

## Putney v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 2 June, Barn Elms SC. Putney won toss. Sunny, 22C

Won by 8 wickets

| Putney  |                |                   | Gentlemen of West London  |  |                             |            |
|---|----------------|-------------------|---|--|-----------------------------|------------|
| Mawby   |                | b S. Patel        | 0   | Parvathaneni   | c Bentley b Holell          | 87         |
| Bedson  |                | b Gulati          | 4   | H. Patel   | run out (Butt)              | 9          |
| †Vijay  | c R. Patel     | b S. Patel        | 18  | R. Patel   | not out                     | 28         |
| Plimmer   |                | b S. Patel        | 0   | Gulati   | not out                     | 5          |
| Siddique  | c Parvathaneni | b A. Desai        | 10  | Nagpal, Inkollu, Kulasingam, S. Patel, A. Desai, Ratnapuri and |                             |            |
| Bentley   | lbw            | b H. Patel        | 25  | *†Sudireddy  | dnb                         |            |
| Butt  |                | b Inkollu         | 8   |  |                             |            |
| *Taylor   |                | b Ratnapuri       | 28  |  |                             |            |
| Holell  |                | b Ratnapuri       | 16  |  |                             |            |
| Dorian  |                | b Ratnapuri       | 0   |  |                             |            |
| Carver  | not out        |                   | 13  |  |                             |            |
| Extras  | w11 nb3 b2     |                   | 16  | Extras   | w5 nb5 b1                   | 11         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>All out</b> | <b>32.2 overs</b> | <b>138</b>  | <b>Total</b>   | <b>2 wickets 18.2 overs</b> | <b>140</b> |
| <b>FoW:</b> 0, 18, 18, 33, 48, 68, 103, 106, 106, 138   |                |                   | <b>FoW:</b> 53, 135   |  |                             |            |
| <b>Bowling:</b> S. Patel 4-0-10-3, Nagpal 3-0-21-0, Gulati 4-1-8-1, A. Desai 2-0-14-1, H. Patel 5-0-30-1, Kulasingam 6-0-19-0, Inkollu 2-0-4-1, Ratnapuri 3.2-0-15-3, R. Patel 3-0-15-0 |                |                   | <b>Bowling:</b> Doria 3-0-28-0, Carver 5-1-20-0, Butt 4-0-34-0, Holell 4-0-27-1, Taylor 2-0-22-0, Bentley 0.2-0-4-0 |  |                             |            |

Abhinav Parvathaneni's sparkling innings of 87 off 55 balls with eight fours and six sixes propelled Gents to their sixth successive win. It was his fourth club fifty and a personal best. Earlier, S. Patel and Ratnapuri had shared six wickets as a game Putney gritted their way to 138. Both teams were much changed from the reverse fixture in May, only three Putney and five Gents returning. Ravi Inkollu played his first game in 12 years (and got a wicket) and Abhishek Desai debuted.

The warmest match day of 2024 greeted the teams at this huge, immaculately-maintained ground. Several Gents were delayed and it was good of Putney to lend fielders until they arrived. S. Patel struck with his third, 15th and 18th balls, 18-3, Vijay falling to a well-judged catch by R. Patel running back from gully two balls after driving a mighty straight six. Desai then got Siddique spectacularly caught by his chauffeur Parvathaneni, a one-handed effort after the ball had passed him at long-on. Gulati ended Bedson's long vigil and when H. Patel pinned the fluent Bentley it was 68-6.

Credit Putney for a brave rearguard from this point. Inkollu, bowling off his long run, castled Butt but the captain rested him after two overs, as Kulasingam was bowling his overs at such a rate that Inkollu was unable to recover. Like Joffra Archer his workload will have to be managed and the perceptive Sudireddy picked up on this immediately. The tail batted well but were prised out by Ratnapuri's leg-breaks and googlies, two wickets in his first over including top-scorer Taylor. Holell and Carver showed what could be done on a two-paced wicket with 32.

In May openers Parvathaneni and Dubey put on a quick 45 chasing 122. It was a similar picture here, 53 coming up before H. Patel, having played two fine fours through mid-wicket, was run out in unusual circumstances. Parvathaneni had driven the first and second balls for straight sixes before driving low and hard at the bowler who deflected the ball onto the stumps with the non-striker out of his ground. Umpire S. Patel was unsighted but his namesake selflessly walked.

R. Patel might in the absence of Kota be the perfect No.3, knowing when to defend and when to attack. Seldom can the benefits of professional one-to-one coaching have been clearer. Gone are the nerves that used to beset him early on. He scored 28\* off 30, a good rate. At the other end was the club's biggest hitter since Gregg Cloete and Ramanjit Lall. Fours and sixes flowed, though Putney had a few chances. It was brutal. The hosts seemed a bit dejected in the final overs (Gents have been there) but were pleased to dismiss the giant, neatly caught at cover with four runs needed. No further wickets fell and victory was gained at the early hour of 5.30pm.

It was a shame that Gents could not join Putney back at their clubhouse after the match as they are a well-organised and friendly bunch. Maybe in 2025.