

COLOURED TROUSERS No 28



BUCKS COUNTY CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER

Editor: Bill Scholes

Bucks' hopes of retaining the National Counties Championship title were ended when they lost by 67 runs to Staffordshire in their final Eastern Division match at High Wycombe towards the end of August. Needing 246 runs to win and top the division, Bucks were bowled out for 178 in 33 overs and it was therefore Staffs who went on to face Western Division One winners Berkshire in the September championship decider. Reports of that match and Bucks last two championship matches follow after the breaking news emerged a few days ago that Bucks skipper Tom Hampton was relinquishing his role after seven years.

CAPTAIN TOM HANGS UP HIS COUNTY CAP



Tom Hampton's Interview with Sports Shots Andy Bone

Tom Hampton has called time on his successful stint as captain of the Bucks Cricket, Men's 1st XI. After taking charge back in 2018, Tom has decided to stand down after seven years at the helm.

It was obviously a big decision as it's been a huge part of my life, but at the same time it was a simple one. The two big factors were that over the last few years playing multiple days has got harder and harder, and it had got to the point that my body was getting too sore to keep doing it, especially the way I like to play the game. Secondly, with Mez and Scarlett, I was more aware it was getting harder to leave them. I felt like it was time to take the opportunity to have more time with the family, which makes a tough decision that bit easier. They have put up with a lot of cricket over the years, which I would like to thank them for, plus all the support they continue to give me.

Tom made his senior debut for Bucks back on 11th May 2014 against Oxfordshire in a Unicorns Trophy, Group 4 game at Challow & Childrey. A few weeks later (8th June 2014), Hampton claimed six for 48 for the county against Cumbria at Barrow Cricket Club, a career best. Ironically, both sides in the games mentioned above featured Jason Harrison and Simon Stanway, a duo who became instrumental in working with Hampton to deliver success later on. Tom was appointed as the Bucks Minor Counties, 1st XI Captain for the 2018 season. His second season in charge saw Hampton lead his side to top the group of five sides in the Unicorns T20 and reach Finals Day at Wormsley before losing their semi-final to the eventual winners, Hertfordshire.

The now infamous Covid season was sandwiched between the end of the Minor Counties and the beginning of the newly formed National Counties. But what changes, if any, did Tom think were noticeable.

I don't think there were too many changes. I suppose the one big change was the split in the Championship, with promotion and relegation introduced, which added a new dynamic to the summer. I think the one thing I have noticed is the improved professionalism from all the counties, and the overall quality sides and individuals playing NCCA cricket. Nothing shows this more than the work done with the Challengers side, which is such a great opportunity, and will hopefully play its part in showcasing the talent playing at the level, and hopefully give more players a chance at that next level.

The red ball was where Tom's time as skipper will be remembered as, following the Covid break, arguably the pinnacle was in 2023 as they defeated Devon by a history-making margin to lift the National Counties Championship title at West Bromwich Dartmouth Cricket Club. They had only lifted the Eastern Division 2

title at Tring Park Cricket Club just twelve months earlier. A spell of ten wins and just three defeats in a four-year period highlights the consistency in performance in the red ball game.

Wins over Surrey and Leicestershire in the newly introduced National Counties Showcase fixtures were also added to the CV.

Maybe the lesser known statistic that Tom's last delivery claimed a wicket, while his last scoring shot was a six may not feature!

And what would you say was your biggest achievement in seven seasons?

It's an obvious one but winning the Championship last summer. It was something we really targeted as an opportunity for success and the whole squad bought into that and worked extremely hard for three years to get there. It will forever be one of my proudest moments.

And what would you say will be your legacy from your time at the helm?

Great question, and one that may be answered better by someone else. I'd like to think that I helped create a desire to play for Bucks, and to perform for Bucks to help win games as individuals and as a side. I've always taken pride in giving 100% as a player and with that I like to try and ensure all those 100% are ticked off and taken care of. I think that alongside the management group we helped to change the culture of the side and make it a far more professional squad who took pride in doing the right things. On the back of this the side became more competitive and had some success over the years, which was hugely pleasing, and ultimately why we play sport.

Despite the joys that silverware brings, what other highlights were there for you as skipper, personally, which may not be evident or obvious.

For me, seeing players perform and develop. I won't single any out because the list would be too long, but the squad is full of brilliant cricketers who have worked seriously hard to become top performing NCCA players. Which is why I have no doubt the squad is in a superb place to go on and win further silverware over the next few seasons. I can't wait to look on from the sidelines and watch the squad continue to develop.

Since making the decision, and now that it has taken time to sink in, what do you think you will miss most about Bucks Cricket.

All of it to be honest, but the biggest things will be those individual good days, even though they became few and far between by the end. There is no better feeling than impacting games of cricket and helping the county win

matches. On a personal note it, was pleasing to have had some good days this year; a six for 53 against Berkshire in the 50-over; and to get a fifer against Bedfordshire to give us a chance going into the last game. But more than that I will miss the guys. It's a great group and we spend a lot of time together, so losing that will be hard, but I do look forward to watching them from the sidelines with a beer.

So what next awaits the outgoing captain? And does going into coaching hold any temptations?

I'll still be playing club cricket and hoping that this decision will mean I can keep performing at a decent level for a few more years to come on a Saturday, Coaching is of interest, but think that is for down the line slightly when the playing side eases off.

And how would you summarise the last seven seasons, in your own words?

Captaincy was never something I had given much thought and I probably wasn't the obvious candidate, so I thank Jason for giving me the opportunity because I've loved every minute of it. To Jason, Stan (Simon Stanway), the management and coaching team, all the players past and present, plus those behind the scenes who have supported me, a huge thank you for your efforts. I hope that I have left the county in a better place than when I took it on, and I challenge all the players to keep building on that and never take it for granted.

Commenting on Tom's decision to stand down, Jason Harrison, who had been with him as a player, Head Coach and now Head of Performance, said.

When we appointed Tom as County Captain we all new the qualities he had in terms of personal performance. What has equally shone though has been his ability to bring a team together, good enough in 2023 to be the best red ball team in the country at National Counties level. I can't thank him enough for all the time and commitment he brought to the role. Players loved playing under him with his calm but steely approach, always looking to push a game forward no matter what the situation .

Fast bowlers are generally an unfashionable choice as Captain - 2 showcase victories, Division Two and Division One titles, plus a County Championship under his watch, shows you our quickie was very much in the fashion!

As Bucks Cricket Men's 1st XI continue to move into a new era, there is no doubt that Tom (Hampo) Hampton will be missed.

Coloured Trousers and Sports Shots would like express their very grateful thanks to Tom for all his help and interviews given willingly over the last seven years of his tenure.

It has been much appreciated by both Andy Bone and myself.

A brief look at Tom's Bucks career stats Bowling

Comp	Matches	Capt	Overs	Mnds	Wkts	Runs	Best Inn	Best Match
T20	30	29	90	2	30	600	4-8	4-8
50ov KO	25	18	184.4	6	32	1011	6-53	6-53
Champ	42	29	897.5	131	108	3323	6-48	8-91
Total	97	76	1171.9	139	170	4934		

A brief look at Tom's Bucks career stats Batting

Comp	Matches	Capt	Inns	Runs	Balls	HS	50's	
T20	30	29	13	59	49	16		
50 ov KO	25	18	17	165	134	47		
Champ	42	29	59	669	814	69	1	
Total	97	76	89	1038	997		1	

NCCA CHAMPIONSHIP EASTERN DIVISION ONE

Bedfordshire v Bucks @ Flitwick 11-13th August

After a match of wildly fluctuating fortunes, Bucks eventually defeated Bedfordshire by 34 runs at Flitwick last Tuesday to record their first victory of the season in the Championship.

After dominating the first day thanks to excellent centuries from Alexei Kervezee and Cameron Hemp, Bucks seemed in command. But a second-innings collapse turned the fortunes around and made Beds marginal favourites.

However, an inspired spell of pace bowling from skipper Tom Hampton, who took 5-26, saw Bucks squeeze home amid mounting tension to keep alive their chances of retaining the National Counties Championship title

After winning the toss, Bucks rattled up a mammoth total of 468-7 from their 90 overs in the first innings. Kervezee led the way with a spectacular 180 from 152 balls with a six and 25 fours.

Hemp scored his second successive ton, making 105 from 118 balls with three sixes and 14 fours. Kervezee shared century partnerships with George Harvey (48) and Ed Bragg (55) as Bucks ran riot.

Bedfordshire, 90-1 overnight, also made the most of a benign pitch and a fast outfield on the second day to reply with 379 all out from 89.5 overs. The hosts, too, had two century-makers. Young Jake Tarling, who joined Beds from Bucks this season, made 126 from 237 balls, while George Thurstance hammered 108 from 126 balls with three sixes and seven fours.

With a first-innings lead of 89, Bucks seemed in command but their batsmen, after fielding in the extreme heat, succumbed to excellent fast bowling from Matt Coles and Jack Fuller and slumped to 64-6 in their second innings. They eventually struggled to 134 all out, setting Beds 224 for victory.

At 70-1, the hosts were favourites to pull off an unlikely victory. But an inspired three-wicket spell from Hampton turned the match around.

And despite a frustrating last-wicket stand of 33, Bucks dismissed the home county for 189 to pull off a memorable victory.

Bucks v Staffordshire @ High Wycombe 18th -20th August

Staffordshire booked their place in the final of the County Championship by beating Bucks by 67 runs on a pitch very conducive to spin and thus ending Bucks reign as both Eastern Division and National champions. Staffordshire won the all important toss and chose to bat first. Bucks got off to flyer, Cam Parsons trapping skipper Kettleborough plumb in front of his stumps first ball and followed that up shortly afterwards bowling the other opener Morris with score on 37. Staffs however clawed their way back into the game largely due to a third-wicket stand of 101 between Reeve Evitts (93) and Callum Hawkins (65*). They eventually reached 275-8 before declaring two overs shy of their allotted 90 overs, thus denying Bucks a possible 4th bowling point. Unsurprisingly Bucks left-arm spinner Conner Haddow, playing on his home ground, was the pick of the bowlers, taking 5-92 from his 32.4 overs.

In reply, Bucks slipped to 133-7 against the left-arm spin of former Northants and Bedfordshire bowler Tom Brett although there were solid knocks from the recalled High Wycombe pairing of AJ Woodland(55) and Eliot Callis (43). Despite having to leave the field for a spell with a badly injured finger, A J I But they were rescued by Cam Parsons with 61 from 78 balls, and Haddow (34), who put on 81 for the eighth wicket to help them reach 259 from 74.3 overs, a first-innings deficit of 16. Opener AJ Woodland, who had to retire on 35 after being hit on the finger, returned at the fall of the eighth wicket to finish 55 not out. Brett finished with 7-112 from 37 overs.

Bucks gave themselves a chance of victory when dismissing the visitors for 229 in their second innings, Haddow taking advantage of spinning pitch to take 4-57. Set 246 for victory, Bucks made a disastrous start, crashing to 6-3. Ross Richardson (47) and Danny Chapman (40) kept the hopes of the defending champions briefly alive but no further big scores emerged as the batsmen went for their shots and Bucks were eventually dismissed for 178. Tom Brett was Staffordshire's match winner as he followed up his seven first innings wickets with five more to give him match figures of 12 for 186 and he was well supported by rookie off-spinner Oliver Tucker who took four for 65 in the Bucks second innings in which there were just

BUCKS BOWLING AVERAGES

Name	Mch	Ov	Mdn	Wkts	Runs	Best	Av
AN Kervezee	4	12	0	3	49	2--26	16.33
CPW Haddow	4	199.1	34	26	652	6-142	25.08
TRG Hampton	4	54	5	9	258	5--36	28.67
MC Uttley	1	31	5	4	126	2--8	31.50
TG Weymes	4	90.1	15	11	350	3--45	31.82
EWH Bragg	4	103	15	7	303	2--33	43.29
CDR Parsons	3	73	17	4	215	2--60	53.75
HS Ramandanpulle1		4	0	0	18	0--18	-----
D Chapman	2	3	0	0	17	0--17	-----

NCCA CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

1st 4th September



It was the first time since 2005 – and only the ninth time in the history of a competition that began in 1895 – that the title had been shared with the draw being the most likely result after rain had washed out the morning session for the third day running. Under last season’s regulations Berkshire’s first innings lead of 99 in a drawn final would have given them their tenth outright title but counties voted to scrap that regulation during the winter. Instead Staffordshire took a share of the competition for the 14th time – 12 outright – with Berkshire extending their remarkable run of success to a 12th piece of silverware in eight seasons.

A draw did not accurately reflect the balance of this game as Berkshire had set Staffordshire a mountainous – and highly improbable - 383 to win in what would have been 60 overs after Rhys Lewis had completed his maiden Championship century. Dan Lincoln’s declaration challenged Staffordshire to make 55 more than the highest successful fourth innings run chase in their history and a target that has only been chased down by anyone seven times in Championship history. Unsurprisingly, Staffordshire showed no interest in attempting the improbable and were quite happy to bat out time before the sides shook hands on the draw with ten overs unbowed.

NCCA 50 OVER K.O. TROPHY FINAL

Ben Wilcox led Norfolk to their first silverware in 15 years with a brilliant century which clinched a six wickets win over Cheshire in the Trophy final at Wormsley. Norfolk chased down a target of 258 with more than five overs to spare to complete the highest successful run chase in a final at Wormsley with Wilcox and wicketkeeper Charlie Hood – with a competition-best 73 not out - sharing a Norfolk record fifth wicket partnership of 159. To have two homegrown youngsters – Wilcox is 21 and Hood just 19 - at the crease at the end was a source of great pride for Norfolk coach Tom New, especially after Sam Arthurton and Josh Cobb, their two star batters, had fallen cheaply. Wilcox remained unflappable and rescued Norfolk from an unpromising position at 99 for four to see them home without further alarm. Norfolk's win secured them the Trophy for the sixth time but the first since 2009 when skipper Arthurton made his debut in the competition.

BUCKS WOMEN

Just the one match played in August and that was a 40 over game against MCC Women at Chesham.

21 Aug Friendly Bucks v MCC Bucks won by 21 runs
Bucks 141 Annie Townsend 30 Natasha MacBean 37,
MCC 120-9 Caia Stockdale 3-18

Next season the ECB's new blueprint for the future of Women's cricket comes into play. As reported in the last newsletter there will now be 3 Tiers – Tier One will comprise initially of 8 first class counties, Tier Two will be filled with the remaining 10 first class counties, leaving Tier Three for National Counties clubs. Hopefully this will mean that there should be more evenly contested matches, rather than some of the David and Goliath contests that we have seen in the last couple of years or so. There still should be some room for some giant killing to occur as a knock out tournament, encompassing all 3 Tiers, is supposed to be in next season's fixtures.

BUCKS GIRLS U-15

Congratulations to Bucks Girls U15 County team for finishing the season top of the league winning 7 out of 8 games!

Their final game on Wednesday involved a 192 chase to win vs Wiltshire.



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 John Phillips .

Email: johnphillips@bucksccc.org.uk Tel: 01494

SPONSOR A BUCKS SQUAD PLAYER - for just £50

Firstly a great big thank you to all those members/ supporters or companies who sponsored a player over the past seasonand or previous seasons. We are planning to continue with the sponsorship initiative for the next season... If you wish to continue last season's sponsorship or sponsor one of the new additions to the Squad, or for more information

Please contact Bill Scholes Tel: 01420 560290 or billscholes@hotmail.co.uk

BUCKS C.C. C. PLAYER SPONSORSHIP 2024

PLAYER	SPONSOR (S)
Tom Hampton	Sports Shots
Alexei Kervesee	Jonathan Lilley
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Ross Richardson	Mike Knox
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Chris Marrow	Frank Russell
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Teddy Fleming	Ian Hodgson
Hashan Ramanadpulle	Finnbar O'Conner
Cameron Hemp	
Billy Mead	John Phillips
George Harvey	Breffni Walsh
Max Uttley	Steve Peart
Louis Gulliver	
Molly Carter	Su Klyne

 **BUCKS CRICKET IN MK
SHOWCASE DAY**
Sunday 8th September @ Campbell Park (MK9 4AD)

There were two 80 ball matches (presumably reduced from 100 ball due to the weather).

Bucks Mens XI beat Bucks MK Select XI by 20 runs
Bucks 113-7 MK Select XI 93-9

Bucks Mens XI



Bucks Milton Keynes Select XI



Bucks Women lost to Southern Vipers RDC by 57 runs
Southern Vipers 108-3 Bucks Women 51

Bucks Women



Apologies for the lack of information on how the day went. Sadly there are no reports of the two cricket matches above – just basic stats from Play Cricket – nor indeed there do not seem to be any reports of the day as a whole. It would be nice to know who received what awards at the various presentations.

CAN'T GET TO A GAME

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

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

BUCKS SENIORS -Report from Ron Hedley

Congratulations to The Over 60s 1st XI who won the National Bowl competition defeating Yorkshire Ridings in the final on Thursday 12th September. The match had been postponed on Tuesday 10th due to rain.

Yorkshire Ridings scored 172 for 4 off 45 overs. Buckinghamshire were 72 for 1 off 21.2 overs when rain ended the match. Buckinghamshire won via DLS.

The 3rd XI didn't have much with the weather in their 3rd XI Vase Final. Initially played at Cropredy CC on Tuesday they bowled out for 130 against Hertfordshire. 2 overs in and the rain ended the match. John Holloway 46 no. They replayed the match at Letchworth CC on Thursday 12th. Buckinghamshire scored 244 off 40 overs. Stuart Foster 144 and Raj Patel 88. After 1.2 overs of the reply the match ended due to heavy rain.

The final will now be played in 2025....when possibly the weather may be a bit better.

The Over 70s team, in its first go it alone season, reached the Bowl Final and took on Cambs/ Hunts at Banbury CC. On a miserable day a full match was played. Cambs/ Hunts 181 for 4 off 40 overs. Buckinghamshire 180 for 9 off 40 overs Chris Tucker 58 no. Cambs/Hunts won by 1 run.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

18 year olds Aadi Sharma and Arush Buchake have both signed two-year rookie contracts with Northamptonshire. The pair have been awarded rookie deals after impressive performances in the Northamptonshire 2XI over recent seasons.

"We're absolutely delighted for Arush and Aadi," 2XI Head Coach Graeme White said.

"They've both worked extremely hard at their game and have made sacrifices to ensure they deliver consistent performances for the 2XI on a regular basis." Now graduates of the Club's Talent Pathway, White was pleased that the Club has been able to tie down two promising talents and is looking forward to what they can achieve. "It is really pleasing that they have progressed through our system and have now put pen to paper on rookie contracts but the hard work begins now on their road to becoming professionals. "It is exciting for the future of this club that players of Arush and Aadi's quality are coming through and joining up with the first-team squad."

Both top order batters have posted memorable innings for the 2XI this year, with Buchake hitting 122 against London Schools' at Wantage Road and Aadi Sharma posting 166 in a brilliant run chase against Somerset 2XI. Just 18 years of age, the pair have demonstrated their quality on numerous occasions, playing a part in the 2023 ECB Super-4's festival alongside ex Bucks Raphy Weatherall. Sharma also took part in the tournament in 2022 and was named as the 2022 Academy Player of the Year at the Club's End of Season Awards Dinner.

RON HEDLEY'S SPONSORED CHARITY WALKS

TWO BUCKS BOYS



Ron and Saif Zaib pictured at Derbyshire CC after a sponsored walk and before the County game with Northamptonshire

England Cricket Seniors

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

On a very wet London day, Friday 3rd May 2024 our campaign to raise awareness of prostate cancer and to raise funds joined Middlesex CCC Over 60s and Over 70s cricketers for a walk along the Regents Canal to Lords Cricket Ground. Middlesex CCC were due to be playing a County Championship match against Leicestershire but the rain washed out the days play. More than thirty walkers set off for a 4 mile walk along the canal and were joined by retired England and Middlesex cricketer Angus Fraser. The walk opened the eyes of some of us who were not aware of how busy the canal is with barges still working the canal. Little Venice was a delight to visit and chats with bargees along the route were so informative. As there was no hope of play, when we reached Lords Cricket Ground, we were so lucky to have a Lords Tour Guide, Jeff, with us, who took us on a tour of the ground, museum and a special treat to visit the renowned media centre.

Essex Revisited on the 17th May 2024

We were delighted to be invited by Essex CCC Over 60s and Over 70s to walk, for a second time, after their amazing fund-raising walk in 2023. This time we, again, walked around Chelmsford but on a gloriously sunny day were invited to the County Ground with tickets to watch the play against Warwickshire CCC. More than seventy people joined the walk through a lovely park and on to the County Ground. The County club had set up a table so we could give out leaflets and

badges and due to the sunny weather, we sold more than 20 Bob Willis Fund caps. Essex raised another £3000 plus and the County Club have invited us to walk there again in 2025. The Essex walkers were more than delighted when we were informed that Essex and England legend, Graham Gooch, wished to have a photo with us all.

On Friday the 24th June for walk number 26 we linked up with Derbyshire CCC Over 60s and the Derbyshire CCC Charity Foundation, for a second time, as part of their Walkathon to raise funds for the Foundation and England Cricket Seniors, Rons March. Thanks, in a big way, to former England Test Star, Ian Bell, who helped make this day possible. We thank all those who walked for these great causes.

In the morning 20 plus walkers took on the challenge of a twenty mile walk around Derby and some of its cricket grounds. Pat and Ron drove around the route encouraging the walkers and also managed a quick stop off at a National Trust property. Yet again we had a rain filled day with some hail at one point, but it certainly did not dampen the walker's spirits.

At 4.30pm another 20 walkers set off on a five mile walk from and back to the County Cricket Ground, Derby. Bucks Over 60s cricketer David Faragher and his wife Sue travelled to Derby to support the walk. To greet our walk the rain came yet again and it made the chances of watching the T20 match between Derbyshire Falcons and Northamptonshire Steelbacks unlikely. However, as the walkers arrived back at the ground, around 6.30pm, the rain stopped and the match commenced. Derbyshire CCC finished their innings but shortly after the start of the Northamptonshire CCC reply a thunder storm put an end to play for the evening.

On Thursday 20th June we walked at the lovely Milford Hall cricket ground with Staffordshire Over 60s/70s who were playing an Over 70s County match against Lancashire Over 70s in the afternoon. We were hoping that former England and Lancashire cricketer David Lloyd would be playing for Lancashire but injury meant he could not play. David is very well known for his commentating on cricket for the Sky cricket channel. Not knowing Staffordshire very well it was a delight to walk on the edge of Cannock Chase which is so beautiful. Thanks to Chris Wood and all of the lovely people at Millford Hall CC for their superb organisation.

On the 24th June, Ron and Pat were invited to a fund-raising day for the Bob Willis Fund at Wormsley Estate near Stokenchurch. The guest speaker was former Prime Minister Sir John Major, a cricket fanatic. An auction was conducted by Charlie Ross of Antiques Road Trip and Bargain Hunt fame, also mad about cricket. Ron was delighted to be introduced to them both to discuss our prostate cancer walks and fund raising. Below is Ron with Sir John and Bob's daughter.



On the following Saturday Ron attended a cricket match between England Cricket Seniors Over 60s and The Vatican, Rome, cricket team at Wormsley Cricket Ground, near Stokenchurch. At the end of the day Ron was invited to speak about his journey with prostate cancer and our walks and fundraising. Ron and Pat have been invited to visit St Peters in Rome to meet the Vatican cricket team and hope to take up the invitation at the end of October.

You may have seen that Penn & Tylers Green was well represented when Sky Sports Cricket featured Gabby and Kenny Logan and Ron and his walks in a film shown on Blue for Bob Day, during the Saturday of the 3rd Test Match at Edgbaston between England and The West Indies.

Our walks began as a two-year plan with a final day of thanks for all County Representatives who arranged a walk for us and this will take place on Sunday 15th September 2024 at Lords Cricket Ground in St Johns Wood. However, the idea to complete our adventure at Lords has been over taken by more walks planned for October 2024 and four Counties wishing to arrange walks in 2025.

On the 1st October we will be walking with Yorkshire Over 60s at the Yorkshire Farm, venue of a tv series, The Yorkshire Farm, near Barnsley, followed by a major walk in Sunderland as part of their campaign to raise awareness of prostate cancer on Friday 4th October. On the 17th October a walk is planned at The Eric Morecambe Centre in Harpenden. The walk will be joined by Luton Town FC legends Mick Harford and David Pleat. Current Luton Town manager Rob Edwards will also be joining our walk.

The fund has now reached £48,000 and we are so thankful to all who have supported our campaign. To donate go to www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/support-rons-march-for-prostate-cancer, click on DONATE HERE TO SUPPORT RON and mention the County Walk you are joining.

Pat and Ron at Edgbaston with former England Test player, Roland Butcher



No sooner has the season started, albeit in slightly wet circumstances, than it's all over. I went to our local garden centre this morning, and they were selling kindling- a sure sign that the seasons are changing ! This season has been one of change, both on and off the field, and perhaps the full effect of those changes will become more apparent in the early months of 2025.

Once again, many thanks to all those who have helped and contributed to Coloured Trousers, particularly Andy Bone and Sports Shots, Mike Knox, Kevin Beaumont, Ron Hedley, Jonathan Lilley, County Cricket Matters, Yahoo Over Cow Corner, Steve Peart, Paul Dean, Rich Hudson, Rachel Hudson, Trevor Taylor, and Tom Hampton. 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 have been gratefully received of course – why not relieve the boredom of the autumn and winter months by writing an article or two and join our happy band of literary contributors.

Billscholes

billscholes@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01420 560290