

COLOURED TROUSERS N_o 21

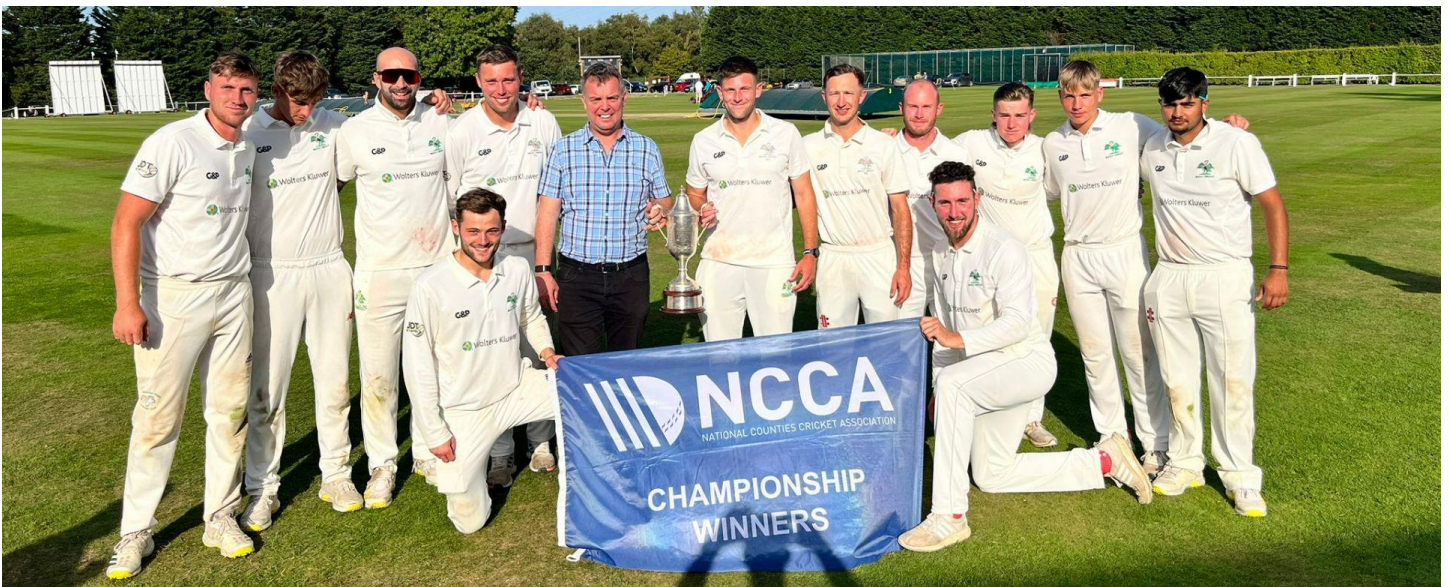


BUCKS COUNTY CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bill Scholes



CHAMPIONS



Bucks wrapped up their first Durant Cricket National Counties Championship since 2009 with a record-breaking 550 runs victory over Devon in the final at West Bromwich Dartmouth. The victory was the largest by runs margin in the history of the Championship, which began in 1895. The win was based on a mammoth second innings total of 567, which was our highest ever score in the competition.

It has been 14 long years since we last we lifted the Championship Trophy- it was a Shield in those days – and I remember writing in our last home match programme that it would be to celebrate the new era of Bucks Cricket by once again lifting the trophy.

Well, by jingo, we jolly went and did exactly that.

Three seasons ago, after the recommencement of championship cricket following Covid and after the National Counties introduced a two Divisional set up, featuring promotion and relegation, in each region, the we found ourselves in Division Two of the Eastern Region. The Three Wise Men (Jason, Tom and Stanners) sat down, together with performance coach Jack Perham, sat down and plotted our way back to the top table. Little did they realise then that we would eat everything on the table, winning Division Two, immediately winning Division One and completing the Treble with the Championship Trophy. The efforts and enthusiasm shown by all four of the above mentioned, as well as all of the 15 players who played a part in winning the title, deserve our warmest congratulations and sincere thanks. I have no doubt that the cricket management team will ensure that no laurels are rested upon and that all of our members and supporters can look forward eagerly to a new dynasty of Bucks Cricket.

CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL – MATCH REPORT

On the first day , a greenish pitch kept the bowlers interested throughout but it did not entirely explain how 17 wickets went down for 284 runs after Bucks captain Tom Hampton had opted to bat first on it. There was no hint of the batting travails to come when Alexei Kervezee (31) and Aadi Sharma (35) added 57 for Buckinghamshire's third wicket with Alexei striking six fours and a six with a one-handed pull off Ben Privett. But the innings unravelled in the space of 12 balls either side of lunch. Alexei survived an LBW appeal from paceman Kaz Szymanski only to be given out caught at second slip when Devon followed up with a second appeal. Ross Richardson followed six balls later, LBW to Szymanski, and Aadi, fresh from a century for Northamptonshire Second XI, fell to the sixth ball after lunch when he was caught behind fanning down leg-side to Matt Skeemer. After George Harvey edged Szymanski to first slip, Bucks had lost four wickets for nine runs but the collapse continued in spectacular fashion when Devon captain Jamie Stephens took three wickets in four balls in his first over of off-spin. Ed Bragg popped a catch to short leg, Cameron Parsons was bowled for 16 and Hampton gave a bat-pad catch to short leg next ball. The last pairing of Conner Haddow and Tom Wymes then frustrated Devon with a 10th wicket partnership of 33 before Stephens rounded up proceedings when he had Haddow stumped giving him the charge, leaving Wymes undefeated on 16 and Bucks with a final total of 185.

Bucks bowlers led the fightback after the eventful opening day and Devon immediately ran into trouble after opener Privett went to the first ball of the innings, when he glanced a leg-side loosener from Cam Parsons to wicketkeeper Richardson, and Max Finzel's first Championship innings lasted just 12 balls before Ed Bragg undid him with one that bounced and was edged to the keeper. James Horler and Somerset Academy prospect Fin Hill repaired the damage but Horler then slashed Parsons to gully and Hill edged slow left-armed Haddow to slip. Haddow, who took nine wickets in the match when against Staffordshire at this ground six weeks ago, added another wicket when he had Ben Beaumont LBW in his next over. Devon were

now bogged down and found themselves further in the mire when Haggett nibbled a catch behind after Bragg switched ends and Elliot Hamilton, who had battled 145 balls for 30, was LBW just before the close, sweeping Alexei Kervezee's off-spin and leaving Devon on 99-7. The next morning Bucks took just 40 minutes to take the three wickets they needed to wrap up the innings. Skeemer was well taken by Kervezee at first slip which gave slow left-armer Hadow his third wicket and seamer Tom Weymes swiftly disposed of Stephens and Kaz Szymanski to leave Devon with a first innings total of 118 some 67 runs adrift of the Bucks score.

Bucks began their second innings with a solid opening partnership of 47 between Ewan Cox and AJ Woodland before Skeemer bowled Coxy with a beauty just before lunch.

Enter Aadi Sharma, whose superb maiden century put Bucks totally in control of the match. The 17-year-old made 115 from 153 balls in an innings of class and maturity that helped Bucks turn their handy first innings lead of 67 into an imposing one of 393 by the end of the second day. Along the way, Aadi shared consecutive half century partnerships of 74 for the second wicket with AJ Woodland (44), 61 for the third with Alexei Kervezee (37) and 72 for the fourth with Ross Richardson. Sharma fell four short of a century on his Bucks debut against Hertfordshire last season, but reached three figures for the first time for Bucks in just his third innings in the competition. Sharma made the most of easier batting conditions as the pitch had lost much of its green tinge under a baking sun and it had also lost much of its first day pace following the application of the heavy roller between innings. He struck six sixes - one into the rush hour traffic on the Birmingham Road - and eight fours before he was bowled sweeping Jamie Stephens after three-and-a-half hours at the crease.

Anything you can do I can do better said wicket-keeper Ross Richardson, who then took centre stage by hammering 166 with seven sixes and 18 fours. He came in with 3 wickets down and the score on 182. By the time he departed the scene- the 9th wicket to fall, the score had risen to 566. He put on 108 for the fifth wicket with Ed Bragg (42), added 92 in 18 overs with 17-year-old George Harvey, who made a fluent 61 off 71 balls in only his second Championship game as well as 72 with Alexei. Ross's 166 was his career best and his second century for Bucks. The torment in the hot sunshine was not quite over for Devon's bowlers as last man Capt Tom thrashed a quickfire 26 off 14 balls, including two sixes before Bucks were eventually dismissed for 567 in the 140th over of their second innings. It was a very hard day and a half in the field for Devon's v bowlers but there were two wickets each for Matt Skeemer, Ben Beaumont and very occasional left-armer Max Finzell, who picked up the last two in four balls.

The game was effectively won and lost early on the second day when Devon were bowled out for 118 in response to Bucks' total of 185. The play-off game rules state the team ahead on first innings will be declared the winners if the match fails to produce a result, so Devon had to win outright to take the title - a draw would not suffice. The target was 635 to win in four-and-a-half sessions. They were dismissed for 84 inside 37 overs and were beaten before the end of the third day, opener James Horler top scoring with 16.. Devon's only realistic prospect was to bat out the remainder of the match for a draw but their innings unravelled in the space of ten overs before tea. From 50 for two they slumped to 60 for seven with Elliot Hamilton bowled by Ed Bragg and Finzell driving Cam Parsons low to extra cover in successive

balls. Conner swiftly accounted for Ben Beaumont, who edged to slip, and Hill, who was stumped giving him the charge, and Parsons had Matt Skeemer taken at point by Ewan Cox. Calum Haggett fired off a couple of defiant shots before he picked out Tom Weymes at long-on, Jamie Stephens was lbw attempting to sweep Conner who then wrapped up victory bowling Max Shepherd around his legs to give Bucks their first Minor/National Championship victory for 14 years. Conner took 5 of the last 6 Devon wickets to fall returning amazing figures of 5 wickets for 6 runs and finishing with match figures of eight for 37.

The Three Amigos



POST FINAL MATCH INTERVIEW WITH BUCKS SKIPPER TOM HAMPTON

In conversation with Andy Bone Sports Shots and Coloured Trousers

Tom Hampton has talked about his Bucks Cricket Men's 1st XI winning the 2023 Durant Cricket NCCA Championship title. Hampton's side won in record-breaking style as they defeated Devon by 550 runs at West Bromwich & Dartmouth Cricket Club at the start of September. After a number of years of hard work and planning, as Hampton revealed in his pre match interview, the title win must be very rewarding.

The guys were over the moon with the result, it was something we had worked towards and to get over the line was special. It's been really nice to see how much its meant to the squad, but also other people connected with Bucks Cricket.

The Bucks skipper won the toss and elected to bat first, but what was the rationale behind the decision.

To be honest, we were a little undecided when we first got to the ground, the wicket had a green tinge, and was a little soft on top. However, we felt that the wicket was going to be at its best on days two and three, so we felt if we got it right as we wanted to bowling on that last day. There was an acceptance that the first innings was going to be tough, but we had faith in the side that even if we were behind the game after the first innings, we could still change the game. I think anytime you win the toss it's an advantage, but you still have to go out and perform.

Batting first, Bucks had a solid start before their opponents came back into the game.

I have mixed feelings really. In parts we actually batted pretty well, the ball did more than we thought it would, and for parts we got stuck in and looked to post a competitive score. Probably none more so than Con (Conner Haddow) and Weymo (Tom Weymes) who added 30 for the last wicket, which in context was huge. The Devon attack bowled with real control and discipline and put us under pressure. There were a couple of soft wickets too, but a good attack, on a wicket that offered some assistance in a pressure situation, probably all played it's part.

After posting 185, there was a discussion between Hampton and the experienced of Jason Harrison, as the former Middlesex pair assessed the game.

At the halfway stage of the first innings, Jason and I did say that we felt that we still had a chance to match their performance. But the way that the guys came out and bowled was exceptional. They bowled brilliantly well. The wicket was still offering enough movement, but the guys didn't search. They just kept it simple, hitting good areas over and over again, led by Cam (Cameron Parsons) again. Ultimately the pressure told and we bowled Devon out for 118, which was well behind our score, putting us in a really good position.

Despite having the upper hand on first innings scores, this game was no where near over, as Devon's bowlers had already displayed. Hampton and the management team were keen to ensure that they finished the job.

As well as we bowled, the message at the start of day two was that we had to apply ourselves with the bat and, if a couple of guys stepped up, we could put ourselves in complete control of the game.

The way AJ (Woodland) and Coxy (Ewan Cox) started was hugely important, as an early wicket could have given Devon momentum, but to get to 40 odd for no wicket was really important. Then the way that the rest of the guys batted throughout that day on a wicket that started to flatten out was so impressive. None more so than Aadi (Sharma). He showed the talent that we all know he has, and it was so pleasing to see.

The National Counties is a vehicle for talented young players to showcase their abilities, a shop window for First-class counties to view. With pathway players stepping up and playing key, match-winning roles, is a testament to the years of time and coaching invested by many individuals involved in the Bucks Cricket structure. Something that pleases Hampton.

It's been the icing on the cake really, George (Harvey) coming into the side for the last two games and performing as he has was amazing, as was Aadi (Sharma) coming in and showing his class in the final. Added with the likes on Con (Conner Haddow) and Ross (Richardson) stepping up as proven performers at that level is what its really about.

As day three arrived, Hampton's side batted on and made a huge 567, having occupied the crease for 139.4 overs in the process. The captain revealed the thinking behind batting on and setting such a big target.

With the game moving so far forward on day one, it left so much time in the game, that as well as a wicket which was playing pretty well. It seemed a pretty obvious decision to bat on. We had full confidence in our attack to create enough chances in four sessions, so why wouldn't we keep Devon out in the field to wear them down, as well as put any slim chance of them taking anything from the game out of the equation. That being said, I didn't think we would wrap up the game so quickly, but again credit to the guys. On a placid wicket at this stage they continued to run in and hit good areas and create chances. Then for Con (Conner Haddow) to come on and spin the ball with so much control to win the game was an amazing effort. He's been superb this year, especially in 3-day cricket, and after his match winning spell we felt it was time to make him a capped player, number 116. He deserves it and was a lovely moment to cap off an awesome three days.

With lifetime memories made, everyone enjoyed their evening.

I'm not sure I can mention everything the lads got up to, but we definitely enjoyed the moment. We stayed at the club as long as they would have us, drinking on the outfield, which was great fun. Then the oldies continued in the hotel bar, while the youngsters had a well-earned night out in Birmingham.

In closing, Hampton wanted thank everyone connected with the final.

A huge thanks must go to West Bromwich & Dartmouth Cricket Club for putting on such a good final. The hospitality was second to none. Plus the umpires, scorers, and also, to all the Bucks supporters that made the journey, and to those who have sent messages of congratulations, it does mean a lot.



Conner Haddow presented with his County Cap by Jason and Tom during the Final.



Chapeau to Conner for not only receiving his County Cap but also for being selected to represent an England X1 in the upcoming European T10 championships

BUCKS BATTING CHAMPIONSHIP AVERAGES - 2023 inc the Final

	Name	Mch	Inn	N O	Runs	Mins	H S	100s	50s	6s	4s	Av
A	Sharma	1	2	0	150	309	115	1		6	14	75.00
GDC	Harvey	2	4	1	196	406	92		2	2	25	65.33
RAJ	Richardson	4	6	1	297	522	166	1		11	32	59.40
AN	Kervezee	5	9	1	456	687	145	1	3	7	68	57.00
AJ	Woodland	5	9	0	341	1120	91		4		48	37.89
EAJ	Cox	4	7	1	214	432	44				35	35.67
JM	Tarling	1	1	0	35	93	35				5	35.00
MJ	Payne	4	6	1	163	374	86		2		20	32.60
EWB	Bragg	5	7	0	199	453	42			4	21	28.43
CPW	Haddow	5	7	2	93	195	39				9	18.60
TG	Weymes	4	5	3	31	102	16*				4	15.50
CDR	Parsons	5	7	1	84	199	25				9	14.00
CJ	Marrow	4	7	0	64	150	37				6	9.14
TRG	Hampton	5	6	0	54	56	26			3	6	9.00
ZMK	Choudhry	1	2	0	15	84	69	15			1.30	7.50

BUCKS BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP AVERAGES - 2023 inc the Final

	Name	Mch	Ov	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Best	5-Wkt	Av
AN	Kervezee	5	9	3	1	10	1--4		10.00
CPW	Haddow	5	172	57	33	410	6--97	4	12.42
TG	Weymes	4	52.5	7	9	145	2--9		16.11
CDR	Parsons	5	161	62	16	313	4--25		19.56
EWB	Bragg	5	129.4	28	16	414	4--68		25.88
AJ	Woodland	5	67.2	14	7	228	4--41		32.57
ZMK	Choudhry	1	18	6	1	34	1--15		34.00
TRG	Hampton	5	78.2	6	8	290	3--52		36.25
MJ	Payne	4	36	9	1	75	1--29		75.00

Highest Bucks CCC Team Totals – over 500

567	v Devon	@ West Bromwich Dartmouth	2023
560-4 dec	v Northumberland	@ High Wycombe	2013
518-4 dec	v Bedfordshire	@ Ampthill	2013
505	v Bedfordshire	@ Bedfordshire School	1912

Highest Bucks CCC individual innings – top 15

Tom Smith	244no	v Hertfordshire	@ High Wycombe	2015
Rob White	211no	v Northumberland	@ High Wycombe	2013
Bobby Sher	200	v Cambridgeshire	@Gerrards Cross	2005
Malc Roberts	193no	v Wiltshire	@ Amersham	1989
DFV Johns	191	v Bedfordshire	@Beds School	1952
Rob White	185no	v Cambridgeshire	@ High Wycombe	2014
Paul Sawyer	181	v Norfolk	@Chalvey Rd, Slough	1998
Mal Loye	179	v Bedfordshire	@Upton Court Slough	2012
Mike Wells	179no	v Northumberland	@ Jesmond	2022
Neil Burns	178	v Staffordshire	@ Beaconsfield	1997
Malc Roberts	177no	v Northumberland	@Jesmond	1996
Phil Castleden	166	v Cambridgeshire	@ Chesham	2017
Gary Park	166	v Bedfordshire	@ Tring	2018
Ross Richardson	166	v Devon	@West Bromwich	2023
J.O'Connor	165	v Bedfordshire	Beds School	1947

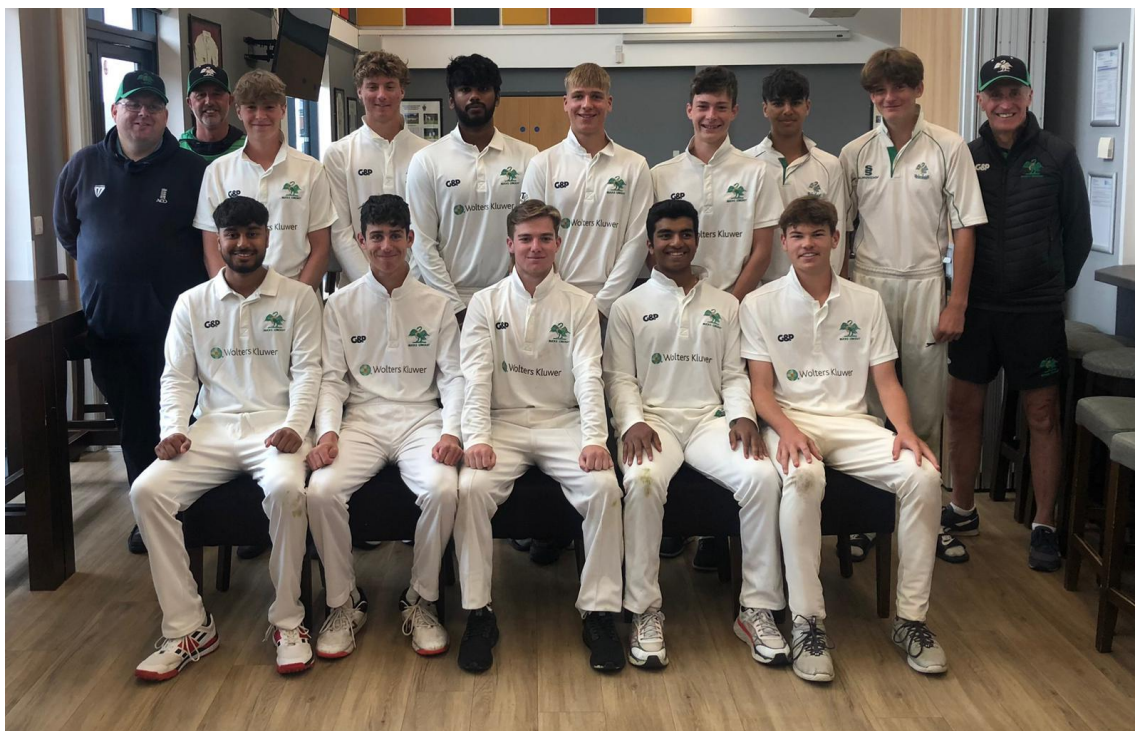
Two of the Bucks heroes warmed up with centuries before playing important roles on the road to winning the Final. 17yr old George Harvey scored 117 for Bucks Seconds against Oxfordshire before being drafted in as wicket keeper to replace the unavailable Ross Richardson in the final divisional championship match against Suffolk where he scored 94, whilst Ross got some important practice in immediately before the Final, top scoring against Suffolk Seconds with 171.

Congratulations to ex Bucks pathway player Raph Weatherall, who has been announced as part of the England Men's Under-19s Test Squad!



BUCKS BOYS UNDER 18's

A week before the Men's 1st XI won the NCCA Championship Final, the Boys U18s secured their 3-day NCCA Eastern Division One competition with a rain affected draw v Oxfordshire.



The Under 18's Standing: Alfie Clifford, Ryan Friend, Aatish Anthathi, George Harvey, Archie Dodds, Any Jariwala, Billy Dodds. Seated: Kahil Jariwala, Danny Chapman, Teddy Fleming, Ranvier Sinha, Louis Gulliver.

The Over 18's Standing-just! Lee Wiles (scorer) Simon Stanway (Coach) Malcolm Roberts (Coach)

Highest Bucks Wicket Partnerships – All Ages



Congratulations go to Danny Chapman (150 off 230 balls) and Aum Raykar (169 off 153 balls) who put on 294 for the 3rd wicket for Bucks Boys U18s on day 1 of the recent match against Norfolk U18s at Gt Witchingham CC. **It is believed to be the second highest Bucks partnership for any wicket and at any level** since records were first kept back in the 1890's. You might not believe this, but the highest ever Bucks partnership was in 1998, it was also against Norfolk, and it was by Paul Sawyer (181) and a certain Jason Harrison ((147) !

THE EUROPEAN CRICKET T10 CHAMPIONSHIPS



Berkshire captain Dan Lincoln will again lead the National Counties XI when they represent England in an expanded 31 team Dream 11 European Cricket Championship in Spain next month. Lincoln, who led Berkshire to a fourth successive National Counties Trophy title last month, was captain when National Counties won the European Championship two years ago and again when they were runners-up to Netherlands last year.

25 SEPTEMBER - 20 OCTOBER
 SPAIN | MALAGA | CARTAMA OVAL
 2023

MON 25 SEP	THU 28 SEP	MON 2 OCT	THU 5 OCT	MON 9 OCT	THU 12 OCT
GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D	GROUP E	GROUP F
Spain	Jersey	Italy	Ireland XI	England XI	Scotland XI
Isle of Man	Guernsey	Denmark	Austria	Cyprus	Germany
France	Belgium	Sweden	Hungary	Switzerland	Portugal
Czech Republic	Croatia	TBC	Finland	Romania	Luxembourg
Greece	Bulgaria	Estonia	Türkiye	Malta	Norway

CHAMPIONSHIP WEEK 16 - 20 OCTOBER
 REIGNING CHAMPIONS NETHERLANDS XI + 6 GROUP WINNERS

National Counties will head back to the Cartama Oval near Malaga for four matches in Group E starting with Switzerland and Malta on October 9 and Cyprus and Romania on October 10. There will be 30 other countries competing in the 10 overs-a-side tournament with only Netherlands, as defending champions, guaranteed a place in Champions Week which starts on October 16 and culminates in the final on October 20. Netherlands will be joined by the six group winners in Champions Week.

Berkshire coach Tom Lambert, in charge again, has named a strong squad that includes first-class players past and present in Oxfordshire's Sussex batter Harrison Ward, Dorset's former Somerset batter Sam Young, Oxfordshire's former Sussex batter and left-arm spinner Tom Hinley and Berkshire and Middlesex all-rounder Toby Greatwood.

Lincoln, Ward and Berkshire all-rounder Andy Rishton are the only survivors from last year's European Championship squad with the new faces including slow left-arter Conner Haddow, who helped Buckinghamshire win the Durant Cricket National Counties Championship earlier this week, Wales NC batter Cameron Hemp – the son of former Glamorgan captain David – and the Cumbria pair of all-rounder Freddie Fallows and slow left-arter Matt Siddall.

National Counties XI: Dan Lincoln (Berkshire – captain), Harrison Ward (Oxfordshire), Sam Young (Dorset), Freddie Fallows (Cumbria), Tom Hinley (Oxfordshire), David Scott (Dorset), Andy Rishton (Berkshire), Tommy Sturgess (Cornwall), Cam Hemp (Wales NC), Matt Siddall (Cumbria), Richard Edwards (Wales NC), Conner Haddow (Buckinghamshire), Toby Greatwood (Berkshire).

Coach: Tom Lambert. Manager: Richard Logan

POSTPONEMENT

Bucks Annual Golf Day and Dinner

Thursday 28 September

In view of the recent tremendous achievements of the 1st XI in winning the NCCA Championship, it has been decided to postpone the Dinner on the 28 September and to hold a Celebration Dinner later on in the year on a date when it is hoped that as many of the victorious team as possible will be able to attend. Full details will be issued shortly.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BERKSHIRE ON WINNING THE NCCA ONE DAY TROPHY FINAL
Cumbria CCC lost to Berkshire CCC in the National Counties One Day NCCA Trophy Final by 29 runs. The match was again held at the picturesque cricket ground on the beautiful, bucolic Wormsley Estate in Buckinghamshire. It was cloudy and there were a couple of light showers in the early afternoon. Cumbria won the toss (as they had at the previous three Finals) and elected to field first. Some Cumbria supporters were hoping they would lose the toss and win the match! Sadly it was not to be as Berkshire lifted the Trophy for the 4th consecutive year, winning by 29 runs. Having been put in, Berkshire struggled early on at 56-5 but aided by Archie Carter's 6 recovered to post 195-8 off their 50 overs. In reply Cumbria made a very positive start reaching 146 with just 5 wickets down, but the remaining 5 wickets fell for just 20 runs, leaving Cumbria on 166 and with nearly 5 overs unused.

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)

This season all of Bucks 1st XI games will be streamed live on our YouTube channel



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 the membership secretary Susan Klyne

mail to: susanklyne@bucksccc.org.uk

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Once again, many thanks to all those who have helped and contributed to Coloured Trousers particularly Kevin Beaumont, Ron Hedley, Su Klyne, Mike Knox, Rachel Hudson, Jonathan Lilley, County Cricket Matters, Yahoo Over Cow Corner, 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 write an article- and join our happy band of literary contributors.

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The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of Bucks C.C.C.

