

COLOURED TROUSERS No 19



BUCKS COUNTY CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bill Scholes

6 is the Magic Number

Where else to start this mid season edition but with a superb 6 wicket victory in our opening National Counties Championship Eastern Division One campaign against Norfolk at Tring Park, last weekend. We ended our 2021 campaign with a convincing 10 wicket victory over Hertfordshire, again at Tring Park, and followed that up last season with victories over Hertfordshire, Cumbria, Northumberland and Cambridgeshire (also at Tring). Back at Tring again for this season's opener, and our 6th championship victory in succession. The outcome of the match saw sawed throughout the three days, with both sides spending time in the ascendancy, but it was not until Ross Richardson struck a lusty blow for four late on Tuesday afternoon with time running out and just over 4 overs remaining that the celebrations could begin.

Captain Tom won the toss on the first day, and opted to give Norfolk first dibs on what looked to be an excellent wicket. Bucks seemed in control, when they reduced Norfolk to 122-7 and the crowd were looking forward to seeing Bucks bat for around 50 overs. However the Norfolk tail had other ideas and Callum Metcalf (100) and Brett Stolworthy (66no) shared a lengthy eighth-wicket stand of 153. This broke the previous Norfolk record that had stood for 118 years set against Cambridgeshire at Lakenham in 1905. Callum Metcalf's 100 came from only 120 balls but the partnership was eventually broken after Conner Haddow finally snaffled him, caught by AJ Woodland. There was just time before Norfolk's 90 overs were up for Conner to claim his 5th wicket, Alexei Kervezee catching Andy Hanby for 2, to wrap up the innings on 299-9. Left-arm spinner 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 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, and in the face of some tight and accurate bowling, Norfolk were always struggling to stretch their advantage. A 4th wicket partnership of 80 between Tom New and De Lucchi gave us some concern but once Haddow had removed both men, the remaining batsmen could only add a further 21 runs and Norfolk came to an end on 195 from 78.5 overs, leaving Bucks needing to score 244 to win the match. Haddow returned his second five-wicket haul of the match 5-31 from 20.5 overs, to finish with outstanding match-figures of 10-136. Incidentally, in our last championship match, also here at Tring Park, Conner recorded another 10 wicket haul – this time 10 – 123.



For the second time in just over a year, a Bucks match was interrupted by an occurrence from the air. Last year at Dorchester, play was held up to allow an Air Ambulance to land, and in this game at Tring during Norfolk's first innings, play was disrupted as all on field players had to lie flat on the floor to avoid being stung as a large swarm of bees flew across the pitch! (See below)



Bucks's target of 244 from 60 overs seemed gettable on an excellent pitch and fast outfield (huge credit must go to Doyley and all the ground staff at Tring) - and so it proved as the expected rain held off. Opener AJ Woodland got Bucks off to flying start with a splendid 91 from 114 balls - his second half-century of the game – as he shared a second-wicket stand of 79 with Chris Marrow (37). It was then down to ex skipper Michael Payne who rolled back the years with an unbeaten 54 from 51 balls and Ross Richardson, who hit two sixes in his fluent 39, to lead Bucks to victory with 4.3 overs to spare.



Michael Payne and Ross Richardson walk off having secured an important victory

Next up for Bucks in the championship is an away trip to play Staffordshire at the West Bromwich Dartmouth ground, B71 4JQ, starting on Sunday June 23. Another new ground for Bucks, as we have never visited before but it was used last season for the Championship Final between Berkshire and Lincolnshire, and I believe will also be used again for the Final this season. It has also seen action in ICC Trophy matches in the late 1970's and 80's, featuring Zimbabwe, Bermuda, Bangladesh, West Africa, Singapore and Papua New Guinea.



We then return to Chesham for our third match, which will be against Lincolnshire, on 6th-8th August, before we finish up our Division One campaign away at Copdock & Old Ipswichian IP8 3NJ, against Suffolk on August 20th -22nd. Ground below. We have only played there once before, back in 1993 when the championship was only 2 days, and the match was drawn. Opening the batting for Bucks was a certain Jason Harrison.



SUFFOLK V STAFFORDSHIRE

In the other Eastern Division One match, James Kettleborough and Tom Brett, two winter recruits from Bedfordshire, impressed on their Championship debuts for **Staffordshire** who beat **Suffolk** by 51 runs at Bury St Edmunds. Kettleborough made 141 in the first innings and 92 in the second which shored up Staffordshire who struggled on a turning pitch

Brett, a proven match-winner during his time with Bedfordshire, took five for 79 – his 12th five wicket haul in the Championship – to calm Staffordshire’s nerves on the final day.

NEW HEADLINE SPONSOR FOR BUCKS CRICKET



Bucks Cricket are extremely grateful to Wolters Kluwer for their very generous sponsorship of all of the new Bucks cricket kit, covering all age groups and Bucks Men and Women. Wolters Kluwer provide information, software solutions, and services for professionals in the health, tax and accounting, finance, risk and compliance, and legal sectors. Below are two photos of the Bucks Mens and Womens teams wearing the new coloured clothing – the mens at the recent KO Trophy match away at Moddershall & Oulton v Staffordshire., and the womens at their ECB T20 Cup fixture at Uxbridge v Hampshire earlier this season.

BUCKS MENS 1st XI



BUCKS WOMENS 1st XI



A BRIEF REVIEW OF OUR K.O. TROPHY CAMPAIGN

Wiltshire v Bucks Monday 29th May @ Marlborough College

We made a disappointing start to their National Counties Trophy campaign when we lost by three wickets to Wiltshire in our opening 50-over group game.

Batting first after winning the toss, we seemed well-placed at 109-2 at the half-way mark, after useful contributions from Alexei Kervezee (45), AJ Woodland (30) Ewan Cox (26) and Teddie Casterton (27), but a middle-order collapse saw us slip to 183-8, and it needed a valuable 31 from Conner Haddow as our last two wickets added 57 from the final ten overs to end on 240 in 49.2 overs. Wiltshire got off to a flying start in reply against the Bucks opening attack, reaching 109-2 in 20.3 overs. But tight bowling by Woodland, Haddow and Ed Bragg reduced them to 170-6, before Wiltshire captain Ed Young (75 off 88 balls), scored the only half-century of the match to see his side home.

Bucks v Dorset Sunday 4 June @ Gerrards Cross

Bucks won the toss and invited the visitors to bat, a decision which paid dividends early on as seamer Ed Bragg (4-42) removed Dorset skipper Luke Webb (12). He then induced Hampshire talent Felix Organ (21) into offering a catch and later removed England Under-19s Joseph Eckland (6). However, Sam Young rallied for Dorset in partnership with Alex Eckland and they piled on 179 for the fourth wicket. Although Eckland (80) perished with a century in his sights, Young (132no) was striking the ball to all parts, smacking seven fours and eight maximums in his 118-ball stay. Buckinghamshire saw Bragg return to remove Jacob Gordon first ball and Thomas Hampton (2-65) claimed a late brace, but Dorset crunched 27 runs in the final 12 balls to finish on 275-7 in their 50 overs.

Dorset got off to a dream start in their defence, outstanding young seamer Toby Pattermore taking four wickets including the prize scalp of ex-Netherlands international Alexei Kervezee (8). Bucks were 35-4 but recovered to 104-4 as AJ Woodland and Chris Marrow (32) steadied the ship. Dorset delivered the telling blows in the middle overs, though, as spinner Connor Smith (2-33) took two quick wickets after David Scott removed Marrow. And a run out by Ollie Breckon ensured the pressure intensified on opener Woodland to keep Bucks alive. He responded by moving onto 74 before being stumped off Gordon (1-23). Finishing off the innings in style was Pattermore (5-52), who secured his maiden fiver by bowling Hampton, whose 30 from 16 balls proved in vain as the hosts fell to 180 all out.

Staffordshire v Bucks on Sunday 18th June @ Moddershall and Oulton

We finally picked up two points with an away win against Staffordshire, one of the favourites and recent winners of the National T20 competition. This first victory of the season came by 26 runs on the DLS system in a rain-affected match. Staffordshire, who chose to bat first, reached 259-9 from their 50 overs. At 129-1 after just 17 overs, the hosts seemed set to score well in excess of 300. But a brilliant spell of 5-44 in ten overs from Harefield leg-spinner Stephen Croft,- his best recorded figures in the K.O. Trophy- well supported by young Gerrards Cross left-arm spinner Teddy Fleming (2-45) on his debut, held them back. Thanks to a fluent unbeaten 55 from 61 balls from AJ Woodland, who hit ten fours, and useful supporting innings from both Ewan Cox and Chris Marrow, we kept Bucks well ahead of the asking rate at 105-1 when the forecast thunderstorm hit the hilltop ground.

Bucks v Wales NC on Sunday 25th June @ Slough

Unfortunately we could not finish our campaign with a flourish as we fell to a heavy, nine-wicket defeat against Wales National Counties. With just win from four matches, it meant that we finished bottom of Group 4 in the 50-overs competition. Winning the toss, we opted to bat first and started briskly, scoring 15 from the first two overs; progress however was halted when opener Ewan Cox sustained a nasty blow to his hand, causing him to retire hurt with a suspected broken finger. Fortunately, although still in pain, he was able to return to the crease at the fall of the fourth wicket but, by then, some injudicious batting had reduced us to 84/4 in the 15th over. Ewan showed courage and determination, being the eighth man out, for 39 from 67 balls, but few others showed the same application and we subsided to 161 in 41.3 overs. Wales bowler Sam Pearce took 4-22 from his ten overs.

After losing an early wicket, Wales were guided home by Cameron Hemp (80*) and Steffan Roberts (71*), who added an unbroken 145 for the second wicket as the visitors reached 167-1 in 43.3 overs. Leg-spinner Stephen Croft was the best Bucks bowler with 0-26 from his ten overs.

K.O. TROPHY FINAL GROUP 4 TABLE

	P	W	L	A	NRR	PTS
Dorset	4	3	0		0.41	6
Wiltshire	4	2	0	1	1.13	5
Staffordshire	4	1	2	1	0.02	3
Wales NC	4	1	2		-0.66	4
Bucks	4	1	3		-0.59	2

Bucks Batting and Bowling Averages can be found in Appendix at end of Newsletter

BUCKS WOMEN

Bucks Women now mirror Bucks Men with Player Caps



Chloe Hill and Cara Duggan were presented with their 'capped player' caps from Bucks Cricket's Head of Performance, Jason Harrison before the Women's 1st XI played Hampshire in the 50 over South Central Cup.

The capped player system has been brought in for the Women's team to mirror the Men's team and to inspire current and future Women's Cricketers in Bucks to higher achievements. Capped players wear a Silver Swan on their caps and playing shirts.

To kick-off the Women's capped player system, 10 players, see list below, have been identified that have either scored 750+ runs for the Women's team, taken 50+ wickets or have made a wider contribution to Women's Cricket beyond Bucks.

Janet Godman (1)	Born in High Wycombe, won World Cup in 1993, returned to play and coach for Bucks in 2016	Anna Harris (6)	International Umpire
Judith Turner (2)	67 wickets and 709 runs	Chloe Hill (7)	670 runs, Southern Vipers contracted and Bucks Girls Pathway Coach
Martha Manktelow (3)	53 wickets	Ella Claridge (8)	1618 runs, 20 catches & 25 stumpings
Sue Benson (4)	869 runs	Cara Duggan (9)	845 runs and 47 wickets
Hannah Bates (5)	1143 runs and 46 wickets	Bethan Miles (10)	56 wickets and 460 runs

BUCKS WOMENS UPCOMING FIXTURES

50 OVERS ECB SOUTH CENTRAL CUP

The South Central Counties cup began its second year on Thursday 1st June as Oxfordshire played Dorset at Kingston Bagpuize CC, and Sussex hosted Berkshire at Brighton Aldridge Community Academy. On Friday 2nd June, Buckinghamshire hosted Hampshire at Uxbridge CC.

Buckinghamshire v Hampshire

On a beautifully sunny day at Uxbridge, Buckinghamshire batted first against a strong Hampshire side containing four Southern Vipers and Vipers Academy players, and the visitors had the exactly the start they wanted, as Sophie Mitchelmore pinned Isabella James lbw first ball.

Vipers wicket-keeper Chloe Hill was then rapped on the pads by Clover Crosse, and the home side found themselves on 14-2.

Abbie Whybrow and Cara Duggan began to rebuild with a partnership of 39 before the former was caught behind off the bowling of Caitie Croft for 15, and Duggan went soon after for 23.

Rosie Lloyd and Amber Drewe set about steadying the ship for Bucks, with the latter making 45 before she was bowled by spinner Eve O'Neill.

Then, it was the turn of Hampshire captain Charlotte Taylor to join the party, as she took the final three wickets to claim figures of 3-25 off her ten overs, as Buckinghamshire were bowled out for 186 with an over to spare.

Bucks would've felt well and truly in the game when Mia Clark was run out by Maisie Taylor for a single in the fifth over, but from that point, it was all about the Hampshire batters.

Opener Ashneet Chahal and the experienced Dani Ransley put on 164 for the second wicket, bringing up the 150 partnership at quicker than a run-a-ball.

Ransley secured her fifty off just 47 balls in the 20th over, hitting nine fours along the way, whilst Chahal kept the scoreboard ticking over as she finished on 47*.

The Hampshire number three eventually went for 83, bowled by Natasha MacBean, who quickly picked up the wicket of Charlotte Taylor for four, but Hampshire needed just five runs to seal the deal.

Just six balls after Taylor's dismissal, the Rose and Crown had won with seven wickets in hand and 17.4 overs to spare.

Date		Opposition	Venue
Wed 26 July		Dorset	Kilmington & Stourton CC
Fri 4 Aug		Sussex	Away
Fri 11 Aug		OXFORDSHIRE	MARLOW
Thur 17 Aug		Berkshire	Wormsley
Wed 23 Aug	Friendly	MCC XI	CHESHAM

BUCKS WOMENS U-18s

Up Coming Fixtures

Date	Opposition	Venue
July 15 th	Essex	Chigwell School
July 20th	NORTHANTS	ASCOTT PARK
July 28th	HERTFORDSHIRE	ASCOTT PARK
31 st July	Hertfordshire	Cokenach
August 7th	SUSSEX	1.30
August 7th	BERKSHIRE	4.30
August 14th	HERTFORDSHIRE	10.30
August 14th	SUFFOLK	4.30
August 21 st	Kent	10.30
August 21 st	Middlesex	1.30
August 28 th	Essex	1.30
August 28 th	Surrey	4.30
		Banstead
		Banstead

BUCKS MENS SECOND ELEVEN FIXTURES

Date	Opposition	Venue
June 29	Berkshire	Cookham
July 4, 5, & 6	SUFFOLK	HIGH WYCOMBE
July 12	BERKSHIRE	MARLOW
July 17, 18 & 19	Northamptonshire	Away
August 19	OXFORDSHIRE	AMERSHAM
August 23	Benyon Cup	Bishops Stortford
August 29, 30 & 31	Suffolk	Away

Bucks Second X1's first outing of the season ended in a heavy defeat to Berkshire 2nd's by 224 runs. Berkshire set a formidable target of 360 runs, Billy Mead top scoring with 109. Pick of the Bucks bowlers was Tom Weymes with 5-75, with 2 from Hashan Ramanadpulle and 1 from Mo Choudry. In reply Bucks could only muster 136, with Aadi Sharma top scoring with 44.

In their second match, a 3 dayer against Suffolk at H.W.C.C., Bucks also lost, but not so heavily this time, the deficit being 88 runs. Suffolk posted 262-9 dec in their first innings, pick of the Bucks bowlers being spinner Teddy Fleming with 4-54. In reply struggled to put a decent total together, and only a 10 wicket partnership worth 73 between two spinners, Stephen Croft (51 no) and Fleming(28) pushed the total up to 140. Suffolk pushed on in their second innings, adding 211 to the lead, despite 3 wickets from Croft and 2 from Mo Choudry. Bucks made a better fist of the second innings, with good contributions from Kahil Jariwala(70), Hashan Ramanadpulle (44) and M.Harsham, but eventually fell 88 runs short.

It was 3rd time lucky for Bucks at Marlow as they gained a modicum of revenge over Berkshire with a 3 run victory in a 50 over match. There were useful contributions from Hashan(33) Aadi Sharma(30), M.Harsham(25) and Mo (21) as Bucks reached 197 with just over an over left. Hashan was the pick of the Bucks bowlers with 4-41, whilst Croft and Mo added two wickets apiece as they restricted the visitors to 194 all out.

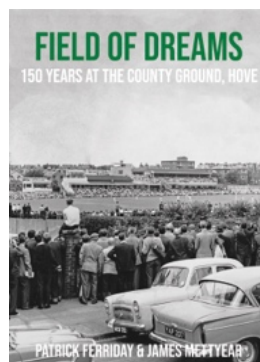


Why not have a day by the seaside and support your club

Come on down, the waters are warm!

And to whet your appetite for our Showcase Match against Sussex at Hove, below is an excellent article written by Annie Chave, editor and director of her very own website and booklet *County Cricket Matters*, and kindly reproduced below.

Field of Dreams 150 years at the County Ground Hove by Patrick Ferriday & James Mettyear



Come to Hove by the sea – there should be a banner across the sky that points you in silver lights to a seaside hugging ground that encompasses everything that is good about coastal cricket and if you could have a guidebook that gives you all the information you require then *Field of Dreams* is the *Lonely Planet* equivalent.

One of the genuine wonders of county cricket grounds is the fascinating and complicated history woven into the existence of each proud club, the long list of star players who linger and remain alive in the scattered stands, in the proud pavilions, in the grand structure of the gates, on every wall and in the excited whispers of the crowd. Hove, celebrating its 150 years, is no different; from Fry and Ranjitsinhji

through to Greig, Dexter and Imran it's had its superstars, and this book explores them all: but *Field of Dreams* is far more than a potted history of players. It is a smorgasbord of historical facts followed by a dessert of delicious 'cricket prints'. This is the book every county should commission, one which not only chronicles the history of the ground and the players, but also celebrates those behind the scenes and the forgotten supporters. The importance of community is often underrated, but it is part of the make-up at Hove, and that spirit is brilliantly brought to life on every page.

There's something wonderful about following Patrick's carefully researched history of the ground. He shows the same dogged detailing that he did in his book on Wilfred Rhodes, is careful to cover all corners, even the round ones, yet in a seemingly haphazard way. Each story, each dream, grows like an independent blade of grass in that field of dreams.

Hove has had its financial heroes: Lord Sheffield, Lance Knowles and Spen Cama have been instrumental in saving the county from financial oblivion, and these costs and payments are painstakingly covered in such a way as not only to illustrate a growingly greedy world, but also to give a fascinating insight into the challenges each county faces and has always faced.

It is the second section of the book that makes it so powerful: not separately, but as a follow-up to the first. The two styles gel so well together. The dreams don't lie only in the history of the stands, the players and the games. They are there in the ground staff, the stewards, the office staff and the fans. James is a wordsmith, and the characters he captures, the people who make Hove the feel-good place it is, are charming and brilliantly brought to life. You cannot go to Hove without being aware of Brenda and her control of the balls, and nor should you. And Sam is the perfect steward, so invested in the club that his absence is unthinkable. John Barclay and Georgia Adams are the perfect swan song to the book.

In short, this book is a delight, and it is right that it was written in collaboration, because that is exactly how the Hove experience hits you

Do you remember **Funky Dunky?**

A Previous Bucks and Sussex Connection –

Guess who was No 2 in a *Top Ten of English Cult heroes of the 90's 00's* – published in All Out Cricket magazine? None other than **Duncan Spencer**, who played for Sussex and Bucks in 2006. Below is the magazine's take on Funky Dunky.

"He may have looked a bit on the short side, but there was nothing lacking in the pace that Spenser generated. Born in Lancs, but schooled in Australia, he burst onto the domestic scene with Kent in 1993 by bowling some of the fastest spells seen on the county grounds of England in the 1990's. Staggeringly quick, yet unerringly erratic, he reportedly found bowling tiresome. He dropped out of the county game after suffering back trouble, but not before Sir Viv Richards rated him as the fastest bowler he had ever faced. He re-emerged in 2006 playing for Sussex (I remember seeing him at Hove – Ed) before helping Bucks to reach the Minor Counties Final in the same year. All of which was achieved after previously testing positive for the banned substance Nandralone in 2001 and receiving an 18 month ban"

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SENIORS Over 60s/70s ----Update as at 2nd July

The season so far;

	P	W	L	CAN	POS	OUT OF
Over 60s 1 st Eleven	9	4	5	0	4	6
Over 60s 2 nd Eleven	8	2	4	2	5	7
Over 60s 3 rd Eleven	7	1	5	1	6	7
Over 60s 4 th Eleven	8	1	7		6	6
Over 70s Joint XI	9	5	3	1	10	21
Over 70s Joint 2 nd XI	8	2	6		6	6

The first eleven need to win their final match v Bedfordshire on Tuesday to have a home draw for the knock out stage.

New player Michael Farnon made 101 on debut followed by 87 in the next match. Anant Peshavaria and Nigel Field have chipped in with regular runs and Bob Fryer has led the bowling attack well

The second XI have Ade Johnson to thank for a rich vein of form with the bat, including 2 fifties and a sparkling 129 in a loss to Suffolk. Unfortunately for the 2nds he has moved up to the first eleven for now.

The third and fourth XIs have both struggled due to unavailability and injuries, generally in higher teams which affects their strength. They both have one victory so far this season and will be hoping for better in the final few matches of the season. We have welcomed a few new players at Over 60s level but injuries and unavailability has taken its toll on all teams.

The 70s joint team with Berkshire is suffering from a loss of several players from last season, which affects the 70s 2nd XI with Middlesex too.

The 1st XI will be hoping for wins in their final three matches to make the play offs which feature the top 8 Counties.

After a tough start to the season the 2nd XI has won two matches and will be hoping for more in the coming week

ONE DAY AT A TIME - The History of Limited Overs cricket in 25 matches

One Day At A Time uses selected matches from the past 60 years to tell the story of limited-overs cricket.

The Author David Tossell lives in Buckinghamshire, whom he is proud to represent I and skipper the Bucks over-60s.

He has been writing about sport for more than four decades and is the author of 18 previous books. He has been short-listed seven times in the British Sports Book Awards – and twice for MCC/Cricket Society Book of the Year, for Grovel! (2008) and Following On (2011). He was the long-time head of European public affairs for the NFL and previously executive sports editor of the Today newspaper.

Signed copies of David's book are available to all Bucks members at a reduced cost of £15

Please let Ron Hedley or David know if you would like to purchase a copy. There will be a small donation to Prostate Cancer Research from any sales.

ADVANCE NOTICE

BUCKS C.C.C. ANNUAL GOLF DAY & DINNER

Thursday 27th September 2023

Burnham Beeches Golf Club

For details , please contact John Phillips 01494 721244

Bucks CCC Player Sponsorship

Sponsor a Bucks squad member - for just £50

It's Not Too Late !

Firstly a great big thank you to all individuals/ companies who sponsored a player last season.....and seasons before.

We are continuing with our very successful Sponsor-A_ Player initiative, which raises much need funds for the club. Hopefully last season's sponsors will return this season, but currently only included are those I am definitely aware of.

PLAYER	SPONSOR
Tom Hampton	Sports Shots
Alexei Kervesse	Jonathan Lilley
Michael Payne	Alan Rowlands
AJ Woodland	John Phillips
Teddie Casterton	ETDC Digital Media
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Conner Haddow	
Ross Richardson	
Tom Weymes	Arthur Evans & Graham Parker
Ewan Cox	Steve Peart
Chris Marrow	Frank Russell
Stephen Croft	A W Sales Agencies
Teddy Fleming	
Mo Choudry	
Hashan Ramanadanpulle	

**For details on how to Sponsor a Player, please contact
Bill Scholes (01420 560290) or
Susan Klyne (susanklyne@bucksccc.org.uk)**



NCCA - ONES TO WATCH June 22nd

Bucks all rounder Ed Bragg was highlighted as one of the National Counties players to watch last month.

Former Worcestershire and Netherlands batter Alexei Kervezee has been a key influence on the career of Buckinghamshire all-rounder Ed Bragg. Kervezee, a prolific run-scorer in National Counties cricket first with Shropshire and now with Buckinghamshire, first recruited Bragg from Gloucestershire village club Dumbleton for Birmingham & District Premier League side Halesowen where he is captain.

Kervezee then persuaded Bragg to join him at Buckinghamshire, a move that has given the 21-year-old from Evesham the chance to impress in National Counties cricket. Having helped Buckinghamshire win the National Counties Championship Eastern Division Two title in his first season, Bragg can now look forward to playing top-flight three-day cricket in this season's competition which will be sponsored by Durant Cricket. He also helped Buckinghamshire defeat Surrey in their Showcase match at High Wycombe, taking the wickets of Ryan Patel and Amir Viridi with his seamers then making a brisk unbeaten 27 to see them home by four wickets.

The Grey Ashes

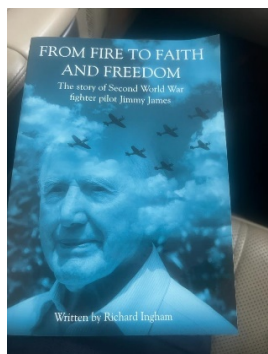
An interesting day out at The Full Moon & Dundridge Manor
Steve White – Bucks Over 50's manager



The Australian O60s are on tour and the first ODI was played at Thame a few days ago. (England lost by 6 wickets). Bucks O50s Manager Steve White is in the England A squad; he wrote the piece below, which is about an event he organised the day before, which was a great success.

When all the players were asked to help sponsor the Grey Ashes I asked our President Trafford Matthews at Hawridge and Cholesbury CC to see if his firm HG Matthews Brick Company would help knowing his interest in Sport especially West Ham being a devoted follower. I explained the

situation and how the company would benefit with national exposure and to add to the experience for the Australians coming to Thame for the first ODI how we could lay on a quintessential English experience for them which included a trip to see his vintage car and agricultural tractor collection stored in his barns at Dundry Manor. In addition his cousin who is the landlord at the Full Moon in Hawridge agreed to lay on a meal as they travelled to the match at Thame from Chelmsford. The Australians arrived at a pub which was originally built in 1693 and with a windmill behind it making it an idyllic site for pictures and experience real England and its rich history.



Local, County and England Management supported the event and to add to the experience we asked a local man of 100 years old who flew with the Australian Airforce in World War 2 in North Africa to the event. He stood for 10 minutes and relayed his time with the Australian Airforce and the jokes they played on him and being shot down and having to bail out of a burning aircraft with only 1000 feet to ensure his parachute opened. He signed his book and gave the Australian party a copy each and received a standing ovation.

After the meal at the pub we went to see the collection at Dundry Manor where a house first stood in 1197 but was rebuilt in the Tudor period with barns, full moat and drawbridge as entrance to the property. Overall we were there for around an 1 and half hours with time spent in the gardens, seeing the collection and Traffords Mum Katherine in her 80's making tea. When the Australians left to go to Thame they thanked us for showing them English Heritage and hospitality and took away a memorable experience.

Cricket's Ignored Problem

A follow up article to Crickets Forgotten Men

Bucks Life member Jonathan Lilley

As I wrote in an earlier article about cricket's forgotten men the future of new groundsmen is an increasing problem for cricket clubs at all levels. It is becoming increasingly difficult to attract young people to learn the craft. While a love of cricket is not essential a knowledge and understanding of the noble art is highly desirable.

The employment prospects are not attractive. Most clubs will only offer employment for six months a year, the chance to work twelve hours plus a day, seven days a week all for about £20,000 plus a year. There is generally no pension fund, sick pay or formal annual leave arrangements. A young person can earn more working in a supermarket, here there is a pension fund, guaranteed annual leave, sick pay, working in the dry and the prospect of a career in major British company. Surely there is no comparison?

In the next future years the current generation of groundsmen will retire with all their knowledge and experience being lost. It is obvious that without the next generation then cricket will struggle and many clubs will probably close. While in recent years serious money has been introduced into cricket at all levels it seems the trickle down has not reached ground staff. If young people are to be encouraged into the trade

then groundsmen should have modern terms of employment including a decent salary, pension fund, annual leave and the prospect of career progression.

The possible solutions seem straight forward but applying them may be difficult. If sufficient young British people can not be attracted to study as groundsmen then clubs may have to look abroad for help. This in itself may have attractions for trainee and or full groundsmen seeking experience of pitches in England and Wales.

It is clear that the ECB, MCC and all cricket authorities need to address the problem of the lack of future ground staff. Until the terms of employment are properly addressed then currently I am pessimistic about the future of quality cricket pitches in this country.

July 2023

Another excellent blog from Yahoo Over Cow Corner, extolling the virtues of country outgrounds and the journeys thereto.

The Road Less Travelled

Four or five summers ago a penny dropped. Whilst sat in the near empty concrete stands of the Ageas Bowl watching an eminently forgettable and nondescript Second XI Trophy contest, one reached the personal conclusion that one's level of enjoyment at a day's cricket was not necessarily linked to watching one's preferred county / team and / or their success / failure. Rather, much of the joy can be attributed to one's surroundings at any given match; the communing with the natural world and the countryside providing a different impetus and focus.

Last summer another penny dropped. Not only was the notion of watching matches in bucolic climes an instigator of great satisfaction and joy but the journey and sense of adventure generated by venturing to previously unvisited, from a personal perspective, locales provides almost identical satisfaction and joy.

And not necessarily journeys of great distances. Despite personally living in southern Hampshire for all of one's life, there are sections of one's near surrounds and the county at large which one has never visited. The habitual usage of motorways, dual carriageways and main thoroughfares for convenience and time saving measures dictates that one rarely, if ever, uses much of the B road network along with the lanes and minor roads that connect many a village and hamlet. Naturally, where there are villages and hamlets, cricket clubs often reside.

Twelve months previous one undertook such a journey to Ashford Hill, located in the hinterlands of Basingstoke and Newbury oft bi-passed by the M3 and the A34. The journey provoked a sense of wanderlust, to the point where a repeat sojourn, albeit to a slightly closer to home destination, has been undertaken during the current season.

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The destination is the village of Owslebury in central Hampshire, located some five miles to the south-east of Winchester and on the Roman road that runs from the city to the coastal town of Portchester. Once one reaches the Zoological Park at Marwell, the journey really begins, heading along a winding, narrow lane through heavily tree lined sections, the road undulating and acquiescing to the folds of the land to the point where one doesn't quite know in which direction the macadam leads. On a map the route appears flat and straight but in reality the sojourn possesses that sense of adventure and intrigue that is desired. Eventually the road heads through the village with its fine collection of eclectic dwellings; thatched rooves juxtaposed tastefully with newer incarnations.

There is many a time that comments arise regarding how the world has shrunk as a result of mass transportation and the internet but how much of that shrinking has been confined to large cities and towns? Despite such time saving revolutions there are sections of land, space, villages and countryside close to home that we never explore or visit. One has spent one's whole life living in and around southern Hampshire but never visited this semi-rural section of the county despite its close proximity to home.

Tonight's encounter, between Owslebury's Second XI and Ultra Clean, is part of the Winchester and Districts Evening League. The former are something of an anomaly in that they are purely an evening league club at present. Such a scenario is far from unique in midweek league circles but many a club playing just evening matches are teams not attached to clubs, such as Ultra Clean, Willow Tree or Wessex Health in the Winchester League. Owslebury represent the eponymous village and with their anomalous position extended by their possessing a home ground.

The hosts bat first on a balmy but blustery evening and are offered little in the early proceedings but accelerate to 54-1 after six overs. Jordan Banks and Ben Stanbrook strike a succession of boundaries after settling as Owslebury progress to 84-1 at the mid-point of their allocation, a beautifully lofted drive over extra cover from Stanbrook the highlight. Not even a change of ends, upon reaching the ten over point, changes proceedings as wind assisted shots

pepper one straight boundary. With five overs remaining the hosts are trundling along at more than nine runs per over. Ultra Clean's bowling begins to falter and they are further punished by bowling a litany of wides; league rules of three runs per wide particularly penal. Stanbrook retires upon reaching a half century and the scoring rate slows a little in the final overs but the hosts total a formidable 188-2 from their twenty overs.

Owslebury's pleasant home ground resides on a ridge on the northern edge of the village, facing, in one direction across a valley with a view of this corner of the South Downs that will eventually drop into Winchester. For such a rural, village ground the playing area is large; bordered by a row of bungalows on one side and farmers' fields at each end. The ground possesses something of a shallow, upturned bowl shape so that from each end one is naturally peering into the ether, emphasising the countryside location. Currently a shipping container serves as a modest base after the pavilion was lost to a suspected arson attack a year previous. Nevertheless, there is a glorious view to the north-west that includes a thousand acres of sky vista. Perfect for an evening's exploration.

Ultra Clean lose a wicket off of the fifth delivery of their innings and struggle to score early in the chase. In an almost identikit innings to Owslebury, the next two batters settle and begin to find the boundary with regularity, keeping up with the required run rate in reaching 45-2 off of 5 overs. Alex Lushtaq castles Ultra Clean's dangerous batter though, whilst Ed Hallett concedes just four runs from his second over and the visitors momentum is stalled. Incredibly, four wickets fall in the eleventh over, bowled by Hallett, including three in four deliveries, as the Ultra Clean innings dramatically collapses. There is a late riposte but the visitors chances evaporated in the pivotal eleventh over and they are seventy runs short of their target when the final wicket falls.

Upon undertaking the return journey on a trip into rural climes the primary issue is re-tracing one's steps correctly so as to avoid taking a wrong turning. Thankfully, the route, once through Owslebury, is simple to remember and repeat in reverse. Such sojourns to rural climes are important as they allow one to slow down and escape the electronic, digitally dominated age with its proliferation of pings, dings and blips of messages and updates. And, yes, to escape from cricket. Such a statement seems bizarre but barely a day passes without some needless contretemps or faux controversy. Hang around on social media for too long following such madness and one's zeal for the game begins to diminish. Instead, one of many beauties of taking in a match on a balmy sunny evening is being able to bask in the warm afterglow weeks and months down the line. Pictures can be gazed upon, memories strengthened and percolated gently in the mind, revisited during the long winter months; rewards for indulging one's sense of adventure.

UPDATE ON RON HEDLEY'S WALKS FOR PROSTATE CANCER CHARITY

Ron's March, supporting The Bob Willis Fund and Prostate Cancer UK – June update

Three walks in 10 days commenced with the toughest walk so far, a walk from Abergavenny Cricket Club, in Wales to the Summit of Sugar Loaf, part of the Brecon Beacons.

On Wednesday 21st June, twenty walkers from Wales, Worcestershire and Buckinghamshire set off from various points to make the difficult walk to the summit. Due to the complexity of the route, tough, five of us went by car to a car park, part of the way up and then walked towards the summit and to meet the hardy walkers who made the top from Abergavenny Cricket Club in around 2.5 hours. I think the four who joined me in the car did so to keep me company. They made it to the top, unfortunately I did not quite make it.



Glamorgan 2nd XI were playing Sussex 2nd XI at the ground and we passed some lovely time watching cricket and chatting with the locals. We thank Matthew Maynard and Steve Watkin, ex Glamorgan and England cricketers, who signed a Ron's March T shirt to be auctioned at a later date. The Wales total is at £1600 with some more to come in. We thank Alistair Lawson, Ryland and their team for making the walk and fund raising possible.

Wednesday 28th June and Buckinghamshire CCC Over 60s / Over 70s took on the challenge of a walk in every County which plays Over 60s cricket by arranging a walk at The Wormsley Estate of the Getty Family.

We are so thankful to the Getty Family and the cricket team at Wormsley for allowing us to walk the estate, visit the amazing two acre walled garden and then watch a match against The Crusaders from Melbourne, Australia.

Forty people took part and were entertained by Suzie Moutrie of the Getty Estate, skipping 100 times in 1 minute in aid of Cancer Research. We were joined by Bob Willis's widow, Lauren and who could forget Grace, Lauren's four leg friend. The walkers spent around 30 mins taking in the breathtaking walled garden which is probably at its best at the end of June. We are indebted to WENZELS the BAKERS for providing the walkers with lunch and to Stokenchurch Cricket Club for pre walk tea and coffee and an evening barbecue at the Club. The cricket was ok too.



Last Friday the 30th June we linked up with Derbyshire CCC Over 60s and the Derbyshire CCC Charity Foundation as part of their Walkathon to raise funds for both causes. We thank all those who walked for these great causes.

In the morning 30 plus walkers took on the challenge of a twenty mile walk around Derby and some of its cricket grounds. Pat, Ron and Jonathan Mulcahy of Buckinghamshire CCC were joined by Jade Dyer of Prostate Cancer UK. We drove from refreshment place to refreshment place at local cricket clubs to support the walkers. We even helped in the pub designated for the lunch stop when there was a lack of staff. I think the walkers very much enjoyed an endless supply of chips and beer. We are thankful to Georgina of The White Hart, Stanley, near Derby, for her amazing help.

At 4.30pm another 25ish walkers set off on a five mile walk, from and back to the Incora County Cricket Ground, Derby. This time the four of us joined the walkers, Jade having been replaced by David Faragher. Jade had to be back in London for a hen do. To greet our walk the rain came and it made the chances of watching the T20 match between Derbyshire Falcons and Leicestershire Foxes unlikely. However, as the walkers arrived back at the ground around 630pm, the rain stopped and the match commenced. We were delighted to witness a record Derbyshire opening partnership in T20 cricket and a record total for Derbyshire Falcons. Despite a brisk start to their reply Leicestershire consistently lost wickets and fell well short of the total required for victory.

We are so thankful to Mark, Richard and their staff and the volunteers at the Derbyshire CCC Chairty Foundation and to the Club for allowing us to walk, raise funds and watch cricket at their ground. They also donated two signed shirts to be auctioned at a later date.

The Wales Over 60s/70s, the Buckinghamshire CCC Over 60s/70s and the Derbyshire CCC Over 60s totals are to be finalised and will be added to the total soon. Before they are added the total raised has gone over £17000.

At the end of July we walk in Truro with Cornwall Over 60s as they play the Australian National Over 60s team. In September we shall be walking at The County Ground, Taunton, tbc, The Ageas Bowl, Southampton and hopefully at Canterbury, Kent.

To donate go to thebobwillisfund.org/ronsmar

To join a walk contact Ron Hedley at rjhatters1@yahoo.co.uk 01494 812645 or 07710 987 950 and to find out more go to www.bobwillisfund.org/ronsmarch or www.6070cc.co.uk and click on prostate cancer

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

Instagram: [bucksccricket.official](https://www.instagram.com/bucksccricket.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 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 2023

Once again, many thanks to all those who have helped and contributed to Coloured Trousers particularly Kevin Beaumont, Andy Bone. Ron Hedley, Su Klyne, Mike Knox, Rachel Hudson, Jonathan Lilley, Annie Chave and County Cricket Matters, Steve White, and Yahoo Over Cow Corner. Particular thanks to Charlie Carter for all his excellent photos, of both Mens and Womens cricket. All contributions gratefully received of course - why not write an article-join our happy band of literary contributors.and hope to see you in the season, either in a deck chair, strolling along the sea front at Hove, wandering around a boundary somewhere, or possibly in some far flung outpost of a delightful outground.

Bill Scholes

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

APPENDIX

Bucks statistics for this season's K.O. Trophy 2023

Bucks Batting Averages K.O. Trophy 2023

	Name	Mch	Inn	N O	Runs	Mins	Balls	H S	50s	6s	4s	Av
AJ	Woodland	4	4	1	167	368	260	74	2		22	55.67
CPW	Haddow	2	2	1	41	81	63	31*			2	41
AN	Kervezee	4	3	0	75	128	76	45		2	8	25
EAJ	Cox	4	4	0	97	180	146	39			13	24.25
TRG	Hampton	3	2	0	48	33	25	30		5	2	24
CJ	Marrow	4	4	1	69	162	115	32			7	23
ETD	Casterton	3	3	0	53	85	73	27			8	17.67
JST	Denning	1	1	0	13	27	21	13			1	13
RAJ	Richardson	4	3	0	29	42	46	29			5	9.67
SR	Croft	4	3	0	28	74	59	16			3	9.33
T	Fleming	2	1	0	2	16	9	2				2
H	Ramandanpulle	2	1	0	1	5	3	1				1
EWH	Bragg	4	3	0	1	17	14	1				0.33
TG	Weymes	2	2	2	5	29	20	5*				----
JAG	Rodnight	1	0									----

Bucks Bowling Averages K.O.Trophy.2023

	Name	Mch	Ov	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	W	N B	Best	5-Wkt	Av
EW **	Bragg	4	31	2	5	108	2		4-42		21.60
CPW	Haddow	2	20	2	3	74	5		2-37		24.67
AJ	Woodland	4	18	1	3	85	2	1	2-31		28.33
SR	Croft	4	36.2	2	6	173	4		5-44	1	28.83
TRG	Hampton	3	22	1	4	143	10		2-59		35.75
T	Fleming	2	20	1	2	93	1		2-45		46.50

AN	Kervezee	4	16	0	1	52	1		1-27	52.00
TG	Weymes	2	14	1	0	76	3	1	0-20	-----
H	Ramandanpulle	2	8.3	0	0	61	1		0-24	-----
JST	Denning	1	3	0	0	31	6		0-31	-----
JAG	Rodnight	1	3	0	0	32	2		0-32	-----

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