



## St Anne's Allstars CC v Gentlemen of West London CC

Barnes Common, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

Toss: Gents.

Weather: fine and sunny.

Debut: V. Seth.

Format: 35 overs a side, 7 maximum per bowler.

### REPORT

*By Tristan Haddow-Allen*

This fixture, against the Gents, is our traditional curtain-raiser to the season - and no aspect of it observes tradition more faithfully than the result.

In the absence of our skipper, the Allstars were ably led by stand-in captain Chris Gould, who was asked to field first on a beautiful April day with, truth be told, an under-prepared side and at least one bowler too few.

Tony Grant and James Morgan opened the bowling with steady but unrewarded spells, followed by a tight period of spin bowling from Paul Nicol and THA, the latter claiming both openers. The lack of a fifth bowler led to the berth being filled by several part-timers who gamely experimented with all six varieties of the slow full toss, which the Gents' batsmen flukily hit over mid-on for a series of sixes. TG and Morgsy returned to complete the innings - Tony getting a much deserved wicket - leaving the Gents on a total of 213-3, probably fifty more than we should have let them have.

After our usual lavish tea, Damian cunningly absented himself from opening by going to the loo for twenty minutes, leaving the task to Morgsy and me. I swished at a wide one, edging to gully; then Damian was bowled by an off-cutter. Morgsy and Sam rebuilt the damage with their usual combination of elegance and flair, before Sam was very unfortunate to be bowled for a dashing 35, after a ball struck his pads and rolled back onto the stumps. Morgan was rather farcically run out on 42, realistically ending our hopes of chasing down what was always going to be an ambitious total.

John Hautot and Paul Nicol fought gamely for 24 and 29 respectively, before the innings drifted on to a close at 170 for 8, leaving the Gents with a decent victory, and ownership of the 42-11 trophy for another year.