



COLOURED TROUSERS No 5

BUCKS COUNTY CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER

Welcome to Coloured Trousers No 5. We hope you enjoy the read. As I write these notes, it is the middle of May, and the start of the National Counties cricket season is now only a couple of weeks away. As you no doubt, are aware, there will no T20 competition this year, so it's straight into the 50 over Knock Out Trophy. To start with, played on a group basis. Our opponents will be Wales NC, Bedfordshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire. The latter three are of course well known to us, but Wales NC, our first opponents, are very infrequent visitors. We have not played them in a 3-day match since 1991 when the match was at Colwyn Bay, as we left the Western Division in 1992. We have met on seven occasions since then in KO Trophy matches. Three of these matches were at home: at Slough in 2008; Marlow in 2011 and Dinton, for their last visit to Buckinghamshire. The match at Slough was abandoned without a ball being bowled, so only two matches actually took place, both won by Wales. In the latter match, Chris Thomas top scored with 67, whilst Bobby Sher (3-35) and Tom Helm (2-33) were the pick of the bowlers.

Our first Knockout Trophy match since 1919, generously sponsored by J&D Turberville is at High Wycombe C.C. on Sunday 30 May. A new sponsor, Chokar & Co Solicitors, have kindly agreed to sponsor our second home match against Oxfordshire at Gerrards Cross C.C. on Sunday 27 June.

Before the competition proper starts, there is the "warm up friendly" with Oxfordshire on Sunday 23rd May at High Wycombe C.C. for the Nurton-York Trophy. This fixture, named in recognition of former Bucks CCC President Stuart York and Oxford CCC's record run-scorer Mike Nurton, was instituted last year as an annual event following the cancellation of all National Counties competitions.

.....and there is No Run

Since the last edition, First Class cricket has re-started, albeit without spectators for the moment. At last, we can believe that some form of normality will return for the summer. Spectators may not be allowed through the gates at the moment, but the live streaming of all County Championship matches, through the club's websites and also on YouTube, has been a boon to all loyal cricket starved watchers throughout the country. Apparently almost 2 million people have been watching the 4-day Championship matches via live streaming, showing that there is indeed a market for the County Championship – ECB please take note. Personally, I have tuned in to all 3 or 4 days of the 5 Sussex matches so far, and I can honestly say, that in my many years of watching Sussex, that it is the first time I have ever seen all 4 days of a match! Long may it continue, but I have my doubts as to what will happen when spectators are allowed back into the grounds. Clubs will be desperate to get bums on seats, or deckchairs, for revenue purposes, so I would be very surprised if free viewing remains an option. Counties could of course start charging, but where would they pitch the pricing? Could there be a different price structure depending on how near you live to the home ground: the dearer the nearer you live?

Apart from being able to watch Sussex matches, a real bonus for me, has been the ability to see grounds that I have not been to for many years, and indeed, a few not at all. I have been amazed at some of the changes that have taken place at the home grounds: I hardly recognised Bristol! The coverage, both visual and audio, differs from county to county, and whilst some of the camera work is sometimes a bit iffy, I personally like the homespun nature of the local commentators. I have heard and read complaints about a lack of knowledge and too much talking, but what a lot of people don't realise is that you are actually watching with an accompanying radio commentary. The very essence of a good radio commentary, particularly on sport, is that it paints a picture of what is happening for the listener which is what you get. OK, possibly overkill sometimes, but I would rather have that than diddly squat!

All of the above is actually a rather long-winded lead in to inform you that the NCCA are looking for all National Counties clubs to install cameras at all their matches, hopefully from next season. Certainly, the end product will be a great aid to all involved in the game – players, coaches etc – but if live streaming issues can be resolved, this could prove a massive boost to any of our members who are not able to attend matches in person.

Not sure at the moment whether a commentary would be included, but if so, who would be your choice for the voice of Bucks live cricket? Answers on a postcard please.

CONGRATULATIONS TO **SAIF ZAIB** ON HIS MAIDEN 1ST CLASS CENTURY

All at Bucks C.C.C. would like to congratulate Bucks player Saif Zaib on scoring his maiden First Class century for Northamptonshire against Sussex last week. The classy left-hander hammered a superb 135 from 202 balls: hitting 15 fours as he helped Northants. pile on 441 for 9 wickets in reply to Sussex's first innings total of 106 all out. It was all the more impressive as he arrived at the crease with Northants. struggling on 60 for 4 wickets.



Saif made his Northants. first team debut as a 15-year-old, but it has been a long journey for him to become a regular in the senior squad. Still only 22, the High Wycombe-born player has previously shown glimpses of the quality he possesses, and last month he hammered a big century for the second team against Derbyshire. That knock secured Saif a place in the middle order for the first XI, and although he struggled in the first game at Lancashire, he scored crucial runs against Glamorgan and Yorkshire, before his well-earned century against Sussex. "It is amazing," said Saif. "It is nice to get it ticked off the list as I have been here quite a long time. It was nice to get it out the way. I had plenty of confidence going into today and over the last few games so it was a nice feeling to get over the line."

Coming back to live streaming, and because Northants. were playing Sussex, I was lucky enough to watch virtually the whole of Saif's innings. It was a real shame that his family were unable to be in the ground to support him, but they did receive several name checks from the commentators. Saif's father Sajid, reported as being a "well known amateur cricketer", was running a vaccination centre in Amersham at the time but emailed a photo of himself and his team celebrating at work, as Saif reached his milestone! His cousin Uzi also emailed his congratulations.



In the early part of Saif's innings, he was partnered by Rob Keogh. I recall a match in 2016 at Gerrards Cross between Bucks and Bedfordshire where Saif and Keogh were on opposite sides. Saif top-scored for Bucks with 43, before losing his wicket to Monty Panesar. 5 years later Saif Zaib and Rob Keogh are teammates.

SHOWCASE MATCH AGAINST SURREY POSTPONED

The Bucks showpiece game against Surrey this summer has been cancelled due to concerns over the restrictions imposed by Covid-19. The game, arranged to raise the profile of National Counties cricket, was scheduled to take place at High Wycombe on 20 July 2021, but will now take place in 2022.

Explaining the decision, the Bucks secretary Kevin Beaumont said: "The requirements for staging matches involving First Class County teams during the Covid epidemic are considerably more stringent than for even top-flight recreational cricket and very few non First Class grounds are able to meet them. With the Kia Oval unavailable due to the imminence of The One Hundred competition, Bucks CCC and Surrey CCC have reluctantly agreed that the match is not currently viable. Both counties look forward to playing each other in 2022, when it is hoped that conditions will be much more favourable."

MATCH REPORTS

BUCKS 1st XI



Bucks lost the first friendly of the season to Hertfordshire by 4 wickets, in a high scoring match at High Wycombe CC on Sunday 2nd May. Bucks won the toss elected to bat on a green wicket, reaching 307 for 9 wkts. after their allotted 50 overs.

The Bucks batting innings was held together by an excellent 110 runs from 111 balls from Conrad Louth, with contributions by Eliot Callis (64) and Shelvin Gumbs (32). In reply, Hertfordshire won with two balls to spare, with man of the match Dominic Chatfield making a fluent 153 off 137 balls, before becoming one of Michael Payne's three victims (3-55). Two of the remaining 3 wickets to fall, also went to spinners,

Stephen Croft and Uzair Amjaid. Uzi also claimed the run out.

The following week, the two sides met again in another 50 over match at Amersham CC. Sadly the result was the same: a loss by 4 wickets. On a fast bouncy pitch, Bucks struggled to score after winning the toss and slipped to 45 for 4 wkts against some fine swing bowling from Bill Jones, who took 2 wkts for 15 runs from his 10 overs.



Dan Ogden led the Bucks recovery with 62 off 76 balls; Shelvin Gumbs added a breezy 30; while a late flourish from Cameron Parsons, with a run-a-ball 20, lifted the Bucks total to 192 all out, with 3 overs unused. This appeared to be at least 40 runs short of a challenging total and Herts were always ahead of the game, thanks to a classy innings of 61 from 79 balls from skipper Reece Hussain, Nasser Hussain's cousin. Hope flickered briefly with a hostile spell of fast bowling from Cameron Parsons finishing on 2 wkts for 32 runs from 10 overs. Dominic Chatfield followed his century the previous week with a lively unbeaten 37 as Herts raced home with nearly 12 overs to spare.

SENIORS

Bucks Over 60's

1st XI Division South East	
Berkshire Over 60s 224 for 5 wkts	v. Buckinghamshire Over 60s 209 all out
Jim Spooner 2-27 Brian Shipley 2-40	Ian Pulsford 94 Steve White 66
Bucks. O60s lost by 15 runs	
Buckinghamshire Over 60s 223 for 5 wkts dec	v. Sussex Over 60s 227 for 3 wkts
Pulsford 81 Wallis 94 no.	Owen 0-20 from 9 overs Spooner 1-28
Bucks. O60s lost by 7 wickets	
2nd XI Division East	
Bucks. Over 60s (2nd XI) 193 for 9 wkts	v. Essex Over 60s (2nd XI) 196 for 0 wkts
Anant Peshavaria 53 Ade Johnson 38	
Bucks. O60s (2 nd XI) lost by 10 wickets	

4th XI	
Surrey Over 60s (4th XI) 92 for 10 wkts	v. Beds & Bucks Over 60s (4th XI) 93 for 1 wkt
Roger Garrini 4-6 Ian Murdoch 3-30 C Tucker 3-30	Kevin D'Silva 44 Ron Hedley 30 no
Bucks. O60s (4 th XI) won by 9 wickets	



Hail the conquering heroes

From left: Kevin D'Silva, Gerard Holmes, Martin Sheffield, Francis Braganza, Chris Tucker, Andy Peacock, Ron Hedley, Jon Gumbs, Roger Garrini, Simon Wastling (scorer), Ian Murdoch, Larry Warr(wk)

4th XI	
Kent Over 60s (4th XI) 220 for 4 wkts dec	v. Beds & Bucks Over 60s (4th XI) 138 for 10 wkts
Ian Murdoch 2-26	Lander 20
Bucks. O60s (4 th XI) lost by 82 runs	

Berks & Bucks Over 70's

1st XI		
Berks & Bucks Over 70s	v.	Hertfordshire Over 70s
204 for 6 wkts		189 for 5 wkts
Nelson 54 Garrini 37		Spindler 1-17
Berks & Bucks. O70s won by 15 runs		

UN-SUNG HEROES OF BUCKS C.C.C.

Continuing our series....You may not have even seen them nor know they are there, but they always are, come rain or shine. Frozen to death, in a wooden hut with built in ventilation (holes in the walls) or boiling hot in a small concrete box with no ventilation. The game cannot do without them – they are of course the scorers. The spotlight now turns to: -

BOB LANE



Facts no-one will know about you:

I was the Chairman of Uxbridge Rovers AS (URACS) for 34yrs and I have been President for the last 4yrs

How long have you been scoring?

I started scoring for Hillingdon CC 2nd XI when I was 11 yrs old until I was 13 yrs old. I took my gear every week, hoping to play. I played for Hillingdon, Datchet and Slough. I have been scoring for the last 29 years.

How long have you been scoring for Bucks?

I started scoring for Bucks in 2002 when we toured South Africa

Which clubs do you currently score for and who else have you scored for?

Finchampstead in HCPCL, Slough, Bucks 1st XI, Bucks O50s ,Bucks O60s, MCC and this year I have been invited to score for Berkshire Academy.

Which is your home club

Finchampstead

How did you first get into scoring?

Love of the game

Which is your favourite Bucks ground to score at?

High Wycombe and sharing time with a top-notch scorer always makes the day even more special.

Which is your favourite club ground?

We are blessed with so many good grounds

Which Bucks club has the best scoreboard facilities?

And which has the worst?

Sadly scoring facilities at cricket clubs are not given the attention they should be: scoring facilities do not attract players. The scoreboard is normally an adapted timber shed for example, Amersham, High Wycombe, Burnham. Each of these grounds have plus points and minus points. Many clubs do not realise what we scorers need to do our jobs e.g. many have chairs that are not suitable to sit on for seven hours and many do not afford a view of the whole playing area.

What is your proudest scoring moment so far?

Scoring the Minor County Final at Exmouth. The late, well respected Test Umpire David Shepherd left the Presentation Party to greet me as I left the scoreboard after scoring for 4 days. He had previously been a guest at the Annual Bucks CCC Dinner which I had organised. He was a very special man. To be greeted by a man who has toured the world, and the finest cricket venues, will always be remembered.

Is there a ground where you would like to score but haven't? & why?

When Slough won the HCPCL, I was invited by Andy Scarlet (The Scorebox Manager) to score a Test Match at Lords. He tells the story to my colleagues whenever we meet in scoreboxes that I turned him down.

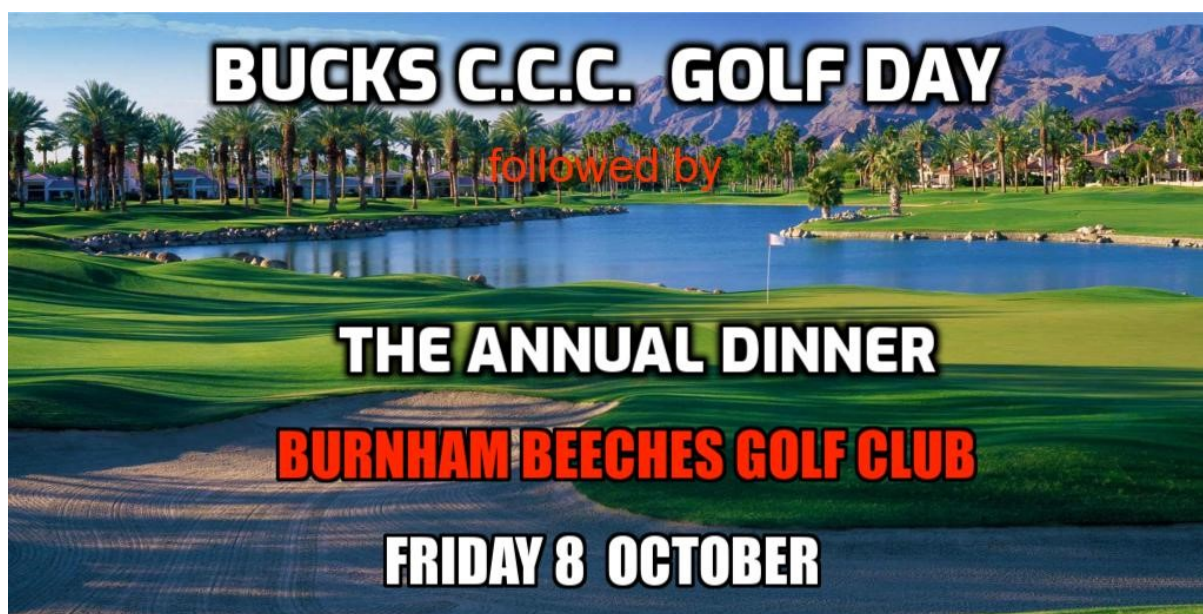
Sadly it clashed with a family holiday.

When you are not scoring, what are your interests?

Match angling now is the only sport I get involved in as Anni Domino is taking toll of the legs and the effects of asbestosis mean I can no longer play golf.

What is your favourite Bucks game you have scored? & why?

I have always enjoyed the Bucks games at Manor Park Norfolk. Bucks have had mixed fortunes there over the years, but it is a great place to score and they always made me welcome. Also scoring on the 2002 tour of South Africa at Port Elizabeth and watching my youngest son Russell get his first Bucks ton. He was totally drained at the end of it.



To book your place please contact

Ian Hodgson or Susan Klyne 07914 251530

There aren't too many books published which cover Minor/National Counties cricket in any detail. One book is *The Wicket Men* (A year in the life of Cumberland cricket) that I mentioned in an earlier edition. Now there is *Bowlers Name*, which covers the authors time playing and captaining Dorset CCC. Both books are well worth a read.

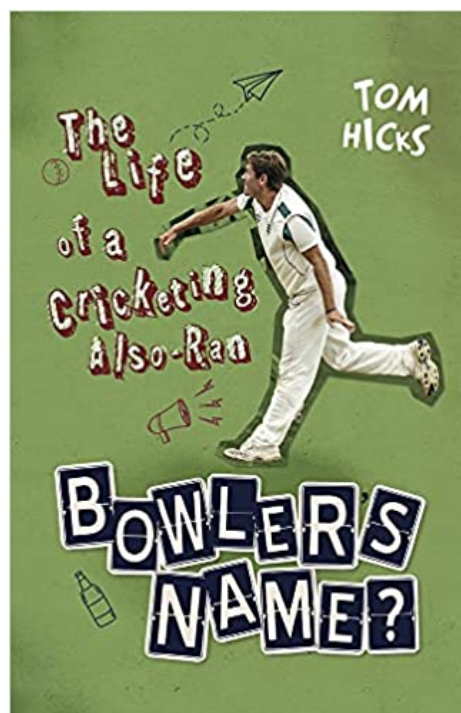
The review below is by my favourite blogger: Yahoo Over Cow Corner, with grateful thanks.

BOOK REVIEW

Bowler's Name? The life of a cricketer also ran..... by Tom Hicks

The language of top-level cricket, and sport in general, is a subject worth pondering upon. How many times has a player reached the England test team only to struggle and be quickly dubbed as 'roobish?' At face value the assessment appears correct, but the sheer reality of the matter is that, whilst said player may not perform sufficiently at the highest level, he or she is actually a quite brilliant player. Of the hundreds of thousands of people that play cricket in this country only a very small percentage will reach the highest level.

Indeed, to reach county level (first-class or national) one should be dubbed a brilliant performer. Nevertheless, the rhetoric around players and performances would still likely include the usual disparaging terminology. One such description, particularly for the humbler counties of first-class cricket and their national equivalents would be to describe certain players as also-rans. Somewhat curiously, erstwhile Dorset performer Tom Hicks uses the term in the title of his book: *Bowlers Name? The Life of a Cricketing Also-Ran*, a tome that chronicles one of English cricket's more brilliant performers even if he may not be classed as such by many. Thus, the book is, for all intents and purposes, an autobiography but one in which the reader, unlike equivalents of such a genre, is likely not familiar with the content. Such a development arguably lends itself to provoking one's curiosity as one's knowledge and opinions are all but a blank page. Personally, this blogger can remember Tom Hicks from previous sojourns watching Minor Counties Championship matches but other than the name and the figures attached to a particular day's performance, one is just as unaware of the author's life as most other readers.



The opening couple of chapters cover the youthful years of Hicks' formative career with a delightful passage on his time growing up with the now defunct Child Okeford Cricket Club in rural Dorset; a description that evokes great visions and images in one's mind. Whatever the level and standard of play, the author's colourful portrayals of the characters involved and the influence that this time of his life had on his love of the game prove heart-warming and most enjoyable.

Nevertheless, perhaps the following chapters detailing Hicks' time playing for Oxford University proves more intriguing as it sheds light on an aspect of the sport that is perhaps quickly glossed over or given the briefest of mentions in equivalent biographical accounts from cricketers en route to more illustrious climes. Particularly interesting were Hicks' comments about his thoughts upon playing at Lord's for the first time and an eye-opening tour of Pakistan with various tales and moments that perhaps highlight the comfortable world in which English cricket operates. Similarly, Hicks includes a chapter on playing for the MCC that features the inevitable details of touring antics but also the interesting assertion that on field results on these tours matter to the club and are taken seriously back at Lord's. Despite performing at such a high-level Hicks is happy to admit where he was lacking when it came to possibly moving up to being a professional; comparing his relaxed, laid back attitude to the dedicated equivalent of his college mate Jonny Wilkinson.

As a recent convert to the Minor / National Counties game, one is acutely interested in the chapters that cover the author's time playing for, and captaining, his native Dorset. Thus, there are some interesting and entertaining episodes detailed from Hicks' career with the county including a hilarious tale involving a pair of glasses along with an amusing guide to twelfth man duties and the various signals that one is expected to interpret when performing such a role. Hicks returns to the Minor Counties during the final third of the book to discuss, amongst other points, how Dorset selected players they wanted to appear for the county team; a process that proved tricky, particularly in light of the lack of a Premier League in the county. The passage also highlighted the delicate mechanics behind the life of a Minor County and the chapter Keeping Up with the Jones' provides some further, interesting insight on the author's years playing for Dorset.

On a similar note, there is also a thought-provoking chapter on skipping an amateur team that proves enlightening as it is different than the usual fare from the very amateur captain as it appears semi-serious due to Hicks' role leading a club near the summit of the Surrey Championship. Thus, difficulties such as dropping players, obligations to attend committee meetings, both club and league, and other non-playing tasks are made apparent whilst the importance of the Farnham branch of Pet City is made clear. Similar to twelfth man duties, Hicks highlights how dealing with the issue of dropping players provided him with useful lessons. There's still a fair selection of the usual amusing club captain issues though which will likely provoke the nodding of readers' heads and empathetic sighs from those that have encountered and endured such woes.

Also interesting are Hicks' comments on the difficulties of 'managing' a friendly match so that all those playing get a decent chance to bat and bowl, a quandary that is a perennial issue for attracting, and keeping, new players to the sport. Nevertheless, Hicks writes fondly of a cricket week in Dorset that he remains part of and there is a pleasing few pages where he waxes lyrically about the joys of these games and their import in his cricketing life, a touchstone to what, and why, the game means to him.

One recurrent theme throughout the book is Hicks provided interesting insight on the upper echelons of club cricket, a level of the game, along with Minor Counties cricket, that receives minimal coverage compared to the professional game and the very amateur equivalents. Thus, the chapter on professionals, both Hicks as one himself and overseas players, covers an interesting topic offering insight on both sides of the discussion on whether they are good value, both from a financial perspective and a playing / coaching equivalent.

Naturally, the book also deals with the light-hearted side of the sport and Hicks chronicles plenty of episodes, japes and stories that are part and parcel of a team sport. From a personal point of view there are perhaps a few too many references to alcohol fuelled shenanigans but one interesting favourite that Hicks describes is that of the 'Silent Over,' a pre-agreed half a dozen deliveries where all eleven players in the field would remain completely silent (save for any appeals) in an attempt to unnerve the batsman and break his concentration, an on-field occurrence completely unknown to this reader prior to learning about it. Indeed, it is these sorts of insights that prove the most intriguing when reading cricket books where one still learns plenty despite having watched the sport for many years.

Proceedings return to a more chronological theme during the last couple of chapters as Hicks reaches the time when he realises that retirement is on the horizon. The final pages are somewhat sombre compared to those which preceded them but highlight the harsh realities of an extended career at such a level whilst also underlining the demands on players' mental health.

Indeed, perhaps the aspect that comes through the most from the tome is the sacrifices that players at such a level have to make in order to keep playing. Not afforded a paid career but with the demands of a near professional sport, players at the summit of the ECB Premier Leagues and the Minor / National Counties perform as de facto professionals whilst having to juggle playing demands with a full-time job. They are the personification of the term 'labour of love' and perhaps don't receive the appreciation they deserve, particularly for their skills and abilities. In essence, they are far from 'roobish' but ply their trade, in the figurative sense of the word, far from the cosseted life of the professional ranks. Thankfully, Tom Hicks has provided an eye-opening insight into their world.

TWO WOMEN STAND TOGETHER

Two women are set to stand together as umpires in an England and Wales Cricket Board (EWCBC) Premier League match this weekend in what is believed to be a first for the league. Anna Harris and Yvonne Dolphin-Cooper will umpire Downend's home West of England Premier League (WEPL) fixture with Bedminster in

Gloucestershire. The pair will also stand in the South Wales Premier League match between St Fagans and Pontarddulais the following weekend.

After an extensive search of both record books and people's memories, the EWCB can find no record of an all-female duo officiating in one of its Premier League matches. Gloucestershire County Cricket Board hoped that the two appointments would "highlight the fact that a growing number of women are now umpiring and encourage even more women to consider officiating at all levels of the sport".

Dolphin-Cooper is well known as an umpire on the WEPL circuit as well as for officiating in visually impaired cricket, including an international between England and India. Harris, a Cardiff-based medical student from Bucks, and member of Bucks ACO, plays cricket for Wales. She stood in the Thames Valley League for three summers and completed a season in Melbourne. This season, she umpired one of the first 100s to be played at Lords during the MCC Women's Day in April. Both umpired during last year's inaugural Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Trophy (PTG 3275-16212, 28 September 2020).

AND CONTINUING THE SUBJECT OF WOMEN IN CRICKET

Congratulations to Chloe Hill, a regular in the HCPCL for Tring Park 1st XI on being named captain of Worcestershire Women's Rapids for their 2021 ECB County T20 campaign this season.

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

Can't get to a game – never fear, help is at hand. Don't miss a moment

Website: bucksccc.org.uk

Twitter: @bucksccc

Facebook: / [www.facebook.com/Bucks County Cricket Club](http://www.facebook.com/BucksCountyCricketClub)

Instagram: [buckscountycricket](https://www.instagram.com/buckscountycricket)

Once again, many thanks to all those who have helped and contributed, especially Kevin Beaumont, Su Klyne, Ron Hedley, Bob Lane, Mike Knox, and Yahoo Over Cow Corner. All, or any, contributions gratefully(very) received, as of course are comments – good or bad.

Stay safe, and hopefully begin to enjoy some live cricket.

Bill Scholes billscholes@hotmail.co.uk 01420 560290