

COLOURED TROUSERS No 25



BUCKS COUNTY CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bill Scholes

What ever prompted me to write the eulogy to the upcoming summer as a foreword in the previous edition of this Newsletter. Nothing could have been farther from the truth as the appalling wet weather over the last couple of months or so (March. April and now May) has really put a dampener, both figuratively and literally, on the start of our much awaited cricket season. The new look T20 competition did not enjoy the best of starts - play was possible at only three grounds – all of them in the South West – with 15 of the scheduled 20 matches being abandoned without a ball being bowled and another washed out at the halfway stage. I suppose that it was inevitable that the culmination of the competition – ie, Finals day, was also totally washed out. Currently no news yet on a new date, but apparently the next available Sunday is on September 8th, after the Championship Final!

Those Bucks games that were played saw debuts for all our three newcomers - Cameron Hemp, Billy Mead and Max Uttley and we wish them a very warm Bucks welcome. Cameron and Max are of course European T10 winners with the England XI, and both will be playing their club cricket for High Wycombe this season, thereby automatically qualifying for Bucks , whilst Billy, who skippers Datchet, has moved over from Berkshire. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Jordan Brown, our new strengthening and conditioning coach.

REPORT ON THE NCCA T20 COMPETITION

It is 19 years since we last played a competitive match at Wilton Park, Beaconsfield – in fact we played there twice in 2005 – a Minor Counties KO game against Wiltshire in June and a Championship match against Staffordshire in July. And we still haven't played a competitive match there, as unfortunately our T20 games on Bank Holiday Monday against Hertfordshire fell victim to the severe rainfall 3 days before creating an extremely wet and soggy outfield !

Thus, with our first double-header against Bedfordshire at High Wycombe the previous Sunday also being called off, the two Berkshire contests on the Sunday were the only two matches that we managed to play in the group stage.. Qualifying for the Super 12's next stage therefore was always going to be difficult in our truncated group and so it proved as we just failed to make the cut on net run rate. However, if we had been unable to play the second of our two matches against Berkshire at Falkland, we might well have qualified, as we had a positive run rate after winning the first game !

The two matches that we did manage to play were both low scoring contests on a softish surface. After losing the toss in the first match, Bucks made a disastrous start, slumping to 4-3 after just nine balls on a seamer-friendly pitch. It was only thanks to Alex Kervezee 's 34 and an excellent mature 41 from young George Harvey that Bucks reached 119-8 from their 20 overs. Expectations were not high, but thanks to a brilliant display from skipper Tom Hampton, we ended up winning won the game by 26 runs. Capt Tom excelled with the ball in his hand - whether it was by bowling it quickly – he captured 4-8 in just 17 balls, or by catching it,- he took two spectacular catches to help dismiss their hosts for 93 in 17.5 overs.

However, in the second game, after again losing the toss, the Bucks top-order batting fared even worse than in the first contest, crashing to 16-5 in just six overs against some outstanding bowling by Tommy Sturgess, recently signed from Cornwall, who took 3-6 in four overs. Bucks struggled to 84 all out in 19.2 overs, Kervezee top-scoring with 29. In reply, Berkshire cruised to 85-3 in 11.4 overs for a seven-wicket win, which was enough to shift our net run rate from the positive to the negative.

T20 Group 3 Final Table

	P	W	L	Cancelled	Net run rate	Pts
Berkshire	6	2	1	3	2.53	7
Hertfordshire	6	1	1	4	0.19	6
Bucks	6	1	1	4	-0.55	6
Bedfordshire	6	1	2	3	-2.13	5

The Super 12's and Finals Day

Staffordshire, the defending champions, were handed a T20 Cup lifeline into the Super 12's after being reinstated into the competition following the discovery that Northumberland had fielded two players who had both have played more than 40 games across first-class and List A fixtures. Counties only permitted one player who exceeds the 40 mark. Following the round robins of the Super 12's on Sunday 19th May, the four clubs to emerge triumphant and qualified for Finals day on 26th May were Berkshire, Cumbria, Oxfordshire and Staffordshire. However, as reported above, the only winner was the wet weather.

NCCA 50 OVERS KNOCKOUT TROPHY

Bucks suffered narrow defeat in Group 3 KO Trophy opener

After our disappointing start to the season, we now turned our attention to the 50 Over K.O. Trophy but suffered a last-over defeat against Oxfordshire at Wormsley on Sunday in our opening group 3 match of the National Counties Trophy 50-overs campaign. Oxfordshire squeezed home by three wickets with just one ball to spare in the idyllic country house setting near Stokenchurch. Choosing to bat first, Bucks lost a wicket in the first over but a second-wicket stand of 111 in 22 overs by AJ Woodland (54) and Billy Mead (63) laid the basis for a challenging total. After the fall of three quick wickets, the reins were taken up by Ross Richardson (54) and Michael Payne (41) who put on 91 for the fifth wicket in 15 overs.

At 230-4 with more than six overs to go, Bucks were looking at a total of 275 plus. However five wickets then fell for 23 runs and Bucks had to settle for 253-9 from their 50 overs, Tom Hinley taking 5-38 for Oxon.

An innings of 91 by opener Jamie Harrison put Oxon top in the run chase but off-spinner Max Uttley took 3-48 on his Bucks debut and when the seventh wicket fell Oxon still needed 27 off 4.2 overs. But Hinley, with 29 not out guided them home. Oxon needed three from the final over bowled by Bucks skipper Tom Hampton and got home with a ball to spare. Hampton, who took 2-33 from 8.5 overs, will be hoping for better luck in their second group game against Devon.



Thanks to Andy Bone of Spots Shots for the excellent photos, both above and below, taken at Wormsley.



Other Match in Group Three

Other Match in our Group- Three: . **Berkshire** were indebted to the Lewis brothers, Rhodri and Rhys, for helping them to start their defence of the National Counties Trophy with a hard-earned two wickets victory over **Devon** in their opening match at Wargrave. The visitors batted first in their match and their 196 for eight was built on Calum Haggett's unbeaten 75 with Somerset academy batter Fin Hill (32) joining him in a sixth wicket partnership of 65. Aided by good knocks from the Lewis brothers, Berkshire reached their target of 197 with almost four overs to spare.

Table after First Round of matches

	P	W	L	C/A	NRR	PTS
Berkshire	1	1	0		0.39	2
Oxfordshire	1	1	0		0.04	2
Cornwall	0	0	0		0	0
Bucks	1	0	1		-0.04	0
Devon	1	0	1		-0.39	0

Reports on Other Matches in Groups One, Two and Four

Group One: Northumberland were shot out for 60, their lowest total in the competition, by **Lincolnshire** who romped to a 166 runs victory at Jesmond. .Pick of the bowlers were Tom Currie (three for 14) with former Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Surrey left-arm paceman Mark Footitt recording three for 20. . The defeat was hard on Northumberland seamer Seb Allison who took six for 40, the county's third best in the Trophy. Lincolnshire's 226 was based around a third wicket partnership of 110 between Tom Keast (68) and Jordan Cook (51).

Cumbria, beaten by Berkshire in the last four finals, began their attempt to reach a fifth with a four wickets victory over **Bedfordshire** at Keswick. Former Hampshire opener Oli Soames made a half century in Bedfordshire's 193 for nine with Lancashire pair Harry Singh (three for 44) and Steven Croft (two for 34) in the wickets. Freddie Fallows made 60 from 38 balls and dominated an opening partnership of 77 with Sam Dutton. Cumbria captain Michael Slack saw his side home with more than five overs to spare with a patient unbeaten 56.

Group Two: Nils Priestley returned **Staffordshire's** best figures in the competition – six for 37 – to secure a 116 runs victory over **Suffolk** at Mildenhall. Priestley's haul with his left-arm spin made him the first Staffordshire bowler to take six wickets in an innings in the Trophy.. Staffordshire piled up 286 for three with captain James Kettleborough making 100 from 108 balls – with excellent support from Zen Malik (63) and Hill (82 not out). Suffolk never got to grips with a challenging chase with Darren Ironside (67) and Alex Maynard (32) the only batters to top 20.

Norfolk were the first winners of the day as they beat **Herefordshire** by nine wickets at Sprowston where brothers Callum and Ethan Metcalf combined. Callum took five for 18 – his competition-best figures and the third best for Norfolk – to help dismiss Herefordshire for an inadequate 157. Ethan then made 65 – also his Trophy best – and shared an opening partnership with Sam Arthurton (67 not out) which got Norfolk to within 28 of their target. Norfolk cantered home with 18 overs to spare.

Group Four: Competition-bests from opener Dylan Church (80) and Josh Kelly (83) helped **Wiltshire** to a three wicket win over **Hertfordshire** at Marlborough College. Church shared an opening stand of 52 with Jack Mynott then a fourth wicket partnership of 82 with Kelly which got Wiltshire to within 28 of their target. Hertfordshire looked set to post a more substantial total than their 279 for nine but Dominic Chatfield, David Burnell and former Glamorgan batter Callum Taylor all fell shortly after they had completed half centuries

Sam Perry's first Trophy century set **Cheshire** on course for a 102 runs victory over **Dorset** at Dorchester. Perry's 112 from 133 balls dominated Cheshire's 294 for with extras – which included 23 wides – being next highest scorer with 40. Brothers Joe and Alex Eckland made half centuries and shared a third wicket partnership of 113 but the innings unravelled quickly after they were parted.

Next up for Bucks are 3 more K.O. Trophy matches

After a gap of a month we resume our quest for KO Trophy glory with 3 matches on successive Sundays. First up is a return to High Wycombe where we will be hosting Devon. The following Sunday we are on our travels down to Devon's near neighbours, Cornwall – not as usual to Truro but this time we will be making our first visit to Redruth.(shown below)



This will be only our 9th ever visit to the Duchy of Cornwall- 6 of those visits will have been to Truro, including the Championship Final in 2014, plus two matches at Falmouth and one at Wadebridge. We have only previously met on four occasions in the K.O. Trophy, albeit under three different names, and have yet to emerge victorious. Could this be the year?

We complete our group stage in the Trophy back in Buckinghamshire at Chesham, with a stern test against Berkshire, winners of the Trophy for the last 5 ye

REMAINING GROUP THREE MATCHES

Date			Venue
June 2	Cornwall	v Berkshire	
	Devon	v Oxfordshire	Sidmouth
June 9	BUCKS	v DEVON	HIGH WYCOMBE
	Oxfordshire	v Cornwall	Banbury
June 16	CORNWALL	v BUCKS	Redruth
	Berkshire	v Oxfordshire	Falkland
June 23	BUCKS	v BERKSHIRE	CHESHAM
	Devon	v Cornwall	Cornwood
June 30	Quarter Finals		
Aug 4	Semi Finals		

Final Aug 25/26 Wormsley

NCCA CHAMPIONSHIP - EASTERN DIVISION ONE

Date	Opposition	Venue
July 7-9	Lincolnshire	Sleaford
July 14-16	SUFFOLK	TRING PARK
Aug 11-13	Bedfordshire	Flitwick
Aug 18-20	STAFFORDSHIRE	HIGH WYCOMBE

Championship Final Sept 1-4 West Bromwich Dartmouth

OTHER ADDITIONAL FIXTURES

Mon July 22 LEICESTERSHIRE Showcase Match 50 overs
@ Grace Road, Leicester

Sun Sept 8th Milton Keynes Showcase Day at Campbell Park
10.30 Bucks Women v Southern Vipers Academy 100 ball match
2.30 Bucks Mens 1st XI v Milton Keynes XI 100 ball match

UPCOMING BUCKS 2nd XI FIXTURES

Date	Opposition	Venue
July 1st	Wiltshire	Winsley
July 2nd	Berkshire	Wokingham
July 17th	Northants	Campbell Park
July 22 ⁿ	Oxfordshire	Magdalene College
Aug 6-8th	SUFFOLK	CHESHAM

Two 2nd XI matches have already been played in the last week. Firstly a 3 day match away against Suffolk which resulted in an excellent performance and result – a win by 7 wickets. Bucks batted first and racked up 507, getting off to flying start with outstanding performances from both openers – Vansh Jani 157 and Max Harsham 152. Further down the order, Billy Dodds added a very useful 94. In reply, Suffolk could only manage 232, after some stand out bowling from Hashan Ramanadanpulle with 5-49. Following on, they performed better and reached 351, with Teddy Fleming taking 4-62 and Hashan another 3-51, leaving Bucks just 77 for victory, which they accomplished for loss of 3 wickets.

Next up on the following day was a 50 over match against Berkshire at Marlow which the visitors won by 44 runs. Berkshire posted 212 all out, with notable bowling performances from Mohit Babu 4-34, Teddy Fleming 3-56, and Hashan Ramanadanpulle 2-33. Despite getting off to the strong start with the top four all making runs, anchored by Hashan with 46, and helped by good knocks from Montgomery Evans 30 and Max Harsham 25, the last 5 wickets fell for just 42 runs leaving Bucks all out for 168.

SPORTS SHOTS INTERVIEW WITH BUCKS CEO

Hudson looks forward to Rich new era for Bucks Cricket

16th May 2024 by Andy Bone



Rich Hudson has talked about all aspects of Bucks Cricket CIO, the newly-formed organisation that encompasses all things cricket in the county. The Chief Executive, who has been part of the team which oversaw a merger to bring cricket together under one umbrella, explained the positives attached to the new era.

From a player's perspective it creates a simpler pathway through to representing Buckinghamshire at 1st XI level for Women and Men. With Jason Harrison having joined what was 'the Board' and is now the single CIO (charitable incorporated organisation) as Head of Performance, he will see and develop players as they come through the pathway and can map their path through to the 1st XIs. The Bucks Cricket Pathway was already working well to produce players who go onto First-Class (Men's) and Regional (Women's) Academies but we can now take this to the next level and build on the successes of the Bucks Men's 1st XI winning the NCCA Championship Final last summer.

The merger last year completed the legal process, but this was a piece of work that began in 2019, when we (Ian Hodgson, Chair at Bucks CCC, Steve George Chair at Bucks Cricket Board at the time and Stuart Beck, Finance Director at Bucks Cricket Board) sat down to plot the strategy for Bucks Cricket from 2020-2024. Ian then became Chairman of both organisations and we have been making little steps along each year, from our Play-Cricket sites, websites, social media, clothing contract etc. Bucks Youth Cricket Trust has also merged into the CIO, and we are working more closely than ever with Bucks Association of Cricket Officials and Bucks Schools Cricket Association.

Despite the challenges of bringing together the various sections, Hudson believes that this is positive for cricket in the county.

Eventually it will make everything more seamless and is common-sense, because in a National County performance and recreational cricket are intertwined and as an organisation we need to reflect and manage that. The challenge of is in small details, such as balancing the continued professionalisation of Bucks Cricket's operations with the fantastic volunteer network of Bucks County Cricket Club that do great work. There are systems that we have previously had two of that we need to reconcile that into one, and other areas (such as our Women's team or our digital marketing) which need fresh attention as we need move into a new era.

Now the new organisation is up and running, Hudson explained what the short-term objectives are.

Our goals for 2024 are wide-ranging: We have a County Disability team this year for the first time, bringing together the best from our 4 Super 1s Hubs across Bucks. We are running two new 'Showcase Days' this year – Sunday 23rd June Participation Day at Kingsbrook School near Aylesbury and with our Men's and Women's teams playing 100 ball fixtures in Milton Keynes on Sunday 8th September. We are working hard with Clubs and Schools to really grow junior cricket in Milton Keynes, and for Women and Girls across all of Bucks. We now have 9 free Street Cricket hubs, including Girls only hubs in Milton Keynes, Aylesbury and High Wycombe. As ever, we look forward to the progress of the Boys and Girls through the County Player Pathway onto higher levels and to represent Bucks at Senior levels.

Hudson and his team are also looking at the long game, with aims and hopes for the future.

Facilities for pathway and performance programmes are a massive challenge for us as a National County. We would love an indoor cricket centre, which is on the radar of ECB but there are always competing agendas and high setup costs. We want to see Clubs be accessible for everyone and will work with them to ensure women, girls, disabled people and those of all ethnicities and socio-economic backgrounds can play the game and be part of a community that we all love. In all our work – schools, community, pathway, performance, clubs – there are some strong foundations in place and we want to keep evolving and improving across the full spectrum.

The desire to deliver cricket to anyone and everyone is something Hudson is keen to deliver. A number of forward-thinking initiatives across the county are ensuring that Bucks Cricket CIO is inclusive and diverse. The positives that these bring not only enhance the reputation of the organisation, and the brand, but shows real commitment to the development plan.

Making cricket more accessible is a fundamental part of our day-to-day activities. Whether that is delivering coaching in Primary, Secondary or SEND Schools, our 4 Disability Hubs, our 9 Street Cricket hubs, the new MCCF Foundation Hubs for state school non-pathway boys and girls at U14 and U16,

distributing grants to Clubs to help them become more welcoming, growing women and girls cricket, it is what we are here to do.

The additional benefits of the new organisation have seen key staff appointments made.

The Player Pathway is in a healthy position, with 2 of the Boys U18s already having represented the Men's 1st XI this season and a very youthful and competitive Women's team. We strive for our best players to leave us via the EPP and Academy system (with 4 men and 3 women having played in the County Championship and Rachel Heyhoe Flint Trophy so far in 2024), and then create opportunities for the next best to represent their home county at a national level. We've now had Jason Harrison as Head of Performance for almost 18 months overseeing the top end of that, then James Savory manages Pathway structure and coaching team, which includes a number of our full-time staff and excellent contract coaches. After last season we brought on a couple of full-time Pathway Performance Coaches – Kieran Smith and Ben Ungaretti – to help us deliver more performance coaching to more players, both those in the pathway and also those just outside through our MCCF Foundation Hubs and our Skill Zones programmes.

One area where Hudson is keen for growth and focus is within the Women and Girls game.

We want to see every Club in Buckinghamshire running Women and Girls Cricket. It is a matter of time, overcoming hurdles that can be in place and following the lead of the Clubs that are now absolutely flying with their women and girls cricket in a very short amount of time. This year we have 28 Club Girls teams entered in competitions from U11 through to U18 which is great to see. Our Women and Girls Development Officer, Claire Munday is also working with Clubs who aren't quite ready for a full fixture programme to come together for some friendly fixtures. Claire is also working with Schools to embed cricket for girls through a competitions and teacher training framework. We are going to be increasing the size of the Girls County Pathway next year to reflect the growth of the girls game – with 148 players from U10-U18, up from 114 last year and a further 48 girls in the MCCF Hubs.

With the desire to add to the growth of the game within the county comes the need to meet the financial demands in order to be able to deliver.

Sponsorship investment allows us to plan strategically and shape the organisation to what is going to have the biggest impact in two, three or five years time. Otherwise, you can end up living hand to mouth and doing the same things we have always done. We have been very fortunate with Wolters Kluwer coming on board as our main sponsor last year and we are keen to work with other partners that are keen to see Bucks Cricket, and cricket in Buckinghamshire, become the very best it can be.

The new era for cricket in Bucks is an exciting one. In cricketing terms, the desire to reach the target is being built, based on solid partnerships, and team work. With Hudson's enthusiasm for success, Bucks Cricket CIO is in very good hands for the campaign ahead.

Bucks captain Tom Hampton discussed Bucks Cricket ahead of the season curtain-raiser..the new T20 competition

27th April 2024 by Sports Shots Andy Bone



Tom Hampton has given his thoughts on Bucks Cricket Men's 1st XI ahead of their NCCA T20 curtain-raiser. against Bedfordshire

Thoughts on pre-season?

Pre season has been great. We had two brilliant training sessions at Wormsley to kick us off and followed that with two days of double T20 games. Firstly against Oxfordshire winning one out of two, and then Herefordshire last weekend where we managed to grab a rare double victory. Probably most pleasing was that during the four games is that everyone's contributed and put in performances. To get 4 days on grass given the weather we have had is testament to all the groundsmen involved, and I thank them all for all their efforts. Hopefully it can help us hit the ground running this weekend.

Thoughts on the squad and new players?

The squad seems in a great place, it's a tight group who get on well and enjoy playing for each other. We have added a couple of guys to the squad in Billy (Mead) and Cam (Cameron Hemp) and we are really excited to see how they go for the county. Both players bring quality and are exciting players who will add some depth and competition to the batting unit.

The squad is in a good place and have had a taste of success at the end of last season, and are desperate for more. So hopefully we can put in some good performances and continue to build on the progress we have made over the past few summers.

Thoughts on T20 campaign?

The T20 competition is one that we have struggled in over the last couple of years. So the main focus is to try to start well and add some consistency to our performances. The talent in the squad is there but we need to take it game by game and not get ahead of ourselves. It's a tough group and the new format means the first 3 games come thick, and fast playing all 6 games in 8 days. So we will have to be at our best from game one.

BUCKS CRICKETERS WHO'S WHO

A couple of years ago we started a series of Meet The Players in order to help members who cannot/ do not attend games know a bit more about those players representing the County, in order to help addressing the questions of "who's that and where did he come from?". We now have a few new additions to the squad, either coming in laterally or coming up via our excellent Pathway and I will try and cover these over the next few months.

NAME: Cameron Hemp

1. Where and when were you born? **Solihull, Birmingham, UK**
2. Which club do you currently play for? **High Wycombe CC**
3. Have you played for any other clubs? **Yes, Swansea CC**
- 4 .How would you best describe yourself? **Opening batter, off spin bowler**
5. What first got you into cricket? **Probably my father, playing in the garden**
6. Are you in employment or still in education/college/ University(which) ? **Yes, studying Business and marketing at Monash University (Melbourne)**
7. When and where did you make your debut for Berkshire. Was that Championship or T20/50 over KO? **T20 day against Berkshire in 2024**
8. Who has been the biggest influence in your cricket career so far? **My father, David Hemp**
9. Do you have any family ties with cricket? **Yes, David played 15+ years of county cricket for Glamorgan and Warwickshire**
10. What has been your proudest moment in cricket so far- either for Berkshire or for club, or both **Winning the European Cricket Championship in Spain 2023**

11,Which has been your favourite Berkshire ground to play on....and why? **Wormsley – beautiful scenery, and very good cricket wicket and outfield**

12.Which form of professional cricket do you prefer to watch. Hundred/T20/50 over KO/ County championship/ Test match ? **Test match**

13. What do you think of The Hundred ? **It is exciting**

14.Do you have a nickname? **Yes, Hempy**

15.Outside of cricket,what are your interests and or hobbies ? **Golf, fishing, tennis**

16. Any Guilty pleasures? **Guinness**

17.Surprising facts about yourself? **Sound Australian but am actually English!**

BUCKS PLAYER'S WHO'S WHO

NAME: George Harvey

1.Where and when were you born? – **Hampstead, June 2006**

2.Which club do you currently play for? **Eastcote CC in Middlesex**

3.Have you played for any other clubs? **No, I've been at Eastcote since I was 3!**

4. Are you associated with any other Clubs or Academies **I played for Middlesex at U11 to U14 and trained a bit with the Northants Academy this winter.**

5 .How would you best describe yourself? – **A proper all-rounder. Bat, bowl, field, wicketkeeper. But mostly I'm a Wicketkeeper Batsman. And I've also captained a few teams which I really enjoy.**

6. What first got you into cricket? **I've always been around cricket, my Dad played a lot when I was younger and we used to watch & go in the nets**

7.Are you still in education/college/ University(which) **I'm about to do my A Levels at Berkhamsted School which I joined for Sixth Form. I hope to go to Exeter University to study Sports Science after taking a gap year playing cricket in Australia**

8.When and where did you make your debut for Bucks 1st XI. Was that Championship or T20/50 over KO? **Minor Counties Championship v Suffolk 20th August, 2023 at Copdock**

9. Which Bucks Age groups are you currently with, and which others have you played for? **Current age group is U18s (Played for Bucks since U15s)**

10.Who has been the biggest influence in your cricket career so far? **My Dad, Mark Harvey.**

11. Do you have any family ties with cricket? **Dad played for England U19 & was at Lancashire until 2000. In recent years he's played a few games for Eastcote alongside me and my brother.**
12. What has been your proudest moment in cricket so far- either for any Bucks team or for club, or both **My Bucks first team debut scoring 92.**
13. Which has been your favourite Bucks ground to play on....and why? **Away at Wormsley, v impressive**
14. Which form of professional cricket do you prefer to watch. Hundred/T20/50 over KO/County championship/ Test match? **I prefer to watch either T20 or Test Matches – but only when England are playing Baz ball**
15. What do you think of The Hundred ? **It's a cool idea but it's very similar to T20 competitions**
16. Do you have a nickname? **G1 or Terence (don't ask)**
17. Outside of cricket, what are your interests and or hobbies? **Playing football and golf (when I'm allowed) and supporting Burnley FC**
18. Any Guilty pleasures? **Chocolate**
19. Any surprising facts about yourself?

INTERVIEW WITH BUCKS SPINNER CONNER HADDOW



Sports Shots and Coloured Trousers sat down with Conner Haddow to reflect on a golden 2023 where he won honours at club, National Counties and European level.

Conner started the calendar year by winning during his stint down under as an overseas before returning home to lift the Home Counties Premier League, Division One title with High Wycombe. This was quickly followed by winning the Durant National Counties Championship trophy with Bucks Cricket, before finishing the year lifting the European Cricket Cup with the England XI.

It was an incredible year to be honest. Better than I could have ever imagined. Starting in Oz, we won the double undefeated. I think we are the only team in the history of the Competition to achieve that feat. Once again I can't thank the Entrance Cricket Club enough. I loved every moment of my 6 months there. I would like to thank. The Hardys, (Ash, Kim, Jake & Broc) for making me feel so welcome, from the moment I landed to the moment I left.

Then back to England, High Wycombe won the Home Counties undefeated, Bucks winning a trophy for the first time in 14 years, and then onto Cartama with the England XI and the Euros..

It was truly an unbelievable 12 months. Thank you to all my teammates and my family for all the support as without them none of the above would have been possible.

It was clear to Conner that the three sides all shared the same qualities which he believes was a key part of the success.

Personally, the teams I played in were such close knit groups, we knew in every situation what our teammates would do and how they would go about specific challenges in all situations, and that can only help you as a team.

On top of this were plans, especially in Spain. The Coaches did such a good job of coming up with a plan that everyone bought into and from there it's all about nailing your personal skills. When the plan is so clear it allows you to play with a clear head and you feel free from pressure knowing that you are backed in that specific moment, no matter the outcome.

Despite his own achievements, Haddow identified the innings of Ross Richardson as one of his special moments that stood out in the 2023 season.

Watching Ross take the Devon bowlers to all parts during the NCCA Championship final was amazing to watch. Not that I was there very long but being at the other end as he kept clearing the road at West Brom was unreal to see. That Championship final was the one game where everything came together for us as a side. From start to finish we nailed our skills and felt like we put our mark on that competition. We will be aiming to do the same in the upcoming season.

All the awards do not come without a lot of hard work and support from behind the scenes, something Conner has already acknowledged. But was there anything in particular that he could put this down to, or any changes that he had made.

I think routine was a big part of my season personally, training hard but finding the sweet spot between not enough and too much training. People only see the end product; they don't see you when you're bowling on your own or having a hit against the Dog stick. I think I broke Shaun Coker (director of cricket at High Wycombe) the amount of time he threw at me or was hitting catches etc. At

HWCC we are like a big family, and Shaun would do anything for us to succeed, even cooking his back! That speaks volumes about our club, and Shaun himself.

Then once training in the week is done it's all about clearing your head, and keeping things simple, which has been a massive improvement for myself. It is just thinking about the process of each ball and not the outcome. All you can control in a game is your process and trying to nail your skills, sometimes it comes off and sometimes it doesn't.

So what does 2024 hold for Conner? The hard work continues off the field with both his own game, plus growing his recently launched business, www.ch-performance.co.uk

2024 has already been a busy year with training for the season and my own business.

In cricket terms, hopefully 2024 will have some more silverware waiting. We have to focus on the process and take each ball at a time. If you win each and every ball bowled you are normally in a pretty good place come crunch time.

CH Performance is really getting off the ground now, which is pleasing. At CH Performance we are helping athletes prepare for the toils and tribulations of sport from a Strength and Conditioning background. Whether that is rehab, dealing with niggles or trying to improve an aspect of someone's game physically. For example wanting to add 5mph to a bowler's speed or increasing force production to jump higher for sports like basketball. You can find out more at our website.

The year has already started positively as Conner was named the Bucks Cricket Men's 1st XI 2023 Player of the Year for red ball cricket. His 33 wickets, including four 5 wicket hauls, at an average of 12.42, economy

SPORTS SHOTS

A big shout out and thank you to Andy Bone and Sports Shots for all of their photos and interviews.

Sport Shots is a sport-based news and images service run by a dedicated team; Andy Bone, Lorna Bone, Dale James, Gemma James, Luke Stafford & Matt Folkes with support from friends in the sporting community. Focusing in and around Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, Andy and Lorna came up with the idea to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and Vasculitis UK while following a love of local sport. Sports Shots is not a charity. No personal gain is made from Sports Shots.

SPORTS SHOTS – PART TWO

Apart from viewing a wealth of photos from most of our games on their website, they have recently launched a Sports Shots TV channel on YouTube. Well worth a look- they have already had over one thousand seven hundred hits. www.sportsshots.org.uk

Facebook: @sportsshots

Instagram: @sportsshots_andy

Twitter: @sportsshotsnews

TikTok: @sportshotstiktok

YouTube: @sportshotstv

Flickr: https://www.flickr.com/photos/sports_shots/albums

NCCA CHALLENGERS

In a move towards long-term development and opportunity for high-level competition in cricket, the NCCA has created 'The Challengers'. An initiative that nurtures talent across both the Men's and Women's game, competing under one unified umbrella against professional-level teams. This squad provides an opportunity for aspiring players to transition from grassroots cricket to the professional game. It involves further training and development from experienced coaches nationwide and allows for competition against some of the best professional and first-class Counties. Neatly settling into the gap between the NCCA (National Counties Cricket Association) and 1st Class Cricket, it moves beyond competing at the semi-professional level into competing at higher standards against professional squads. There will be a new brand identity, a new unique kit for the men's team and a fresh logo. The team will sit underneath the NCCA umbrella, but it will be part of a separate scheme, the Challengers.

The Challengers made an impressive start to their programme of matches against first-class counties by beating a strong Leicestershire side by five wickets in a T20 match at Uppingham School. Berkshire off-spinner Euan Woods proved the Challengers' match winner as he opened the bowling and returned remarkable figures of five for 16 in his four overs. Woods's victims included England all-rounder Rehan Ahmed, who went LBW first ball and Australia Test batter Peter Handscomb who picked out Staffordshire's Nils Priestley at deep midwicket with the previous delivery. Woods was well-supported by Berkshire's former Middlesex seamer Toby Greatwood (one for 19) and Staffordshire's Rory Haydon (two for 17) and Leicestershire, who featured six members of the team that won the Metro Bank Cup last September, mustered 141 for nine. Harrison Ward, who is on a white ball contract with Sussex, gave Challengers a flying start to their chase, striking 39 from 23 balls with three sixes, in an opening stand of 62 with Jonny Connell. Challengers captain Dan Lincoln then joined Connell in an all-Berkshire second wicket alliance of 66 which got them to 14 of their target. Lincoln blasted 53 from 22 balls with four sixes before he departed but Connell (27 not out) and Priestley (11 not out) saw Challengers home without further alarm and with 32 balls to spare.

Sussex Sharks warmed up for Friday's T20 Blast opener with a comfortable win over a National Counties Challengers XI at Hove. Challengers won the toss and put the Sharks into bat, with Tom Clark partnered by overseas recruit Dan Hughes and the pair wasted no time building a platform for the innings. They shared a 103 stand before Clark retired on 49 not-out. Hughes bludgeoned his way to 74 runs from just 42 deliveries, including six 4s and five 6s. After the first-wicket stand the Challengers managed to stem the row of runs somewhat, before useful knocks from both James Coles (26*) and Fynn Hudson-Prentice (12) took the Sharks to a total of 191-5. It was a familiar face opening the batting for the Challengers, with Sharks' Harrison Ward facing the first delivery for the National Counties XI. Ward, a product of the Sussex and Oxfordshire partnership made 9 runs before his wicket was taken by Ollie Robinson. The Sharks seam attack of Tymal Mills, Ollie Robinson, Nathan McAndrew and Danny Lamb ensured the Challengers were always behind the going rate, however skipper Dan Lincoln proved a tough nut to crack. His impressive 70 from 47 balls ensured his side were still in with a chance until his night was ended by allrounder Danny Lamb. James Coles proved his worth once again with ball in hand, taking 2 wickets in one over. There were also wickets for McAndrew, Mills and Hudson-Prentice to secure victory by 28 runs.

TRULY A LABOUR OF LOVE

Another recent excellent blog from Yahoo Over Cow Corner about the trials and tribulations of two Cricket Fixture secretaries. I have taken the liberty in the article below to concentrate on just one of the individuals - Ian Smith, who is also the Chairman of our local rivals Bedfordshire. I'm sure many of you will know him by sight, and probably in person too. He is usually to be found perambulating around the ground at home matches, selling either scorecards/ raffle tickets or signing photos of his beloved Luton Town FC.

Cricket is a sport of volunteers, particularly at club level. Without the input of such individuals over many an hour the recreational game would likely collapse. Some efforts are a little more obvious and receive the deserved recognition. Others perhaps drift by unnoticed with little thought regarding the time, effort and endeavour that are required to complete what seems very much a labour of love.

Early January often witnesses the production of many a cricket league's fixtures for the forthcoming season. The end product rarely highlights or provides insight into the work and effort provided for something that can easily take for granted though. Nevertheless, in the three to four month period from the close of the season to the start of the following campaign there are a litany of fixtures secretaries up and down the country devoting their resources to producing the foundations for each season.

One such individual is Ian Smith who undertakes the mammoth job for the Bedfordshire Cricket League. Ian Smith has been looking after the fixtures for the Bedfordshire League, a competition that includes seven divisions and sixty-three teams and is played on Sundays, for a quarter of a century, providing time to hone the process and become accustomed to the annual issues

that are part and parcel of the process. Ian has provided a little bit of insight into what is required to produce the fixture lists for his League.

When do you start planning for the following season?

IS: At the league AGM in November I ask for blank dates. (dates when clubs don't play due to each division containing nine teams) I can't really start until all of these are in. Once they are, I then start and I always do the fixtures between Christmas and New Year.

Do you have a general method for plotting the fixtures?

IS: Most Saturday Leagues insist you play every Saturday. For instance, the fixtures you play in week one are reversed in week ten. I do the fixtures for the Bedfordshire League, which is a Sunday League. So we have 7 Divisions and have to get the blank date requests. These are noted (I maybe speak to some clubs to move theirs as only one team per division can be blank; the other 8 have to play) and then I form the pairings. After that, I generate the fixtures with the trusted grid. I make 9 blocks of fixtures and reverse them to form the full season.

Are there special requests from clubs?

IS: Some clubs need blank dates because they will be hosting Bedfordshire National County games. These have to be taken into account early on in the process. Other clubs will host a fete at some point, or I have to make a ground available for a women's games. Also, some clubs go on tour or host a fundraiser.

On a similar vein, are there any unique or interesting scenarios?

IS: Aside from those previously mentioned, we have two clubs, Kempston Hammers and Lutonian III's, that share a ground.

Once the fixtures are loaded into play cricket is that the job complete? Or will there be tweaks and amendments?

IS: Once the fixtures are done I have to try & correct any runs of home & away fixtures. This can take time, as correcting one's clubs problem may mess up another club's fixtures. Once these have been amended, I put them onto an excel spreadsheet & send the fixtures out to the clubs. Hopefully the clubs are happy; if they are I then put the fixtures on play cricket. The process took about 4 days.

Club cricket and volunteerism enjoy a sinuous relationship. The former would struggle to exist without the latter. Some aspects of cricket volunteering are a little more obvious and tangible, others require effort and work that goes unseen and, at times, under appreciated. Producing a set of fixtures would seem a fairly straightforward task, particularly in the internet driven era when one could plug in particular information and have the fixtures generated within a few minutes. But the process for leagues with many a division with multiple complexities, requirements and nuances proves a much more multifaceted and intricate procedure, demanding various balancing acts, compromises and, one imagines, a more than healthy dose of patience. As is usually the case with such matters, tasks that appear simple are usually made to look so by those who complete them with great skill and deftness.

Just as with umpires and scorers, so the fixtures secretaries are part of the unsung heroes of club cricket.

Bucks Over 60s Jolly to Malta

Fleeing from the poor English weather for warmer climes, a Bucks Over 60s team have recently taken part in an inter county tournament held in sunny Malta. Local players in the squad included Neil Jones, Steve White and Duncan Taylor, who has kindly supplied the following report.

On 22nd March a squad of 16 players (plus half a dozen wives and hangers on) from the Bucks Over 60s embarked on a trip to Malta for a 6 county festival. Also taking part were Cheshire, Essex, Kent & Beds, Norfolk & Suffolk and Sussex. Bucks squad, ably led by David Tossell, comprised an eclectic mixture of players, all with some ailment or other, from all four playing elevens. To have an ambulance on site at the Marsa Sports Club was a relief to the management. Put into two groups of three counties, Bucks were pleased to be in the half of the draw where the matches, all of which were 30 overs a side, were played in the afternoon rather than have to be picked up from the hotel at 7.30 for a 9am start following a night on the Cisk lager!

Despite posting totals of 194 (the best first innings score of the tournament) with 95* from Steve White and 70 from David Tossell against Sussex and 164 against Essex with Anant Peshavaria scoring 74, Bucks lost off the penultimate ball and last ball of the two games due largely to bowling far too many wides in both games. Indeed this was a theme for the whole tournament which cost them dearly.

This meant missing out on the semi finals but following defeat to Cheshire in a friendly Bucks beat Kent and Beds by 8 wickets in the 5th place play off with 50s from both Steve and Anant. The tournament itself was won by Norfolk & Suffolk who beat Sussex in the final. The festival was dominated by the bat with few wickets being taken overall but it's pleasing to note that two of the top wickets takers were Bob Fryer and Neil Jones of Bucks each with 5 wickets. Bob though won the best bowler of the tournament award with a better economy rate. Steve White was unbeaten (including a retirement) during the tournament with 195 runs where, for Bucks, everyone played 3 out of the 4 games. All in all a fantastic week with competitive cricket played in a great spirit and one which hopefully will become a regular event for the county seniors side.

Other players not mentioned above were Francis Braganza, Andrew Connolly, Julian Coppock, Matthew Hind, Peter Langford, John Moffitt, David Oddy, Raj Patel, Peter Spinks, Duncan Taylor and Mark Walters.



WOMENS CRICKET -THE FUTURE – UPDATE

The existing structure of women’s domestic cricket in England was established in 2020, but is set to be scrapped at the end of the 2024 season. Earlier this year the ECB announced Project Darwin, as a plan to bring the women’s domestic structure more in line with the mens county system over the next five years. Currently there are eight regional teams -Southern Vipers etc, and these are being handed back to the control of the counties. Counties were asked to submit bids to host one of the initial new eight professional women’s county teams. This week, the ECB announced that the successful bidders for these teams were Hampshire, Essex, Lancashire, Durham, Essex, Somerset, Surrey and Nottinghamshire. Those eight counties will make up ‘Tier One’ of the structure, and will receive £1.3 million per year from the ECB for the first four years of the new system. Glamorgan and Yorkshire will join Tier One in 2027, while two more teams are set to be added in 2029.sides.

Tiers Two and Three will be made up of the other First Class Counties and National Counties. They will be a mix of semi-professional and amateur sides. From 2025-2028, there will be no promotion and relegation between the tiers.

UPCOMING BUCKS WOMEN’S 2024 FIXTURES

Day	Date	Start Time	Format	Home Team	Away Team	OutdoorVenue
Sunday	16/06/24	10:30	20 Overs	Bucks Womens 1st XI	Hertfordshire	High Wycombe CC
Sunday	16/06/24	16:30	20 Overs	Bucks Womens 1st XI	Suffolk	High Wycombe CC
Sunday	30/06/24	11:00	50 Overs	Bucks Womens 1st XI	Suffolk	Holmer Green CC
Sunday	14/07/24		50 Overs	Norfolk	Bucks Womens 1st XI	Fakenham CC
Sunday	28/07/24	10:30	20 Overs	Kent	Bucks Womens 1st XI	Nevill Ground Tunbridge Wells
Sunday	28/07/24	13:30	20 Overs	Middlesex	Bucks Womens 1st XI	Nevill Ground Tunbridge Wells
Sunday	11/08/24	13:30	20 Overs	Essex	Bucks Womens 1st XI	St George's College, Weybridge
Sunday	11/08/24	16:30	20 Overs	Surrey	Bucks Womens 1st XI	St George's College, Weybridge
Wednesday	21/08/24	11:00	40 Overs	Bucks Womens 1st XI	MCC Women	Chesham CC
Sunday	08/09/24	11:30	100 Ball	Bucks Womens 1st XI	Southern Vipers Academy	Campbell Park Cricket Ground

The weather man has not smiled kindly on Bucks Women with just one match played so far. That was on 21st April when they lost by 8 wickets to Berkshire. Batting first Bucks scored 191, skipper Cara Duggan contributing 52 and Teagan Stockdale 31. Berkshire reached the target for loss of 2 wickets, both falling to Cara Duggan.

The other remaining matches, against Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Sussex, and Hertfordshire, were all abandoned.

You can support Bucks CCC by sponsoring a match



Bucks County Cricket Club

Marketing / Sponsorship Opportunities in 2024

3 DAY MATCH SPONSOR	£600
K.O.TROPHY MATCH SPONSOR	£300
MATCHDAY PROGRAMME SPONSOR	£50
SPONSOR -A- PLAYER	£50

THREE DAY MATCH SPONSORSHIP at £600 per match

Sponsorship opportunities available for Tring Park and High Wycombe

Pre match refreshments, luncheon with wine, and tea for 2 people per day

- 2 County Handbooks.
- 2 Match day programmes per day
- Sponsor status acknowledged on cover of Matchday programme.,
- Sponsor status acknowledged on all social media releases.
- Free Advert in the Annual Club Handbook
- Advertising banner at ground(supplied by sponsor)
- Bucks CCC website coverage and direct link to company website
- .Photo opportunity with team
-

K.O. TROPHY SPONSORSHIP at £300 per match

Sponsorship opportunities available for Chesham and High Wycombe

Pre match refreshments and luncheon with wine,for 2 people.

- 2 County Handbooks and 2 Match day programmes
- Sponsor status acknowledged in Matchday programme.,
- Sponsor status acknowledged on all social media releases.
- Free Advert in the Annual Club Handbook
- Advertising banner at ground(supplied by sponsor)

SPONSOR A BUCKS SQUAD PLAYER - for just £50

Firstly a great big thank you to all those members/ supporters or companies who sponsored a player over the past seasonand or seasons. I am pleased to report that we will be continuing with the sponsorship initiative for the new season. A couple of sponsors came late to the party last year and their sponsorship will be carried over to the new season. **Sponsors in red below have already committed to this season.** If you wish to continue last season's sponsorship or sponsor one of the new additions to the Squad, or for more information

Please contact Bill Scholes Tel: 01420 560290 or billscholes@hotmail.co.uk

BUCKS C.C. C. PLAYER SPONSORSHIP 2024

PLAYER	SPONSOR (S)
Tom Hampton	Sports Shots
Alexei Kervesee	Jonathan Lilley
Michael Payne	Alan Rowlands
Ewan Cox	Steve Peart
AJ Woodland	
Cameron Parsons	teachtalking.co.uk
Conner Haddow	J.Haskell&G.Shelvey
Ed Bragg	Bill Scholes
Ross Richardson	Mike Knox
Tom Weymes	Arthur Evans & Graham Parker
Stephen Croft	AW Sales Agencies
Chris Marrow	Frank Russell
Mo Choudry	Aventus Clinic
Teddy Fleming	Ian Hodgson
Hashan Ramanadpulle	Finnbar O'Conner
Cameron Hemp	
Billy Mead	John Phillips
George Harvey	Breffni Walsh
Jake Tarling	
Louis Gulliver	
Max Uttley	

Over 70's Cricket World Cup 2024

Don't forget that Bucks are sponsoring this inaugural competition. Bucks Cricket is proud to support the inaugural competition with the majority of matches being played at grounds in Buckinghamshire, so do pop along to at least one of the matches. I'm sure the lads (!) will appreciate your support.

Countries taking part include Australia, Canada, England, India, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Wales

England seniors cricket will play host to the inaugural 70s World Cup in a two week tournament starting on July 28th this summer with the final to be held at Wormsley on Sunday 11th August starting at 11.30 am. Other round robin matches, which commence at 12.00 noon, will be played at senior club grounds within an hour or so drive of Slough where most of the participating countries will be based. Bucks grounds included to date are Marlow, Beaconsfield, Amersham, and Farnham Royal.

. Everything gets underway with a launch and registration event on the 27th July to be held at Eton Rowing Lake, previously home to the 2012 Olympic rowing events.

Matches (1pm start) will be played across Bucks at
Amersham C.C. Beaconsfield C.C. Farnham Royal C.C. and Marlow C. C.

FINAL

Sunday 11th August 2024 Game starts 11.30am

Wormsley Cricket Ground

Music, bar, refreshments, light snacks.

SUPPORT BUCKS CRICKET

By joining Bucks County Cricket Club

The County Club and Bucks Cricket are working actively to promote and develop cricket at all levels and ages throughout the county

You can support these efforts by joining the Bucks County Cricket Club

The Annual Subscription is : -

£25 for individuals

£35 for partners living at the same address

£10 for juniors (aged under 18)

£15 for students in full time education ((aged under 24)

Life membership is also available

Membership forms are available from John Phillips .

Email: johnphillips@bucksccc.org.uk Tel: 01494 721244

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH BUCKS C.C.C. ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Can't get to a game – do not despair, help is at hand. Don't miss a moment

Please note the new social media addresses below as the old ones have been disabled and merged with these.

Website: bucks cricket.co.uk

Twitter : @BucksCricket

Facebook: [https:// www. facebook.com/BucksCricket](https://www.facebook.com/BucksCricket)

Instagram: [bucks cricket.official](https://www.instagram.com/bucks cricket.official)

All of Bucks 1st XI games will be streamed live on our YouTube channel

Once again, many thanks to all those who have helped and contributed to Coloured Trousers, particularly Kevin Beaumont, Ron Hedley, Mike Knox, Rich Hudson, Rachel Hudson, Jonathan Lilley, County Cricket Matters, Yahoo Over Cow Corner, Steve Peart, Trevor Taylor, Tom Hampton and Andy Bone and Sports Shots. We are of course obviously very grateful to all our sponsors and to Sports Shots for their excellent media coverage as well as to Charlie Carter for all his excellent photographs. All contributions gratefully received of course – why not relieve the boredom of the potential weather postponed matches by writing an article and join our happy band of literary contributors.

Bill Scholes

billscholes@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01420 560290

FORTHCOMING WALKS IN AID OF RON'S MARCH

Friday 17th May 2024 – Essex Seniors Walk

Central Park Café, Chelmsford CM1 1LQ

Essex Seniors have arranged a second walk in aid of Ron's March we thank them so much. The walk will be from Central Park Café, Chelmsford CM1 1LQ to The Cloud County Ground, New Writtle Street, Chelmsford CM2 0PQ on Friday 17th May 2024. Walkers will be given a ticket to attend the day's play. We will be also to walk around the outfield during the tea interval to publicise our campaign.

Friday 14th June 2024 – Derbyshire Charity Foundation Walk

We are delighted to have been invited to join the Derbyshire CCC Charity Foundation fundraising walks again in 2024. Walkers will receive tickets to watch the evening T20 match between Derbyshire CCC and Northamptonshire CCC. Details to be confirmed. There will be a 20 mile walk and a 5-mile walk. It was such great fun in 2023.

Thursday 20th June 2024 – Staffordshire Seniors Walk

The walk will be from Millford Hall CC, where walkers will be able to watch the **National** Cricket Seniors Over 70s match between Staffordshire Over 70s and Lancashire Over 70s. The walk will be partly through the grounds of The National Trust property Shugborough Hall. The House is magnificent and well worth a visit.

Sunday 23rd June 2024 – Cheshire Seniors Walk

Warrington CC, Warrington Sports Club, Walton Lea Road, Higher Walton, Warrington, Cheshire, WA4 6SJ Details to be confirmed.

Sunday 14th July 2024 – Lincolnshire CCC Over 60s

As part of Lincolnshire Over 60s playing against the Pakistan National Over 60s at Sleaford CC. There will be a walk at 10.30am and another starting at 11.00am. Walkers can then watch the match after the walks.

We are more than happy to continue walking with counties after the celebration day at Lords Cricket Ground on Sunday 15th September 2024. Two counties have already suggested they would like to walk, again, for the cause in 2025.

All monies raised will go to The Bob Willis Fund and support key Prostate Cancer UK Projects.

To join a walk or for further information, please contact Ron Hedley at rjhatters1@yahoo.co.uk



