
THE GENT

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Hemin takes 6-23 in his 300th game



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Putney (won by 8 wickets)
Teddington Town (won by 97 runs)
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Phoenix (won by 3 wickets)
Gladiators (won by 2 wickets)

Whalers (won by 9 wickets)
St Anne's Allstars (won by 55 runs)
Chaddleworth (won by 187 runs)
John Buckner Allstars (lost by 8 wickets)
Northfields (lost by 46 runs)

Read about the Gents on www.gowlcc.org

Contact this magazine via email Andrewburman_840@hotmail.com



John Buckner end winning run

After 13 consecutive wins and with a club record in sight, John Buckner convincingly beat the Gents on 28 July. The records therefore remain Wins 14 (28.9.08-25.7.09) and Unbeaten 19 (2.6.13-1.6.14), the latter including a tie after five wins against Judd Street Tigers. To put the tin lid on it, Northfields then made it two losses in two. The season will however end in the black.

Vamsee Krishna's frugality

Young Adnan Osman's 6-2-9-2 against Hook and Southborough was one of the best pace bowling spells in recent Gents history, but look what the tall 19-year-old did in his next two games. On 2 June playing for Wycombe House 4s against Ealing 6s he took 8-3-14-6. A week later up in Aamir Ahmed's 3s against North London 4s, he produced the frankly astonishing analysis of 8-7-7-3. We hope Aamir hauled him over the coals for conceding as many as seven.

As promised, we are in full research mode regarding Vamsee Krishna's 7-5-3-0 (Econ. 0.43) against Hounslow Hurricanes. We have so far found four spells that conceded under one rpo, but nothing from the Gents as low as the 0.20 recorded by Cripps.

9-3-8-0 S. Patel *v.* NB Weasels (CSSC Eltham 12.6.99) (0.89)
7-5-6-0 A. Buck *v.* Sunderland (Victoria RG 4.8.02) (Econ. 0.86)
7-3-6-1 S. Snelling *v.* London Rams (Belair Park 3.7.04) (0.86)
5-3-3-0 Padimalla *v.* Northfields (Durstons House 28.5.17) (0.60)
6-4-2-3 S. Patel *v.* St Anne's Allstars (Shedfield CC 25.7.09) (0.33)
5-4-1-6 Cripps (Wimbledon United) (Cottensham Park 14.5.17) (0.20)

Ratnakar Sudireddy's 100 fielding dismissals

The captain currently stands on 107 fielding dismissals (excluding run outs where he was the primary fielder), his 100th being Rashid of Teddington Town off Hemin Patel's bowling. Sanjay Patel still heads the leader board on 130.

Biggest chases

The epic 223-8 to beat Gladiators on 30 June was the Gents' second highest successful chase (see table right). Oppo chases have been more impressive: six scores, two by Northfields, have beaten 235 with Millfields (271-3 in 2022) heading the list. Gents have scored 200 or more batting second 15 times (won 10, lost 5).

2000 12 Angry Men 231-3, Gents 235-9
2024 Gladiators 221, Gents 223-8
2023 Teddington Town 216-3, Gents 220-3
2022 Wycombe House 216-7, Gents 219-5
2018 Battersea Eagles 216-8, Gents 217-10

The 2025 season

We are already planning next season and it is again clear that demand to play the Gents exceeds the number of Sundays available. Soundings from the squad indicate that we should drop only one side from the list, while another is too far away for a Sunday friendly. Bear in mind also that we would like to add back from the 2023 season London Itinerants and Redbourn, with whom dates could not be agreed.

On to our home grounds, a proposal is being formally submitted to Wycombe House to increase the number of games there. Representatives of their cricket committee will meet ours to develop a firm proposal. More details when we have them.

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
Total	All out	32.2 overs	138	Total	2 wickets	18.2 overs	140
FoW: 0, 18, 18, 33, 48, 68, 103, 106, 106, 138				FoW: 53, 135			
Bowling: 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				Bowling: 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 up 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?

Teddington Town v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 9 June, Teddington Town. Teddington Town won toss. Sunny, 16C

Won by 97 runs

Gentlemen of West London				Teddington Town			
*†Sudireddy	c Khanwalkar	b G. Singh	18	Hunt	lbw	b Gulati	22
H. Patel		b Musgrave	5	Hinde	c Gulati	b H. Patel	20
Dubey	c G. Singh	b R. Singh	94	D. Singh	c Kota	b Puli	5
Chatharaju	c Hunt	b Hinde	26	Musgrave	run out (Sudireddy)		18
Kota		b R. Singh	24	Rashid	c Sudireddy	b H. Patel	3
Arikatla	run out (Khanwalkar)		7	G. Singh	not out		16
M. Gilkes		b V. Singh	16	Khanwalkar	c Sudireddy	b M. Gilkes	6
Gulati	c Musgrave	b R. Singh	10	†Young	not out		4
J. Patel	not out		4	*Thomas, V. Singh and R. Singh	dnb		
R. Patel		b V. Singh	6				
Puli	run out (Rashid)		0				
Extras	w6 nb1 b10 lb1		18	Extras	w26 nb2 b8 lb1		37
Total	All out	34.5 overs	228	Total	6 wickets	35 overs	131
FoW: 16, 34, 103, 176, 181, 198, 213, 215, 222, 228				FoW: 53, 65, 90, 91, 95, 126			
Bowling: Musgrave 6-1-29-1, G. Singh 5-0-32-1, Hunt 6-1-32-0, Hinde 5-0-32-1, Khanwalkar 4-0-24-0, R. Singh 6-0-39-3, V. Singh 2.5-0-29-2				Bowling: M. Gilkes 7-0-27-1, R. Patel 6-0-18-0, Chatharaju 3-2-16-0, Gulati 4-2-3-1, Puli 6-1-16-1, H. Patel 6-0-32-2, Arikatla 3-0-10-0			

Nilesh Dubey's highest Gents score of 94 off 71 balls with 13 fours and a six gave the Gents their seventh consecutive win, **writes Hemin Patel**. A well-constructed innings supported brilliantly by Ranjith Chatharaju and returning T20 specialist Pavan Kota, he showed the talent and skills we have all been waiting for since his debut. Teddington's response was gritty and frustrating for the Gents bowlers. They ended their innings on 131-6 after some outstanding batting from their youngsters. On a chilly day, most of the team arrived on time and last-minute stand in Matthew Gilkes was already fully kitted up and raring to go, and another Gents legend Richard Gilkes was ready to score. Well, that was the plan, after one player didn't read his email to notify him he was playing, Richard got the nod from the skipper. But in a last-ditch call to Chandra Puli he said he could stand in and play. This is not the first time Chandra has stepped in and he should be commended for his commitment.

The Gents were asked to bat first and the captain was padded up alongside Gents legend Hemin Patel. On a pitch that looked a bit two-paced, Hemin quickly told the captain that we should stick around, take the shine of ball and allow the others to then take advantage, which is exactly what happened. After facing some outstanding international-level bowling, Ratti took advantage of the loose deliveries whilst Hemin was watchful and sensible. Hemin was the first to go, bowled by a spectacular outswinger from young gun Musgrave and Ratti soon followed by an outstanding catch off the bowling of G. Singh.

Now it was the time for Nilesh and Ranjith to take advantage. Both played sumptuous shots, didn't let the bowlers settle and scored quickly. Ranjith was caught brilliantly by Hunt just before drinks after trying to take on the spinner to cow corner. A quick rub down and re-fuelling at drinks for Nilesh saw him really take on the bowlers and with Pavan "IPL" Kota playing his usual brand of cricket the Gents looked stable and continued to accumulate runs. Kota was bowled on 24 and Nilesh soon holed out just six short of a maiden ton. Gents then just had to go for it with Matthew, Raj and Gopi all playing their shots and with Jay supporting with his comedic running abilities (which just reminded the writer of a Benny Hill skit) we were bowled out for 228.

Tea was taken and superb it was. Gilkes and Raj opened the bowling and bar a few edges were accurate and difficult to get away. After a wicketless spell the captain then turned to Ranjith for a wicket but after a spate of wides, he was taken off immediately and Bobby was soon bowling rockets, picking up Freddie lbw to put the pressure on. Puli then picked up D. Singh after a great catch from Pavan, a catch that reminded him of one he took in 2020. Hemin picked up two quick wickets, one of which was met with very concerning sound effects from the keeper, Ratti ran out Harry Musgrave and the Gents were in full control. Sensible batting from the lower order continued to frustrate the bowlers before M. Gilkes finally picked up his first wicket of the day with a pacy short delivery that was taken by the 'keeper. Teddington ended their innings on 131 and the Gents had their victory.

Salix v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 16 June, Boston Manor PF. Salix won toss. Sunny, 21C

Won by 3 wickets

Salix				Gentlemen of West London			
*Sadhra	c Nagpal	b H. Patel	44	Gulati	c Desai	b Ali	38
Dodd	c Parvathaneni	b Krishna	15	R. Patel		b Ali	1
Sarif	c Nagpal	b Chatharaju	4	Chatharaju	lbw	b Ali	0
Spurr	c H. Patel	b Chatharaju	6	*†Sudireddy		b Ali	6
Kulasingam	c Dubey	b Krishna	40	Puli		b Spurr	5
†Desai		b H. Patel	0	Parvathaneni	c Desai	b Unadkat	40
Balasubramaniam	lbw	b Gulati	0	Nagpal		b Unadkat	2
Ali	c Gulati	b Krishna	4	Dubey	not out		15
Ellis		b S. Patel	4	S. Patel	not out		16
Irwin	not out		1	H. Patel and Krishna	dnb		
Unadkat	dnb						
Extras	w6 nb3 b5		14	Extras	w5 nb5 b1 lb1		12
Total	9 wickets	35 overs	132	Total	7 wickets	26.2 overs	135
FoW: 28, 51, 61, 97, 101, 102, 115, 130, 132				FoW: 3, 3, 21, 26, 92, 99, 103			
Bowling: Krishna 7-2-15-3, Dubey 4-0-23-0, Chatharaju 5-0-24-2, Nagpal 4-0-24-0, Gulati 4-0-9-1, H. Patel 6-0-18-2, S. Patel 5-1-14-1				Bowling: Ali 7-2-17-4, Spurr 5-0-29-1, Ellis 4-1-24-0, Sadhra 3-0-19-0, Balasubramaniam 1-0-11-0, Unadkat 5-0-25-2, Kulasingam 1.2-0-8-0			

The match was originally scheduled for Barn Elms but had to be moved after a booking error by the ground authority. It is not only the Gents who suffer from variable communication and it was a pleasure to help Salix procure this ground. The previous Gents' game here was a rain-ruined draw in 2015 with Baker Street Irregulars on the top pitch. Only three players returned from that soggy day: Nilesh Dubey and Sanjay Patel, who had to use all their skill and experience here to steer Gents to their eighth successive win, and Ratnakar Sudireddy (who batted No.11).

This was a game of sparkling entertainment in which Salix fought well. As did Gents they had two gun batters who defied varied and skilled attacks. This led to an appearance by our much-loved old friend the lop-sided scorecard, with its multitude of single-figure contributions. In the end it came down to catching: Gents took six out of seven while Salix dropped Dubey on nought and Patel on 10.

Sadhra won the toss and batted solidly for his 44, falling at 97 well caught on the mid-wicket boundary by a tumbling Nagpal. The baton passed to Kulasingam who ensured that a competitive total was achieved on a slow wicket with occasional low bounce. The bowlers did well, Chatharaju achieving preposterous inswing. Krishna took two wickets in his second spell to bring up double-figure wickets for 2024. He is in the form of his life, also taking wickets regularly on Saturdays in the Essex league. Salix batted stoically but could not find any acceleration towards the end of the innings, only 35 coming off the final 13 as the bowlers dominated.

The Gents' innings had everything – a monumental 38 from Gulati spread over 20 overs, a blast from Parvathaneni of 40 off 32 balls, great wisdom at the end and in between a series of comedy dismissals as a series of batters failed to come to terms with either pitch or bowling. There was incisive seam from young Ali and demon leg-spin from Unadkat. It made for jolly entertainment.

Ali dominated the early overs as Gents fell in a heap to 26-4. Concentrating on the basics of line and length, the top-order could not cope with him. Puli was undone by a shooter but otherwise the batting was too tentative. Gulati, watchful and composed, then found the ideal partner in Parvathaneni as 66 were put up in 10.2 overs. They played Unadkat very well, though Parvathaneni edged behind, 92-5.

Salix were not done and it was soon 103-7, Gulati nicking off and Nagpal bowled. Run rate was not a problem when Dubey strode to the crease and after a nervous start when he drove a tough chance to mid-on, he exuded authority. Runs came quickly. Patel flicked a simple chance to short mid-wicket, dropped, but otherwise took everything in his stride as he has done so often. Ali was bowled out but Unadkat was still a threat and Kulasingam is a masterly all-rounder. But the batters grew in confidence and the stand was 32 off 30 balls when Patel straight-drove the winning four at 17.46, an early finish. Post-match socials were fun – roll on the September return.

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	Kota	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 nuddling 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.

Gladiators v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 30 June, King's House. Gents won toss. Dull, 20C

Won by 2 wickets

Gladiators				Gentlemen of West London			
D. Shah		b Krishna	16	R. Patel	run out (Mehta)		1
Khanderwhal	c Puli	b Chatharaju	29	Krishna	lbw	b Randa	17
*†Bhandari		b S. Patel	3	Dubey	c Bhandari	b Mehta	4
Bhudia	c Chatharaju	b H. Patel	58	Parvathaneni	c Ranka	b F. Shah	64
Mehta	run out (R. Patel)		20	Gulati	not out		75
Bhankaria	c Chatharaju	b Gulati	8	Arikatla	st Bhandaria	b Mehta	3
F. Shah	c R. Patel	b Arikatla	20	*†Sudireddy		b Mehta	0
Arjan		b H. Patel	0	Puli	lbw	b Mehta	7
Singhavi	lbw	b H. Patel	15	Chatharaju	c Ranka	b Khanderwhal	19
Ranka	c Sudireddy	b R. Patel	12	S. Patel	not out		10
Sheth	not out		5	H. Patel	dnb		
Extras	w24 nb2 b9		35	Extras	w15 nb2 b4 lb2		23
Total	All out	38 overs	221	Total	8 wickets	37.3 overs	223
FoW: 30, 54, 56, 131, 160, 160, 160, 182, 215, 221				FoW: 5, 19, 76, 102, 113, 113, 135, 175			
Bowling: Krishna 5-0-16-1, Gulati 8-0-32-1, S. Patel 6-0-34-1, Chatharaju 6-0-28-1, H. Patel 6-0-49-3, Puli 3-0-26-0, R. Patel 2-0-11-1, Arikatla 2-0-16-1				Bowling: Khanderwhal 7.3-0-43-1, Mehta 8-0-41-4, Singhavi 8-0-39-0, Bhankaria 2-0-14-0, Randa 4-0-26-1, F. Shah 4-1-24-1, Sheth 4-0-30-0			



Only once in their 35 years have Gents successfully chased a bigger total. They did so here thanks to brilliant innings from Parvathaneni (10 fours and two sixes) and Gulati (11 fours and one six), assisted by resilient batting by the tail and, up top, a dogged and entirely fitting opener's knock by Krishna. The game was marred by bad blood between the sides that culminated in an ugly jostle, though an uneasy truce was brokered and the match concluded.

This should not detract one jot from a perfectly-judged run chase. Only briefly did the required run-rate exceed seven and there were 15 balls in hand at 7.30pm when, in poor light, Gulati drove the match-winning four to huge applause from the boundary.

Gladiators, a Middlesex Sunday League side, offered this fixture when Sheen Park bailed. They fielded a mixture of 1s and 2s. Gents caught poorly in the first 20 overs, dropped Bhudia three times, and the hosts were handily placed at 131-3 in the 26th. One that stuck was Puli's off Chatharaju to dismiss southpaw Khanderwhal.

Wickets then fell regularly, starting with a run out by R. Patel. Chatharaju distinguished himself with two catches in three balls (what a fine game he would have), the first an athletic running effort as good as Puli's an hour before. H. Patel took three wickets. Others were shared around. On a patchy outfield the fielding improved steadily throughout the afternoon. Gladiators' 221, the highest by an opponent in 2024, was bulked by 35 extras including 24 wides. Despite Test match wides having been agreed between the captains, extras would become a serious bone of contention in the second innings.

The Gents recovered well from the trauma of losing R. Patel to a run out on the eighth ball and Dubey nicking off four overs later. Krishna, relishing the opener's role with his studious forward defensives, and Parvathaneni were batting well together when Khanderwhal and Bhandari went up for a caught behind off the giant. Not out, said umpire S. Patel. There then followed ugly scenes reminiscent of Bricklayer's Arms in 2021 as Bhandari charged up the pitch, screamed and swore at the umpire. Other Gladiators joined in. Several Gents ran fully fifty yards to get involved and it looked as if the game might have to be abandoned, but play resumed after 15 minutes, the atmosphere tense and crackling.

Matters then went against the Gents, Krishna, Parvathaneni, Arikatla and Sudireddy falling in the next seven overs, 113-6, Gulati 11*. How pleasurable it is to record what happened next. Puli, a tough player, got in line and batted sensibly, driving two threes. He was pinned in front of his stumps by a shooter at 135 after 26.1 overs, 87 needed off 83 balls, three wickets to fall.

Enter Chatharaju to join Gulati on 26*. He counter-attacked from the word go, blazing two fours and running very well. The shift in momentum from this point was tangible. The Gladiators almost had the game won but their previously immaculate ground-fielding became porous, a Mehta no-ball beamer was pulled for four, catches were dropped, and wides were bowled and contested too loudly: 40 had come up in 55 balls when Chatharaju was caught on long-on with Gulati 41*, 175-8. He had served his team superbly all day in the field, with the ball and with the bat. His new cap looked good too.

Enter S. Patel with Gents needing 47 off six. Gulati took over 35 bowled by Sheth for three fours. With two leg-byes it was 189-8. S. Patel took a four and a two off Khan's next two balls. Another Gulati four and it was 202-8 off 36. Sheth's final over of off-spin went for a two from S. Patel, two wides, and two more Gulati fours and a single last ball (off which he was dropped by long-off) to retain the strike, 215-8. He took Khanderwhal for straight-driven fours off the second and third balls to end 75*, a masterly knock. The eighth and ninth wickets had added 88 and Gents had won a famous victory. Gladiators sought out the scorer and shook his hand but there was no further interaction between the teams.

2024 averages

Player (debut*)	M.	Inn.	NO	Runs	Avg.	Ct./St.	O	M	Runs	Wck.	Avg.	Econ.	SR.
A. Ahmed	5	5	3	292	146.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arikatla *	6	4	-	10	2.50	3	16	0	87	1	87.00	5.44	96.00
Bhaja *	2	2	1	61	61.00	-	4	0	19	0	-	4.75	-
Chatharaju	13	12	1	194	17.64	3	50	6	211	10	21.10	4.22	30.00
Dubey	13	11	2	227	25.22	3	38.3	1	206	4	51.50	5.35	57.75
Gulati	13	13	3	495	49.50	7	50	5	148	16	9.25	2.96	18.75
Jampala	2	1	-	17	17.00	-	7	0	46	1	46.00	6.57	42.00
Joshi	5	4	-	7	1.75	-	1	1	0	1	0.00	0.00	6.00
Kota	9	9	2	228	32.57	5	23	0	97	5	19.40	4.22	27.60
Krishna	13	9	2	92	13.14	1	67.5	9	267	19	14.05	3.94	21.42
Kulasingham	4	1	-	3	3.00	3	20	3	68	7	9.71	3.40	17.14
Kumar	2	1	-	6	6.00	1	4	1	5	2	2.50	1.25	12.00
Nagpal	7	5	-	54	10.80	2	20.1	1	113	3	37.67	5.56	40.67
Parvathaneni	10	10	1	367	40.78	5	5	0	23	0	-	4.60	-
H. Patel	13	7	1	56	9.33	2	63.5	4	334	23	14.52	5.23	16.65
J. Patel	3	3	2	4	4.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R. Patel	14	13	3	106	10.60	5	52	1	194	12	16.17	3.73	26.00
S. Patel	15	11	5	112	18.67	4	64	8	223	19	11.74	3.48	20.21
Puli	12	9	-	93	10.33	11	14.2	1	57	2	28.50	3.98	43.00
Ratnapuri *	3	2	1	23	23.00	-	10.2	1	42	5	8.40	4.06	12.40
Sudireddy	15	12	-	85	6.54	9/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

One match only: A. Desai * 1/-/-/-, 2-0-14-1, M. Gilkes 1/1/-/16, 7-0-27-1, Mandava 1/1/-/12, 7-1-26-0, Osman * 1/1/1/3, 6-2-9-2, Pingili 1/1/-/0, 2-1-16-1(1 ct.), Raghavendra * 1/1/-/12 (1 ct.), Singh * 1/1/-/9, 5-2-15-2

HS for: 277-9 *v.* Chaddleshworth **HS against:** 221 by Gladiators, **LS for:** 110 *v.* Northfields **LS against:** 40 by Hounslow Hurricanes
50s/100s for (14): 116 Gulati *v.* St Anne's Allstars, 97 A. Ahmed *v.* Chaddleshworth, 94 Dubey *v.* Teddington Town, 88* A. Ahmed *v.* Whalers, 87 Parvathaneni *v.* Putney, 80 Gulati *v.* Whalers, 79 Chatharaju *v.* St Anne's Allstars, 76* Gulati *v.* Chaddleshworth, 75* Gulati *v.* Gladiators, 69 Kota *v.* Phoenix, 64 Parvathaneni *v.* Gladiators, 57* A. Ahmed *v.* John Buckner XI, 56* Parvathaneni *v.* Crossbats, 54* Bhaja *v.* Crossbats
50s/100s against (8): 116* Johnston (Whalers), 86 Raghavendra (St Anne's Allstars), 63 Masini (Crossbats), 62 Dubey (Crossbats), 58 Bhudia (Gladiators), 58 Goddard (John Buckner XI), 56* Bugg (John Buckner XI), 54 Bendre (Putney)

4-wickets for (5): 6-12 Gulati *v.* Hounslow Hurricanes, 6-23 H. Patel *v.* Phoenix, 5-28 Krishna *v.* Crossbats, 5-31 H. Patel *v.* St Anne's Allstars. 4-15 Krishna *v.* Northfields

4-wickets against (6): 4-7 Afridi (Northfields), 4-17 Ali (Salix), 4-28 Sanghai (Hounslow Hurricanes), 4-29 David Redhead (Northfields), 4-30 Haworth (John Buckner XI), 4-41 Mehta (Gladiators)

Sixes (51): Gulati 18, Parvathaneni 14, A. Ahmed 10, Kota 5, Dubey, Nagpal, Puli, R. Patel 1

Run outs of opponents (6): Sudireddy 3, Bhaja, Gulati, R. Patel 1

Whalers v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 7 July, Barn Elms ST. Gents won toss. Rainy, 17C

Won by 9 wickets

Whalers				Gentlemen of West London			
†Johnston	not out		116	A. Ahmed	not out		88
Prabal	c Kulasingam	b S. Patel	11	Gulati	lbw		80
Kushwaha	lbw	b Kota	0	Kota	not out	b Bilal	0
Nirmal		b Kulasingam	14	R. Patel, †Puli, Krishna, Dubey, *Sudireddy, Kulasingam, S. Patel and			
*Sanga		b Kulasingam	0	H. Patel dnb			
Raman		b Kulasingam	10				
†Rohan	not out		17				
Abhinav, Sourabh, Bilal and Vishal	dnb						
Extras	w6 b1		7	Extras	w8 nb1 b1 lb1		11
Total	5 wickets	25 overs	175	Total	1 wicket	22.4 overs	179
FoW: 18, 25, 69, 69, 106				FoW: 173			
Bowling: Kota 5-0-25-1, S. Patel 4-2-16-1, Dubey 5-0-43-0, Kulasingam 5-0-23-3, Krishna 3-0-31-0, H. Patel 3-0-36-0				Bowling: Bilal 5-0-46-1, Vishal 3.4-0-30-0, Abhinav 3-0-21-0, Sourabh 3-0-22-0, Rohan 5-0-15-0, Raman 3-0-43-0			



Australian Dean Johnston scored a century of the highest quality, 116* off 71 balls with 14 fours and a six, but Gents won their eleventh successive victory with a compelling opening stand of 173 by Aamir Ahmed and Vinitesh Gulati, a club record. It was a frantic match from start to finish much enjoyed by Gents and their young hosts. With their efforts to get the game on, their warm welcome and their buoyancy in defeat, Whalers exemplified the Spirit of Cricket.

Early exchanges saw a balanced contest between bat and ball, Kulasingam's low catch diving forward from deep mid-wicket the highlight for the Gents, S. Patel the bowler. Revenge for him after Prabal had smitten him for a four and a towering six in his first over. Johnston was fluent but club secretary Kushwaha fell for a duck, pinned by the Kota off-break. It is many matches since the Gents opened the attack with spin.

Thunder, lightning and heavy rain drove the players from the field with Whalers 40-2 off 8.5, Johnston sharing an entertaining story of a Sydney Grade match in which several fielders were frazzled, though mercifully they survived. It looked all up but the ground has covers, promptly brought into play by Whalers. The different ground authority at Barn Elms Sports Centre five hundred yards away had pulled their games at 11 o'clock. LB Merton had cancelled the weekend's cricket early Saturday morning. It looked grim.

But the rain relented, the bowler's run ups dried under the sun and play restarted after 75 minutes. The overs were reduced by captains Sanga and Sudireddy from 35 to 25, a format that would perhaps favour the chasing side. Kulasingam deserved his three wickets but left-hander Johnston almost single-handed enabled Whalers to put up a commanding total compiled at a round sevens. His placement was impeccable and he gave only one chance, a stinger to short fine-leg. He accelerated, Rohan gave him stout support, the pair ran like demons and 67 came off the final six overs, the bowlers and fielders powerless to prevent the carnage. Johnston's century was his 15th for Whalers and the tenth best by an opponent.

Sudireddy weighed up the risks and rewards and put his three biggest hitters up top, banking on a fast start without too much damage in the wickets column. His decision, influenced by a benign, true pitch, was vindicated to the maximum.

In improving light Ahmed (88* off 62 with 11 fours and two sixes) and Gulati (80 off 75 with eight fours and two sixes) ploughed ahead of the required rate after three overs and never relinquished control, though several bowlers, the speedy Rohan in particular, posed challenges. The consistency of the batting was remarkable: the first three five-over segments went for 41, 34 and 37 runs. Overs 16 to 20 went for 48 by which time the thing was nearly done. A quiet over would be followed by one or two boundaries and the required rate slowly declined. The killer over was No.18, savaged for 21. This left Gents seven overs to score 34 and from that point there was no way back for Whalers. Gulati's back-foot cover driving was immaculate: Ahmed's straight driving masterly.

Gulati fell leg-before after 21.5 overs, Kota blocked the sixth ball before Ahmed drove a two and a four off the returning Vishal to claim the victory. His 88* is his highest score for GWLCC, previously 77* *v.* Mpingwe in 2021. Sanjay Patel, who knows his cricket, thought it the finest opening partnership he had ever seen.

Johnston's hundred was the 31st by an opponent and the seventh in a losing cause. Only S. Desai has achieved this for the Gents, against Close PF. This was the Gent's fourth win in four at Barn Elms ST. The game against Salix in 2023 here was won by an identical margin and also saw a record stand courtesy of Dubey and Kota. The Gents' first-wicket record stand, previously 121 by Bignell and Hubbocks *v.* Enterprise in 1993, was only their sixth partnership of 100 or more for this wicket in the 690 matches played. Opponents have 15.

The current generation of players are well represented in the list with Gulati, Kota and Sudireddy appearing twice. The oldest extant record was set in 1993. Four date from the last three seasons.

Record partnerships by wicket – Gents

1	173	A. Ahmed (88*) and V. Gulati (80) <i>v.</i> Whalers	Barn Elms ST	7.7.24
2	156*	N. Dubey (62*) and P. Kota (86*) <i>v.</i> Salix	Barn Elms ST	18.6.23
3	168	P. Kota (160*) and S. Namilikonda (76) <i>v.</i> Squirrels	Old Tenisonians CC	17.7.22
4	162	H. Desai (46) and R. Lall (128) <i>v.</i> London Saints	Old Haberdashers CC	14.8.11
5	152	M. Ashton (102) and M. Hughes (57*) <i>v.</i> London Saints	Victoria RG	15.8.93
6	212*	J. Small (131*) and S. Kumar (74*) <i>v.</i> St Anne's Allstars	Boston Manor PF	7.6.15
7	140	R. Sudireddy (96) and V. Gulati (66*) <i>v.</i> Kempton	Old Tenisonians CC	2.8.20
8	120	R. Sudireddy (52) and R. Chatharaju (82*) <i>v.</i> New Romney	New Romney	10.9.23
9	108	H. Hibbert (81) and M. Sciberras (22) <i>v.</i> Virgin Casuals	Shepherd's Bush CC	17.9.00
10	79*	S. Patel (73*) and R. Pentakota (31*) <i>v.</i> Salix	Imperial College	9.9.12



Gentlemen of West London v. St Anne's Allstars

Sunday 14 July, Dundonald RG. Gents won toss. Sunny, 22C

Won by 55 runs

Gentlemen of West London				St Anne's Allstars			
R. Patel	c Deverathippa	b Raghavendra	8	†Deverathippa	c Arikatla	b Dubey	18
*†Sudireddy		b Rout	0	*Raghavendra	c Puli	b H. Patel	86
H. Patel		b Jawaji	14	Sainath		b S. Patel	0
Gulati	c and	b Jawaji	116	Bose	c Arikatla	b S. Patel	29
Chatharaju	not out		79	Kingston	c S. Patel	b H. Patel	3
Krishna	lbw	b Deverathippa	1	Rout		b H. Patel	26
S. Patel	not out		1	Louis		b H. Patel	21
Puli, Arikatla, Nagpal and Dubey dnb				Kuriakose	run out (Sudireddy)		7
				Regnier-Wilson	run out (Gulati)		0
				Jawaji	not out		1
				Dasch	lbw	b H. Patel	1
Extras	w14 nb3 b6		23	Extras	w8		8
Total	5 wickets	30 overs	255	Total	All out	27 overs	200
FoW: 12, 12, 68, 206, 245				FoW: 30, 104, 110, 152, 157, 190, 197, 198, 200, 200			
Bowling: Rout 6-0-29-1, Raghavendra 4-0-48-1, Jawaji 4-0-28-2,				Bowling: Dubey 6-0-53-1, Nagpal 3-0-39-0, S. Patel 4-0-21-2,			
Das 1-0-22-0, Kuriakose 5-0-25-0, Regnier-Wilson 1-0-15-0,				Krishna 7-0-46-0, H. Patel 5-0-31-5, Arikatla 2-0-10-0			
Bose 2-0-25-0, Deverathippa 5-0-34-1, Sainath 1-0-13-0,							
Louis 1-0-10-0							

This day was not short of sporting excitement with the Wimbledon and European championship finals, **writes Raj Patel**. The Gents and St Anne's Allstars added to this excitement with some blistering batting and a heart-warming moment after the game. Play began slightly later than the scheduled 12.30pm start in a 30-over match up with St Anne's Allstars, who were put in to field after the home side won the toss.

Openers R. Patel and Sudireddy went out with intention of seeing off the opening bowlers. With R. Patel caught behind after two fours and Sudireddy bowled within the first five overs, it meant that again the middle order were tasked with steadying the ship. Enter Gulati who has been in blistering form this season, scoring all over the park, dispatching bad balls and good ones too.

Gulati was supported throughout by stellar batting from H. Patel and Chatharaju, the fifth-wicket partnership putting up 138. Gulati went on to score a club HS of 116 from 75 with 10 fours and six sixes before being caught at mid-on. Chatharaju remained not out 79 off 59: outstanding batting from them both, with Chatharaju sensibly supported by Krishna and Puli after Gulati's departure. Gents ended their innings on 255-5 off the full 30 overs.

St Anne's openers Deverathippa and Raghavendra were equal to the task of chasing what looked like a good score on the board. Raghavendra, who has played for the Gents, was in blistering form. Able to pluck deliveries from outside off and clear long-on boundaries, he was a sight to see. An early wicket for Dubey to dismiss Amit brought in more destructive batting. His fellow opening bowler Nagpal was unfortunately unable to get in on the act and bore the brunt of fierce hitting. Field placement was extremely difficult for the captain with the middle order either picking the gaps or clearing boundaries with ease. Some heavy hitting brought Krishna into his own with his experienced bowling and he prevented the batsmen from scoring as they'd like.

H. Patel and S. Patel are legends and showed it with 5-0-31-5 and 4-0-21-2, the former dismissing the destructive Raghavendra for the second year in a row. Two fivers this season for him proves his new athletic physique hasn't hampered his bowling. Some excellent catching from Arikatla and Puli provided the bowlers with the assistance they needed against a destructive batting line-up. A nice touch at the end of the game was allowing St Anne's 12th man, Derek, to come in to bat to build some confidence. A chap who we were told wanted to try some batting left the park with a beaming smile on his face after putting bat to ball. It's what Sunday cricket is all about. Gents are now on a 12-game winning streak with players stepping up when needed. A thoroughly enjoyable game then against an oppo whose attitude was exemplary. To Chaddleworth next, a new oppo. We look forward to the challenge.



Excluding T20 or shorter formats, no Gents' game has seen a higher run rate. The Top 5 are:

1. 7.98 2024 St Anne's Allstars (30 overs)
2. 7.97 2011 West XI (30 overs)
3. 7.88 2023 Mpingwe (40 overs)
4. 7.75 2023 Fighting Stars (40 overs)
5. 7.43 2024 Whalers (25 overs)

Gulati's 116 was his second century and highest score (previously 102* *v.* Brentham in 2019). He has also scored 11 half-centuries (total scores of 50 or more at 13 is now level with Basker and Dubey at equal fifth in the annals). With 1,993 career runs he now stands ninth, up five places so far this season. Chatharaju's 79* was his fourth half-century and just three shy of his PB of 82* *v.* New Romney in 2023. Play-cricket confirms that both innings took just 59 balls. Some going, and well done.

Heroes of Milford

It's worth remembering these two names. Two fifties in a game against the Gents is no rarity but John Buckner's No.1 and No.3 provided a masterclass on 28 July.



Mr. Goddard



Mr. Bugg

D.H. Gilgallon (26.9.41-29.7.24)

GWLCC has expressed its condolences to the family and friends of Denis Hugh Gilgallon, who died in July. Denis had many roles at Wycombe House and was instrumental in helping the cricket section to develop into the vibrant group it is today. They now play their cricket in MCCL Division 1, their highest ever level. He laid the foundations for that. The kids loved him. Hamzah Khan carries it on.

He was ground secretary when Gents began to play at Wycombe House and fought our corner after some early challenges which arose from innocent miscommunication by both sides. We will forever be grateful for that. May he rest in peace.

Chaddleshworth v. Gentlemen of West London

Sunday 21 July, Chaddleshworth. Gents won toss. Sunny, 23C

Won by 187 runs

Gentlemen of West London				Chaddleshworth			
Dubey	c Thomas	b Lucas	22	Eneva	c Sudireddy	b R. Patel	9
Puli	c Fairclough	b Lucas	14	Craig	c Parvathaneni	b Krishna	12
H. Patel		b B. Barrett	2	†Ed G		b Krishna	7
A. Ahmed	c J. Barrett	b Eneva	97	*J. Barrett	c Puli	b Gulati	33
Joshi		b Lucas	0	B. Barrett		b R. Patel	1
*†Sudireddy	c J. Barrett	b Swann	11	J. Swann		b R. Patel	0
Parvathaneni		b Eneva	15	Paul	run out (Gulati)		14
Gulati	not out		76	Thomas		b S. Patel	0
S. Patel	c T. Swann	b Eneva	0	Lucas	lbw	b H. Patel	7
Krishna	c Eneva	b Edwards	15	Edwards		b Gulati	0
R. Patel	not out		0	T. Swann	not out		1
Extras	w20 nb3 b1 lb1		25	Extras	w1 nb5		6
Total	9 wickets	35 overs	277	Total	All out	24.5 overs	90
FoW: 29, 32, 44, 80, 147, 200, 200, 256				FoW: 20, 30, 32, 38, 38, 75, 75, 79, 69, 90			
Bowling: B. Barrett 6-0-49-1, Lucas 5-0-24-3, J. Barrett 4-0-33-0, J. Swann 6-0-41-1, Eneva 8-0-83-3, Edwards 6-0-45-1				Bowling: Krishna 5-1-18-2, R. Patel 7-0-25-3, S. Patel 5-1-23-1, Gulati 3-0-16-2, H. Patel 2.5-1-2-1, Puli 2-0-6-0			

This was a fine day out in beautiful Chaddleshworth, nestling below the southern slopes of the Berkshire Downs. Gents were made welcome from the moment they walked from the car park past the stables into the compact, pretty ground, the beginning of a perfect day. This fixture had been long in the planning. Brokered on-line in 2023 after Gents had an away gap, it was rained off. There were no such problems this time and play proceeded without interruption, with the spectacular exception of local character Joe, father of the fixture secretary, who collapsed in the second innings, victim of a dodgy plastic chair and the speedily-ingested contents of twelve tins of cider and a hipflask of whisky. Play was suspended while he was attended to.

Aamir Ahmed's highest club score of 97 (72 balls, 10 fours and four sixes), beating a record set a fortnight before, and a late blast from Gulati of 76* (32 balls, four fours, eight sixes) saw Gents to their highest score of the campaign. Chaddleshworth lost five wickets early and though captain Jack Barrett counter-attacked forcefully the innings ended with 61 balls unbowled. But of greater importance than the result was the welcome extended to the visitors and both teams were keen for a home and away in 2025.

Yet the early overs were Chaddleshworth's, Lucas and Ben Barrett hustling out the top order as Gents were reduced from 29-0 – a bright start by Dubey and Puli – to 44-4. Captain Sudireddy was watchful in support of the bustling Ahmed as 36 came up for the fifth wicket. From that point fortune favoured the Gents as a series of fifty partnerships broke Chaddleshworth's hearts. Parvathaneni chose the support role but Ahmed and Gulati were at the centre of things (they even batted together for 33 balls, adding 53 for the seventh wicket). Gulati took over on Ahmed's dismissal, being particularly severe on spinner Eneva. Krishna gave him clever support. A mighty score of 277 was the result. Credit Chaddleshworth for their catching, particularly close in. Puli and S. Patel fell to stunners. A spectacular tea was welcomed by both teams. It can be done. It just needs somebody to attend to it, and nothing else.

The outfield, though even and well-maintained, was slow so boundaries, and plenty of them, were the order of the day for Chaddleshworth. There was no point in pottering about. It didn't quite happen for them but they tried. R. Patel's best bowling stint of the season garnered him three wickets and fellow strike bowler Krishna took two, supported by sound catching. The stand of 37 between captain Barrett and Paul showed promise before Paul was run out by a powerful Gulati throw while attempting a tight second. When Barrett fell to a well-judged deep catch by Puli it was pretty much game over, though there was time for S. Patel and H. Patel to add to their hauls.

A good team effort then not necessarily reflected in the statistics: Joshi, for example, fielded well and as usual lifted the team's spirits. Thanks to those who made the long journey so punctually, allowing the match to start on time.

Gentlemen of West London v. John Buckner XI

Sunday 28 July, Milford. Gents won toss. Sunny, 25C

Lost by 8 wickets

Gentlemen of West London				John Buckner XI			
Dubey		b Haynes	0	Goddard		b Dubey	58
Chatharaju	lbw	b Haworth	13	Sproul	c S. Patel	b R. Patel	14
Nagpal		b Thompson	29	Bugg		not out	56
*†Sudireddy	lbw	b Haworth	0	†Mistlin		not out	6
Krishna	c Thompson	b Miller	7	Conway, *Thompson, Haynes, Miller, Haworth and Sims dnb			
A. Ahmed	not out		57				
R. Patel	c Mistlin	b Miller	0				
Arikatla	c Sproul	b Miller	0				
Joshi	run out (Sims)		7				
S. Patel	c Haynes	b Haworth	0				
H. Patel		b Haworth	0				
Extras	w19 nb2 b2 lb1		24	Extras	w1 nb4 b1		6
Total	All out	31.4 overs	137	Total	2 wickets	28.3 overs	140
FoW: 0, 30, 30, 51, 53, 53, 65, 125, 137, 137				FoW: 40, 134			
Bowling: Haynes 5-0-21-1, Haworth 4.4-1-30-4, Miller 7-1-8-3, Thompson 7-0-30-1, Sims 4-0-36-0, Sproul 4-0-9-0				Bowling: Krishna 6-0-35-0, S. Patel 5-0-9-0, Chatharaju 4-0-22-0, R. Patel 7-0-25-1, H. Patel 3-0-25-0, Arikatla 2-0-10-0, Dubey 1.3-0-13-1			

John Buckner XI inflicted a heavy defeat to end a winning run of 13 matches. Superior in every aspect of the game despite lacking an eleventh player, the victory was never in doubt and their celebrations were well deserved. For their part, the Gents lacked drive and intensity. The previous meeting was in 2023 when Gents won a low scoring affair at Joseph Hood RG when John Buckner, inhibited in no small measure by grassy pitch and outfield, failed to hit a single boundary. They made up for it here with 19 of them. It was a good day out and credit goes to J. Patel who responded well to the Great Pitch Crisis in the spring and booked two dates at this neat, trim country venue. JB are a friendly, sporting side and a return game here in 2025 will be one to savour.

The visiting side was different to 2023's with only Thompson and Haynes returning along with eight Gents. The hosts had first use of the pitch but lost Dubey to the inswinger fourth ball, the first of four committee members to register ducks. Chatharaju and Nagpal hit a quick 30 in 15 balls before Haworth took two in three, Chatharaju and Sudireddy back in the hutch. Nagpal batted with intelligence but when he, Krishna, R. Patel and Arikatla fell in a heap Gents had tumbled to 65-7. There seemed no way back so credit Ahmed and the gutsy Joshi for the Gents' stand of the day, 60 in 63 balls. The giant was in splendid form – 57 off 54 with four fours and four sixes – but Joshi was no less impressive, thriving on the trust placed in him by his partner, seeing off some penetrative bowling and running well. An enjoyable stand.

After Joshi was run out making it 125-8 after 30.3 home fans had hopes that the Patels would continue the momentum as they have done so often this season but no, Howarth struck in successive balls to return 4-30 and it was 137 all out with Ahmed taking his season's average up to 146.00. There were no weaknesses in the bowling (the darting away-cutters of Miller caught the eye along with the opening seam pair) and the catching was adhesive.

The second innings was a case of hot toil for the bowlers and solid efforts by highly competent batters who picked off ones and twos and despatched anything short or wide with authority. Forty came up for the first wicket in 11.2 overs before cover S. Patel ran round to judge a lofted drive perfectly off R. Patel's second ball. Exit Sproul, enter Bugg to keep Goddard company. All season the Gents have found moments of inspiration to turn round games but here they looked exhausted and further breakthroughs would not come. The bowling was accurate and the fielding keen but the batters were dominant and the required run rate kept firmly under control. R. Patel and Dubey bowled well and deserved their successes but there were eight wickets and 33 balls in hand when JB's excellent 'keeper Mistlin took six off his only two balls faced. Goddard had hit seven fours and Bugg ten.

A chastening experience then with Gents well beaten. JB were good value after the game and will be on the fixture card for years to come.

Gentlemen of West London v. Northfields

Sunday 4 August, Dundonald RG. Gents won toss. Sunny, 23C

Lost by 46 runs

Northfields				Gentlemen of West London			
Afridi	c Arikatla	b Krishna	42	*R. Patel	c Kevan	b David Redhead	15
†Kevan	c Sub. (Jaz)	b R. Patel	16	†Sudireddy	lbw	b Afridi	0
Akshit	c Puli	b Krishna	7	Puli	c Kevan	b Mistry	34
*David Redhead	c Gulati	b Krishna	4	Gulati		b Jaz	6
Baldeo	c Puli	b H. Patel	2	Krishna	not out		15
Derrick Redhead	not out		48	Ratnapuri	c Akshit	b David Redhead	21
Darren Redhead	c Sudireddy	b Krishna	0	H. Patel	c Kevan	b David Redhead	5
Upcraft	not out		22	Arikatla	c Kevan	b David Redhead	0
Mistry, Jaz and Kent dnb				S. Patel		b Afridi	0
				J. Patel		b Afridi	0
				Joshi		b Afridi	0
Extras	w6 nb2 b3 lb4		15	Extras	w7 nb1 b5 lb1		14
Total	6 wickets	35 overs	156	Total	All out	24.4 overs	110
FoW: 50, 76, 77, 81, 89, 90				FoW: 10, 40, 63, 76, 103, 109, 109, 110, 110, 110			
Bowling: Arikatla 3-0-21-0, R. Patel 5-0-36-1, S. Patel 7-0-28-0, Krishna 7-0-15-4, H. Patel 7-1-16-1, Ratnapuri 2-0-14-0, Gulati 4-0-19-0				Bowling: Afridi 5.4-2-7-4, Kent 3-0-10-0, Derrick Redhead 4-0-23-0, David Redhead 7-1-29-4, Jaz 3-0-14-1, Mistry 2-0-21-1			

Despite a 1980s blunder years throwback collapse that included five ducks (that's 11 in two weeks), this was an improved Gents performance. But it was not enough to beat a strong and very motivated Northfields who had one of those golden days where every decision taken by captain David Redhead came off. Gents had good periods in both innings but the unbeaten 66 added for the visitors' seventh wicket proved crucial and they deserved their first win in five in this series.

Beset by three late arrivals, Northfield kindly lending two, Gents were chasing the game in the opening overs, 50 coming up in 6.4 before R. Patel struck. Afridi was leathering the ball all over Wimbledon but he was well taken at mid-wicket after the fall of Akshit. Gent had now entered their best period of the match, Northfields, cruising at 76-2 in the 12th, adding just 14 for the loss of five wickets in the next ten overs. Krishna and H. Patel did the damage, backed up by intrepid fielding on a hard and patchy outfield. Gulati took a superb catch diving forward at mid-wicket to pouch David Redhead one-handed.

At 90-6 Northfields had been reined in but Gents with Krishna and H. Patel bowled out were unable to take any further wickets despite a hostile spell from the talisman Gulati and two overs of authentic leg-spin from Ratnapuri. Derrick Redhead batted 20 overs for his 48* with the veteran Upcraft providing solid support. With a fast outfield Gents did well to restrict the oppo to 18 boundaries, six of which came in the first six overs. The impression at the break was that both sides were content.

R. Patel led from the front and opened but Sudireddy soon went. The ball flew off what appeared to be a combination of bat and pad to second slip, who caught it. The umpire confirmed it was lbw. The Gents' best period with the bat then followed as the score was taken up to 76-3 and later 103-4. R. Patel and Puli relished the challenge, Puli's off-driving and straight-driving exemplary. It was not Gulati's day but Krishna and Ratnapuri batted with skill and intelligence. Redhead gave spinners Jaz and Mistry brief spells and both were successful, a bitter blow for the Gents with Puli and Gulati gone.

The decision to bring back Afridi and David Redhead was the match-winner. Ratnapuri had been playing aggressively. Redhead pitched one in short, the batter took him on with the hook but sliced to square-leg H. Patel and Arikatla soon nicked behind and it was 109-7. Northfields were now favourites and wrapped things up very quickly, Afridi bowling S. Patel, J. Patel and Joshi with the first, second and fourth balls of his extremely fast sixth over to enormous and justified whoops of delight.

The Gents failed to bat 66 balls of their 35 overs and therein lay the problem, for runs come quickly at Dundonald if you stay in but against bowling of the quality on display here that is no easy matter. One-one over the campaign it was then, a fair result. R. Patel led well and Gents might have done it had they separated Derrick Redhead and Upcraft early but it was not to be.