like a flat wicket. With only eight players at the ground the oppo asked that we start and kindly lent us two fielders. Raj and Vamsee opened the bowling and bowled well against some strong batsmen. After some persistent bowling Raj got the first wicket with a superb low diving catch by Srinu. Vamsee bowled consistently but without reward once again.

Nilesh and Abhi then took over with Nilesh taking two fairly quick wickets after some aggressive bowling. With Abhi struggling with his line and length Bobby came on but Whalers batsmen Raman and Will dug in and started to run the fielders ragged. Last week's hero spin bowler was not on form and was taken apart, conceding 40 runs from four overs. The pace bowlers had to return with Raj and Bobby taking two more wickets to end the Whaler's innings and set the Gents 179 to win.

With their bellies full from the wonderful tea provided Srinu and Bobby got to work and after seeing out the first few overs went on the attack with a flurry of fours and a few sixes. Both batsmen were batting freely until Bobby played across the line and was given lbw. Srinu continued to flow and with some excellent shots and quick running got to his first 50 of the season being finally caught behind for 52.

The Whalers soon bought on the spinners which slowed down the run rate and Vamsee fell quickly. In came guest player Jay who batted well with Pavan. Pavan, in the form of his life, soon got used to the pitch and played his usual stylish and attacking shots with Jay being cautious and ensuring he rotated the strike: a tactic that worked brilliantly with Pavan hitting the winning runs in the 31st. over and ending on 82 not out. Another great win for the Gents and long may that continue.

Gentlemen of West London v. Putney

Sunday 10 July, Cottenham Park. Gents won toss. Sunny, 29C

Won by 111 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Putney			
Dubey	c Puntton	b Bedson	26	Bradbury	b Chatharaju	9
*†Sudireddy	c Sorger	b Sawanth	7	Burney	c Gulati	28
Kota		b Stewart	24	Wishart	b R. Patel	13
Namilikonda	run out (Bedson)		151	Punton	st Sudireddy	19
Gulati	c Costelloe	b Taylor	39	†Sorger	c Gulati	39
Chatharaju	lbw	b Taylor	16	Stewart	c Kota	5
Kumar	c Sorger	b Taylor	20	Sawanth	c Gulati	19
Puli	not out		16	Bedson	b Gulati	22
Krishna	lbw	b Taylor	0	Harris	b Gulati	3
R. Patel	run out (Bedson)		2	*Taylor	b Kota	9
S. Patel	Dnb			Costelloe	not out	1
Extras	w6 nb2 b3		11	Extras	w18 nb2 b12 lb2	34
Total	9 wickets	40 overs	312	Total	All out	33.1 overs
FoW: 14, 34, 84, 191, 256, 275, 302, 302, 312			FoW: 26, 46, 65, 80, 99, 130, 174, 183, 194, 201			
Bowling: Bedson 7-0-58-1, Sawanth 5-0-36-1, Costelloe 8-0-53-0, Stewart 5-0-38-1, Punton 3-0-19-0, Harris 4-0-51-0, Taylor 8-0-54-4			Bowling: Chatharaju 5-0-24-1, Krishna 4-0-20-0, R. Patel 5-0-30-2, Kota 5-1-0-27-3, Kumar 3-0-22-2, Puli 4-0-24-0, Gulati 4-0-20-2, Dubey 3-0-20-0			

A spectacular century by Srinivas Namilikonda inspired Gents to a seventh straight win. He faced only 72 balls, hit 12 sixes (a club record) and 15 fours but interestingly no twos or threes. He was in sight of Steve Jones's 158 when the bowler deflected a Kumar drive on to the stumps with the non-striker out of his ground. Thus ended one of the great Gents' innings. Putney, who stood in for Wimbledon United, fought hard but after fielding (and frequently ball searching) for four minutes shy of three hours, were drained and fell 111 runs short though their response with the bat was creditable. The facilities here were clean and decent but the outfield was bumpy and the pitch of variable bounce. At least Gents were able to sublet for a reduced price.

It was certainly a good toss to win and captain Sudireddy (deputising for Hemin Patel, injured in the warm-up) was delighted to bat first on a dry, straw-coloured wicket. He soon gloved a looping off-break behind but Dubey hit five princely fours before picking out point, a good low catch. Eyes were on Kota who needed 29 to beat Jim Wright's record 756 in the 2000 season. He fell five runs shy but Namilikonda, having starting quietly, soon got his eye in and rained boundaries, the ball frequently bouncing into the road which required a clamber over railings. He received good support throughout: Kota, Gulati (at his best here) Chatharaju and Kumar are intelligent cricketers who always bat according to the needs of the team. After Namilikonda fell Puli put bat to ball well to bring up the 300 though he did execute his usual run out, poor Raj Patel the victim.



Putney put in a big shift and ended strongly with captain Taylor taking four, but given that no side in a Gent game has ever chased more than 260 to win, 313 was a tall order. Gents bowled good lines having learned from Putney who often pitched a bit short. Chatharaju took his 17th wicket of 2022 and there were challenging spells from Raj Patel – another wicket with his slower ball – Kumar and Gulati. Yet perhaps the pick was Kota, bowling his off-spin in two spells on a by now turning, dusty strip. Unconventionally he bowled in his cap. He is too young to remember Geoff Boycott setting the precedent in the 1979 WCF against West Indies (left) where the great man went wicketless with 6-0-38-0.

Gulati caught three, Kota one (none easy) and the captain executed a brilliant stumping. Putney gave it a good go and Burney and the Australian Sorger impressed but the target was too high.

The innings

.....14646...1...1...1144.1.4..414.41.1.6616.664111.4644116611.46.1.4641> (26 0s, 19 1s, 15 4s, 12 6s)
51 off 36 balls, 101 off 54 balls (second 50 off 18), 152 off 72 balls (third 50 off 18)

Gentlemen of West London v. Squirrels

Sunday 17 July, Old Tenisonians. Gents won toss. Sunny, 31C

Won by 158 runs

Gentlemen of West London			Squirrels			
*†Sudireddy	c Chaplin	b Mays	24	Chase	run out (Kota)	106
Chatharaju	c Holmes	b Mays	16	†Aldridge	b Gulati	2
Kota	not out		160	Clapson	c R. Patel	3
Namilikonda	c Aldridge	b Holmes	76	Ashcroft Sr. (1)	c Krishna	1
R. Patel	c and	b Holmes	0	Barnard	st Sudireddy	1
Gulati		b Holmes	0	Holmes	st Sudireddy	19
Kumar	run out		19	Mays	b S. Patel	5
A. Singh	not out		0	Chaplin	st Sudireddy	10
Krishna, S. Patel and	*H. Patel dnb			*Alexander	c R. Patel	8
				Ashcroft Jr.	b H. Patel	4
				Ashcroft Sr. (2)	b H. Patel	0
				*Glavina	absent inj.	
Extras	w9 nb9 b9 lb2		29	Extras	w2 nb2 b2 lb1	7
Total	6 wickets	35 overs	324	Total	All out	32 overs
FoW: 32, 49, 217, 233, 233, 320				FoW: 27, 45, 48, 75, 126, 138, 143, 159, 160, 160, 166		
Bowling: Chase 7-0-78-0, Mays 7-0-51-2, Chaplin 6-0-61-0, Barnard 4-0-44-0, Holmes 6-2-37-3, Alexander 3-0-33-0, Ashcroft Jr. 2-0-9-0				Bowling: Gulati 5-1-13-1, Krishna 3-0-20-0, Chatharaju 4-0-28-0, A. Singh 7-1-22-4, H. Patel 5-0-48-3, S. Patel 4-1-11-1, R. Patel 3-0-18-0, Kota 1-0-3-1		

On day one of the Great British Heatblast, when Motspur Park was forecast to be hotter than the core of Venus, Gents set a host of records. Pavan Kota made the highest score in the club's history and broke the record for most runs in a season: his stand of 168 with Srinivas Namilikonda was the highest for the Gents' third wicket; and Ratnakar Sudireddy stumped three off the spinners. Squirrels were beset by misfortune, losing captain Tom Glavina to an ankle injury and dropping Kota on 40, but Aldridge fired a very good ton of his own. It was no day to be fielding and the toss proved crucial.

Winning it, Sudireddy batted and with Chatharaju survived drops to lay a sound foundation with 33 off 34. Their dismissals ushered in the two in-form batsmen and for 15.5 overs we were treated to some excellent strokeplay and profitable improvisation. The groundsman had prepared a perfect batting strip with a lightning-fast outfield and the scoreboard with its decrepit numbers (the latest casualty being the Nine in the runs section) span round. Namilikonda fell on 217 whereupon Squirrels fought back, Raj Patel falling seventh ball and Gulati first. But Kumar cemented his position of No.7 by scoring quickly to keep Kota company as he brought up his 150 and, off the penultimate ball, the individual record. The fielding held up well, highly commendable given that most of the team had spent the Saturday night under canvas.

After an early Gulati wicket events were dominated by Aldridge's masterly ton and Singh's fizzing leg spin. The three spinners took eight wickets assisted by Sudireddy's alertness and sound catching. A convincing win then against a team who enjoyed no luck at all but kept their spirits high.

The innings

...4...442....44.6..1....1.1222.11.444..61111.141141.414.6114..41...114121.11444641..4416114..14 (34 0s, 28 1s, 5 2s, 23 4s, 5 6s)
51 off 38 balls, 100 off 70 balls (second 50 off 33), 160 off 97 balls (third 50 off 20)

Records broken

Kota 160 Gents' HS beating Steve Jones's 158 against West XI on the equivalent Sunday 20 years before, 21.7.2002.*

Kota four hundreds in a season beating J. Wright's 756 in 2000.

Kota 912 runs in a season beating J. Wright's 756 in 2000.

Stand of 168 for the third wicket beating 166 by Husain and Kain against London Saints in 2007.

Sudireddy three stumpings in an innings, though three opponents have nabbed three and one (G. Jones of London Saints in 2003) four.

Sudireddy seven stumpings in a season beating L. Wright's five in 2012.

Not to be outdone, Aldridge's 106 (four sixes, ten fours and a five inflated from one by four comedy buggers) was compiled out of 166. The previous lowest opponent's total to contain a century was Wandbam's 184 in 1994 (N. Wilson 107).