

Gentlemen of West London v. Phoenix

Sunday 23 June, Wycombe House. Phoenix won toss. Sunny, 25C

Won by 3 wickets

Phoenix			Gentlemen of West London				
*Aulakh	c and	b Krishna	5	Gulati	c Hayat	b Singh	69
†Chohan	c and	b S. Patel	33	*†Sudireddy	c Bathia	b Bhatti	14
Ali	c Kota	b R. Patel	12	Dubey	c Ali	b Bathia	1
Hayat		b Dubey	33	A. Ahmed	c Aulakh	b Bhatti	6
Vegdani	st Sudireddy	b H. Patel	30	Puli	c Khan	b Kumar	8
Singh	c Dubey	b H. Patel	9	R. Patel	c Hayat	b Bhatti	5
Bathia		b H. Patel	12	Chatharaju	c Chohan	b Singh	5
Khan	c Sudireddy	b H. Patel	0	S. Patel	not out		25
Bhatti	c R. Patel	b H. Patel	9	H. Patel	not out		14
Sohal		b H. Patel	5	Arikatla and Krishna	dnb		
Kumar	not out		1				
Extras	w6 nb5 b3 lb1		15	Extras	w6 nb3 b9		18
Total	All out	40 overs	164	Total	7 wickets	37 overs	165
FoW: 16, 58, 60, 111, 126, 145, 148, 149, 163, 164				FoW: 47, 48, 59, 100, 110, 110, 125			
Bowling: Krishna 6-0-29-1, Chatharaju 4-1-17-0, R. Patel 5-0-21-1, S. Patel 4-0-13-1, Kota 6-0-23-0, Arikatla 4-0-20-0, Dubey 5-0-14-1, H. Patel 6-0-23-6				Bowling: Bathia 8-1-35-1, Sohal 6-1-29-0, Bhatti 7-0-27-3, Kumar 7-0-29-1, Singh 8-2-27-2, Aulakh 1-0-9-0			

When Ranjith Chatharaju edged Gopi Singh behind, Gents at 125-7 needed 40 off seven overs on a wearing, dusty pitch. An exciting game was edging towards the visitors. Twenty-four balls later Sanjay and Hemin Patel had won the match with a memorable blast. Earlier, Hemin had taken the visitors' last six wickets and Pavan Kota had glued the reply together with a monumental 69 off 91 balls. There were administrative problems (electronic scoring console and stumps locked away and no key) that were slickly overcome by the resourceful Aamir Ahmed.

Phoenix, founded in 2005, were new opponents and soon proved themselves to be an experienced, able team. Their captain and gun opener Aulakh, who has scored nine tons for them, fell in the third over, being too early on the shot and propping up a simple c&b. After that it was steady progress on a slow deck against accurate bowling. No batsman stood out statistically but each got in and played a few shots. Gents were therefore grateful to Patel who came on at the South End with Phoenix 124-4 off 29 overs, a platform for around 200 one would have thought. Eleven overs later Phoenix were 164 all out, having lost their last six wickets for 40. Three were six catches, a stumping and three drops but no weak links in the bowling.

Kota went off like a rocket, taking Bathia's first over of off-spin for 12, including a lost ball six into the yard of Seccombe Builders Merchant behind the pavilion. He was quieter after that but his stand with Sudireddy was meritorious, 47 in 11.4. Kota dominated but Dubey and Ahmed soon fell. The worth of Puli's innings was not reflected in its size. He got in line, ran well and helped add 41 in 9.2 overs. Kota was then stumped, Gents 100-5 off 25.3. Bhatti, Kumar and Singh then put a brake on the scoring, only 25 coming up in the next 45 balls.

H. Patel, having been moved one place up the order by a perceptive captain, then strode to the wicket looking up for some action. It was clear that pottering and nurdling was not going to be enough and S. Patel took 2, 4 and 2 off Bhatti's next three balls, 11 coming off the over. Six singles came off the next over, Singh's last. Aulakh then had one over, conceding nine. Sohal, coming back for his sixth over (No.37), then suffered carnage: a dot, a head-high no-ball beamer pulled for four, a two, another four, three singles and it was done.

Hemin Patel became the eighth Gent to take six wickets in an innings, his 6-23 garnishing his five five-wicket hauls. That he achieved this in his three-hundredth match, and was at the crease when the winning run was hit, made it a memorable day for him and the club. Only six weeks before, Gulati had become the seventh Gent to take six in this so far damp, cool season. Of the 16 instances of six wickets by Gents, half were taken in timed matches, where there was no limitation on the number of overs a bowler could have. However, not all of these protagonists needed long spells to inflict their damage.