

Chaddleworth v. Gentlemen of West London

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

Won by 187 runs

| Gentlemen of West London | | | Chaddleworth | | | | |
|---|------------------|-----------------|---|--------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 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, 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 Chaddleworth, 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. Chaddleworth 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 Chaddleworth'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 Chaddleworth'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 Chaddleworth 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 Chaddleworth. 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.

