

COLOURED TROUSERS No 20



BUCKS COUNTY CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bill Scholes

EASTERN DIVISION CHAMPIONS

No, you are not dreaming, the above headline became reality up in Suffolk last week when we clinched the Eastern Division One title by claiming the required number of batting bonus points to ensure that neither Suffolk nor Staffordshire could catch us at the top. It was not a headline that I envisaged being able to write so soon, exactly two years after we subsided to defeat up in a damp Barrow against Cumbria in Division Two. How did this happen ? A very informative interview with skipper Tom Hampton (one of two) further on in this Newsletter should help to understand the changes that have taken place since that time.

Of course, the major benefit of winning the Eastern Division One title is that, after a wait of some 11 years, we get to challenge for the title of overall National Counties champions, when we play the Western Divisional champions Devon up at West Bromwich Dartmouth on Sept 3rd to 6th.

The last two years have been one of continued success for Bucks in the 3 day red ball Championship format, not only winning the Division Two title last year, but then trumping that by winning the Division One title in our first season following the promotion.

Huge congratulations must go to Captain Tom and all those players who were part of the successful teams over the last two years. For varying reasons, some only played one or two matches, but nonetheless their contributions were invaluable.

It has been 14 long years since we beat Cheshire at Slough to lift the Championship Trophy, and 11 years since we reached the Final, and what a great way it would be to celebrate the new era of Bucks Cricket by again lifting the trophy!

N.C.C.A. CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFF FINAL

September 3rd, 4th, 5th & 6th

BUCKS

v

DEVON

At West Bromwich Dartmouth C.C. B71

4JQ Remember 10.30 am start each day

NATIONAL COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP EASTERN DIVISION 1 - FINAL TABLE

	P	W	D	L	Ba	Bwl	Pts
Bucks	4	2	1	1	t 13	16	65
Staffordshire	4	2	1	1	11	15	62
Suffolk	4	2	1	1	9	15	60
Lincolnshire	4	1	3	0	7	14	49
Norfolk	4	0	0	4	5	15	18

Our competition in the Final - Devon

The truncated nature of the new-look, five-team competition meant fine margins between success and failure – as Devon knew going into their final game of the season.. They overcame stubborn Hereford resistance on their last day at Sidmouth to win by 80 runs as they came from third in the table to first place and claim the Western Division One title. They also needed Cheshire to do them a favour by beating Oxfordshire at Banbury which they duly did. Had Cheshire not defeated Oxfordshire and Herefordshire triumphed at Sidmouth, the likelihood was that Devon would have been relegated back to Division Two !

We have met Devon before , 4 times in the KO Trophy, but only in 12 Championship matchesand 11 of those came between 1910 and 1991 when we were in the Western Division.

The 12th match was in 2006 in the Championship Final played at Exmouth. Having played the better and more positive cricket over the first two days, we unfortunately batted poorly in our second innings , eventually losing by 110 runs.

A REVIEW OF OUR 2023 CHAMPIONSHIP CAMPAIGN

BUCKS v NORFOLK @ Tring Park 9-11th July

We opened our 3 day campaign at home to Norfolk at Tring Park and having won the toss elected to field and seemed in control as we reduced Norfolk to 122-7. However the Norfolk tail had other ideas and Callum Metcalf (100) and Brett Stolworthy (66no) shared a lengthy eighth-wicket stand of 153 The partnership was eventually broken when Metcalf was caught by AJ Woodland off the bowling of Conner Haddow.. There was just time before Norfolk's 90 overs were up for left arm spinner Conner to claim his 5th wicket to wrap up the innings on 299-9. Haddow was the outstanding Bucks bowler with 5-107 from 28 overs.

Bucks reply did not get off to the best of starts, losing the first two wickets for just 11 runs, but with AJ Woodland batting steadily at one end, it allowed Alexei Kervezee the freedom to press on as he produced a sparkling 76 from 90 balls. Once AJ departed for 55, we lost two quick wickets before debutant Jake Tarling (35) and Ed Bragg (42) steadied the ship and final flourish from skipper Tom Hampton (14 from 14) enabled us to reach a final total of 251 all out.

With a first-innings lead of 48, but in the face of some tight and accurate bowling, Norfolk struggled to stretch their advantage. Once Haddow had removed both New and De Lucci , the remaining batsmen could only add a further 21 runs and Norfolk ended on 195. from 78.5 overs, leaving Bucks with 244 to win.. Haddow got his second five-wicket haul (5-31) to finish with outstanding match-figures of 10-136.

Set 244 for victory, opener AJ Woodland got Bucks off to flying start with a splendid 91 from 114 balls - his second half-century of the game –sharing a second-wicket stand of 79 with Chris Marrow (37). It was then down to ex skipper Michael Payne (54 from 522 balls) and Ross Richardson, who hit two sixes in his fluent 39, to lead Bucks to victory with 4.3 overs to spare.

STAFFORDSHIRE v BUCKS @ West Bromwich Dartmouth 23rd-25th July

Bucks secured a well deserved victory at West Bromwich Dartmouth over rivals Staffordshire as they ended the hosts proud unbeaten record in championship matches at this ground.. Staffs had never been beaten in the three-day format since returning to play at Sandwell Park in 2014. However, that sequence was brought to a predictable conclusion as Bucks put the finishing touches to a 24-point haul. They had dominated the opening two days of the Division One East contest – and didn't have too many concerns in sealing their second successive win of the three-day season. That has left Bucks top of the table – in their first season at this level – and favourites to make a return to the venue later in the summer for the Championship final.

Staffordshire were put in to bat on the first day and were given a flying start by openers Kettleborough and Morris, but slipped from 77-0 to 115-4 before good knocks from Priestly(40) and Hurt (20) took them up to 208 all out in 56.3 overs. The main damage was done by seamer AJ Woodland, who took 4-21 in 14 overs, and Haddow, who claimed 3-0 in 15 balls. Both were, of course, assisted by wicket keeper Ross Richardson's amazing haul of 7 catches, equalling a Bucks record from back in 1988.

On the second day, the start of which was delayed by rain, we amassed 330-8 dec from 88.2 overs to take charge of the game.

Michael Payne led the way with 86 from 157 balls with ten fours, sharing a fourth-wicket stand of 137 with Woodland, who made 65. Other useful contributions came from Alexei Kervezee (47 in 39 balls), Richardson (42) and Ed Bragg (33).

Facing a first-innings deficit of 122, Staffs seemed in big trouble at 78-5 in their second knock. But a fluent 70 by Derbyshire player Nils Priestley restored the innings, while ex Lancashire seamer Liam Hurt's late 52 enabled the last wicket to add 43 before they were all out for 232 , Haddow taking 6-97 from 33.3 overs.

We were set 111 for victory, and despite losing AJ and CJ early on, opener Ewan Cox joined forces with vice captain Alexei Kervezee to see Bucks home. With Ewan steady as you go at one end, ending on 34 no ,Cubbo had licence to roam and roam he did so through the Staffs bowling finishing with a sparkling 59 from 37 balls. Kervezee ended with five fours and four sixes in his flamboyant cameo and it was fitting that he struck the winning runs with a flat-batted six off seamer Dan Richardson. If Kervezee had showed off his party pieces as the winning line came in to view, it was Bucks' ability to nail the basics which proved to be the difference over the course of the contest

From the Staffordshire website: Unbeaten records have to go at some time – and it was Bucks who had the honour of being the first side to win at the venue since Staffordshire's return to Championship action there.

And it was fully deserved. Bucks, under the guidance of head coach Jason Harrison and assistant Simon Stanway, are a well-drilled unit who are riding the crest of a wave. They have now won eight out of the last 10 three-day matches... and displayed that type of confidence in their performance.

There was nothing flashy, but just a determination from each player to carry out their individual roles. They also appreciated how three-day cricket should be played. Bucks might have provided Staffs with a few lessons in how to go about winning Championship match

BUCKS v LINCOLNSHIRE @ Chesham

13th - 15th August

Our campaign to win the Eastern Division One title met with a setback as our push for a third straight win hit a bump on the third day as play was washed out as rain denied us likely victory over Lincolnshire at Chesham. We had built up an impregnable position on the first two days, but rain restricted play to just a couple of overs on the final day, enabling Lincolnshire to escape with a draw. With Staffordshire beating Norfolk at Norwich following only one short rain interruption, our lead over them is reduced to eight points, with just one game remaining for both counties.

After heavy rain on Saturday, on a dank and drizzly Sunday morning Tom Hampton won an important toss and, unsurprisingly, opted to bowl. In an innings disrupted by a 100-minute delay for rain, Lincs were shot out for just 148 in 52.1 overs, with seamer Cameron Parsons taking 4-25 off 16 overs in helpful conditions.

The pitch was a good one, as Bucks showed by rattling up 396 all out in 89.4 overs. The highlight was a sparkling 145 from Alexei Kervezee, who reached his century off just 121 balls. He shared century partnerships with AJ Woodland (56) and Ross Richardson (44) before Ed Bragg weighed in with a lively 40.

Trailing by a massive 248 on first innings, Lincolnshire had no option but to battle it out for a draw in their second innings. They batted with studious application, reaching 145-4 from 78 overs on the increasingly flat pitch at the close on the second day. Only two overs were possible on the third morning, before rain set in for several hours and the match was finally abandoned as a draw in mid-afternoon.

SUFFOLK v BUCKS @ at Copdock & OI

20th - 22nd August

Sadly we failed to swagger across the finishing line up at Copdock in our last match, more of a stagger really, but despite losing by 115 runs to Suffolk we acquired enough bonus points to finish three points clear of Staffordshire at the top of the table.

Bucks went into the Suffolk game, needing six points to ensure coming top. By restricting third-placed Suffolk to just one batting point on the first day, as well as picking up four bowling points, we required just one batting point, something which we achieved on the second morning.

Star of the match was Bucks's 17-year-old debutant George Harvey, picked to keep wicket as a replacement for the unavailable Ross Richardson, who top-scored in both innings with 92 and 41.

Choosing to bat first, Suffolk were dismissed on the first day for 197, seamer Ed Bragg leading the way with 4-68 from 18 excellent overs

Bucks primary initial target was to reach 175 ,thereby securing the first batting bonus point and along with it, the divisional title, and this was achieved due to good knocks from Ewan Cox (44) and Alexei Kervezee(53). However with six wickets down , it looked like we would only be taking a slender first-innings lead, but Harvey, who hit one six and eight fours in his 92 from 157 balls, and Conner Haddow (39) added 83 for the eighth wicket before we were eventually all out for 312 in 88.1 overs, a lead of 115 runs.

Suffolk rallied in the second innings, scoring 336 in 119.2 overs, Josh Cantrell right move scoring an excellent 100.

Set 252 to win in 49 overs, Bucks collapsed from 37-0 to 57-6. Harvey (41) led the tail-end resistance before Bucks were all out for 136 with 8.1 overs remaining to be bowled.

Sadly, not the finish to the match we were hoping for , but still we had done enough by gaining the batting bonus points to top Division 1, a remarkable achievement when you consider that we only gained promotion to this division this season.

BUCKS BATTING CHAMPIONSHIP AVERAGES - 2023

	Name	Mc h	Inn	N O	Ru ns	Bal ls	H S	100 s	50 s	6s	4s	Av
GD C	Harvey	1	2	1	133	243	92		1	1	15	133. 00
AN	Kervezee	4	7	1	388	419	14 5	1	3	5	58	64.6 7
RA J	Richardso n	3	4	1	125	170	44			4	13	41.6 7
AJ	Woodland	4	7	0	288	645	91		4		41	41.1 4
EA J	Cox	3	5	1	154	229	44				26	38.5 0
JM	Tarling	1	1	0	35	68	35				5	35.0 0
MJ	Payne	4	6	1	163	276	86		2		20	32.6 0
EW H	Bragg	4	5	0	154	242	42			3	18	30.8 0
CP W	Haddow	4	5	2	64	130	39				7	21.3 3
CD R	Parsons	4	5	1	68	108	25				6	17.0 0
CJ	Marrow	4	7	0	64	120	37				6	9.14

ZM K	Choudhry	1	2	0	15	69	15				7.50
TR G	Hampton	4	4	0	28	14		1	3		7.00
TG	Weymes	3	3	1	14	55	7*			1	7.0 0

BUCKS BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP AVERAGES - 2023

Name	Mch	Ov	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Best	5-W	10-W	Av	
CP W	Haddow	4	146 .5	46	25	37 3	6--9 7	3	1	14.9 2
TG	Weymes	3	48	7	7	13 6	2--1 1			19.4 3
CD R	Parsons		4	12 6	45	11	254	4— 25		23.09
EW H	Bragg	4	111. 4	22	12	35 4	4--6 8			29.5 0
AJ	Woodlan d	4	59. 2	10	7	21 8	4--4 1			31.1 4
ZM K	Choudhry	1	18	6	1	34	1--1 5			34.00
TR G	Hampton	4	74. 2	5	8	27 6	3--5 2			34.50
MJ	Payne	4	36	9	1	75	1--2 9			75.00
AN	Kervezee	4	7	2	0	6	0--1			-----

CAP THAT!

Alexei Kervezee presented with his County Cap before match against Norfolk



And Ella Claridge was presented with her cap before their game vs Dorset



ap

The capped player system was brought in earlier this year for the Women's team to mirror the Men's team and to inspire current and future Women's Cricketers in Bucks.

SHOWCASE CHALLENGE MATCH

Sussex v Bucks

At Hove Tuesday 1st August

Sussex were given a testing warm-up for the Metro Bank One Day Cup as they beat Buckinghamshire by 115 runs in their National Counties Showcase match. Half-centuries from Tom Haines, Tom Alsop, Tom Clark and James Coles set the tone for a confident batting performance from the Sharks, who made 335-9 in their 50 overs. Buckinghamshire, who had been performing well in the NCCA 3 Day Championship of late, were never clearly outclassed at Hove and could be proud of their performance in both departments. Captain Tom Hampton took 3-69 and spinner Conner Haddow 3-71 with the ball, while Ewan Cox and Aadi Sharma both made scores in a chase that otherwise lacked momentum.

Sussex won the toss and opted to bat first, with a new opening partnership of captain Tom Haines and youngster Henry Rogers facing up. Despite great expectations after his 73 against Oxfordshire, 17-year-old Rogers was unable to follow up as he was run out without scoring in the second over of the day.

Tom Alsop came in and got the scoreboard moving with a flurry of boundaries, including a glorious six over bowler Cameron Parsons' head to bring up a 50 partnership with Haines.

Though Haines survived a couple of outside edge scares to wicket-keeper Ross Richardson, he too accelerated well from a watchful start and brought up his 50 off 49 balls in the 16th over. Spinner Conner Haddow finally prised Haines out in the 19th over for 60, while Harrison Ward followed, out for 10 as he chipped a catch back to Haddow.

Alsop held the innings together with a patient 54 off 70 balls, but perished to Ed Bragg's excellent catch on the deep midwicket boundary off the bowling of former Worcestershire all-rounder Alexei Kervezee.

With Sussex in a little trouble at 136-4, Tom Clark and James Coles then combined for a useful partnership of 89 in the engine room of the innings.

The pair plundered six fours and four sixes to drive the Sussex score forward before Clark was eventually dismissed for 53 by a devilish delivery from Buckinghamshire skipper Hampton.

Surging on, however, Coles became the fourth Sussex batsman to reach his half-century and continued to make runs after the departure of Oli Carter for 19.

Coles finally fell for 61 runs off 42 balls, placing a half-volley from Haddow to AJ Woodland at cover, but his score was enough to take pressure off the Sussex lower order. That was just as well, with Jack Carson being run out on 12 after a mix-up with Fynn Hudson-Prentice to leave the hosts 291-8.

Sussex's ninth-wicket partnership added a useful 33 runs, however, with Steven Finn making 15 off 19 balls alongside Hudson-Prentice's counter-punching innings of 26. An outstanding catch from Woodland, racing round to extra cover, saw Hudson-Prentice fall in the final over, but a quickfire seven from Brad Currie saw Sussex finish with a flourish to post 335-9.

Faced with that imposing total, Buckinghamshire's opening pair of Woodland and Ewan Cox took a pragmatic approach early on.

After a couple of well-timed straight hits for four, 2016 Wisden School Cricketer of the Year Woodland became Finn's first victim on his return from injury, feathering an edge to Oli Carter on 14. Jack Carson then entered the fray for Sussex and bowled Leicestershire Second XI batsman Jake Tarling for six, leaving the visitors 54-2 after 14 overs.

Another brief partnership saw Cox creep closer to his half-century before eventually falling for 44 off 56 balls, with Tom Clark taking the catch at point off the bowling of Carson. Kervezee then fell in quick succession, caught by Rogers at leg gully whilst trying to work away a full delivery from James Coles.

With the visitors 83-4 and unlikely to challenge the Sussex total, Ross Richardson and Aadi Sharma played watchfully and profited off a handful of wides from Coles and Carson.

There was still fluency to be found for Sussex, but with Richardson the next to fall when attempting to lift Hudson-Prentice over square leg, the Sharks edged closer to victory.

The trend of wickets continued as Bragg chipped Tom Haines to mid-on and Parsons followed by hoicking Carson to Harrison Ward on the leg side boundary.

Buckinghamshire gallantly batted on from 143-7, however, and with Haddow smashing a powerful six in front of the press box in a Coles over worth 18 runs, the spinner ably supported Aadi Sharma.

Sharma, aged just 17 and wearing his Northamptonshire Second XI helmet, timed his shots superbly for 46 off 62 balls but eventually fell to fine Brad Currie delivery that nipped back into off stump.

Conner Haddow and skipper Hampton were determined to end by giving it a bash, and Hampton perished in that manner to a turning delivery from Jack Carson, who finished with figures of 3-46.

Report written by Will Hugall

BUCKS MENS SECOND ELEVEN RESULTS

Date	Opposition	Bucks	Result
June 29	Berkshire	Bucks	Lost by 224 runs
July 4, 5,& 6	SUFFOLK	Bucks	Lost by 88 runs
July 12	BERKSHIRE	Bucks	won by 3 runs
July 17,18 &19	Northamptonshire	Bucks	Won by 1 wicket
August 19	OXFORDSHIRE	Bucks	won by 104 runs
August 23	Benyon Cup T20 Hertfordshire	Bucks	Lost by 5 wickets
	Benyon Cup T20 Free Foresters	Bucks	Lost by 100 runs
August 29,30 &31	Suffolk	Bucks	Lost by 1 wicket

SPORTS SHOTS INTERVIEW WITH TOM HAMPTON PRIOR TO LINCS MATCH

Bucks captain Tom Hampton was delighted with Buckinghamshire's start

Buckinghamshire may have emerged as the surprise package of this season's Durant Cricket National Counties Championship but their success is not entirely unexpected. Having won all four of their matches in Eastern Division Two last year to secure promotion, Buckinghamshire have beaten Norfolk and Staffordshire in their first two Division One matches this season and they head to Chesham for the visit of Lincolnshire on Sunday aiming to maintain their unbeaten run. Continuity has been a key for Buckinghamshire as they have kept faith with the same, mostly homegrown, squad which has developed a strong team ethic in which the whole has proved stronger than the individual parts.

"We have slightly surprised ourselves but we were always quietly confident after the way we have played in red ball cricket over the last couple of seasons.

It was the tournament that we felt that we had our best chance in," said Buckinghamshire captain Tom Hampton.

"In some ways having a side that was largely unchanged has been a big part of our success. Apart from players having to miss the odd game here and there we have not had to change the side that much.

"When you are not having to make those changes people feel that they are under less pressure."

Buckinghamshire have seen little of Saif Zaib, a product of the county's youth system, this season because he has become an established member of Northamptonshire's side across all formats.

But Buckinghamshire have compensated for Zaib's absence with significant all-round contributions from Alex Woodland, and former Worcestershire and Netherlands batter Alexei Kervezee plus 19 wickets in two Championship matches from slow left-armed Conner Haddow.

"The luxury of having AJ [Woodland] at the top of the order and being a quality seamer means that we can go into games with an extra bowler," Hampton said. "So, we go into games feeling that we have most bases covered and that we have a bowling attack that can take 20 wickets or set up a run chase for our batters.

"Alexei is the ultimate professional in the way he goes about his business. He might be the oldest player in the side but he is still the fittest.

"When he came in from Shropshire two years ago he raised the standards and the attitudes of the whole squad. He sets high standards and having a player like that gives everyone else so much confidence.

"Alexei also brought Ed Bragg with him last season. Ed had been released from Worcestershire's Academy and Alexei knows him well as they play club cricket together at Halesowen.

"He and Alexei are our only players from outside the county. Ed is similar to AJ in that he is a genuine all-rounder which, again, gives us the luxury of an extra bowling option.

"Conner has stepped up this year. He's maturing into that main spinner role for us and he's taken 19 wickets in four innings so far as well as giving us control when we have needed it."

Hampton's own contribution should not be under-estimated either. He brings important first-class experience from his stints with Middlesex and Gloucestershire, he has formed an effective management team with coach Jason Harrison over the last five years and, at 31, is still capable bowling sharp spells.

"The luxury of having an extra seamer is that my work-load is less than it was three or four years ago which means that I can bowl some shorter but fast spells," he said.

How much bowling Hampton will be required to do against Lincolnshire remains to be seen. Last season spinners prospered at Chesham in a dry summer with Cumbria's Matt Siddall taking a county record 14 wickets in the match although he still finished on the losing side. A first innings century from Woodland, five wicket hauls for Bragg and Cameron Parsons and solid contributions down the order typified Buckinghamshire's team ethic in that match and gave a hint of the cricket they would play this season.

"Maybe we have been lucky with the weather and we have also won two tosses. But perhaps the fact that we have enjoyed success in three-day cricket has given us momentum," Hampton said.

"Ultimately three-day cricket is about performing consistently over three days, whether that's against Staffordshire or Hertfordshire.

"That's what we have tried to do over the last couple of seasons. It's quite simple in some ways but is working.

"It's the same as last season. It's not been flashy but having important contributions from the whole squad has been very pleasing."

BUCKS WOMENS CRICKET

South Central Counties Cup

The South Central Counties Cup is a domestic [women's one-day cricket](#) competition in [England](#). Organised by the [Southern Vipers](#) regional team for the six counties that make up the team's region in the South of England. The first edition took place in 2022 with Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Sussex the six teams taking part.

. Following the end of the [Women's County Championship](#) in 2019 and the launching of the new regional structure for domestic women's cricket in England in 2020, county sides were left without any 50-over cricket. Following the launch of similar competitions such as the [East of England Women's County Championship](#) and the [Women's London Championship](#), the South Central Counties Cup therefore aims to provide "meaningful" 50-over cricket to the county teams in the region.

The inaugural 2022 edition of the competition took place from 30 May to 11 August, with each team playing each other once. Hampshire were the inaugural winners of the competition, winning four of their five matches (with the other abandoned). This season's edition has been taking place during July and August, with the same 6 Counties involved.

Recent Bucks Womens Results

26 July: Dorset v Bucks	Bucks 146 Dorset 5-1	Match Abandoned-Rain
4 Aug: Sussex v Bucks	Bucks 125 Sussex 126-3	Sussex won by 7 wickets
11 Aug Bucks v Oxfordshire (see match report below)	Bucks 288-9 Oxfordshire 216	Bucks won by 72 runs
18 Aug Berkshire v Bucks (see match report below)	Bucks 191-9 Berks 152	Bucks won by 38 runs
23 Aug Bucks v MCC	Bucks 157-3 MCC 156	Bucks won by 7 wickets

Excellent performances from Holly Wilson 95no batting and Carys Gerber 3-33 bowling

Buckinghamshire v Oxfordshire - 11th August

Buckinghamshire completed their first victory of the tournament as they defeated Oxfordshire by 72 runs at Amersham CC. The home side got off to a flier, despite Molly Carter being run out for nine, as Isabella James looked to attack the visitors' bowling with new batter Abbie Whybrow. However, when it seemed the Bucks top order was getting away from them, the Oxfordshire bowlers brought it back, as Emilia Bartram had Whybrow caught behind by Abi Currie for 19 with James falling to the same fate the very next over for 27 giving Kitty Spurgeon her first South Central Counties Cup wicket.

At 72-3 in the 11th over, the visitors looked to tighten their grip on the game, but keeper Ella Claridge and Cara Duggan kept Buckinghamshire's foot on the accelerator. At the halfway mark, Claridge was caught by Finty Trussler off Katie Waugh for 22, but the home side had reached 132-4. Amber Drewe walked out to the middle and was quickly off the mark, and the Bucks 150 came up after 28.3 overs. Duggan and Drewe seemed to find the boundary with regularity, bringing up their fifty partnership at quicker than a run-a-ball in under half an hour of batting, and it took them just eight overs to take Buckinghamshire from 150 to almost 200, but Drewe fell for 31 with the score on 197. Bucks' double century was brought up the very next over through with a single from Duggan, and with a four off the penultimate ball of the 37th, Duggan reached her fifty from 71 balls, with eight boundaries. Caia Stockdale and Rosie Lloyd hung around with Duggan as she looked to be the aggressor, but both batters fell for double figures to Genny Porter and Emilia Bartram respectively as the home side passed 250.



The boundaries kept flowing off the bat of Duggan and with her 14th four, she found herself in the 90s, but time was running out. With four balls remaining in the innings, she needed 8 runs to record her century. However, with the third ball of the final over, she was caught by Isobel Kirby, and Buckinghamshire ended their innings on 288-9 at the end of their 50 overs.

In reply, the visitors lost their first wicket in the second over, as Tegan Stockdale dismissed Genny Porter for no score, bringing Aimee Diab to the crease who looked to score freely along with opener Carla Wood in pursuit of their target of 289. Oxfordshire got themselves to 45-1 after the first ten but soon lost their second wicket when Diab was caught by Tegan Stockdale off Hannah Critchley for 21. Wood was still there on 19, and the wicket brought Eillie Ingram to the crease, and the pair took the visitors past three figures in the 21st over, with their fifty partnership following two overs later. However, both were dismissed in quick time, falling to the bowling of Isabella James in the 25th over, and Oxfordshire reached the halfway mark at 114-4.

The two new batters, Emilia Bartram and Finty Trussler, looked to attack as Oxfordshire required a further 168 in their second half, but the former was caught by Critchley for 19 off 21 to give James her third wicket. The Bucks bowler then picked up another couple of wickets in the 35th over as Trussler was caught by Hannah Davis for 23, and Issy Kirby was caught by Ella Claridge for a second-ball duck to give James her five-for,

and all but ending Oxfordshire's hopes of victory to peg them back to 159-7 at the end of the 35th. Davis then got into the act herself, dismissing Chloe Westbury for four, and although Katie Waugh and Honor Murray offered some resistance, it was all too much for Oxfordshire as they were bowled out for 216, Murray the last wicket to fall for 31.

Bucks completed a close victory over neighbours Berkshire at Wormsley, as they won by 38 runs in the Chiltern Hills. Electing to bat first, the visitors started well with Molly Carter and Isabella James putting on an opening stand of 66 before the latter was dismissed by Ava Lee for a speedy 34 from 42 balls. Spinner Lee then picked up a second as Holly Wilson was caught by Freya Johnson as Berkshire were 84-2 after 20 overs. The runs kept coming steadily as 42 runs came off the next ten overs, with a fifty partnership between Carter and wicket-keeper Ella Claridge was brought up in the 33rd over. However, with the score on 136, Kali-Ann Docherty picked up the wicket of Claridge for 15, and five balls later, Poppy Tulloch picked up her first wicket as Mary Briscoe took the catch to remove Amber Drewe for three. With Carter still at the crease, the 150 was brought up after 39.3 overs, the opener cautiously going about her business. Ava Lee picked up her third wicket of the day when Rosie Lloyd was dismissed off the final ball of the 44th over for 15,



but Molly Carter kept going and reached her fifty the next over, raising her bat after 135 balls and nearly three hours at the crease.

Annie Townsend was the next to fall, cleaned up by Tulloch before Carter's vigil came to an end on 55 as she too was castled as part of a double wicket over from Freya Johnson as she dismissed Megs Woodward with the final ball of the 49th. Tidy bowling from Tulloch restricted the visitors to just three off the final over to keep them under 200, setting Berkshire a target of 192 for victory.

The home side were quick out of the block, as the boundary was peppered eight times in the first four overs, before Holly Rider was caught by Claridge off the bowling of Hannah Critchley for 17, with Isabella James cleaning up Tulloch for six to peg Berkshire back to 48-2 at the end of the eighth over. A third Berkshire wicket was found in the tenth, as James claimed her second, dismissing Olivia Gain for 22 as part of a wicket maiden. There wasn't much respite for the scorers, as a fourth wicket fell in the 13th over, Critchley bowling Ava Lee before picking up the wicket of Ash Muttitt for a single as Berkshire slipped to 80-5 after 15 overs. Izzy Storrar and Freya Johnson set about rebuilding the innings but the latter fell for seven to the bowling of Hannah Davis. Off the next seven overs, only 11 runs were scored by the home side as survival became the main aim rather than quick scoring.

Carter, not content with just a half-century to her name, picked up the wicket of Docherty on her way to figures of 1-15 from five overs. Storrar and new batter Shayna Chikhliya looked to up the run rate, taking 11 runs off the 30th over but Hannah Davis claimed her second victim when she removed the latter lbw for 11. Molly Bulteel then fell for a duck to Natasha MacBean, with Storrar running out of partners as she was nearing her fifty. Just one hit away from her milestone, she was bowled by MacBean as the home side fell 38 runs short, with Storrar the last batter to go for 46.

Sussex Women were crowned winners of the South Central Regional Cup last week, after beating Oxfordshire by 111 runs, only to have to wait for confirmation of their title as both Sussex and Hampshire finished on the same amount of points and with exactly the same net-run-rate. Sussex were eventually confirmed as champions thanks to having a better head-to-head record against Hampshire, after beating them by 69 runs earlier in the campaign.

Recent Bucks Womens U-18 results

- August 14th	Hertfordshire 104-5	v Bucks 111-7	Bucks won by 3 wkts
- August 14th	Suffolk 109-7	v Bucks 110-7	Bucks won by 3 wkts
- August 21 st	Kent 117-7	v Bucks 118-6	Bucks won by 4 wickets
- August 21 st	Middlesex 140-6	v Bucks 128-7	Middx won by 12 runs
- August 28 th	Essex 170-2	v Bucks 82	Essex won by 88 runs
- August 28th	Surrey 142-4	v Bucks 143-4	Bucks won by 6 wickets

A timely arrival has been the blog from Yahoo Over Cow Corner with his interesting views on the current standing of womens cricket

In its current incarnation county cricket seems to currently operate in a bizarre existence of divergence. The men's game seems to be perpetually in a state of reduction, or facing proposals to further nip-tucks. In contrast, the women's game is a Spartan affair with games at a bare minimum bordering on an endangered species with the desire for fixtures to be added to the calendar at large. The two forms are very much poles apart but beginning to head toward a point of convergence.

As women's cricket continues to grow, attract attention and gain traction, so its players are expressing wishes to play more matches. At international level, the calls for more test cricket grow with each successful staging of the sport's longest format, even if it is one match at a time. Those playing regularly for their international teams now enjoy a busy calendar but for players at domestic level there are significant gaps throughout the traditional cricket season in England and Wales that are beginning to be filled, providing a link between the amateur and the professional game.

In something of a precursor to the current set up, Middlesex and Surrey formed the London Cup for the 2015 season, a one off T20 match between the two London based counties. The London Championship followed, albeit five years later with Kent and Essex joining the capital counties. Sussex followed suit a year later, dictating that they would soon compete in two regional competitions.

Within a year the East of England Women's County Championship had been formed, initially with a purely National Counties membership consisting of Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Huntingdonshire and Norfolk. Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire joined for the 2021 season whilst Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Suffolk for the 2022 campaign, although Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire have all since withdrawn.

Further pieces to the puzzle were added for the aforementioned 2022 season in the form of the West Midlands Regional Cup, featuring Staffordshire, Wales, a conglomerate of Warwickshire and Shropshire and Worcestershire whilst the Southern Vipers launched the South Central Counties Cup for their region involving Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Oxfordshire and Sussex.

It is to the latter competition that one has ventured for a sample of the various regional tournaments and the famous May's Bounty ground in Basingstoke for Hampshire's contest with their neighbours to the north, Berkshire. Perhaps of particular intrigue is how the non first-class counties will compete, especially when one considers that their respective boards are required to operate on a shoestring budget in comparison to their top-flight brethren. Nevertheless, after three rounds of the competition, today's counties sit first and second in the table with two victories apiece, only separated by run rate along with third placed Sussex; Berkshire very much keeping apace alongside their first class compatriots. Under such



circumstances, one ponders whether the divide between first class counties and the national counties in the mens game is as prevalent or pronounced amongst the women's equivalent. In light of the new competitions, one ponders which regions will follow suit with their own equivalents. Something in the south-west under the Western Storm umbrella involving counties such as Somerset, Gloucestershire, Devon and Cornwall, amongst others, would prove an obvious development whilst there would certainly appear scope for northern counties to form a competition involving either or both of the Northern Diamonds and the North West Thunder. Almost inevitably, success and growth at the upper levels of the domestic game arguably dictates that an expanded infrastructure beneath is required to provide the required support and foundations going forward.

NCCA - ONES TO WATCH August 30th

Bucks slow left arm spinner Conner Haddow was highlighted as one of the National Counties players to watch this month



Buckinghamshire's success over the past two seasons has been very much a collaborative team effort but slow left-armer Conner Haddow has emerged as one of their stand-out individual performers. Having taken 22 wickets to help Buckinghamshire clinch the Eastern Division Two title and promotion in 2022 he has taken 25 more wickets this season to take them to the top of Eastern Division One and a final showdown with Devon. Only Hertfordshire's Ben Waring and Staffordshire's Tom Brett, two more slow left-armers – have taken more wickets but neither as cheaply as Haddow's average of 14.92 per wicket.

The 23-year-old began the Durant Cricket National Counties Championship season with a ten wicket match haul to set up victory over Norfolk at Tring and followed up with a career-best six for 97 in the second innings of the victory over Staffordshire at West Bromwich Dartmouth having taken three without conceding a run at the end of the first innings. Haddow will return to West Bromwich Dartmouth for the final hoping to help Buckinghamshire avenge a defeat at Exmouth in the 2006 final, which the last time they faced Devon in the competition.

He will also be hoping that his efforts this season have been noted by scouts from the first-class counties having trialled extensively with Northamptonshire between 2017 and 2019 while he was on the Academy at Wantage Road. Haddow, who plays his club cricket for High Wycombe, also played against Worcestershire and Derbyshire last season for Oxford UCCE and for the National Counties representative side in their annual match against MCC at Banbury.

Does the First Class Game have a Future?

By Bucks and Middlesex counties Life member Jonathan Lilley

Over the centuries the noble art has a commendable record on reinventing itself as times and when fashions have changed. Perhaps 1963 with the introduction of the then Gillette Cup and one day cricket has seen the most radical change since the end of the second world war. The one day game has metamorphosed into many variants across the cricket world with perhaps the so called The 100 being the latest example. In this country the ECB has stretched the domestic season from early April to late September and even early October. Perhaps one day we will have a Boxing day test at Lord's?

A major effect of the stretched season is that mainly the county championship has been pushed to the margins of the season. The weather can be indifferent with chilly days, green pitches and wet outfielders. The few hardy spectators who attend these matches may be seen wrapped in scarves, many layers of sweaters and consuming endless hot drinks. This hardly lends itself to the players learning their respective trades. Before 1963 the county championship was the pinnacle which every county wanted to win. (alas two counties have still not won it). Even in 2023 I believe each county wants to be crowned county champions.

The introduction in 2000 of two divisions has certainly not helped some counties in this quest resulting in certain clubs deo facto concentrating on the one day competitions. This does not help the development of players for the England test team. In recent times various plans and reports such as the Strauss enquiry have suggested reducing county games to ten per season. Thankfully the counties threw this idea out.

It has to be acknowledged that one day cricket does help the finances of all counties but the county championship is the arena where young players learn and hone their crafts. This can best be achieved if the championship is spread equally over the six months of the domestic season. In the medium term (five years) I remain confident the county championship will remain. I am however not so certain that all eighteen counties will survive and we could be reduced to about twelve. If this was to happen this would further dilute the four day game and probably mean the marketing men have won.

Jonathan Lilley August 2023

MORE THAN A GAME

“ But after all it’s not winning that matters, is it? Or is it?
It’s – to coin a word – the amenities that count:
the smell of the dandelions, the puff of the
pipe, the click of the bat, the rain on the neck,
the chill down the spine,

the slow exquisite coming on of sunset and dinner and rheumatism”

ALISTAIR COOKE

On a slightly less serious note

In the world of village cricket, playing areas come in all shapes and sizes

Spout House Cricket Club, North Yorkshire



However, few are as idiosyncratic as Spout House on the North York Moors. The ground is a working sheep farm with a one-in-seven slope and six-inch high grass. About halfway down is a less steep area just wide enough to fit three pitches. On match days the sheep are ushered into an adjoining field while the team roll the pitch using a magnificent Victorian sandstone roller, possibly the only working model of its kind. The farm’s stone walls form the boundaries. On one of them are memorials to William Ainsley and his grandson William George who between them ran the club for an unbroken span of 138 years.

Bucks skipper interviewed ahead of Final against



Devon

Tom Hampton in discussion with Andy Bone of Sports Shots a few days ago

Tom Hampton has discussed Bucks Cricket Men's 1st XI ahead of their Durant NCCA Championship Final encounter, starting on Sunday (3rd September).

The Bucks skipper has always been open about the red ball project after the Minor Counties became the new-look National Counties in the autumn of 2020. With no red ball cricket played in 2020 due to the pandemic, it was the final standings of 2019 which saw both the Eastern and Western Divisions split into two divisions of five teams. Bucks finished in seventh in 2019 so went into the new Eastern Division 2. The aim of improving the club's status in Championship cricket was one of the items listed high on the agenda when the captain met with the management team three years ago. The red ball project was on the table, as Hampton explained.

“When the divisions were split into two, with promotion and relegation, we started to think about how we were going to make our way back into the top league and then push for a shot at the title. This coincided with the make up of the squad changing for a number of reasons, so it seemed to make a lot of sense. At the time we felt we had a squad suited for some red ball success.”

One of the first decisions to get spot on was a big one, the appointment of a quality professional, not one who just gave performances on the field, but one who set the standards in an environment that the club wanted to build.

“It was something Jason (Harrison) and myself spoke a lot about. We went through a number of options but once we came to Cub (Alexei Kervezee) we were both certain he was the guy we wanted. It was a huge moment when he committed to us and has



proven to be even better than we thought.

As you say, not only in his performances on the field but his attitude and work ethic off the field is hugely impressive and definitely helps the squad in terms of setting the standards.” The introduction of Jack Perham to add to the experience, and to compliment, Jason Harrison and Simon Stanway was another piece of the jigsaw, bringing in a specialist role of a Strength and Conditioning Coach. Like Kervezee, Perham was an excellent fit and, more importantly, everyone has bought into the work and direction.

Again, Hampton enthused about the individual and the role.



“Jack has been superb, he brings energy, enthusiasm, and a real drive to help the squad improve physically and as a fielding group. It’s been great to see the guys buy in to what he has asked and to see individuals and the team reap rewards from it is really pleasing.”

Tied in with the above additions, the merger between club and board to create the new Bucks Cricket has been another positive in Hampton's eyes. With a recognisable aligned pathway between juniors and seniors, and many other positives, such as adding Managing Director Rich Hudson to the already established committee.

“The alignment between the two is brilliant and I think the uniformity throughout the two now is hugely important, and even though it only came into play this year you feel it is something that will continue to help improve Bucks Cricket.”

With three pathway players from the under 18s in the squad for the final, already the statistics are supporting that the system is working successfully. The one consistent from off the field is the management team of the experienced, and highly respected duo of Jason Harrison and Simon Stanway. Something Hampton quickly acknowledges in the *major part they have played in being in the process from the beginning.*

“Jas and Stan are a brilliant double act, both similar in terms of thinking about and seeing the game, but quite different personalities which bounce off each other really well. As you've mentioned they are the ever-present in the set up and both have vast experience for the guys to lean on and learn from. They both bring a calmness to the group but a determination to be successful. Their impact on this group of players and the success we have had in 3 day cricket is huge.”

Despite putting the infrastructure in place, the players have still needed to deliver on the field over time. So what does Hampton think has been the key drivers to the playing success? Interestingly, the skipper also highlights lessons learnt in defeat that have helped bring results.

“The key message to the group in red ball cricket was that we needed to be willing to perform for long periods of time and bring the same energy and commitment from session one, Day 1 to the last session of Day 3, every game. To be fair to the lads, they bought into this and for the most part have delivered. Looking back, I think the loss up in Barrow (to Cumbria) was a big moment, we didn’t play too badly but had a couple of poor sessions, which ultimately cost us promotion in year one.

As frustrating as this was, I think it helped back up the fact that one or two poor sessions can cost you everything. The next key moment for me was the first game against Herts the following year on a placid wicket. We ended up fielding for the best part of 200 overs to force the result and win the game. I think at that moment we realised we could do it, and then from there momentum has played a big part in our success.”

With back-to-back title wins, Devon, the Western Division 1 winners stand in the way of lifting the trophy in the game at West Bromwich Dartmouth Cricket Club.

"I don't think I have ever played Devon, so it will be nice to play a side we really don't know a huge amount about. There are some strong sides in the Western division, so to win the group they have got to be a strong outfit. We really enjoyed our three days in West Brom for the Staffs game. The wicket and the efforts from their ground staff were brilliant, and the hospitality from the club was amazing, so we can't wait to get back there and hopefully put in a good performance."

So how does Hampton reflect on 2023 and what does he think looking forwards.

"Mixed emotions again, frustrated about our form in white ball cricket and we need to find a way of being more consistent in both those two formats. But really proud to be in the Championship final. The guys have worked really hard for three years in 3-day cricket and to get a shot at the title is going to be awesome. Also really pleased that we have had some new young faces come into sides this summer and perform which is always really pleasing. We haven't really started to look too far ahead at this stage but I'm sure the management group will be straight onto next summer once the final is done."

In closing, Hampton is looking forward to the final.

"We would like to wish Devon a safe journey up to West Brom and look forward to seeing a few Bucks supporters over the 4 days.

Finally, as always, a huge thank you to Sports Shots for their continued support. It means a lot to the guys to get such good coverage, and helps keep moving the County forward."

Bucks Annual Golf Day and Dinner

Thursday 28 September

At Burnham Beeches Golf Club Green Lane, Burnham, Slough S11 2EG

There will be the usual individual prize plus a team prize. This will be played in 4's with the best two stableford scores to count. You may apply individually or make up a team.

The programme of the day is as follows

12:00 pm - Meet at the Club for coffee and sandwiches 1:00 pm - First match tees off

7:00 pm - Non Golfers who are attending the dinner arrive

7:30 pm - Dinner with guest speaker David Ripley (ex-Northants wicket keeper/batsman)

11:00 pm (approx.) - finish

The menu is Smoked Haddock fishcake with tartare sauce, Chicken Supreme in a creamy white wine sauce with new potatoes, Lemon Tart with Creme fraiche and a raspberry coulis

Ticket prices

Golf and dinner £110.00 pp Golf only £80.00 pp

Dinner only £45.00 pp

Friends of Bucks Dinner £40.00 pp

Please complete the attached form and return by email to john.phillips@bucksccc.org.uk

John Phillips Hon. Treasurer

Telephone 01494 721244

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



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: bucksccricket.co.uk

Twitter : @BucksCricket

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/>

BucksCricket Instagram: [bucksccricket.official](https://www.instagram.com/bucksccricket)

SUPPORT BUCKS CRICKET

By joining Bucks County Cricket Club

The County Club and the Bucks Cricket Board 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

April 202

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.

Bill Scholes

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

STOP PRESS

Bucks squad to face Devon in the Final



Bucks Men's 1st XI Championship Final

- 19 AJ Woodland (High Wycombe)
- E Cox (Buckingham)
- 5 C Marrow (Gerrards Cross)
- 9 A Sharma (Great Brickhill)
- 42 A Kervezee (Halesowen)
- 44 R Richardson (Blackheath) WK
- 7 E Bragg (Halesowen)
- 31 G Harvey (Eastcote) WK
- 17 C Parsons (High Wycombe)
- 13 T Fleming (Gerrards Cross)
- 6 C Haddow (High Wycombe)
- 24 T Weymes (Tring Park)
- 8 T Hampton (High Wycombe) capt



Wolters
Kluwer

10:30am 3rd-6th September
@ West Brom & Dartmouth CC

