

# THE GENT

November 2007

No. 116

**Tales from the corridor of uncertainty**

## **Noble end for Tenisonian clothes line**



Season's review  
Nabeel's farewell  
Averages and statistics  
Carry on...Gent!

Old Tenisonians confirm  
Match reports:  
West XI (BAMC) (lost by 5 wickets)  
Salix (lost by 29 runs)

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Read about The Gents on [www.gowlcc.org.uk](http://www.gowlcc.org.uk)

2007 GWLCC Annual General Meeting: Saturday 1 December 6.30pm Waggon And Horses PH  
Surbiton Hill Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4TW

## Gents up and down between the showers

A season of promising early cricket ended rather glumly with four losses in the final five games, but there was much to enjoy in the club's 20th campaign, a winning one with 11 wins, only six defeats and good spirit on and off the pitch. It was overall a similar season to 2006, but one left that left many questions unanswered. A more accurate perspective might have been possible had six of the first 14 games not been ruined by rain. Two of these, Hale and Sloane Club, were among the most eagerly anticipated away trips. Five matches were cancelled (though Old Tenisonians, itself a last minute fixture after Brondesbury Casuals pulled out because of other commitments, was rearranged) and the pivotal West XI home leg abandoned after a freak storm, only a few miles from where NB Weasels and Pak played an uninterrupted game at Imber Court. This match was something of a turning point, with a first Bob Ashton Memorial Cup triumph since 2002 hovering into view, though in hindsight the game was likely to have been close, with Norcott and Dane steady under fire, a taste of things to come for them at Berkhamsted when their 81 stand was a deserved matchwinner.

Nabeel Husain scored 680 runs, including two hundreds (equal to the total scored in the club's first 12 seasons), three fifties and a 49 not out (in an unbroken stand of 51), took 17 wickets (only exceeded by Hemin Patel) and held 12 catches, a record for a Gent outfielder and only bettered by 'keeper Ian Maughan's 14 in 1994. The charge that The Gents were too reliant on him has some substance, but what a swansong, including, it should not be forgotten, more appearances, 15, than anyone else. With guest Paul Kain's clothes line-destroying help, his 100 not out guided The Gents to a record total of 325-5 against London Saints, including 166 for the third wicket, a record Gent stand. Nobody begrudged the popular and likeable Saints a deserved win in the return, courtesy of a whirlwind Thomas/Berkeley stand. Husain's monumental, unbeaten 143 against Weasels was second only to Steve Jones's 158 not out against West XI in the club's annals.

Paul Kain, Sanjay Patel, Richard Gilkes and Chris Wright (for The Gents), Vishal Junani of Gubbays and Harry Barrett of Wombles also scored fifties. Sanjay Patel and Peter Denton were consistent, but nobody else made 200 runs, though Dhruv Patel batted fluently against West XI at Gunnersbury Park and Old Tenisonians. Richard Gilkes's fifty was a matchwinner against a game Enterprise. Lloyd Wahed provided fireworks at Gunnersbury, along with three super catches, and so deserved a fifty against Salix. Rob Babar, who kindly introduced his brother Ed, and Sean Carroll found their batting form against Salix and also bowled some tight spells. Alex Young showed promise, but far more is to come from him. Peter Denton's best knocks were early season while poor Ken Toft suffered again from injury and had a muted season, but kindly always gave his full support. Naveed Khan batted fluently against 12 Angry Men.

Sanjay Patel and, for the first time, Tony Buck capitalised on Husain's centuries with five-wicket hauls against Saints and Weasels, but it was the subtle spin of Hemin Patel who, with beautiful flight, topped the bowling with 24 wickets, he and Husain restricting the batsmen to under 3.5 runs per over. Stuart Snelling, though slightly slower these days, has lost none of his guile after 1,373 overs for The Gents and remains a top-class bowler. Sanjay Patel, having said preseason that he would not bowl much, often opened the bowling and was cunning and effective. Daoud Shanvare took some good wickets. Other bowling lacked penetration, while Dhruv Patel was underused. The PALs League, possibly the last in its current format, was tied with Pak, as was the Bob Ashton Memorial Cup with a West XI side who improved throughout the season. The best performances were against West XI at Gunnersbury Park and London Saints at Old Tenisonians. Both Pak matches, Old Tenisonians, London Saints away and the combative, chirpy Wombles were also highly enjoyable.

Administration was easier than in 2006, with fewer prolonged summer holidays, though only ten were fielded at Old Tenisonians and nine at Saints. Support from the 2006 intake in getting guests was much appreciated. Sharp thinking from captains of the day Gilkes and Denton ensured that second games were played after early finishes against Old Tenisonians (an ignominious collapse from 48-0 to 72 all out) and London Owls. Jim Wright kindly organised the engraving of the playing trophies so that the history was retained. Ken Toft's work on the website was prompt and efficient. The disappointment of the summer was the double-booking by Jay Bharat of their home game. After they walked away from the problem, Gubbays kindly stood in.

Though he felt the pressure once or twice, Sanjay Patel suffered little diminution in his own form. Returns of 256 runs, usually batting, perhaps too low, between No.5 and No.7, 17 wickets and 5 catches were praiseworthy. He was not afraid of tough decisions and was well supported by Vice Captain Denton and other senior players. Finally, it was delightful to welcome back in August James Lewis, Jim Wright, Mark Sciberras and Paul Turpin. Everyone hopes that this will herald more regular appearances from them in 2008, a season which it is possible, given the playing resources, to look forward to with hope. Well done, Gents, on a good year.

## The 2007 season has now finished

Date	Gents	Venue	West XI	Venue								
Sun 29 April	-	-	Cincinnati	Lost by 6 wickets								
Sun 6 May	Pak (PALs)	Won by 54 runs	Dinder and Croscombe	Lost by 16 runs								
Sun 13 May	Sloane Club	Cancelled (rain)	Thames Water	Cancelled (no oppo)								
Sun 20 May	West XI (BAMC)	Won by 115 runs	Gents (BAMC)	Lost by 115 runs								
Sun 27 May	Hale	Cancelled (rain)	Acme	Cancelled (rain)								
Sat 2 June	-	-	Menorca	Lost by 95 runs								
Sun 3 June	London Saints	Won by 141 runs	Menorca	Won by 5 wickets								
Sat 9 June	NB Weasels (PALs)	Won by 60 runs	-	-								
Sun 10 June	-	-	Walthamstow Horizontals	Lost by 5 wickets								
Tues 12 June	-	-	Dodgems (Twenty20)	Won by 17 runs								
Sat 16 June	-	-	Saracens Riff	Cancelled (no oppo)								
Sun 17 June	Pak (PALs)	Lost by 44 runs	-	-								
Sun 24 June	London Rams	Cancelled (rain)	Lord Nelson Cup	Cancelled (rain)								
Sat 30 June	-	-	Wylde Oates	Cancelled (rain)								
Sun 1 July	OT Taverners	Cancelled (rain)	Dinder and Croscombe	Abandoned (rain)								
Sat 7 July	NB Weasels (PALs)	Won by 236 runs	-	-								
Sun 8 July	OT Taverners	Lost by 8 wickets	Sunderland SC	Won by 36 runs								
Sun 8 July	OT Taverners (Twenty20)	Won by 8 wickets	-	-								
Sun 15 July	West XI (BAMC)	Abandoned (rain)	Gents (BAMC)	Abandoned (rain)								
Sun 22 July	Jay Bharat	Cancelled (rain)	Captain's Select	Won by 4 wickets								
Sun 29 July	12 Angry Men	Won by 66 runs	London Saints	Won by 93 runs								
Sat 4 Aug	Enterprise	Won by 91 runs	Plums	Won by 8 wickets								
Sun 5 Aug	London Owls	Won by 9 wickets	-	-								
Sun 5 Aug	London Owls (Pro15)	Won by 22 runs	-	-								
Sat 11 Aug	-	-	North Star	Cancelled (no oppo)								
Sun 12 Aug	London Saints	Lost by 15 runs	Acme	Won by 4 wickets								
Wed 15 Aug	-	-	GSK (Twenty20)	Abandoned (rain)								
Sun 19 Aug	-	-	All India	Cancelled (rain)								
Sun 26 Aug	Wombles	Won by 27 runs	Academicals	Lost by 50 runs								
Sun 2 Sept	Gubbays	Lost by 86 runs	Captain's Select	Won by 47 runs								
Sun 9 Sept	West XI (BAMC)	Lost by 5 wickets	Gents (BAMC)	Won by 5 wickets								
Sun 16 Sept	Salix	Lost by 29 runs	Whalers	Won by 3 wickets								
Sun 23 Sept	-	-	Sutton	Lost by 8 wickets								
<b>Record Runs</b>	Played 18 Won 11 Lost 6 Abandoned 1 Cancelled 5 Husain 680, S Patel 256, Denton 217, D Patel 189						Played 20 Won 10 Lost 7 Abandoned 2 Cancelled 7 Wright 599, Dane 339, Bhatt 298, Bignell 183					
<b>Wickets</b>	H Patel 24, Husain/S Patel 17, Snelling 15, Buck 14						R Allerton 19, Laing 15, Wright 14, Bhatt/Bignell 10					
<b>Catches</b>	Husain 12, Snelling 7, Gilkes/S Patel 5, three players 4						R Allerton 9, Bhatt 8, Wright 6, Norcott/K Allerton 4					
	M.	L.	NO.	R	Av.	Ct./St.	O	M	R	W	Avg.	
Ed Babar	3	3	1	16	8.00	1	13	1	51	6	8.50	
Robert Babar	11	8	2	22	3.67	2	49	4	218	8	27.25	
Dave Bender	3	2	0	6	3.00	-	7	0	48	2	24.00	
Tony Buck	12	11	1	89	8.90	1	40	1	183	14	13.07	
Andy Burman	3	2	1	0	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Sean Carroll	9	7	0	67	9.57	4	10	0	40	0	N/A	
Peter Denton	14	13	1	217	18.08	4	-	-	-	-	-	
Richard Gilkes	13	13	0	179	13.77	5	10.3	1	43	2	21.50	
Nabeel Husain	15	15	4	680	61.82	12	65	12	225	17	13.24	
Naveed Khan	5	4	0	57	14.25	-	6	0	32	2	16.00	
Dhruv Patel	10	8	0	189	23.63	1	21.3	0	103	10	10.30	
Dhruv Patel Jr.	2	1	1	1	N/A	-	0.1	0	0	1	N/A	
Hemin Patel	13	10	1	68	7.56	2	70.2	9	239	24	9.96	
Sanjay Patel	14	13	1	256	21.33	5	64.2	9	259	17	15.24	
Daoud Shanvare	7	8	2	86	14.33	2	30	3	140	7	20.00	
Stuart Snelling	14	10	3	48	6.86	7	80.4	8	312	15	20.80	
Ken Toft	13	10	5	58	11.60	3	-	-	-	-	-	
Paul Turpin	3	2	0	9	4.50	2	-	-	-	-	-	
Lloyd Wahed	9	9	3	155	25.83	4	13.1	2	80	4	20.00	
Alex Young	7	6	0	48	8.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	

**Also played (1 game only);** S Bignell 1/1/1/0, S Clayton 1/-/-/-, 1-0-12-0, H Desai 1/1/1/7, J Emson 1/1/0/26, M Espire 1/-/-/-, 3-1-12-2 (1 ct.), M Freedman 1/-/-/-, 3-0-22-0, YH Fung 1/-/-/-, M Gorasia 1/1/1/1, 2-0-34-0, A Houchin 1/-/-/-, 4-0-9-1, P Kain 1/1/0/87, J Lewis 1/1/0/0, M Sciberras 1/1/0/6, 5-1-33-1, C Wright 1/1/0/54, J Wright 1/2/0/25, 4-1-11-3, (Sub. fielder 1 ct.)

**Best Batting; 143\*** Nabeel Husain v New Barbarian Weasels 7 July, **100\*** Nabeel Husain v London Saints 3 June, **87** Paul Kain v London Saints 3 June, **76** Nabeel Husain v West XI 20 May, **74** Vishal Junani of Gubbays 2 September, **71** Sanjay Patel v London Saints 12 August, **69** Nabeel Husain v New Barbarian Weasels 9 June, **66** Nabeel Husain v West XI 9 September, **62** Richard Gilkes v Enterprise 4 August, **57\*** Harry Barrett of Wombles 26 August, **54** Chris Wright v New Barbarian Weasels 7 July

**Best Bowling; 5-23** Tony Buck v New Barbarian Weasels 7 July, **5-24** Varney of Old Tenisonians Taverners 8 July, **5-30** Sanjay Patel v London Saints 3 June, **5-30** Umar of Pak 17 June, **4-27** Stuart Snelling v Gubbays 2 September

## Old Tenisonians confirm

Early 2008 news is that four Old Tenisonians pitches are booked, on the Sundays of 1 June (London Saints), 6 July (Old Tenisonians Taverners, Paul Kain to be encouraged to reverse sweep Hemin again please), 13 July (West XI) and 24 August. Other West XI dates are 18 May (theirs) and 7 September (neutral ground, not Berkhamsted, Gents to book), while Hemin marries Leena on 10 August, so that day will be left blank, though a casual pick-up England/India game will doubtless take place at some point during the nuptials. We tried to book more Old Tenisonians pitches, but drew a blank. Secretary Mr Baker is not keen to rent OTCC on May Sundays, reasoning that a horde of Gents and oppo tramping about on a damp ground the day after 100 or so overs of league cricket would wreck it for the season. At least they have invited us back to play their Sunday XI, their pacemen no doubt fancying another blitz of Gent middle-order batsmen. It is a fair allocation and OTCC have always made The Gents most welcome. The vestigial fixture list also incorporates London Rams at home on 22 June and Saints away on 17 August. A fixture against Yu Himm Fung's Kingston CC is also being brokered, giving Gents a game at the former home, Victoria RG, Surbiton. St. Anne's Allstars will definitely be back.

## Lost Herts

West XI recognise that Berkhamsted, though grand in many ways, is, for several reasons, not The Gents' favourite venue. Nor, interestingly, is it favoured by all Beggars. They have therefore kindly given us the chance to come up with an alternative. It is now time to stop theatrically recoiling from the 'B' word and to deliver a fairly priced alternative in London. The Secretary comes out in cold sweats at the prospect of having to grovel to Mr Hill to rent Berkhamsted if we do not deliver, so please help.

The Berkhamsted Question is taxing, perhaps the Schleswig-Holstein Question of its age. Its supporters rightly refer to favourable batting wickets and attractive views, if you like Hertfordshire hills, which some do. The dissenting arguments of cost and distance are equally well documented. It is expensive and not everyone lives a five minutes' walk from London Euston, which fact makes it popular with the man who does West XI's fixtures. Green folk would add that the carbon footprint created by the usual convoy of cars motoring to this fixture is deplorable. A third argument against Berkhamsted is poncery. In September 2007 the editor of The Gent overheard a kerfuffle on the top pitch caused by the absence of a match ball, with flouncings, cancellations, deduction of points, etc. threatened. Full of the joys and eager to help, he dived into his bag and found a brand new VKS League Special ball (£8.99) that he offered to one of the squabblers. Within a minute it had been tossed back to him by a crested Berkhamsted sweater with a curt "Not league standard, mate."

## Gents eye triple century



Which enigmatic team shall I play for in '08?

A team like The Gents stands or falls as much on its social relations as its cricket. To the squad was added towards the end of 2007 Daoud Shanvare and Naveed Khan, their Afghani (though sporting a British Lions shirt) and Pakistani backgrounds complementing an already rich cultural and cricketing mix, though the deranged Irishman who gatecrashed the 2006 AGM never showed, a relief. Step this way any commissioning editor interested in remaking popular 1970s situation comedy *Mind Your Language*. Daoud has committed for the 2008 season. Naveed's appearances will depend on how many Pak CC play, the demands of his young family and trips to Old Trafford. You're very welcome, chaps.

With the 2007 debutants, the total of Gents players has risen to 222, who represent eight ICC Full Members (Bangladesh and Zimbabwe are absent), six Associate Members (France, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands and Scotland) and three Affiliate Members (Afghanistan, Malta and Saudi Arabia). As ever it is in the sub-prime outposts of the list that the entertainment is jolliest. Nineteen have a batting average of zero, 83 played only once, while one, Mark ?, did not even have a surname, unless (not impossible) he was ? of ? and the Mysterions, who charted with the garage classic '96 Tears' back in 1966. The most popular boy's names in Britain today are Jack, Thomas, Joshua, Oliver and Harry but nobody named thus has ever played for The Gents nor, sadly, have any retro Alberts, Fredericks, Sidneys, Reginalds or Stanleys. Johns lead the way with nine, followed by Chrisses with eight.

## I think I'm goin' back...



104 not out v NBW in 2005

...to the things I learned so well in my youth. Nabeel Husain has been a student for as long as anyone can remember, but has now confirmed he will be returning to Saudi Arabia in January to take up a position in a local bank. While sad that such a popular, gifted player will be missing from future team-sheets, we herewith celebrate his success for The Gents and express our best wishes to him for the future, both with his career, his engagement, his dodgy Phil Collins records and his Jeddah League cricket. It is a happy story to write.

Introduced, like so many other players, by Dhruv Patel in 2003, Nabeel quickly established himself as a lively, accurate bowler and tireless, energetic fielder. A steady move up the order culminated with a blistering 52 not out that August against St. Anne's that made everyone sit up and take notice. Thereafter big scores came regularly. He scored fifty or more 18 times in 51 innings including four centuries, of which the 104 not out against the Weasels in 2005 was the pick. That memorable afternoon he added an unbeaten 127 with Sanjay to take The Gents to a winning chase of 175-3, after Tony Buck had prayed for "120 all out to keep our dignity." It was one of the club's great comebacks and we make no apologies for printing the famous picture again; if there is a better shot of a square-drive this writer has yet to see it. What power and elegance!

With no diminution in his bowling three further centuries followed with fifties commonplace though, despite promptings from his mates on Facebook ("Nabil bhai...great statistics...keep it up...insha Allah u will break the past record" wrote a Mr. Ali), Nabeel ended up in 2007 76 shy of Jim Wright's season's record of 756. "All that matters is the team," Nabeel mused in August. "If the records come along all well and good." He is not a man obsessed by statistics and will not know that using a qualification rule of ten matches, his batting average of 47.95 exceeds all other Gents, excepting, for mathematicians among you, 34 Gentlemen with a batting average of infinity. Six have a finite average higher than Nabeel's, but none played more than seven games.

We are glad that a player of such high quality tested himself in Surrey League cricket. He did not find it easy, even sustaining a knee injury when fielding close that kept him out of the Saints away game. But he remained loyal to The Gents and we will always be in his debt for that. It took a while to get to know him but the effort was worthwhile. We hope that he found it so too. We believe he is eligible for Pakistan by birth and would not bet against a call up from the bank one day, rather in the mode of PG Wodehouse's Psmith in The City.

We close after the stats with an exchange of emails. The dignity of Nabeel's reply says more about the man than any words we can write, so we will close with a simple thank you.

	M.	I.	NO.	R	Av.	Ct.	O	M	R	W	Avg.
2003	5	5	1	117	29.25	3	29	5	92	8	11.50
2004	9	7	0	170	24.29	-	50.5	11	162	8	20.25
2005	13	13	1	586	48.83	2	67	5	260	15	17.33
2006	12	11	3	461	57.63	5	55.3	11	189	20	9.45
2007	15	15	4	680	61.82	12	65	12	225	17	13.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2,014</b>	<b>47.95</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>267.2</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>928</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>13.65</b>

**Nabeel's Highest Scores; 143\*** New Barbarian Weasels 7 July 2007, **104\*** New Barbarian Weasels 11 June 2005, **103** London Saints 4 June 2006, **100\*** London Saints 3 June 2007, **79** Sunderland SC 30 July 2005, **76** London Rams 25 June 2006, **76** West XI 20 May 2007, **71** London Saints 22 August 2004, **69** New Barbarian Weasels 9 June 2007, **66** West XI 9 September 2007, **61** Pak 19 June 2005, **59** West XI 10 September 2006, **57** Urban Associates 3 September 2006, **54** 12 Angry Men 8 May 2005, **54\*** Enterprise 27 August 2006, **53** London Rams 3 July 2005, **52\*** St. Anne's Allstars 31 August 2003, **51** West XI 17 July 2005

**Nabeel's Best Bowling; 4-5** Urban Associates 3 September 2006, **4-25** West XI 10 September 2006

*Dear Nabeel, I'm sorry I didn't get a chance to speak to you after the Berkhamsted game but I know you had to get a lift back to London with Naveed. I am writing to offer heartfelt thanks for your efforts for the club over the past few years and to wish you all the best in the future. You set a high standard not only with your skill but your dedication and team ethic. The boys loved having you around. It would be great if we could say goodbye properly but in the meanwhile thanks again. Best regards, Andy*

*Thank you for the email Andy. I learned a lot from living in this country, especially how each person is treated individually regardless of what religion they belong to. I still remember that first game I played for the club and thought I can hit every ball out of the park. But looking back, I sometimes amazed myself how comfortable I felt playing with the guys. Not bad for a guy who bats at No.8 and never bowls for his club in the Jeddah Cricket League. I'm looking forward to attending the AGM, as it will be my last chance to meet and thank everyone personally. As far as my going away plan is concerned, I am going to quit my job in December and will probably stay around until February to finish my dissertation. But no more change of plans this time. Let me know about the AGM. Many thanks, Nabeel*

## Game 17: Berkhamsted CC, Sunday 9 September. West XI won toss. Cloudy, 21C

### Beggars skip a generation to level series

Tantalus is a character in Greek mythology who is punished by the Gods for stealing their secrets. His fate was to spend eternity with a rock hanging precariously over his head, to be always hungry and thirsty with food and drink in sight, but always – tantalisingly – out of reach. Thus, our beloved Sanjay Patel, having by sheer force of personality dragged The Gents back into a game that had, for much of the afternoon, seemed beyond them, saw the game slip out of reach with a fusillade of late boundaries from Chris Wright and Rowan Allerton. The series was therefore tied 1-1 and Mr. Wright will, for another year, have to foot the bill for the silver polish with which to buff the Bob Ashton Memorial Cup, a price, we suspect, he will be happy to pay. Sanjay meanwhile faces up to two series bravely drawn 1-1 coming on the back of three successive losses, two by 0-3 and one by 1-2.

West XI were worthy winners here as they played more as a team, all their batsmen apart from Taylor getting into double figures, while their bowling was more consistent. Indeed, The Gents' innings never really recovered from hostile, accurate opening spells from Taylor and Dane, stuttering to 43-3 off 14 overs. Husain, in his final Gents game, brought up his 2,000 runs in only his 51st. innings with a splendid 66, but received little help apart from Sanjay, who nevertheless was dropped twice before being yorked by Chris Wright in an otherwise wayward spell. The Saudi was dismissed pulling a full-pitch from Allerton, one of three wickets for the fourteen year-old. One or two Gents thought that it might have been an aerial No-Ball but it wasn't given and that was that and no blame should attach to the highly competent umpire who called it as he saw it. Some brave runs from H Bomb, Snarler and Mr. Turpin belied the stodgy efforts of supposedly senior batsmen to bring up a total of 147, perhaps 30 or 40 south of expectations. Still, it was something to bowl at and far from disastrous.

After a tea described by a West XI player as “bland rubbish” (brother, you should see Salix's lettuce on Mother's Pride finest) Husain bowled Taylor in the first over, but that was to be the only success for the visitors for a long time, with Norcott scoring mainly through gully but not above driving Snarler back up the hill for four (until Wright's late duo of sixes the shot of the day) and Dane lethal off his legs. H Bomb bowled Norcott for 32, deserved success for a fine spell, and the returning Husain had Dane lbw for an accomplished 38.

The run rate slowly crept up to more than a run a ball as the temperature fell, sterling work from H Bomb, Daoud Shanvare and the trio of pacemen, well backed up by lively outfielding in The Gents' best period of the match. Bhatt then holed out off Shanvare to Husain at deep mid-wicket, ditto Walton to long-on Snelling off SP. The Beggar bench was getting nervous but Allerton and Wright took the game to The Gents, bold and effective cricket. Shanvare was lofted for two enormous sixes by Wright and a straight drive by Allerton off Husain won the game at 6.30pm. The Gents had kept at it well – Richard Gilkes and Naveed Khan fielded superbly and must have shed half a stone each in the cause – but the frailty of their earlier batting had left them with too much to do. The irony of this game is that whereas The Gents have had a transfusion of young blood in the last two years, which had a profound influence in the one-sided May encounter, it was the youngest player in either squad who had the most influence here. Rowan's old dad Kevin, sadly absent, must be very proud, though a barrage of sixes and fours are urgently required by Gents batsmen in 2008 to restore discipline to the boy.

Still, 1-1 against such oppo (“The best bowling we've faced this season bar none,” opined SP) is not a disaster and the game was played in a good spirit, West XI winning with some grace, understanding how disappointed The Gents were. Thanks are due to those made the effort to travel such a long way. Roll on 2008.

**Gents;** Denton 9, D Patel 10, Husain 66, Khan 4, \*S Patel 13, Gilkes 0, Shanvare 2, Buck 4, H Patel 16 not out, Snelling 8, †Turpin 5, Extras 10, **147 all out (33 overs)**

**FoW;** 17, 24, 32, 71, 74, 89, 111, 122, 135, 147

**Bowling;** Taylor 3-19, Dane 0-22, Wright 1-32, Bhatt 2-21, Laing 1-24, R Allerton 3-26

**Catches;** Taylor 2, Bhatt 1, Dane 1, Wright 1

**West XI;** Taylor 0, Norcott 32, Dane 38, Walton 13, Bhatt 16, \*Wright 18 not out, R Allerton 19 not out, Rennie, †Bignell, Bender and Laing did not bat, Extras 13, **149 for 5 (33.1 overs)**

**FoW;** 0, 81, 81, 109, 116

**Bowling;** Husain 2-20, S Patel 1-34, Snelling 0-32, H Patel 1-14, Buck 0-13, Shanvare 1-27

**Catches;** Husain 1, Snelling 1

**Lost by 5 wickets**

## Game 18: GSK Sports Club, Greenford, Sunday 16 September. Salix won toss. Sunny, 21C

### Salix survive Nuclear autumn

Despite a superb 47 from Nuclear Wahed and steady, sometimes spectacular batting elsewhere, 193 proved just too big a target to chase for a Gents side that set out bravely, if ultimately unsuccessfully, on the post-Nabeel Husain era. The best Gents' score here in five visits, 164, was a decent reply to a Salix innings that profited from too many loose deliveries, only Buck, who surprisingly only bowled six overs, exerting any measure of control on a perfect batting wicket. Salix therefore lead this series 3-1 and they were keen to renew for 2008, good news as both opposition and venue are just those to which The Gents should be aspiring. Furthermore, occasional trips north of the River give much needed scouting and orienteering practice to the younger Gents enabling them to develop useful life-skills.

The early overs were The Gents' as Shanvare, facing Salix for the third time with three different teams, bowled Lumsden and Venning with successive deliveries, but with Snarler less accurate than usual it took Buck to break the third-wicket stand, Snarler obliging at square-leg. SP had Rickman caught behind, one of two behind the timbers for Mr. Turpin, whose sterling display also saw no byes conceded. From 80-4 after 20 overs, Salix then cut loose, rather as they did in 2006, adding 113 in the final 15. Once Buck was finished, the bowling came alike to Shaw, Sanwalka, Kulasingam and Padmore, though there were further catches by Snarler and a well-judged one at deep fine-leg by HP. As the score mounted there were the inevitable dropped catches and misfields, though Rob Babar weighed in with three wickets. Salix had, as had Saints five weeks before in a similarly-paced innings, effected an attractive and ultimately decisive recovery, but the bowling had been disappointing, three or four reasonable balls being followed by long-hop or full-toss more often than not.

After a Must Do Better first dibs, The Gents regrouped and set about their task. However, Shanvare fell lbw to Jacobs before Buck was bowled Lumsden. Still, runs were coming at 4 an over, a steady start. A double blow then saw HP edge behind to 'keeper Shaw off Padmore and walk and Young dolly one up to silly mid-on Ellis off Lumsden, 39-4 in the 12th. over, a duck for the lad the day after his 25th birthday.

It could have been a capitulation, but the middle-order had other ideas. Nuclear Wahed's only four overs on this ground had cost 44 runs but, to paraphrase the Viagra advertisement, he then went from Mr. Small to Mr. Big Boy with a coruscating innings of 47, including three huge sixes and four fours. It was most entertaining and while he and SP were together, adding 74 in 11 overs, Gents had a chance, a chance which dissipated when the returning Padmore bowled Wahed, to be followed immediately by SP miscuing to mid-on Ellis off the wily seamers of Kulasingam. When Snarler edged behind off the same chap, the betting exchanges had Gents grimly odds-on for a sub-130 score, such had been the abysmal lower-order batting in recent weeks. Refreshingly, Carroll (three fours) and Babar (a huge straight six and a four) then batted with vim and vigour to take Gents to within 29 runs of the required total. Mr. Turpin played a few neat shots before charging the bowler and being stumped. High Street was gritty but out of touch, though he and Rob (his Gents' personal best, as was Nuclear's) at least ensured that the 35 overs were batted through, a 7/10 response then to 4/10 bowling and 6/10 fielding performances. Thus, The Gents concluded their 20th season with three successive defeats, just as 1988 had comprised two losses to West XI and one to a shower of arrogant tossers called East Harrow Cheetahs. Nevertheless, 2007 has to be reckoned a good, if stop-start season, with 11 wins and only 6 defeats. Change is afoot, however, with rumours of changes to the Committee and one or two new players being scouted for 2008.

**Salix;** Lumsden 4, Fletcher 16, Venning 0, Rickman 32, †Shaw 28, Sanwalka 17, Kulasingam 32, Padmore 37 not out, \*Ellis 8, Gavigan and Jacobs did not bat, Extras 19, **193 for 8 (35 overs)**

**FoW;** 5, 5, 45, 56, ?, ?, 182, 193 (FoW for fifth and sixth wickets were not recorded by the scorer)

**Bowling;** Snelling 0-36, Shanvare 3-37, S Patel 1-33, Buck 1-18, Babar 3-45, Wahed 0-11

**Catches;** Snelling 2, Turpin 2, Denton 1

**Gents;** Shanvare 11, Buck 15, Denton 8, Wahed 47, Young 0, \*S Patel 24, Snelling 2, Carroll 14, Toft 6 not out, †Turpin 4, R Babar 18 not out, Extras 12, **164 for 9 out (35 overs)**

**FoW;** 18, 38, 38, 39, 113, 115, 117, 138, 144

**Bowling;** Jacobs 2-24, Lumsden 2-8, Padmore 2-30, Ellis 1-33, Kulasingam 2-15, Gavigan 0-16

**Catches;** Ellis 2, Shaw 2, Gavigan 1

**Stumpings;** Shaw 1

**Lost by 29 runs**

## Carry On...W7 and W13!



We are indebted to the excellent whippitinn.com website for solving a problem that caused a few sleepless nights at Gent House. While watching the excellent Carry on Constable (1960) one recent rainy afternoon, the geography looked oddly familiar. No wonder, for the film, it transpires, was shot largely in Hanwell and West Ealing.

Two examples will suffice. The police station (top), where Inspector Mills (Eric Barker) and Sergeant Wilkins (Sidney James) displayed extreme exasperation with rookie Police Constables Gorse (Charles Hawtrey), Benson (Kenneth Williams), Constable (Kenneth Connor) and Potter (Leslie Phillips) was actually Hanwell library, W7, frequently visited by the Editor.



PC Potter is seen (bottom) saying “Heh-lo” to a head-turning filly in The Avenue, W13, a hundred yards from the Editor’s previous abode at No.60. Fuller’s pub the Drayton Court Hotel, his place of recuperation for much of that happy tenure, is clearly visible on the opposite side of the road. Altogether now “You silly con-stables.”

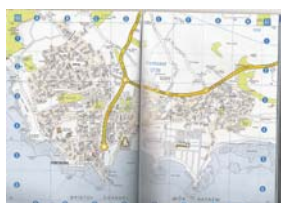
## Anniversary plans



The Gents played their first game in May 1988. It would not be right to let the 20th anniversary pass unnoticed, so a team of private detectives has therefore been hired with instructions to locate as many of the early reprobates as possible and deliver them to an as yet unspecified Surrey cricket ground in May 2008. The dicks’ early feedback is encouraging. Lord Ashton is “99% certain,” though last-minute fiascos can never be ruled out, same having included sales of cars to people from Gloucester and minor surgery over the years. Des Dolan has already confirmed, so that’s the bowling from one end sorted, if we play a time game. We have no doubt that Mr. Hughes will bite, Victor Richmond, Dave Thorncroft and Richard Sambrook Smith too.

We have also heard from Nick Boddington who said “I started playing cricket again this year. The results were mixed – they varied between pathetic and disastrous. Three golden ducks in five innings for Lewes St. Michaels Sunday Thirds. I think I might need some nets this winter.” You’re in. A publication is also planned to mark the occasion, though it is unlikely to be in the same format as Decade, which was complete enough but a bit of a one man show, cf. Elvis Costello was a good live act when the Attractions were present but two hours of him on his jack was an endurance test. Therefore, we aim to include other contributions. Yours.

## And they respect the referee too...



Rugby Union? Not sure where we stand. It has noble adherents such as Messrs Denton and T Haddow-Allen, but the recent World Cup converts, to be known henceforth by a new noun of assemblage, a piety of Rugby Union fans, were hard work. However, their sport seems to trail football and cricket in its use of technology. Step forward Porthcawl RFC, owners of the world’s worst sports website according to a recent online poll. The splendid map (left) shows directions to the ground. Log on to [www.porthcawlrfc.co.uk](http://www.porthcawlrfc.co.uk) to see the map in all its finery.

