

Redbourn v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 24 July, Redbourn Common. Redbourn won toss. Sunny, 29C

Abandoned

Redbourn			Gentlemen of West London				
Grant		b Chatharaju	0	Kumar	not out	29	
McKay	c Sudireddy	b Tanniru	82	Puli	c Riley	b Naughton	8
Cook		b S. Patel	20	Namilikonda	c Smith	b Arnold	23
W. Smith	c Puli	b Kota	62	A. Singh	not out		7
D. Wright		b H. Patel	10	†Sudireddy, Kota, S. Patel, Vermula, Tanniru, Chatharaju and			
F. Wright	not out		18	*H. Patel dnb			
Hall	run out (Tanniru)		5				
A. Smith		b H. Patel	1				
†Riley		b Kota	6				
*Arnold	not out		9				
Naughton	Dnb						
Extras	w6 nb1 b8 lb4		19	Extras	w3 nb4	7	
Total	8 wickets	40 overs	232	Total	2 wickets	14.2 overs	74
FoW: 0, 38, 144, 194, 203, 209, 210, 219				FoW: 27, 61			
Bowling: Chatharaju 4-0-19-1, Kumar 4-1-6-0, S. Patel 4-1-28-1, A. Singh 4-0-32-0, Vermula 4-0-24-0, H. Patel 6-0-44-2, Tanniru 6-0-30-1, Kota 8-0-37-2				Bowling: Naughton 5-1-23-1, Cook 5-0-34-0, Grant 2.2-0-11-0, Arnold 2-0-6-1			

A beautiful ground; an atmosphere of welcome; and a sunny day kissed by a refreshing breeze. Such were the ingredients for an exciting conclusion to a well-balanced match, but one that had to be abandoned when the unfortunate Smith fell awkwardly and tore a patellar tendon. The paramedics who attended within minutes summoned an ambulance. The poor man could not be moved, the ambulance was estimated to be two hours, so the captains shook hands. No doubt as he lay there shaded by a parasol he was thinking of his well-judged catch at long on to see off Namilikonda.

Much good cricket had been played before then. Chatharaju produced a lethal inswinger second ball before McKay, Cook and Smith assumed a measure of control on a perfect batting pitch. The crosswind did not help the spinners but there were too many long-hops. Gents had their moments and fought back well after Puli's wonder catch with Tanniru, Kota and H. Patel effective in the final overs. But the target was still formidable, the score of 232 the highest by an opponent since the 253-1 by Millfields in 2018.

Puli's catch is worth its own paragraph. Two balls after catching Smith on the boundary, losing his balance and flinging the ball back onto the field of play to prevent a six (stout work and five runs saved), he ran in and dived forward to grab the ball inches above the ground.

In Gents' brief but brisk dig Kumar took two fours and six off Cook's second over and Namilikonda cleared the trees to record the 50th six of 2022. Gents needed 159 off 154 balls when the injury occurred. DLS tables had Gents three ahead but let's not go there. Thanks to guest Nikhil Vermula for helping out.

An email enquiring after Smith's welfare was responded to with charm by the hosts:

Thank you for your email: I was actually in the process of writing an email to you. I was away yesterday but heard about the abrupt end to the game and the rather nasty injury suffered by Andy. The news is that he is OK – given the circumstances – he is due to have an operation tomorrow on a ruptured patellar tendon, and will no doubt have to undergo a considerable period of physio to recover. It was fortunate that his wife, and one of our club members, are both GPs and were on hand to help.

A number of the team commented very positively about how supportive the GWLCC team were - and I wanted to thank you on behalf of RCC for all your good wishes. The team also said that the match was played in the spirit of a true Sunday match and they thought it would be great if you could visit the club again. We will definitely keep a date open for you if you do want to visit in 2023 - hopefully this time with a full game being played! We can't recall a game being called off for injury in recent memory.

Liam Beere

