



COLOURED TROUSERS No 10

BUCKS COUNTY CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bill Scholes

Well, Christmas has been and gone, so has New Year, and here we are now at the beginning of March and looking forward with positivity to the new season. All the tea leaves have been read, Mystic Meg has been consulted and all the signs are there that we can hopefully look forward to a full and complete season of cricket. With the publication finally, towards the end of January, of the First Class Counties fixtures, maps are being perused and diaries consulted as the avid cricket follower begins to plan out his journeys throughout the summer. Also at this time of year comes news of the eagerly awaited cricket bibles, - Wisden Almanack, Playfair Annual and the Cricketers Who's Who and of course The Cricketer's famous wallchart. As an aside, last year was the Centenary of The Cricketer magazine and on the back of their 2021 wallchart, they put a facsimile of the 1921 fixtures. The touring team that year were the Australians and they played matches against all 18 counties. How times have changed!! It was also a given that the touring team, whoever they were, began their season over here with a match against The Duke of Norfolk's XI at Arundel before beginning their tour at Worcestershire. Oh happy days!

Talking of Centenaries, our ever vigilant super scoop Mike Knox has been digging through his archives (not a pretty sight) and come up with a centenary of our own - he will reveal all in the upcoming County Handbook.

There has been a lot happening in the wider cricket world over the last few months - the delay in the publication of the First Class County fixtures, the Yorkshire and Essex problems, the Ashes debacle, and the huge social media backlash against the ECB and its governance of County cricket. I did intend to start off this edition with my thoughts on these matters, but got a bit depressed and gave up! I do however, have one or two ideas /remedies of my own which I may touch on further on.....

Not too long to go now before we play the first of our warm up matches , beginning on the on 10 April with an intra squad match at HW- the squad have been training steadily since the start of the year – bats are being oiled, pads have been blanched, jock straps steam cleaned and boxes disinfected..... OK , so perhaps I am a bit out of date but I'm sure you get the drift !

BUCKS CRICKETERS WHO'S WHO

Over the last couple of years or so, Bucks have given debuts to a number of younger players who have generally come up through the younger age groups and/or the Academy. I had trouble putting names to faces at some of the games, and the thought struck me that many of our members, who cannot/do not attend games would have the same problem when reading the reports – “who's that and where did he come from?” In an attempt to address this problem, we now have now started our very own Meet The Players section – a Bucks cricketers Who's Who , which I hope you will find interesting. In the words of Strictly's Tess Daly –“in no particular order”, let's

.....**MEET THE BUCKS C.C.C SQUAD** and starting with the Captain

NAME: Tom Hampton

Where and when were you born? **Kingston 5/10/1990**

Which club do you currently play for? **High Wycombe**

Have you played for any other clubs? **Marlow and Gerrards Cross**

How would you best describe yourself – **Fast Bowler and lower order slogger.**

What first got you into cricket? **Playing cricket in the garden with my Grandad.**

.Are you still in education/college/ University or in employment? **Work For Gentlemen and Players, alongside coaching.**

When and where did you make your debut for Bucks.? **Vs Cumberland at Barrow in Furness in the Championship back in 2014, the wicket was a little bowler friendly.**

Do you have any family ties with cricket? **Only my younger brother Dan, who has also represented the county.**

What has been your proudest moment in cricket so far- either for Bucks or for club, or both? **My proudest moment would have been making my First-Class debut for Gloucestershire. For Bucks captaining the county and for Club would be winning my first title last summer with HWCC.**

Which has been your favourite Bucks ground to play on....and why? **Marlow will always hold a special place in my heart being my home club and the wicket back in the day had plenty of pace and bounce. Second to that bowling at GX with the ridge does give you that extra special feeling.**

Which form of professional cricket do you prefer to watch. Hundred/T20/50 over KO/ County championship/ Test match ? **For me there is something special about Test match cricket and it will forever be my favourite.**

What do you think of The Hundred or the 16.4 as it sometimes known? **I think the 100 has done really well in its efforts to make cricket more appealing to the youngest generations, but I find it too similar to the 20/20 competitions to really get invested in it.**

Do you have a nickname? **All very tame and boring mainly Hampo.**

Outside of cricket, what are your interests and or hobbies? **Love watching sport mainly rugby and walking my dog especially in Wales exploring the mountains castles and beaches.**

What improvements would you make to the National Counties cricket programme if you were in charge? **I would like to further improve bridging the gap between the NCCA and the First Class set ups, by maybe exploring how we could get more first-class players playing especially when younger as well as ways to help get the guys in the NCCA into that next step up. One thing I would like to see changed is the rule on former professionals coming back to their home county, I believe they should be allowed to re-join a home county as a local player not as a pro.**

Stats: **Chship P29 Wkt 83, BB6-48,R 496 ,HS69, KO P14,Wkt 13,BB3-38,R 99 HS47 T20 P15,Wkt10, BB2-23,R14,HS5no**

NAME: Michael Payne

.Where and when were you born? **Slough 19/09/1990**

Which club do you currently play for? **Amersham CC**

Have you played for any other clubs? **Slough CC, Tring Park CC, Middlesex CCC, Unicorns, MCC**

How would you best describe yourself? **All-rounder. Middle order batter/ Off spinner.**

What first got you into cricket? **Going to Wraysbury CC on a Saturday watching my dad play.**

Are you still in education/college/ University(which) or in employment? **Employment- Senior Coach MCC Indoor Cricket Centre**

When and where did you make your debut for Bucks. **Bucks CCC Vs Cornwall CCC @ Marlow CC 9th May 2010 in the 50 over KO.**

Who has been the biggest influence in your cricket career so far? **My dad who played a high standard and threw balls to me as a kid and Wilson Gumbs who coached me from the age of 10 till the present.**

Do you have any family ties with cricket? **My dad who played a high standard of cricket in India and club cricket in England up to the age of 50.**

What has been your proudest moment in cricket so far- either for Bucks or for club, or both? **Bucks- Being able to captain the county for 4 years. Non-Bucks- Scoring 117 not out against Wales at Lords.**

Which has been your favourite Bucks ground to play on....and why?

Tring Park CC as I played for Tring during most of my time with Bucks..

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

What do you think of The Hundred or the 16.4 as it sometimes known? **Not a big fan but if it gets people playing the game then it's doing the job.**

Do you have a nickname? **Payney**

Outside of cricket, what are your interests and or hobbies? **Golf, the dogs Mack and Phil.**

.Guilty pleasures? **Most Netflix Documentaries**

Any surprising facts about yourself? **I am slowest running human of my age.**

.What improvements would you make to the National Counties cricket programme if you were in charge? **I think the right change was made recently making sure that both t20 and 50 over cricket went to groups rather than the straight knockout or t20 day. I would however try to get the championship back to 6 games rather than 4 and 2 teams promoted/demoted. Mainly because after two games teams may know the movements of the league for next year and dead games at the end of the season.**

Stats: Chship P 60,Runs3152,HS141no,Wkts71, BB7-92 KO P32,R776,HS103no T20 P17,R57,W15,BB3-19

NAME : Jonathan Burden

Where and when were you born? **High Wycombe, 24.09.1995**

Which club do you currently play for? **Wimbledon CC**

Have you played for any other clubs? **High Wycombe CC, Chesham CC**

How would you best describe yourself – batsman, bowler or all rounder? **Seam bowler**

.What first got you into cricket? **First of all, my dad, followed by Jon Royals who is still the chairman at Chesham CC.**

Are you still in education/college/ University(which) or in employment? **Employed, British Army Officer.**

.When and where did you make your debut for Bucks. **I made my debut in 2014 at Ipswich School. It was against Suffolk in the Championship.**

Who has been the biggest influence in your cricket career so far? **Rob Maier, Steve Ayres and Paul Hughes D'aeth were excellent coaches and mentors when I was a junior at Chesham CC. Ian Pont is a brilliant technical coach who was instrumental in getting to me the level I'm at now. However, the support of my parents has probably been the most important thing for my cricket.**

Do you have any family ties with cricket? **See above**

What has been your proudest moment in cricket so far- either for Bucks or for club, or both? **Winning the Home Counties Premier League with High Wycombe in 2015 was a highlight. For Bucks, the win against a strong Staffordshire in 2018 at Longton was fantastic, given the number of outstanding individual performances that contributed to a team win. Captaining the Academy side to an unbeaten season was also fun.**

Which has been your favourite Bucks ground to play on....and why? **Tring Park – wonderful pitch to bowl on, they always put on a good spectacle, and we tend to win.**

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

What do you think of The Hundred or the 16.4 as it sometimes known? **A franchise tournament was probably the right thing for English cricket, but it didn't need a new format to make it work.**

Do you have a nickname? **JB**

Outside of cricket, what are your interests and or hobbies? **Running, heavy metal music, reading and writing – particularly on history, politics and the Middle East.**

What improvements would you make to the National Counties cricket programme if you were in charge? **Some of the pitches, particularly outside of Buckinghamshire, are very slow and low and not particularly conducive to good three day cricket.**

General. Any other general facts about yourself. **Capped by Buckinghamshire in 2020.**

Stats: Chship P26,Wkt80,BB5-44,R88,HS25, KO P5,Wkt 4,BB1-27, T20 P9,Wkt10,BB3-9,R2

NAME: Zulkarnain Mohamad Khalid Choudhry (Mo)

Where and when were you born? **19th April 1996 in Middlesex, North West London.**

Which club do you currently play for? **No official club for 2022 season yet, still in negotiations.**

Have you played for any other clubs? **Tring Park C C & South Hampstead Cricket Club**

.How would you best describe yourself? **All-rounder. Opening Bowler and Top order batsman.**

What first got you into cricket? **My older brother took me to South Hampstead C C in Middlesex when I was around 7 or 8. That's where he played and that's where I started.**

Are you still in education/college/ University (which) or in employment? **Still studying- doing a PhD in Software Engineering at Brunel University London.**

When and where did you make your debut for Bucks. **4th August 2019 vs Bedfordshire at Flitwick CC in the Unicorns Championship. I got injured on my debut whilst bowling. I had shin splints in both shins.**

.Who has been the biggest influence in your cricket career so far? **Former Pakistan captain Imran Khan.**

Do you have any family ties with cricket? **In terms of playing- not particularly. However, my family are all big cricket fans.**

What has been your proudest moment in cricket so far- either for Bucks or for club, or both? **Playing for Bucks.**

Which has been your favourite Bucks ground to play on....and why? **Tring Park is my favourite Bucks ground to play at.**

.Which form of professional cricket do you prefer to watch. Hundred/T20/50 over KO/ County championship/ Test match ? **Test Cricket is the best form of Cricket. However, still a big fan of the limited overs formats.**

What do you think of The Hundred or the 16.4 as it sometimes known? **A great way to attract more people to watch cricket, also gives players another platform to showcase their skills.**

.Do you have a nickname? **Everyone calls me Mo.**

.Outside of cricket, what are your interests and or hobbies? **I enjoy watching and playing football.**

Any surprising facts about yourself? **I can do a Rubix cube in less than 3 minutes.**

What improvements would you make to the National Counties cricket programme if you were in charge? **More fixtures.**

Stats:Chship P1,

NAME: Ross Richardson

Where and when were you born? **Hillingdon**

Which club do you currently play for? **Whitburn CC**

Have you played for any other clubs? **Yes, Adelaide CC, Durham University CC**

How would you best describe yourself – **Wicket Keeper/batsman .**

What first got you into cricket? **Dad encouraged me to play my first game and loved the game since**

.Are you still in education/college/ University(which) or in employment? **Currently at Durham university studying business and management**

.When and where did you make your debut for Bucks. **Bedfordshire championship last year**

.Do you have any family ties with cricket? **. No, but interestingly my dad played professional golf and toured for 16 years**

.What has been your proudest moment in cricket so far- either for Bucks or for club, or both? **. 77 not out on debut**

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

. What do you think of The Hundred or the 16.4 as it sometimes known? **I like the 100 it gives young players opportunity and increases crickets exposure**

.Do you have a nickname? **Rosco**

Outside of cricket, what are your interests and or hobbies ?. **Im very interested in classic Porsches and motor sport. I just passed my racing license test and plan to race this year. I also really enjoy travelling**

Guilty pleasures? **South Park, burgers and Doja cat**

Stats: **Chship P 4, R 158, HS 77no,**

NAME: Alexei Kervezee

.Where and when were you born? **Walvis Bay, Namibia 11/08/1989**

Which club do you currently play for? **Halesowen Cricket Club - Birmingham Premier league - 4 years**

Have you played for any other clubs? **Netherlands ,Worcestershire CCC for 11 years, Shropshire CCC for 2 years, Bromsgrove CC BirminghamLeague - 11 years**

How would you best describe yourself? **Top/Middle order batsmen - depending on the format. Right arm off spin..What first got you into cricket? Friends and I decided to go to an open day at a local club after school when I was still living in Namibia**

Are you still in education/college/ University or in employment? **Employment**

When and where did you make your debut for Bucks. **Nurton-York Cup vs Oxfordshire in 2020.**

Who has been the biggest influence in your cricket career so far? **The late Damian D'oliveira .**

Do you have any family ties with cricket? **Uncle from my Dutch side of the family played cricket to a decent standard.**

What has been your proudest moment in cricket so far- either for Bucks or for club, or both? **ODI and First class debut. Scored my first first class hundred coincidentally when my parents flew over to come and watch.**

Which has been your favourite Bucks ground to play on....and why? **Gerrards Cross - scored my first Bucks 100 there vs Oxfordshire.**

Which form of professional cricket do you prefer to watch. Hundred/T20/50 over KO/ County championship/ Test match ? **All of them for different reasons - they all have their own unique charm and skill sets which I value and appreciate.**

What do you think of The Hundred or the 16.4 as it sometimes known? **Should be given time - it's a different franchise tournament and it may take a bit of time for everyone to warm to it**

Do you have a nickname? **Cub, Cubbo, Cubby, Gold-member.**

Outside of cricket, what are your interests and or hobbies ? **Gym, sports, coffee, cinema(films), dog walking.**

.Guilty pleasures? **Nandos**

Any surprising facts about yourself? **No**

.What improvements would you make to the National Counties cricket programme if you were in charge? **More cricket**

General. Any other general facts about yourself - Awards/ Honours etc. that you think might be interesting to know. **ODI debut for Netherlands when I was 16, played in T20 World Cup aged 17.**

Stats:**Chship P4, R210,HS70,Wkt2,BB2-21 KO P4,R144,HS115no,Wkt1**

NAME: Uzair Amjaid

Where and when were you born? **Born 29/11/1998 In High Wycombe**

Which club do you currently play for? **Highgate CC**

Have you played for any other clubs? **High Wycombe, Finchley, Highgate, North Middlesex CC**

How would you best describe yourself – batsman, bowler or all rounder? **Finger Leg Spin Bowler**

What first got you into cricket? **Watching my father and uncles all play together!**

Are you still in education/college/ University(which) or in employment? **Employment**

When and where did you make your debut for Bucks. **50 Over KO Trophy against Berkshire in 2015**

Who has been the biggest influence in your cricket career so far? **Peter Gibbons (Ex Bucks Age Group Coach)**

Do you have any family ties with cricket? **Yes, Saif Zaib cousin (Current Pro Northants)**

What has been your proudest moment in cricket so far- **Taking 8-37 against Teddington CC in the Middlesex Premier League**

,Which has been your favourite Bucks ground to play on....and why? **High Wycombe CC, beautiful settings!**

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

What do you think of The Hundred or the 16.4 as it sometimes known? **To be honest, not a great fan of it!**

. Do you have a nickname? **Uzi, Afridi, Boom Boom**

. Outside of cricket, what are your interests and or hobbies ? **Business & Travelling! Also a foodie!**

Guilty pleasures? **Never eat dessert from my own dessert place but would eat from other places!**

.Any surprising facts about yourself? **I think I've hit the biggest six in cricket!**

What improvements would you make to the National Counties cricket programme if you were in charge? **Play more against Major Counties**

General: Any other general facts about yourself - **Leading spin wicket taker of the Middlesex Premier League in 2018 with 47 wickets in 15 games!**

Stats: KO P5,Wkt8,BB 4-26 T20 P10,Wkt12, BB3-13

NAME: Daniel Ogden

Where and when were you born? **Hillingdon // 3rd June 1998**

Which club do you currently play for? **Harefield Cricket Club**

Have you played for any other clubs? **No**

How would you best describe yourself – **Middle Order Batsman and Off-Spin Bowler**

What first got you into cricket? **My dad got me into cricket from an early age. It was a sport he loved to play and I believe I picked it up from going to watch him play with my mum and brother.**

Are you still in education/college/ University(which) or in employment? **I am doing a PHD in Sport and Exercise Health Science at Loughborough University focused on researching mental health in professional cricket and I am part of the wellbeing in cricket research group between Loughborough and Bangor University.**

When and where did you make your debut for Bucks. **I made my debut in the Championship in 2017 against Lincolnshire at Grantham CC.**

Who has been the biggest influence in your cricket career so far? **My dad. He has continually supported me from getting me into the game to where I am now and some of my best memories of playing cricket were playing with him and my brother in Harefield 3rd and 4th team.**

Do you have any family ties with cricket? **Brother also plays with me at Harefield and has played for the Academy a couple of times.**

What has been your proudest moment in cricket so far- either for Bucks or for club, or both? **Proudest memory for Bucks was probably either my debut at Grantham and managing to stick it out in tough conditions against a very good attack or more recently it was being not out at the end when we beat Oxfordshire in the Nurton-York Trophy last year. It was good to get a win after a difficult 2020 for us against Oxfordshire.**

For Harefield it was staying in the HCPCL div 1 in 2015 on the final day.

Which has been your favourite Bucks ground to play on....and why? **High Wycombe CC – great hospitality and a lovely track/ground to bat on.**

Which form of professional cricket do you prefer to watch. **Test matches for sure. If there is any cricket on I will tend to watch it but love having the test match on in the background all day.**

What do you think of The Hundred or the 16.4 as it sometimes known? **I think the equal prize money and TV coverage it has brought to the women's game is incredible and will help the game as a whole continue to grow into important demographics around the country.**

.Do you have a nickname? **Oggy**

Outside of cricket, what are your interests and or hobbies? **Golf, Psychology and Mental health are 3 of my main hobbies/interests. I am a golf addict, especially during the winter and alongside my current research in mental health in cricket I am passionate about the areas of psychology as a whole and mental health.**

Any surprising facts about yourself? **I am a published author and I can juggle**

What improvements would you make to the National Counties cricket programme if you were in charge? **A separate Academy competition for players under 25**

General. Any other general facts about yourself - Awards/Honours etc. **Captained the Academy a few times in 2018/19. Also captained Bucks U17 when we won the National ECB One Day Cup and their Two Day Division.**

Stats: Chship P1,R 3,KO P 1,R 22,HS 22

NAME: Jordan McLeod

Where and when were you born? **13/06/1996 in Hillingdon**

Which club do you currently play for? **Harefield CC**

Have you played for any other clubs? **Southampton University and Suburbs New Lynn in Auckland, NZ**

How would you best describe yourself – **Opening Seam Bowler who bats a bit**

What first got you into cricket? **My dad Richard McLeod was a former first class cricketer for Central Districts and NZA and played for many years at Harefield**

Are you still in education/college/ University(which) or in employment? **I am a history teacher.**

When and where did you make your debut for Bucks. **2019 in the Championship at Tring vs Cumberland.**

Who has been the biggest influence in your cricket career so far? **MLuleki Nkala, Doug King and Richard McLeod**

Do you have any family ties with cricket? **As previously mentioned, my dad played First Class Cricket but also scored 41 centuries for Harefield. My mum and dad met through Harefield CC as my mum’s family has been involved there for many years.**

What has been your proudest moment in cricket so far- either for Bucks or for club, or both? **Taking 6fer followed by 8fer the week after in my first full season of First XI cricket for Harefield.**

Which has been your favourite Bucks ground to play on....and why? **Tring Park CC as it is where I made my debut.**

Which form of professional cricket do you prefer to watch. Hundred/T20/50 over KO/ County championship/ Test match ? **Nothing beats Test cricket.**

What do you think of The Hundred or the 16.4 as it sometimes known? **I was reluctant at first but having seen the success and the interest from people who were previously not interested in cricket, I think it could be really good for the English game, and in particular women’s cricket. If it can have a year without Covid interruptions and work out a few bugs, it’ll be second only to the IPL in terms of franchise cricket.**

Do you have a nickname? **Jords.**

Outside of cricket, what are your interests and or hobbies ? **Love history, skiing, Star Wars and electronic music. Guilty pleasures? The film Moana**

Any surprising facts about yourself? **I never played any junior representative cricket for a county.**

What improvements would you make to the National Counties cricket programme if you were in charge? **Bring back more championship games and have a regional 2nd XI competition.**

Stats: Chship P1,Wkt2,BB 2-35

More Meet the Players in the next Edition.....

SHOWCASE MATCH: BUCKS v SURREY

Our 50 over match will be played on Sunday 31st July at High Wycombe CC

Further details about tickets/ parking etc will be announced shortly

QUICK QUIZABOUT THE RECENT ASHES IN AUSTRALIA

1. Who was the leading run scorer ?
2. Who was the second leading English run scorer ?
3. What was the highest individual score ?
4. Which England player had the best batting average?
5. Who was the leading English wicket taker?
6. What was the best bowling performance of the series?
7. And what was the best English bowling performance?
8. Who took the most catches for Australia ?
9. Who took the most catches for England?

**DEAR Sir..... A selection of letters to the Daily Telegraph that failed to make the cut.
6 SEPTEMBER 2003**

SIR,-having once puzzled my wife by telling her that the Test cricketer Derek Underwood was an excellent nightwatchman, I now face the problem of explaining that the South African Paul Adams is a left arm Chinaman
Roy Larman **Salisbury**

1 OCTOBER 2003

SIR,- I would like to ask Messrs Parkinson, Atherton and Willis (otherwise known as the Cricket Reform Group) how reducing the number of county championship cricket matches will improve the performance of Test Match players.I don't understand how not playing in ten matches is better than not playing in 16.
Gary Beard **Brighton**

NEWS OF OUR YOUNG BUCKS

EIGHT BUCKS PATHWAY PLAYERS SIGN ON AT FIRST-CLASS ACADEMIES

Congratulations to Raph Weatherall, Aadi Sharma, Aatish Anthathi, George Weldon, Cara Duggan, Bethan Miles, Ella Claridge and Hannah Davis from all at Bucks CCC



From the Boys Pathway, Raph Weatherall (U16, Chesham CC), Aadi Sharma (U15, Great Brickhill CC), Aatish Anthathi (U16, Harefield CC) and George Weldon (U18) have all signed at our First-Class partner county, Northamptonshire CCC. They will hope to follow in Saif Zaib's footsteps in progressing from the Buckinghamshire pathway through to the professional game at Northamptonshire CCC. As part of the Bucks-Northants partnership, Northants supply coaches, access to facilities and aligned fixture programmes to support the Bucks Boys Emerging Players Programme.



From the Girls Pathway, Cara Duggan (U19, Holmer Green CC) has signed with Western Storm, Bethan Miles (U18, Berkhamsted School) with South East Stars, Ella Claridge (U19) with Lightning and Hannah Davis (U18, Aylesbury High School) with Sunrisers.

Bucks partner region for Women's Cricket is the Southern Vipers. However, all of the signed Buckinghamshire women & girls are currently with other regions for differing reasons including where they are at University. Southern Vipers are investing in County Women's Cricket for the region in 2022 where Bucks will play against the Berkshire, Hampshire, Sussex and Oxfordshire, beyond the ECB T20 fixtures.

OTHER YOUNG BUCKS NEWS

Dominic Goodman (Chesham CC) made his First-Class debut for Gloucestershire against Somerset at Taunton in April 2021, and made his debut for Bucks two months later in the K.O. Trophy against Bedfordshire at Southill Park CC.

Dominic follows in the footsteps of fellow Bucks cricketers **Tom Helm, Alex Hales and Saif Zaib** in the men's professional game. **Harry Petrie** (Ballinger Waggoners CC) made his England U19 debut as well as representing Hampshire 2nd XI. **Chloe Hill** (Tring Park CC) played for Central Sparks in the Women's Regional Domestic season and **Ella Claridge** made her debut for Lightning, as well as signing for Trent Sparks for The Hundred.

Bucks Cricket's Player Pathway Manager, Jason Rance said, "We are extremely proud of all the players who have signed onto First Class Academies for the 2022 season. They have all performed consistently well for our age groups in the last couple of years and shown a willingness to learn which has taken their games to the next level. I hope other players on our pathway can see their success as an aim to achieve in future years. We have developed really good relationships with our partner counties Northants & Southern Vipers and there is a clear pathway for our high performing players to progress.

Bucks spinner Stephen Croft appointed as the new Harefield CC club captain.

Harefield have announced that Stephen Croft has been appointed as 1st XI captain following their recent AGM. Stephen joined the club in 2018 and has gone on to take 90 league wickets in this time. Apart from being a regular in the Bucks side, Stephen has also represented Somerset 2s and the Club Cricket Conference whilst at the Hares.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTIES

Berkshire CCC have announced that Dan Lincoln has been appointed as their new 1st XI Mens Captain. Dan began as an U9 with the county and made his senior Berkshire debut in 2012. Since 2017 he has been an ever present in the side across all 3 formats helping the county achieve the 2017 and 2019 championship and KO Trophy double as well as the T20 trophy in 2018. His personal performances gained him a professional contract with Middlesex CCC in 2019-20 and a short term deal with Kent CC in 2021 where his experiences of the professional game and sharing a changing room with international players will stand him in good stead for the job ahead. Dan also recently had the honour of captaining the National Counties XI, who representing England, won the inaugural European Cricket Championship in Spain in September/October.

NEW KID ON THE BLOCK

The formation of a new **North Wales representative side** for the 2022 season was announced last month and is fantastic news for the game in this part of the world. The team is intended to bridge the gap between the **Wales National County** and the **North Wales Cricket League** and will be known as **Wales National County (North)**. A full fixture list has been drawn up confirming Wales National County (North) involvement in a six-team tournament this summer.

A statement from Cricket Wales said: "***Despite the encouraging development of the national county side under Cricket Wales stewardship last year, the number of North Walian players that have represented Wales at senior level over recent years has been few and far between.***

"It is no secret that the geography of Wales poses greater challenges than most other national, and first-class counties put together – none greater perhaps for the selection committee than gauging the standard of players between those in the North Wales league compared to those in South, West and East leagues.

"Proposals and ongoing dialogue to bring a representative side in-house have been bubbling underneath the surface since the end of last season, after Russell Penrhyn-Jones assembled a group of players to play in a number of games against neighbouring counties.. The team will now form a formal part of the national

pathway, administered by Cricket Wales through the national county with the close support of the North Wales League and Penrhyn-Jones himself.

“The main aim of the side is to provide a layer of competitive cricket between club cricket and national counties cricket in the region, and in turn preparing players for the demands that national counties cricket encompasses.”

A full fixture list includes games against **Cumbria, Staffordshire, Cheshire, Northumberland** and **Shropshire** in a six-team tournament.

Matt Thompson, head of Talent Pathway for Cricket Wales, said: *“This is a fantastic step in the right direction for cricket in North Wales. Not only will it be something for players in the area to aspire towards, but it will give them the best shop window possible to stake a claim for future selection for the full national county side.*

What odds on a Bucks North representative side??

The blog below from Yahoo is a sort of follow up to one of his earlier one's in he which he discussed re instating a national knock out competition to include both First Class and National Counties – thus reprising the Nat West Trophy competition of a few years ago. It works very well in the parallel universe of the FA Cup, creating anticipation and excitement for the minnows and our victory over Somerset in 1987 in the Nat West Trophy is still talked about today. This time it's about the Championship.

Walk a Mile in their Shoes – Part Two

In truth, the sentiments are very much derived from a good place with virtuous intentions. Every so often a discussion takes place, normally on social media, on whether there should be promotion / relegation from the County Championship with whichever county finishes bottom of the second division being replaced by the winners of that season's Minor (sic) Counties Championship. In many respects, the suggestion demonstrates a pleasing appetite to include a section of English and Welsh domestic cricket that has been residing in something of a siding for some time. In reality, the logistics and harsh truths of the National Counties existence dictate that such a notion is little more than a whimsical, romantic pipe-dream. Unlike other team sports, there are a handful of overriding factors which underline that implementing such a structure would almost be impossible. In particular, three reasons are paramount:

Venues: With the odd exception, none of the National Counties possess a designated home ground akin to their first-class equivalents. Matches in the three National County competitions take place on club grounds across each county for which each county is greatly appreciative for the time and effort involved by the host club. Ordinarily, counties will only use the same venue once or twice a season so there is little disruption to the club's weekly program of league cricket for its various teams. If a National County were promoted to the County Championship then they would likely have to locate a specific venue for the majority of their matches. Said venue would then need to meet acceptable standards for first-class cricket, in terms of the standard of the wicket the standard of the off-field facilities and the size of the playing area, requirements that would likely test many a venue used for National Counties cricket. Usage of club grounds also dictates that a promoted county would need to undertake significant work to provide facilities for spectators such as stands, toilets and car parking. In essence, a promoted county would in effect exist as an outground county with all of the associated costs. They would also be without the use of floodlights which would affect any participation in the white ball competitions. Unsurprisingly, most club grounds would likely find accommodating such an infrastructure something of a struggle even before considering how much of a disruption such scenarios would cause to their own teams. In some respects, the situation possesses parallels to a golf club hosting a European Tour event. Said club is likely happy to host such a prestigious event once a year with all the relevant disruption but would likely balk at the idea of hosting the same event on half a dozen different occasions, at least, during a six month period.

Players: The simple reality of National Counties cricket is that almost all of its players are amateur with the odd semi-professional. Rather than a level below first class cricket, National Counties cricket is arguably the highest / representative level of the amateur game. Age related requirements for squads dictate that many players are either university or college students whilst the remaining players will balance their county cricket with a full-time job. Understandably, on occasion the needs of the job take priority over the needs of the county and a player is not available due to work commitments. Those players at university often reside away from their native county until the end of the summer term and are only available for matches at the weekends; one of the drivers behind a reduction in Championship matches from six to four in the current season as the premier competition was played wholly in the latter half of the summer.

In such circumstances, asking players to suspend their education or jeopardise a career for potentially a six month season (relegation back to the National Counties after one season would understandably be not beyond the realms of possibility) would likely prove too much for the majority of players. The nature of the first class cricket season, with its high proportion of play taking place during the week, dictates that bridging the gap between amateur / semi-professional to full-time professional is a complex business.

Finances: Perhaps one of the most under-appreciated aspects of National Counties cricket is how much of a shoestring budget that the counties operate upon. Payments from the ECB are minimal and counties operate courtesy of a legion of volunteers who fulfil the various administrative roles required. From such a base the changes required to put in place an administrative structure in order to support a county with first-class status would be immense. Similar to the scenario outlined for players (above), one imagines that there would be an inherent risk of setting up such a structure for just a year with potential financial issues. The first class counties are currently able to operate in the knowledge that such an infrastructure is required every year. Introduce promotion and relegation and any National Counties involved would not be able to operate with such certainty, particularly once they had increased their staff and logistics accordingly.

Thus, whilst suggestions of a promotion / relegation scenario including the National Counties are full of good intentions, the harsh realities of their existence dictate that they simply do not possess the logistics, playing, administrative and location, to bridge such a gap.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

The above is another excellent thought provoking blog from Hector Capelletti and on the face of it, it is very difficult to disagree with his findings/arguments. However I believe that Hector is looking at the situation from the point of view of a relegation /Promotion system between the County Championship and the National Counties Championship as they currently stand at present. Clearly the First Class Counties have everything to lose and nothing to gain by such an arrangement.

No one can deny that there has been an upsurge in discontent expressed by cricket followers everywhere, fuelled by the poor Ashes performance, and aimed primarily at the ECB and their handling of the fixtures of the First Class county competitions. EBTA (Even Before the Ashes) there was a lot "noise" around the health (financial and otherwise) of a number of the First Class Counties and the players pathway to Test cricket. Numerous ideas have been emerging from those stalwarts of the First Class County game – the ECB, eg, merging counties together, reducing their number, franchising the existing counties, replacing counties with new franchises, and probably all of those without giving any consideration as to what the poor old loyal county cricket member / supporter actually wants.

Chief areas of concern of the real county cricket followers are :

1. Not enough cricket -particularly red ball – and even when there is, it's played at the extremities of the season
2. Too much cricket (4 major competitions shoehorned into the season)
3. The quality being diluted, due to demands of franchise cricket.

Given the growing number and success of Franchised leagues around the world, it is no surprise that the ECB finally launched their own version last year with a series of comic book names that bore little or no relevance to the loyal county cricket supporter. Why on earth would a Somerset supporter from Taunton travel all the way round to Cardiff to watch the Western Fire!? Perhaps realising that this was a step too far, there has been talk of franchising a smaller number of County Clubs, probably those who possess a Test Match ground. There are 9 of those at present. There are a further two who have staged either 50 or 20 Over International matches. That number could be easily boosted up to 12, leaving possibly 6 clubs cut adrift.

Putting the franchising bit aside for a minute, there have also been suggestions that in order to improve the Test side, a much more streamlined structure, a la Australia's Sheffield Shield, with the best county players spread amongst the top 6 or 8 counties would be the way forward. The remaining counties could form a competition of their own! Without naming names, there have been rumours around for the last few years that a few County clubs have been having financial problems amid suggestions that they might have to become semi-professional.

All of the above I believe does open up a huge opportunity for the National Counties.

If the First Class County game as we know it is to survive as it is, I believe that it needs to step out from under the ECB umbrella and become self-regulatory. In fact, I would suggest going one step further to include the National Counties, thereby creating an overall body to run all County Cricket- all 38 counties, no matter whether they are First Class or National Counties. Should the First Class counties themselves decide that a slimmed down version, (for all of the reasons mentioned above) be beneficial, it could open the doors to a divisional structure which incorporates the National Counties. Football already has such a structure where the Premier League sits on top of 3

divisional leagues and the Conference (incidentally now called the National League – which itself splits into a Premier, Div One North and Div One South). At his stage I am not suggesting promotion/relegation between the National Counties and above (for all the reasons clearly stated in Yahoo’s article above) but it might well help a 38 County set up to be in charge of it’s own destiny, and not reliant on others who may not have the same priorities. Just think, we may even get more County cricket (First Class or National) played in the summer months again! Should there be a move from the First Class counties to slim down their operation, for example into a top 12, it does open up possibilities of those remaining counties forming a new Division with, say, the top 6 or 8 National Counties sides. There are a number of excellent club grounds around which could host these types of fixtures- I recently counted up 91 club grounds that have been used as First Class County out grounds over the last 20 years – so they can’t be all totally unsuitable!

Comments / views / requests to resign, on any of the above are more than welcome!

DEAR Sir..... Three more letters to the Daily Telegraph that failed to make the cut.

21 AUGUST 1967

SIR, - I was worried that Brian Close might send in Ken Barrington to score the three winning runs. We would then have had a draw.

W.D.Vercoe

Weston-Super-Mare

6 JUNE 2003

SIR,- the recent debate on swearing in pubs recalled a cricket meeting, when it was proposed that they should try and persuade women to umpire. A committee member objected: “ but what about the language?”

The chairman replied; “the players will just have to put up with it”

VL Coombs

Bovey Tracey

AND SOMETHINGS NEVER CHANGE !

27 APRIL 2005

SIR, - I have been a cricket player and fan all my life. I am so disgusted at what is available to me that I think this year is the last I will pay my county membership. The fixture list is dreadful; first class cricket is jammed into the dodgy weather periods at the start and end of the season , and the good weather is taken up by endless beer matches. The game is so besotted with the idea of getting new customers that it totally ignores the preferences of existing ones.

Roger Green

London SE25



Sports Shots
WWW.SPORTSSHOTS.ORG.UK

- Supporting Bucks CCC
- * Interviews
- * Previews
- * Match reports
- * Action images
- * YouTube Match Highlights



Sports Shots raises money for Macmillan Cancer Support & Vasculitis UK
No personal gain is made

RON HEDLEY'S PROSTATE CANCER WALKS 2022

The Over 60s and Over 70s of Buckinghamshire CCC along with our friends from Middlesex CCC and Berkshire CCC have been on a series of walks to raise funds for Prostate Cancer UK. A walk with Sky Sports presenter Jeff Stelling in 2017 raised almost £4000. A cricket match with lunch against an England Over 60s XI also raised £4000 in 2019. In 2021 Ron took on the challenge of raising more funds and the idea of walks from all the home grounds Ron had played Over 60s and Over 70s at during 2021 came to fruition. In September and October 58 people from the three Counties took part in one of our seven walks.

The walks have raised nearly £6000 thanks to the walkers their families and friends.

The final three walks, for now, are as follows.

We shall be walking from **Kimble CC on Thursday 14th April, meeting at 11.00am** for a cuppa and then a walk. We are pleased to say that Peter Spinks will be arranging lunch in the Clubhouse, I am sure Dawn Spinks will be involved too. A small charge will be made for lunch. **On Friday 22nd April we will be walking from Beaconsfield Cricket Club after a cuppa and meeting at 11.00am.** We give many thanks to "Spice Merchants" of Beaconsfield and Cookham who will be providing an Indian meal at a reduced cost. A charge will be made on the day. **Our final walk will be on Friday 29th April from High Wycombe Cricket Club and again the meet will be 11.00am** and we will begin with a cuppa.

We are absolutely delighted to say that we shall be joined on our walk by England Test Icon Allan Lamb. We are honoured that Allan has agreed to join us for what should be a wonderful finale to our walks. Stop Press: Also joining the lunch will be an ex England International footballer.

Glynis Langford and Pat Hedley will be providing lunch. If you can help the ladies please let Ron Hedley know. As it is a thank you lunch we expect that everybody joining our High Wycombe walk will have made a donation to our cause. Prostate Cancer UK ask that all walkers donate at least £25. You are asked to also get friends, family and work mates to contribute to the cause too.

As we have not had our annual dinner and awards evening for two years we shall be making the 2021 season awards at the High Wycombe CC lunch.

<http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ronald-hedley1>



Some of Ron's merry band of walkers

QUICK QUIZ ANSWERS 1.Travis Head 2.David Malan 3.152 by T Head 4.Jonny Bairstow 48.50 5.Mark Wood 17 6.Scott Boland 6-9 7. Mark Wood 6-37 8. Steve Smith 11 9. Zak Crawley 8

ADVANCE NOTICE: The Bucks CCC AGM will be held at Wendover CC on Monday 28th March, starting at 7.45pm. As usual, the formal notices will be posted in early March, accompanied by the fixture card and Member's Passes.

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

Website: bucksccc.org.uk

Twitter : @bucksccc

Facebook:/ www.facebook.com/Bucks County Cricket Club

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

Once again, many thanks to all those who have helped and contributed, particularly Kevin Beaumont, Andy Bone, Ron Hedley, Su Klyne, Mike Knox , Yahoo Over Cow Corner and of course all the players who have contributed their answers. All, or any, contributions gratefully received, as of course are comments – good or bad.

Finally I would like to repeat the reminder that the views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of Bucks County Cricket Club.

Bill Scholes

billscholes@hotmail.co.uk

01420 560290