

COLOURED TROUSERS No 22



BUCKS COUNTY CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bill Scholes

**Snow is falling, All around me
Children playing, Having fun
It's the season , Love and understanding
Merry Christmas everyone**

You can't beat a bit of Shaky at Christmas

Yes, it is that time of year again, surely it can't be 12 months since Coloured Trousers No15 hit the bookstalls. And what a year it has turned out to be, with the severe wet weather dominating the early rounds of the T20 campaign – not just for ourselves but at times it seemed as the whole country was under water. Chapeau to all the groundsmen who worked tirelessly throughout this awful period, not only to protect their pitches but also to ensure that they were fit for the start of the K.O. Trophy competition and by the time the Championship rolled around, we were having mini heatwaves. In a way, our performances over the season seemed to mirror the weather. In the T20 competition we shared the honours in our 4 games against Oxfordshire and Bedfordshire and lost both matches against Berkshire. The weather was victorious against Wales NC as both games were washed out, and we ended up bottom of the group. In the 50 over KO campaign, it was a similar story, as we lost to Wiltshire, Dorset and Wales NC with our sole victory coming away at Staffordshire. Unfortunately this win was not enough to save us from another bottom of the table finish.

The 3 day championship was of course another ball game altogether (well it was played with a red ball rather than a white ball!) and having gained promotion to the top flight last season, there was a degree of

apprehension as to the unknown quality we would be facing. We needn't have worried as we got off to a flying start with victories over Norfolk and Staffordshire. A win our third game against Lincolnshire would have all but clinched the Division One title, but unfortunately rain washed out the third day and denied us a very likely victory. Our final game against Suffolk didn't quite go to plan, as we hit a slight bump in the road, but we did gain the required number of bowling and batting points to ensure that we ended up with the title of Division One champions and thereby clinching a place in the Final. Could we cap the achievement of reaching our first Final since 2014 - **of course we could.**

I'm sure by now that everyone is well aware that we became National County Champions for the first time since 2009 with a tremendous display against Devon by Captain Tom and the team over 4 days in early September, topped off with largest margin of victory (550 runs) in the history of the National (Minor) Counties championship. All of the playing squad inevitably take the accolades for this tremendous achievement but the non stop efforts of the those behind the scenes,- Jason Harrison, Simon Stanway and Jack Perham- should never be underestimated. Finally no season review can be complete without thanking those supporters and members who, no matter the weather or distance, turn up, both home and away, to show their support. It is very much appreciated.

Off the field, during the last 12 months, the behind the scenes legal process of merging the County Cricket Club with the Bucks Board continued, culminating with the Bucks CCC EGM last Saturday morning.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

"I am delighted to inform you that at an Extraordinary General Meeting of members of Bucks CCC held today Saturday 16 December, members approved the integration of Bucks Cricket CIO - (Charitable Incorporated Organisation), (to which all the assets of the Bucks Cricket Board were transferred at the end of September), Bucks CCC and Buckinghamshire Youth Cricket Trust into a single organisation. This means that all cricket in Bucks will now be organised through one charitable organisation (i.e. Bucks Cricket CIO) operating under the name Bucks Cricket and under one umbrella through a board of trustees representing all three organisations with Rich Hudson as CEO. Separate committees will be established for the management of specific areas of activity including the County Cricket Club teams, Governance, HR and Finance, Marketing and Communications, Community and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Schools and Clubs. We believe that this integration will be of enormous long-term benefit to cricket within Bucks at all levels.

Ian Hodgson Chairman

BUCKS CRICKET FIXTURES 2024

We can now turn our attention back to playing or watching Bucks cricket in the to the forthcoming season and the news that we have all been eagerly waiting , and that is the publication of the 2024 fixtures. The NCCA announced their fixtures at the end of November and our indefatigable Secretary Kevin Beaumont has been kept busy matching dates and venues for the summer. Most have now been confirmed but he is still awaiting venues for 3 away matches.

T20 Cup: The format for the 50 Over K.O. Trophy and the Championship remains the same but the NCCA have tweaked the way the T20 Cup will be played. This undoubtedly follows some grumblings about the way the four counties making it through to Finals day were determined. In previous years, there have been four groups of five, with just the winners of each section progressing to Finals day. However, this has now been altered for the 2024 campaign.

There will now be five groups of four, with the group winners, group runners-up and two best third-placed finishers advancing to a new Super 12s stage. Those 12 teams will be split into four groups of three, all playing each other on a scheduled day. (keep up at the back!) Obviously venues for these matches will not be known until all of the qualifiers have been decided. The table-toppers in those sections will then make up the four counties who will contest Finals day.

KO Trophy:The format remains the same but we will have four new opponents this season. Home games against holders Berkshire and Devon, a visit to near neighbours Oxfordshire and a slightly longer journey down to Redruth in Cornwall !

Championship: Sadly no trip up to Norwich this season to their Festival of cricket as Norfolk were relegated last season. They have been replaced by Div Two champions Bedfordshire, with the match being played at Flitwick. Our other away game will see us journey to Sleaford in the middle of Lincolnshire, which makes a change from our usual destination of Grantham.

NCCA T20 COMPETITION (2 matches per day

Date	Opposition	Venue
Apr 21	Staffordshire	TBA
April 28	BEDFORDSHIRE	HIGH WYCOMBE
May 5	Berkshire	TBA
May 6 (BH)	HERTFORDSHIRE	BEACONSFIELD
May 19	T20 Super 12's	

T20 Finals Day 26/27 May

NCCA 50 OVERS KNOCKOUT

Date	Opposition	Venue
May 12	Oxfordshire	TBA
June 9	DEVON	TBA
June 16	Cornwall	Redruth
June 23	BERKSHIRE	CHESHAM
June 30	Quarter Finals	
Aug 4	Semi Finals	

Final Aug 25/26 Wormsley?

NCCA CHAMPIONSHIP - EASTERN DIVISION ONE

Date	Opposition	Venue
July 7-9	Lincolnshire	Sleaford
July 14-16	SUFFOLK	TRING PARK
Aug 11-13	Bedfordshire	Flitwick
Aug 18-20	STAFFORDSHIRE	HIGH WYCOMBE

Championship Final Sept 1-4 West Bromwich Dartmouth ?

OTHER ADDITIONAL FIXTURES

April 7	Intra Squad match	2 x T20	Wormsley
April 14	Oxfordshire Nurton-York Trophy	2 xT20	HWCC/Aston
Rowant ??			
July21/22 ?	LEICESTERSHIRE Showcase Match	50 overs	HWCC?

WHAT DID YOU SAY STOPPED PLAY?

A ball was hit for 6 during a Currie Cup match at Paarl in 1995 and landed in a barbecue. Play was halted for 10 minutes while the ball cooled down and all the grease was removed!

TWO OF BUCKS CHAMPIONSHIP WINNING HEROES ARE MOVING TO NEW CLUBS



12th December 2023 by [Andy Bone](#)

Bucks Cricket Men's 1st XI players Tom Hampton and Ross Richardson have signed for new Home Counties Premier League sides for the 2024 season.

After 7 successive seasons at High Wycombe, the National Counties side's skipper, Hampton, has opted to take on a new challenge after deciding to leave, and has signed for Division One side Wokingham. Hampton (Hampo) was an integral part of the club since he joined in 2016 from Gloucestershire, firstly becoming Head Coach and then Club Captain as well as being part of 3 title winning campaigns. Tom should feel at home at Wokingham as they are skippered by ex Bucks opener Shaan Khan, a very stylish and talented batsman. Also at Wokingham is T20 specialist Conrad Louth

Richardson has made the move from Blackheath in the Surrey Premier League, who he joined after leaving Durham University, to Henley for the new campaign. The Bucks wicketkeeper-batsman, who scored a century in the National Counties Championship Final, has opted to don the colours with the former Home Counties, Division 1 Champions.

Addendum- Highest Bucks Wicket Partnerships – All Ages

Apologies but in the last edition, I mentioned the highest ever Bucks partnership in an article, but omitted to say that it was 322, by Jason Harrison and Paul Sawyer in 1998. It gives me the opportunity to again congratulate Danny Chapman (150 off 230 balls) and Aum Raykar (169 off 153 balls) who put on 294 for Bucks Boys U18s at Gt Witchingham CC. - believed to be the second highest Bucks partnership for any wicket and at any level.



Ex Bucks Pathway player Raph Weatherall has signed his first professional contract with Northamptonshire. Young quick Weatherall now begins a two year rookie deal until the end of 2025. "I'm really pleased I got a deal, I feel like I've worked really hard for it and to see that work pay off makes me very proud." Said Weatherall. The 18-year-old has enjoyed a breakout season in 2023, impressing in the Club's Second Eleven and earning himself a call-up to the England U19's ODI and Test sides. Weatherall capped it off by being recently named Northants Academy Player of the Year at the Club's End of Season Dinner Awards.

Unsung Heroes – Scorers

Continuing the series that we started a couple of years ago of the Bucks unsung heroes that the game cannot do without - they are of course the scorers. Sometimes hot, sometimes cold, BUT they are always there, and this time the spotlight is on



Name; ...Lee Wiles
A few brief words about yourself

1.Fact no one will know about you: My First Career Choice as a schoolboy was to become a train driver

2. How many years have you been scoring for Bucks CCC?

5 Seasons

3. Have you also scored for Bucks Cricket? If so, which teams ?

U16 U18 Academy First Team Women First Team Women U18 Over 50 and 60s

4. And which other Clubs do you currently score for:

Chesham CC

5. When did you first start scoring, and how did you first get into it?

1995 turned up to Chesham and wanted to learn how to score and never looked back.

6. Which is your favourite Bucks ground to score at

With my club hat on obviously Chesham CC but I enjoy scoring at High Wycombe

7. And which Bucks club has the best scoreboard facilities

Since the scoreboard upgrade at Chesham it has to be at Chesham. High Wycombe has good scoreboard facilities

8. And which has the worst No, don't answer that!

9. And which is your favourite club ground :

Kibworth in Leicestershire

10. What are your proudest scoring moments so far ?

Scoring the Minor Counties Final 2023 between Buckinghamshire and Devon

11. Do you have a ground where you would like to score but haven't yet and why?

I have a bucket list of grounds that I would like to tick off I will name a couple:

Sidmouth in Devon nice ground by the sea

Cromer in Norfolk nice ground by the sea

Lord's as it is the home of cricket

12. Outside of cricket, do you have any other interests – sporting or otherwise?

QPR and Chesham United season ticket holder I also enjoy watching rugby. I also enjoy watching planes land and take off.

13. Finally, what actions, if any, would you like to see a club make to improve the life of a scorer ?

Clubs to make sure the scoreboard is near the pavilion as tea is quite short.

Now there's a man who enjoys a cuppa!

NEWS OF BUCKS PATHWAY PLAYERS

Three Bucks Pathway players at the Darren Lehmann Cricket Academy

Three of the Bucks Pathway players are currently working hard at the prestigious Darren Lehmann Cricket Academy, based in Adelaide, Australia.

Teddy Fleming, Jake Tarling and Sikander Rizwan are all learning and developing their skills under the former Australian player and his experienced coaching staff. Rizwan is playing club cricket for East Torrens, while Tarling is turning out for Northern Districts.

Two more Bucks Pathway players plying their trade in Melbourne

Hashan Ramanadanpulle and **Rhys Nicholas** are in Australia playing for Seddon Cricket Club in the Victorian Turf Cricket Association. The pair, who play for Buckingham Town and Great Brickhill, respectively, have started well. Ramanadanpulle scoring two half centuries (67 on debut & 73) in his opening games.

Three of the above players, Fleming, Tarling and Ramanadpulle made their Bucks 1st Team debuts during the season just finished.

Seek and Ye Shall Find - Reprised

Another blog from Yahoo Over Cow Corner to remind us of the joys of watching National Counties cricket at very pleasant country grounds.

In recent times, August has become the most divisive month in the English cricketing calendar. The advent of the Hundred and its placement amongst the supposedly prime month of the season has led to much chewing of the cud and rancorous discussions about the lack of red ball cricket during the thirty-one days.

Whisper it quietly but a ready-made enjoyable alternative exists and has done for some time. Featuring twenty participants across two divisions in two conferences, the National Counties Championship features red ball cricket played across the breadth of August. Mention of the second level of shires provokes a particular reaction amongst many though. Perhaps some are deterred by the lack of first-class status of the National Counties Championship. Cricket's old bugbear remains paramount, particularly in English cricket, but such an occurrence doesn't detract from the quality of cricket on display. Indeed, many a National County team will feature players who have either played first class cricket or are on the cusp of reaching such an achievement. Nevertheless, maybe a small recalibration of one's cricketing brain is all that's needed to overcome the issue of status.

Ultimately, the quality and intrigue of a contest is not altered by whether a particular status is afforded to said contest. (In many respects, the somewhat random nature in which some contests are afforded first-class status arguably dilutes the standard to some extent) Indeed, there are a number of interesting nuances and developments that provide subtext and narrative to each contest. Matches begin on Sundays, thus fulfilling one of the most common gripes regarding the lack of weekend cricket in the first class season, whilst spin bowling remains important and influential with many counties playing two practitioners. In the event of overs being lost during a day, the next day's play will begin at 10.30, a policy that is regularly proffered by supporters to remedy the often tardy nature of the first class game.

Similarly, the two division structure has added intrigue and interest to almost every match whilst the current season witnessed a final between Buckinghamshire and Devon, arguably not the most obvious pairing once the competition began after Berkshire had claimed the title at the conclusion five out of the last six times it was contested. Nevertheless, prior to the Home County's domination there had been eight different winners in eight seasons, highlighting the variety of different counties claiming overall honours. Although the overall title is now limited to just half of the counties, it should be noted that both Buckinghamshire and Devon were promoted at the conclusion of the 2022 season prior to reaching the

Championship final of the 2023 campaign, underlining that the guard often changes and at great speed.

Perhaps one of the more intriguing aspects of the Championship is the ninety overs limit to each county's first innings, dictating that both teams will, weather permitting, bat on the first day of the match. The tactical nuances and subtleties surrounding protecting a lead or conceding a lead provide a different angle from which to win a contest whilst the set up of the three days and the lack of overs restrictions in the second innings dictates that extraordinary performances occasionally come to fruition. Thus, one's own personal experiences of the 2023 Championship included a match where Shropshire's George Hargrave completed an astonishing century-double century combo that allowed the West Midlands county to defeat their hosts, Dorset, despite conceding over 400 in the first innings. Host county Dorset played both of their home Championship matches at The Leaze in Wimborne; a delightful ground just a five minute bumble from the most pleasant town centre where during lunch one can wander around quiet lanes alongside the River Allen. Such an occurrence highlights how the National Counties circuit regularly visits some of the country's more humble locales that possess charm and attraction aplenty.

Perambulations inside of the grounds also provide a pleasant aspect or two as, within reason, spectators are able to mix with the players in the pavilion as, most of the time, the players are approachable and happy to chat and cogitate on many a matter. Indeed, the more social aspect of National Counties cricket is perhaps no better highlighted than how counties will usually use social media channels to thank host clubs and the unsung volunteers that have aided each contest whilst there seems more of a general sense of camaraderie between the various counties that is perhaps not so prevalent in the professional game.

Thus, there is plenty to like, enjoy and be impressed about the National Counties Championship. And, for most cricket supporters, very much within easy reach. Of the eighteen first class counties only two, Sussex and Kent, do not border a National equivalent. Some counties share borders with two or three National Counties, thus providing a number of spectating opportunities.

In some respects, one of the National Counties' more pleasant aspects could also be one of its weaker points though. Playing matches in smaller locales than the first class equivalents undoubtedly proves pleasing and more than useful for spectators arriving by car but for those relying on public transport, particularly trains, following the Championship in person could prove very difficult, if not impossible. Nevertheless, on-site free-parking and no charge for admittance certainly sweeten any logistical inconveniences. Such foibles highlight one of the enduring delights of the National Counties Championship: it may not be perfect, but it is mighty fine and very much provides plenty of red ball succour during the season's most divisive month.

WIDE OF THE MARK

In a Minor Counties fixture between Dorset and Cheshire in 1998, the Dorset captain, Andrew Wingfield Digby is a vicar, contrived to set up an interesting finish to the game by conceding quick runs. He instructed his bowler to send down a series of very wide wides, each of which would go to the boundary. Fourteen wides were bowled in the over and four runs were scored off the bat. Sixty runs in all. Given a fighting chance of victory, Cheshire took up the challenge but eventually lost by 18 runs.



Christmas Music Quiz

- 1 - What is the UK's number 1 selling Christmas song?
- 2 - In 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', how many lords a-leaping?
- 3 - How many times does Santa check his list in the song 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town'?
- 5 - Who will be Lonely This Christmas?
- 6 - Most people know who sang the first line of In Band Aid's 'Do They Know It's Christmas?', but who sang the second line?
- 7 - What is the best selling Christmas song of all time?
- 8 - In 1965, Astronauts broadcast which Christmas song from space?
- 9 - Which band sang the song 'I wish it could be Christmas everyday'?
- 10 - What type of pie is mentioned in 'Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree'?
- 11 - Which song starts with the opening line "Snow is falling, all around me"?
- 12 - 'Happy Xmas (War Is Over)' was written by who?
- 13 - Which song starts with the opening line "The child is a king, the carolers sing"?
14. How many 'las' are after the 'fa' in 'Deck the Halls'?
15. Which Chris Rea song includes the lyrics 'Top to toe in tailbacks, oh I got red lights all around'?
16. How many versions of 'Do They Know It's Christmas' have been released?
17. Eartha Kitt had a hit with Santa Baby in the 1950s. Who re-recorded it in 2003?
18. Who had a hit in 1985 with the theme tune to 'The Snowman' Walking in the Air?
19. What is the only band in the history of the UK singles charts to have achieved Christmas number one twice with the same song?
20. And finally, one for the oldies - who sang Holly Jolly Christmas in 1965?

THE EUROPEAN CRICKET T10 CHAMPIONSHIPS – MEN



National

Counties XI won the Dream 11 European Championship for the second time in 3 years with an emphatic 8 wickets win over defending champions Netherlands XI in the final at the Cartama Oval near Malaga. A superb unbeaten 71 from 24 balls from Oxfordshire's former Sussex left-hander Tom Hinley swept National Counties to a target of 146 with 11 balls to spare. Hinley thumped eight sixes in a thrilling display of clean hitting that helped National Counties, representing England in the 31-nation competition, to avenge their defeat by the Dutch in the final 12 months ago. It was the second win for National Counties over Netherlands in the day as it followed a 15 runs victory in a qualifier earlier on Finals Day. That win secured National Counties passage to the final and gave them four hours to recover from their exertions before the showpiece match. National Counties' success was achieved in adversity with a gastric bug affecting a number of players during Champions Week. Cumbria slow left-armer Matt Siddall missed the whole of the week and Greatwood, the former Middlesex seamer, only returned to action in first qualifier against Netherlands on Champions Day.

THE EUROPEAN CRICKET T10 CHAMPIONSHIPS – WOMEN

The NCCA Women's team will make history as they make their debut at the inaugural Women's European Championship taking place in Spain from Dec 17 to Dec 22. The National Counties men's team are no strangers to the Cartama Oval near Malaga as they have won the Dream 11 European twice in three years, Now it is the turn of the newly-formed Women's team who will represent the NCCA as an England XI, who will take on Austria, Netherland, Italy and hosts Spain in the T10 competition that starts on Sunday December 17 and concludes with Finals Day on Friday December 22. The England XI will be coached by former England Test player Beth Morgan, who is now Head of the Emerging Player Programme for the Southern Vipers.

England XI will play the other four competing countries (Spain ,Italy, Austria and Netherlands)twice during the week to determine the line-up for Finals Day.
England squad.

Meg Austin (Staffordshire and Central Sparks), Beth Ellis (Warwickshire and Central Sparks), Beth Gammon (Wales), Shaci Pai (Lancashire Thunder), Libby Thomas (Wales and Central Sparks Academy), Millie Taylor (Southern Vipers Academy), Maddie Ward (Nottinghamshire), Ria Fackrell (Warwickshire and Central Sparks), Chiara Green (Sussex), Megan Sturge (Kent and Southern Vipers), Amy Wheeler (Staffordshire), Cassidy McCarthy (Sussex and Trent Rockets), Daisy Gibb (Sussex and Southern Vipers Academy).

STOP PRESS: Late update as of Thursday afternoon 21 Dec.

After 7 matches, the NCCA XI top the table, just, from Netherlands, both with 12 points but with better NRR. Italy lie in 3rd place with 10 points, but have played all 8 games. The top 3 teams qualify for Finals day on 22 December, but as far as I can see there is an Eliminator, then a Qualifier before the Final at 8 pm. (Never mind keeping up at the back, (it's difficult enough to keep up at the front!!)

Sports Shots is delighted to again partner ETDC Digital Media for 2024

December 2023 by [Andy Bone](#)

After a successful 2023, Sports Shots is delighted to announce their partnership with **ETDC Digital Media will continue for the** for 2024 season This exciting relationship adds even more quality to the Sports Shots brand, with many potential benefits, including content writing. The owner of **ETDC Digital Media**, Teddie Casterton, said:

*I was glad to be in a position to sponsor Sports Shots. Not only is it a great family-run business, but they put in some tremendous effort to produce fantastic content. As my own business focusses on content creation, I thought it would make a great partnership. Andy, Lorna, Luke and Dale have come to many games my teams have participated in and have always been so warm and welcoming. **ETDC Digital Media** hopes to be able to support them in creating excellent content for the long-term, so they can continue their great work.*

Starting as a content writing specialist, Teddie began to take on more work within social media & SEO website content. After a few months, he had helped local brands and companies grow their social following and increase their website traffic. Because of this, Teddie launched **ETDC Digital Media** to help more companies in strategizing and implementing new creative approaches to grow business' online profiles. At **ETDC Digital Media** we love content and design, striving to help those in a digitally centric world find their footing. **Website:** <https://www.etdcdigitalmedia.com/>

Review of the 2023 Home Counties Premier League, Div 1 season

by ETDC Digital Media

As the celebrations subside and clubs dwindle down into off-season normality, it is only right to incorporate some of the key performances of the year into a season overview. Firstly, we must say congratulations to High Wycombe Cricket Club on an undefeated run throughout the season – a record only completed once before by Henley a few years prior. With 310 points in total, High Wycombe cleared the rest of the field by 63 points – the

equivalent of just over four 50 over wins. With 11 wins, 4 draws and 3 games coming to no results due to weather, High Wycombe stomped on the competition this year, no real teams came close. And it's unsurprising with four Wycombe batsmen - Eliot Callis, AJ Woodland, Brock Hardy and Teddie Casterton - all scoring in the top 7 run scorers of the league. Not only that but three of their bowlers - AJ Woodland, Conner Haddow and Cameron Parsons - also finished up in the top 9 wicket-takers of the season.

That being said, the individual performances were relatively spread around. Eliot Callis was the leading run scorer for the first 15 games, but a series of poor scores at the end of the season allowed Billy Mead to take over and be crowned champion of the batsmen. Having struck 793 runs at an average of just over 66, Mead got past the half-century mark in half of his innings for the season, managing to convert two of them to hundreds. His consistent run-scoring mentality had allowed him to be called up to Berkshire for his debut, a strong side that won the NCCA One-Day Finals.

Whilst we're on the batting, it would be hard not to mention Calvin Dickinson's insane century and a half against Henley on May 27th. A freak innings that allowed him to race to 180 off just 97 deliveries; that's the 8th highest total in Home Counties history - the highest the 215* by Aftab Khan.

It is safe to say it has been an incredible season with the bat, testament to the groundsmen at each club for producing incredible wickets. Three other batsmen scored a century and a half including, AJ Woodland, Eliot Callis and Hayden Rossouw. But as the batsmen put away their pads and bats into the loft for the next few months, we'll tell some stories of the bowlers. Benjamin Le Bas finishes the season as the leading wicket-taker (36); that's three ahead of Adam Searle and four ahead of Mohammed Rizvi. In a game against Wargrave - a team who looked strong on paper at the start of the season, but costed with a point penalty - Le Bas picked up 7-32 in his 9 over spell and restricted Wargrave to 125 all out: a comfortable 136-run win. This season, he remained steadfast and strong in his deliveries, enabling himself to pick up four 5-wicket-hauls and a strike rate of 20. Although he managed to top the bowling table, his figures of 7-32 unbelievably weren't the best of the season. Fellow Aston Rowant teammate Leo Bethell took that crown from him as he turned over 8-42 against Wokingham in just 16 overs. His spell skittled Wokingham - a team who were at risk of relegation for some time - and is the 8th best figures of Division One history. With both Bethell and Le Bas high on the bowling table, it was no surprise that they finished 3rd in Division One. Once again, well done to all of the teams in Division One of the Home Counties Premier League. Commiserations to Harefield and Slough who join Division Two next year.

And that's it from us at ETDC Digital Media. We've loved covering the Home Counties Premier League Division 1 games this year and can't wait to come back again next year. If you enjoyed any of our content, we'd really appreciate a follow over on our socials linked below. And if you haven't checked out our website, please do so for all of your content needs. Thanks all, Teddie

BUCKS C.C. C. PLAYER SPONSORSHIP 2023 / 2024

Sponsor a Bucks squad member - for just £ 50. Firstly a great big thank you to all individuals/ companies who sponsored a player over the past season,and indeed seasons before that. I am pleased to report that we will be continuing with the sponsorship initiative for the new season. A couple of sponsors came late to the party this year and their sponsorship will be carried over to the new season. It is possible that there will be a few comings and goings to the squad for the new season, but an updated list will be issued as soon as known.

For more information , please contact Bill Scholes Tel: 01420 560290

PLAYER	SPONSOR (S)
Tom Hampton	Sports Shots
Alexei Kervesev	Jonathan Lilley
Michael Payne	Alan Rowlands
Ewan Cox	Steve Peart
AJ Woodland	John Phillips
Cameron Parsons	teachtalking.co.uk
Conner Haddow	J.Haskell & G. Shelvey
Ed Bragg	Bill Scholes
Jack Rodnight	David Smith
Ross Richardson	
Chris Marrow	Frank Russell
Stephen Croft	AW Sales Agencies
Teddie Casterson	ETDC Digital Media
Mo Choudry	
Tom Weymes	Arthur Evans &Graham Parker
Jake Tarling	
Teddy Fleming	
Hashan Ramanadpulle	

IMPORTANT NEWS

Unfortunately our membership secretary Su Klyne resigned in early September, so please address all membership enquiries to John Phillips, the previous incumbent. Email: johnphillips@bucksccc.org.uk Tel: 01494 721244

SUPPORT BUCKS CRICKET

By joining Bucks County Cricket Club

The County Club and Bucks Cricket are working actively to promote and develop cricket at all levels and ages throughout the county

You can support these efforts by joining the Bucks County Cricket Club

The Annual Subscription is : -

£25 for individuals

£35 for partners living at the same address

£10 for juniors (aged under 18)

£15 for students in full time education (aged under 24)

Life membership is also available

Membership forms are available from the membership secretary

UPDATE ON RON HEDLEY'S SPONSORED CHARITY WALKS

Late Autumn Update: Walks 14, 15, 16 and 17.

Oxfordshire, Somerset, Hampshire and Cambridgeshire / Hunts.

The fourteenth walk, involving England Cricket Seniors was organised by Clive Ricks on behalf of Oxfordshire CCC Over 60s and took place in the delightful village of Cumnor in Oxfordshire on Friday 8th September 2023.

Fourteen people met at 4.30pm in the local pub car park, it happened that the day was probably the hottest of the 2023 summer. Unfortunately, we had some people drop out of the walk as they decided it was far too hot for walking. We could not argue with their decision and we are pleased to say that most of them joined us at the village pub for drinks and dinner after the walk.

The walk took us along the Thames and was delightful, leaving the lovely village before walking through woodland and across fields, skirting by the side of the river as we walked. We entered the village from a different direction discovering how lucky Clive is to live in such a delightful village. We walked 5.8 miles and I am delighted to say that in the intense heat everybody made it without a problem.

The thirsty walkers retired to the pub garden to quench thirsts and have a lovely evening meal. Less said about one or two interesting things at the pub, but the garden was lovely and the food excellent. Pat and I were driving to Brecon, after the meal, as we were going to the 100th birthday of one of my first captains at Amersham Hill Cricket Club, the following evening. The gentleman behind the bar was not over keen to fill our water bottles, for the journey, fortunately he did. We didn't arrive in Brecon until 1.00am and the water was well received.

We thank Clive for organising the walk, to those who took part in the walk, or joined the walkers for the meal and to all those who donated to the cause.

Walk number fifteen took us to the delightful County Ground, Taunton for a walk arranged by Somerset Over 60s and Over 70s which turned into a memorable day for the 22 people who joined the walk. Steve Pursey was responsible for arranging the Somerset walk and he was able to get us permission to meet at and walk from The County Ground. It was arranged that we would walk in the morning and then all walkers were given tickets to watch the Championship match between Somerset and Kent.

A wet start to the day held up play until after lunch but it did not deter the walkers from having a delightful walk around the lovely town of Taunton. On arriving back at the County Ground, we were invited onto the outfield to have a photo with a few of the Somerset players and introduced to the crowd, who were encouraged to talk to us about our walks and to donate, which many did. We thank the players for giving up their time to join us. Somerset CCC have the most interesting museum within the ground and we were encouraged to visit it during the day.

Little did we know that we would see a picture of the father of one of Buckinghamshire's Over 60s/70s on a cigarette card from the 1950s. John Pothecary's father played for Hampshire CCC and played one game for Somerset, I hope that is correct. Patrick Draycott of the museum staff had produced a power point display about Bob Willis, his career and his battle with prostate cancer. We are so thankful to Patrick for doing such an amazing thing to celebrate Bob and our day in Taunton. Some of the walkers had booked lunch in the delightful Somerset CCC carvery. None of us were aware of the surprises awaiting us when we went into lunch.

The carvery manager took our collecting bucket to put on the bar in the hope of more donations. He then announced that the P.A System was set up so the diners could be told about the people in Ron's March T shirts and what they are about. The bigger shock was when he informed Ron Hedley that he would be speaking to the 150 or so diners. After a delightful carvery meal Ron did take to the microphone to inform the people present of why we are raising awareness and funds to fight such an awful disease. Amongst the diners was Past President of Kent CCC, Vice Admiral Tim Laurence. Ron enjoyed a few words with Tim after lunch and Tim was delighted to support our campaign. Somerset CCC also allowed us to go amongst the crowd with our collection bucket and over £300 was raised. We are so grateful to Spencer Bishop & Matthew Counsell of Somerset CCC for making the day so memorable.

How do you follow that you may ask, we followed it by joining Hampshire CCC Over 60s/70s for a walk at the Ageas Bowl, Southampton on Wednesday 27th September as Hampshire CCC took on Surrey CCC who were hoping to be crowned County Championship, Division One, champions during the match. **Walk sixteen** had 16 people taking part in a morning walk and again all were invited to watch the days play at The Ageas Bowl. The weather was set fine and Geoff Beale took us on a lovely walk around the local area which the ground is in.

On arriving back at the ground, we were asked to meet at a particular part of the ground at a time to coincide with the lunch interval. Another surprise awaited us when the P A announcer welcomed the walkers to the ground, explaining to the crowd who we were and what we are trying to achieve. We were then asked to walk around the boundary to be applauded by the crowd. I never thought I would be applauded on a cricket ground.

A few of us had an excellent lunch in BEEFY'S by Lord Botham Restaurant and then watched the rest of the days play which was interrupted by the weather so we arrived back in Buckinghamshire earlier than expected. Yet again an excellent amount of money was raised and a lot more people were made aware of prostate cancer. Surrey CCC did clinch the title during the match but we are pleased to say that Hampshire CCC won the match. We thank the Hampshire

players who signed a Ron's March T shirt to be auctioned at some point in the near future. Many thanks to the staff of Hampshire CCC.

The seventeenth walk and the last arranged for 2023, at the moment, was organised by Nick Andrews on behalf of Cambs/Hunts Over 60s/70s and took place from the Thorpe Wood Golf Club in Peterborough on Tuesday 3rd October and coincided with Pat's birthday. It was great to walk with Nick as I played cricket for Amersham Hill CC, and on joining the Club in 1974, I played a few years with Nick's father, a delightful man. Fifteen people took part and we were treated to a delightful walk with a variety of interesting points of interest.

We walked by the River Nene, two golf courses and close to my heart, as a steam train lover, the Nene Valley Steam Railway, unfortunately there were not any trains running on the day. We had lunch in the Woodman's Pub, which is part of the golf complex, it was a lovely meal and we thank Carol and her staff for making the lunch special.

My mother's parents were originally from Peterborough before moving to Bedfordshire and having been told, recently, the name of the road they had lived in during the 1890's I had to go and see the road for myself. Some of the houses from that time are still standing and it was so interesting to see such history. We thank Nick and the Cambs/Hunts Over 60s/70s who walked and donated or just donated, it was such a lovely day.

R.I.P. David (Dave) Finch

Bucks CCC and Wycombe Wanderers and were saddened to learn of the passing of David (Dave) Finch, a devoted supporter of both the football and cricket clubs..

Dave was particularly heavily involved in the football club and began supporting Wycombe in the early 1960s. He went on to write for the matchday programme for a number of years, as well as serving on the committee of the Official Wycombe Wanderers Supporters Association. He co-wrote the book which detailed the club's official history, published in the mid-1990s with another long time Bucks member Steve Peart, and most recently undertook an intensive research project to document every Wycombe Wanderers fixture and its lineups.

Although WWFC was his main love, Dave was also a committed supporter of Bucks CCC and he and his friends were regularly to be found at home matches, come rain or shine. One thing you could be sure of with Dave was good, honest and interesting conversation.

Dave was a much-loved and well-known supporter, and the thoughts of everyone at the clubs were with his friends and family at this sad time. A celebration of his life was held at Amersham Crematorium on 28th November, with Su Klyne representing Bucks CCC. Also in attendance were Bucks members Andy Warboys, Steve Peart, and Ian Blacklidge.

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

Can't get to a game – do not despair, help is at hand. Don't miss a moment
Please note the new social media addresses below as the old ones have been disabled and merged with these.

Website: bucks cricket.co.uk

Twitter : @BucksCricket

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

Instagram: [bucks cricket.official](https://www.instagram.com/bucks cricket.official)

All of Bucks 1st XI games will be streamed live on our YouTube channel

Once again, many thanks to all those who have helped and contributed to Coloured Trousers over the past year, particularly Kevin Beaumont, Ron Hedley, Su Klyne, Mike Knox, Rachel Hudson, Jonathan Lilley, County Cricket Matters, Yahoo Over Cow Corner, Steve Peart, Tom Hampton and Andy Bone and Sports Shots. We are of course obviously very grateful to all our sponsors and to Sports Shots for their excellent media coverage as well as to Charlie Carter for all his excellent photographs. All contributions gratefully received of course - relieve the boredom of the winter months by writing an article- and join our happy band of literary contributors.

Bill Scholes

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Tel: 01420 560290

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

Answers to Music Quiz 1 - Do they know it's Christmas, 2 – 10, 3 – Twice, 5 – Mud, 6 – Boy George, 7 - White Christmas 8 - Jingle Bells 9- Wizzard , 10 - Pumpkin Pie – 11, Merry Christmas Everyone - 12, John Lennon & Yoko Ono - 13 - Mistletoe and Wine 14,8 -15, Driving home for Christmas- 16, 4 1984,1989. 2004, 2014 -17, Kylie Minogue 18, Aled Jones-19, Queen – with Bohemian Rhapsody in 1975 and 1991 – 20, Burl Ives

Appendix

This following article appeared recently on the Table Tennis England website

Photos with royalty, a TV appearance and meeting sporting heroes – table tennis stalwart Ron Hedley has literally taken it all in his stride during a series of walks to raise funds for prostate cancer research. A grassroots volunteer for more than 40 years, Ron is well known to table tennis devotees in Buckinghamshire as County Match Secretary and a long-serving umpire. He is a life member of both Bucks TTA and the High Wycombe TT League, where he has played since 1974. His county and umpiring roles go back to the late 1970s and he was recognised by being awarded the Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy for services to county table tennis in 2008. He was also runner-up in the Contribution to Table Tennis category at the 2021 Pride of Table Tennis Awards.



Ron with the Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy

The Pride of Table Tennis Awards citation read: “Thousands of players in Buckinghamshire have benefitted from Ron’s commitment and organisational skills . . . he has dedicated a lifetime to table tennis to ensure the enjoyment of others.”

However, it is his other sporting love – cricket – which set him on course to raise £50,000 to help combat prostate cancer, saw him rub shoulders with household names and make it on to Sky Sports during last summer’s memorable Ashes cricket series. Having joined Sky Sports’ Jeff Stelling on one of his March for Men walks in 2017 to raise funds for prostate cancer research, Ron was himself diagnosed with prostate and bone cancer in late 2018 and underwent over a year of chemotherapy and radiotherapy and has a three-monthly injection to keep the cancer at bay. Through his role playing for and being Chairman of Bucks’ over-60s and over-70s cricket teams, Ron realised he had a large audience he could talk to about the importance of testing to catch prostate cancer early. He organised a fundraising cricket match, a lunch which was joined by Mary Berry and Michael Parkinson, and an auction, and then a series of nine walks around cricket grounds in Buckinghamshire to help get that message across. The final event was a lunch attended by England cricket legend Allan Lamb and former Luton Town footballer Mick Harford, both prostate cancer sufferers, and took the total raised to £22,000. And that, so Ron thought, would be the end of the fundraising.

But then he met Lauren Clark, the wife of England cricket hero Bob Willis, who had recently died from the disease and had inspired the Bob Willis Fund to raise money to combat the disease, which affects one in eight men. The meeting spurred Ron to launch another series of up to 33 walks, one in each of the counties which play over-60s cricket. He is joined on each walk by cricketers from that

county and has so far completed 17. He has set a date of September 15th next year – his 75th birthday – for the final walk, which he hopes will be at the ‘home of cricket’, Lord’s.

The running (or should that be walking) total for that series is now more than £30,000, taking his total raised through the £50,000 mark. The money has been raised through donations by walkers and the public and through bucket collections at the lunches which end each walk – they walk around five miles each time and end with lunch at a pub or at a county cricket ground. It’s been absolutely sensational to raise so much,” said Ron, “I thought if I could do 10 walks and raise £10,000, I would be delighted. It’s incredible how it’s just blossomed.

“But more than anything, you’re getting awareness out there. You need to get the message through to men to be tested. There aren’t any symptoms most of the time – I never knew I had it, other than going to the toilet more at night, but my wife nagged me to go and get tested.”



Ron with Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence

Along the way, Ron has had some amazing experiences, including meeting Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence, the husband of Princess Anne, at the county cricket ground in Taunton after the Somerset walk earlier this year.

At the Warwickshire walk in March, they were joined by England great Ian Bell and Warwickshire legends Andy Lloyd and Tim Munton. The walk was filmed by Sky Sports, who also interviewed Ron, his wife Pat and the cricketers, with the finished film shown during June’s Ashes Test match at Edgbaston – which was designated as the fundraising centrepiece for the Bob Willis Fund. “To be on TV, to meet royalty and to do 17 walks, with all the people I’ve met – I never anticipated that,” said Ron. “I’m not even much of a walker! “Walking around the outfield of the Ageas Bowl in Southampton being applauded by the crowd was highly embarrassing but incredible. “People keep praising me, but it’s not about me, it’s just about getting that message out there.”

