Thursday 28 February, page 4: CRICKET

The annual meeting of the Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club was held at the George Hotel, Nottingham, yesterday, when Mr W E Denison presided over a very large number of members.

In the report and accounts there was small measure for gratification. Insignificant "gates" were the rule all through last summer, and the only three-figure sum taken at any one match was £253 in the case of Notts v Surrey. There was a loss on the year's working and the sum due to the bankers had risen from £4,628 to £4,845.

This year's programme was announced, the matches being with Sussex, Surrey, Kent, Middlesex, Gloucestershire, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Derbyshire, the last-mentioned taking the place of Somerset. Flowers will receive as a benefit the proceeds of Lancashire v Notts. The report and accounts were adopted.

Lord Henry Cavendish Bentinck was elected president for the year, with the Mayor of Nottingham as vice-president, while Mr W E Denison, Captain Tomasson and Mr J A Dixon were elected on to the committee. It was stated that every effort would be used to increase the membership of the club; while Mr Denison, in addressing the meeting, said that he thought the popularity of other sports had something to do with the decrease in attendances; it was not wholly the fault of the slow cricket with which Nottingham had been charged.

Friday 12 April, page 8: THE COMING CRICKET SEASON

Two important changes will make the season of 1895 a landmark in cricket history. These are the extension of the County Championship from nine to fourteen shires, and the increase in the number of runs demanding the follow on from 80 to 120.

The broadening of the championship should lead to further developments in the cricket of the five counties admitted. For, whatever may be said against the institution of any such competition, it is useless to deny that those who follow the game closely attach the greatest importance to matches in which the interest is enhanced by championship honours being at stake. Twelve months ago the M.C.C. decided that four counties, other than the nine, should be reckoned first-class for the sake of the averages only. This action in a great measure foreshadowed the extension, and the public were not surprised when the liberal scheme was issued by Marylebone of not only advancing Essex, Derbyshire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire, but also Hampshire, whose splendid cricket in 1894 was an unanswerable argument for their inclusion. Warwickshire were most persistent for many seasons in their efforts to bring about this result, while Yorkshire, at the time when they held the championship, beneficently pressed the claims of the lesser shires.

Of course this extension dissolves the complete tournament which existed under the old regulation. Marylebone also wisely insisted that "No county shall be eligible unless it shall have played at least eight out and home matches with other counties, provided that if no play can take place owing to weather or other unavoidable cause such match shall be reckoned as unfinished." The method for scoring is retained, thus – "One point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss, unfinished games shall not be reckoned."

At the same time the M.C.C. have ruled that "The county which, during the season, shall have in finished matches obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county." The fact should be borne in mind also that "the M.C.C. Committee may bring new counties into the list, may remove existing ones from it, or may do both."

The number of runs involving the follow on having been increased by one-half (from 80 to 120) will often lengthen the time taken in which to play a match out. It will have a far more important effect, however, on a game by lessening the value of winning the toss. This alteration, which has worked satisfactorily in Australia, was not resolved upon in haste. In fact, the M.C.C., while carefully deliberating the matter themselves, invited outside criticism, and the decision arrived at seems to be a fair solution to a difficult question.

The seasons at Lord's are so consistently attractive that the mere remark that all the best features of the M.C.C. programme are preserved is a guarantee of continued excellence. The richness of a list that includes not only the appearance of the Universities and the majority of the best counties in matches with the M.C.C., but also the Middlesex home fixtures, has no parallel. A novelty will be furnished at headquarters by the revival of I Zingari v Gentlemen of England, which will aptly mark the jubilee of that rigidly amateur society. Unhappily the Festival will have a shade of gloom cast over it by the absence of the well-known figure of the late Lord Bessborough, who after his Cambridge days, as the popular "Fred" Ponsonby, helped to found the club.

Oxford v Cambridge is, for a second time in its history, to be started on a Thursday, and the public may hope for a repetition of the excellent cricket seen on the previous occasion. This was in 1892 (Messrs Jardine and Hill's year), when Oxford won by five wickets in a game in which over 1,100 runs were scored.

Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, Sussex, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire, Essex, Kent, Warwickshire and Hampshire are the counties which will engage in three days' matches with Marylebone at Lord's, while the honour of opening the season at headquarters falls to Nottinghamshire, who play on the first Wednesday in May. The original idea of having cricket on the first day to harmonize the opening of the season with the anniversary meeting of the club was very happy, for it has increased the attendances at both the meeting and the dinner.

Middlesex v Somerset is again the Whit Monday fixture, and the proceeds of the match are to be given to Tom Mycroft, of Derbyshire, a valued servant of the M.C.C. in wicket-keeping and as an umpire. Eton v Harrow is fixed for the Friday of the week following the University match, and is preceded on the Monday by Gentlemen v Players. It is pleasing to see the continuance of the match between the Marylebone Club and Royal Artillery, this being the only occasion on which the precincts of Lord's are invaded by music, the famous bands of the Royal Artillery being present. Rugby v Marlborough and Cheltenham v Haileybury are set down for the week before the August Bank Holiday. Important cricket at Lord's will again extend beyond the usual time, as Middlesex play Lancashire and Kent in August 26 and 29 respectively, these being actually the last two items on the Lord's card.

Visitors to the St John's-wood ground will find few changes from last season. It will be noticed, however, that the ugly structure, known as the temporary stand, at the east end has been reduced to the height of the grass terrace coverings, and thus a more uniform character is given to the surroundings of the field of play. In addition to this it will enable the coaches on the big days to line up behind and view the game from the nursery.

Near Pearce's cottage, at the south-east corner, some 100ft by 16ft have been taken into the carriage way from the gardens of Nos. 43 and 45, St John's-wood-road. This will be a decided improvement, as the extra space must tend to prevent the block that often occurred on important days at this spot. Of the new railway to London there are not any signs yet at Lord's, but within a stone's throw the men are at work on the north bank of the Regent's Canal.

The turf at headquarters is in fine order and reflects much credit on Pearce. The grass, which is strong and thick, was cut for the first time on Wednesday. If the weather holds good practice will be started on the 22nd inst. A further increase has been made in the ground staff, which now consists of the following 53 cricketers: -

T Hearne, Farrands, Clayton, Rylott, G G Hearne, Wheeler, Sherwin, T Mycroft, W Hearn, Flowers, Barnes, Gunn, Hay, W Attewell, Burton, Pickett, Davenport, Pentecost, Titchmarsh, Chatterton, J E West, Martin, Pougher, Rawlin, A Hearne, Davidson, Carlin, Phillips, Richardson, Burns, Whiteside, Whitehead, Bean, Moorhouse, Needham, J T Hearne, Board, Geeson, Mead, T Attewell, Mee, Carpenter, Moss, Storer, W A J West, Butt, Brown, Russell, Bagguley, Hardstaff, Pike, Woodcock and Handford, with 12 ground boys who can all bowl a little.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Mr G J Mordaunt, University, will this season captain Oxford in place of Mr C B Fry, Wadham, who, however, is still in residence. In addition, there are seven other members of the victorious team at Lord's last year available, viz., Messrs H D G Leveson-Gower, Magdalen; H K Foster, Trinity; F A Phillips, Exeter; G R Bardswell, Oriel; G B Raikes, Magdalen; R P Lewis, University;

and D H Forbes, Christ Church. Mr R W Rice, who was one of the team in 1893, is still up; while the numbers of good Seniors and Freshmen should make the Dark Blue side very formidable.

In batting they will be especially strong, for, in addition to Mr Mordaunt, who is, perhaps, the best and most interesting batsman at either University, besides being a capital field, Messrs Leveson-Gower, Foster, Phillips and Fry are all strong in hitting and defence. Of the bowlers Mr D H Forbes, whose very fast attack was successful in the earlier matches but did not fare so well against strong batting sides, will be likely to retain his place; but the steadiest and most trustworthy bowling lies with Mr Bardswell, whose medium pace is combined with an excellent pitch. Mr R P Lewis, who was such a brilliant schoolboy wicket-keeper at Winchester, has been unfortunate when playing for his University, a fact mainly attributable to the liability of his hands to fail him in a long match.

There is a good list of Seniors. Mr H A Arkwright, Magdalen, who is a pretty fair all-round cricketer and gained a reputation for his excellent play against the Australians two years ago, is one of the most prominent of them. The others include Mr B N Bosworth-Smith, Magdalen; Mr G O Smith, Keble; Mr F G H Clayton, University; Mr M Y Barlow, University; Mr T H Higson, New; Mr R S H Baiss, B.N.C., Mr P F Warner, Oriel; Mr H T Stanley, Mr K A Woodward, Mr J B Henderson, Mr J C Hartley and Mr E R Morres.

Among the Freshmen the most prominent is Mr F H E Cunliffe, who for two years has been such a fine bowler at Eton; in 1893 he took 40 wickets at 12 runs each and last season 47 for ten runs each. Mr G E Bromley-Martin, last year's captain at Eton, is a very efficient batsman. There are Mr G R Brewis, also from Eton; Mr J W Stratton, Cheltenham's best bowler last year; Mr F L Fane, who averaged 51 runs for 16 innings at Charterhouse; Mr R B Porch, Malvern; and Mr T D Bannon, who averaged 60 for Tonbridge last summer.

The Oxford eleven will not play Surrey, and the Lancashire matches, which have so long been included in their list, do not appear. Three new matches, however, have been arranged, as they play Kent at home and at Maidstone; and Yorkshire visit Oxford towards the end of May.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

The captaincy of Cambridge University is now in the hands of Mr W G Druce, Trinity, who proved himself to be a very good wicket-keeper. Given equal merit in other respects, this position is perhaps the best for a captain to hold, as no other member of an eleven can tell so well what the bowlers are doing. He will have the assistance long-off four other Old Blues, and of these Mr F Mitchell, of Caius, the hon. secretary, stands out prominently for his batting. Mr H Gray, Jesus, Mr C G Pope, Trinity, and Mr N F Druce, Trinity, are the remaining three. Thus there are six vacancies in the eleven.

Among the Seniors [who] were tried last year, Messrs J Crocker, J B Chandler, W G Grace, jun., J Burrough, C J Rudd, J Healing, F L Hinde and H E Symes-Thompson remain. Two of these distinguished themselves by scoring over 100 runs in the Seniors' match in 1894 – viz., Messrs J Healing and Symes-Thompson, but they showed a marked falling-off in the subsequent matches.

The best-known of the Freshmen is Mr C E M Wilson, who for the past two years has done wonderfully well in batting at Uppingham, where he was captain last season. His average in 1893 was 90 for nine innings, and in 1894, when the wickets of course were slower, he averaged 44 for

the same number of innings. Messrs H H Marriott and C J Burnup come from Malvern with good batting reputations, and Mr E Garnett did well in the same branch of the game at Charterhouse, his average being 49 for 15 innings (thrice not out). Mr J H Bullock, from Harrow, will be a good reserve wicket-keeper; while, among others up, is Mr C L Alexander, of Shrewsbury.

Of course, Cambridge are not nearly so fortunate as their rivals at Oxford, the latter having nine of their last year's victorious eleven left them, while the Light Blues have only five, and the places of such men as Messrs P H Latham and J Douglas will not easily be filled. Their chief weakness seems to be again in bowling unless some of the new men develop latent skill in this respect.

They open their season on the 29th inst. with the Freshman's match, that between the Seniors following on May 2. In addition to meeting Mr C I Thornton's team, M.C.C. and Ground and the Gentlemen of England, they play Somerset and Yorkshire, at Cambridge. Their first appearance on a London ground will be at the Oval against Surrey, while in the week before the University match they play Sussex at Brighton and Marylebone at Lord's. Out and home matches have also been arranged with Dublin University.

SURREY

The friends of Surrey must have been disappointed during the winter months by the repeated failures of two of their best men – Lockwood and Brockwell – in the big matches in Australia. Lockwood especially seemed to have lost the art of getting any one out on the hard and true colonial wickets. Surrey can only hope that he will return to form after the voyage home, while he may often find the English turf more suited to his bowling.

Another cause of anxiety to Surrey will be whether a hard season in the colonies has not taken the sting out of Richardson's bowling. On the skill of these men so much has depended in the last two seasons that this summer the fortunes of the county will no doubt be largely wrapt up in their success or failure. Last year Smith, the young left-hand almost slow bowler, was a great help to Lockwood and Richardson, and his excellent pitch and break may again serve the county well. Street is a fair change bowler and has improved in his fielding. Lohmann is coming home again, but whether he will find himself sufficiently strong for the three days' match remains to be seen.

Mr K J Key, who had the satisfaction in his first year of captaincy to help Surrey regain the championship, will still lead the eleven. He ought to have little fear for the batting of his side with such men available as Mr W W Read, Abel, Maurice Read and Hayward, while Brockwell and Lockwood may, after all, come on again. Less important members of the side, such as Street, Henderson and Ayres will, no doubt, be occasionally played. With Wood's health uncertain and Marshall not so skilful as some professionals Surrey have had, the county wants a first-class wicket-keeper who can play regularly for them.

Mr W W Read, one of the greatest batsmen Surrey ever possessed, is to receive as a testimonial the profits of Surrey's match with England on May 27 at Kennington-oval. It is rather early in the season for a game of this importance to be played; but as the only other matches on this date are Oxford v Yorkshire and Essex v Middlesex, the players invited to the Oval from those teams may be able to get away.

Another benefit game at Kennington will be for one of Surrey's most popular players, Robert Abel, who has done much to help the county to rise to its present position. His power and variety of

strokes are remarkable for a man of his height. It is understood that he has been given Surrey v Yorkshire for his match.

The Surrey programme is very comprehensive, for in addition to playing the other 13 first-class counties they have a match on the Oval with Cambridge, and under the club's auspices there is also Gentlemen v Players on the Thursday after the Lord's game. The two Hampshire fixtures are a revival of old times, as is also that between Surrey and England.

Young Surrey men may enter for the test practice on April 29 and 30 at the Oval. The interests of the village green cricket and of the Surrey second eleven will again be looked after by Mr W T Grayburn, whose services in the past have been very fruitful.

YORKSHIRE

Yorkshire, who were just deprived of the pride of place last year by Surrey, will have a splendid lot of cricketers from whom to choose their elevens. Brown, of Driffield, and Peel, who have proved such distinguished members of Mr Stoddart's team in Australia, will be back in time for the first match at Lord's, on May 13, against Marylebone Club and Ground.

Mr F S Jackson, it is hoped, will be able to play as frequently as he did last year and with an equal amount of success. Lord Hawke, Wainwright, Hirst, Tunnicliffe, Mounsey, Hunter, Moorhouse, and possibly Charlesworth, will constitute the eleven for the early matches. Mr Ernest Smith will probably be at liberty later on, and doubtless Mr F Mitchell, of Cambridge University, who failed rather badly last season, will have a further invitation to play. Thus, without other talent being developed, the ex-champions possess a powerful team.

Bramall-lane, a name so lastingly linked with Yorkshire cricket, is being got into condition and the young grass is springing up well. This county were the prime movers in extending the championship, and the counties who are now included seem fully to appreciate the value of competing with the more prominent shires. An extensive programme has been arranged, for, in addition to playing 26 county matches, they have fixtures with Marylebone, the two Universities, and Liverpool and District.

The home contests are distributed over six grounds – viz., Sheffield, Bradford, Leeds, Dewsbury, Huddersfield and Harrogate. The matches with Lancashire are always keenly watched, and the first of these will be played on Whit Monday at Sheffield, and the return on the August Bank Holiday at Old Trafford. Yorkshire take part in both the Canterbury and Cheltenham Weeks and, of course, in the Scarborough Festival.

MIDDLESEX

Middlesex, the county which generally furnishes bright cricket, will again have their full amateur strength. Mr A J Webbe, who was in such fine batting form until he was hurt while practising at the nets on the Brighton ground last summer, will again lead the eleven. With the fine support guaranteed by such names as Mr A E Stoddart, Mr R S Lucas, Mr T C O'Brien, Mr G M'Gregor, Mr F G J Ford and others the county should render a good account of itself.

Mr J Douglas is a master at Dulwich so cannot play until August, and Mr E C Streatfeild has

become qualified, but he has also scholastic engagements and cannot be counted upon before August. The introduction of these players will make a great difference in the strength of the side after July. J T Hearne, who has been fulfilling an engagement in India, will be home in time for the season, and with Rawlin will doubtless bear the brunt of the bowling. Phillips will also probably be of service to the side. Mr L C V Bathurst, who was in last year's Oxford eleven, will also be useful as a change bowler.

Middlesex took the initiative in offering to play home and home matches with Essex, and their programme has been extended by these two contests. The Whit Monday Bank Holiday match at Lord's with Somerset has now become quite an institution, and is a boon to lovers of the game who have few opportunities of witnessing first-class cricket. The return will be played on the August Bank Holiday at Taunton; and their other engagements are two matches each with Gloucestershire, Yorkshire, Sussex, Kent, Surrey, Lancashire and Nottinghamshire. The second eleven will play out and home matches with the second eleven of Kent.

KENT

Kent will again be captained throughout the season by Mr F Marchant. He will have the services of most of last year's team – Mr L Wilson, Mr J R Mason, the Rev W Rashleigh, Mr G J V Weigall, Mr T N Perkins, Mr H C Stewart and Mr J Le Fleming. Mr M C Kemp will probably take part in some of the August matches, while Mr G J Mordaunt, the Oxford captain, will be at liberty after the University contest. Lord Harris, a name so identified with Kentish cricket, is again in England, but whether he will take an active part in any of the matches during the season is not yet known.

The professionals comprise A Hearne, G G Hearne, W Hearne, Martin and Walter Wright. J Easby, who qualified by residence during last season, failed in the two matches in which he was tried. He is doubtless a good bat and may prove of great service when he gets more experience.

The attack will once more chiefly devolve on W Hearne, Walter Wright, Martin and A Hearne, but they need strengthening by the discovery of another fast bowler, while a wicket-keeper is required for the earlier matches. The colts' practices have not helped the county to find any likely players and they will be dropped this year.

The home matches will again be distributed well over the county – viz., at Canterbury, Gravesend, Catford Bridge, Tonbridge and Maidstone, while on the last-named ground the return match with Oxford University will begin on June 27, and five weeks prior to this – May 30 – Kent visit Oxford. There are no fresh fixtures in the Kent programme, which comprises out and home matches with Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Lancashire, Middlesex, Sussex, Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Surrey and Somerset; they also play Marylebone at Lord's in the middle of June.

The St Lawrence Ground will again be the scene of the Canterbury Week, when the cricket provided for the early part of it is a match between Kent and Warwickshire, which is followed by the return with Yorkshire, the same as last year. Out and home second eleven matches have been arranged with Middlesex for Lord's and Hythe. Major-General Denne, R.H.A., is the new president.

LANCASHIRE

Lancashire, able to call upon all last year's members, will be captained by Mr A C MacLaren. Whether he will be home from Australia in time for the first two matches is doubtful, as, with Mr L H Gay and Mr F G J Ford, he did not sail with the others in the Orient steamer Ophir. These are the contests with Marylebone and with Sussex. It is to be hoped that he will retain the fine form shown by him in the colonies.

The other amateurs are Mr S M Tindall, C H Benton, W H Houldsworth, G R Bardswell, A T Kemble and S M Crosfield. Mr A N Hornby, the president of the club, played little first-class cricket in 1894, and it is doubtful whether he will increase the number of his engagements.

The strength of the professional element lies with Albert Ward (another cricketer who has helped considerably to make Mr Stoddart's team so great a success), Briggs, Mold, Frank Sugg and Baker, while A Tinsley, Paul, A and C Smith, Wharmby, Thomas, Oakley and Goodwin are all available. A Hallam, a right-hand medium pace bowler, who has qualified by residence, it is expected, will prove of much service, and H Tinsley (brother of the present player of that name) has excellent batting abilities and is likely to be tried.

They play matches with Sussex, Leicestershire, Yorkshire, Kent, Surrey, Nottinghamshire, Middlesex, Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Somerset and Derbyshire. Except the contest with Warwickshire, which will be played the first week in July, the whole of the home engagements will be decided on the Old Trafford Ground, Manchester. The Whit Monday match with Yorkshire, at Leeds, and the return on the August Bank Holiday, at Manchester, possess a similar attraction to those played between Nottinghamshire and Surrey on the same days. The ground at Old Trafford is in good condition and no difficulty ought to be found in providing true wickets.

SOMERSET

The outlook for Somerset is hopeful. They will again be captained by Mr S M J Woods, who did well last season in batting, bowling and fielding. He will have the assistance of Messrs L C H and R C N Palairet. The latter's knee is much better and it is quite probable that he may take up his favourite and most useful position in the long field.

There is no lack of good wicket-keepers, as the Rev A P Wickham, Mr L H Gay and Mr A E Newton will still form part of the eleven. Of the other amateurs there remain Mr R P Spurway, Mr V T Hill, Mr C E Dunlop, Mr D L Evans, Mr W N Roe, Mr G Fowler, Captain W C Hedley and Mr J B Challen from whom to choose. The bowling will fall mostly upon Mr Woods, Tyler, Nichols and Captain Hedley. Dr J E Trask and Mr E Hill may also play occasionally. Somerset have some colts, of whom Robson is supposed to be the best, but they are not likely to be wanted in the face of so much tried ability in the county.

The ground looks in splendid condition, but there is never any anxiety about the wickets at Taunton. They will not play Nottinghamshire this season, but have two engagements each with Hampshire and Essex. The home match with the latter county on July 11 and following days will be devoted to Nichols's benefit. The county also play Oxford and Cambridge on the University grounds, and they twice meet Gloucestershire, Middlesex, Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Lancashire and Yorkshire.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

From various causes there was a falling off in the Nottinghamshire cricket last summer, and indeed they fared a point worse than in 1893. Both of these seasons have proved the more disappointing, as they followed so brilliant a record as that of 1892, when they were second to Surrey with ten wins and only two losses.

The fact that several of their players have got beyond the age when cricket of the front rank is to be expected from them, and no new men being discovered up to the standard of the old members, may account a little for the falling off. Yet, doubtless, the enforced absence of Shrewsbury through illness from all the county matches, and the inability of Gunn from the same cause to play regularly until the end of June, had generally a depressing influence on the side. Consequently the attendances at Trent-bridge have not been numerous, with the result that financially the county is behindhand. It is fondly hoped that some good colts will be forthcoming at the annual match which begins on Monday next.

Mr J A Dixon again captains the eleven, and will have the assistance of Gunn, Flowers, H B Daft, W Attewell, Pike, Barnes, Handford, Mee, Armstrong, Bagguley, Hardstaff and Wilson. The amateurs will include Mr C W Wright, Mr P W Oscroft, Mr J S Robinson and Mr R H Howitt. Pike, who was selected after the Easter Monday colts' match, was not played early enough; but when once given a fair trial, his wicket-keeping proved invaluable, while he occasionally bats well. Wilkinson is a promising bowler, but did not seem to be put on often enough. Shrewsbury has recently recovered from an attack of bronchitis, but it is too early to tell whether his health will by sufficiently restored for him to take his place in the eleven. Mr A [O] Jones, Cambridge University, will be located in Nottingham this year, so will be available for all matches if required.

The county have sustained a severe loss by the death of Mr W H C Oates, the late hon. secretary and treasurer. Lord Henry Bentinck is the president and Mr H Turner succeeds Mr E Brown in the assistant secretaryship.

The match list is on much the same lines as in former years, but the engagements with Somerset have been given up, and they do not play Warwickshire. Out and home contests have been arranged with Leicestershire, and in addition to opening the season against Marylebone at Lord's on the day of the anniversary meeting, May 1, they play Yorkshire, Sussex, Surrey, Lancashire, Derbyshire, Kent, Middlesex and Gloucestershire. The home match with Lancashire is for the benefit of Flowers, who has been such a consistently good player for his county for some years past.

SUSSEX

There seems some prospect of improvement in Sussex cricket, for in the second part of last season they played up brightly and scored victories over Nottinghamshire, Kent and Gloucestershire out of four consecutive matches. These successes seem [quite to] enliven the interest of the county.

Last year's programme will be adhered to – viz., out and home matches with Kent, Surrey, Middlesex, Nottinghamshire, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Hampshire. The team visits Lord's to play Marylebone on May 9, while both Oxford and Cambridge Universities will be seen on the Hove ground late in June.

Mr W L Murdoch once more captains the team, and he has at his disposal Mr W Newham, Mr W G Heasman, Mr G Brann and Mr G H Arlington. Mr C B Fry will doubtless be available after the University match, while Mr C A Smith may play occasionally. The professional element comprises

Marlow, Bean, Butt, Parris, Guttridge, Lowe, Hilton and Killick, while possibly Alfred Shaw, who headed last season's bowling averages, and Humphreys may again appear on the scene. Several young players, who have shown considerable promise, will be given a trial. It is hoped that Mr G L Wilson will have sufficiently recovered from the serious illness which prevented his playing last year to be able again to take his place regularly in the county eleven.

Judging from the appearance of the turf, wickets will, in spite of the long and severe winter, be quite up to the standard for which the Brighton ground is famous.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Gloucestershire sadly need some fresh talent, more especially in bowling. Possibly the colts' match on Monday next, at the County Ground, Bristol, may bring out a good player or two, but it is to be much desired that a county which achieved such great things in the palmy days of the Graces will not be allowed to fall into the background.

Dr W G Grace will again captain the side, but his brother, Dr E M Grace, does not think it likely that he will take part again in county cricket. Captain Newnham, who headed the bowling averages last year, and Mr W Troup are both gone back to India, while Murch has taken an engagement in Wiltshire. These are palpable losses to the county. Mr J J Ferris, Captain A H Luard, Mr H H Francis, Mr S A P Kitcat, Mr H W Brown, Mr W G Grace, jun., Mr R W Rice, Mr C L Townsend and Mr G L Jessop are the amateurs the captain will be able to select from, while Roberts, Painter and Board are sure to find places in the side.

They play the same counties as last season, viz., out and home matches with Somerset, Kent, Middlesex, Sussex, Surrey, Warwickshire, Lancashire, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire. The county ground at Ashley-down, Bristol, is looking very well.

ESSEX

Essex is one of the counties which will compete for the championship, chiefly through the magnanimity of Middlesex, who offered to play out and home matches with them if any other county would do the same. Somerset came to the rescue, and thus Essex now play eight first-class counties, this number being requisite. In addition to these games they will twice meet Warwickshire, Surrey, Leicestershire, Hampshire, Yorkshire and Derbyshire. They play two colts' matches this month at Leyton.

The county has Mr A P Lucas for captain, and it is to be hoped that this excellent cricketer will be able to play oftener than he did last season, and Mr H G Owen, who headed the averages in 1894; Mr C J Kortright (whose bowling was not so effective for his county as had been anticipated); Mr H Hailey, Mr M Berkeley, Mr F E Rowe, Mr R J Burrell, Mp A S Johnston, Mr C M'Gahey, with Burns, Carpenter, Pickett, Mead and Russell are all at liberty. The most promising young players yet heard of are Mr F L Fane, who was in the Charterhouse eleven last year, and batted well; Mr F S Bull, a good medium-paced bowler; and Houchin, a professional from Ongar, who has a fast left-hand delivery. Of course, the colts' matches may bring forth some fresh talent. The ground is in first-rate order, having been carefully looked after by Freeman.

The county eleven will visit Lord's and play Marylebone on May 23. Indeed, this is the most

ambitious programme Essex has ever attempted, and it is to be wished that the public will support them in their endeavour to bring good cricket to Leyton. Some degree of enthusiasm has been aroused in the county, as shown by the fact that there are 250 more members than last year, but they still require at least another 400, and a great effort is being made to get them.

WARWICKSHIRE

Of the counties promoted by the new scheme none more deserve the new honours than Warwickshire, who last season went almost to the end of June without a reverse. The weather spoilt a good deal of their cricket, but in some of their earlier matches they proved the all-round excellence of their eleven.

This year they have a very good programme, which embraces double engagements with Essex, Derbyshire, Surrey, Yorkshire, Kent, Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Hampshire and Cheshire, while they play a match with Staffordshire at Stoke and visit Lord's on June 6 to meet the M.C.C. With such an excellent list and the club in a good financially state, the president may well have congratulated the members at the annual meeting.

Practically the county will depend on much the same talent as last season, with the one exception of Diver, who is doubtful. Mr H W Bainbridge is again the captain, and the other cricketers available are Mr L C Docker, Mr J E Hill, Mr H G Hill, the two Quaifes, Law, Lilley, Pallett, Santall, Shilton, Whitehead, Devey and Richards. In Lilley the county has one of the best wicket-keepers of the day, while Pallett, Whitehead and Shilton are very skilful bowlers. Santall, too, is a promising player and much instance expected of him.

Shilton, after ten years' service with the club, is to be granted a benefit, and the Yorkshire match at Birmingham in the last week of June should prove very lucrative. The turf at Edgbaston, Birmingham, is in fine condition and good wickets ought to be plentiful.

HAMPSHIRE

Memories of Hampshire's greater days were revived by the fine cricket of the side last season, and there is now a robust feeling in the county generally that heralds well for the coming summer. They have also a part to play in the championship competition, having secured the eight out and home fixtures with other counties necessary as the *minimum* laid down by the M.C.C. scheme.

Surrey, Yorkshire, Sussex, Somerset, Essex, Warwickshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire are the sides that will appear at Southampton, while Marylebone have given the county a three days' match at Lord's in June. Captain Wynyard, Mr H F Ward, Mr A J L Hill, Mr C Robson, Captain Quinton, Dr Russell Bencraft, Mr C Heseltine, Barton, Bacon, Soar, Cave and Baldwin will again furnish the eleven for the majority of the games. Some more bowling skill would be welcome to the side.

Hampshire are now the owners of the county ground at Southampton and many improvements have been made both in it and the pavilion; in fact a sum of £6,000 has been altogether laid out.

DERBYSHIRE

With all last season's men at their disposal Derbyshire hope to do as well as in 1894, when the club made more headway both in cricket and in finance than it had done for some years. Now that the county returns to the first-class circle there should be further stimulus to their play and, with out and home matches with Essex, Warwickshire, Leicestershire, Hampshire, Surrey, Notts, Lancashire and Yorkshire, in addition to the annual visit to Lord's, all the support possible is demanded for the new programme.

Owing to the donations of Mr G H Strutt and others, the indebtedness of the county has been much reduced. Mr Walter Boden is the new president in the 25th year of the club's existence. Chatterton, Storer, Walter Sugg, Mr L G Wright, Davidson, Hulme, Evans, Mr S H Evershed, Bagshaw, Malthouse, Mr G A Marsden, Mr G G Walker, Mr W S Eadie and Porter will form the eleven in most instances. There is one new man whom the executive is likely to try, viz., Berwicke, a left-hand bowler. Widdowson has got the ground into splendid condition and there is sure to be plenty of fine pitches.

LEICESTERSHIRE

There is little news of Leicestershire. They will probably have much the same side as last year, while their matches with Surrey, Notts, Lancashire, Essex, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire and Hampshire make them eligible for the county championship.

[Note: Prospects follow for the schools – Eton, Harrow and Rugby.]

15 April: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COLTS' MATCH

THE COLTS (23 players) 139 (J Hassall 39, P W Cadman 29; Handford 14/28, Hardstaff 4/21) and 146 (H Twells 20, T Loddington 26; Handford 10/38, Bennett 5/46). NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 160 (R H Howitt 27, Gunn 73, Daft 25; Bolton 3/12) and 27/1. Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 April, page 5)

Easter Monday at Nottingham has for many years past been marked by the trial of Colts on the Trent-bridge Ground. Yesterday the weather was fine, but a piercing wind swept across the field and the company was not large. Of the Colts, Beecroft and Weaver did not appear, and their places were taken by Foljambe and Cooper.

The Colts went in first, and started in an unpromising manner by losing nine wickets for 13 runs. This was subsequently atoned for a little by the batting of Cadman and Robinson; Hassall was the chief scorer, but he has not an attractive style. Handford, who played for his county in four matches last season, is a little faster than a medium-pace bowler. Yesterday, even allowing that he was only dealing with Colts, his analysis was excellent, as he took 14 wickets for two runs each. The innings realized 139 runs.

Gunn batted freely for the Eleven, obtaining 60 out of the 112 runs recorded for three wickets, when stumps were drawn for the day . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 April, page 4)

This two days' match has furnished the friends of Nottinghamshire with the gratifying fact that Gunn is in excellent batting form and is likely to render his county good service during the season. The play was continued yesterday at Trent-bridge, when the weather was again bleak.

On Monday the Colts had run up a total of 139, while only three of the Eleven's wickets were down for 112. Gunn (not out 60) had an escape in the slips when he had reached 70, and a fine catch in the long-field after he had put on only three disposed of him. With such an extensive array of fieldsmen he had batted more freely than usual, as his 73 included seven fours, a three and eight twos. Daft hit well for his 25, while Bagguley saw five of his side dismissed and was then not-out. Total, 160; duration of innings, three hours 25 minutes. Some of the Colts had bowled well and, besides Bolton's three wickets for a dozen runs, it is curious to note that Hassall obtained two wickets at the cost of a run each, and Twells one wicket for one run.

Handford again proved too difficult for most of the Colts in their second venture, and he dismissed ten of them for 38 runs. The match was eventually left drawn . . .

15 April: GLOUCESTERSHIRE COLTS MATCH

THE COLTS (22 players) 116 (F Stiddard 33, G Ormiston 21*; C L Townsend 7/54, Roberts 4/19, W G Grace jun. 7/26) and 164/15 (H Prichard 23, E Thomas 67*; W G Grace jun. 6/40, Roberts 6/31). THE COUNTY 263 (12 players) 263/10 dec. (W G Grace 101 retired, Wrathall 47, Board 20*; C Williams 3/32, W Poole 3/48). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 April, page 5)

At Ashley Down, Bristol, yesterday, a match between the Eleven and the Colts of the county began on a good wicket. The Colts were first placed on their defence and were all out for 116, the innings lasting about three hours. Stiddard, the top scorer, batted in fairly good form. Mr W G Grace, jun., carried off the bowling honours by taking seven wickets for 26 runs, and Mr Townsend was credited with the same number, but at double the cost; while Roberts also bowled with success.

Dr W G Grace started the season well, and at the end of the day had run up 51 (not out), his facility in placing the ball with so large a field being as admirable as ever.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 April, page 4)

Play in this match was resumed yesterday at Ashley Down, Bristol. The Colts had completed an innings on the previous evening for 116, and three of the Eleven had been dismissed for 108. Dr W G Grace, not out with 51, put on another 50 and then retired; his 101, in which no chance had been given, had occupied three hours and 40 minutes in its compilation. Wrathall and Board also batted well, the innings realizing 263.

The Colts went in a second time and lost 15 wickets for 164 runs, six of which were secured by Mr W G Grace, jun., for 40 runs, and Roberts took the same number for 31. The match was left drawn.

Wednesday 17 April, page 4: It is probable that a team of Australian cricketers will visit England in 1896, under the joint direction of the Melbourne Club and the trustees of the Sydney Cricket Ground. Mr George Giffen and others have expressed their willingness to form part of it.

Friday 26 April, page 11

At the annual meeting of the Gloucestershire County Club at Bristol, last night, Mr Beloe in the chair, it was reported that the balance in hand had been reduced from £804 to £258. Mr Arrowsmith's proposition that a committee be annually appointed to assist the captain in the selection of the county eleven was carried.

26 April: LEICESTERSHIRE COLTS MATCH

THE COLTS (15 players) 67 (Woodcock 8/2, Walton 4 wkts). THE ELEVEN 79/6 (Tomlin 24; E Tomlin 3 wkts). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Saturday 27 April, page 9)

On the heavy pitch at Leicester yesterday, the colts, who were 15 in number, under the captaincy of Mr Crofts, failed in most instances before the severe attack. It was a fine piece of work by Woodcock, a fast right-hand bowler, that brought about their collapse. Woodcock went on after several of the young players had batted fairly well, and he sent down 33 balls, taking eight wickets for two runs.

Day 2 (report from Monday 29 April, page 7)

The bad weather prevented any play on the second day of the Colts' match, at Leicester, and the game was abandoned. On Friday evening the Colts had been disposed of for 67 and six of the Eleven were out for 79.

29 April: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY – THE FRESHMEN'S MATCH

MR F MITCHELL'S SIDE 190 (C L Alexander 25, E Garnett 23, C J Burnup 20, H J Davenport 20, J B Dyne 21; F J Peers 6 wkts) and 364 (E Garnett 111, C J Burnup 41, A G Richardson 41, H H Joy 60, J Eyre 31*; A T Spens 3/45, H J Hilary 5/61). MR W G DRUCE'S SIDE 223 (A T Spens 44, H H Marriott 45, G H Simpson [-Hayward] 29, W W Renshaw 27; C J Burnup 3 wkts, C E M Wilson 3 wkts) and 173/9 (S P Bell 46, G H Simpson 34, H J Hilary 46*; C J Burnup 3/50, C E NM Wilson 3/45). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 April, page 11)

The wicket at Cambridge yesterday was slow for the opening of the University season with the annual trial of Freshmen. Messrs F Mitchell and W G Druce were captains of the two sides.

Going in first, the former's team did fairly well, although there was no individual score of more than average merit during an innings of over three hours. Mr Wilson, who went up to Camp from Uppingham with a great school reputation, failed to make his mark in the first match, but Messrs Alexander and Garnett, who put on 50 while they were together, and Messrs Burnup, the Association football blue, Davenport and Dyne all played good cricket. Of the bowlers, Mr Peers, an Old Carthusian, did well, as will be gathered from the analysis.

For Mr Druce's side Mr Spens batted vigorously, hitting a six and five fours, while Messrs Marriott and Simpson, of Malvern, both showed capital defence, adding 61 towards the close of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 May, page 11)

Yesterday's play at Cambridge was made remarkable by the batting of the old Carthusian, Mr E Garnett, whose fine three-figure score occupied two hours and three-quarters, and included eight fours and ten threes. He and Mr Burnup put on 107 while they were together for the second partnership.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 May, page 6)

Yesterday's play at Cambridge was much interfered with by the weather. Mr Mitchell's side finished their innings for 364. When Mr Druce's team went in Messrs Bell and Simpson played excellent cricket and during their partnership added 58. The latter hit a six and two fours. Then the best stand was one of 65 by Messrs Bell and Hilary. The game was drawn . . .

29 April: THE ESSEX COLTS' MATCH

COLTS (17 players) 54 (Mead 9/24) and 59 (C J Kortright 13/21).

ESSEX 163 (Burns 83 retired hurt, G F Higgins 24; H W de Zoete 5/39). Essex won by an innings and 50 runs.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 April, page 11)

On the first day of the Colts' match at the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, the young players scarcely did themselves justice against the skilful bowling of Walter Mead and Mr Kortright, who, with the help of a slow pitch, came out with fine analyses. Mead's nine wickets cots only 24 runs, while Mr Kortright's three averaged a run apiece.

Burns threatened plenty of vigour into his batting for the Eleven, profiting by a couple of escapes, and hit seven fours. Mr de Zoete, left-hand slow, took five of the county wickets for 39 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 May, page 11)

In the concluding day's cricket of this match at the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, yesterday, the young players fared badly against the bowling of Mr Kortright, and were beaten by an innings and 50 runs. Mr Kortright's analysis showed 25 overs, 16 maidens, 21 runs and 13 wickets.

1 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4287.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 2 May, page 6)

A slow wicket and a rainy afternoon were not the happiest of conditions for the opening of the season at Lord's, but the public took advantage of the fine morning and the early cricket had many spectators. Marylebone put into the field a good side, in which Mr A N Hornby was once more a prominent figure, while Mr A Knowles, a Lancastrian, and Woodcock, the Leicestershire fast bowler, made their first important appearances for the M.C.C. The county was also strongly represented and their young bowlers Handford and Wilkinson found places in the eleven.

Marylebone, who went in first, steadily failed before the bowling of Attewell, who soon got out those who attempted to force the game. Bean, Mr Hornby and Mr de Trafford all went for 19 runs. Storer played carefully. The innings was over in an hour and 40 minutes. There was not much play after Nottinghamshire went in . . .

Day 2 (report from Friday 3 May, page 11)

Batsmen had a very bad time at Lord's yesterday, and the effect of the sun on a pitch still soft from Wednesday's rain is best judged from the tale told by the score. The 28 wickets which fell yesterday averaged less than seven runs each and many fine bowling analyses were recorded. In the first innings of Nottinghamshire the first five men went for a dozen runs and, under the conditions, the advantage of 18 possessed by Marylebone was extremely useful.

The club found Attewell and Flowers no easy men to play; and the only game was to attempt to hit. This Mr Hornby did, making several hard strokes with something of his old form; but he fell to cover-point for a short and merry innings. Bean made one beautiful cut from Attewell to the boundary, and Mr Knowles and Martin threw some vigour into the hitting. Still, the passing of batsmen to and from the wicket became almost a procession. Handford was given a trial with the ball; but the major part of the bowling was done by Attewell and Flowers, the former of whom had an aggregate in the match of ten wickets for 67 runs.

With the turf as treacherous as ever few expected the county to get the 103 necessary to win against the good bowling of Marylebone. Gunn played on, and Flowers, after hitting well, did likewise, the latter going out fourth at 40. Nr Jones and Daft showed some fair cricket, but the dismissal of Flowers turned the game in favour of the M.C.C. Martin and J T Hearne soon settled the question, and late in the afternoon Marylebone won their first match of the season by 37 runs. Martin's two analyses showed 12 wickets for 56. The county lost the services of Pike at the wicket owing to his sustaining an injury to his hand.

Thursday 2 May, page 6: THE MARYLEBONE CLUB

The Earl of Jersey presided last evening in the pavilion at Lord's over the 108th anniversary meeting of the M.C.C. There was a pretty good attendance, including Lord Harris, Mr Henry Perkins, Mr Denzil Onslow, Lord Dartmouth, Lord Hawke, Mr A J Webbe, Mr W Nicholson, Mr W E Denison, Mr G M'Gregor and Mr G F Vernon.

The committee reported that in 1894 the club consisted of 4,034 members. During the season 162 matches were played, of whom 96 were won, 33 lost and 33 drawn.

By the lamented death of the Earl of Bessborough the club lost one of its oldest and most respected members, and cricket one of its most ardent admirers and supporters. He had been a member of the club since 1834 and became one of the original trustees when the freehold was purchased in 1866. The committee recommended Mr V E Walker to fill the vacant trusteeship.

Lord Ancaster, Lord Lichfield, Mr C K Francis and Mr A J Webbe retired by rotation from the committee, and Lord Jersey, Lord Hawke, Mr E L Bateman and Mr Walter Long, M.P., were elected to fill the vacancies.

The committee regretted that, owing to the death of Mr E S E Hartopp, it was necessary to appoint another auditor, and they recommended Major-General E C Trevor to fill the vacancy, and the reelection of Mr W B Heberden and Mr James R Mellor, to whom the tanks of the club were due for their services. The thanks of the club were also given to Major George C Bower for two fine Morkhar heads, and to Mr O R Dunell for a splendid collection of ten pairs of horns from South Africa.

The Hon Alfred Lyttelton and Sir Edward Grey were mentioned as the respective holders of the gold and silver tennis prizes.

At a special general meeting held on July 10, 1894, it was resolved to alter Law 53 of cricket as follows: - "The side which goes in second shall follow their innings if they have scored 120 runs less than the opposite side in a three days' match, or 80 in a two days' match." This alteration would come into operation this season. The report and accounts were adopted.

At the annual dinner in the evening at Lord's, the Earl of Jersey nominated Lord Harris as his successor in the presidency of the club.

Friday 3 May, page 11: THE SURREY COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Surrey Club was held last evening at Kennington-oval. In their report the committee congratulated the members on the attainment of the chief position among the counties, and on the excellent results of last year, which showed in all matches 19 victories, four losses, a tie and two drawn games.

Surrey v England is to be played as a testimonial match to Mr W W Read, and the profits of Yorkshire v Surrey are to be given to Robert Abel. Over £1,000 was expended last year in improvements on the Oval, both for members and for the general public.

It was with deep regret that the committee recorded the death of the Earl of Bessborough, a vice-president of the club since its formation and also one of the founders.

The balance-sheet showed the finances of the club to be in a very satisfactory state, for the invested funds now amounted to £10,000. The income showed £4,051 from subscriptions and £6,479 gatemoney. The best match receipts were £837 (Notts), £670 (Yorkshire), £537 (Gentlemen v Players), £485 (Middlesex), 451 (Kent) and £418 (Sussex). The match expenses were £4,163, general, £1,488, grants, £696, and ground expenses £3,751. The report and balance-sheet were adopted.

Owing to continued ill-health, Lord Oxenbridge did not offer himself for re-election as president, and he is succeeded by Sir Richard Webster, Q.C., M.P. The latter in thanking the meeting said he had always done as much as he could for Surrey cricket, in which he was keenly interested. General Marshall was elected vice-president in place of the late Earl of Bessborough, and the honorary treasurer is again Mr Wildman Cattley.

The members who retired by rotation from the committee were re-elected, and Major Marindin, R.E., was elected to the vacancy caused by Sir Richard Webster's acceptance of the presidency. Sir Richard afterwards presented Mr John Shuter with a testimonial as a mark of his great services to the county, for which he played from 1877 to 1893.

Friday 3 May, page 11: THE ESSEX CLUB

Mr C M Tebbut presided last evening at the annual meeting of the Essex County Club, held at the county ground, Leyton. There was a good attendance of members.

The financial report was much better than hitherto, and the prospects were stated to be bright for the coming season, as Essex were now in the championship competition and had a fine programme: Surrey, Yorkshire, Middlesex, Somerset, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Warwickshire and Hampshire all playing Essex at Leyton. The expenses were, however, certain to increase with the extra out matches, and an appeal was made to the meeting to endeavour to enlarge the membership, which should be 1,500 in order to pay the way of the club. At present the roll was about 1,100.

Football had been a great aid to the funds, and it was hoped that the new railway would help to increase the cricket receipts. The report was adopted.

2 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY - THE SENIORS' MATCH

MR H E SYMES-THOMPSON'S SIDE 172 (J H Metcalfe 20, W M Hemingway 43; J Burrough 4/52, C J L Rudd 4/69) and 397 (H E Symes-Thompson 71, R A Studd 92, J H Metcalfe 20, W M Hemingway 86, W Mortimer 57; J Burrough 3/81, C J L Rudd 4/91, A P Whitwell 3/80). MR G S WILSON'S SIDE 56 (J A Crocker 19; J P Candler 3/19, W W Lowe 8/37) and 231 (J M Brydone 21, F L Hinde 21, A P Whitwell 88; L V Lodge 6/80). Mr Symes-Thompson's Side won by 282 runs.

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 May, page 11)

It was a bowler's day at Cambridge yesterday, marked by a fine piece of work by Mr W Lowe, whose fast bowling produced an analysis of eight wickets for 37 runs. Mr Hemingway and Mr Symes-Thompson, the latter of whom did well in some of the trials last year, carried off the batting honours.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 May, page 13)

There was plenty of excellent cricket at Cambridge yesterday on the second day of this match. Most of the batting brilliancy came from Mr Symes-Thompson's side, who set their opponents a hard task.

The captain and Mr Studd, who were not out overnight, did so well that altogether their partnership yielded 112 runs. Mr Symes-Thompson hit five fours and eight threes, while the chief figures of Mr Studd, who was only 100 minutes getting his 92, were nine fours and five threes. After the luncheon interval there was some splendid hitting by Mr Hemingway and Mr Mortimer, who put on 108 for the seventh wicket. The character of the former's innings may be judged from the pace of his scoring; he got his 86 in 70 minutes and contributed 13 fours. Mr Mortimer played very well and was the last to leave. How quickly runs were made in the innings will be best judged from the average of about 95 runs an hour for a little over four hours.

Mr Wilson's side had to get 514 to win. Mr A P Whitwell played very well . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 May, page 11)

As was expected, the task set Mr Wilson's side of getting 514 in the last innings of the Seniors' match at Cambridge was much too heavy, and on Saturday Mr Symes-Thompson's team won by 282 runs.

The best features of the closing day's cricket were the batting of Mr Whitwell and the bowling of Mr Lodge, who is best known as the international Association football player. Mr Whitwell's batting was marked by its sound defence; he was three and a quarter hours getting his runs, and he hit a five and eight fours. Mr Lodge's bowling figures speak for themselves.

6 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4288.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 May, page 11)

At Lord's yesterday the turf showed a material improvement from last week, but the sudden change from a slow to a very fast wicket in many instances affected the judgment of the batsmen in timing, for the ball went along quickly and whipped up at a great pace from the pitch. In this latter fact was no doubt the secret of the comparatively meagre scoring which on the day left Marylebone with a considerable advantage.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 May, page 11)

The unevenness of the play at Lord's yesterday did not deprive the match of all its interest. In fact, the several branches of the game had many skilful illustrations. The fine, vigorous driving and cutting of Mr Vernon and the cautious defence of Chatterton gave two marked styles of batting; in bowling Martin, Hearne and Mr Stocks all did well; in fielding plenty of good work was seen; and, lastly, Storer, of Derbyshire, excelled in wicket-keeping – his stumping of Mr stone was a wonderful piece of play.

These things keenly held the attention of a large body of spectators. Marylebone eventually won by 159 runs.

6 May: WARWICKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4289.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 May, page 11)

There was some splendid batting by various members of the Essex eleven at Birmingham yesterday. The excellent condition of the wicket and a couple of errors in the field were the great aids to the Essex success. Still, the feat of making 350 at a cost of five men is one of great merit, and the eastern county may be congratulated on its bright opening of the season with a score that points to victory.

The foundation of the substantial total was laid by Mr Owen and Carpenter, who put on 63 for the first wicket, Carpenter then falling to a fine catch at cover-point. Mr Owen, after escaping from a hard return chance, played sound cricket, and before he was caught in the long field at 117 made 64, having hit five fours. But the partnership of the day was that between Burns and Mr Higgins, who added 205. Warwickshire had themselves to blame for this long stand, inasmuch as Burns, when only 17, was missed by Law in the long field. Subsequently he hit with great vigour, as may be judged from the fact that he scored his 114 in about two and a half hours, and obtained 17 fours, a three and five twos. He was finally caught in the long field. Mr Higgins played more carefully and, without giving a chance, put together 118 in three and a half hours, contributing a five and seven fours.

Each side had several good men absent – Mr L C Docker and Shilton from Warwickshire and Messrs A P Lucas and Gosling from Essex.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 May, page 11)

At one time yesterday at Birmingham the Warwickshire team were doing so well that, going in against the score of 410, they had 220 on the board with only three men out. But the fine fast bowling of Mr Kortright turned the game for Essex. It says much for Mr Kortright's skill that on a good pitch he should be able to get eight wickets (six bowled) for 94 runs. In the early part of yesterday the last five of the Essex team were dismissed for an addition of 60 runs, and 46 of these were made during the ninth partnership between Mr Hailey and Mead.

When Warwickshire went in the two Quaifes put on 50 for the second wicket, but three of the side were out for 81. Then occurred the stand of the day, for in 90 minutes Walter Quaife and Lilley added 144 runs. Lilley forced the game at a great pace, his driving and cutting being clean and hard, whereas Quaife was content to wait for openings. In Lilley's 82, made without a chance, were a five, five fours and six threes. Quaife gave a chance at 20 and took more than three hours to make his 91. He hit six fours and 12 threes. After the fine batting by Lilley, the last six wickets added only 34 runs, so that Warwickshire had to follow on, their arrears amounting to 151.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 May, page 12)

At Birmingham yesterday the match was drawn, Warwickshire having rather the best of the position with a lead of 193 and five wickets in hand.

6 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY – THE SENIORS' MATCH

MR W S CASE'S SIDE 377 (G O Smith 76, F G H Clayton 35, E R Morres 146, A M Bury 54; H A Arkwright 5/76, S L Watkinson 3/75) and 191/4 dec. H T Stanley 23, B N Bosworth-Smith 44, W S Case 72*, A M Bury 20). MR M Y BARLOW'S SIDE 262 (J P Boland 117, M Y Barlow 27, T B Henderson 34, S L Watkinson 20*; J M Quinton 4/58, J C Hartley 4/77) and 297/4 (P F Warner 122, M Y Barlow 113, T B Henderson 34*). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 May, page 11)

Yesterday's cricket in the Parks at Oxford was marked by the fine, vigorous batting of Mr Morres, who was in the Winchester eleven three years ago. He hit a six and 22 fours. Mr G O Smith, the Old Carthusian and international football player, showed good form, and Messrs Bury and Morres while they were together put on 176 runs. Apart from Mr Arkwright, the bowling of Mr Barlow's team was weak, and Mr Case's side were at the wickets all day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 May, page 11)

A fine innings of 117 by Mr Boland, of Christ Church, marked the second day's play in the Seniors' match at Oxford. It was this and the new rule as to the follow-on that prevented Mr Barlow's side from having to proceed with their second innings. Mr Boland played very good cricket, and going in first was the eighth man out. He had a couple of narrow escapes. Among his figures were 14 fours.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 May, page 12)

At Oxford yesterday the match was left drawn, Mr Barlow's team wanting only ten runs for victory.

Wednesday 8 May, page 11: RETURN OF MR STODDART'S TEAM

A Reuter telegram from Plymouth states that the steamship Ophir arrived there yesterday from Australia with Mr Stoddart's English cricket team. All the men were in good health and spoke in the highest terms of their experiences during the tour.

Peel expressed the opinion that the Australians were much improved, but said that the English team fielded very loosely throughout the tour, being unable to hold the ball on the fast wickets. The best all-round bowler on the English side was Richardson, and G Giffen showed the best cricket on the part of the colonials. Although Mr Stoddart's team won most of the best matches, the Australians were very little behind.

During the voyage several games of cricket were played. The members of the team state that the Australians will send a team to England next season composed of their best all-round players.

9 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 May, page 11)

Batting furnished the best point in the cricket at Lord's yesterday, when Sussex v Marylebone began, and there was no lack of variation in style. The highest merits belonged to the sound play of Storer, who is fast bringing his batting skill to the level of his excellence as a wicket-keeper, and to the driving powers shown by Mr Heseltine.

These two men, with their distinct methods of getting runs, made a notable stand for the fifth Marylebone wicket, taking the score from 85 to 204 in the course of a mere 45 minutes. Of these 119 runs, 74 belonged to Mr Heseltine, who was then caught in the long-field. Much of the credit for the respectable Marylebone total must be given to Storer. He made some capital strokes to leg; but, for the most part, his runs were got in front of the wicket. He went in when three men were out for 57, and when going well for his 100 he lost his wicket in backing up while Mr Hornby was batting.

Dr Grace made his first appearance at Lord's this season; but his stay at the wicket was brief. He gave the spectators something to cheer in the shape of a beautiful drive and two fine cuts – all for four each – and then fell to slip.

The best game when Sussex were in came last, when, with five men lost for 97, K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr Brann got together. The former, who acquired a great reputation in the cricket-field at Cambridge University (he was in the eleven in 1893), is now qualified for Sussex.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 May, page 15)

At Lord's, yesterday, Dr W G Grace played a big innings. In this his 31st year of important cricket, he threw into his game much of his old energy and judgment in placing the ball. The mere fact that he got the last 86 of his 103 in a little over an hour gives an idea of the strength of his play. Once or twice the ball puzzled him, but the bowling suffered severely at both ends. With his score on 96 he let a ball on the leg side from Mr Ranjitsinhji escape him, but in the latter's next over he got a similar ball away to the boundary, and so ran into the 99th three-figure innings played by him during his career in first-class cricket. He was soon afterwards out – caught at mid-on from a ball which he mistimed. His 103 occupied him 100 minutes and he hit 14 fours, two threes and eight twos.

Mr Ranjitsinhji not only batted well, but, when the sting had been taken out of the Sussex bowling by the fine hitting of Dr Grace, succeeded in the attack where his companions had failed. The Sussex bowling seemed very weak on the fast, true wicket until Ranjitsinhji took the ball. He got a good pitch, carefully studied his opponents and, varying his pace, bowled for a long stretch and had a fine average for such a big innings.

Earlier in the day he had pleased the crowd with his finished cutting and driving, making nine fours and five threes in his faultless 77, while his partnership for the sixth wicket with Mr Brann yielded 101 runs. Mr C W Wright helped Dr Grace to add 118 for the second Marylebone wicket. Storer's 65 included nine fours.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 May, page 10)

In a wonderful day's batting at Lord's on Saturday, the Sussex eleven came out so well that they only failed by 19 runs to achieve the feat of scoring 405 in the fourth innings of their match with Marylebone. The aptitude that Sussex proverbially possess for playing well in an uphill fight no doubt had much to do with the gathering of the large body of spectators for the last day of a game win which the forlorn task of getting 397, with one of the best men already gone, presented itself to the county.

The fine cricket went on from 11.30 until late in the afternoon, and it was 20 minutes past 5 when the powerful Marylebone bowlers were rid of their last opponent. Everything was eclipsed by the fine batting of K S Ranjitsinhji, whose brilliant cutting and driving powers were sustained right through the two hours and a half of his stay. The graceful precision of a powerful style greatly impressed both the general public and the members in the pavilion, and one of the oldest stagers at Lord's admitted its equality with many of the best things ever done on the ground.

R S Ranjitsinhji certainly made a remarkable first appearance for his county, and after Saturday's feat it is better understood how quickly he acquired fame by his cricket at Cambridge. The fact that he made this 150 at the rate of a run a minute gives a good idea of the rapidity of his scoring. He went in second wicket down at 36 and was seventh out at 245, having hit two fives, 24 fours, five threes and four twos. Messrs Murdoch and Newham gave him little aid, and when the fifth wicket went at 117 there was a probability of an easy and substantial win for the M.C.C. Mr Brann, however, forsook his usual style of hitting and played carefully, while K S Ranjitsinhji forced the pace, with the result that 84 were made during the sixth partnership.

With eight of the side gone for 245 the end still seemed near, and after a vigorous hour of Mr Heasman, the last man arrived at 289 for nine wickets. Butt and Mr Collins made a fine effort to win the match and, although Butt was missed when he had scored 31, the cricket of both was excellent. For a long spell of 75 minutes the runs came at a good pace, and Marylebone must have had a considerable period of anxiety before at last Martin beat Mr Collins after a tenth wicket stand of 96. So Marylebone won by 19 runs. Butt hit eight fours, a three and five twos. There was great excitement at the finish and the county players were loudly cheered for their fine fight.

Storer again kept wicket excellently, and the fact that there were only six "extras," and five of them leg-byes, in the double Sussex innings was a tribute to his skill. Over 1,200 runs were made in the match.

9 May: SURREY v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4291.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 May, page 11)

The variety of good batting and changes of fortune which the sides experienced gave a charm to yesterday's play on the Oval. Lockwood, who has had rather indifferent health in Australia, was absent from the home eleven, in which Brockwell and Richardson appeared, and both of them were enthusiastically received by the large body of spectators.

Street's fine play on the off-side and the cricket of Mr W W Read and Thompson, the latter of whom has been tried before in the team, were the main elements in the successful first innings of Surrey, who, after a weak start, finished strongly. Street made a five and 12 fours in his 86, which occupied him about an hour and three-quarters. Pougher's and Holland's excellent batting rescued the Leicestershire side from disaster.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 May, page 15)

At Kennington Oval yesterday, Surrey, after having the match apparently in hand, had to submit to defeat by four wickets. Late in the afternoon the sixth Leicestershire wicket fell at 118, and then Tomlin's partnership with Chapman won the match.

When 20 runs were still wanted Tomlin put up a ball towards mid-on; it was Smith's catch, but Richardson also went for it, the players came into collision and the chance was missed. Tomlin made 106 out of 150 in two hours and 20 minutes; he scored two fives, 16 fours, four threes and a two. Mr Stone and Chapman both displayed careful defence.

Woodcock took four of the first five Surrey wickets at a cost of 14 runs. Mr Walter Read hit seven fours. The wicket occasionally helped the bowlers.

9 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY - THE FRESHMEN'S MATCH

MR G J MORDAUNT'S SIDE 215 (F L Fane 59, G R Brewis 47, H W Kaye 33, A R Severn 27; F E Unthank 4 wkts, R B Porch 4 wkts) and 277/9 dec (F L Fane 45, G R Brewis 30, P W Nickalls 32, W E Harrison 90; E Mortimer 5 wkts). MR H D G LEVESON-GOWER'S SIDE 404 (B D Bannon 40, G E Bromley-Martin 82, B A Bailey 55, F H E Cunliffe 35, E Mortimer 64, F S Unthank 23, H Hanbury-Tracey 26; W E Harrison 5/68, H W Kaye 3/46) and 88/5 (R B Porch 30; C L Donaldson 3 wkts). Match drawn with scores level.

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 May, page 11)

On the opening day of this match at Oxford yesterday, the first three men in Mr Mordaunt's team all played excellently. Mr Leveson-Gower's side experienced a piece of bad fortune in losing the services of Mr Cunliffe, who strained himself while bowling. Mr Cunliffe has gone up to Oxford from Eton with a splendid reputation as a left-hand medium-pace bowler. It is hoped that the injury is only very slight.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 May, page 15)

On the second day of this match at Oxford the best feature of the cricket was Mr Bromley-Martin's batting. He hit 13 fours. Mr Bailey and Mr Mortimer also threw plenty of vigour into their batting.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 May, page 10)

The last day of the Freshmen's trial at Oxford furnished plenty of good cricket. In particular there was the batting of Mr W E Harrison, of Eton and Oriel, while Messrs Fane and Brewis repeated their successes of the first innings. Mr Mortimer bowled well and came out with a good analysis in a long innings. Mr Mortimer closed his side's innings and left the other team to make 89.

So freely did Mr Leveson-Gower's men play that the figures were equal when "time" was up, and the match was left unfinished.

Friday 10 May, page 11: CRICKET AT CAMBRIDGE. Mr A J Richardson, a Freshman from Canterbury, yesterday achieved the rare feat of making over a hundred twice in the same match. It was the concluding day of a college game between Corpus Christi and Emmanuel, and Mr Richardson for the former made 135 and 137 (not out). The game was drawn, Corpus scoring 241 and 224 (two wickets) to 238 and 134 (one wicket).

Saturday 11 May, page 15: SOMERSET COLTS' MATCH. – The trial of colts, which began on Thursday, was concluded yesterday at Taunton. The play was remarkable for an innings of 104 by W Sloman, a young cricketer, of Minehead. In the end the game was drawn, the 19 colts making 199 and 256 (for 15 wickets) and the county twelve 226.

13 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4292.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 May, page 12)

Yesterday's play at Cambridge was marked by the fine batting of Mr F Mitchell, an old cricket and Rugby football blue and an English international forward. Last season he began well, but failed to sustain the form shown in the earlier matches, his misfortunes being most noticeable when playing for his county, Yorkshire. Brilliant cutting and driving were the characteristics of Mr Mitchell's game yesterday, and he made his 191 in three hours and a half. His chief contributions were 26 fours, seven threes and 17 twos.

Mr C E M Wilson, who went up from Uppingham to Cambridge with a great reputation, failed to come up to expectations; but Mr Studd, the Old Etonian, did well. However, the best stand was that by Messrs Mitchell and W G Druce, who added 152 for the sixth wicket. It was then that Mr Mitchell was caught at cover-point. Mr W G Druce, the captain of the eleven, played steady cricket for his 67, in which were nine fours. Mr Pope also batted strongly. It may be noted that the University team included four old blues, six seniors and a Freshman.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 May, page 11)

There was some fine batting by some of the Somerset men at Cambridge yesterday. The first innings of the county at one time promised a far larger score than was obtained, for 200 were up with only three wickets down, but Mr Wilson, the Uppingham Freshman, going on to bowl at 196, wrought a great change in the condition of the game. He took five wickets for eight runs, and his final record showed the splendid total of seven for 24.

Somerset were batting three and a half hours for their 221. Mr L C H Palairet, although giving chances at 42 and 59, played excellently and hit ten fours, while his partnerships with Sloman and Mr Richardson furnished respectively 84 and 83 for the second and fourth wickets. Sloman, of Minehead, who secured his place by virtue of his good batting in the recent colts' match, played well.

Somerset followed on and the closing stage of the day was marked by the superb hitting of Mr Woods, who made 104 not out. Mr R Palairet helped him to obtain 60 for the first wicket, while Sloman stayed while 65 were put on.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 May, page 12)

In he last stage of the match at Cambridge Mr Woods's fine innings stood out as the best individual feat. He went in on Tuesday when Somerset followed on and was yesterday sixth out at 288, having made his 180 in three and a half hours. His powerful forcing game led him to run some risks, but there were not many errors in his batting. He hit 15 fours, 12 threes and 21 twos. His most useful partner was Mr Richardson, with whom he added 79. Cambridge, who were left with 162 to make, won by seven wickets.

13 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4293.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 May, page 12)

The effects of last night's rain on the turf at Lord's caused the wicket to bump a good deal in the early hours of yesterday's cricket, and for a long time the bowlers held sway. How they were served by the pitch might be gleaned from the score up to the fall of the fifth Yorkshireman; but in the last three hours of the day the tide completely turned, and the batsmen under much improved conditions were seen to advantage.

Peel, Moorhouse, Mounsey and Hirst are familiar names in some of Yorkshire's fine uphill fights of last season; and again yesterday these men rescued their side from a feeble position. While almost every one was puzzled by Woodcock's great pace, Peel met it successfully and Moorhouse greatly aided him by a very cautious defence that afterwards developed into a vigorous forcing game.

At the beginning of the day Marylebone were put out in 90 minutes for 105. Peel bowled well and got a lot of work on the ball, while Hirst and Mr Milligan, the latter of whom was appearing for his county at Lord's for the first time, both bumped. Dr Grace made several good stroked before he was caught at wicket, while Mr Vernon's forcing tactics paid well.

Woodcock and Martin got the first five Yorkshiremen out for 23 runs, so that there was every probability of a lead for Marylebone on the innings. Then occurred several long stands. Peel and Moorhouse put on 51, Moorhouse and Mounsey 61, and Moorhouse and Hirst 70. Woodcock's bowling lost its sting and was severely punished, and J T Hearne never seemed to get a good length. So the last five Yorkshiremen got the upper hand of the bowlers. Moorhouse was two and a half hours getting his 71, in which were seven fours and a three; but Hirst was always vigorous and hit ten fours, two threes, two twos and only six singles.

Yorkshire, whose last five wickets put on 217 runs, completed their innings shortly before the time for the drawing of stumps. There were some 5,000 spectators of an interesting day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 May, page 11)

The Yorkshire eleven, both in the field and at the wicket, played the better cricket in this match at Lord's, and yesterday their substantial victory was thoroughly merited. It was really the fine fielding that lent to the morning's play the brightness which the large body of spectators seemed [quite to] enjoy. Tunnicliffe's catch at short slip and Hirst's at mid-off, and Hirst's return which caused the running out of Mr de Trafford were things that stood out prominently and with which every one except the batsmen concerned must have been pleased.

But it was not a batsman's wicket, and there were several spots at each end on which the ball bumped a good deal; and to one of these bumping balls Dr Grace owed his dismissal, for after playing with much of his old power for three-quarters of an hour he could not get away from a ball from Mr Milligan, which went back to the bowler from the shoulder of the bat. The finest piece of hitting was in the 20 minutes' partnership of Dr Grace and Mr de Trafford, but the latter paid the penalty for the dangerous practice of short running which is not profitable against a fielding side like Yorkshire. And with his dismissal the game turned in favour of Yorkshire.

Mr Vernon again showed the capital form he is in this season, but his stay was brief, and after a good stand by Bean and Attewell, and one of rather less profit by Attewell and Woodcock, the county was left with an easy course to victory. Attewell played soundly for his runs.

The 63 which Yorkshire were left to get afforded Brown and Mr Milligan an opportunity for some hard driving and cutting. Woodcock, the very fast bowler, was soon hit off, and in 40 minutes the task was completed, Yorkshire winning by nine wickets. It should have been mentioned that Butt was run out through an excellent piece of work by Moorhouse, who threw the wicket down from third man.

13 May: SURREY v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4294.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 May, page 12)

H Carpenter yesterday on the Oval achieved the feat of playing a three-figure innings, the merit of which is increased when made against such bowlers as are possessed by Surrey. He went in first and was eighth out, caught at slip at 228, after a stay of some four and a half hours. His innings was marked by its finished care and he generally waited for the bad balls from which to score; but his defence was admirable and his strokes all round the wicket were good. Three fives, 15 fours, six threes and six twos were the chief contributions in his fine innings.

Mr Higgins stopped an hour and a quarter to help Carpenter to put on 71, while in 90 minutes the latter and Freeman added 94 for the seventh partnership. These were the only stands of note in the Essex innings of 231.

Little progress was made with the Surrey innings. The general character of the cricket was dull, and on a good wicket and in fine weather the 268 was only a poor aggregate for the day. Mr W W Read was absent from the Surrey eleven through an injury received while batting last Friday, but Lockwood reappeared for the county.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 May, page 11)

The batting feats on the Oval yesterday of Abel and his young colleague Holland, who has graduated from Surrey's powerful second eleven, so well coached by Mr W T Grayburn, were highly gratifying to Surrey men after their defeat last Friday, followed by their long sojourn in the field on Monday.

On a wicket that appeared faster and with the ball coming along easily, these two Surrey professionals made a wonderful stand for the fourth partnership, carrying the score from 59 to 315. Abel, scoring much faster than he usually does, threw into his play great brilliancy, and the masterly style in which he cut and drove or got the ball away to leg showed him to an advantage, which in his long career with Surrey he has rarely equalled. His 217 is the best innings ever played by him for the county, his previous highest having been the 197 made on that famous batsman's ground, the Hove, Brighton, against Sussex in 1891. He had gone in first on Monday night, and yesterday he was seventh to leave, caught at cover-point at 437, after a stay of five hours; in his 217 were two fives, 24 fours, 12 threes and 12 twos. He gave a difficult chance on Monday evening; but yesterday his only mistake was a hard return, which the bowler failed to take, when the batsman was 208. Abel has been one of the best of Surrey's cricketers, and it is appropriate that he should be doing so well in the season of his benefit match, which is Surrey v Yorkshire in August.

The second hero yesterday was Holland, who played once last year for his county, when in a successful first appearance at Leyton against Essex he made 76. In this instance his 123 was secured without a mistake in two hours and 40 minutes, so that he contributed nearly half the 256 which he and Abel put on. He stands well up at the wicket and makes most of his height; his driving and cutting yesterday were clean, and he came down on the ball with great power. He was at last caught in the slips, and his best hits were 19 fours. The brilliant play of Abel and Holland was a relief from Monday's caution and quietude. How they treated the Essex bowling may be

gleaned from the fact that during the 160 minutes they were together 256 runs were obtained.

When Essex went in a second time there was something of the old sting about Lockwood's bowling, with the result that to-day Essex have to face arrears of 169 with their first four men gone.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 May, page 12)

The closing stage of this match on the Oval had for its best feature the fine bowling of Lockwood, who marked his return to English cricket by an excellent piece of work against Essex. On a wicket that showed signs of the hard wear and tear of two full days' batting he bowled with effect, and his six for 37 will go some way to restoring confidence in him which had been a little shaken by his poor form with Mr Stoddart's team in the colonies. Richardson also bowled well yesterday; but his pace does not seem so fast nor is his pitch so good as last season.

Essex were in a sad plight yesterday morning when, with four of their best men gone, they yet wanted 169 to avoid an innings defeat. The Surrey bowlers were much too good for the visitors, and although Mr M'Gahey batted carefully, the end was reached in an hour, Surrey winning by an innings and 125 runs.

13 May: WARWICKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4295.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 May, page 12)

Warwickshire were largely indebted to Lilley and Mr Rhodes for their big score against Derbyshire yesterday in the county ground, at Edgbaston, Birmingham. William Quaife finally helped Lilley to add 65 for the fourth wicket, while the latter and Mr Rhodes put on 124 for the sixth.

Beyond a couple of chances at 35 and 92, Lilley played splendidly, making his first hundred in two hours and a half, and hitting 15 fours and nine threes. He was in while the score rose from 31 to 256. Mr Rhodes, who also escaped, hit eight fours. There was little else of note in the Warwickshire play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 May, page 11)

At the close of the day's play at Birmingham yesterday the home side were 147 ahead with seven wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 May, page 12)

The batsmen triumphed in this match at Edgbaston, Birmingham, to the end, and last evening the match was drawn. In the Warwickshire second innings Mr Bainbridge, the captain, carried off the honours.

When the home side were 308 to the good with seven wickets down they closed their innings, leaving Derbyshire four and a quarter hours to bat. On a good pitch they were fully equal to keeping their wickets up. At the finish Derbyshire with only three men gone wanted 109 to win.

13 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY – THE ELEVEN v SEVENTEEN FRESHMEN

SEVENTEEN FRESHMEN 238 (G E Bromley-Martin 36, B A Bailey 35, W E Harrison 24, E Mortimer 26; J Hartley 7 wkts, H A Arkwright 4 wkts) and 264/11 dec (F L Fane 64, H W Kaye 4, R B Porch 32, D Christopherson 44; GR Bardswell 6 wkts). THE ELEVEN 292 (P F Warner 77, G R Bardswell 30, H K Foster 36, F A Phillips 77; R B Porch 5 wkts) and 145/3 (G R Bardswell 67*, G J Mordaunt 61). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 May, page 12)

The Freshmen's batting occupied the cricketing hours at Oxford yesterday. Although 17 in number the side scarcely did so well as might have been expected under the good conditions. In the eleven there were not all the old "blues" available, while the Freshmen, captain by Mr Bromley-Martin, were without the services of Mr Cunliffe, of Eton, who strained himself while bowling in last week's trial.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 May, page 11)

Yesterday, at Oxford, the best point in the cricket was the batting of Messrs Warner and Phillips for the Eleven. The former, in an excellent 77, hit nine fours and a three, and Mr Phillips made a six and nine fours. Neither innings was free from mistakes. Mr Porch bowled very successfully.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 May, page 12)

There was some very bright batting in the concluding stage of this match at Oxford yesterday, when, for the Freshmen, Messrs Fane, Kaye, Porch and Christopherson all did well. Mr Bardswell followed up an excellent piece of bowling with hard hitting. The game was drawn . . .

Tuesday 14 May, page 12: FIRST-CLASS CRICKET. – Yesterday at their meeting at Lord's, the Marylebone committee decided that Liverpool and District v Yorkshire, fixed for the end of this week, at Liverpool, should not be reckoned as a first-class match in the averages.

WALTER HEARNE. – Cricketers will hear with regret that this skilful Kent bowler has renewed an old strain in his leg, which will keep him out of the important matches for some time.

Thursday 16 May, page 12: HOUSEHOLD BRIGADE v FREE FORESTERS. - A great innings of 203 by Mr H T Hewett, the ex-Somerset captain, marked this match at Chelsea Hospital yesterday. The Foresters had a splendid side and won easily.

M.C.C. AND GROUND v LANCASHIRE. – At Lord's to-day Mr A E Stoddart will make his first appearance since his return from Australia, when, with the following, he will play for the M.C.C. . . .

16 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v C I THORNTON'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4296.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 May, page 11)

Mr C I Thornton got up a fine team for his annual match with Cambridge on Fenner's ground, and with the wicket in a condition completely favourable for the batsmen the University had a very long spell of fielding.

The early event of the day was the great innings of Mr F S Jackson, who, profiting by a mistake soon after he went in, made 122, having hit 16 fours, seven threes and seven twos. Mr Webbe was dissatisfied with the decision of the umpire in giving him out as having played on, for the wind was strong enough to dislodge the bails. Later on there was a vigorous stand by Mr Vernon and Wainwright, who put on 137 in 65 minutes. The professional hit ten fours, while Mr Vernon, who is in fine form this season, secured his three figures in an hour and three-quarters and was credited with 15 fours and four threes.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 May, page 15)

Yesterday at Cambridge the day was almost wholly occupied with the innings of the University, who had disposed of their opponents on the opening day for 426. Messrs Mitchell and Symes-Thompson made a very good beginning and scored 75 for the first wicket.

Mr Mitchell played especially well; but the chief honours fell to Mr R A Studd, whose 75 was the result of fine, free cricket, and his chief figures were six fours and the same number of threes. After he had been caught at wicket off Woodcock, who got out three men in seven overs, the game went rather against the Light Blues. Messrs Burrough and Robinson, however, threw plenty of vigour into the play and put on 73 for the eighth partnership, while the follow-on was eventually saved.

Going in a second time, the visitors quickly lost Mr Hewett, and then rain came down and stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 May, page 7)

Although cricketing hours were considerably shortened by the rain on Saturday there was plenty of good batting on the Cambridge University ground. The feat that stood out most prominently was the fine innings of Mr N F Druce, who, as a Freshman from Marlborough, got his "Blue" last year. How well he played may be gathered from the fact that he got his 100 out of 135 in an hour and a quarter; his full stay lasted ten minutes longer and he hit altogether 18 fours. When rain came on at a quarter to five and caused the match to be drawn the score was as follows . . .

16 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4297.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 May, page 11)

The way in which Somerset started batting at Bristol yesterday promised ill for Gloucestershire; but having rid themselves of the first two men the home side got out the rest of their opponents at a comparatively cheap rate, a result that was brought about by the effective bowling of Dr Grace and Murch and the wicket-keeping of Board, who made five catches.

Messrs L C H Palairet and Gerald Fowler laid the foundation for a huge total by Somerset. Mr Fowler batted with great brilliancy and was the second out at 209. His figures were only 28 when Mr Townsend let drop an easy catch in the slips. His chief contributions were 17 fours, three threes and eight twos. After this stand there was almost a collapse.

Gloucestershire had 40 minutes' batting and at the finish were left 245 behind with eight men in hand. Mr Sewell who appears for the home side was a member of the South African team, Mr E L Thomas is an old Cliftonian, and Mr [Bracher] has secured some fame in local cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 May, page 15)

Dr W G Grace is still the most wonderful cricketer of his day. Other great batsmen exist with powerful and finished styles, but there is no achievement equal to that of the man who played at Lord's in the Gentlemen v Players when only 16, and after 30 years of sustained excellence can make his 100 at Lord's and 288 at Bristol within eight days, at the beginning of a season.

Dr Grace's 288, against Somerset at Bristol, is the 100th three-figure innings played by him in his long career of important cricket. He has only twice exceeded this score, when he made 344 for M.C.C. v Kent, at Canterbury, and 318 for Gloucestershire against Yorkshire, at Cheltenham, both 19 years ago. He got his runs yesterday virtually without a chance. On Thursday night he scored 32. His record on resuming was 50 in an hour, and in the next 60 minutes he doubled his figures. Subsequently, the pace of his run-getting increased and his second hundred was made at the rate of one a minute, the total score at this stage being 340. His play then became less energetic, and when, at last, he was caught left-handed by Tyler at extra mid-off, he had been in five and a quarter hours and was ninth to leave at 463. In his 288 were 38 fours, 11 threes, 29 twos and 45 singles. On returning to the pavilion the champion had a very enthusiastic reception.

Young Mr Townsend was for a long time an able partner of his captain's, with whom he helped to add 223 runs. In his admirable 95 were eight fours, seven threes and eight twos. The Somerset total was passed with only three men out, and at the fall of the sixth wicket the score stood at 369; while in the end Gloucestershire secured a lead of 171 on the innings. Somerset began well in their task of rubbing off the arrears.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 May, page 7)

Somerset did not do so well in their second innings on Saturday at Bristol as had been expected, with the result that they were severely beaten. Dr Grace's fine innings and the efforts of the other

members of his side had resulted in Somerset having to face arrears of 171.

On the good wicket Murch bowled with great effect and was supported by very good fielding. The visitors' second innings was completed in three hours, and only 144 runs were added by the ten wickets to the 45 made overnight. Murch took the last six wickets in nine overs for 19 runs. His full analysis was eight for 68, while in the double innings he was credited with 12 for 140 runs. Gloucestershire had only to get 19 runs to win, and they gained the victory by nine wickets.

It was a fine match to win after their opponents had played a first innings of 303; but the game will be best remembered in cricket history as that in which Dr W G Grace played his 100th three-figure innings. The Gloucestershire men were heartily cheered as they retired on Saturday.

16 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4298.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 May, page 11)

The good batting team which the M.C.C. put into the field at Lord's yesterday did not acquit themselves in the manner expected. Mr Stoddart and Chatterton did well, but the rank and file found Mold's bowling an insurmountable barrier to long scoring.

Now, the Marylebone attack was scarcely up to its average strength and, with most of the Lancastrians doing a little for their side, the county at the end of the day were found with the substantial lead of 116 of the first innings.

Mold seemed very difficult to play yesterday. His length was good and his pace very fast, while the ball generally kept low. Mr Hornby did not begin with him, but chose to give Hallam, a newly-qualified man, an opportunity to make his mark. Hallam is Nottinghamshire by birth, but has played for Leicestershire. He bowls right-hand, rather fast and seems to have a good pitch. But the Lancashire captain, with Mr Stoddart and Chatterton playing well, was glad to resort to Mold, who soon turned the game. He first got out Mr Stoddart, who was bowled in trying to drive, and he afterwards hit the wickets of four other men. Chatterton, generally a batsman of every steadiness, for once played brightly and his cuts and drives were some of the best of the day. But after Mr Stoddart's retirement a steady dismissal of the side set in.

Three for 57 was not so good a start for Lancashire as Marylebone had made; but the fourth wicket partnership of Sugg and Tinsley yielded 73 runs in three-quarters of an hour. Tinsley played especially well and, although he dropped some of his vigour after his first 30, his cricket was bright to watch. He hit eight fours. There was a good attendance, but the keen north-east wind lessened the enjoyment of the play.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 May, page 15)

In anything but cricket weather the finishing stage of the match between Marylebone and Lancashire yielded some very good batting at Lord's. The most brilliant was that by Mr F Marchant.

When he went in yesterday Marylebone were making a sorry sight against the odds of 116 and half of the side had gone for 66 runs. Another wicket fell at 74, so that the end seemed at hand. But Mr Marchant found an able and steady partner in Davidson. The former came down with great power on the ball, and Mold's career was checked in a way that soon made Mr Hornby resort to other bowlers. Mold had been the chief source of Marylebone's early troubles, for he had got four men out at a cheap rate. Mr Marchant's brilliancy continued until at the end of 50 minutes he was dismissed by a very good catch at slip. The wicket had added 81 runs, and the old Etonian's best hits were nine fours, a three and four twos.

Davidson played very sound cricket. A wonderful catch was brought off by Mr Tindall when he dismissed Martin. The latter got well on a ball from Hallam and its course was low and swift, but Mr Tindall, standing close in as forward short leg, dropped his right hand and just gripped the ball. The feat was of the kind that George Lohmann, of Surrey, used to achieve in the slips. In spite of

Mold's punishment during the Marchant and Davidson stand he yet had a capital record, and his aggregate for the match was ten wickets for 141. Lancashire seem to have found a useful new bowler in Hallam, who in the double innings took five wickets for 44 runs.

The 79 which Lancashire had to get to win were made short work of by Mr Hornby and Ward, who in an hour secured the match by ten wickets. Mr Hornby threw into his cricket all his old keenness and his batting was vigorous and well timed.

16 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4299.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 May, page 11)

William Gunn, one of the best cricketers Nottinghamshire has produced, played with great finish and vigour at Trent Bridge yesterday, and his 219 will rank among the very best feats he has achieved for his county. Yesterday's cricket at Nottingham will go in some way to remove the charges of slowness which have been made, not always unfairly, against the Notts eleven. Indeed, apart from Gunn's scoring his runs at the rate of about 45 an hour, there were several members of the side whose pace was far above the average.

Gunn's innings extended over some five hours. Except for a bad hit, when at 35 he skied the ball to mid-on and Mr Murdoch failed to get in a position to make the catch, Gunn played faultlessly. He came down on the ball with great power and his beautiful drives all along the ground and his clean cuts left nothing in the way of a forcing game to be desired. He hit 26 fours, ten threes and 20 twos and, going in first wicket down at nine, was out sixth at 390. Nottinghamshire had yet four wickets to fall at the end of the afternoon.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 May, page 15)

Record-breaking has set in early this season and batsmen have made the most of the opportunities afforded by the long spell of dry weather. After standing for nearly seven years, Surrey's record in a county match of 698, made against Sussex on the Oval, was beaten yesterday at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, and again it was Sussex who had to field to the big score of 726. Mr Howitt and Bagguley each ran into three figures for the first time for the county, and both played with great vigour.

These two men were not out over night, and yesterday their full partnership yielded 201 for the seventh wicket, the time taken to get these runs being two and a half hours. Mr Howitt, who was let off when 65, hit seven fours, five threes and 18 twos, and Bagguley, who might have been out at 23 and 26, scored 12 fours and 12 twos. Theirs was the fourth three-figure stand of the innings. It was nearly half-past 3 when at last the home innings ended. The runs had been made at the rate of 85 an hour, and after this fine average there should be less said about the slowness of Nottingham cricket. This 726 is a record only as concerns county cricket, for the best total in purely first-class play is the 843 of the Australians against Oxford and Cambridge at Portsmouth.

After the Notts display Sussex did comparatively little on the good wicket. The bowling of Wilkinson, right-hand, rather above medium pace, was very effective, and his success should urge the Nottinghamshire captain to give him more chances than last year, when he was not bowled nearly enough. He has a capital pitch and gets some work on the ball. Sussex will have to-day to follow on against arrears of 556. Some rain fell in Nottingham last night.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 May, page 7)

The brilliant victory gained by Nottinghamshire at Trent-bridge on Saturday was not surprising after the way the match had gone on the previous two days, while, to make the Sussex task in the

"follow-on" more difficult, the rain of Friday night caused the wicket to be a little slow and occasionally to bump.

Sussex had to play their second innings against arrears of 556, a number that precluded every possibility of success for them and left them only a draw for which to play. The start, however, presaged their failures. Marlow and Bean were caught in the slips and these two men were out for 10. K S Ranjitsinhji, after being missed by Bagguley at mid-off, played well, and the figures were up to 44 before Attewell had a return catch from hi off a ball that bumped.

Mr Newham arrived at this stage; but lost his captain with the record at 73, and at 96 six men were out. In the uphill fight Mr Newham received some aid from Butt and Parris, but none of the partnerships were very long, and in the end Mr Newham was left not out with 75. It was a fine innings of two and a quarter hours' duration, the best hits in which were five fours, five threes and 12 twos. Attewell's bowling was very difficult and he had a fine analysis. Nottinghamshire won by an innings and 378 runs.

16 May: SURREY v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4300.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 May, page 11)

The chief feature of the cricket at the Oval yesterday was a fine piece of bowling by Brockwell, who in the colonies, if he failed considerably as a batsman, did in one of the test matches help greatly to win by his skill with the ball. Yesterday he bowled rather faster than usual and, with a strong cross wind on, he made the ball break with much effect.

Warwickshire, who had first innings, were doing pretty well until Brockwell went on with the figures at 62 for one wicket. His second ball got Law caught at wicket, and up to the luncheon interval he had dismissed four men in six overs at the cost of ten runs. At a later stage of the game – that was, at 102 – he bowled out Devey, Barnes and Whitehead, and his complete analysis showed him with eight wickets for 22 runs. It was a fine feat and well worthy the cheers that were given.

In the Warwickshire batting the best thing was the steady and finished play of Walter Quaife, who made his 48 in 130 minutes without an error. The 21 for the tenth partnership by Pallett and Santall did something to give a little respectability to the visitors' record.

When Surrey went in the crowd had good batting to watch. Lockwood and Abel began carefully; but, having got set, they played splendid cricket. Their hitting all round was powerful and the score reached 88 before Abel left. Then came the brightest spell of the day, Maurice Read and Lockwood putting on 61 in the last 40 minutes and giving Surrey a lead of 26 with only one man out.

The Surrey team seem to have quickly run into form, and the success of Lockwood and Brockwell after all their ill-fortune in Australia must by particularly gratifying to the club. Mr Walter Read found himself sufficiently recovered from his injury in the Leicestershire match to play and Street was left out of the side.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 May, page 15)

The Surrey eleven yesterday on the Oval scored well almost to a man, and their innings, which had been started so successfully on Thursday, extended until half-past 5.

The event of the day was the fine batting of Lockwood. He had gone in first, and when he gave the bowler an easy return catch his actual time at the wicket had been rather more than five hours and a half for 158. From the beginning his cricket was sound. On both sides of the wicket he was strong, and his beautiful driving was varied by some remarkable cuts and leg hits, and the pull, which has always been a strong stroke of his, was often illustrated. This is one of the best things Lockwood has ever done for Surrey and, following upon his excellent bowling at the beginning of the week on the Oval, the performance is a severe rebuff to those who had jumped to the conclusion that, because he had failed in Australia, he had lost his cricket. He gave no chance in the way of catching; but he might have been run out when he was 95. The general vigour of his play is best explained by the composition of his score, which included three fives, 21 fours, six threes and eight twos.

There were several long partnerships. That for the second wicket, between Lockwood and Maurice

Read, yielded 122 runs in 105 minutes, and the next – Lockwood and Holland – produced 109 in less than an hour and a quarter. Holland, who is the newest recruit to the eleven, played excellently and hit a five and eight fours, while Maurice Read made nine fours. Hayward's was another good innings, and his finished and free cricket will be gratifying to Surrey folk, for he had done very little in previous matches this season. The home batting, indeed, was full of excellence. Brockwell was unable to claim a substantial part in the long score, but he had contributed his share to the success of the side by his bowling on Thursday. Surrey's full innings occupied seven hours and a half.

Warwickshire bore their long spell in the field well, but their bowling on the good pitch seemed to have no sting. In the last hour of the day they went in against the arrears of 397, and their position was made worse by the early dismissal of Walter Quaife.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 May, page 7)

With the wicket affected by the night's heavy rain and the ball from Richardson and Brockwell kicking a good deal, the chances of Warwickshire's making a substantial score on Saturday at the Oval were not very promising. The county had nine wickets left in the second innings; but their arrears were still 368. Surrey eventually won by an innings and 223 runs. Richardson bowled remarkably well.

16 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY - FIRST THIRTEEN v NEXT SEVENTEEN

NEXT SEVENTEEN 425 (B N Bosworth-Smith 57, J B Boland 26, B D Bannon 73, G O Smith 131, G E Bromley-Martin 22, R B Porch 41, F H E Cunliffe 20*; D H Forbes 5 wkts, G R Bardswell 5 wkts, J C Hartley 4 wkts) and 41/5; H A Arkwright 3 wkts). THE THIRTEEN 420 (P F Warner 69, G R Bardswell 30, H K Foster 87, G J Mordaunt 119, H A Arkwright 20, T A Higson 22, D H Forbes 22; J M Quinton 5 wkts, T B Henderson 3 wkts). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 May, page 11)

In this trial match at Oxford yesterday, Mr Mordaunt, the captain, found an opportunity to include several new men in the thirteen. The seventeen occupied the wickets the whole day, and the best cricket was shown by Mr Bosworth-Smith, the old Harrovian, Mr Bannon and the old Carthusian, Mr G O Smith.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 May, page 15)

The feature of yesterday's cricket in the Parks at Oxford was the innings of Mr G O Smith, who went up to Oxford two years ago with a fine record from Charterhouse. He was in two hours and three-quarters, and hit 14 fours, ten threes and ten twos. He and Mr Porch put on 102 while they were together. When the Thirteen went in Messrs Bardswell and Warner both batted brilliantly.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 May, page 7)

In the Parks, at Oxford, on Saturday, the First Thirteen scored heavily and got within half a dozen runs of the big total of their opponents. The captain of the University (Mr G J Mordaunt) and Mr H K Foster, an old Blue of last year's team, both played splendidly. Mr Mordaunt made a few bad strokes in the four hours of his batting, and he hit 13 fours, a three and 12 twos, while his 119 was made out of 211 added during his stay. Mr Foster made some beautiful drives and his chief figures were five fours, a three and 16 twos. In the long innings Mr Quinton, a senior of Cheltenham and Worcester, bowled very well.

The Seventeen fared badly in the three and a quarter hours left for their second innings, and the game was drawn . . .

Saturday 18 May, page 15: FIRST-CLASS CRICKET. – The M.C.C. have ruled that Derbyshire v M.C.C. and Ground, to be played on the Trinity College Ground, Dublin, on Monday and following days, shall be reckoned in the first-class averages.

20 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4031.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 May, page 11)

Mr A J Webbe got up a splendid side for his annual visit to Cambridge, and he must feel very gratified with the result of the opening stage of the match yesterday. Dr Grace and Mr Stoddart, who began the innings, were quite themselves and scored 130 for the first wicket. The former was then caught in the long-field. He had made 52 without a fault and his chief hits were four fours and six threes.

Mr Stoddart gave a couple of chances at 22 and 48, but apart from these mistakes he played beautiful cricket before he was caught in the slips. In his 84 were 12 fours, five threes and seven twos. Subsequently the chief feature in the Gentlemen's batting was the fine hitting of Mr Hewett, who made his three figures in an hour and three-quarters; his principal items were a five, 11 fours, nine threes and ten twos. Mr Webbe answered Mr Hewett were together while 78 were put on, and of these 62 were contributed by the latter. Cambridge had three-quarters of an hour's play at the end of the day.

Mr R A Studd was unable to appear for the University, but the Malvern freshmen, Messrs Marriott and Simpson, both found a place in the side.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 May, page 10)

The two innings of the University occupied the cricketing hours at Cambridge yesterday, the home team playing an uphill game all day. At the first appearance Messrs Druce and Burrough played well.

In the follow-on against 149 seven men went for 99; but Messrs Marriott and Robinson then put on 73. The former hit five fours and six threes. To-day the Gentlemen have to make 31 to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 May, page 12)

Yesterday at Cambridge, the Gentlemen of England gained an easy victory over the University by nine wickets.

20 May: DUBLIN UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4302.html)

[Note: The M.C.C. committee ruled that this was a first-class match, but The Times published the full score only after the conclusion, and no reports.]

20 May: LANCASHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4303.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 May, page 11)

In spite of the fine bowling of Mold, at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, the Sussex team have so far played their powerful opponents a very even game. K S Ranjitsinhji again showed excellent form and with Marlow put on 62 for the second wicket.

Later Messrs Brann and Newham made a fine stand and added 83 runs at the rate of one a minute. Mr Brann, who was sixth out at 150, obtained seven fours and four twos. He played good cricket, although he seems to exercise greater caution than formerly, when his batting used to be so vigorous. Mold's eight wickets averaged ten runs each.

Lancashire lost four men for 55, and although Briggs and Baker added 46, the sixth wicket went at 108. Afterwards Mr Tindall and Smith reduced the position to the following even state . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 May, page 10)

After a long delay through rain at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, the Lancastrians, who had lost six men for 142, improved their position to such an extent that in two hours the four outstanding wickets added 151 runs. Of course the ball came along the wet turf easily; but Mr Tindall and Smith both played well. Shaw bowled throughout the home innings and had an excellent analysis.

The closing hour's cricket was made notable by the hitting of Bean, and at the finish, Sussex, with eight wickets in hand, were left with 25 to get to save the innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 May, page 12)

After the early hours of play at Manchester, yesterday, the slow wicket under the influence of the sun became very difficult and Briggs bowled with great effect. K S Ranjitsinhji batted well, but the last five Sussex wickets went down in a little over half an hour for 30 runs.

When Lancashire went in a second time the splendid hitting of Sugg helped them to a seven-wickets victory.

20 May: LEICESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4304.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 May, page 11)

Yesterday's play on the county ground at Leicester went in favour of the home side, who profited considerably by getting first innings. They did not start well, but the partnerships of Tomlin with Holland and with Pougher yielded 35 and 38 runs, and afterwards there was some steady batting by Geeson (formerly of Lincoln), who is playing for Leicestershire under the birth qualification. He gave no chance and took out his bat after a stay of an hour and three-quarters.

When the visitors went in Flowers alone made much headway against the fast bowling of Woodcock and Pougher, and Notts were left in a bad position. Mr J S Robinson appeared for Nottinghamshire, and Bagguley, who got a hundred in the last match, was left out.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 May, page 10)

At Leicester yesterday the Nottinghamshire eleven never recovered from their bad start on Monday, and were beaten by 79 runs. The visitors managed to save the follow-on; but Pougher's fine batting in the second innings of Leicestershire left Notts a severe task. He had an escape at 14, and his stay at the wicket lasted upwards of two hours.

20 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4305.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 May, page 11)

With the weather dull and a cold wind blowing, the cricket at Lord's yesterday lost some of its attraction. The turf at Lord's, as the result of the dry spring, is still rather bare and patches are apt to crumble.

Three fine pieces of batting and a remarkable over of Martin's, in which four wickets fell, were the features of the day. The steadiness of Davidson, who was fourth in at 20, saved the Derbyshire side from collapsing altogether. He made many good strokes in the way of cuts and drives. Martin's bowling feat occurred after luncheon, when he went on for a second time. He got Sugg stumped, and bowled the next three men, the wickets falling to successive balls.

In the Marylebone innings the best point was the stand of A Hearne and Mr Neville Leese for the fourth wicket. Both played wonderfully well and in a 50 minutes' partnership put on 81 runs. Mr Leese, who was sixth out, hit six fours. Porter bowled well.

During the morning Board, of Gloucestershire, who was keeping wicket for the M.C.C., received a blow on the face by a ball from Whitehead. He was carried back to the players' room and slowly recovered from the effects of the shock. Derbyshire agreed that Davenport, of Cheshire, should take Board's place in the club team.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 May, page 10)

Good batting by Mr Wright and Davidson, the latter of whom is in very good form this season, and the general excellence of the Derbyshire bowling and fielding turned an uphill fight at Lord's yesterday, and the county were able to secure a victory by 42 runs.

The wicket still helped the bowlers, and Mead would have had a better analysis but for the fact that the ball often did too much. Davidson went in third wicket down at 66 and was eighth out at 178, having hit eight fours, two threes and four twos. Marylebone wanted 140 to win, but the visitors bowled and fielded splendidly, and the M.C.C. cut a sorry figure.

20 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4306.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 May, page 11)

The Oxford eleven had the best of the play in this match in the Parks yesterday. Somerset gained little advantage by winning the toss and going in first, for the wicket got faster and better as the day wore on.

The county, who had not their full strength – Nichols being a notable absentee – did so badly at the outset that five of the side went for 64 and eight were out for 107. Mr Stanley, by his careful defence and his untiring patience, contributed a great deal to giving the Somerset total some respectability. With Mr Bucknell he put on 55 for the ninth partnership in an hour, and then at 162 he himself was out after a stay of two hours and 40 minutes. He gave no chance and hit six fours. His innings began when two wickets had gone for 36.

Mr Arkwright has been a good cricketer at Oxford for two seasons, and there are many who think that before now he ought to have been in the eleven. Yesterday his bowling was one of the best points of the day, and his analysis of seven for 32 was a fine feat.

Bardswell and Warner opened the Oxford innings in brilliant style, putting on 95 in an hour and a quarter. Mr Warner, who was missed at slip by Mr Stanley when only 15, hit seven fours. Mr Bardswell late in his career also had an escape. It will be noted that Oxford are playing seven Old Blues, with the Seniors, Messrs Hartley, Arkwright and Warner, and the Eton Freshman, Mr Cunliffe.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 May, page 10)

In the University batting at Oxford, yesterday, the best thing was the play of the captain, Mr Mordaunt, who, beyond one mistake, showed splendid form, and in his 70, made in 75 minutes, were ten fours. Mr Woods's bowling was very effective, and after the fine start of the Oxford innings the difference in the scores did not attain its promised significance.

Somerset in their second innings did very well, and Oxford, going in to get 212 to win, advanced the score to the following position . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 May, page 12)

There was a splendid finish to this match at Oxford yesterday. The University were set 212 to win; but Tyler, by bowling out Messrs Foster, Warner and Mordaunt, gave Somerset the advantage.

Four of the side went for 70, after which Messrs Leveson-Gower and Phillips batted so brilliantly that in the hour of their partnership they added 111 runs. Mr Leveson-Gower played faultlessly and hit eight fours; but Mr Phillips was missed at the wicket when he was only 15. After Oxford's last man came in seven runs were still wanted to win. These were made, and the University won by a wicket.

20 May: YORKSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4307.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 May, page 11)

While Warwickshire batted on a true wicket at Park-avenue, Bradford, yesterday, the fielding and bowling were very good and Tunnicliffe brought off two wonderful catches at slip, with which he dismissed Mr Bainbridge and Law.

To the latter belonged the batting honours of Warwickshire. His play was steady and almost free from fault, and he hit nine fours, six threes and three twos. Lilley and Mr Glover played well, and Santall exercised the greatest care, for he was an hour making his 17.

Yorkshire began badly by losing their first two wickets for 13, but Brown and Charlesworth played splendidly, although the latter had two escapes. The weather was cold and the attendance fell below the average.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 May, page 10)

There was fine batting by several members of the Yorkshire eleven at Park-avenue, Bradford, yesterday. Rain delayed the renewal of play. When the sixth Yorkshire wicket went at 153 little prospect presented itself of the big score which the home county made.

Lord Hawke and Moorhouse, however, added 85 in 50 minutes, and the ninth wicket (Lord Hawke and Hirst) yielded a rapid 57, while Hirst and Hunter put on 60 in 40 minutes. Lord Hawke hit a six and 11 fours, and Moorhouse nine fours.

When the visitors went in with arrears of 165 Mr Bainbridge and Walter Quaife met with success . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 May, page 12)

The Yorkshiremen achieved a fine feat last evening in this match at Bradford, when in the last 65 minutes of a long day's cricket they went in to make 107 to win and secured the runs at a cost of two wickets.

To Brown and Tunnicliffe belonged the chief merits of the performance, more especially to the first-named. Brown made his 65 in 55 minutes out of a total of 92; he played brilliant cricket and without a mistake hit nine fours, a three, seven twos and singles. With two of the home side out, 15 runs had yet to be scored in less than ten minutes; but Tunnicliffe and Charlesworth finished quickly, the former making the winning hit by a drive on to the pavilion seats.

Early in the day Warwickshire, after being so much in arrear on the first innings, played a fine uphill game. W Quaife batted in finished style for his 74, in which were five fours, and Lilley's vigorous 50 included four fours and five threes. Yorkshire won by eight wickets.

Tuesday 21 May, page 11: GEORGE LOHMANN. – It is understood that the famous Surrey professional will not return to England until August.

SURREY v ENGLAND. – The Yorkshire executive have announced that they cannot let off Brown and Peel for this match at the Oval next week.

23 May: KENT v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4308.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 May, page 11)

A remarkably fine batting feat by Alec Hearne marked yesterday's heavy scoring by the Kent eleven at Gravesend. His 155 yesterday is the highest innings played by him for the county. After taking two hours to get his first 50, he hit with such freedom that his other runs were obtained at the rate of 50 an hour. There was scarcely any error in his play and the only semblance of a chance did not occur until his figures were 109. His best hits were 21 fours, seven threes and 12 twos.

Mr Marchant, who opened the innings, played brilliantly for a few overs; but it was after two men had gone for 77 that the great stand was made, Hearne and Mr Weigall putting on 173 in two and a quarter hours. The latter played extremely well, hitting hard, and it was by driving that he got most of his runs. In his long score were 12 fours. Mr Mason made some beautiful cuts and drives, while near the end of the day there was some great hitting by Mr Northcote, who from Dr Grace's bowling in one over twice drove the ball out of the ground and once to the boundary.

The Gloucestershire fielding was excellent; but the side severely felt the absence of Murch, who was unable to reach the ground before 5 o'clock, while young Mr Townsend was also away. In these circumstances Dr Grace himself and Roberts had to do a large proportion of the bowling. Walter Hearne and some well-known amateurs were absent from the Kent eleven, and opportunities were thus given for a trial to the Rugby footballer, Mr Hubbard, and Mr Hunter, who kept wicket very well for the second eleven last summer.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 May, page 15)

Dr W G Grace's extraordinary skill was again demonstrated yesterday when at Gravesend he was batting from a little after noon until half-past 6, and was not out 210 in Gloucestershire's complete innings of 355 for seven wickets. It was only a week ago that the champion played his great innings of 288 against Somerset and completed his hundred hundreds, and now, while the season is yet not a month old, Dr Grace splendidly illustrates his powers of endurance and his wonderful skill by following a day's fielding with a day at the wicket.

The early bowling was of that excellence which required care in playing; but, after being in two hours before reaching 50, Dr Grace settled down to a more vigorous game and in the next three hours and a quarter scored 160 runs. His play all round the wicket was finished and powerful, and when he was nearing his second hundred he was still as fresh as ever, running out fours and stealing an occasional single as if it were his first. It was a wonderful feat and the six thousand spectators never wearied in their applause as Dr Grace cut a four or drove the ball over the ring. It was a little curious that after a lapse of 20 years he should return to Gravesend and play an innings excelling his 152 for the United South of England against 18 of North Kent.

The Kent bowling was very good and the first few men kept an excellent length and were supported by thoroughly good fielding; but the wicket was as hard as iron and very true. Five of the Gloucestershire men were out for 166; but Mr Kitcat then stayed with his captain while 156 runs were put on. He showed a stubborn defence and left Dr Grace to make the majority of the runs. There were only three errors in the five and a quarter hours of Dr Grace's batting. Mr Hunter

missed him at the wicket when he was 41 and 80, and he put up a ball out of reach of Martin, but still a bad hit, when he had gone beyond 150.

When stumps were drawn Dr Grace was enthusiastically cheered. Gloucestershire at present are 115 behind, with three wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 May, page 7)

Dr W G Grace seems to have taken a fresh lease of hi cricket life, and on Saturday afternoon at Gravesend he followed up his batting triumphs of Friday with another brilliant innings, which won the match against time for Gloucestershire. His play was as fine as ever, and the manner in which he forced the game brought out an increase in the power of hitting as compared with his cricket of Friday.

In this match at Gravesend Dr Grace was in the field the whole of the three days, for he played right through Gloucestershire's first innings and was not out in the second. His record in the match was 330 for once out. Dr Grace never played better in his 30 years' experience than in these three days at Gravesend, and with nearly a week of May left he has the wonderful aggregate of 829 runs for eight times at the wicket (once not out), giving him an average up to date of 118. This season promises to equal in excellence Dr Grace's great years of 1871, 1873 and 1876.

The fortunes of Gloucestershire have always been more or less bound up with the success or failure of Dr Grace, and this fact was never more patent than on Saturday, when Gloucestershire beat Kent after a finish which was almost sensational. That a side which makes over 400 in the first innings of a match should be beaten is without precedent in English cricket. There have been some near approaches to such a result, but the rarity of its occurrence in England is naturally caused by the three days' limit for an important match.

On Friday evening the whole doctrine of chances pointed to a draw, for Gloucestershire had got within 115 of their opponents' great score and had still three wickets in hand. In the end Kent were left with a lead of only 27. Dr Grace, who had gone in first, was the last to leave; he did not quite get hold of a ball from Alec Hearne and was well caught in the long field. His stay at the wicket had been seven hours and a half, and his only mistakes were those mentioned on Saturday; he maintained his vigour and finish of play throughout, and he hit 24 fours, five threes and 23 twos. The Kent fielding was remarkably good throughout.

The natural thought at the end of the innings each was that the great events of the match had occurred, and most of the spectators must have settled themselves down for a quiet finish as a draw. None could have expected the startling incidents that made up the closing stage of the game. That on a hard and true wicket the Kent men failed before the bowling of Painter, whom Dr Grace put on because Murch, the chief bowler of the Gloucestershire team, had, in view of the prospective draw, been allowed to leave for the West of England; that Painter kept a good length and was pretty straight; and the misfortune which overtook Kent made up a remarkable chapter in the match.

Changing the "order" has often been disadvantageous to a side, and the Alteration wrought in the state of the game on Saturday was not unallied with Mr Marchant's falling into this error. It was in the two hours after luncheon that all the mischief was done for Kent, whose wickets went down with startling rapidity. A Hearne kept up his end, but his companions' coming and going furnished something of a procession. Kent had virtually lost the match in an hour and a quarter, when nine

wickets were down for 53. Martin and A Hearne made a spirited attempt to check the misfortunes. They were together 40 minutes and added 23 runs. Painter, who is not a regular bowler in the team and, indeed, seldom goes on, took seven wickets for 25.

Gloucestershire had 104 to get to win in an hour and a quarter. They lost Wrathall at 15; but then Dr Grace was joined by Painter and the Kent bowling was completely mastered. Dr Grace forced the game in a wonderful way and got his 50 out of 76 in three-quarters of an hour. The hitting continued, and in 12 minutes more 30 runs were added, Painter making the winning stroke – a drive for four – and Gloucestershire were hailed the victors at a quarter past 6 by nine wickets. Dr Grace sprinted for the pavilion to avoid the crowd, but there was great enthusiasm. He hit 11 fours, two threes and five twos, and Painter six fours.

23 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4309.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 May, page 11)

Yesterday at Lord's was a day for fast bowlers, and Woodcock, Pougher, Mr Kortright and Pickett were all pretty effective. Storer kept wicket excellently for Marylebone. The M.C.C. were left with a balance of nine.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 May, page 15)

There was an exciting day's cricket at Lord's yesterday when Marylebone, after a fine match, were beaten by Essex by 21 runs. Essex, when they went in a second time, were nine runs behind. Mr Higgins played well, in spite of the injury he received. Mr Hailey and Freeman quickly put on 58 for the sixth wicket, and Mr Hailey and Mr Higgins added 41 while they were together. Mr Hailey was in three hours for his 66, in which were seven fours.

Marylebone, who wanted 160 to win, started badly, losing their first six men for 53. Then Davison and Mr Burrell scored 78 in 70 minutes. When the former left 29 were wanted to win with three wickets to fall. Pougher was out at 133, and at 138 Mr Kortright bowled the last two men with successive balls.

23 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4310.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 May, page 11)

There was an even and exciting day's play at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday. Both sides were strong. Notts had the same team that made the record score against Sussex last week.

Yorkshire began indifferently, and the running out of Mr Jackson and some good catches soon found them with half the side gone for 55 runs; but Moorhouse and Wainwright, who have been associated with some of Yorkshire's great uphill fights in other seasons, check the Nottingham successes. Lord Hawke helped the scoring and the Yorkshire tail played up well. Attewell bowled very successfully, keeping an excellent length and getting a break on.

When Notts went in Gunn played superb cricket and was strongly supported by Flowers and Attewell. At the close, Nottinghamshire, with six men in hand, were 125 behind. The fielding on both sides was good, and three catches in the slips by Mr Jones were a feature of the day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 May, page 15)

At Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, there was a fine day's cricket, but Nottingham did not do so well as might have been expected after the way in which Gunn and Attewell batted for the fifth wicket. The "tail" failed.

During the Notts innings a curious incident occurred. Wilkinson made a cut for three, and the ball was fielded near the boundary; the spectators called "four" and Mr Jackson noted that this was the case. While the question was being determined Wilkinson's wicket was put down, the batsman being over the crease, and he was given out. After a consultation of the captains, Wilkinson, contrary to the rules of cricket, was allowed to resume. At the close Yorkshire, with four wickets in hand, were 281 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 May, page 7)

The success and improvement of Notts cricket seems already to have had the effect of reviving something of the old interest in the county matches at Trent-bridge. Another crowd of about 4,000 went up to the ground on Saturday, and £50 more was altogether taken at the gate than at any match in recent years, apart from the Surrey v Notts Whit Monday game.

The cricket again on the last day was superb, while Nottinghamshire were not far from achieving a wonderful feat, and had Flowers and Mr Dixon endeavoured to force the play Yorkshire might have found that the closure rule had been applied too early.

On Friday evening Yorkshire had left off with a score of 253 in the second innings for six wickets, and after an addition of 59 at the cost of two more Lord Hawke declared his innings at an end, and put Notts in to get 341 to win with four hours and three-quarters left for play.

Mr Jones and Daft began well for the home side, and in an hour before luncheon scored 79 runs.

Subsequently Daft and Gunn were quickly out, and after a stand of 48 by Mr Jones and Flowers the former was third to leave for an admirable 67. Mr Jones has a fine style of batting and is particularly skilful with the cut; his best hits on Saturday were seven fours and five threes.

Then, when the game seemed to be turning for Yorkshire, came the partnership of the day. Mr Dixon and Flowers both played soundly for two hours and a half, and added 155 runs. Flowers gave Mr Jackson a difficult return when 65, but otherwise his play was free from fault, and he hit nine fours, seven threes and 18 twos. Mr Dixon was occasionally beaten by the ball and he gave a chance at 40; his best items were five fours and three threes. Though generally excellent, there were a few mistakes in the Yorkshire fielding. When the game was drawn Notts wanted 62 to win and had six wickets to fall.

23 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4311.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 May, page 11)

The Oxford eleven batted excellently yesterday, and their first five wickets absorbed the whole of the cricketing hours. This was a fine performance against the powerful Gentlemen's side got up by Mr Webbe, who had Mold to help in the bowling.

But the visitors had themselves largely to blame for their long spell in the field, as various catches were dropped, and some of these mistakes turned out to be very expensive. The Oxford batting was, however, thoroughly enjoyed. Messrs Warner and Bardswell, who put on 57 for the first wicket, both escaped. Some of the most correct play was seen while Messrs Foster and Warner were together, the pair adding 112 runs in an hour and a half. Other good partnerships were 71 by Messrs Mordaunt and Leveson-Gower and 120 in 65 minutes by Messrs Phillips and Smith, who were still together at the close of play.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 May, page 15)

Yesterday at Oxford the Gentlemen of England had to play an uphill game. The Dark Blues, who were batting during the whole of Thursday, had scored 386 for the loss of five wickets, and their ultimate figures did not reach the total that had been expected.

In 20 minutes the last five wickets were disposed of for 18 runs. The wicket was perhaps a little affected by the rain, and Mr Woods bowled wonderfully well. He took four wickets in four overs for five runs. The partnership of Messrs Phillips and Smith was broken when 122 runs altogether had been added. Mr Smith hit a five, eight fours and seven twos, and Mr Phillips 12 fours, a three and seven twos.

Messrs Stoddart and Hewett scored 98 for the Gentlemen's first wicket in an hour, and before luncheon the visitors' score stood at 151 for two. Mr Stoddart hit a six and five fours. Afterwards Messrs Woods and Hewett put on 71 in three-quarters of an hour for the third wicket. Subsequently Messrs Cunliffe and Hartley bowled with great effect, and eight of the Gentlemen were out for 197. Mr Hewett, who was fourth to leave at 181, played with characteristic vigour and got his 102 in a couple of hours. His batting was not wholly faultless. In the follow-on Mr Woods made 42 of the last 60 runs in half an hour. He hit eight fours.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 May, page 7)

In this match, at Oxford, the University eleven played remarkably well, alike in batting, bowling and fielding, and won by six wickets.

23 May: SURREY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4312.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 May, page 11)

The first appearance of a University team in London always has an attraction for cricketers, and yesterday many thousand spectators witnessed the opening of this match on the Oval. Cambridge won the toss, and the start proved most disastrous for the University, as three of their batsmen were dismissed in the speediest manner. Mr Mitchell was caught at slip, Mr Wilson played into the wicket-keeper's hands and Mr Studd was served in the same manner. Six runs only were recorded for the loss of these valuable batsmen. Play was then interrupted by a thunderstorm.

The batting of Mr N F Druce was brilliant. He cut each bowler to the boundary and drove a ball of Richardson's on to the stand, causing a two-fold change in the attack, Brockwell and Street going on. With the score at 72, Abel missed Mr Marriott in the slips. Luncheon was now taken, when it was found that Mr Druce had hurt his thumb and could take no further part in the innings.

Mr Marriott was bowled, and Mr W G Grace and Mr W G Druce became partners. The bowling was twice varied, but Mr Grace made three fours in a couple of overs from Brockwell and the "100" was sign at a quarter past 3. Eighteen runs later Mr Grace got in front of his wicket and Mr Robinson joined Mr W G Druce, Lockwood and Richardson bowling. As this did not answer, the former relinquished the ball to Hayward, but it was left to Brockwell to effect a separation, which he did by causing Mr Robinson to play the ball into the hands of deep mid-off.

At ten minutes past 4 200 runs were registered. Fourteen runs later Mr Read's lobs were tried, and from his third ball Mr W G Druce was tempted to step out, and his fine innings, which had lasted an hour and 50 minutes, was closed by a clever piece of stumping. Among his hits were two fives, six fours, six threes and four twos. Messrs Burrough and Lowe batted pluckily and well, the ball on several occasions going to the boundary. Nine wickets were down for 263, and as Mr N F Druce's thump still incapacitated him, the innings closed at 6 o'clock for 263. Abel and Lockwood batted a little for Surrey . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 May, page 15)

Yesterday's play in this match enabled Surrey to give the visitors to Kennington Oval one of those brilliant displays of batting for which they are noted. Cambridge had completed their innings for 263 and the county had scored 11 without the loss of a wicket when Surrey continued their batting at 20 minutes to 12. Lockwood and Abel were opposed by Mr Grace (pavilion) and Mr Gray.

At 18 a sharp catch at the wicket disposed of Lockwood. Maurice Read started well and left when 50 had been reached, after three-quarters of an hour's play. Holland joined Abel, and now followed a magnificent exhibition of good cricket. Boundary hits (chiefly drives) preponderated. Both batsmen played vigorously, and the freedom with which Holland treated the attack seemed to have the effect of causing Abel to hit more freely than usual. Holland cut and drove each bowler for four, so that at 79 Mr Wilson relieved Mr Grace. In the opening over from this bowler Holland made eight off him, while a cut for five by the same batsman brought the 100 at 20 minutes to 1. Mr Lowe was now tried for Mr Gray. An idea of the free manner in which the batsmen treated the bowling may be gathered from the fact that four fours were made in succession, two of them being

fine leg hits, when Abel had finished his 50. Holland, however, was scoring fast and Mr Burrough was put on at 126. Mr Gray resumed at 148, and 150 was signalled at a quarter past 1.

An interesting side issue of the game was now being watched with great interest, and this was whether Holland would pass Abel's score. This he did with a leg hit for three, and the batsmen's scoring became very even for a time. Mr Mitchell relieved Mr Burrough, and at luncheon the total stood at 208.

On the resumption Mr Gray bowled from the top end and Mr Grace from the pavilion. The two batsmen were credited with 93 runs at the same stage of the game, but Holland, with an on-drive for four, was the first to reach the 100. The batting, despite the variations adopted by the University, continued to triumph, and at a quarter past 3 the companionship of Abel and Holland had yielded 200 runs, with 20 minutes later the Cambridge total was passed at a cost of two wickets only. Fours were made continually, and the 300 was reached at 3.45. Holland, with a leg hit for four, put the total up to 350 at 20 minutes past 4, but two overs later this batsman returned the ball to Mr Wilson, who had gone on bowling with his left hand. He had been batting for three hours and 20 minutes, and his principal hits were 2 fives, 27 fours, six threes and ten twos. No fewer than 306 runs had been put on since the fall of the second wicket.

Mr W Read came, and the total was advanced to 388 before Abel was clean bowled. He had been batting for four hours and three-quarters with characteristic patience, varied occasionally by free hitting. His principal figures were two fives, 20 fours, five threes and 11 twos. Four wickets were down for 388, and six for 410. Cambridge fielded well throughout the day, while Abel and Holland thoroughly deserved the high scores they obtained, and both of them kept the ball well on the ground.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 May, page 7)

Although little interest remained as to the ultimate result of this match, many thousands of people paid an early visit on Saturday to Kennington Oval. It was thought by some that by one of those reversals which happen at Cricket the University might run up a heavy total, but this did not prove to be the case.

The best feature of the Light Blues' cricket was probably the determined and able manner in which they fielded throughout Friday; and if excellence in this section of the game, too often neglected, can atone for weak bowling, the Light Blues certainly possess it. From the complete score it will be seen that Surrey won by an innings and 148 runs.

Friday 24 May, page 11: LORD HARRIS

The president of the Marylebone Club would have played in the Kent v Gloucestershire match at Gravesend yesterday, but he had the misfortune to break a finger while playing for the Band of Brothers at Maidstone on Wednesday. After being struck on the hand he continued to bat, and it was only afterwards that he found the finger so much injured.

Lord Harris was a spectator of yesterday's fine batting by Alec Hearne and, apart from his injured hand, was in excellent health.

27 May: ESSEX v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4131.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 May, page 11)

Middlesex, by whose generosity in offering the Eastern county a couple of fixtures at the secretaries' meeting at Lord's Essex became eligible for the county championship, made their first appearance at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday, under conditions very favourable for cricket. He wicket, except for a spot from which the ball bumped occasionally at the far end, was true, and the turf generally did credit to the care bestowed on it by Freeman, the ground man.

Essex came out well on the first day's play. The merits of their respectable score were absorbed by two or three men. Mr Owen, who went in first with Carpenter, played soundly, but to the latter and Burns belonged the chief honours of the innings, which was wound up in a very bright and successful way by Pickett and Russell, who put on 50 for the last wicket. Steadiness was the best feature of Carpenter's play, and his 40 runs were made at the rate of 20 an hour. Burns, who was assisted by Mr Kortright in taking the record from 88 to 139 for the fifth partnership, played pretty vigorously; but his batting lacked finish and he was often uncertain. He was 80 minutes getting his runs, among which were a five and seven fours.

A bad blow on the arm compelled Mr Hailey to retire, and his loss was a handicap to Essex, whose innings extended until close upon 5 o'clock. The Middlesex men bowled and fielded excellently; and the latter department had for its chief characteristic a wonderful catch in the slips by Mr Stoddart, who, in running in, caught Mr M'Gahey low down with his left hand.

As the Cheshire Club is being continued, Mr Bromley-Davenport, who is qualified for Middlesex, decided to throw in his lot with it, and Mr Webbe had recourse to Phillips to complete the Middlesex side, in which Mr Philipson, the old Eton and Oxford captain, makes his first appearance. It is not often that a county have in their team two such great wicket-keepers as Messrs M'Gregor and Philipson.

Middlesex had a bad three-quarters of an hour to begin with: Mr Stoddart was beaten by a good ball from Mead before a run was scored, and afterwards three other wickets fell, the score standing at 40 for four. Messrs Vernon and M'Gregor checked this course of misfortune and added 34 in the last half-hour.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 May, page 11)

The wicket at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday played much better than on the opening day. When eight men had gone for 112 Middlesex seemed likely to finish up a good deal behind on the first innings; But the steadiness of Phillips and the luck of Dr Thornton, who had various escapes, helped the side to a respectable score. Russell was weak at the wicket and the fielding left something to be desired. One of the best features of the cricket was the bowling of Walter Mead, who kept an excellent length, and if every chance had been taken would have had an even better analysis.

The Essex second innings occupied some three hours. Carpenter ought to have been easily caught by Mr Vernon early in his innings; but the fieldsman who was at cover-point completely lost the

ball. Mr M'Gahey, in consequence of an injury to his hand, completed his innings in two stages: he played rather slowly but managed to get 33. Later on Mead hit freely, but generally the Essex batting lacked finish. Hearne bowled very well, and Phillips's slows from the pavilion end were also profitable to his side. Mr Stoddart fielded excellently, but the catches were mostly easy.

Middlesex wanted 193 to win, and in a quarter of an hour lost one wicket for seven runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 May, page 6)

At Leyton, yesterday, Middlesex won this match by five wickets. It was left to the last day to furnish, perhaps, the best batting of the contest. Overnight the visitors had entered on their task of getting 193 to win and had lost Phillips for seven runs.

Mr M'Gregor offered a steady defence and was third out at 57. Subsequently there was a fine stand by Mr Stoddart and Rawlin, who added 70 in an hour. Mr Stoddart played beautiful cricket for his runs, which he got in 90 minutes by six fours, four threes, 12 twos and singles. He went in when two men were out for 11 and made 67 out of 116, being fourth to leave at 127. Driving was the best feature of his play. Rawlin in his 54 hit seven fours, two threes and seven twos.

27 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4314.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 May, page 11)

At Oxford yesterday the best batting was perhaps that by Mr Mordaunt and Mr Phillips; the former obtained ten fours and the latter a six and nine fours. The Yorkshiremen bowled and fielded well.

Fine weather prevailed, but the attendance at the Christ Church ground was not up to the average. Mr C B Fry took his place in the Oxford team and Mr Hartley stood out. Stumps were drawn an hour earlier than usual because of the eights.

To-day play will begin at 11.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 May, page 11)

There was a good day's cricket at Oxford yesterday, when the University eleven in the second stage of the match played their powerful opponents a very even game.

Yorkshire had begun their innings on Monday night, and yesterday, in spite of a stand of 49 by Brown and Peel for the fourth wicket, six men were out for 148, but the last four men almost doubled this score. Lord Hawke and Moorhouse put on 48 in 35 minutes, and the former and Mounsey 35 in 20 minutes, while the subsequent fine hitting of Hirst contributed chiefly to the last two wickets making 62 in half an hour. Lord Hawke obtained seven fours and Hirst eight fours.

Oxford, who were 37 behind, did well in their second innings. Messrs Foster and Warner scored 55 while they were together, and afterwards there were partnerships by Messrs Warner and Mordaunt, 44, Messrs Leveson-Gower and Smith, 55, and Messrs Arkwright and Leveson-Gower, 47. The batting was excellent, and at the close Oxford, with three men still in hand, were 199 to the good.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 May, page 6)

The Oxford University gained a splendid and well-merited victory over Yorkshire on the Christ Church ground, Oxford, yesterday, by 54 runs. On Tuesday night the Dark Blues, with three wickets to fall, were 199 to the good; and yesterday in three-quarters of an hour the remaining men added 52. Mr Leveson-Gower played excellently and was last out after a stay of two and a half hours. Among his contributions were ten fours, four threes and eleven twos.

When Yorkshire went in to get 252 to win, Mr C B Fry, owing to a slight sunstroke, was unable either to bowl or to field. The early cricket was marked by the stand of Mr Milligan and Charlesworth, who added 52 in 35 minutes; but afterwards the game went in favour of the University and seven wickets were down for 114. Lord Hawke and Mounsey put on 72 in an hour, and then the latter was out to a wonderful catch by Mr Bardswell. Lord Hawke hit five fours. Messrs Arkwright and Cunliffe bowled extremely well.

27 May: SURREY v ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4315.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 May, page 11)

An old, and at one time most popular, match was started yesterday at Kennington Oval between Surrey and England. Almost 30 years have elapsed since it was last played, and its revival is certainly appropriate, as it is to be the occasion of a testimonial to Mr W W Read. Mr Read, who was born at Reigate in November, 1855, has for many years been identified with Surrey cricket, and in more recent seasons he has batted brilliantly for them. His popularity was strikingly shown by the large company on the Oval yesterday.

The rapidity with which the Surrey wickets fell was astounding. The secret, to a great extent, lay in the fact that Pougher had found a "spot," for, out of the first six batsmen dismissed, five were caught in the slips from balls pitched in this particular place. The opposing team could not be called representative with such men as Mr Stoddart, Brown and Peel absent from it. The weather was delightful, and only a few short of 10,000 people paid for admission.

The game began at five minutes past 12, when Surrey, having won the toss, sent in Abel and Lockwood. Both these batsmen were caught at slip without having scored. Holland and Mr W W Read were now together. The former cut Mold finely for four. The bowling and fielding, however, were so excellent that only a couple of singles came from the next nine overs. Then Mr Read skied a ball, which slip secured. Three for 14 was a wretched start, especially in such a match. Brockwell was also caught at slip, and four wickets were down for 23.

Hayward arrived and gave every promise of a good innings. Each batsman cut the ball to the boundary. Then 11 runs came in an over from Pougher, which included two cuts for five by Hayward, and 43 were recorded in an hour. With the addition of a single, the ball rattled among Hayward's stumps and half the wickets were down for 44. Holland's career was closed by a catch at slip. Street assisted Mr Key, who cut Pougher late for four, and a similar stroke by Street caused the 50 to be signalled, after an hour and a quarter's play. After another over, however, he was clean bowled; and just prior to the interval Mr Key fell to the wicket-keeper. After luncheon Wood came in, but was caught at wicket, and Richardson, the last man, hit the ball into the hands of extra midoff, the innings having lasted a little over two hours for 85.

Mr Jackson and Dr W G Grace were the first to bat for England. Lockwood started from the top end and Richardson from the pavilion. In the latter's opening over Mr Jackson made a clean hit to square leg for four, and he also drove a ball of Lockwood's to the ring. Dr Grace also scored seven in two hits. Half an hour's play produced 35 runs. For a little while the game became very slow. The fielding was capital, one piece of work on the part of Brockwell at slip being especially noticeable. Then came a little sensation, Dr W G Grace being clean bowled. One for 40. Albert Ward aided Mr Jackson, to whom Richardson pitched a ball up and it was hit to the leg boundary. This sent the total up to 50 after as many minutes' play.

Seven runs later the first change was tried, Brockwell going on for Richardson. Then Ward gave an easy chance to slip, which was allowed to escape. The Surrey total was reached at 10 minutes to 5. Smith was now tried at the pavilion end, and at 95 found out the weak spot in Mr Jackson's defence. He had been batting an hour and 40 minutes, and among his hits were six fours and four threes. Soon afterwards Richardson bowled from the top end. A capital catch in the long-field

dismissed K S Ranjitsinhji, and Mr Murdoch arrived.

Ward enlivened matters with a clean cut for five, and soon afterwards he completed his 50, having been batting for an hour and 40 minutes. There were several changes in the bowling, and then Richardson, who had had a rest, in his first over got Mr Murdoch caught at slip, the ball first glancing off Wood's arm. Four for 174. Mr Wright joined Ward, and these played out time.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 May, page 11)

The principal feature of this match yesterday was the finished, if somewhat slow, batting of Albert Ward, who distinguished himself so much with Mr Stoddart's team in Australia. His escape in the slips on Monday evening proved very costly to Surrey, for he scored more than twice as many runs as any other batsman. Again the weather was charming and the attendance proved larger than that of the previous day. Surrey seemed quite unable to cope with the opposing fast bowlers, whom the wicket exactly suited. There were angry shouts when the stumps were drawn, and cries of "Play it out" ran around the ground.

The cricket was continued at 11.35 by Ward and Mr Wright (not outs with 71 and 60 facing the attacks of Smith (top end) and Richardson. On the previous day Surrey were all out for 85, while England had only lost four wickets for 184. In a quarter of an hour a cut for four by Ward shot their total up to 200. Abel was put on for an over to enable Richardson and Lockwood to change ends. Ward twice cut Abel for four, and he completed his hundred by a leg-hit when he had been batting for three hours and a quarter. Mr Wright, after assisting Ward to add 63 runs, was clean bowled at 237.

Lilley was next on the order. A two-fold change in the attack was adopted, Brockwell and Holland going on. Street and Smith were next tried; yet the 300 was completed at half-past 1, these having taken five hours to get. Richardson came on again for Street, and in the first over Lilley got in front of his wicket. Pougher joined ward and the play became very steady for a time. Mr Read went on with his lobs instead of Smith. At the interval the total stood at 348.

On the resumption, Lockwood and Richardson were the bowlers. When only five had been added, Pougher was bowled, and in the next over Ward's fine innings was closed by a "yorker" from Lockwood. He had been batting exactly five hours, and his principal hits were two fives, 20 fours, five threes and 13 twos. Eight for 357. The last two wickets yielded half-a-dozen runs, and the innings, having lasted five hours 50 minutes, closed for 363.

With the heavy balance of 278 against them Surrey started their second innings at 3.40. Lockwood and Abel were first opposed by Pougher and Mold. At 17 Abel was clean bowled. Holland joined Lockwood, who made seven in an over from Mold by a couple of drives, and then cut Pougher for four. Holland was in 20 minutes before he scored, when he cut the ball through the slips. He then received a blow on the hand from Mold, who clean bowled him at 34. Mr W W Read, who followed in, was also struck on the hand by Mold by the second ball sent to him, and he was completely beaten by this bowler after he had contributed a single. After several bowling changes, Brockwell was disposed of. Hayward was bowled at 75, and Mr Key aided Lockwood. Mold resumed, and his third ball Lockwood unfortunately played on. He had been batting for two hours and his chief hits were 11 fours, one three and a two. Six for 79.

Street joined Mr Key, and for a time the cricket became livelier than it had been all day. Street hit

Mold in a very free style, and Briggs and Pougher were put on. Mr Key hit a ball well to square leg, but at 126 Street fell to a catch by the wicket-keeper. There were thus three wickets to fall and 20 minutes left of time. Smith twice cut Briggs in an over and Mold resumed; his first ball Smith drove hard to the off and five were run for it. Mr Key made seven by two hits off Pougher, but in the next over he was caught by the wicket-keeper. He had put together 49 runs in an hour, which comprised eight fours, a three and four twos. Smith and Wood played until quite half-past 6, when stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 May, page 6)

The defeat of Surrey by an innings was quite foreshadowed by the play on the second day at the Oval; yet the batting of Smith and Wood yesterday morning fully justified Dr Grace's adherence to the rules in having the stumps drawn at the usual hour on Tuesday night. Of course little interest remained in the match, and only about three and a quarter hours was absorbed in finishing it.

Smith made some good captains and drives and, aided by Wood, helped to add 34 for the ninth partnership. But Richardson was soon bowled and England won the match by an innings and 75 runs. Pougher had the remarkable analysis for the double innings of 12 wickets for 77 runs.

Wednesday 29 May, page 11: The committee of the Gloucestershire County Cricket Club has resolved that a banquet to Dr W G Grace to celebrate his hundredth "century" at cricket shall be given on Monday, June 24. The Duke of Beaufort (president of the club) has consented to take the chair.

As many lovers of the game outside the county will probably wish to attend, communications may be sent to the hon. secretary of the banquet committee, Mr J W Arrowsmith, Bristol.

30 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4316.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 May, page 11)

A heavy thunderstorm shortened the cricketing hours at Cambridge yesterday and put an end to play early in the afternoon. The match between the University and Yorkshire gained additional interest from the fact that the county at the beginning of the week had been beaten by Oxford; but yesterday there was a change in the side, Denton coming in for Lord Hawke, who was unable to appear.

Considering the comparative brevity of the cricket day there was plenty of good batting and the county laid the foundation for a long score. Brown and Tunnicliffe put on 95 in a little over an hour for the first wicket before Brown played on. His best hits were three fours and eight threes. Tunnicliffe was third out; he played soundly but he had an escape at mid-off when 47. His chief figures were seven fours and six threes.

Play will begin this morning at 11 o'clock. It should be mentioned that Mr W G Druce is standing out of the side and trials are being given to Mr M Hemingway and Mr Candler.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 June, page 8)

Yorkshire got the best of yesterday's play on Fenner's ground at Cambridge. Their innings, in which three wickets had fallen overnight for 156, was completed for 334. Denton and Hunter put on 102 for the last wicket, and the former, who hit 12 fours, took out his bat for 77. It should be mentioned that Mr Gray injured his hand and had to retire from the match.

After Cambridge had lost Messrs Mitchell and Wilson for 26 runs, there was some splendid batting by Messrs Druce and Hemingway, who added 101; and at a later stage Messrs Marriott and Robinson did well. Cambridge saved the follow-on and at the finish were 114 behind with two wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 June, page 5)

A heavy storm broke over Fenner's Ground, Cambridge, on Saturday, just as the players were entering the field, and it was decided to abandon the match . . .

30 May: LANCASHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4317.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 May, page 11)

The successes of Leicestershire over Surrey and Nottinghamshire gave additional interest to their match with Lancashire, which began yesterday at Old Trafford, Manchester, and some six thousand spectators watched the play. Mr A C M'Laren made his first appearance for the home side since his return from Australia, where his career with Mr Stoddart's team was of such a brilliant nature; and he had a very enthusiastic reception.

The best thing in Lancashire's first innings was the batting of Paul, who went in at 51 and was not out at the finish with 77. He was at the wickets three hours and hit nine fours and three threes, while beyond an escape at 62 he made few errors in his play. Pougher bowled well; but Woodcock never got his pitch and was severely punished. Leicestershire went in for an hour and a quarter . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 June, page 8)

Fortune fluctuated yesterday at Old Trafford, Manchester, but finally settled on the side of Lancashire, who finished up with an advantage after a most exciting cricket day. The early hours were occupied by the completion of the Leicestershire innings. Briggs and Mold bowled with great effect and the last seven wickets went down for 51 – a poor score after the not unfavourable start of Leicestershire on Thursday afternoon.

On the pitch, which had been affected by the night's rain, Woodcock and Pougher were very deadly, and the game went so much against the home side that nine wickets were down for 57. Albert Ward, who had been batting with every care, was then joined by Mold, and the last partnership lasted 90 minutes and yielded 111 runs. Mold has never batted better for his county, and in his 57 were eight fours, a three and three twos. Albert Ward carried his bat through the innings and hit eight fours and four twos. Leicestershire went in to get 267 to win . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 June, page 5)

Leicestershire batted very indifferently at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Saturday, with the result that they were easily beaten by Lancashire by 177 runs. Mold and Briggs bowled splendidly and the prospect of Leicestershire's accomplishing the task of making 267 in the fourth innings was never bright.

Mold got out Mr Hillyard and Mr Stone in one over, and five of the side went for 45 runs; while, in spite of some vigorous play by Pougher, the score was only 58 when the seventh wicket fell. A little animation was given to the batting by Woodcock and Whiteside, who added 21 runs for the last wicket. Mold's double analysis in the match was nine for 86 and, as he also made 73 runs, his share in the victory was not inconsiderable.

30 May: MIDDLESEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4318.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 May, page 11)

At Lord's yesterday, the scene of so many of Dr Grace's great cricket triumphs, the most wonderful player of our time achieved another feat marked by all his old excellence. From noon until nearly half-past 6 he was at the wicket, and then, being a little wearied by his hard work under a hot sun, in a declining light he was beaten by a ball from Dr Thornton, which kept low and which he played outside.

It must be something of a record even for Dr Grace to make over a thousand runs in the first month of the season. By his 169 yesterday his aggregate for the ten innings played by him in a little over three weeks reaches 1,016. The champions seems to have taken a fresh lease of his cricket life. He seemed determined to make a big effort yesterday to get a thousand runs, and this and the fine bowling and fielding caused an unwonted steadiness in his play. Before luncheon he batted beautifully; but afterwards he was a little slow in getting back his game – in fact, for a few overs he played Mr Nepean's slows very badly, and once or twice put the ball up dangerously towards the fieldsmen.

Still, the exercise of more care and his anxiety to reach the four figures did not make his cricket less attractive. There was all the old power in the drive and the cut, while few balls to leg escaped unpunished. Dr Grace has played many a quicker innings; but the bowling and fielding were very good, and Hearne and Rawlin were especially difficult to score from. He made some bad strokes and narrowly escaped being run out midway through his innings. He was batting altogether for a little over five hours, and was ninth out at 362.

An idea of his rate of scoring will be gathered from the fact that he made 50 out of 108 in an hour and a half; his 100 were scored out of 198 in three hours, and his last 60 occupied two hours and a half. He hit 21 fours, five threes and 11 twos. At the different landmarks, so to speak, of the innings the crowd of 7,000 who had come up to Lord's were very enthusiastic, and when at last it was over the champion had a wonderful reception, the members in the pavilion rising to applaud him.

The early players of Gloucestershire all helped their captain. Mr Kitcat stayed while 83 were added, and Mr Dearlove, a Bristol cricketer of promise, contribution 23 towards the 73 put on for the fourth wicket. But unquestionably the brightest period of the day was the hour between 4.45 and 5.45, when Captain Luard hit brilliantly and made 64 out of 105 by nine fours, two threes, six twos and singles. He was eventually caught at slip, being sixth to leave at 347. The last four wickets went for 19 runs.

Some good catches marked the Middlesex fielding; but the most wonderful piece of fielding was when Mr Webbe, running in from extra mid-off, caught Mr Dearlove wide and low down with his left hand. Gloucestershire's innings took up the whole of the day. The home side are very strong; but the visitors are without Murch, whose bowling may be sadly missed to-day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 June, page 8)

Thursday night's rain had a prejudicial effect on the wicket at Lord's yesterday, especially during the early part of the day. The weather was delightful, a cool breeze tempering the heat of the sun. There were about 7,000 spectators. The batting of Middlesex was disappointing, with few exceptions, and although they ran up the respectable score of 200, they were 166 behind, so had to follow on. Mr Stoddart was twice out for four runs, to the great regret of most of the onlookers.

Middlesex started badly, for Mr Stoddart was clean bowled when only six runs were recorded by Mr Jessop – middle stump. The other bowler (pavilion end) was Roberts. Mr Webbe was joined by Mr Hayman, who had a narrow escape of being run out, but the ball was badly returned by Mr Dearlove. The cricket was so slow that only 14 runs came from the first half-hour's play. Mr Webbe gave every promise of a long innings, yet had the misfortune to obstruct his wicket.

Mr Hayward and Mr Lucas were now together. Roberts, who had given way to Painter at 22, now resumed, but the separation came from the other end, Mr Jessop clean bowling Hayman. Three for 48. The 50 was signalled at ten minutes to 1. Mr Lucas, who had given a hard return chance, was joined by Rawlin, who was missed at forward square leg by Mr Kitcat from Mr Jessop, but this bowler caused Mr Lucas to be caught at leg. Sir T O'Brien came and hit vigorously. Three fours on the leg side were made by him from Mr Jessop, while he drove Roberts to the on boundary. Then he lost the company of Rawlin, caught at short leg, and half the wickets were down for 87. Mr Vernon arrived, and the 100 was reached after two hours' play. Seven runs later Sir T O'Brien was clean bowled. Mr Vernon batted brilliantly and, having added 16 for four hits, at luncheon the total stood at 136 for six wickets.

Mr Vernon and Mr Nepean batted very freely afterwards. The 150 was completed at ten minutes past 3. Mr Vernon scored a dozen (an on-drive, a cut and a leg hit), and completed his 50 after an hour and five minutes' batting. Roberts gave way to Painter at 175, the alteration causing Mr Vernon to be beautifully caught at long-on. Eighty had been put on for the wicket, while among the retiring batsman's hits were ten fours and three threes. Mr Philipson's stay was brief – caught at third man. Eight for 196. The last two batsmen were dismissed at 200 – Mr Nepean caught at cover-point and Dr Thornton bowled. Duration of innings, three hours and a half.

Middlesex had a balance of 166 against them when they entered on their second venture at 4.20, with Messrs Stoddart and Webbe. Roberts and Painter were the bowlers. In the third over and when only eight had been scored, Mr Stoddart was caught in the slips. Mr Hayman did not stay long – clean bowled. Mr Lucas came to the assistance of Mr Webbe and made a fine off-drive for four. The score increased slowly but the cricket was good. Mr Webbe, who had given a very difficult, though possible, running catch in the long field, fell to the wicket-keeper. Three for 47.

Rawlin filled the vacancy and drove the ball and sent it through the slips for four, bringing Mr Jessop on at 70. Rawlin cut him twice for four in his first over. Both he and Mr Lucas hit freely, and the 100 was reached at ten minutes to 6, each batsman having scored 34. Eleven runs later the bowlers crossed over, and soon afterwards a drive to the pavilion rails was made by Mr Lucas, who was credited with 50 at 6.10, and Rawlin reached the same number a few minutes later. Runs came at a rapid pace. Middlesex were within 12 of making up their deficiency, and the not-outs were curiously enough each 61, when stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 June, page 5)

When stumps were drawn at Lord's, on Friday evening, Gloucestershire had scored 366 for an

innings, and Middlesex, who had followed on 166 behind, had only lost three wickets for 154. They batted very badly on Saturday and Gloucestershire won by five wickets.

There was a large company at 25 minutes to 12, when Rawlin and Mr Lucas, who were both 61 not out, were opposed by Roberts (nursery end) and Mr Jessop. Mr Lucas made a fine leg hit for four, and then Painter relieved Roberts. This proved a most happy change for the visitors. At 169 he sent down a ball which Mr Lucas played on, 122 runs having been made for the wicket; the outgoing batsman's chief hits were seven fours, four threes and six twos. Sir T O'Brien skied the ball which the wicket-keeper secured. Mr Vernon came and the 200 was reached at 12.20. Rawlin, who had been batting for an hour and three-quarters, was also caught at wickets; among his hits were 11 fours, four threes and seven twos. Seven for 200.

The end soon came, as Mr Nepean was caught at slip, Mr Philipson fell to a skier by Mr Kitcat running from slip, and Dr Thornton was bowled. Total, 208; duration of innings, three hours and 20 minutes. Painter's analysis for the morning's play was 14 overs (five maidens), 24 runs, for six wickets.

Gloucestershire wanted 43 to win, and sent in Wrathall and Mr Thomas. Hearne (nursery) and Dr Thornton took charge of the early bowling. The start proved disastrous to Mr Thomas, who fell to the wicket-keeper when he had made a single only. Board arrived, and among his hits was a four, which might have proved injurious to the umpire, the ball passing within a hair's breadth of his face. Wrathall played on at 27. The next three wickets went so quickly that, had not the Western county got the match well in hand, they would have had some cause for anxiety. Board played the ball into cover-slip's hands, Mr Kitcat was caught at wicket and Captain Luard fell to a marvellous catch at long-slip by Mr Stoddart. The winning hit for Gloucestershire was made at five minutes to 2.

30 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4319.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 May, page 11)

This year's Oxford team continues to acquire fame; and after their successive victories over Somerset, the Gentlemen of England and Yorkshire they ran up a big score against Oxford in the Parks yesterday before a large company.

There was splendid batting by various members of the side, and the afternoon was also remarkable for a very long partnership between Mr G O Smith and Mr Mordaunt, the captain. Mr Smith, who was caught at the wicket at 161, hit ten fours, seven threes and four twos, while Mr Mordaunt made his runs in an hour and a half by nine fours, a three and five twos. Another considerable partnership was that between Messrs Leveson-Gower and Phillips, but after the former had left there was something like a breakdown in the batting. Mr Phillips was out to a beautiful running catch in the long field. Mr Baiss, who was lucky, and Mr Arkwright added 32 for the last wicket. The former is playing for Mr Lewis, the old Blue, who will probably keep wicket in the University match, while Mr C B Fry is also away from Oxford owing to a slight sunstroke.

Kent have not their best side, and to make matters worse Alec Hearne missed some of the early cricket through losing a train.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 June, page 8)

At Oxford yesterday, Kent, who had scored 36 for one wicket, as against 306 by their opponents, continued their batting. The Oxford fielding was scarcely so good as usual, and some catches were dropped. Mr Tindall and Easby put on 59 for the fourth wicket. The former was thrice missed, and half the wickets were down for 136 runs.

Messrs Mason and Marchant added 40, and Mr Cooper and Martin scored 54 in an hour. Easby's 46 was almost the best thing in Kent's innings. It occupied two hours and 40 minutes, and included three fours, five threes and six twos. Mr Cooper (of Kent's second eleven) played well. Martin returned the ball and the last wicket fell for 263.

The University had 43 in hand, and secured 71 in their second venture for three wickets, so that when stumps were drawn they were 114 on and had seven wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 June, page 5)

Mr J R Mason, the old Winchester captain, performed a brilliant batting feat at Oxford on Saturday, through which Kent were able to beat the University by nine wickets. The county had been left with 202 to make for victory, and they went in at 20 minutes past 1.

As the wicket remained hard and true and the side had plenty of good batsmen the prospect pointed to the runs being secured, but no one was prepared for the wonderful cricket played by Mr Mason. He and Alec Hearne began the innings, and the latter was out at 16. Then Easby joined Mr Mason and played steadily while the latter forced the game at a powerful pace. The old Wykehamist

obtained 53 out of 77 in the 40 minutes before luncheon, and afterwards he soon scored as rapidly in spite of good bowling and brilliant fielding. He reached his 100 with the total at 147, and then made two big drives over the canvas for six each from Mr Cunliffe, while finally he won the match with another drive to the boundary.

The 205 runs had been scored in two hours and Mr Mason was credited with 142 of them; besides the two sixes mentioned he hit 18 fours, five threes and nine twos. He gave two difficult chances – namely, in the slips and to the wicket-keeper standing back when his figures were 76 and 81; otherwise his game was marked by splendid precision in timing the ball. Both Mr Mason and Easby had a hearty reception when they returned to the pavilion; the professional had played steadily, contributing only 47 of the 189 which the partnership yielded.

Early in the day the balance of the Oxford innings was not so good as might have been expected. The University finished up on Friday night with rather the better of the match, for they were 114 on with three wickets down. Mr Leveson-Gower was absent, and Messrs Bardswell and Baiss were suffering from injuries. The best batting in the innings was by Messrs Raikes and Arkwright, who put on 55 in less than three-quarters of an hour. Mr Mason bowled effectively, and in his last nine overs took four wickets for 25 runs. The defeat of Oxford caused surprise, and it was felt that they had not done themselves justice in their second innings.

30 May: SOMERSET v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4320.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 May, page 11)

The brilliant batting of Mr L C H Palairet and the effective bowling of Mr S M J Woods were the main elements towards Somerset getting all the best of the opening of this match at Taunton yesterday. Mr Palairet scored his 50 in a little over half an hour, and his partnerships with Mr Woods and with Mr R C N Palairet yielded 49 and 53. He made 96 out of 166 in an hour and 35 minutes before a catch at third man dismissed him. His brilliant innings included 11 fours, two threes and four twos. Clapp hit vigorously, but had a couple of escapes.

Hampshire were all out in an hour and a half, and had to follow on against arrears of 127. Mr Woods not only bowled splendidly, but ran out Mr Hill, whose wicket he threw down. Hampshire are now 66 behind with nine wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 June, page 8)

There was a good day's play in this match at Taunton. Hampshire overnight had followed on, and yesterday, in the second innings, there was some fine batting. The stout resistance was chiefly on the part of Mr Ward and Bacon, who got together when four wickets were down for 84, and added 131 in 90 minutes. Mr Ward was then well caught by cover-point at 215. He had been batting for an hour and 40 minutes, and in his 71 were ten fours, three threes and three twos.

At the fall of the seventh wicket the total stood at 243. Bacon and Soar added 44, and then the former was brilliantly caught at mid-off from a hard drive. He had been batting two hours and 40 minutes, and his chief figures were 13 fours, three threes and three twos. Soar still hit well and the total reached 314.

Somerset went in with 188 to get to win, and after Messrs L C H Palairet and Hill had made 35, Soar bowled so well that five wickets were down for 84. Messrs Fowler and Bartlett made a fine stand and added 60. Somerset now want 44 to win and have five wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 June, page 5)

A most interesting match at Taunton between these counties ended on Saturday in a victory for Hampshire by 11 runs. The victory was well deserved. Somerset seemed to have a pretty easy win in store for them on Saturday, with only 44 runs to obtain and five wickets to fall. The wicket appeared to play well.

Mr Bartlett and Mr Fowler added 22 to the overnight total before they were separated. Captain Wynyard kept wicket instead of Mr Robson, who was suffering from an injured thumb. Mr Fowler was caught by the wicket-keeper; he had made 52 in capital style. Somerset had 22 yet to win, with three wickets to fall. Tyler was taken by third man when only five runs were added, and Mr Winter was caught at mid-off, and Nichols in the slips. The win by Hampshire was most credited, especially when the heavy deficit which caused them to follow on is considered.

30 May: WARWICKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4321.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 May, page 11)

Richardson, the Surrey fast bowler, achieved a fine feat yesterday at Birmingham in getting out so many of the Warwickshire men on a true wicket. The only members of the side who played him with anything like easy precision were Mr Bainbridge and William Quaife, and each of these batsmen got their runs only slowly. The home captain was fourth to leave at 72, while Quaife took out his bat. Pallett helped him to give a little respectability to the score by staying while 28 were put on; but the dismissal of Warwickshire in two hours and a half for 129 was not very creditable to the Midland county.

When Surrey went in Brockwell and Abel made a fine stand for the second wicket, putting on 71. The former was only run out through a splendid piece of fielding by Whitehead at short leg. Towards the close Holland played well . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 June, page 8)

At Birmingham, yesterday, the pitch quickly recovered from the effects of the previous night's rain, with the result that the Surrey batsmen had a pretty good time, and Warwickshire had to go in a second time against a heavy deficit. On Thursday night Surrey had already passed the home score and had seven runs in hand with eight wickets to fall. Yesterday the batsmen put on 169 and the innings was over soon after luncheon.

Abel added only four to his overnight score. His 75 occupied two hours and three-quarters. It was an excellent innings, and beyond an escape just before his dismissal he gave no chance. His best hits were nine fours, five threes and three twos. Mr Walter Read played good cricket for his 44; but he was 75 minutes getting his runs. Hayward and Street also showed to advantage.

Warwickshire were 176 behind. Walter Quaife and Mr Bainbridge made a good beginning in the uphill fight, for they put on 84 for the first wicket. The home captain was missed when he was 22; but apart from this his batting was above reproach. The game went steadily against Warwickshire, and at the drawing of stumps they were still 29 behind and five of their best men were out.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 June, page 5)

A splendid innings of 142 by Mr H W Bainbridge and a spell of bad weather were the things on which Warwickshire proved dependent for their probable escape from defeat at Birmingham on Saturday. The match was drawn much in favour of Surrey, who had all their ten wickets in hand and wanted only 73 runs to win.

Up to Friday evening great progress had been made with the play, and Warwickshire, at the cost of five men, had rubbed off 147 of the 176 arrears. Mr Bainbridge, who had gone in first, continued his excellent cricket and increased his overnight figures from 79 to 142. He was helped by Mr Glover in putting on 68 for the sixth wicket, while Santall also stayed with him some time.

Mr Bainbridge, who was eighth to leave at 239, occupied four hours in getting his runs. Apart from a sharp chance with his figures at 22, when Brockwell should have caught him in the slips, the Warwickshire captain did not make a mistake; his driving and cutting were powerful and well-times, indeed he has never played better for his county. Eighteen fours, six threes and twelve twos, which were in his innings, give proof of the vigour of the cricket. Pallett and Cresswell put on 19 runs for the ninth wicket, and then both men were out, the total score being 258.

Surrey wanted 83 to win; but, after a quarter of an hour's batting, rain set in at half-past 4. The sides waited until 6 o'clock, and then the match was left drawn. Richardson's bowling for Surrey was a feature of the game; his two analyses showed a record of 14 wickets for 161 runs.

Friday 31 May, page 11: PROPOSED NATIONAL TESTIMONIAL TO DR W G GRACE

The proposal for a national testimonial to Dr Grace, which originated at Bristol, was mentioned to some of the Marylebone Club executive at Lord's yesterday. It is understood that the M.C.C. will give their support to such a testimonial. The Mayor of Bristol and the leafing citizens approve of it. The question will be discussed at a meeting of the Gloucestershire Club to be held to-day.

Saturday 1 June, page 8: PROPOSED NATIONAL TESTIMONIAL TO DR W G GRACE

At a meeting of the Gloucestershire Club at Bristol, yesterday, the memorial of the mayor and the leading citizens asking that the Marylebone Club should be approached relative to the proposed national testimonial to Dr Grace was considered. The club approved of the testimonial and, if the M.C.C. will not directly take up the matter, decided to begin the testimonial with a subscription of £100.

Monday 3 June, page 5: MIDDLESEX v SOMERSET

... The gate-money will constitute a benefit for Thomas Mycroft, an old servant of the M.C.C., and who used to keep wicket for Derbyshire.

3 June: ESSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4322.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 June, page 9)

The feat of getting the whole ten wickets was achieved at the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, yesterday, by Pickett, who is quite an old stager in the Essex Eleven. He went on at the pavilion end at the beginning of the day, and in a spell of two hours' bowling he got the Leicestershire side out for 32 runs. He kept his fast bowling a fine length and, having once found a "spot" in the wicket, he got some work on the ball, and the batsmen who attempted to hit him were soon in retreat.

In his long career in county cricket Pickett has never done a better piece of bowling, and he now takes rank with the men who have distinguished themselves in a similar way. Some of the more prominent instances are Dr W G Grace's ten wickets against Oxford nine years ago, E Barratt's ten for the Players v the Australians in 1878, and Richardson's ten for Surrey v Essex on the Oval last year. A collection for Pickett round the ground realized £20.

The day's cricket on a wicket that was inclined to be fiery varied a good deal before settling down the evenness, and the difference between the innings was only a matter of eight runs. Taken altogether the batsmen had rather a bad time against the fast bowlers, if Pougher, who has moderated his pace this season, can still be included in this category.

Leicestershire's innings occupied a little over two hours, and the best defence was shown by Mr de Trafford and Woodcock. The former went in when four men were out for 36, and was eighth to leave at 76, a very good catch in the slips bringing about his dismissal. Woodcock's 20 (made in five hits) gave respectability to the visitors' score.

Essex for a long time fared very badly against the swift bowling of Woodcock; he was dead on the wicket and the men who were sent back by him all had their stumps knocked far out of the ground. Five for 21 was a sorry outlook for the home county. But Burns checked the disasters and obtained 37 of 49 added for the sixth wicket in 35 minutes by the brightest piece of play of the day. Still eight men were lost for 75, but Mead, profiting by an escape from being run out, made some beautiful cuts off Woodcock and got 25 very quickly. Mr M'Gahey scarcely made the most of his fine height and reach, and by an unattractive defence only managed to get 27 in an hour and three-quarters' stay.

Leicestershire had a little batting in the second innings, and at the finish were 62 to the good with nine wickets to fall. Yesterday's was almost a record cricket gate for Leyton, the company numbering about 8,000.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 June, page 10)

Until late in the afternoon, when Essex were playing the fourth innings of the match, the cricket on the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday had dullness for its characteristic. Leicestershire had begun the morning with a lead of 62 with nine wickets in hand, and while Tomlin and Chapman were together the 100 went up with only two men out. This was a very strong position for the visitors; but they failed to retain it and were all out for 190. Mr Kortright bowled excellently, and his eight wickets for 63 in a score of 190 was a feat of great merit. As for Pickett, who had done so

well on Monday, he had nothing like the pitch and spin that he possessed in the first stages of the game.

The task of getting 199 in the last innings which Essex had to face was in no degree easy against such good bowlers as Woodcock and Pougher, and with some bumpy places on the wicket. And at the finish they wanted 101 to win with five men in hand. Thus Leicestershire have rather the best of the game.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 June, page 11)

The Essex batsmen who had to finish the last innings at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday, fared badly before the fast bowling of Woodcock, and Leicestershire gained a substantial victory by 75 runs.

Only a little time was necessary to bring the match to a close, for the outstanding five wickets fell for 25. It was a poor score for a side that at one time had 90 on the board with only two men out. The fast bowlers came off right through the match, and while Pickett and Mr Kortright did well for Essex, Pougher and Woodcock were most successful for the winners. Woodcock had an aggregate for the three days of 12 wickets for 115 runs.

3 June: HAMPSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4323.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 June, page 9)

At Southampton Hampshire followed up their win against Somerset by getting all the best of the cricket yesterday in their match with Derbyshire. They were batting nearly the whole of the day, and eight of their eleven ran into double figures.

Messrs Forster and Hill made 44 in the first hour, and after the former had been caught at slip and Mr Hill had gone, there was a stand made by Barton and Mr Ward, for 62 were obtained in 65 minutes. Barton was then caught at short slip, having made 41 in 80 minutes. Six were out for 153. Dr Bencraft and Soar subsequently put on 54 in 40 minutes. Eight were out for 220, after which Dr Bencraft had such an able partner in Captain Barton that 64 runs were the result of their partnership. Dr Bencraft's 62 (which had taken him two hours and a quarter to put together) comprised seven fours, a three and seven twos. Total, 294.

Derbyshire were in for ten minutes and had lost Berwick's wicket for five runs, when stumps were drawn. There was a large crowd and fine weather prevailed.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 June, page 10)

Hampshire appear to have a fine eleven this year, for after defeating Somerset last week they were victorious yesterday over Derbyshire by an innings and 79 runs at Southampton. This result was brought about to a large extent by the bowling of Soar and Baldwin, the former securing 11 wickets for 113 runs and the latter eight for 93.

Overnight the home county had finished their innings for 294, and the visitors had lost a wicket for five runs. Derbyshire, indeed, did very badly in the first innings. They lost four wickets at 49. Chatterton was finely caught by extra slip and Storer was out to another big catch. The innings only lasted an hour and three-quarters, for 82.

Thus Derbyshire had to follow on, being 212 runs behind. Three wickets went for 38; but Davidson and Storer put on 45 in three-quarters of an hour. The last five wickets, however, only added 49, and they were all out for 133. Dean kept wicket well and the match ended as stated.

3 June: MIDDLESEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4324.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 June, page 9)

Whit Monday cricket at Lord's has for many years past been quite a feature of the season. Yesterday, at a quarter past 1, no fewer than 9,000 people had passed the turnstiles, and the total for the day was about 16,000. Middlesex have given up this fixture, which is one of their best, for the benefit of T Mycroft, who formerly kept wicket for Derbyshire, but who, for the past few years, has been permanently attached to the ground staff at Lord's.

Both counties were well represented and, it may be noted, had lost their previous matches, for Gloucestershire had beaten Middlesex and Hampshire had pluckily defeated Somerset. The turf was in good order yesterday and an excellent wicket had been pitched. Great enthusiasm was shown during the wonderfully long partnership of the brothers Palairet, which produced 177 runs.

It soon became known that Somerset had won the toss, and within a few minutes of noon the Middlesex team entered the field. Mr Fowler and Mr L C H Palairet were the early batsmen. The first ball sent him by Hearne (pavilion end) Mr Fowler cut for four. The other bowler was Rawlin. Eight were made in an over of Hearne's, Mr Palairet making a late cut to the members' enclosure. Mr Fowler obtained 16 by two off-drives, a cut and a leg hit; but at 49 he was completely beaten by a ball from Rawlin.

Mr R C N Palairet joined his brother, who caused 50 to be registered after 35 minutes' play. This he followed up with an off-drive to the ring, and Mr L C H Palairet sent the ball finely to square leg. A double change in the attack was adopted, Dr Thornton and Mr Nepean going on. This did not have the slightest deterrent effect on the batsmen, as the first hour's play yielded 79. Mr L C H cut Dr Thornton for four, and at 88 Mr Stoddart was tried. Mr L C H Palairet completed his 50 after an hour and five minutes' play, and the "100" was recorded at a quarter past 1. Nine runs later Hearne relieved Mr Stoddart, and later Mr Nepean and Rawlin had charge of the bowling. Still these made no impression on the batsmen, and at the luncheon interval the total stood at 146.

On resuming at ten minutes to 3, J T Hearne and Rawlin were the bowlers. A snick for four by Mr R C N Palairet caused 150 to be telegraphed. Both batsmen continued to hit freely, until at 186, Dr Thornton went on for Rawlin. His first ball Mr L C H Palairet sent to leg for four and the second he cut to the boundary. This freedom on the part of the batsmen continued, and at 3.20 the 200 was signalled, amid deafening applause at this number being reached for the loss of one wicket only. These cheers were renewed when Mr L C H Palairet finished his 100 five minutes later. Mr Webbe and Mr Nepean were now the bowlers, and the latter caused Mr L C H Palairet to be caught at wicket. Among his hits were 13 fours, two threes and eight twos; he had been batting with his brother for two hours and 50 minutes, and 177 runs had been added during the partnership. Two down.

Mr Roe joined Mr R C N Palairet, who reached his 100 after two hours and 35 minutes' play. Mr Roe was bowled for a dozen runs and Mr Hill, who followed in, fell to a splendid return catch. Mr R C N Palairet was at length caught at slip; he had batted brilliantly for his 106 and his chief figures were 15 fours, two threes and 11 twos. Clapp arrived, but soon lost the company of Mr Woods, who was bowled. Clapp and Dr Poynton were now together. At 273 they were both dismissed, the former well stumped and the latter smartly run out.

The 300 went up at a quarter to five, Tyler was clean bowled at 309, and the Rev A P Wickham assisted Nichols. Rain, which had been threatening for an hour past, fell in torrents a few minutes after 5 o'clock, causing a perfect stampede by those who were not under cover. A delay of 40 minutes occurred, and when Nichols and the Rev A P Wickham resumed they gave far more trouble to the attacking side than had been anticipated. Mr Wickham cut the ball finely to the boundary, and in all they put on 28 runs. Total, 337; length of innings, four and a half hours.

Middlesex had only ten minutes left for batting, and to the surprise and regret of a great many people Mr A J Webbe and Mr MacGregor went in first, when the light was none too good. Mr Woods bowled from the pavilion end and, when only two runs were scored, Mr Webbe played under a ball, which slip secured. Sir T C O'Brien was easily caught by the wicket-keeper. Stumps were now drawn for the day, and Middlesex had lost two good wickets for a couple of runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 June, page 10)

Yesterday's play between these counties at Lord's furnished an interesting illustration of the fluctuations of cricket. The day began with Middlesex having lost two good wickets for the same number of runs, against their opponents' total of 337. Mr Stoddart batted in quite his old style, and although his innings was not without a chance, his superb play called forth the greatest enthusiasm from the 10,000 to 20,000 spectators, who seemed [thoroughly to] enjoy his easy, yet powerful, driving. He, with Rawlin, Mr Nepean and Dr Thornton, left Middlesex in a good position. The wicket again wore well and there is every prospect of an interesting finish to-day.

Play was continued at 25 minutes to 12, when Mr MacGregor (not out, 1) proceeded to the wickets accompanied by Mr Stoddart. Tyler (nursery end) and Mr Woods bowled. It soon became evident that Mr Stoddart was in good form. In Tyler's opening over, he twice drove the ball for four; but Mr MacGregor, having cut Mr Woods to the boundary, was clean bowled by him. Three for 25.

Rawlin proved an able partner for Mr Stoddart. He obtained 18 runs in five hits, the last of which (a cut to the ring) caused the 50 to be reached, each batsman at this point being credited with 20. The score travelled rapidly and the bowling was changed at both ends, Nichols and Mr Hill being intrusted with it. Mr Stoddart drove the latter twice for four in his first over. Eighty-four runs were recorded in an hour. Mr Woods resumed bowling at 93 and Mr Stoddart reached his 50 after 65 minutes. The 100 was posted at a quarter to one. Mr Stoddart continued to hit with freedom. Nor was Rawlin idle, being credited with 50 after an hour and a quarter's play. Ultimately he fell to a catch by the wicket-keeper; his principal figures were ten fours. No fewer than 135 runs had been added since the fall of the previous wicket.

Mr Warner was caught at slip without having scored, and half the wickets were lost for 160. Mr Lucas's stay was brief and Mr Stoddart gave a hard chance to the wicket-keeper. Mr Vernon started well by driving Tyler for two and four, but at 186 he was finely caught in the long-field. Mr Nepean came, and at the interval 192 had been totalled for the loss of seven wickets.

On resuming Tyler and Mr Woods bowled. Mr Stoddart continued to bat brilliantly. He reached three figures with an on-drive; this feat had taken him 2 hours and 35 minutes to accomplish. He then made a dozen by three drives, but immediately afterwards he was badly missed by Clapp at mid-on, and then by Tyler at mid-off. These indulgences he turned to account by making 12 runs in an over off Clapp by three leg hits. At last, in spite of further alterations in the attack, he was given

out leg-before. Mr Stoddart had been batting a little over three hours and among his hits were 24 fours, a three and 14 twos.

Dr Thornton came, and the 300 was telegraphed at five minutes past 4, and the Somerset total was reached with a single from Mr Thornton, and 350 was signalled at 20 minutes to 5. Mr Nepean was out by a splendid piece of fielding by Mr Woods at mid-off, who threw the wicket down. Nine for 359. J T Hearne was splendidly caught at long-on, and the innings closed at 5 o'clock. Dr Thornton (not out) had made 12 fours and four threes. Length of innings, 4¾ hours.

Somerset, who were 33 runs behind, started with Messrs L C H Palairet and Fowler. They had a little more than an hour left for batting. Rawlin and Hearne were the bowlers. Twenty-one runs came in a quarter of an hour, and then Mr Fowler was bowled. Mr R C N Palairet was heartily cheered as he left the pavilion to join his brother, who drove a ball from Rawlin finely to the off-boundary. Mr L C H Palairet then received a severe blow on the hand which gave him great pain and probably accounted, in some measure, for his being bowled in Rawlin's next over; the arrears had just previously been made up. Two for 38.

Mr Roe came in, and after a capital drive to the on for four he caused 50 to be recorded; these had been obtained at the rate of one per minute. Dr Thornton had relieved Hearne and Mr Nepean was put on for a few overs at Rawlin's end. A further alteration was tried by Mr Stoddart bowling an over, but the batsmen were not disturbed . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 June, page 11)

A wonderful match ended at Lord's yesterday, when Middlesex narrowly escaped defeat and the game was left drawn. The result, indeed, hung in the balance until ten minutes only were left, and to the patient defence of Mr Nepean and Dr Thornton, neither of whom could be tempted to hit out, the visitors may attribute their having been deprived of victory when it was almost within their grasp. For the last half-hour of play the spectators, who numbered between five and six thousand, were in a state of tension.

It was anybody's game in the morning, but Mr Woods batted with great spirit and his 109 was the fourth score of three figures in the match; but, with few exceptions, he did not receive adequate assistance from the rest of his side. When Middlesex went in with 259 to get for victory the probabilities were against them, for less than three hours remained. Mr Stoddart batted brilliantly and got over 200 runs; he was twice leg-before-wicket. It was one of the best pitches at Lord's this season and 1,156 runs were made on it.

The game was resumed at 11.35 by Messrs R C N Palairet and Roe facing the attacks of Rawlin and Hearne. Twenty runs were added and Mr Palairet unfortunately played on. Mr Hill arrived. The 100 was reached at a quarter past 12, and three runs later Mr Roe was clean bowled. Messrs Hill and Woods were together. The latter ran up 22 in a couple of overs, and at 148 Dr Thornton relieved Rawlin. The batsmen were in splendid form and 150 was recorded at 20 minutes to 1. Mr Woods made 50 in 35 minutes. Several alterations in the attack were tried, but these did not prevent the 200 being posted at ten minutes past 1. With the score at 221 Mr Hill was clean bowled, 118 having been put on for the wicket. Clapp came in and batted well, while Mr Woods rapidly ran to his 100. Further bowling changes were resorted to, and Clapp was given out leg-before, while soon afterwards Mr Woods was clean bowled; he had been batting an hour and 40 minutes, and his principal figures were 16 fours, two threes and nine twos.

After luncheon Nichols went in with Dr Poynton. The latter was soon caught at wicket and Tyler clean bowled, while Mr Wickham skied a ball which Mr Vernon judged well and caught. Total 291. Duration of innings four hours.

Middlesex went in with 259 set them to win and two hours and 50 minutes left for play. Messrs Webbe and Stoddart were the first to oppose the bowling of Mr Woods and Tyler. The start was most unpromising for the home team, as their captain was completely beaten by a ball of Tyler's, and Mr Vernon, who took his place, was clean bowled. Two for 10. sir T O'Brien joined Mr Stoddart, who cut Tyler to the ring, and his companion did the same. Sir T O'Brien added a leg hit for four and then was clean bowled.

Three wickets down for 23 was poor indeed, but the prospect brightened when Rawlin joined Mr Stoddart and 31 were rapidly put together. The latter was nearly out in attempting a second run. Rawlin returned the ball in the next over. Four for 54. Mr Lucas assisted Mr Stoddart, and for a little time the cricket was quiet. The latter then scored ten in an over from Mr Woods, and with a leg hit to the spectators he obtained 50 in an hour and five minutes. Nichols was tried for Mr Woods, but the separation came from the other end, Mr Stoddart, as on the previous day, getting in front of his wicket. Among his hits were six fours, four threes and five twos. Five for 86.

An on-drive by Mr Lucas for four brought the 100 up at a quarter-past 5, but from the next ball he was caught high with the left hand at slip by Mr Hill, who had to jump up to it. There was now an hour and a quarter left for batting and 159 runs to get with 4 wickets to fall. Mr MacGregor aided Mr Warner, and after playing cautiously the latter was dismissed leg-before-wicket. Seven for 122. Fifty-five minutes remained when Mr Nepean joined Mr MacGregor, who, among minor hits, drove Nichols finely to the on-boundary. Mr Hill relieved Nichols at 132, and from his third ball Mr MacGregor was splendidly caught at mid-off, the ball having almost reached the ground. There were 35 minutes left and two wickets to fall.

Mr Nepean sent the ball to leg for four and drove it to the boundary in an over from Mr Woods, and Dr Thornton made a capital hit to leg for four. Every ball was now watched with anxiety and the attack underwent many alterations, the field at times almost forming a cluster round the batsmen. The thoroughness of Mr Woods's bowling and fielding were greatly admired, but at half-past 6 the match was drawn . . .

3 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4325.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 June, page 9)

Nottinghamshire were unfortunate in losing the services of Mr J A Dixon and Pike, both of whom were on the injured list, for the annual Whit-Monday match at Trent-bridge. In addition to this, neither Mee nor Hardstaff could play, owing to club engagements. Under these conditions it must have been very satisfactory to the supporters of Notts cricket to see the renewal of the old interest in the county games, for there was a crowd of about 10,000 people. Indeed, it was one of the largest gates recently recorded at Trent-bridge.

Surrey, with their full strength, had slightly the better of the day's play. But the bowling and fielding were very true on the slow wicket, and so difficult were runs to get that the whole cricketing day yielded only 241 runs at a cost of 13 batsmen. The home side, with the advantage of first innings, at one time seemed likely to do pretty well, for after Mr Jones had gone at 20, Daft and Gunn raised the score to 65 at the end of the first hour. But the bright prospect was never realized, and the innings was completed by a quarter past 4 for an addition of 97. Gunn played in finished style for his 41 and was the third to leave at 88.

Nottinghamshire experienced another stroke of misfortune by the injury to Flowers, who was severely struck on the left hand soon after he went in; he continued his batting for a little time, but finally retired. The game now turned against Nottinghamshire; the bowling grew more difficult, and although the 100 went up with only three men out, the score stood at 127 for six wickets. At this stage Mr Oscroft and Bagguley got together and in 45 minutes added 32 runs. But nothing in the innings came up to the extra-cover of Gunn's 41, which were made in an hour. He too had a bad blow on the finger. Brockwell and Richardson bowled effectively, and the score might have been smaller but for two mistakes in the field.

When Surrey went in Nottinghamshire bowled and fielded keenly and runs were not made easily. Abel offered a determined resistance, but in an hour and three-quarters only 79 runs were altogether recorded. The three wickets fell at 5, 35 and 66.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 June, page 10)

Mr K J Key, the captain of the Surrey Eleven, played a great innings of 127 at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, and his brilliant achievement had the effect of securing to Surrey a big lead on the first innings. When he went in at mid-day five wickets were down for 88, so that the position at that stage favoured Nottinghamshire.

He soon put a different complexion on affairs. His cutting was superb and in other strokes he was not much less skilful. Scarcely a faulty hit appeared in his game, if two drives in the long field after he had passed the 100 are excepted. These errors only occurred when he was forcing the play at a great pace and when his companions were steadily falling. Some idea of the batting will be gathered from the fact that the last 70 of the 79, which he and Richardson put on for the tenth wicket, were made in 25 minutes after luncheon. Altogether the Surrey captain was in two hours and a half and contributed 19 fours, four threes, 11 twos and singles. He was the last to leave, caught at mid-on.

Abel played with much steadiness, going in first and being sixth out at 138. His partnership with Mr Key yielded 50. How wonderfully the aspect of the game changed may be imagined from the fact that after seven Surrey wickets had fallen for 169, Notts were finally left 144 behind. Nottinghamshire sadly missed the services of Flowers, whose injured hand kept him out of the game, for he could ill be spared with several of the county's best men away.

The last three hours of the day were occupied with the batting of Nottinghamshire in the second innings, and the home men came out well in an uphill fight. Against the fine bowling of Richardson great care was necessary in the defence. Gunn played in his finished style for 63, which occupied a little over two hours, while Mr Jones, who went in first, did not leave until 70, he and Gunn having put on 60 for the second wicket. Notts, at the finish, were 22 runs behind for the loss of three men. The company numbered about 8,000.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 June, page 11)

Nottinghamshire's defeat by Surrey by nine wickets at Trent Bridge yesterday afternoon was rather more decisive than might have been expected from the position of affairs on Tuesday night. True, Gunn had gone and Flowers's injury made him a questionable batsman; but after a capital uphill fight made by the early players it was thought that the visitors would be put in to get something more than 58. Surrey deserved their win: they bowled and fielded splendidly, while Mr Key had given a brilliancy to their batting that quite astonished the Nottingham cricket public.

The state of the game yesterday morning was that Notts with three men out were still 22 behind. Mr Wright played very well; but his partnerships were mostly brief. Mr Oscroft stayed with him until the deficiency of 144 had been cleared, and Bagguley helped his captain to advance the record from 166 to 193. But the dismissal of the side became rapid, and by 1.20 the last had been seen of the home batsmen. In spite of his injury Flowers went in, but too late to give Surrey much trouble. Mr Wright's 55 was an innings of great steadiness. He went in second wicket down at 70 and was the seventh out.

Surrey made short work of their task of getting 58 to win. Abel and Lockwood took the score to 47 and, after the latter's dismissal by a clever catch, Brockwell came in and helped to finish the match. Although injuries and club engagements of various cricketers severely handicapped the Notts executive in getting together a good side, and although their men lost the match, there is one point in relation to it that is very gratifying to them. This is the awakening of much of the old cricket enthusiasm among the Nottingham public, who for some years have to a great extent deserted the ground either because of bad trade or dullness of cricket.

3 June: SUSSEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4326.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 June, page 9)

It was Dr W G Grace who again carried off the batting honours at the Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday, and he only failed by nine to run into three figures. Once more he proved the backbone of the Gloucestershire side, and the failures of his companions gave additional brilliancy to his own achievement.

His batting was faultless, and there were present in his play all his wonderful power in hitting and placing. He went in first and made his 50 out of 76 in 50 minutes; while at 142, when the spectators were hoping to see him get another 100, he was brilliantly caught in the long field. He was in only 80 minutes for his 91, in which were 14 fours, three threes and eight twos. The rest of the side did little and the innings ended for 151. Parris bowled excellently and came out with a splendid analysis.

After a bad start, the Sussex affairs improved, and Marlow and Mr Murdoch put on 82 for the third wicket. The former was fourth to leave at 122, and then the downfall proved so rapid that eight wickets were lost for 164. Afterwards Mr Brann and Parris improved matters and the Sussex score reached 213. Except for an easy chance at 14, Marlow played extremely well and hit 14 fours, while Mr Brann made nine fours.

Before the close of play, Gloucestershire cleared off 14 of the 62 arrears. About 10,000 people were present and the "gate" was something like a record for the Hove Ground. Mr G L Wilson again appears for Sussex; but Gloucestershire have several good men away, notably Painter, Mr C L Townsend and Mr Ferris.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 June, page 10)

Monday's play in this match pointed to a pretty even finish, for, although Gloucestershire were 62 behind on the first innings, they had scored 14 without loss, and there was no knowing what Dr W G Grace would do. However, Sussex secured a rather substantial victory by six wickets, and Gloucestershire, after three wins (against Middlesex, Kent and Somerset), lost their first match this season.

The visitors cleared off their arrears with the loss of one wicket only. At 70 Dr Grace was out through a wonderful one-handed catch by Mr Wilson running at top speed from third man towards point. Six batsmen were dismissed for 75 runs. Mr Jessop brightened things a little while with Board and Mr Thomas. The side were all out for 146 at a quarter to two. Humphreys, going on late, bowled exceptionally well and took the last three wickets for three runs.

Sussex wanted 85 to win and got them in as many minutes for four wickets. Mr Ranjitsinhji was out to a fine catch at slip. There were 5,000 persons present and the weather was fine.

3 June: WARWICKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4327.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 June, page 9)

It is estimated that fully 10,000 people visited the Edgbaston Ground, Birmingham, yesterday. The cricket was slow and 227 runs only were the result of the day's play.

Warwickshire won the toss and sent in Mr Bainbridge and W Quaife. The start was not promising, as the former was speedily run out by his partner. W Quaife fell to a catch at short-leg, and a fine piece of stumping by Huish (who makes his first appearance in first-class cricket) disposed of Mr Rhodes. Thirty-five runs were put on for the fourth wicket by Lilley and W G Quaife. Then the former, with Mr Docker, made another stand and 45 were put on by them before Lilley was badly run out; he had been in 100 minutes for his 40.

Mr Docker did not bat as well as Lilley, but he obtained the top score of the innings with 43; he gave a chance in the long field when he had scored six. Mr Hill rendered good service and Santall, who went in sixth wicket down, saw the rest of the side dismissed and by steady play ran up 38. Total, 225. Kent had a quarter of an hour's batting, during which time they scored a couple without loss of wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 June, page 10)

Yesterday's game on the Edgbaston Ground was again marked by evenness and the scoring ruled slow. Nearly the whole of cricketing hours was absorbed by the first innings of Kent, who, in the same time as their rivals had taken on Monday, scored four more runs.

Mr W L Knowles carried off the batting honours with 79, the result of a sound defence for two hours and a half. He went in at 92 and was ninth out at 227. His play at times was a little dull to watch, but he was quick to punish a bad ball and never gave a chance. Among his figures were seven fours, two threes and 15 twos. Hearne, Wright and Easby exercised the greatest caution, for the bowling and fielding were very good. The brightest play occurred at a late part of the innings, when Martin and Mr Knowles put on 42 runs in three-quarters of an hour for the ninth partnership.

Mr Bainbridge and Walter Quaife made a start with Warwickshire's second innings and had scored 35 in as many minutes when stumps were drawn, owing to the bad light. About 8,000 persons watched the play.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 June, page 11)

Steadiness in defence marked the cricket in this match to the end, and the result, as was almost indicated by the previous stages of the game, turned out a draw.

The early part of the day had for its best feature a long partnership between Mr Bainbridge, the home captain, and William G Quaife, both of whom are playing particularly well this year. They got together at 46, and by sound cricket added 101 runs in an hour and 50 minutes. Mr Bainbridge, who was then caught at slip, gave a chance to mid-off just before he left. He hit seven fours, three

threes and 11 twos. Careful play by Mr Rhodes and a few good strokes by Mr Docker helped on the Warwickshire score, and at 4 o'clock the home side adopted the closure rule. Quaife, who had been in over three hours, took out his bat for 78, an innings of patience and merit. He made 11 fours.

Kent went in to get 207 in a little over two hours. Mr Mason was beautifully stumped on the leg side by Lilley, and A Hearne was quickly out. Easby and Mr Knowles put on 63; but at 6 o'clock, as there seemed no chance of finishing the game, stumps were drawn. Easby's 56, in which were eight fours, was a very good innings.

3 June: YORKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4328.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 June, page 9)

There was not a great deal to choose between the respective figures of the sides at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday, that is assuming the last three Yorkshiremen do not go for a trifle. The evenness of the cricket kept the spectators, of whom there were about 20,000, very enthusiastic. Close upon 18,000 people paid for admission.

Lancashire had first innings on a wicket rather affected by the rain, and were batting from a quarter-past 12 until a quarter-past 4, so that the total of 166 will show that runs were difficult to obtain. The partnerships ruled small, and the best was that between Smith and Hallam, who put on 32 for the last wicket. Tinsley, Briggs, Baker and Smith all did well, and Smith's best stroke was a square leg hit out of the ground.

Yorkshire lost four wickets in 45 minutes for 28 runs, and six batsmen were out for 43. Wainwright and Denton put a very much better appearance on the game and added 59 runs in 35 minutes. This brought the match back to some evenness, and in the end Yorkshire with three men in hand were 55 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 June, page 10)

After an even game up to the end of an innings each the match at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday went strongly in favour of Lancashire, who by the time stumps were drawn were 299 runs on with a wicket in hand. There was no diminution of the interest aroused by the contest and the "gate" reached about 18,000 persons, the number paying for admission being 16,300.

The pitch had thrown off the effects of the rain of Monday and played true all day. Yorkshire's last three wickets added 52 runs, scored at a fast rate. Lord Hawke added 30 to his overnight four in 20 minutes, while Denton took out his bat for a capital 44. The score of 161, only five runs short of the Lancashire total, was remarkably good, considering that the first six men were disposed of for 43.

Lancashire lost Mr MacLaren at seven, through a smart return by Wainwright; but the second wicket was very profitable to the visitors. For nearly two hours and three-quarters Albert Ward and Paul remained in partnership, and in this time increased the score by 144 runs. The bowling they had to play was very good and many of their runs were rather lucky. They had one or two very narrow escapes, having been once or twice beaten by the ball without its hitting the wicket. It was, however, a capital feat to remain so long against the powerful Yorkshire attack. Ward took three hours to make his 68, in which were seven fours, three threes and three twos. If Paul's score was higher than Ward's, his cricket was scarcely so good; he hit eight fours, six threes and nine twos.

After Paul had left at 159, Sugg imparted a great deal of vigour to the game, although much of his batting lacked precision. In 75 minutes he scored 58 out of 74 by nine fours, a three, two twos and singles. Baker afterwards kept up his wicket; but Hirst got out Mr Tindall, Smith and Mold in one over . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 June, page 11)

Yesterday's victory of Lancashire against Yorkshire by 145 runs at the Bramall-lane Ground, Sheffield, was heralded by the successful batting of Lancashire on Tuesday afternoon, when they finished up with an advantage of 299 and had still a wicket to go. The balance of their innings was quickly got through, and Yorkshire were set 310 to make to win.

It is rarely that such a big score as this is made on English wickets in the fourth innings, and the chances of Yorkshire were not brightened by the assistance that the pitch promised to afford to such bowlers at Mold and Briggs. The beginning was ominous and the first three men fell to Mold for 21 runs, while five were dismissed for 46. Mold's analysis so far was five wickets for 16 runs.

The plucky batting of Peel advanced the luncheon score to 77; but subsequently, Peel's dismissal, leg-before, put the result almost beyond doubt, while when eight wickets were down the figures were only 108. Lord Hawke did his best to give some life to a losing game and, after the ninth man had gone, with Hunter added 46 in three-quarters of an hour. The Yorkshire captain gave a chance at 10, but his play was very bright. Some 6,000 people witnessed the finish.

6 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4329.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 June, page 5)

Mr N F Druce's fine innings of 122 marked yesterday's play at Cambridge, when the University were in all day and had yet four wickets to fall at the drawing of stumps, the score standing at 374. He gave a chance to the wicket-keeper early in his stay, but otherwise there was little fault to find with his batting. He cut and drove in clean style and was backed up with several long partnerships.

At the beginning of the day the University, who were giving Mr Gray a rest owing to his injured hand, did remarkably well, and with Messrs Wilson and Studd put on 105 for the second wicket in 90 minutes. Mr Studd was then caught behind the bowler, while soon afterwards Mr Wilson, who went up to Cambridge from Uppingham with such a big reputation, fell to mid-on. He hit eight fours, three threes and 11 twos in his 84. Mr Robinson, Mr W G Druce and Mr W G Grace helped respectively to put on 48, 54 and 53. It is a twelve-a-side match, but with only 11 in the field.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 June, page 9)

One of the best innings ever played on Fenner's Ground, Cambridge, was that by Mr N F Druce, whose batting extended over a part of two days and who only missed the 200 by a single. He went in second wicket down on Thursday and remained not out yesterday when Cambridge had completed their innings for 515. His stay at the wicket lasted about four and a half hours; his only bad mistake was early in his career, when he was missed at wicket, while his best hits were 23 fours, ten threes and 18 twos. Yesterday Mr Burrough and Mr Lowe were his best partners, and they helped respectively to add 107 and 81.

For some time M.C.C. fared badly. Carpenter played sound cricket for his 61 and hit six fours. Still the score was only 147 when the ninth wicket fell. Messrs Hornsby and Pigg, however, made a splendid stand for the last, the former contributing nine fours. The M.C.C. followed on . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 June, page 7)

Cambridge University won their match at Cambridge on Saturday by an innings and 23 runs. This result was more or less expected, for the M.C.C. at the close of Friday had followed on and were 244 behind with ten wickets to fall.

At the beginning of the last day Messrs Vernon and Neville Leese put on 76 for the second partnership. Both then fell to Mr Lowe's bowling and soon afterwards Gunn was also bowled. Rawlin and Carpenter improved matters, adding 53, Rawlin falling to a fine return catch. Carpenter played carefully for some time longer; but Mr Hewett gave little trouble. The best innings was by Davidson, who made his 50 pretty quickly and hit six fours before being secured at point. In the end Marylebone were dismissed for 240 and the University gained the substantial victory recorded above. Messrs Lowe and Wilson bowled particularly well.

6 June: LANCASHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4330.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 June, page 5)

There were nearly 20,000 spectators of Lancashire's successful batting at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday. During the whole day the highest score lost only four wickets for 341; and until the last hour, when the long spell of fielding began to tell on the visitors, the good returns of Kent kept the pace of run-getting to an ordinary rate.

Albert Ward and Tinsley laid the foundation for a big score with a partnership of 96 runs for the first wicket, while the record stood at 136 for two wickets when Ward left. He played with great care and gave no chance, his best hits being seven fours and seven threes. Ward has played remarkably well in the last fortnight, having made 428 runs for five times out.

But the chief honours of the day rested with Paul. He was third on the order, and at the close, after a four hours' stay, was not out 122. The best point in his game was driving. Helped by Sugg, he added 83 runs in as many minutes for the third wicket, while the next partnership, between him and Baker, yielded 122.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 June, page 9)

At Old Trafford, Manchester, the Lancastrians followed up a good batting performance by brilliant bowling and fielding, with the result that Kent, long before the drawing of stumps, were in a bad way. Mold was very effective, and his great pace and break contributed most to the poor figure cut by Kent.

Yesterday morning it took Lancashire two hours and three-quarters to complete the first innings, the over-night score of 341 for four wickets being raised to 487 – an addition of 146. This is Lancashire's best total in county matches, their previous best being 471 about three years ago against Yorkshire. Paul, who made 122 on Thursday, only increased his figures by 18. He had shown an admirable defence for four hours and three-quarters, and his chief hits were 13 fours, five threes and 18 twos. Briggs played vigorously for 47 and with Mr Tindall added 51 for the sixth wicket.

The Kent batting presented a marked contrast to that of their opponents. Mold was almost unplayable on the worn wicket and, apart from Mr Marchant, the Kent batting failed to score anything like substantially. Fourteen of their wickets were taken for an aggregate of 115 runs. Mold secured seven at the cost of seven runs each in the first innings, and he was also very effective in the second. Kent were all out for 71 in two hours, and following on lost four wickets for 44. They are, of course, in rather a hopeless position.

There were 20,000 spectators. Kent lost the services of Huish, who, in running, fell and injured his collar-bone.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 June, page 7)

Arthur Mold, the Lancashire fast bowler, achieved a remarkable feat in this match, which Lancashire won at Old Trafford on Saturday by an innings and 291 runs. As Huish, the Kent wicket-keeper, was injured and could not go in, the visitors were one short; but the whole of their remaining wickets in the second innings went to Mold, who hit the stumps in seven instances. His record for the match was 16 wickets for 111 runs, while Smith made five catches at the wicket off him.

The position of affairs on Saturday morning held out little hope for Kent, who had followed on and, with four men lost, were still 372 runs behind. The balance of the innings lasted an hour and a quarter and yielded 81 runs. The best point in the cricket was the batting of Mr W H Patterson, who, though kindly treated by the fieldsmen, made many fine strokes in his 57 not out. Martin and Wright had a share with Mr Patterson in partnerships of 24 and 33.

The accident to Huish, who fractured his collar-bone in attempting to save himself from being run out in the first innings, is extremely unfortunate, for the young Kent cricketer had only just made his appearance in important matches on the strength of the good form as a wicket-keeper which he displayed in the second eleven match at Lord's a few weeks ago.

6 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4331.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 June, page 5)

On a fiery wicket at the Aylestone-road ground, Leicester, yesterday, the best feature of the cricket was the fine innings played by Moorhouse for Yorkshire. His county had gone in first and had lost five of their batsmen for 72 when he arrived. From the time of his appearance the prospects of his side mended. He played remarkably well, driving and cutting in good style, and he took out his bat for 81. His innings lasted a couple of hours and he hit a five and 13 fours.

Denton also played well. Pougher and Woodcock both bowled effectively; but the former carried off the chief honours and came out with a fine analysis. Mr Hillyard made four catches in the slips.

When the home team went in the start was bad, but Tomlin and Holland added 46 for the third wicket, and after four men had gone for 63, Holland and Pougher played out time.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 June, page 9)

In a bowlers' match at Leicester yesterday Yorkshire came out victorious by 87 runs. The fiery wicket and the many good bowlers in the teams handicapped the batsmen throughout.

Yesterday morning the position of affairs rather favoured the home side, who, going in against 188, had made 107 for four wickets. But in less than an hour Leicestershire completed their innings for an addition of 46 runs, so that Yorkshire had a lead on the first innings of 35. At one time things were very bright for Leicestershire, as the 140 went up with only five men out. The best feature in the innings was the stand of Pougher and Holland, who in an hour and a quarter added 77. The latter played fine cricket and hit a five, three fours, three threes and seven twos.

Yorkshire began their second venture badly; but after the dismissal of Brown, Peel and Tunnicliffe for 11 runs, Wainwright and Denton improved matters. However, seven of the visitors were out for 75, and it was chiefly through the fine vigorous play of Hirst that Leicestershire were set 168 to make for victory.

The home team never looked likely to accomplish this task and were got out by Hirst and Peel for 80 runs. The former performed the "hat trick" by securing the wickets of Mr Hillyard, Woodcock and King with successive balls. Both he and Pougher had fine bowling records for the match.

6 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4332.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 June, page 5)

The excellence of the wickets at Lord's continues, and yesterday a pretty good side of the Marylebone Club and Ground remained in all day and ran up a heavy score against Warwickshire, two of the eleven reaching three-figures.

Dr Scott, who was fourth to leave at 257, went in first and made 107 in three hours and a half. He showed an admirable defence and was quick to punish a bad ball. His chief figures were nine fours and four threes. After he left Sir T C O'Brien played splendidly and was still in at the close of the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 June, page 9)

Although the M.C.C. scored so heavily in the first innings of this match at Lord's a better fight was expected from Warwickshire than that which ended last evening in a victory for Marylebone by an innings and 215 runs. The M.C.C. added only nine runs to the overnight score of 439, and Sir T C O'Brien took out his bat for 106. It was a fine innings of only two and a half hours' duration and included a six, 14 fours and four threes.

Law and W G Quaife made a good stand for Warwickshire's second wicket, putting on 62 runs; but when once they were separated the innings rapidly reached its end and was all over in a little more than two hours. In the follow-on Law again batted well; but the rest of the side did not make much headway against the fine bowling of Mead and Pickett. The former did especially well and took ten wickets in the double innings.

9 June: SURREY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4333.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 June, page 5)

It was a difficult task that Gloucestershire entered upon yesterday morning at Kennington-oval, when, having lost the toss, they essayed to get out Surrey (a side who had gathered strength by a brilliant win over Notts) on a beautifully true wicket. Not only were Gloucestershire without much of the bowling, however mediocre it may be, at present in the county, but Painter was also away. The surprise, therefore, was not that Surrey remained in all day, but that they did not do even better than lose nine wickets for 366.

The reasons of the way the game went and the causes why the home side did not do as well as were at one time promised were pretty patent. Dr Grace made most of the bowling at his command, and it looked easy at its best, but the Gloucestershire ground fielding was superb, while several brilliant catches were brought off, notably those which got out Mr Key and Holland. It was this fine fielding that kept the runs down and reduced the rate of scoring to something like a normal average in spite of a lot of fine hitting.

The batting honours of the day went to young Tom Hayward, the nephew of the famous of Cambridgeshire professional, who was one of the best bats of the day when that county was a great cricketing shire. So far this season he had not come up to the standard which he set last year; but yesterday on the Oval his faultless three-figure innings was distinctly the feature of the day. Cutting was his great point. From the moment he went in he played in a splendidly finished style, and his success after an indifferent May will be very gratifying to the Surrey Club. He went in first wicket down at 5 and was fourth out at 233 through a fine piece of fielding at cover-point by Captain Luard. He made his 100 out of 190 in two hours and 20 minutes, while the full time of his batting was just under three hours, and his chief figures were 19 fours, six threes and five twos.

The great partnership of the day was by Abel and Hayward for the second wicket; they put on 109 in 90 minutes. Abel, who was second out, caught at mid-off, played very steadily. A very good innings was that by Holland, who was third to leave at 176 to a clever catch at short leg, where Wrathall took the ball from a hard hit high up with his right hand. Maurice Read, who came back to the Surrey eleven in lieu of Street, this being the only change from the side who beat Notts, did little, and when he left five of the home side were out for 257.

Mr Walter Read, although often in trouble with Roberts's left-hand bowling, was as strong as ever on the leg side; he made his 54 in 90 minutes and hit nine fours, two threes and four twos, being eventually caught at cover-point from a bad stroke. After he had gone there was a wonderful catch by Mr Sewell, who, running backwards from mid-off, jumped up and took the ball high up with his right hand and got rid of Mr Key. The same fieldsman brought off another good catch deep on the off-side which dismissed Richardson at 295.

Eight wickets had now fallen, a far different position from the prospect offered when the 100 had gone up with only one man out. Brockwell and Smith by sound cricket put on 56 in an hour before the latter was well caught in the slips, and then Wood finished the day with some good drives and leg hits, and Surrey left off with a score of 366 for nine wickets. The fielding was clean and the returns were smart to the end, while Mr Jessop bowled particularly well, keeping a good length and being very straight. He was on for about three hours after luncheon. It was splendid cricket

weather, and the presence of Dr Grace was, of course, a great attraction; 9,252 persons paid "gate" and the full company must have numbered over 11,000.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 June, page 9)

The failure of Dr Grace is almost tantamount to the failure of Gloucestershire, so closely are the fortunes of the western shire wrapped up in him, and yesterday, as the champion only made two small scores, his county were decisively beaten. Surrey won by an innings and 195 runs.

The day's batting coming after Thursday's excellence was disappointing and bad; but of course the thing which the crowd seemed mostly to take to heart was the ill-fortune of Dr Grace. With Richardson and Lockwood bowling at their best on a pitch that was breaking, Dr Grace in his first spell never seemed happy; he struck out at several bumping off-balls, from two of which he was almost caught at slip, while in trying to hit the other bowler (Richardson) he gave long slip an easy catch. His 17 were made in 40 minutes out of 23, and he was third to leave.

In the second innings Dr Grace had quickly settled down and seemed to have more command of the bowling than he had shown in the morning; but he attempted to score a single from a cut by Mr Sewell. It was a good run and he kept, as usual, a close watch on the ball, and even steadied himself as he reached the crease. Smith fielded the ball brilliantly at cover point and threw the wicket down, and the umpire gave Dr Grace out, to the latter's apparently utter astonishment.

With the retreat of the captain, Gloucestershire's chances of making a respectable score fell to a low ebb and the people began to leave the ground. Cricketers have become this season so habituated to long scores and brilliancy from Dr Grace that his two small innings yesterday were events of some significance. The bowling of Lockwood and Richardson was never better than yesterday; each man had an excellent pitch and each got a great deal of work on the ball. After the few good bats had gone, the sting in the attack soon settled the tail, which was considerable in the team.

Early in the day Surrey's last wicket put on 39 more runs in 25 minutes, Wood batting with much vigour, while Brockwell endeavoured to restore some of his lost reputation with a careful and finished defence that yielded 37 not out. In the analysis of the bowling a feature was the return to Mr Jessop's name. Amid all the vigour of the batting he kept a length that was too accurate to be treated with disrespect, and his six for 124 in an innings of 405 was a fine performance.

The greater part of the day was occupied with the two Gloucestershire innings. Between 12.20 and 5.30 the 20 wickets which fell averaged ten runs each. Such was the rapidity of the dismissals that the going and coming of batsmen often savoured of a procession. There were two brief spells of brightness in the Gloucestershire first innings. Captain Luard cut and drove with much power and helped Mr Kitcat to take the score from 23 to 68 for the fourth wicket, and afterwards Messrs Kitcat and Jessop, profiting from some fielding errors, added 46 for the fifth. But while the 100 went up with only four men out the whole side was gone for 129, the last six wickets falling after luncheon in 35 minutes for 34 runs. The catch by Brockwell in the slips that got out Board was quite a brilliant feat.

In the follow on against arrears of 276 Gloucestershire did badly. Dr Grace was second out at 11, four wickets were down for 12 and six for 29. Board, at a later stage, hit out vigorously, but the bowling of Roberts's middle stump was the last thing in the match, and Surrey won in the substantial way recorded above. Lockwood and Richardson bowled unchanged in the second

innings. The unevenness of the match naturally drove away much of the interest and there was little cheering at the finish. The "gate" was even larger than on Thursday; 31 short of 10,000 paid for admission and the full attendance at the Oval was about 12,000.

6 June: SUSSEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4334.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 June, page 5)

The reputation of the Hove Ground, Brighton, as a batsman's pitch was in no degree impaired by yesterday's cricket, when Sussex were engaged the whole of the time in building up a score of 480 for eight wickets.

Sussex had the good fortune to get the first innings, and after losing one of their men for 47 runs there was a big stand by Marlow and Mr Ranjitsinhji, who in a couple of hours added 226 runs. Curiously enough, both were then dismissed. Mr Ranjitsinhji cut and drove in a beautiful manner, hitting 17 fours, three threes and four twos. Marlow's 155 is the best thing he has ever done in first-class cricket. The only mistake occurred when he was just short of the 100. An idea of the vigour of his play will be gleaned from the composition of his innings, in which were 29 fours, two threes and seven twos.

Afterwards Mr Murdoch played well and with Mr Brann put on 81 for the fifth wicket, and with Bean 67 for the sixth. Mr Murdoch was seventh out at 442, having made his runs in two hours and a quarter. He hit 15 fours.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 June, page 9)

A great batting feat was achieved by Mr S M J Woods at Brighton yesterday, after the luncheon interval. He went in when the game seemed to be turning against Somerset, for four wickets were down for 97. At this point he joined Mr Poynton and at once began to bat with wonderful power and precision, hitting the bowlers all over the field. He made 50 in half an hour, 100 in 80 minutes and his second 100 in 55 minutes, while the full time of his play was two and a quarter hours. He and Mr Poynton added 193 for the fifth wicket, and he and Mr Spurway put on 89. Then at last Mr Newham caught him in the long field. The nature of his batting is indicated by the chief hits of his great display; these were 32 fours, five threes and 14 twos. Such driving as Mr Woods showed has rarely been equalled by him, either for power or finish. He made one or two bad strokes, but he gave nothing that by the widest stretch of the imagination could be called an easy chance.

This big innings by Mr Woods reduced the game to something like evenness. Sussex in the morning had increased their overnight score of 480 for eight wickets to 518. It was against this total that Somerset started in only an average manner. Messrs L C H Palairet and Fowler scored 76 in 50 minutes for the first wicket; but afterwards several men left rapidly and four were out for 97. Then came Mr Woods's innings. Mr Poynton played well and some vigorous batting by Nichols and Tyler brought up the Somerset score to 465, only 53 behind that of Sussex. Rather less than 1,000 runs have been already made in the two innings so far played.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 June, page 7)

In this match, which was left drawn on Saturday at Brighton, the Hove Ground completely sustained its reputation as a place for batsmen. The bowlers were lightly treated to the end, and no doubt Mr Murdoch did not feel inclined to risk an earlier application of the closure with such

powerful batsmen as the Palairets, Mr Woods, Mr Fowler and Mr Hill against him. As it was the aggregate of 1,344 runs for the three days closely approached the English record of 1,402 made four years ago at Brighton.

The last day's play was very interesting. The pitch showed some signs of the severe work, and early on Saturday Sussex, who had an advantage of 53 on the first innings, found themselves in a rather awkward position. Four men went for 54, but a good stand by K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr Brann steadied the side. In less than an hour, by very bright cricket, these batsmen put on 66 runs and considerably lessened the probability of defeat. Mr Ranjitsinhji was fifth to leave at 120, and in an excellent 57 he hit ten fours. Later on occurred another good stand, which placed the result of a draw almost beyond question. Parris and Mr Collins got together at the fall of the eighth wicket for 162 and added 81 runs. When Mr Collins was out the Sussex innings was declared closed.

The visitors were put in to get 297 to win – an impossible task in the hour and three-quarters left for cricket. Messrs L C H Palairet and Fowler did not trouble to force the game and in 70 minutes scored 68 runs. After the dismissal of Mr L C H Palairet and Mr Evans there was a partnership of 42 by Messrs Fowler and Hill, and then, at 118 for three wickets, stumps were drawn and the match left unfinished. Mr Fowler's innings of 56 included five fours and five twos.

10 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v DUBLIN UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4335.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 June, page 11)

Mr N F Druce, the brother of the Cambridge captain, again distinguished himself yesterday at Cambridge, when he played a brilliant innings of 116. He was only an hour and three-quarters in securing this score and, beyond a couple of difficult chances, made no mistake. His chief hits were 17 fours, four threes and seven twos.

Cambridge were batting the whole of the cricketing hours and had not finished their innings at the close of play, stumps being drawn earlier than usual – namely, at 5.30 – owing to the boat-racing. Mr Mitchell hit eight fours in scoring 40 of the first 58. Mr Marriott, who, like Mr Gray, reappeared for the home side, played soundly, as did Mr W G Druce. Mr M'Hemingway obtained ten fours in a rapid innings.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 June, page 11)

Mr L H Gwynn's fine batting was the best feature in the up-hill fight of Dublin against Cambridge, on the latter's ground, yesterday. After the last home wicket had gone for an addition of eight runs, Dublin fared so badly that eight of the side went for 47 runs. Then Mr R Gwynn joined Mr L H Gwynn and the pair added 68. Mr L H Gwynn, who was finally caught in the slips, made ten fours in his 63. The bowling of Mr Gray was an important part of the day's play, his seven wickets averaging nine runs each.

In the follow-on against arrears of 265 Mr L H Gwynn again batted excellently, while there were partnerships between him and Mr Comyn, Mr Brunskill and Mr A P Gwynn of 48, 51 and 50 respectively. Stumps were drawn earlier than usual owing to the boat racing. Dublin at present want 97 to avert a single innings defeat and have five wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 June, page 7)

Mr L H Gwynn played a fine innings of 106 for Dublin, at Cambridge, but in spite of this his side were unable to avert a severe defeat, and early yesterday Cambridge won by an innings and two runs.

Dublin had five wickets in hand on Tuesday night and wanted 97 to compel their opponents to bat again. After another wicket had gone quickly, Mr L H Gwynn and Mr Maxwell made a splendid stand of 71, but then the end came rapidly. Mr Gwynn's 106, scored in three and a half hours, included ten fours, two threes and 18 twos. Mr Lowe bowled remarkably well.

10 June: DERBYSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4336.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 June, page 11)

In a quiet day's cricket at Derby, yesterday, the game went rather in favour of the home team. Derbyshire, who batted first, were largely dependent on Davidson, Chatterton and Storer for their respectable score of 193. The first-named of these professionals went in second wicket down at 37 and was eighth out at 182. He played sound cricket and, apart from a chance to Mr Bainbridge at 47, he made no mistake. Three fours, two threes and 14 twos were the chief figures in his innings. The home side were nearly four hours in obtaining their runs.

Davidson followed up his good batting with effective bowling, and four wickets fell to him, the score then standing at 29. Messrs Bainbridge and Docker improved things . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 June, page 11)

A thoroughly interesting day's play was seen at Derby yesterday in this match. Warwickshire, who had lost four wickets overnight for 55, were dependent on Mr Bainbridge for half the runs in the first innings. The Warwickshire captain played excellently and, beyond a sharp chance to short leg late in his innings, made no mistake. He was in two and a half hours, and among his hits were eight fours, three threes and 14 twos.

The feature of the game, however, was the bowling of Davidson on the good pitch. He got nine wickets at the cheap cost of 39 runs, and the spectators showed their appreciation of his feat by contributing £15 for him.

In their second innings Derbyshire lost six men for 110, but then H Storer and Walter Sugg put on 86 in an hour, and finally, when stumps were pulled up, Derbyshire were 287 runs ahead with two wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 June, page 7)

A brilliant victory by 201 runs was gained by Derbyshire over Warwickshire at Derby yesterday. Overnight Derbyshire held a pretty strong position, for with two wickets in hand, they were 287 runs to the good. The balance of the innings yielded 25 runs, and Walter Sugg took out his bat for a soundly played 80; he gave a couple of chances at 19 and 28, while his best hits were six fours, four threes and ten twos.

Warwickshire were left with 313 to make to win, a task that proved quite beyond their powers against the splendid bowling and fielding of the home eleven. Indeed, the last innings looked like collapsing, for five men went for only 17 runs. Then came a fine attempt to save the game by Lilley and Santall, who added 72 in three-quarters of an hour. But the subsequent batsmen did little. Lilley played extremely well for his 48 and made seven fours, three threes and three twos.

10 June: MIDDLESEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4337.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 June, page 11)

The Yorkshire score at Lord's, yesterday, was not wholly the result of excellent batting. Many of the batsmen got a lot of lucky strokes through the slips, while Brown, the most rapid and the most successful of the Yorkshiremen, ought to have been twice out before he obtained 20. In fact, the Yorkshire innings, although it extended over four hours and yielded 258 runs, was a little disappointing in class. A large proportion of the runs were got behind the wicket without being by the orthodox cut. The wicket generally played well, but now and again the ball kicked, and to this fact more than one batsman owed his dismissal.

Yorkshire began so well that it seemed that Middlesex were in for a heavy day's fielding. Brown, profiting by his two sharp escapes in the slips off Hearne, threw great vigour into his game. He and Mr Jackson put on 93 in a little over an hour for the first wicket, and then Brown, whose share was 62, was bowled by Hearne; he hit 12 fours. Steadiness marked the play of Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe; but after the first long stand the partnerships ruled small. Mr Smith's 25 was by far the best hitting of the innings and the spectators seemed disappointed when he was caught at point by Sir T C O'Brien, who, standing close in to the toughest of batsmen, fielded particularly well.

The Yorkshire runs were well distributed among the side and the first nine on the "order" ran into double figures. Mr Jackson, who made the second highest score on the side, was dismissed by the finest catch of the day, when Mr Webbe ran back from mid-off and, at an awkward angle, secured the ball from a skier. Mr Jackson took 90 minutes to get his 30, and Tunnicliffe, Peel and Moorhouse were all equally careful. Mr McGregor kept wicket well and in one instance by a beautiful piece of stumping seemed to have got out Moorhouse, but the umpire gave the latter the benefit of the doubt.

Against the fast bowling of Mr Ernest Smith and Hirst the early batsmen of the Middlesex side cut up badly, but after four men had gone for 55, the best piece of batting of the day was shown by Rawlin and Sir T C O'Brien, who added 43 in the last half-hour. Rawlin made one particularly big drive, which carried the ball to the roof of the pavilion.

There were about 7,000 spectators. Middlesex are without Mr Nepean and Mr Philipson, whereas Yorkshire are fortunate in being able to muster their strongest side. Middlesex are 160 behind with six wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 June, page 11)

The cricket at Lord's yesterday was altogether of a better class than that of the opening stage. Early visitors saw the balance of the Middlesex innings yield excellence in cutting and driving by Sir T C O'Brien and Mr Hayman; and then, after luncheon, Tunnicliffe, by powerful driving, ran up a hundred, which, with other good scores by Brown and Denton, gave Yorkshire a very commanding position.

In the early hours Middlesex were successfully engaged in reducing the match to one of evenness. They completely shook off the effects of the bad start on Monday night. Rawlin did not satisfactory

much longer, but his partnership with Sir T C O'Brien produced altogether 52 runs. Mr Vernon made 32 of 49 in half an hour, after which Mr Hayman and Sir T C O'Brien played beautifully and raised the score from 156 to 230 for the eighth wicket. Sir T C O'Brien, who was eighth to go, well caught on the off-side by the wicket-keeper, made his 76 in a couple of hours. As for Mr Hayman, who is a member of the Hampstead Club, he has never played better for Middlesex. Among his figures were eight fours.

In spite of good bowling and fielding Middlesex managed to get within two runs of their opponents' score of 258, so that up to lunchtime it was a very good match. But in the afternoon the Yorkshire men were very successful. The beginning of the third innings was vigorous; but it was after Mr Jackson had left at 36 that the long partnerships, which turned the game, occurred. Brown with Tunnicliffe put on 95 in 80 minutes, and then Denton and Tunnicliffe for the third wicket added 86. Tunnicliffe's driving was the best point in his fine innings of 101, which he played in two hours and a quarter. His chief figures were 16 fours, three threes and three twos. Both Tunnicliffe and Brown were dismissed by good catches at wicket; and it may be further added that the former has never before played a three-figure innings for his county.

In Denton Yorkshire seem to have found another capital batsman; his style is excellent and he has a variety of good strokes. His 57 were the result of a well-measured defence and he hit nine fours. The best thing near the close of the day was the right-hand catch at short slip by which Hearne got out Wainwright. Yorkshire finished well, for they were 277 on with four wickets in hand. There were about 5,000 people present.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 June, page 7)

The Middlesex eleven played very badly at Lord's yesterday. The pace of the ball and the good bowling were too much for them, and soon after 4 o'clock their second innings came to an inglorious end, and they were beaten by 298 runs.

While the wicket bumped a little, it may be taken that feebleness in batting was the chief contributor to their downfall. Such a fine array of batsmen as were mustered by Middlesex ought to have done better than to get out for 115 on a pitch on which Yorkshire had done so well. This poor fourth innings was saved from utter insignificance by Sir T C O'Brien's merry display; but he owed his success to a bad blunder in the field, before he had scored at all.

The best cricket was that in the morning, when Yorkshire, who had lost six men overnight for 275, obtained 136 more runs at the cost of another batsman. Things were lively to begin with, for Mr Ernest Smith made 19 out of 32 in 20 minutes before being caught at wicket. And for the next 70 minutes there was some excellent batting by Lord Hawke and Moorhouse, who put on 104 runs, and then the Yorkshire captain applied the closure rule, leaving Middlesex with 414 to get to win in almost four hours and a half. Moorhouse's 65 included eight fours, five threes and three twos. Lord Hawke hit out fearlessly, making eight fours, two threes and five twos in his 52.

The admirers of the famous Middlesex amateurs must have been very much disappointed with the sorry figure which the home men cut. Mr Stoddart, Mr Webbe, Mr McGregor and Rawlin all went for 16, and either Hunter or Tunnicliffe might have at once caught Sir T C O'Brien before he had scored, for the ball had kicked and the striker had skied it, but each of the fieldsmen mentioned thought the other was going for the catch and the ball fell to the ground before them.

After this things momentarily looked better for Middlesex. Sir T C O'Brien hit hard and Mr Lucas played steadily; but at 58 the rapid dismissal of the side set in again. Mr Lucas played on, while a beautiful right-hand catch high up at extra slip by Wainwright disposed of Sir T C O'Brien, sixth at 79. The other four wickets averaged nine runs each and Yorkshire won by 298 runs.

From their play in this match the Yorkshire eleven seem to have run into form. There is no lack of batting right through the side, while their bowling talent is very considerable.

10 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4338.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 June, page 11)

Slow scoring marked the play in this match at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, and there was not a very large attendance. Mr Dixon and Pike reappeared for Nottinghamshire and Mr F W Stocks again found a place in the visitors' eleven.

Before lunch the cricket was bright and Leicestershire, who went in first, made 109 for the loss of four wickets. Tomlin hit vigorously and made his 36 out of 50 in 40 minutes. Holland played carefully. After the interval five more batsmen were dismissed for an addition of 46. Chapman then showed extreme caution in defence and was over three hours getting his 39. Wilkinson bowled well.

The best batting was seen in the last hour of the day, when Mr Jones and Gunn played finely for Notts.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 June, page 11)

Two hundreds were scored at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, by Mr A O Jones and Gunn, who made a remarkable stand of four hours' actual play and added, by finished batting, 230 runs for the second wicket. Steadiness marked the play of the men and neither ever seemed inclined to take the risk of forcing the game; but while the scoring was often slow the batting was always excellent.

Mr A O Jones has never before played a three-figure innings for his county. His cricket this season is very good and he at last shows signs of confirming the opinions formed of his game when he was at Cambridge. In his 118 were nine fours, 16 threes and seven twos. Gunn only survived his youthful partner by about a quarter of an hour, being third to leave at 246. Beyond an easy chance to point at 41 he made no mistake, and his general play possessed all that skill in every stroke to which people familiar with his cricket are accustomed. He hit 11 fours and eight threes.

The ultimate Notts score did not reach the dimensions promised by the early figures. Six men were out for 262, while the total was 312. Leicestershire were 120 behind and they lost a wicket in the second innings. Rain fell heavily after stumps were drawn.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 June, page 7)

Yesterday, at Trent-bridge, Nottinghamshire beat Leicestershire by an innings and 16 runs. The fine batting of the home side on Tuesday had given them a big advantage but, although Leicestershire lost a wicket for seven runs, against the arrears of 120, it was generally expected that they would at least avert a single innings defeat.

However, after a storm yesterday morning, the effective bowling of Handford made victory pretty well assured for Notts. The pitch was false, and such was the success of Handford that he had brought about the dismissal of five more men by the time the score reached 35. Mr Hillyard and Geeson strove to put a brighter aspect on the state of affairs and added 26 runs, and then the

amateur, with Lorrimer in, obtained another 37 for the eighth wicket. Lorrimer, however, should have been easily caught for 12. Mr Hillyard was tenth to leave, after a 75 minutes' stay for 36.

Handford came out with a fine analysis, while Attewell had a record in the match of seven wickets for 78 runs. Nottinghamshire would have won even more easily had their fielding been better.

10 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4339.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 June, page 11)

As the University, owing to the schools, were able to play only three old Blues at Oxford yesterday, this match was shorn of some of the interest usually attached to the visit of the team from Lord's.

However, Mr Mordaunt had the satisfaction of seeing his side do well. He himself was its best support, for by fine batting he made his 95 in two hours and a quarter, and in an innings that was almost faultless contributed 17 fours. He received most help from Mr Baiss, the Rugby Union footballer, with whom he added 103 for the fifth wicket. Mr Baiss made six fours and three threes.

Earlier in the innings Messrs Foster and Warner out on 74 for the second wicket. Marylebone went in for a little while . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 June, page 11)

The Marylebone team were at the wicket during the greater part of the cricketing hours at Oxford yesterday, and there was some particularly good batting by Alec Hearne and Bean, the latter of whom has not this season had an average share of good fortune.

It was the big total of 319 that the M.C.C. had to face, and that they should exceed this by 31 was a performance of great merit. The two batsmen already mentioned laid the foundation for a good score by making 122 in 90 minutes for the first wicket. Bean then fell to a wonderful one-hand catch behind point. In his 62 were eight fours. Mr Bathurst and Captain Quinton gave Alec Hearne some aid; but the last-named was out leg-before when he seemed almost certain to get his 100. His innings of 95 was free from error and extended over two hours and a half, during which he hit nine fours and nine threes. Subsequently the best thing was the brilliant stand by Mr Hewett and Mr Philipson, who added 54 in a little over half an hour, while Martin, with Board and Mead, put on 31 and 35 respectively. Mr Hartley's slow leg-break bowling was very successful.

Oxford did not do well in the last hour, but Mr Mordaunt played good cricket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 June, page 7)

Oxford severely felt the absence of many of their best cricketers in this match, which ended at Oxford yesterday in a substantial win for Marylebone by five wickets. The Dark Blues had begun their second innings rather indifferently on Tuesday, losing four men for 99 runs, a score that left them only 68 on.

Yesterday morning Mead, the young Essex bowler, made the most of the aid afforded by the pitch and, by a fine piece of work, got the whole of the outstanding wickets at a cost to himself of only 23 runs. His last spell of bowling came out thus: - 13 overs (4 maidens), 23 runs, six wickets. Mr Mordaunt only slightly improved his overnight score and Marylebone were left with 133 to make for victory.

Bean was out before a run was scored; but afterwards Mr Hewett and Hearne obtained 71 in less than an hour, while another partnership, between Captain Quinton and Mr Hornsby, produced 37. Mr Hewett hit six fours in his 49.

10 June: SURREY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4340.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 June, page 11)

The cricket world has long since grown familiar with the wonderful performances of Mr S M J woods in different matches, but his feats at Kennington-oval yesterday, first as a batsman and then as a bowler, will certainly add to his already great reputation.

Somerset went in on a bad wicket and the side looked like going to pieces, for five batsmen fell before Richardson and Lockwood, who were getting a great break on the ball, for 16 runs. Then it was that Mr Woods rose to the occasion. He was let off at point by Mr W W Read when he had scored three, but afterwards he played beautiful cricket and defied the efforts of Richardson and Lockwood. Eventually, after partnerships of 75 in 40 minutes with Mr Evans, Mr Woods was eighth out, easily caught at mid-on. He made his runs in rather more than an hour and three-quarters, and hit ten fours and nine twos. Altogether the last five Somerset wickets produced 170 runs, so that the 186 was an extremely good total after the bad start. Richardson and Lockwood both bowled well and made the most of the assistance afforded by the condition of the turf.

Surrey began badly, losing Lockwood, Hayward and Holland for 21 runs. But the steadiness of Abel and Mr Walter Read checked the run of disaster and 50 were added for the fourth partnership. Then the run of ill-luck for Surrey set in again and eight wickets were down for only 118. Abel, who played very well, left sixth out at 100. Wood should have been caught at point first ball, after which he and Brockwell added 42 in half an hour and made the game more even. Mr Woods followed up his fine batting by taking six of the eight wickets. It should be noted that Somerset are without Mr L C H Palairet.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 June, page 11)

Surrey beat Somerset at Kennington Oval yesterday by nine wickets. After many fluctuations the game on Monday evening had reached a pretty even position, Surrey having two wickets to fall and standing at 26 less than the first innings of Somerset.

On a pitch that still helped the bowlers, Brockwell and Wood continued the eighth and long partnership, which was to be the turning-point of the match. How great the effect of a missed catch may be was thoroughly exemplified in the case of Wood, who had been let off before he had scored. He took out his bat for 77. His cutting was very clean and in driving, too, his success was considerable; but it was a fortunate innings altogether, for, after being missed twice on Monday night, he was thrice let off yesterday – by Mr Evans, in the long field, and Mr Hill.

The crowd seemed well pleased to see Brockwell come off again. He started carefully but, having played himself well in, his cricket became very brilliant. It is curious how successful Brockwell has been since his position on the "order" was reduced. He is one of those batsmen, of whom there are many, who will often show to more advantage going in fifth or sixth wicket down than at the beginning of an innings. He and Wood added 146 runs while they were together in 105 minutes. Brockwell's best hits were a five and ten fours, while Wood's vigorous display included a five and 13 fours. Mr Woods had a fine analysis.

Somerset had arrears of 83 to rub off when they went in a second time. The pace and break of Richardson were too good for most of the visitors, none of whom gave much trouble save Mr Hill. It was a very fine ball which got Mr Woods out. Mr Hill played very soundly for his runs and, going in first, was seventh to leave at 82. Subsequently, the arrears were cleared off, while Surrey lost only one wicket in making the necessary runs to win. On both days Richardson bowled with great effect, and his aggregate for the match was 11 wickets for 147 runs.

Tuesday 11 June, page 11: NATIONAL TESTIMONIAL TO DR W G GRACE

The committee of the Marylebone Club met yesterday evening in the pavilion at Lord's, Lord Harris, the president of the club, in the chair. Mr Henry Perkins, the secretary of the M.C.C., officially informs us that it was decided that the memorial from Gloucestershire asking that the M.C.C. superintend a national testimonial to Dr W G Grace be approved of, the decision be unanimous.

A sub-committee was formed to carry out the resolution of the general committee, and Lord Harris will preside to-day at its first meeting, the committee considering that no time should be lost in pushing forward the scheme. Subscription lists will be opened at Lord's for the testimonial, the success of which will depend on the spontaneous action of the cricketing community.

M.C.C. AND GROUND v KENT. – At Lord's, on Thursday, Mr H H Massie, the famous batsman of the 1882 Australian team, will make his first appearance for Marylebone . . .

Wednesday 12 June, page 11: THE NATIONAL TESTIMONIAL TO DR W G GRACE

Lord Harris presided over a meeting of the sub-committee of the M.C.C. in the pavilion at Lord's yesterday, the business being to consider the most comprehensive way of carrying out the national testimonial to Dr Grace so as to bring it within university reach of cricketers and cricket clubs and associations. Various resolutions were formulated for submission to the Marylebone general committee, who have been specially summoned to discuss the proposals to-morrow at Lord's.

With the view of co-operating with Gloucester in the matter, it is proposed to invite the Duke of Beaufort and Lord Fitzhardinge, the pre and vice-president of the Gloucestershire Club, to assist the M.C.C. in carrying out the testimonial scheme.

13 June: ESSEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4341.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 June, page 11)

There was not very much to choose between the cricket of the sides at the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, yesterday; but Somerset got a slight advantage, inasmuch as the last three Essex wickets must produce 71 runs to draw level.

The best thing in the Somerset batting was the play of Mr Fowler, who, going in first, made 64 out of 127, being fourth to leave. He obtained most of his runs by good driving and his chief hits were nine fours. As the 100 went up with only two men gone the ultimate score of 191 was scarcely so large as might have been expected. The last four wickets went for nine runs. Mead and Pickett bowled wonderfully well.

Essex began successfully, Mr Fane, the old Carthusian and Oxford Freshman, and Carpenter scoring 46 before the first wicket fell, while Mr Fane, who batted in good style, was second out at 75. Five more batsmen were dismissed for an additional 45 runs . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 June, page 15)

In this match at the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, the cricket has run remarkably even, and last night when stumps were drawn it was practically "anybody's game," for Essex with six men to go wanted 87 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 June, page 11)

After an exciting finish Essex beat Somerset at Leyton on Saturday by two wickets. It was a wonderfully even game from beginning to end, and the position of affairs on Friday night, when Essex, with six men to go, wanted 87 to win, left the result an open question.

Carpenter, the not-out, and Burns ran the score to 121, while Mead's vigorous play was a great contribution towards success for Essex. But suddenly the game changed, for three wickets went at 165 and, with only two men left, Essex still wanted 23 runs. Mr Kortright and Mr Bull, however, managed to get these and secured the victory as recorded above. Walter Mead had a good share of this first success of Essex in the championship, for he took altogether ten wickets at an average cost of 12 runs, and also got over 30 runs in each innings.

13 June: HAMPSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4342.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 June, page 11)

A long delay through rain rather spoiled the play at Southampton yesterday, and the hours available for the game were mostly occupied with Hampshire's first innings. Between 12.50 and 3.35 not a ball was bowled.

Hampshire began very well and had 110 up with only two men out, but the pitch grew treacherous, and after the third wicket had gone at 113, the last seven put on only 47. Barton and Mr Ward added 60 for the third partnership in as many minutes. Mr Ward was very fortunate, having a couple of lives at 23 and making sundry other bad strokes.

When Yorkshire went in they lost Brown very quickly. Mr Ernest Smith is absent from the north country side, while Captain Wynyard's military duties keep him out of the Hampshire team.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 June, page 15)

With the pitch ruined by rain at Southampton yesterday Yorkshire at one period of the day had a stern uphill fight before them; but, as they have so often proved, there is no "tail" to the side and they finished up with a respectable lead on the first innings. When the home county batted a second time things went badly for the, and now with six men to go they are only 21 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 June, page 11)

Hampshire played Yorkshire a very good match on the occasion of the latter's first visit to Southampton and, after fighting well in an uphill game on Saturday, were only beaten by the north countrymen by five wickets.

On Friday night, while four of their best men had gone, Hampshire in the second innings were only 21 runs ahead. The balance of the innings was completed in 75 minutes and 57 were added. At one period of the morning the Hampshire prospect grew quite bright, for with the loss of only one more man the home score ran to three figures. Soar then left for a capital innings of 30, and the last four wickets fell for an addition of 16. The Yorkshiremen bowled and fielded well.

Although the pitch was difficult, Yorkshire seemed to have a light task to make 79 to win. Mr Jackson played finely and with Brown put on 44 in 40 minutes for the first wicket; but Baldwin and Soar got out five men before the game was decided. Baldwin bowled excellently in both innings and his double analysis showed nine wickets for 90 runs. There was another good attendance to see the last day's cricket.

13 June: LANCASHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4343.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 June, page 11)

The Surrey eleven gained a great advantage in this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, when there were about 12,000 spectators. Both Surrey and Lancashire have been doing exceptionally well, and this contest was looked upon as a crucial test of their merits.

But as it turned out Lancashire, through ill-judged running, made less use than was expected of the opportunities afforded them of batting first on a beautifully-true pitch. A glance at the score will show how three good wickets were thrown away on the score of "run out." Later in the day Surrey turned their advantages to account. Robert Abel played excellently and, helped by the latest and skilful recruit to the side, Holland, laid the foundation for a big score.

Lancashire's friends must have been sorely grieved by the early incidents of the match. A Tinsley and Albert Ward threw their wickets away in attempting short runs, the good returns of Smith from cover-point contributing largely to their dismissal. Surrey fielded splendidly and the bowling of Richardson was very good. Lancaster and C Smith made the first stand of the innings and put on 39, Smith being then out through attempting a fourth run, while at the fall of the ninth batsman the score was only 109. The visitors' fielding was not so good after luncheon, and Mold, profiting by two escapes, and Hallam added 50 for the last wicket. Lancashire were all dismissed for 159, an innings that lasted three hours.

When Surrey went in Lockwood stayed with Abel until 44 and Hayward remained until 61. Then came Holland who, in spite of a chance at mid-off, played finely and helped Abel to carry the score to 154 before he was caught in the slips. The partnership lasted only 85 minutes and yielded 93 runs. Abel showed all his old skill of defence and was quick to punish a bad ball. When stumps were drawn Surrey, with only three men out, were 18 runs ahead.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 June, page 15)

Robert Abel, in his long and excellent career with the Surrey eleven, has rarely played better cricket than that by which he got his 157 on Thursday and yesterday at Old Trafford, Manchester. It was this fine innings of his that mainly helped Surrey to build up the great lead of 223. Abel went in first and was seventh to leave at 312. From start to finish he seemed to have great command over the ball, although here and there perhaps a slightly mistimed hit would occur. He stayed lasted four hours and a quarter and he made 16 fours, seven threes and 13 twos.

Fortune fought hard for Surrey during the day. Not only did the several severe rain showers keep the wicket easy and the ball wet for the fieldsmen, but Mold, Lancashire's best bowler, had to retire from the game in consequence of an injured hand. Lancashire, with nine wickets in hand, are 200 runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 June, page 11)

Surrey gained a brilliant victory over Lancashire, on Saturday, at Old Trafford, Manchester, by an

innings and 39 runs. After the way the game had gone on the first two days, this result was in no degree unexpected. Albert Ward played sound and finished cricket; but, fortunately for Surrey, his partnerships were not generally very long.

He and Paul began the day pretty well with a stand of 44 for the second wicket, and then Sugg helped considerably. But Hayward, who had gone on early, bowled with much effect; and when the fifth wicket went, the score was only 121. Mr Tindall and Ward were together three-quarters of an hour and added 35, and then, with seven men out, Lancashire still wanted 63 to avert an innings defeat. Another stand by Lancaster and Ward yielded 24, and then the end came quickly. Mold's injured hand prevented him from going in. Ward's well-played innings extended over four hours and included eight fours, six threes and seven twos. Hayward's bowling was one of the best features of Saturday's cricket, of which there were some 4,000 spectators. This is Lancashire's first defeat of the season.

13 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v DUBLIN UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4344.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 June, page 11)

This match was begun at Leicester yesterday. The county played a first innings of 210, and Dublin made 126 for four wickets. Mr L H Gwynn is not out 71.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 June, page 15)

In this match at Leicester yesterday there were two individual three-figure scores. Mr L H Gwynn took his bat out for Dublin for 153, and in Leicestershire's second innings Tomlin was not out 102.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 June, page 11)

After three days' excellent cricket at Leicester the county won this match on Saturday by 126 runs. Late on the third day it became a race against time, an Leicestershire, who had declared their innings at an end, had only ten minutes left when the last Dublin man had gone.

13 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4344.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 June, page 11)

It was left to the last two hours of cricket to furnish the best batting at Lord's yesterday – that was the time when Kent [were] in. The M.C.C. innings, which began at midday and went on to 4 o'clock, was full of dullness; but the good cricket of Alec Hearne and Mr Mason after 4 o'clock went a long way to compensate for the early shortcomings. Gunn was away, while another bowler or two would have been of much service to them. Mr H H Massie, a member of the third Australian Eleven, appeared for M.C.C.

Dr Grace made a few fine, powerful drives, but his innings was not good. He was almost bowled and caught before he had scored, while, after surviving an appeal for a catch at wicket, he was ultimately leg-before to Martin for 56. His 30 stood as the best score of the innings. When six men had gone for 85 the score promised to be very small, but a stand of 37 by Attewell and Storer for the seventh wicket and another of 38 by Brown and Mr Grace, jun., improved matters, and by 4 o'clock an innings of three hours had yielded 184. The best points of the play were the fine bowling of Martin and the fielding of Kent.

Mr Mason and Alec Hearne made a good beginning for Kent and in an hour and a half scored 113 for the first wicket. Alec Hearne played particularly well from the time he went in, and his driving and cutting were of the best quality. He was run out through a good piece of work by Mr C W Wright, fielding deep at third man, and Storer, the wicket-keeper. Among his figures were seven fours, five threes and two twos. Mr Mason was second out at 130, and made five fours. Mr L Wilson and Easby afterwards played vigorously. Kent finished up the day with a big advantage, being 22 runs on with seven wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 June, page 15)

Dr W G Grace completely sustains the high standard of scoring which he set in May, and he continues to outstrip his more youthful rivals in the matter of hundreds. Yesterday for the third time this season at Lord's, and for the fifth time this year, he ran into three figures.

His 125 yesterday was even of greater merit than its mere numerical strength would indicate, for the runs were made on a dusty and crumbling wicket, with the ball often keeping low. Yet, under these trying conditions, Dr Grace threw into his cricket all his old brilliancy, driving and cutting with great power and rarely failing to punish a ball well up on the leg side. His innings, however, was marred by a life at 15, when Mr Leslie Wilson dropped a catch in the long field – a costly blunder for Kent. The champion never afterwards gave his opponents a chance, and the side, already familiar with Dr Grace's vigour from Gravesend experiences, saw him batting for three hours and a half.

In trying to hit Walter Wright he got under the ball, put it up towards mid-off, and the bowler running towards there made an easy catch. He went in first, made his 100 out of 231 in two hours and three-quarters, and was ninth out at 293 for 125; his best hits were 11 fours, two threes and 19 twos. Dr Grace's fine batting had a great effect on the position of the game, which it completely turned.

Kent seemed to have the match in hand on Thursday night, for with only three men out they were already 22 runs ahead; but Davidson and Attewell made the ball break to such an extent that the last seven men were got rid of cheaply – in fact, an hour and ten minutes saw the completion of the innings for an additional 56 runs. Mr Wilson obtained only seven more; he played extremely well and hit seven fours.

When Marylebone went in a second time Dr Grace and Chatterton put on 62 for the second wicket; but the most brilliant part of the batting was during the partnership of Dr Grace and Mr H H Massie, the old Australian. The latter drove with great power and made 36 of the 65 scored in half an hour for the third wicket. Storer was in with his captain when the latter ran to his 100, and he contributed 27 to the stand of 72 in less than an hour.

Kent's task of getting 221 to win was in no sense easy, for there were a lot of bad patches on the pitch. So, what with Attewell's fine bowling and Storer's finished wicket-keeping, the Kent eleven in the last hour had a bad time, losing four men for 16 and closing with five men only left and 183 still necessary to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 June, page 11)

With the wicket broken up there was little prospect of Kent's last five batsmen making the 183 runs necessary for success at Lord's on Saturday morning, and the result as presaged by the position of the match on Friday night was a win for M.C.C. by 111 runs.

Two more wickets went quickly and seven were down for 43; but then for 20 minutes Mr Marchant and the Rev F Meyrick-Jones played vigorously and added 43. Eventually Attewell bowled the three last men out, bringing his full record in the game to 11 wickets for 158 runs.

13 June: SUSSEX v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4346.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 June, page 11)

A remarkable feat by Sir T C O'Brien and Mr Lucas marked yesterday's cricket on the ground liked by all batsmen, the Hove, Brighton. Mr Webbe, for the first time this season, won the toss, and the early batting, although excellent, presaged in no way the extraordinary play of the afternoon.

By good sound cricket the first four wickets raised the score to 146, and then Mr R S Lucas was joined by Sir T C O'Brien. This proved a remarkable partnership: it extended over three hours and a quarter and yielded 338 runs. Both batsmen played splendidly every stroke of the game, and the bowlers were met with an easy and powerful precision, especially in driving and cutting. The third and fourth hundreds were each obtained in a little over an hour.

Mr Lucas has not before played so well for Middlesex. He went in second wicket down at 111 and was fifth out, caught well in the long-field, at 484. Beyond a couple of difficult chances at 35 and 108 he made no mistake, and hit 23 fours, five threes and 12 twos. This partnership was fast approaching Shrewsbury and Gunn's record stand of 398 in the Notts v Sussex match five years ago, while it was within two of Mr Key and Mr Philipson's 340 in Oxford v Middlesex at Chiswick Park. Sir T C O'Brien's career in cricket has been very brilliant, and yesterday's batting will rank among the best things he has achieved. His strokes all round the wicket were good and he gave no chance. He is still not out.

Mr M E Pavri, of the Parsees' Team, plays for Middlesex under the residential qualification. Indisposition prevented Phillips for appearing, and his place is filled by J E West.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 June, page 15)

After a lull, during which the turf recovered from the morning's rain, there was a renewal of the heavy scoring at the Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday, and Sussex once more showed their remarkable capacity for fighting an uphill game.

For some time, however, the bowlers had matters a little their own way. Alfred Shaw gave the later batsmen of Middlesex a taste of his old skill with the ball, and secured the last four wickets at a cost to himself of only 36 runs. Indeed, Middlesex, who had 498 for six overnight, completed their innings for an addition of 58 runs.

Sir T C O'Brien's 202 was, of course, the great feature of the big score of 556, and in his many fine feats in important cricket he has never exceeded this record. He went in fourth wicket down at 146 on Thursday and was yesterday seventh to leave at 531, a catch in the long field dismissing him. His 202 was made without a chance at the rate of 50 an hour, and he hit 27 fours, seven threes and 12 twos.

Before luncheon Sussex lost four men in three-quarters of an hour for 56 runs; but subsequently such a great change came over the game that only one more wicket fell in the addition of 245 runs. Mr Brann and Mr Newham stayed together two and a half hours and put on 165. Mr Newham made some false strokes to begin with, but he soon settled down and played good cricket, and hit nine

fours. Afterwards Mr Brann continued his excellent innings, and with Bean advanced the score to 301 for five wickets.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 June, page 11)

Heavy scoring marked this match on the Hove Ground, Brighton, to the end, and on Saturday Sussex managed to make a draw with their powerful opponents. In the three days the aggregate runs amounted to 1,259 – a record that tells plainly what a bad time the bowlers experienced.

Sussex generally come out well in an uphill fight, and they never did better than on Saturday when, even though completing a first innings for 362, they had to follow on against arrears of 204. The foundation for their splendid second total was begun by the brilliant cutting and driving of K S Ranjitsinhji, who once more demonstrated the success he has brought to the batting of Sussex, and then at a later stage there was a fine three-figure innings (the fourth in the match) by Mr Newham, which finally settled the issue of the contest.

More than once on Saturday Middlesex appeared to have the game in hand, and the prospects were brightened at the start by a rapid close of the first Sussex venture, in which the outstanding five wickets went down for an addition in 70 minutes of only 61 runs. Mr Brann obtained another single before being caught in the slips for 115. This innings had occupied him three hours and three-quarters, and his best hits were 15 fours and three threes.

When Sussex followed on, K S Ranjitsinhji's fine batting was the chief feature [of] the play. Still things seemed to go steadily against Sussex, and when five men had left the side were still 83 behind and there were two hours and a half left for play. Ranjitsinhji's 64 consisted, among other items, of a five and ten fours. The sixth partnership between Bean and Mr Newham saved Sussex the match. It lasted less than an hour and a quarter and yielded 115 runs, Bean for a second time playing extremely well.

Another long stand by Parris and Mr Newham produced 92, while the latter himself was eighth out for 126, made in three hours. The vigour of Mr Newham's batting will be judged from the fact that he hit 21 fours, four threes and six twos. The position of the draw was that Sussex, with two wickets to fall, were 127 runs to the good.

Friday 14 June, page 11: THE NATIONAL TESTIMONIAL TO DR W G GRACE

At Lord's yesterday the sub-committee of the Marylebone Club issued the following information relative to the national testimonial to Dr W G Grace: -

"It is intended to address directly all county clubs and all prominent provincial clubs, but there must be many others whose titles and addresses are not easily accessible to the committee which would, however, be reached through the medium of the Press. The committee would be greatly obliged if the Press of England generally would notify that any club or person, on intimating to Mr Henry Perkins, the secretary of the M.C.C., a desire to assist in collecting subscriptions, will receive the circular letter of invitation and such subscription cards and collecting books as may be needed.

"The committee would also be greatly obliged if notices could be, from time to time, inserted in the Press to the following effect: - 'Mr W G Grace National Testimonial Fund, under the authority of the Marylebone Cricket Club. – Subscriptions to the above fund can be remitted to the secretary of the M.C.C. or paid in direct to the Grace Testimonial Fund at Sir S Scott and Co., 1, Cavendish-square, London."

Saturday 15 June, page 15: ARTHUR SHREWSBURY

This famous batsman's health has so far improved that he has decided to accept the invitation of the Notts Committee to play for his county against Lancashire at Trent-bridge next Monday, the occasion of Flowers' benefit.

Monday 17 June, page 11: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The following are the positions up to the present: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	8	6	1	1	5
Lancashire	5	4	1	0	3
Yorkshire	6	4	1	1	3
Hampshire	3	2	1	0	1
Gloucestershire	5	3	2	0	1
Derbyshire	3	1	1	1	0
Nottinghamshire	5	2	2	1	0
Leicestershire	6	3	3	0	0
Middlesex	5	1	2	2	-1
Sussex	5	1	2	2	-1
Kent	3	0	2	1	- 2
Essex	5	1	3	1	- 2
Warwickshire	7	0	3	4	-3
Somerset 6 0	4 2 -4	4			

The points are secured by the deduction of losses from wins; drawn games are ignored.

Monday 17 June, page 11: THE OXFORD ELEVEN

It is understood that Mr Mordaunt has given the following "blues" for the match with Cambridge at Lord's: - Mr H A Arkwright, Mr F H E Cunliffe, Mr P F Warner. Mr Cunliffe is the well-known Eton Freshman, and the other two are Seniors.

17 June: KENT v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4347.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 June, page 11)

The Tonbridge Week has become quite an institution in Kent cricket and bids fair to rival Canterbury. Both the ground and the town were gaily decorated yesterday in celebration of the annual festival.

The wicket was hard and true, and it was another calamitous day for the bowlers. No catches were dropped, the ground fielding was always good and the bowlers kept a nice length; yet all these good things failed to keep the Middlesex total within normal limits. Middlesex occupied the wickets almost the whole of the cricketing hours and put together 359 runs. Attention should perhaps be drawn to the fact that, owing to the 10.10 South-Eastern train from Charing-cross arriving 40 minutes late (i.e., the train was two hours and ten minutes covering 29 miles), the start of the match was delayed until 20 minutes to 1. The change from a commonplace record to one that was extremely good was wrought late in the afternoon, when Mr J Douglas, the old Cambridge "blue," and Dr Thornton put on 135 runs in 85 minutes for the ninth partnership.

At the beginning of the day Mr Stoddart and Mr Hayman obtained 57 in a little over half an hour for the first wicket. Subsequently the innings progressed steadily. Mr MacGregor and Mr Lucas batted very brightly after luncheon, and the score reached 139 before the former was bowled off his legs. He played soundly, and in his 50 were five fours, while he had a two increased to six by an overthrow. In spite of a stand for 57 by Mr Lucas and Sir T C O'Brien, the score was only 215 when the eighth wicket fell.

But the best batting occurred after a quarter-past 4, when Mr Douglas and Dr Thornton made their long stand of 135. Dr Thornton, who then played on, hit ten fours. Mr Douglas took out his bat for 77, an admirable innings, free from fault. He was in rather less than two hours, and hit seven fours, two threes and 12 twos. Kent had a quarter of an hour's batting . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 June, page 10)

The Middlesex bowlers achieved a fine feat in getting Kent out twice at Tonbridge for an aggregate of 316 runs on a hard and true wicket. Middlesex won late in the afternoon of yesterday by an innings and 43 runs. Rawlin bowled with wonderful effect in the first innings.

Easby never played better than in making his 73 in an uphill fight yesterday on the Angel Ground, Tonbridge. Between 25 minutes to 12 and rather more than a quarter past 1 the balance of the Kent innings was finished off, the last eight wickets yielding 96 runs. Mr Cooper played steadily; but the feature of the innings was the play of Mr Marchant, who, going in third wicket down at 8, was fifth out at 77. He made 51 out of 69 put on while he was in.

The home side followed on with arrears of 256. This time Mr Mason and Alec Hearne started pretty well; but after 39 had been reached the game steadily ebbed away from Kent, and with five wickets down for 71 the case was hopeless. Easby revived the interest in the match, and Mr Baiss and Mr Le Fleming helped in bringing the score to respectable dimensions. Easby scored his 73 in 80 minutes, and hit ten fours, three threes and four twos. Mr Baiss, who helped Easby to put on 67

for the sixth wicket, and Mr Le Fleming and Martin, who added 34, contributed some brightness to the home innings and lessened the severity of the defeat. Rawlin had a long spell of bowling, and his full record of nine wickets for 71 runs was a remarkable performance.

The Kent team will be strengthened for the Lancashire match to-morrow by the inclusion of Mr W H Patterson, Mr L Wilson and Rev W Rashleigh in place of Mr Cooper, Mr Lee and Mr Weigall.

17 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4348.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 June, page 11)

As Hampshire were raised to the first-class this season, they were given a three days' match at Lord's, which was begun yesterday. Good progress was made with the game, a fact that in some degree could be traced to the parched state of the wicket, which was a little fiery.

The Hampshire eleven came up to Lord's with pretty good credentials. The best feature of their cricket was the batting of Captain Quinton, who, going in fourth wicket down at 46, was ninth to leave at 160. He hit nine fours and three threes during the hour and three-quarters that he took to make his runs. His best partner was Mr R Bencraft, who helped him to add 52. Geeson came out with a capital analysis.

When Marylebone went in Baldwin bowled with great effect, taking seven wickets at an average cost of a fraction under eight runs each.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 June, page 10)

Hampshire beat Marylebone at Lord's yesterday by 54 runs. The match was keenly fought on a fiery wicket and, in this dry season, furnished the novelty of the bowlers getting the upper hand from beginning to end.

17 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4349.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 June, page 11)

Wilfred Flowers, to whom the Notts executive are devoting the "gate" of this match as a benefit, is one of the best all-round cricketers ever possessed by Nottinghamshire. He made his mark in the English Colts' trial at Lord's in 1877, and came with a bound into important cricket, and ever since, both as a batsman and slow bowler, he has rendered great services to his county, at the same time upholding the name of that famous Nottinghamshire village of Sutton-in-Ashfield, which has produced such other good men as Barnes, Briggs and Bean. An injury to his hand kept him out of the eleven yesterday; but the game gathered interest from the re-appearance of Arthur Shrewsbury, who came to the front about the same time as Flowers. Mr C W Wright kept wicket for Notts and Pike stood out.

The Lancastrians, getting first innings on a fast and true pitch, were batting the whole day and scored 315 for the loss of seven men. This big total was almost entirely the work of three member of the side. Albert Ward bore away chief honours with a three-figure score. He played with masterly patience that was apt to grow dull to the onlookers. But the day gathered brightness from the dashing innings of Frank Sugg, whose powerful driving was in marked contrast to the steadiness of Ward and Tinsley. The two last-named put on 136 for the second wicket in two hours and a half. Tinsley's best hits were four fours, six threes and five twos.

Ward, who went in first, was fourth to leave at 292. He was batting nearly five hours for his 116, making no mistake and obtaining two fours, nine threes and 22 twos. Sugg, who helped Ward to put on 131 in 90 minutes, contributed 12 fours, two threes and ten twos. About 3,000 visited the Trent-bridge ground.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 June, page 10)

Fifteen wickets for 85 runs, on the Trent-bridge Ground yesterday, furnished a startling record by Arthur Mold, the famous Lancashire fast bowler, on his recovery from an injured hand. Nottinghamshire were beaten by an innings and 188 runs.

On a pitch that helped him slightly, Mold made the ball break in a wonderful manner. He got out Shrewsbury, Daft, Mr Dixon and Mr Wright with consecutive balls in the first innings, the first three all playing on. Such was the collapse of Notts that five wickets fell for six runs, and the whole side went in less than an hour for 35.

In the second innings Nottinghamshire shaped better; but the fear of Mold was still upon them. The fast bowler's great pace and break were too much for them. A little life came to the batting through some freedom by the later members of the side; but Nottinghamshire were badly beaten.

It is curious to relate that Mr Hornby only yesterday morning decided to run the risk of playing Mold, whose hand was not thoroughly well. There was a pretty good attendance yesterday, yet it is to be feared that, unless Flowers's subscription lists are well filled, one of the most worthy cricketers of Nottinghamshire will have only a moderate benefit.

17 June: WARWICKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4350.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 June, page 11)

The 10,000 spectators at yesterday's cricket at Edgbaston, Birmingham, although prevented by force of circumstances from seeing Dr Grace bat, must have been well pleased with the fine play of the home county. Gloucestershire were in the field the whole day and, in spite of the heavy scoring, they fielded well to the end.

A long partnership between Mr Hill and Walter Quaife started the sub Warwickshire score; but after rapidly putting together 81 these batsmen were separated. It was a remarkable catch that later on disposed of William Quaife, while Mr Hill fell to the wicket-keeper at 166. Mr Hill's was a splendid innings, devoid of mistakes. His batting was particularly strong on the leg side, and he hit 12 fours.

After six men had gone for 212 there was a great stand by Lilley and Mr Glover, and this lasted from a quarter to 5 until the closing over of the day, the figures running to 337. Lilley was then out for 135. His innings was one of the best things he has ever done for the county. He made his runs in less than three hours, and the 25 fours, four threes and four twos which he contributed testify to the vigour of his play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 June, page 10)

There were 10,000 spectators of Gloucestershire's severe up-hill fight at Edgbaston, Birmingham, yesterday, when Dr Grace, after a good first innings, was dismissed for 11 in the second.

Warwickshire, who had lost only seven men on Monday night for 337, were all out for an addition of 70. The best feature of the closing part of their batting was the 78 by Mr Glover, whose runs were the result of a well-measured defence. He was in two hours and three-quarters, and 13 fours were among his figures. Roberts bowled successfully in a very long innings.

Gloucestershire's first venture occupied the greater part of the rest of the day. Dr Grace and Wrathall made a stand of 66 for the second wicket, but after the former's dismissal for 43, in which were six fours, the side were out rapidly, six going for 124. Mr Rice and Mr Dearlove played well and added 49 in an hour; but Gloucestershire had to follow on with arrears of 200. For the second time in the match "W.G." was caught at wicket, and at the finish the visiting team, with two of their members gone, were still 175 behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 June, page 10)

Two days' cricket in this match at Edgbaston, Birmingham, presaged the severe defeat which yesterday overtook Gloucestershire, who were beaten by an innings and 24 runs. With Dr Grace and another batsman dismissed after the "follow-on" and the arrears still 175, Gloucestershire's position on the third morning was not happy.

The best thing in the closing stage of the match was the batting of Mr R W Rice, who, helped by

several other members of the side, notably Board, made a spirited attempt to save the game. Mr Rice was eventually stumped through the ball rebounding off the wicket-keeper's pads. He was in rather less than two and a half hours for his 64, and a sound and faultless defence marked his cricket to the end. Eight fours and five threes were among his strokes. Mr Glover bowled remarkably well for Warwickshire.

17 June: YORKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4351.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 June, page 11)

The excellence of Yorkshire's start in this match at Park-avenue, Bradford, yesterday, was not sustained, and after the fine batting of Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe the score did not pass beyond ordinary limits. The hours of cricket were shortened by the bad light, which caused an interruption of about 75 minutes.

Bradford has to some extent the reputation of being a batsman's ground, and the fact that the rate of over 70 runs an hour was maintained did not injure its reputation. Although Yorkshire have had only two victories against Surrey in the last nine seasons, the match is always one of much keenness and there was a crowd of about 10,000 present.

During the stand for the second wicket Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe carried the score from 17 to 123 in 80 minutes. Both men played fine cricket. Mr Jackson made eight fours, while Tunnicliffe, who was fourth to leave at 133, hit ten fours and four twos. After luncheon the run-getting was quick, and so, too, was the dismissal of batsmen, for the last six went in 50 minutes for 71 runs. Wainwright did well but was only ill-supported. Richardson kept an excellent pitch and his bowling figures were very good.

The delay through the bad light occurred during the Surrey innings. Maurice Read and Abel made 54 for the first wicket . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 June, page 10)

Another fine innings of 108 by Hayward, one of Surrey's best batsmen, and some splendid bowling by Richardson were the main elements that carried Surrey to the admirable position in which they found themselves last evening at Park-avenue, Bradford, Yorkshire having then lost four of their men in hitting off 101 of their arrears of 102. There were 10,000 spectators.

Surrey, who had two wickets down overnight for 82 runs, were batting until about half-past 4. Hayward and Wood batted with great vigour, their partnership yielding 79 runs in 75 minutes. Hayward played with all that grace and soundness which are invariably allied with his batting. Going in first wicket down at 54, he was eighth out at 276, having given no chance in getting his 108 in four hours. His best hits were nine fours, six threes and eleven twos. Wood is batting very well this season and his contribution yesterday was particularly valuable to his side.

Lockwood, owing to a feverish cold, was unable to take the field when Yorkshire went in a second time. His bowling was much missed. The home side made a splendid start, and Mr Jackson, who was in his best form, and Brown put on 70 in 50 minutes; but Richardson went on again and in the last half-hour got four wickets. Surrey were thus left with the advantage.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 June, page 10)

The Surrey eleven gained a brilliant victory over Yorkshire at Bradford yesterday by eight wickets.

For once the Yorkshire "tail," which has so often rescued its side from a bad position, failed, and the innings collapsed for a mere 131 - 29 more than the arrears on the first innings.

The position of affairs on Tuesday night pointed to Surrey's success, but scarcely to so striking a victory. With four men gone Yorkshire had scored 101 and were still a single to the bad. But Richardson bowled with great effect and was ably seconded by Smith, who, in the absence of Lockwood through a chill, took the opposite end. In 35 minutes the last six Yorkshire wickets fell for an addition of 30 runs. Richardson, who has been bowling wonderfully well this season on the hard wickets, had again a good analysis, and his full record for the match was 13 wickets for 134 runs.

Surrey lost Mr Key and Maurice Read in getting the 30 necessary to win. From beginning to end the Southerners played excellently alike in batting, bowling and fielding.

Tuesday 18 June, page 11: THE NATIONAL TESTIMONIAL TO DR GRACE

The M.C.C. committee held their usual weekly meeting in the Pavilion, at Lord's, yesterday, when it was decided to subscribe 200 guineas to the Grace Testimonial Fund. Subscriptions are invited to the testimonial and may be sent to Mr Henry Perkins, the secretary of the Marylebone Club, Lord's Ground, N.W.

Mr W Allison, hon. secretary of the Sporting League, writes from 46a, Pall-mall, yesterday: - "The following resolution was passed at a meeting of the executive council of the Sporting League held this day: - 'That the secretary be instructed to recommend members of the Sporting League throughout the country to lose no time in subscribing to the W G Grace Testimonial, and so practically demonstrating their support of the League's principles.' I trust that this resolution will be acted on in a most substantial fashion by all our friends according to their means."

Melbourne, June 17. – No united action has yet been taken in the Australian colonies with regard to the testimonial to Dr W G Grace, but the Sydney ground trustees express their willingness to cooperate in collecting contributions if they are invited to do so by the Marylebone Cricket Club. The fact that a testimonial was recently presented to Giffen may militate against the success of the movement in the colonies. – Reuter.

20 June: GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND v I ZINGARI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4352.html)

Thursday 20 June, page 10: THE JUBILEE OF I ZINGARI

In recent years the Zingari have been strengthened by many of our leading amateurs, and for the jubilee celebration match at Lord's to-day, when they meet the Gentlemen of England, the Zingari team will include . . . [list follows for both teams, containing most of the leading amateurs in English cricket.]

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 June, page 11)

The Zingari in a fitting manner celebrated their jubilee at Lord's yesterday when their side against the Gentlemen of England was one of the most brilliant that could well be got together. Mr A G Steel snatched a few hours to visit once more the scene of his triumphs alike for Marlborough, Cambridge, Marylebone and England, and he found himself in the midst of the flower of English amateur cricket.

As for the Gentlemen, Dr W G Grace, in consequence of county matches, was unable to command a strong bowling team. The very best conditions prevailed, and the condition of the pitch at Lord's showed that the old ground could still furnish the best of batsmen's wickets. It was satisfactory to find that the public, in the rush for county cricket, have not wholly deserted the game when played without the feverish excitement engendered by the championship. The pavilion and members' enclosures were crowded as they have not been before this season, and the general cricket community was represented by a company some 5,000 strong.

The Zingari have rigidly preserved the amateur traditions of their organization for 50 years. It is interesting to quote the following minute from their records having reference to the origin of the now famous club: - "In July, 1845, F Ponsonby, S Ponsonby, J L Baldwin and R P Long . . . found themselves at supper at the Blenheim Hotel. They then and there formed a club, christened the same, framed rules, and the following day informed W Bolland that he was perpetual president, and 20 of their friends that they were members of I Zingari."

"Fred" Ponsonby (the late Lord Bessborough) was the central figure of this famous cricketing party, of which the majority are now no longer living. Tom Taylor ("the liberal legal adviser" of the club) and Robert Grimston (the hon. treasurer) were among the original members. Mr J L Baldwin, the first vice-president, and Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, also an original member, were both at Lord's yesterday; and the former received the hearty congratulations of his many friends in the pavilion. Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, who is honorary treasurer to the M.C.C., is one of the most familiar figures at Lord's.

There was no lack of excellence in the cricket. When the Zingari went in first, it was thought, in view of the weakness of the bowling, that the last might not be seen of them by 7 o'clock. The way in which Mr Hewett and Mr Jackson started supported this view; but Dr Grace's lobs effected the first separation, and then Mr Fry and Mr Burnup did nearly all the rest of the execution, and by halfpast 4 the formidable Zingari were out for 289. The Gentlemen were lucky to dismiss them for this total; but it is one of the curiosities of cricket that a wonderful batting team will sometimes give way before moderate bowling. The secret, of course, often lies in the inclination of the batsmen to

hit out at almost everything. Mr Fry was especially successful with the ball.

The batting honours were well distributed among the side. The longest partnerships were 75 by Mr Hewett and Mr Jackson, 56 by Mr Stoddart and Mr Mordaunt, 42 by Sir T C O'Brien and Captain Wynyard, and 59 by Captain Wynyard and Mr Steel. The stands were respectively for the first, third, fifth and seventh wickets, and all were the result of fine batting. Mr Hewett hit ten fours in his 51 out of 75 in 70 minutes, and Captain Wynyard, whose driving was clean and of great force, made nine fours, four threes and two twos. Mr A G Steel's 38 was a well-finished innings but a trifle cautious.

The Gentlemen were batting from 5 o'clock to 7. Dr Grace played excellently until he was quite beaten by a ball from Mr Steel. Mr Massie made his 26 in a quarter of an hour, and the other best things were the catches by Mr Mordaunt in the long field and by Mr Vernon at cover-point.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 June, page 15)

The second day of the celebration of the Zingari jubilee, at Lord's, went in favour of the batsmen in a manner that might well have been looked for from the first. With the wicket as hard as iron and possessing thorough trueness, cricketers marvelled that the bowlers should have escaped so lightly on Thursday; but they were not allowed to repeat their successes yesterday, when the hours of play were full of brilliant batting and a great rate of scoring was maintained.

The thing that is most strange is the capital position in which the Gentlemen stand, with incomparably weaker bowling than the great Zingari side possess. The public went in thousands to Lord's to see the continuation of the match, and the bright play was followed with quite an enthusiastic interest.

The Gentlemen's last five batsmen gave great trouble yesterday and added 263 runs. Long stands were plentiful. Young Mr Grace and Mr Fry put on 78 for the sixth wicket, Mr Hill and Mr Grace 76 for the seventh, Mr Burnup and Mr MacGregor 53 for the ninth and Mr Burnup and Mr Kemble 50 for the tenth. Young Mr Grace hit 11 fours in his 79 and Mr Hill got his 73 in 80 minutes by seven fours, three threes, 11 twos and singles. But the best cricket was that by Mr Burnup, the old Malvern boy, who showed remarkable skill in the cut, the drive and in placing the ball on the leg side. He took out his bat for 66 as the result of an hour and three-quarters' play, and his chief hits were eight fours, four threes and six twos.

One of the best incidents of the day was the wonderful catch in the long-field by Mr Mordaunt, the Oxford captain (than whom there is no better out-field), who, getting back near the bank in front of the pavilion rails, held the ball high up with his right hand and dismissed Mr Hill. The balance in favour of the Gentlemen on the innings was 122.

When the Zingari went in a second time they lost Mr Jackson and Mr Hewett for 61; but Mr Mordaunt and Mr Stoddart played beautiful cricket. The former, who was the best bat at the Universities last year, has a splendid style, which was well demonstrated yesterday; while Mr Stoddart, after starting carefully, played with great power and was very severe with Dr Grace's lobs. The result of the Stoddart and Mordaunt partnership was that 122 runs – the exact number of the arrears – were obtained in an hour. Mr Stoddart, who was fourth out, made his 92 in 100 minutes by a five (a cut run out), 14 fours, two threes, eight twos and singles. The best thing in the subsequent play was the left-handed catch by Dr Grace at point, which got out Sir T C O'Brien.

Captain Wynyard and Mr Steel were careful in the last two or three overs, and the position at the finish was that the Zingari, with five wickets to fall, were 102 runs on.

At the luncheon interval Mr J L Baldwin, vice-president of I Zingari since the club's institution, presented each member of the eleven with an edition of the jubilee record of the Zingari, in which the origin and progress of the club are set forth.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 June, page 11)

Another great innings by Dr W G Grace marked the closing day of the Zingari Jubilee Festival at Lord's. There has been much excellence in batting in the previous stages of the match; but it was left to Saturday to furnish the best feat and one that enabled the Gentlemen of England to win by ten wickets.

Dr Grace and Mr Sellers hit off the 172 which the Gentlemen had been set to win in 100 minutes. The champion was in his best form, coming down on the ball with all his old power and showing his characteristic skill in placing it between fieldsmen. The pace of his scoring was very fast; he made his 50 out of 75 in 40 minutes, and in an hour his figures were 72 out of 102, while he reached his 100 at 166 in about 95 minutes. Beyond difficult one-handed chances in the slips to Sir T C O'Brien and Mr Stoddart when 30 and 74, Dr Grace played faultlessly in one of the fastest of his three-figure innings of the season. This is his fourth hundred at Lord's this year and his sixth altogether in the season, while his aggregate now stands at 1,503 for 20 innings (two not-outs), yielding an average of 83. His chief hits were 11 fours, five threes and nine twos, while Mr Sellers made 12 fours in his powerful 70.

In the morning Captain Wynyard, who has made such a great name in Hampshire cricket, treated the spectators to some fine hitting for the Zingari, who, with five wickets to go and only 102 runs on, had the worst of the match on Friday night. Captain Wynyard was seventh to leave at 271, having made 51 in an hour by four fours, two threes, six twos and singles, while the balance of the Zingari innings yielded 69 runs altogether, which left the Gentlemen 172 to make for victory. It was very curious to find perhaps the best side the Zingari could possibly get together beaten on a beautifully true pitch at Lord's by a team much its inferior in bowling talent. The wicket, on which 1,165 runs were made, wore well to the end.

The Zingari must feel very gratified for the splendid conditions which existed for their jubilee and with the large amount of interest taken in it by the general public. Mr John Loraine Baldwin, the annual vice-president of the club since its institution, was photographed with the rest of the jubilee side during Saturday's luncheon hour.

20 June: KENT v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4353.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 June, page 11)

If deprived of a third day in the first match of the week, the Tonbridge Festival still prospers, and the keen and even cricket, the beautiful weather and the company of 5,000 people made the opening of the second game completely successful.

Lancashire ought to have done better than score 154 on the good wicket; and they were indebted to the kindness of the home fieldsmen for much of the respectability attaching to this total. Five distinct catches dropped cast a shadow on the Kent fielding; but apart from these errors the returns were wonderfully good. The bowler who most felt the errors was Walter Wright. Lancashire's innings, which occupied about three hours, had for its salient features the batting of Albert Ward and Mr Benton. The latter captained the side in the absence of Mr Hornby. Ward played with his characteristic care, whereas Mr Benton hit out vigorously.

When Kent went in the bowling of Briggs and Mold was so effective to begin with that five wickets fell for 55 runs. This course of disaster for the home side was checked by Mr Wilson and Easby, who made a 75 minutes' stand and put on 88 runs. Mr Wilson hit six fours in his 51. Kent in the end finished the day with three men in hand and only five runs behind.

The Kent eleven is stronger than that which lost to Middlesex. Mr Patterson, however, was unable to play and Mr Weigall was thus kept in the side. It was the latter, together with Mr Baiss at wicket, who offended chiefly in the matter of missing chances.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 June, page 15)

The great feature in yesterday's cricket at Tonbridge was the batting of Albert Ward and Frank Sugg, who, in a long partnership of 100 minutes, put on 151 runs for the third Lancashire wicket. Sugg's 125 carried off the chief honours of the day. Sugg played beautiful cricket against good bowling and fielding. Without giving a chance Sugg made 125 out of the 215 put on between the fall of the second and ninth wickets in two hours and a half, and he was then bowled, the ball going off his glove into the wicket. He hit six fours, a three and ten twos.

Albert Ward was in over three hours for his 79; he played very steadily and generally waited for the bad balls from which to score. His chief figures were eleven fours. When the 200 went up with only two men out Lancashire seemed in for a very heavy total; but after Ward had been caught at the wicket for 216, the rest of the side steadily succumbed to the good Kent bowling and fielding, and the best stand subsequently was that for the last wicket by Baker, whose hand is still bad, and Mold; these two added 39.

With the pitch in such good order there was not much to choose between the sides on the first innings. Briggs got the last three Kent men out early in the morning at a cost to himself of 13 runs, and the home side finished up with a lead of 26. Kent had to make 294, and in the 20 minutes before the drawing of stumps they lost Mr Marchant for 23 runs.

During the morning a bad trap accident occurred through the horse bolting inside the ground. It

resulted in the injury of Mrs Robert Mellor, of West Malling, who was among the occupants thrown out of the vehicle.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 June, page 11)

With several of their best batsmen comparatively failing in the early hours, at Tonbridge, on Saturday, Kent seemed likely to be badly beaten; but the splendid cricket of Easby, Mr Le Fleming and Mr Baiss gave quite a brilliancy to the close of the innings, and Lancashire had to fight hard to win by 75 runs.

The wicket was still hard and true, but the Kent side were very steadily dismissed, chiefly by Mold, so that when the sixth man went the score was only 102. Mr Weigall had played pretty well, although he had three lives, two at the hands of the wicket-keeper and one by Harry Tinsley, who was fielding substitute for baker. It may here be remarkable that Lancashire on Saturday were generally lax in the field.

The Le Fleming and Easby partnership brought back interest to the game. Mr Le Fleming made some fine strokes and Easby, too, played a strong game all round the wicket. Sixty-nine were added by the stand, and then within a few overs both men were bowled, and Kent's chances were almost wholly gone. Easby seems at last to have run into form, and his fine batting on Saturday, following his other successes last week, must be very gratifying to his Kent friends. His 52 were made in an hour and a half and he hit six fours. Mr Baiss, of Oxford and an old Tonbridge boy, batted extremely well and, helped by Wright, put on 28 for the last week. Mold bowled with great effect.

Although Kent met with defeat in both matches of the week, the Tonbridge festival in point of weather and attendances was one of the most successful yet held.

20 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4354.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 June, page 11)

By the aid of their later batsmen Surrey scored heavily at Leicester yesterday, and the present position of the game points to their avenging their defeat earlier in the season at the Oval.

For a long time yesterday Surrey fared ill, and only Abel's good batting helped them to get to 123 for the loss of seven wickets. Up to this point the visitors fought hard for their runs; but a change was at hand in the shape of brilliant hitting by Street, Wood and Smith. The first-named of these three ran many risks in his great forcing game and had two escapes just after passing 50. Having scored his 100 in two and a quarter hours, he punished the bowling with much severity. He and Wood put on 89 runs for the eighth wicket, and he and Smith 156 for the ninth.

Abel hit nine fours in the 69, which occupied him two hours and a quarter, while Wood's best items were seven fours and four threes. Street has never before played a three-figure innings for Surrey. The score of 368 for nine wickets was a remarkable change after the first five had gone for 55 runs. Street and Henderson are appearing for Mr Key and Lockwood, the latter being unwell.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 June, page 15)

Surrey beat Leicestershire last evening at Leicester by an innings and 91 runs. The result was not surprising after the heavy score made by the southern team on Thursday, although, perhaps, the full severity of this defeat was not expected.

Only a little time was occupied in the completion of the Surrey innings, in which nine wickets had fallen overnight for 368. Street took out his bat for 161, a score far in excess of anything he has previously done in important cricket. Save for the two escapes after making 50, his fine dashing innings was pretty free from error. He obtained the runs in three hours and a half and hit 25 fours, seven threes and six twos.

The batting in both the innings of Leicestershire was of a very ordinary type. Richardson bowled splendidly and had a record for the match of 12 wickets for 165 runs, while Hayward, without sending down a complete over in either innings, got out three men and had no run made from him.

20 June: SUSSEX v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4355.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 June, page 11)

There were many features of interest in the cricket at Brighton yesterday, when the Hove ground once again preserved its good name for fast scoring, the aggregate of the day falling short of 500 by only a single. The lobs of Humphreys were too puzzling for the majority of the Cambridge men, whose first innings was rescued from insignificance by the well-played 96 of the old Etonian, R A Studd, who seems likely to keep the name of this celebrated cricketing family in prominence. He went in first wicket down at 43 and took out his bat. His stay extended over two hours and a quarter, and his best hits were 11 fours, three threes and six twos. So well did Humphreys bowl that six of the visitors left for 102. Mr Burrough then helped Mr Studd to put on 64, and the next three batsmen all ran into double figures.

In the last two hours and a half of the day Sussex scored 263 for three wickets. This was to a great extent the result of the play of Mr Wilson and Mr Murdoch, the latter of whom is still in. They put on 129 for the second wicket, and the former, who got his 96 in 75 minutes without giving a chance, hit 18 fours. Mr Newham assisted his captain to add another 84 and, in the end, Mr Murdoch was not-out 106, this being his first three-figure innings this season. Sussex, who are trying a new left-hand bowler, Cox, of Horsham, at present hold a great advantage . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 June, page 15)

The Hove Ground, Brighton, is a heart-breaking place for bowlers at most times, and this fact was keenly brought home to the Cambridge men yesterday, when Sussex put together the score of 592, the highest ever made by the county at Brighton. Of these 263 had been recorded overnight for the loss of three wickets, and yesterday's additional 329 occupied four hours and a half.

The feature of the innings was Mr Murdoch's 226. He had gone in first wicket down on Thursday with the score at 17, and yesterday he was fifth to leave at 536. This great master of batting, who often made his skill felt when playing in the various Australian elevens, showed clever defence and took six hours to obtain his runs. He gave no chance and his best hits were 33 fours, seven threes and 15 twos.

There were several notable partnerships. Mr Murdoch and Mr Brann put on 188 runs for the fourth wicket. Mr Brann played more carefully than usual and was nearly three hours getting his 92, in which were 12 fours. For the fifth wicket 118 runs were added by Mr Murdoch and Bean. The latter was eventually eighth to go at 569, having contributed 92 to the 151 put on while he was in. He forced the game at a great pace and was very powerful in the off-drive and the cut. In his 92 were 17 fours. The last five Sussex wickets fell for 56 runs. Cambridge, who were 356 behind, again did badly against Humphreys's lobs . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 June, page 11)

The Cambridge eleven were decisively beaten at the Hove Ground, Brighton, on Saturday, by an innings and 100 runs. They were left in a poor position on Friday night, for three of their chief men

had gone in the second innings and the arrears were still 307.

After all the hard work on it the pitch had grown rather dusty, while a sea mist occasionally came over the ground, so that the addition of 207 for the last seven Cambridge wickets was a performance on much merit. The chief batting honours of the day were borne off by Mr Lowe, Mr Marriott and Mr Hemingway. Mr N F Druce soon got out; but Mr Marriott and Mr Hemingway put on 61 by sound cricket. Mr Marriott's 58 was a fine innings and included seven fours.

Then Mr Lowe for 80 minutes threw great life into the game, hitting 11 fours, three threes and five twos in getting his 74. He had two useful partners in Mr Burrough, who stayed while 53 were added, and Mr Shine, who helped to obtain 40. In consequence of an injured hand, Mr W G Druce, the captain of Cambridge, batted last and was the not out.

20 June: YORKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4356.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 June, page 11)

Derbyshire almost invariably give Yorkshire a good game, and the match which opened at Leeds yesterday promises to follow precedent. They kept the home side in the field until very late in the day; and there were many points of excellence in their batting.

The early stands of Mr Wright and Walter Sugg for 54 and of Mr Wright and Storer for 65 were not, however, followed up until the tenth partnership with anything very substantial. Mr Wright was in two hours and a quarter and left third at 136; and six more men went for an addition of 65 runs. Chatterton, who played sound cricket, found an able partner in Porter, who helped to add 54 for the last wicket. In the little time they were in Yorkshire lost Brown.

Derbyshire are trying two new men in Hall, a fast bowler, and John Goodall, the international Association football player. The Yorkshire bowling and fielding yesterday were scarcely up to the average.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 June, page 15)

There was an even and interesting day's play on the Headingley Ground, Leeds, yesterday, and the result up to last night seemed a pretty open question. The promising start made by Tunnicliffe and Denton, who raised the score to 97 before the second Yorkshire wicket fell, was followed by a series of disasters to the home county, and with eight men out Yorkshire were 109 behind. Lord Hawke, who is in very good form this season, gave a brilliant finish to the innings. He made his 54 in 75 minutes, and was well backed up by Lees Whitehead and Hunter.

Derbyshire, who were 35 to the good, lost three men for 29; but Storer and Sugg put on 53 in 35 minutes, after which there was a steady dismissal of batsmen, and at the finish Derbyshire were 189 ahead, with three wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 June, page 11)

Yorkshire were beaten by Derbyshire by 107 runs at Leeds on Saturday and finished up a disastrous week, for they had lost to Surrey at Bradford on the Wednesday. Their play against Derbyshire was in no degree worthy of their reputation, whereas Derbyshire, making the most of their opponents' loss of form, were seen to much advantage.

The third morning found the game in a particularly even state, the visitors having a lead of 189 and still three wickets to fall in the second innings. Another three-quarters of an hour saw the completion of the Derbyshire batting, and Yorkshire then had to make 228 to win.

As the ground remained pretty true there seemed a probability of the task being accomplished. Indeed, the public were unprepared for the feeble defence of the home batsmen. Wainwright this time went in first, but the changing of the order did not work any good results, for Wainwright, Brown, Denton and Tunnicliffe were all out in 35 minutes for 21 runs. After Mr Milligan and Peel

had added 28, Mr Walker took up the bowling, with disastrous results to Yorkshire, who at luncheon time had seven men out for 67 runs. Lord Hawke, for the second time in the match, batted well, but he could not keep off defeat. There were between three and four thousand spectators of the Derbyshire victory.

Friday 21 June, page 11: THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

At a meeting at Leeds yesterday the Yorkshire County Club decided to give 20 guineas to the National Testimonial to Dr Grace and also £5 each to the benefit funds of Abel, Shilton, Flowers and Mycroft.

Monday 24 June, page 11: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties up to date are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	10	8	1	1	7
Lancashire	7	6	1	0	5
Hampshire	3	2	1	0	1
Derbyshire	4	2	1	1	1
Yorkshire	8	4	3	1	1
Gloucestershire	6	3	3	0	0
Middlesex	6	2	2	2	0
Sussex	5	1	2	2	-1
Nottinghamshire	6	2	3	1	-1
Leicestershire	7	3	4	0	-1
Essex	5	1	3	1	-2
Warwickshire	8	1	3	4	-2
Kent	5	0	4	1	-4
Somerset	6	0	4	2	-4

24 June: DERBYSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4357.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 June, page 11)

Two fine innings by Chatterton and Storer were the chief aids to Derbyshire's long score of 347 for six wickets at Derby yesterday. The batsmen named got together when the record was 139 for four, and in a two hours' partnership added 170 runs, the two men being out within an over or so of each other, caught at wicket.

Storer played a very strong game and in his 87 were 12 fours, five threes and five twos. Chatterton's cricket was marked by its steadiness. He stayed for four hours and a half, and without giving a chance hit 12 fours and ten threes. Early in the innings Sugg and Chatterton put on 62 for the third wicket. Leicestershire bowled and fielded well.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 June, page 6)

Derbyshire did well at Derby yesterday and, after increasing their overnight figures from 347 for six wickets to 392, they got their opponents out for 180. The best thing in the close of the home innings was the stand of H Storer and Bagshaw, whose partnerships yielded altogether 70 runs. Derbyshire's total of 392 was made in six hours.

Leicestershire fared badly. Mr de Trafford made 28 of 32 in half an hour. By luncheon five wickets had gone for 53, while afterwards eight were down for 100. Geeson and Woodcock put on 59 for the ninth wicket and the innings closed for 180.

The visitors, 212 behind, followed on, and Mr de Trafford and Holland scored the first 40 in 17 minutes, but the former was missed at cover-point by H Storer. Leicestershire are still 153 behind with ten wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 June, page 11)

In this match at Derby the Leicestershire eleven came out well in an uphill fight, and managed to draw with their opponents. This was a very credited feat after following on against 212, and a result much unexpected.

They began yesterday with a deficit of 153. Mr de Trafford and Holland, the not-outs, made 124 for the first wicket. Mr de Trafford hit 12 fours, four threes and four twos. Porter continued to bowl so well that half the side were out for 139. But then came a careful and long stand by Chapman and Pougher, who in three hours added 121. Pougher was bowled, having contributed nine fours, seven threes and 11 twos. A bad light stopped the game at half-past 5, and soon afterwards a heavy thunderstorm caused the match to be abandoned as a draw. Chapman was in three and a half hours for 33.

24 June: ESSEX v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4358.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 June, page 11)

At the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday, the bowling was good and successful batting was only occasional. Warwickshire had the best of the day's cricket, finishing up with a lead of 17 and four wickets still in hand.

The fine start for Essex made by Mr Fane and Carpenter, who scored 80 for the first partnership in 70 minutes, was not followed up by the rest of the side, for after these batsmen were separated the other nine wickets went for an addition of 56. This collapse was largely due to Santall, whose second spell of bowling produced the following figures: - 18 overs and three balls, six maidens, 27 runs, six wickets. Mr Fane played remarkably good cricket and was eighth out at 116 for 55, in which were nine fours. Carpenter showed his usual care and made some fine strokes.

When Warwickshire went in the best batting was shown by the brothers Quaife, of whom Walter was the more successful.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 June, page 6)

Warwickshire beat Essex at the Lyttelton ground, Leyton, yesterday, by three wickets. It was something of a bowler's match from beginning to end, and Santall, Pallett and Walter Mead each brought about the dismissal of nine men. The visitors had rather the better of the position on Monday night, having made 153 for six wickets against 136. However, Mead got the four outstanding batsmen at a cost to himself of 12 runs.

At their second attempt Essex did not do so well as they had done in their first innings, and two hours and a quarter saw them dismissed for 118. The best piece of batting was shown during the partnership of Mr M'Gahey and Higgins, who put on 44 for the third wicket, while Mead hit up 39 of the last 49 runs.

Warwickshire had 85 to make to win. Three of their men went for 13; but a stand of 42 in half an hour by William Quaife and Lilley soon set doubts as to the result at rest. However, various other batsmen were out before, at half-past 5, Warwickshire won the three wickets.

24 June: MIDDLESEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4359.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 June, page 11)

The cricket rivalry between the two metropolitan shires is of the keenest and, as Surrey reached Lord's yesterday from a brilliantly victorious tour, contrasting with the Middlesex record this season, there was no deterioration in the attention given to the first stage of the first of this year's fixtures. At the start the crowd was very large, and it swelled to great proportions as the day wore on; the pavilion and members' inclosures were all very full and the attendance was about 12,000.

The day's cricket favoured Surrey, but it possessed no remarkable feature of excellence if the fine batting of tom Hayward in the last hour and a half be excepted. Middlesex had the advantage of first innings and managed to make the fairly respectable score of 220. The innings began just after mid-day and went on until half-past 4. The best piece of batting was by Mr Vernon, who went in fifth wicket down at 111 and was seventh out, caught at wicket, at 189.

Mr Stoddart and Mr Hayman began fairly well and the latter was not out until 36. Then came a steady dismissal of the side. Mr Stoddart made a few good hits, but at 66 he was the third to leave, bowled off his pads. Rawlin hit out vigorously and made 26 of the 39 put on for the fourth partnership, while Phillips was ever cautious in his play and stayed 80 minutes for his 27. After the sixth wicket had gone at 123, Mr Vernon and Dr Thornton put on 66, but the latter was eventually caught at mid-off. A little free hitting by Mr Geoffrey Marks and J T Hearne livened things towards the close of a dull innings. It may be remarkable that after luncheon Lockwood, through indisposition, had to retire, and Brockwell, who stood out of the team, fielded substitute.

Surrey in scoring 113 for the loss of three batsmen secured rather the better of the day's play. They began badly, losing Maurice Read in the first over; but Hayward and Abel played fine cricket and rapidly went to 77, when Abel running in to his Phillips put up the ball in the slips. Hayward cut and drove in brilliant style and got his 64 in 90 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 June, page 6)

Yesterday's cricket at Lord's was made interesting by the batting of Hayward, the vigour of Street and a choice, if brief, innings by Mr Stoddart. But most of the excellence belonged to Surrey, whose total, though it did not reach the dimensions promised by the product of the first five wickets, gave them a solid lead on the first innings and left them at the end of the day with a more than fair prospect of victory.

Middlesex never got over the handicap imposed on them by their wicket-keeper, Mr Marks, who missed both Hayward and Mr W W Read before either scored double figures, and although the fine fielding generally, and that of Mr Bathurst in particular, had the effect of keeping the early scoring below a normal rate, the old story of missed catches losing matches will probably be well brought home to Middlesex.

The great thing of the day was Hayward's 111 for Surrey, the third 100 made by this batsman for Surrey during the season. The power of the great Cambridge Hayward seems to have been completely transmitted to his son [nephew!], who has a perfect style. His skill in every stroke was

well demonstrated in his latest hundred. A large part of his innings occurred on Monday evening, and yesterday he was two hours going from 64 to 111. He had gone in first wicket down at 3, and beyond an easy chance to Mr Marks with his figures at eight there was no error in his play. Having got his 100 he forsook his more correct game and, after hitting Phillips twice on to the pavilion, was out to a well-judged catch in the long-field. His innings occupied three hours and a half, and he obtained eleven fours, eight threes and seven twos.

Mr Read and Hayward made the best stand of the day, scoring 75 for the fourth wicket, but next to Hayward the best Surrey performer was Street. He hit no fewer than 13 fours in his 60. Mr Key played with a little freedom; and after luncheon there was something like a collapse of the Surrey innings. Hearne and Phillips bowled so well that the last five wickets went down in three-quarters of an hour for 37 runs. Throughout the morning the Middlesex fielding and bowling were equally good; but the Surrey record was not nearly so heavy as had been expected. Still the 74 lead proved quite enough for Middlesex to deal with.

Nr Stoddart and Mr Hayman made an excellent start, obtaining 48 for the first wicket. Mr Stoddart, in fact, looked like being in for 100. His batting was of a wonderful class. However, Richardson at 48 bowled him with a ball that kept low. Sir T C O'Brien stayed until the arrears had been cleared off; but afterwards Richardson's beautifully true bowling destroyed any chances of evenness in the match. Mr Hayman did well and was third out to a clever piece of stumping at 98. Beyond a very good 20 by Mr Vernon the rest of the innings possessed nothing of merit, and by a quarter past 6 it was completed for 171.

Aided a little by the dusty wicket Richardson bowled well and kept his wonderful pace and pitch for a spell of two hours and a quarter. There were about 12,000 spectators of the cricket. To-day Surrey have to make 98 in the second innings to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 June, page 11)

As the wicket remained hard and true at Lord's yesterday the expected easy victory of Surrey was completely realized, and in the course of a little more than an hour Maurice Read and Abel, by some very brilliant batting, hit off the 98 runs necessary for success, Surrey winning by ten wickets.

Read played with something like his old dash and hit seven fours and five twos, while Abel made five fours and three twos. Maurice Read scored the winning hit to square-leg for four off a bad ball from Mr Stoddart. Abel by his 41 ran far past his 1,000, and is second, next to Dr Grace, to obtain his four-figure aggregate for the season.

Middlesex journey to Manchester to-night for the match with Lancashire. Mr A J Webbe and Mr MacGregor come into the team for Mr Bathurst and Mr Marks, the latter of whom by his many errors imposed such a severe handicap on his side against Surrey.

24 June: SUSSEX v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4360.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 June, page 11)

Yesterday's cricket at the Hove Ground, Brighton, on a good wicket was again marked by batting triumphs. Mr G L Wilson and Marlow made a great stand for the first Sussex wicket. They went in at noon and were not out until five minutes past 4, having run up 303. There was a light shower in the morning, and this, with the luncheon interval, reduced the actual time of their batting to two hours and 50 minutes. This partnership closely approached the record of 346 made by Mr Hewett and Mr L C H Palairet at Taunton in the Somerset and Yorkshire match in 1892.

Mr Wilson was first out through an easy catch at mid-on. There were a few dangerous hits in Mr Wilson's innings, the most notable of which was a chance to Mr Fry at mid-off when he had made 58. his chief figures were 27 fours, four threes and ten twos. His driving was very powerful. Marlow, who was second out at 326, played more precise cricket and took three hours to get his 130, in which were 18 fours, four threes and seven twos. There was little else noteworthy in the batting and at the close of the day Sussex had accumulated 458 for seven wickets.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 June, page 6)

Another batsman's day on the beautifully true turf at the Hove ground, Brighton, has to be recorded. Monday's order of things was reversed, for, having spent the whole of that day in the field, the Oxford eleven yesterday remained at the wicket most of the time and got the whip hand of their opponents, inasmuch as they are only 13 runs behind with five wickets to fall.

The honours of yesterday rested with Mr G J Mordaunt, the Oxford captain, and Mr C B Fry, both of whom much exceeded the 100. The finest cricket was certainly that of Mr Mordaunt, who played all the bowling with great precision and whose driving was particularly powerful. Mr Fry occasionally seemed uncomfortable with Humphreys's lobs, but on the whole his batting was admirable. Of course, as he went in first, he had to face the Sussex bowling, weak as it was, while it remained fresh. After long partnerships with Mr Foster, who helped to add 131 in 100 minutes, and with Mr Mordaunt, 121, he was third out at 324, having hit 13 fours, four threes and 11 twos. Mr Foster played very well and hit ten fours.

Late in the afternoon Mr Phillips and Mr Mordaunt put on 105 for the fifth wicket, and finally stumps were drawn . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 June, page 11)

The Brighton ground has so long been identified with batting triumphs that the fact of the English aggregate record being beaten yesterday will cause less surprise than might elsewhere have been occasioned. Hitherto the record for English first-class cricket had been the 1,402 made in Sussex v Canterbury in 1891 at the Hove ground; but this aggregate has been twice exceeded in Australia, where there is no time limit in important play, the latest instance being the 1,514 at Sydney in England v Australia during Mr Stoddart's tour.

On Tuesday night there seemed little hope of finishing the match, for Oxford, having gone in against 487, had made 474 for five wickets. The greatest feat was the innings of Mr Mordaunt, who remained unconquered for 264. He was the best bat at the Universities last year and seems well to have sustained his form. His 264 is the second best score of the season, the highest being Dr Grace's 288 at Bristol. He had gone in second wicket down at 203 and his innings extended over four hours and a half and included 40 fours, seven threes and 12 twos. He made no mistake and his batting from beginning to end was marked by wonderful finish.

Sussex in their second innings obtained 272 for eight wickets. Mr K S Ranjitsinhji played wonderfully well and, going in first wicket down at 19, took out his bat for 137 as the result of three hours' cricket; he hit 21 fours, a three and 12 twos. Mr F H E Cunliffe, the old Etonian mediumpace left-hand bowler, performed his best feat of the season in taking six wickets for 62 runs. The game, in which 1,410 runs were scored, was drawn . . .

24 June: YORKSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4361.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 June, page 11)

The 8,000 people who visited Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday, were spectators of a quiet day's cricket, in which Nottinghamshire, after a feeble start, did fairly well. On a pitch that seemed to help the bowlers to a slight degree, Notts were batting four hours and a quarter for 214 runs. Had the Yorkshire fielding been up to its best standard this score would not have been reached.

The visitors' opening was poor in the extreme, for a quarter of an hour saw the dismissal of Daft, Mr Jones and Gunn for five runs. Then the Notts batsmen greatly improved things and the balance of their innings occupied the greater part of the day. Mr Oscroft was missed once and Mr Dixon twice. Curiously en it fell upon the amateurs of a side whose reputation mostly rests with its professionals to give to the score any respectability. Mr Wright and Mr Oscroft put on 78 for the fourth wicket and Mr Dixon and Mr Howitt 65 for the eighth. Mr Wright played carefully for two hours and a quarter for his 63, giving no chance and hitting six fours, two threes and four twos. Mr Dixon in about the same time contributed four fours, four threes and seven twos.

As it had been agreed to draw stumps at a quarter past six, Yorkshire had only half an hour's batting and lost one wicket for 23 runs. The home side are trying a cricketer fresh to county play in W Lancaster, of Huddersfield. Flowers is again absent from the Notts Eleven owing to his bad hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 June, page 6)

After a very even match to the end of the first innings, at Sheffield, yesterday, Nottinghamshire wound up with rather the worst of the game, as they lost three good men, including Gunn, and were only 24 runs ahead.

The most striking feature of the second day's play was the innings of Tunnicliffe, who has not been long in supplementing his first 100 for Yorkshire made a fortnight since at Lord's. He batted in various moods, alternating his style between vigour and patience. But apart from an easy chance to Attewell when his figures were only 29 he made no noticeable error, while his driving was generally hard and well timed. Going in first wicket down at four, he was sixth to leave at 174, his 104 being the result of three hours' play; among his figures were 14 fours, three threes and 11 twos.

There was little else of note in the Yorkshire innings, in which the rate of scoring was not dissimilar to that of Notts on Monday. Brown played steadily and Lord Hawke again proved to be in pretty good form. Attewell bowled wonderfully well in a long innings and took six wickets for 58 runs. Hardy was unlucky in having several catches missed off him, and he often struck the batsmen without hitting the wicket.

Gunn played finely in the Notts second innings on a pitch that showed signs of breaking up.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 June, page 11)

Nottinghamshire fared badly yesterday in this match at Sheffield, for their eleven quite broke down

and they were beaten by nine wickets. True the pitch had crumbled and the bowlers quite got the upper hand. The visitors carried care to excess. They were only 20 runs behind at the close of an innings each, and overnight had lost three batsmen for 44. Yesterday in 80 minutes they added only 28 runs. Mr Dixon took one hour and Mr Wright half an hour to score six.

So Yorkshire had only 53 to make to win, and these were obtained in 65 minutes for one wicket. Mr Jackson played well, and Tunnicliffe, after staying 20 minutes before scoring, hit freely. Peel, in the match, took ten wickets for 89 and Hirst nine for 100.

Wednesday 26 June, page 6

GEORGE LOHMANN. – This famous Surrey professional was present at Lord's yesterday. He seems in excellent health and is fully prepared to play for Surrey should the Surrey executive require him.

27 June: ESSEX v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4362.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 June, page 11)

For a very long while at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday, the bowlers, deriving some aid from the wicket, had completely the upper hand, and two rapidly-played innings were got through before 5 o'clock with the slight advantage of 17 to Hampshire.

When Essex went in Soar's fast balls were very effective, and Baldwin's more leisurely pace at the opposite end also came off. The best cricket was played by the young Carthusian and Oxford Freshman, Mr F L Fane; but he only got 19. The innings was over soon after luncheon.

Mr Hill, the old Marlborough and Cambridge "blue," was in excellent form for Hampshire; he came down hard on the ball and cut and drove well. He went in first and was fifth out at 81, having made his 43 in about an hour, while his best hits were a five and seven fours. At one period Hampshire, with 80 on the board and only three men out, seemed likely to finish with an advantage, but the other seven wickets fell for an addition of 31.

The second innings of Essex was made remarkable by the fine batting of Mr Owen and Carpenter, who obtained 89 in the last 75 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 June, page 9)

After an exciting day's cricket at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday, Essex finished up with a very fair prospect of success. It was not until late in the day that the game turned.

To begin with, the partnership for the first wicket in the second innings, started so well on Thursday night by Mr Owen and Carpenter, was soon severed. Both played finely and the score was 98 before they were parted. Carpenter hit nine fours and Mr Owen eight fours. Wickets then fell so rapidly that seven men were out for 163. But the stands made by Mr Preece and Mr Kortright for 62 in 50 minutes, and by Mr Kortright and Russell for 50 in half an hour, placed Essex in something like a winning position. It was a remarkable change that came over the state of the match, for the last three wickets put on altogether 139 runs.

Hampshire had to make 286 to win. Mr Russell Bencraft was out in the first over; but Barton played splendidly and, helped by Mr Hill, put on 63 in three-quarters of an hour. However, the tide turned against the visitors. Barton was fifth out, caught by the wicket-keeper; he scored his runs in 90 minutes, his chief hits being seven fours. When stumps were drawn Hampshire were 131 behind and had only three wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 July, page 11)

The game at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, was left in such a position on Friday that the victory of Essex was pretty well assured on Saturday. Hampshire wanted 132 to win and had only three wickets to fall. These yielded 24, but Pickett bowled all of them at a cost of four runs to himself. Thus Essex won by 107.

27 June: KENT v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4363.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 June, page 11)

As over 400 runs were scored at Mote-park, Maidstone, yesterday at the cost of only nine wickets, it will be taken that the batsmen had rather the better of the conditions. Oxford were in the greater part of the time, and the strength of their side was further demonstrated by the fine cricket played by Mr Fry, Mr Foster and Mr Leveson-Gower, and in a lesser degree by Mr Mordaunt and Mr Smith.

At one time the Oxford score seemed likely to be heavier than 327, for 300 went up with only five men out. Mr Fry just missed his 100 by a single; he got his runs in two and a half hours and there was no mistake in his innings, which included 15 fours, a three and nine twos. Next to Mr Fry came Mr Leveson-Gower, with 74, his share of the 134 put on during his stay between the fall of the third and sixth wickets at 184 and 318; his best hits were 11 fours, a three and five twos. Mr Foster, who helped Mr Fry to score 83 for the second partnership, made 10 fours. He gave a couple of chances, but the general character of his play was excellent. Mr Mordaunt's stay with Mr Fry was also very profitable and yielded 92 runs.

Kent had only three-quarters of an hour's batting, and Mr Mason and Alec Hearne in this brief period scored 88, the first 50 of which were made in 20 minutes. Oxford were one short owing to the absence of Mr Clayton, in whose place Mr Raikes was summoned to play. Kent gave a trial to Mr F E Huish, a left-hand bowler, who had the misfortune to be struck in the face, and this injury necessitated his absence for some time.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 June, page 9)

There was a continuation of the heavy scoring at Mote-park, Maidstone, yesterday, when Alec Hearne carried off the batting honours with a splendid innings of 105. Overnight he and Mr Mason had made 88 against the Oxford score of 327, and yesterday these batsmen were not separated until 134. As the 200 went up with only three men out, there seemed a probability of the county leading on the first innings; but Mr Fry and Mr Raikes met with great success in the bowling, and Kent finished up 14 runs behind.

The best stand was that for the first wicket, the 134 being made in 80 minutes. Mr Mason played a powerfully forcing game and hit eight fours and five twos. Alec Hearne was third to leave after being at the wickets just under two hours for his runs; he gave no chance and hit 15 fours, 15 twos and 15 singles. Mr Cooper and Easby both played well, but the innings closed much more rapidly that was expected.

Oxford went in again for two hours and three-quarters and batted brilliantly. Mr Warner's 76 was a remarkably fine innings; he was first on the "order" and was fourth out at 208 for 76, in which were 11 fours and six twos. Mr Foster, who helped him to add 128 for the second wicket in an hour, played in free style, hitting seven fours, a three and four twos. The Oxford captain also did well, and at the close of the day the University were 254 on, with four wickets in hand. It will be noted that "extras" contributed 42 to the Oxford second innings.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 July, page 11)

A fine not-out innings of 100 by Mr G O Smith, the Old Carthusian, marked Saturday's play at Mote Park, Maidstone, when Oxford again scored heavily and beat Kent by 215 runs.

Mr Smith was a brilliant schoolboy bat, but after going up to Oxford he had a period of ill-success and has had to wait until late in his University career to get his "blue." This was given to him on Saturday by Mr Mordaunt on the strength of this batting feat, which was his first three-figure innings in an important match. He started carefully but afterwards hit freely, and got his 100 in a couple of hours without giving a chance. His chief figures were a five, 12 fours and two threes.

Saturday morning found the Dark Blues with the best of the game, as with four men in hand they were 254 runs ahead. There was an 80 minutes' stand for the eighth wicket by Mr Smith and Mr Baiss, who put on 108 runs, and then, after waiting for Mr Smith to make his 100, the Oxford captain closed the innings with the score at 384.

To win Kent had to make 399 in about four hours, a feat that was very improbable. As it was, the county's batting broke down before the bowling of Mr Raikes and Mr Arkwright, and in two hours and three-quarters the side were dismissed for 183. The best piece of cricket was perhaps seen during the stand between Mr Mason and Easby, who in an hour added 71 runs for the second wicket. Subsequently the steadiness of Mr Cooper failed to stay the Kent disasters, and Oxford won easily. The Dark Blues fielded well, while Mr Raikes in the double innings took eight wickets for 86 runs.

27 June: LANCASHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4364.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 June, page 11)

The heavy rains which fell in the north of England and the Midlands on Wednesday had rendered the wicket at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday so slow as to appear quite strange to batsmen. This was especially the case after the very fiery turf experienced pretty well since the beginning of the season. Mr A J Webbe reappeared for Middlesex, as did Mr S H Tindall for Lancashire. The visitors also had the valuable assistance of Mr MacGregor at wicket.

Mr Webbe won the toss and put his opponents in. Owing to a downfall of rain there was only 55 minutes' play before luncheon. Afterwards the weather cleared and the game proceeded without interruption. Runs were difficult to make on the slow wicket and Lancashire were all out for 181, a score well distributed among the side. There was a lot of uncertain batting. Ward got his 38 out of 50 in 75 minutes and Sugg 28 out of 39 in 40 minutes. Paul was in an hour for eight runs, and two hours and ten minutes getting 24. Several catches were dropped, or Lancashire would have been out for a less total. Their innings had lasted three hours and 40 minutes. Middlesex had half an hour's batting, during which they lost two wickets for 21 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 June, page 9)

The bowling triumphs at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, on a pitch made false by the rain, came as strange cricket after all the heavy scoring which of late has been the rule. Middlesex, in an exciting day, finished up with the better position, inasmuch as they want only 34 to win and have five wickets to fall.

Yesterday morning, when the game was renewed, things went so badly with the visitors that six men were out for 41; but the partnerships of Mr Stoddart and Mr Hayman of 46 and of Mr Stoddart and Mr Vernon for 38 brought the position to something like evenness. Mr Stoddart played splendidly for his 33, while Mr Vernon got his 44 very quickly, and hit six fours. Mold bowled with great effect.

Lancashire, who were 41 ahead, lost their first five wickets for 50 and then the innings collapsed for 68. Rawlin bowled exceptionally well and got out four men at 58. Middlesex had to make 110 to win, and they scored 76 of these for five wickets. Mr MacGregor was twice missed by Mold, and these errors in the field had an important bearing on the aspect of the game.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 July, page 11)

Whatever might be the result of this match at Manchester, it was certain to be over soon, and there were only a few spectators on Saturday at Old Trafford. Middlesex only wanted 34 to win and had five wickets in hand.

Play was not continued until five minutes past 12. The bowlers could do little with the ball, yet they managed to bowl Sir T O'Brien at 102, and when eight runs were yet required Mr Vernon was caught at long-off. Dr Thornton came and made the winning hit. The 34 had occupied 50 minutes.

From the full score attached it will be seen that Middlesex won by three	wickets.

27 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4365.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 June, page 11)

The Light Blues paid their annual visit to Lord's yesterday, when they met a Marylebone team of especial strength in bowling. The University won the toss, but began badly by losing Mr Wilson when only five had been made, and at 22 Mr Studd fell to the wicket-keeper, the last-named having twice but Pougher for four. The other bowler was Davidson.

Mr Mitchell and Mr N F Druce improved matters considerably. A hit for four by the latter caused the 50 to be reached in a little over half an hour. Changes were soon tried – Attewell and Geeson going on. From the former Mr Mitchell played on, the wicket having yielded 49. Eleven runs later Mr Marriott was caught by the wicket-keeper. Mr Hemingway did not seem to try to play at a ball which went into the stumps, and half the wickets were lost for 86. Mr W G Druce joined his brother, who with a four to the boundary caused the 100 to be telegraphed at half-past 1, and he was then clean bowled. Mr W G Grace, jun., came, and his batting was watched with interest. Luncheon arrived with the total at 128.

Attewell and Davidson bowled on resuming, and the latter quickly found the way to Mr W G Grace, jun.'s, wicket. The Cambridge captain, Mr W G Druce, who had been three-quarters of an hour before the interval making five, was at length bowled; his batting was characterized by the utmost patience and his 13 had taken him 70 minutes. Eight for 156. The last two wickets added four, and at 3.40 the innings closed, having lasted two hours and 40 minutes. It cannot be said that the Cambridge batting reached the standard expected; but, of course, they had to meet some very good bowling and fielding.

Dr W G Grace and Mr C W Wright opened the Marylebone batting to the attacks of Mr Lowe and Mr Shine. Out of the first 20 runs the Gloucestershire captain claimed 16 by two leg-hits, a cut and an on-drive. Fifty came in less than half an hour, Mr Wilson having gone on at 43 for Mr Shine. A fairly good catch at point disposed of Mr Wright, who scarcely batted up to his usual form. Mr G L Wilson came, and Mr W G Grace, jun., went on for Mr Lowe, thus presenting the curious spectacle of the son bowling against his father. Dr W G Grace thrice drove Mr Wilson splendidly from successive balls, but in the same over he had the ill-fortune to play on. Two for 101.

It was curious to note how many people left the field as soon as the "champion" was out. Quite a lull in the batting ensued. Neither Mr Powell nor Mr Massie stayed long, while at 149 Mr Jephson was bowled. The Cambridge total was reached a few minutes before 6 o'clock. Mr G L Wilson batted very vigorously, but soon lost Storer, who was out through a fine running catch by Mr Grace, jun., at deep mid-off. Thirteen were made in an over of Mr Lowe's, in which were a capital leg-hit and on-drive by Davidson for four each.

The 200 was passed a little before half-past 6. Immediately afterwards Mr Wilson was clean bowled. He had batted splendidly and his principal hits were 10 fours, two threes and nine twos, obtained in an hour and three-quarters. A fine catch at wicket disposed of Pougher from Mr Grace, jun., in the first over after he had resumed. Davidson, with a fine hit, almost square, sent his score beyond the 50, made at about the rate of a run a minute. He then played out "time" with Attewell.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 June, page 9)

A complete reversal of the form shown nearly three weeks ago, at Cambridge, when the university beat Marylebone by an innings and 23 runs, was experienced in the match which yesterday afternoon ended in the defeat of the Light Blues by an innings and 11 runs at Lord's. True, the M.C.C. side was strong in bowling and the wicket just suited Attewell and Davidson.

Cambridge went in 110 runs in arrear, but the rapid manner in which the wickets at one time fell was quite astonishing, and the M.C.C. bowling seemed to many of the batsmen quite unplayable, while they were supported by smart fielding. Mr Mitchell batted up to his reputation under these circumstances and obtained the highest scores. Next to him came Mr W G Grace, jun., who, in the double innings, obtained 53, the second highest aggregate. He also is a fairly good bowler and a capital field; indeed, too hasty a judgment must not be formed from the result of the Lord's match.

When the game was continued, at 11.35, Cambridge had completed an innings for 160 and eight of the M.C.C. batsmen had been dismissed for 246. The two outstanding wickets were captured in three-quarters of an hour. Attewell played on and Davidson was caught by third man; the latter had batted well for his 80, in which were 12 fours, two threes and three twos.

Cambridge, with 110 in arrears, started badly against the attacks of Attewell and Davidson at half-past 12. When only ten had been scored (four of these byes) Mr Wilson was bowled, and for an additional 11 Mr Studd skied the ball to extra slip. Mr Mitchell and Mr N F Druce were now together. The former was batting splendidly, making, among minor hits, two drives to the boundary. He lost the company of Mr N F Druce, however, at 38, clean bowled, while four runs later he himself was served in the same manner, having taken 40 minutes to get 29. Mr Hemingway had his wicket upset by the first ball sent him. Mr Marriott was also clean bowled, and the fourth, fifth and sixth wickets all went at 42.

Mr W G Druce obtained six in a lucky way, and was then dismissed by a one-handed return catch by Davidson, who ran well up to the wicket to secure the ball. Mr Grace, jun., and Mr Lowe became partners. The former made a few remarkably good strokes, the best of which were a cut, a square-leg hit and a capital on-drive among the spectators for four each. He gave one very hard chance to slip low down when he had made 15. At length he was beaten by a ball from Attewell. Mr Burrough came in afterwards, but 20 minutes proved sufficient to finish the match. Mr Lowe was finely caught by Mr Wilson at long-on with the right hand, and from the first ball sent him Mr Shine was caught in the long field. Total, 99. Thus Cambridge were defeated as above stated.

27 June: WARWICKSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4366.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 June, page 11)

The tactics of Mr Bainbridge in venturing to put Yorkshire in first at Edgbaston, Birmingham, yesterday, were attended with great success, for the wicket, rendered difficult by Wednesday's rain, helped the Warwickshire bowlers to such an extent that the visitors were got out for a comparatively small score. Warwickshire are devoting the profits of the match to the benefit of their well-tried servant, Shilton, who for the past ten years has rendered them great service, principally as a bowler and often as a batsman. His best years, perhaps, were 1889 and 1890. Diver made his first appearance this season for the home county, who were also helped by Mr L C Docker, while Yorkshire had their best side excepting Mr Jackson.

When the visitors went in their first four wickets fell in an hour for 30 runs, after which the affairs of Yorkshire, on the improving turf, mended. Wainwright played splendid cricket and with Lancaster put on 66 runs in as many minutes; but subsequently only Hirst did anything worthy of mention, and Hunter stayed with him some time. Wainwright, before being caught at wicket, scored 61 in an hour and a quarter, his best hits being eight fours and four threes.

Mr Bainbridge and Walter Quaife made a fine start for Warwickshire, scoring 114 for the first wicket in an hour and a half. William Quaife did little, after which Mr Bainbridge and Mr Docker played out time. The former had three escapes, the first at 39, but otherwise he played very well. The day proved bright and there were about 3,000 people on the ground.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 June, page 9)

Warwickshire had decidedly the better of the situation at the close of the opening day's play in this match at Edgbaston, and the Yorkshiremen were all out for 163, while they had scored 147 at the cost of two wickets only.

Yesterday Mr Bainbridge (the not out with 70) advanced his score to 97, when he was caught at slip, having just previously had an escape at the hands of Lancaster at mid-on. Although he had given four chances his runs were invaluable to his side. He had been in two hours and 50 minutes, and his chief hits were 12 fours, three threes and 11 twos. The batting of Diver and Lilley was very slow, half an hour yielding only six runs. The total was advanced to 190, when Wainwright relieved Hirst and Diver was soon dismissed.

The 200 was signalled as the result of three hours and 25 minutes' play. Lilley, who had obtained his 27 at a very tardy pace, was clean bowled. Mr Glover threw a little life into the game, and although some of the others did not hit freely they all scored but Shilton, the not out, and the total reached the respectable proportion of 253.

The Yorkshiremen, who were now in a minority of 90, went in again at 3.40. Twenty-four were run up in three-quarters of an hour, soon after which Mr Glover clean-bowled Brown; he next caused Tunnicliffe to be caught at cover-point, and at 56 sent down a ball which Lancaster played into the wicket-keeper's hands. Denton and Peel hit freely and while together they added 66 runs. The former, who had been indulged with one or two chances, was at length clean-bowled, while

Wainwright was well caught at cover-point. Peel and Moorhouse batted freely, and at the drawing of stumps Yorkshire, who had started the day with the odds against them, were 70 runs on and five wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 July, page 11)

There were several fluctuations in this match at Birmingham, which on Saturday was left drawn. Yorkshire were no fewer than 90 runs behind at the close of an innings each; but on Friday they not only rubbed these off, but were 70 on at the cost of five wickets.

Peel and Moorhouse (the not-outs with 41 and 14) batted in a most effective manner when the game was resumed. Peel soon reached his 50, but five runs subsequently he should have been secured by third man. The 200 was then signalled. Moorhouse gave a chance in the slips, but Santall missed it, which proved most unfortunate for Warwickshire. Profiting by their escapes, both batsmen played with greater confidence. The total was advanced to 240, when Peel was caught by third man. In his 78, which is his highest score for the present season, were eight fours and three threes. He had batted with his usual determination and 96 runs had been put on for the wicket.

Lord Hawke joined Moorhouse, who hit with freedom. The Yorkshire captain, after making 26 out of 43, obstructed his wicket. Milligan did nothing, but when Hirst arrived, Moorhouse and he soon mastered the bowling. Indeed the batting so far triumphed that 95 were hit up in 55 minutes, when Lord Hawke declared the innings closed. Moorhouse's 102 was the result of vigorous batting, and the only mistake made was the chance at slip; he was in three hours and 20 minutes and his hits comprised 18 fours and two threes. Hirst's 55 had taken him nearly an hour to obtain. Total, 378.

Warwickshire were set 289 to win, with two hours and three-quarters left for play. Mr Bainbridge and Walter Quaife set to work with a will and ran up 60 in 40 minutes. This was checked by the former being caught at slip. Diver was stumped and Mr Docker ran himself out. Rain then put a stop to the play and the match was drawn . . .

Saturday 29 June, page 9: OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE

Up to the present time the following have been selected to play for Oxford on Thursday next, at Lord's: - Mr G J Mordaunt (captain), Mr C B Fry, Mr H K Foster, Mr H D G Leveson-Gower, Mr R P Lewis, Mr H A Arkwright, Mr F H E Cunliffe, Mr F A Phillips, Mr P F Warner and Mr G R Bardswell (should he be well enough).

The choosing of the Cambridge team is far more difficult, but yesterday it was announced that Mr C E M Wilson and Mr R A Studd had been given their blues.

THE UNIVERSITY TEAM FOR AMERICA

Arrangements have been completed by Mr F Mitchell to take out a team to America, which will be as follows: - Mr F Mitchell (captain), Mr N F Druce, Mr C E M Wilson, Mr R A Studd, Mr F A Phillips, Mr H A Arkwright, Mr H H Marriott, Mr W M'G Hemingway, Mr W Mortimer, Mr C D Robinson, Mr F H E Cunliffe, Mr J C Hartley and Mr V T Hill. Mr W W Lowe has been asked, but at present it is not certain whether he will be able to go. The team will sail from Southampton on August 24 in the St Louis and return on October 9.

Monday 1 July, page 11: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The following are the present positions of the counties: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	11	9	1	1	8
Lancashire	8	6	2	0	4
Yorkshire	10	5	3	2	2
Derbyshire	5	2	1	2	1
Hampshire	4	2	2	0	0
Gloucestershire	6	3	3	0	0
Middlesex	8	3	3	2	0
Sussex	5	1	2	2	-1
Leicestershire	8	3	4	1	-1
Warwickshire	10	2	3	5	-1
Nottinghamshire	7	2	4	1	-2
Essex	7	2	4	1	-2
Kent	5	0	4	1	-4
Somerset	6	0	4	2	-1

THE OXFORD ELEVEN. – The eleventh place in the Oxford team has been given to Mr G O Smith. Should Mr Bardswell not be well enough to play Mr G B Raikes will take his place.

1 July: DERBYSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4367.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 July, page 11)

On a pitch rendered difficult by rain and in a day shortened by bad weather there were only 152 runs made at Derby yesterday for the loss of 11 wickets. In the half-hour practicable for play before luncheon Mr Wright was bowled and the score stood at 20.

With the sun shining on it the wicket grew false and the batting was poor. Exceptions must be made in the cases of Gunn and Daft. The former went in first wicket down at 12 and was fourth out at 48. His cricket was very slow and it took him 100 minutes to make 27; he was eventually dismissed by a dextrous catch at short slip. Daft played steadily and was last out after 90 minutes' batting for 31. Davidson and Sugg bowled wonderfully well. Derbyshire had a little batting and lost Mr Evershed's wicket for 28. There were about 3,000 people present.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 July, page 12)

Considerable delay was caused by the weather in this match at Derby yesterday, when Flowers again made his mark both as a bowler and a batsman after standing out of several of the Notts fixtures owing to an injured hand. Notts finally finished 42 on with nine men in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 July, page 10)

After considerable progress had been made with the Notts second innings at Derby, yesterday, the weather became so bad as to necessitate the abandonment of this match as a draw. Mr Jones only slightly improved his overnight figures, but Mr Dixon played very well. However, six more batsmen were dismissed for an addition of 77 runs on Tuesday evening's record.

1 July: ESSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4368.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 July, page 11)

Winning the toss at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday, was not wholly an advantage, for, after Essex had done so, the rain came and temporarily spoilt the wicket, whereas by the time it was Yorkshire's turn to go in the turf had practically recovered.

Only six balls were bowled in the period before luncheon, and when Essex went on with their innings Peel's bowling proved difficult. So Essex were got out in a couple of hours for 125. The best batting was by Mr Owen, who had the misfortune to be run out when well set. Mr M'Gahey played with great care, but the spirited batting of Mr Kortright gave some life to the close of the innings.

Yorkshire in 70 minutes established quite a strong position. Brown and Tunnicliffe started vigorously and made 43 before the former was bowled, and then Tunnicliffe and Denton got within 35 of the Essex total when stumps were drawn.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 July, page 12)

Yorkshire established an advantage in this match at the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, yesterday. The pitch was made difficult by the rain, so that successful batting was of far more merit than it has been as a rule of late. Essex, at the finish, wanted 11 runs to save the innings defeat with three wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 July, page 10)

At the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday, it did not take much time to finish this match. Essex, who were 91 runs behind at the end of an innings each, had lost seven wickets in their second venture for 80 runs. Two batsmen (Mr Bull and Pickett) were both disposed of when 28 had been added and, as Russell was still unable to play, the innings closed for 108.

Yorkshire now required 15 only to win, but this small number they did not obtain until Mr Kortright had bowled Lancaster, Hirst and Hunter. From the full score it will be seen that Yorkshire won by seven wickets.

1 July: HAMPSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4369.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 July, page 11)

Although Somerset did fairly well at Southampton yesterday, the rain, which came early in the day, made the first stage of the match somewhat favourable to bowlers. Mr L C H Palairet and Mr Fowler were absent from Somerset, for whom Mr Welman reappeared as wicket-keeper, while Captain Wynyard was again unable to play for Hampshire; but Wootton, the coach at Winchester College and the old Kent left-hand bowler, was found a place in the side.

While the wicket was wet and easy Mr Woods and Mr Hill scored 50 in 35 minutes before the former fell to a catch at slip. Mr Hill, who was let off by Barton, hit hard until 107, when he was bowled. He made five fours and four threes in his 62. Nichols had a lot of luck, but the last seven wickets were got down for 77 runs, Soar and Baldwin bowling well.

Hampshire fared badly and lost seven men for 70. Mr Hill brought off a wonderful catch at short slip when he dismissed Barton, taking the ball high up with his right hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 July, page 12)

At Southampton yesterday Somerset were seen to much advantage, and they set their opponents a difficult task for the last innings of the match.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 July, page 10)

Four completed innings were played in this match at Southampton before Somerset could claim the victory by 183 runs. When Hampshire continued their batting yesterday they wanted 360 to win and had nine wickets to fall.

They started badly by losing Mr Bencraft, caught at slip, when only 14 were scored. A determined stand was made by Wootton and Barton, who defied all bowling changes until they had added 60 runs in three-quarters of an hour. Wootton was then caught at mid-off and Barton at point. Captain Quinton, who went in at the fall of the fourth wicket, saw the rest of the side dismissed, and the total ultimately reached 180, after two hours and three-quarters' play. Captain Quinton batted well for his 44. This is Somerset's first victory in the present season.

1 July: KENT v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4370.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 July, page 11)

There was little prospect of play between these counties about 12 o'clock yesterday at Catford-bridge, for just as a start was about to be made rain drove the cricketers to shelter. It lasted for over an hour, but the weather then cleared up and kept fine for the rest of the day.

Kent were fortunate enough to win the toss and took possession of an easy wicket, which remained so all day. Mr Mason and Alec Hearne went in first, the bowling being intrusted to Parris and Tate. The batting of both men was sound and interesting to watch. Although the bowling was changed and rechanged, 106 were put together before the fall of the first wicket in an hour and a quarter. Mr Mason, who had played a fine innings without giving a chance, was then bowled. Among his hits were ten fours and two threes. The next to leave was Hearne, who had also batted excellently, but not so freely as Mr Mason; among his hits were seven fours and two threes.

The wicket became slightly difficult as the time proceeded. Easby and Mr Cooper caused 45 to be added; the former hit with great vigour, for in his 41 there were seven fours. Mr Le Fleming and Martin played the bowling well and put together 60 runs in less than an hour, when stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 July, page 12)

The rain of Monday and during the night had not affected the wicket at Catford-bridge to any great extent, yet sufficiently so to admit of the bowlers getting more work on the ball. Little headway was made on the first day as not an innings was got through, Kent losing seven wickets for 281. Yesterday they completed their venture in half an hour for an addition of 38. Mr Le Fleming had hit well for his 62, in which were eight fours and two threes.

When Sussex went in the wicket had become more difficult. They put together 92 before luncheon. K S Ranjitsinhji batted well for his 30. Subsequently Mr Newham and Bean added 53 runs in 40 minutes while together. The last five wickets realized 77 runs. Huish bowled remarkably well, the closing part of his analysis being five overs and three balls, five runs and four wickets.

Sussex, who were 178 behind, followed on. Mr Wilson, K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr Murdoch played a losing game with great determination. K S Ranjitsinhji obtained 58 in capital style, and among his hits were seven fours, a three and nine twos. The visitors have now lost five wickets and have yet 16 to obtain before the deficit is made up.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 July, page 10)

In winning the match at Catford-bridge yesterday by 45 runs Sussex once again displayed their proverbial capacity for fighting well in an uphill game. Yesterday morning found them in a position that promised little else than defeat, for they were 16 runs behind and had lost five wickets after following on. The pitch had worn a great deal and this handicap on the batsmen lent additional merit to the Sussex feat.

Mr Brann and Bean, and at a later period Butt and Tate, played excellently, and the Kent bowlers were nearly two and a half hours in getting down the last five Sussex wickets for 183 runs. But the great success of the visitors was largely the work of Mr Brann and Bean, who in about 90 minutes added 149 runs. Bean hit with great power and his 89 included 14 fours. It is some time since he played such dashing cricket, and his triumph was the more marked by coming under such difficulties.

Of late Mr Brann has forsaken some of his old tactics in the way of hitting and has played sounder cricket. In the second innings he went in fourth wicket down at 124 and left eighth at 284, having made 58 by five fours, a three, six twos and singles. Butt and Tate put on 50 runs for the ninth partnership, and in the end Kent were left with 168 to get to win.

When Mr Mason and Easby had put on 58 for the second wicket it seemed that the task would be accomplished. In spite of Mr Marchant's batting, there was a collapse after this against the bowling of Bean and Tate; and Kent were all out in two hours and a quarter for 122. It was evidently Bean's match, for the followed up his good batting with an analysis of five wickets for 27 runs.

1 July: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4371.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 July, page 11)

The mere fact that neither Mr Cunliffe, the old Etonian left-hand bowler, nor Mr Lewis, the old Wykehamist wicket-keeper (both of whom have received their "blues") was playing reduced to some extent the value of the last trial of the Oxford eleven, who appeared at Lord's yesterday for their annual match with Marylebone, limited to two days.

After a wet morning there was a pleasure five hours' cricket. The rainstorm made the wicket kick a good deal while Marylebone were in; but the application of the heavy roller between the innings had a beneficial effect on the turf when Oxford's hour arrived for batting. Marylebone's spell at the wicket lasted from a little after 2 o'clock until 20 minutes to 5 – namely, about three hours and a half.

For a long while there was nothing striking in the M.C.C. batting. Dr Grace in trying to hit a full pitch for four was caught and bowled, and afterwards a lot of good bowling and fielding by Oxford brought about the dismissal of seven M.C.C. men for 96. The catch at mid-off by Board, substitute for Mr Fry, who hurt his hand fielding, was one of the best incidents of the cricket; he took the ball low down and fell in holding it. The probabilities of a small score by the M.C.C. were destroyed by Whitehead's vigorous play and also by that of Mr Hillyard, who in the course of three-quarters of an hour put on 86 for the eighth wicket. Whitehead, who was ninth out, made his 64 in just under the hour, and hit eight fours. Mr Arkwright and Mr Hartley bowled extremely well.

Oxford were batting for two hours and made 139 for three wickets. Raikes went in earlier than usual and played remarkably good cricket, although before reaching his 50 he had one life at the wicket. His partner for the first stand was Mr Warner, whose driving was hard and clean, and who made 42 of 69 in less than an hour. Mr Foster did fairly well, but the bowling of Mr Mordaunt was a little disappointing. At present Oxford are 77 behind with seven wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 July, page 12)

The delay through the condition of the ground, due to the heavy rain, and the fact that the match was limited to two days, prevented the reaching of a definite issue in this match at Lord's yesterday. So after a rather dull day the game was left drawn. The brightest feature of the cricket was the innings of Dr Grace on a kicking wicket; he made 72 late in the afternoon by some healthy and vigorous play and, although this innings did no reach his wonderful average, it served to illustrate the consistency of the champion's batting this season.

The wicket was treacherous from the outset, but some of the bowlers, notably Pougher, failing to find a foothold on the soft ground, were unable to get a satisfactory length and were freely hit. When rain stopped the game at a quarter-past 6 the match was abandoned.

1 July: SURREY v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4372.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 July, page 11)

The return to a match played at Lord's last week, when Surrey won by ten wickets, was begun between these counties yesterday at Kennington Oval. At noon and for more than an hour afterwards rain fell fast. It then cleared, however, and at 20 minutes to 2 a start was made.

Middlesex, having won the toss, sent in Messrs Hayward and Stoddart, the Middlesex captain having placed himself eighth on the order. Richardson (pavilion) and Smith were the bowlers. Twenty came in six overs (Mr Stoddart making a fine on drive for four), when Mr Hayman was easily caught at slip. Mr MacGregor, who followed in, hit the first ball sent him to the square leg boundary, and at the interval 28 were scored.

Afterwards Mr MacGregor narrowly escaped being run out, but then both batsmen scored freely from Richardson. Fifty were recorded in half an hour. Mr MacGregor secured nine in an over of Smith's. An appeal for stumping was made against Mr Stoddart, but Wood had neglected to knock the bail off and the umpire, who had given the batsman out, had to reverse his decision.

Mr MacGregor was dismissed at 66, and Mr Lucas joined Mr Stoddart, who obtained 12 by two cuts and an off drive. He then gave a very hard chance to Brockwell at mid-off, but the ball was travelling very fast. A change was tried, Brockwell going on for Smith at 87. Mr Stoddart made a beautiful straight drive to the pavilion rails from Richardson, who gave way to Hayward at 94. Mr Stoddart, with a cut to the ring, caused the 100 to be passed after an hour and 25 minutes. A little quiet play ensued, until an off drive to the spectators by Mr Stoddart completed his 50. Mr Lucas, who had been 50 minutes getting his 16, was caught at slip. Rawlin's stay was brief – secured by the wicket-keeper.

Sir T C O'Brien aided Mr Stoddart and Richardson went on at the top end. The new-comer and Mr Stoddart both hit strongly. Boundary hits were frequent and the 150 was telegraphed at 4.35. Smith resumed for Richardson, who again crossed over. The latter's second ball Mr Stoddart played easily into the hands of slip. He had been batting with great vigour for two hours and a quarter, and among his hits were 12 fours and four threes. Five for 151.

Phillips aided Sir T C O'Brien, who gave a chance at slip when he had made 36. Having been let off he again hit out for some time. Fifty were scored by him in the same number of minutes. Abel came on for Smith at 193, and six runs later Sir T C O'Brien was caught at slip. The 200 was recorded as the result of two hours and three-quarters' play.

It seemed strange to find such batsmen in after the fall of Phillips's (the seventh) wicket as Mr Vernon and Mr Webbe. When the latter had made 11 he was bowled by a no-ball from Richardson. Soon afterwards, however, the same bowler completely shattered his wicket. Mr Vernon, who had batted rather luckily, fell to a smart catch by the wicket-keeper, and J T Hearne was stumped. Total, 246; duration of innings, three hours and a half. Middlesex had thus been scoring at the rapid rate of 70 runs an hour.

Surrey had ten minutes' batting, during which Maurice Read was caught at slip for five runs. There were about 10,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 July, page 12)

The heavy downpour of rain on Monday night had little effect on the wicket at the Oval, where these counties continued their match yesterday. On the previous evening Middlesex completed an innings for 246 and Surrey had lost a wicket for five runs. Abel went in with Smith, the not out. Hearne and Rawlin bowled.

Smith was dismissed with a "yorker" on the leg stump. Hayward was smartly caught at wicket. Mr W W Read arrived and hit freely. An hour of the morning's play yielded 53. Mr Stoddart now went on for Hearne. Phillips relieved Rawlin at 82. Hearne went on again at 86. Abel was easily caught at slip; he had been batting an hour and 25 minutes. The hundred was reached soon after Holland arrived. Mr Walter Read completed his 50 after 65 minutes' play. Rawlin had been put on a couple of overs previously. Mr Read was caught at slip; his chief figures were eight fours and two threes.

Holland and Street were next together. At 120 Holland fell to cover slip and Brockwell arrived. Rawlin resumed at the top end, while Mr Bathurst was tried for Hearne. Street, who unfortunately twisted his knee, was clean bowled. Seven for 140. Wood made an off hit to the ring, and then Mr Key played over a ball which took his wicket, and Richardson, the last man, was caught at mid-on from the first ball sent him. Total, 151; length of innings, 2 hours 55 min.

Middlesex, with 95 runs in hand, opened their second venture at 3.35 with Mr Stoddart and Mr Hayman to the attacks of Richardson and Hayward. The latter gave way to Smith at 29. Fifty were made in three-quarters of an hour. Four runs later Brockwell superseded Richardson and clean bowled Mr Hayman. One for 67. Mr MacGregor arrived and the hitting became very brisk, so much so that Richardson went on for Hayward. Mr Stoddart completed his 50 in 70 minutes, while the 100 was signalled in an hour and a half. Mr Stoddart was caught at extra cover-point; he had batted well for an hour and three-quarters and among his hits were ten fours and two threes.

Mr MacGregor continued to hit brilliantly in spite of bowling changes. The 200 was reached at 6.20, and then Mr MacGregor was clean bowled. In his fine innings were 11 fours. Sir T C O'Brien was caught at slip, and at the close of the day Middlesex were exactly 300 runs on and have five wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 July, page 10)

The Surrey eleven achieved a fine feat in saving their match with Middlesex on the Oval yesterday, and the result showed that Mr Webbe, in closing his innings, judged very nicely the power of his opponents on a wicket which had completely recovered from Monday night's rain. As a matter of fact Surrey had the better position at the end of the drawn game, as, with six wickets in hand, they required only 83 runs to win.

It was a remarkable position to reach after going in against 385 with four hours and a half left for play, and one that the county's friends could scarcely have dreamt of, for the morning had arrived with no small prospect of defeat. Middlesex were 300 ahead and had five wickets to fall.

The best thing in the 90 minutes' cricket which the visitors had before applying the closure rule was

the vigorous play of Rawlin, who made five fours (three of them by drives) in his 28. Mr Vernon showed only indifferent form; but Mr Webbe's steadiness delayed the end of the innings, and when at 1 o'clock the declaration was made 85 runs had been added to the overnight figures.

Abel and Maurice Read made a bright start in Surrey's uphill fight, although Read had a couple of sharp lives before luncheon, when the score was advanced to 46. Subsequently Read hit splendidly and the 100 went up in as many minutes. The figures were only at 104 when Read gave point a catch. He had hit seven fours. Hayward and Abel continued to score freely and for the second wicket put on 74 runs. Still Surrey prospered and the 200 were made in three hours and 20 minutes. Abel now left, being caught at point for an excellent 85, in which were six fours, six threes and ten twos.

After four wickets had gone for 214, Brockwell and Holland finished the day with some splendid cricket. Both hit brilliantly and Holland's game was particularly good. The wicket had yielded 89 when stumps were drawn and the match left unfinished. The many thousands of people thoroughly enjoyed the Surrey batting in the afternoon, and the side were loudly applauded for the way they had saved the game.

Tuesday 2 July, page 11: GEORGE LOHMANN. – This famous professional will appear for the Players against the Gentlemen on July 11 at the Oval.

THE "FOLLOW ON" RULE

As frequent application is made to the M.C.C. relative to the bearing of the new rule as to the follow-on in two-day matches, Mr Henry Perkins, the secretary of the Marylebone Club, asks us to publish the new rule, not fully given in the various annuals. It is as follows: -

"The side which goes in second shall follow their innings if they have scored 120 runs less than the opposite side in a three-days' match, or 80 in a two-days' match."

With regard to one-day matches no change was made, the law remaining: - "The side which goes in second shall follow their innings if they have scored 60 runs less than the opposite side."

Wednesday 3 July, page 12: OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE

Yesterday the Oxford captain gave Mr G B Raikes his Blue, and the elevens to take part in the match to-morrow at Lord's are as follows . . .

4 July: LANCASHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4373.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 July, page 11)

On the Aigburth Ground, at Liverpool, yesterday, some rather slow scoring resulted from the opening day's play between these counties. The rain had caused the wicket to be rather heavy and runs were difficult to obtain.

Warwickshire went in first and ran up 206 in four hours and a quarter, which was a very credited performance against the difficult bowling. W Quaife was the most effective batsman and was in nearly two hours for his 48, in which were six fours. He, with Mr Bainbridge, took the total to 49 for the first wicket. Walter Quaife fell to an easy catch at cover-point, and William Quaife, who at one time was half an hour getting a single, played on. Lilley gave little trouble but the partnership of Santall and Mr Hill yielded 46, and that between Mr Glover and Pallett 34.

Lancashire went in and lost three good men for 15 runs, when stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Saturday 6 July, page 15)

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 July, page 7)

Warwickshire gained a decisive victory over Lancashire by 116 runs, at the Aigburth Ground, Liverpool, on Saturday.

4 July: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4374.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 July, page 11)

Yesterday the annual match between the Universities began at Lord's, and the play was a surprise to the visitors. In the trial matches Oxford had incontestably shown their superiority to the form exhibited by the Light Blues. They had demonstrated the possession of a high standard of cricket; in batting they had shown especial strength, while their bowling and fielding were fair. Cambridge, in their last match – played, by the way, at Lord's – had cut up very badly.

Yesterday's play was against all form. A great piece of good fortune was secured by Cambridge in winning the toss and batting first on a true wicket. Mr F Mitchell played with great power and the early stages of the match were marked by young W G Grace's success. It was a little surprising to find him so early on the order, but he batted so well as to merit the distinction of going in with Mr Mitchell first. It must have been highly gratifying to his father, who was on the grand stand. But far and away the best thing in the Cambridge innings was the splendid hitting of Mr Hemingway, who came down on the ball with great vigour and carried off the batting honours of the day. The Cambridge score of 244 was quite unexpected by their most sanguine friends.

The manner in which some of Oxford's best batsmen were dismissed was appalling. The fast bowling of Mr Gray in a bad light, with his arm often lost to the batsman by the darkness of the pavilion, and a remarkable catch in the slips off Mr Wilson produced something like panic among the Dark Blues. Good bowling and bad batting combined to get down six Oxford wickets for 67. But Mr Leveson-Gower, who was noted for his courage and head play in his captaincy days at Winchester, helped Oxford to steady themselves. Still, the Dark Blues have all the worst of the match, and no doubt this break-down of public form has invested it with a keen interest it did not before possess.

The bowling was of great variety. Mr C B Fry, with his long run and almost fast pace, turned out Oxford's most valuable man, and Mr Leveson-Gower's slows puzzled the Cambridge players a good deal. Mr Cunliffe, the Old Etonian, bowled very well without getting anyone out. Mr Gray and Mr Wilson, as the score shows, were most effective. A tribute must be paid to Mr Lewis's fine wicket-keeping; he has been saved somewhat for this match and there was a revival of his Winchester form. He was one of the best school-boy wicket-keepers that ever took the gloves.

There was the usual brilliant scene at the Marylebone enclosure, and the coaches and carriages were as numerous as ever, their occupants, for the most past, being ladies. In Knatchbull's corner and at the end near Pearce's cottage were to be found the Four-in-Hand and Coaching Clubs. The attendance was exceedingly large and it is estimated that there were about 18,000 spectators. This number is the more remarkable when the unsettled weather is considered. Rain, although often threatening, never very seriously interfered with the comfort of the company.

It became known at a quarter to 12 that Cambridge had won the toss, and punctually at noon the Dark Blues entered the ground. Mr Mitchell and Mr W G Grace, jun., were the early batsmen. Mr Arkwright led off the bowling from the pavilion end, with his field disposed as follows: - Mr Lewis, wicket-keeper; Mr Warner, point; Mr Leveson-Gower, cover-point; Mr Cunliffe, mid-off; Mr Mordaunt, extra mid-off; Mr Fry, mid-on; Mr Foster, short-slip; Mr Raikes, extra slip; Mr Phillips, third man; and Mr Smith, long-off. From his third ball Mr Mitchell made a single, and Mr Grace

scored a lucky two off the fourth.

Mr Cunliffe (left-hand medium pace) bowled from the nursery side and his field was placed – Mr Lewis, wicket-keeper; Mr Foster, slip; Mr Warner, point; Mr Smith, third man; Mr Leveson-Gower, cover-point; Mr Mordaunt, extra mid-off; Mr Raikes, mid-off; Mr Fry, mid-on; Mr Arkwright, extra slip; and Mr Phillips, long-off. A no-ball and a wide were the only items in the first over, and a couple of singles came from the next two.

Mr Grace mistimed several things, but then made a fine late cut for four. Mr Mitchell drove Mr Cunliffe finely along the ground, the ball going just outside the canvas. Mr Grace sent a ball from the same bowler to the off for four, but Mr Fry ought to have stopped it. Mr Arkwright bowled three maiden overs in succession. Meanwhile only a couple of singles had been scored from Mr Cunliffe, who began to get his pitch. A great hit was made by Mr Mitchell, who drove the ball on to the top of the awning of the members' enclosure. Mr Grace obtained three by rather a bad stroke over third man's head. Mr Cunliffe bowled on the other side of the wicket, and an appeal for legbefore against Mr Mitchell was negatived.

A change at 31 was tried, Mr Arkwright giving way to Mr Fry. Only a single to each batsman came from his first over, and then Mr Mitchell pulled a short-pitched ball of Mr Cunliffe's to the ring. Mr Grace cut the ball capitally for four, but was nearly run out by the wicket-keeper. The Oxford fielding was now pretty good. Mr Grace had a lucky four by a snick. Mr Leveson-Gower came on for Mr Cunliffe at 49, and a single by Mr Mitchell caused 50 to be reached in three-quarters of an hour. The same batsman twice drove Mr Fry to the off for four in an over. It was now found that the ball was split and, of course, a new one had to be provided. Mr Mitchell mistimed a ball of Mr Leveson-Gower's and returned it to him. He had played good cricket and 59 for one wicket was a very excellent start.

Mr R A Studd arrived. A few singles resulted from some quiet play, and then Mr Grace went out to one of Mr Leveson-Gower's slows and pushed it for four. He was then beaten by a ball, but no harm came from it. A single took him to the other end, where he got a lucky four through the slips. He had generally exercised much care, but directly afterwards he scooped the ball up to Mr Mordaunt at extra mid-off. His 40 in 65 minutes was the result of very fair cricket and he had a good reception from the pavilion. Two for 77.

Mr N F Druce, who was reckoned the strongest bat on the side, was out second ball, Mr Fry sending him a "yorker" on the off stump which bowled him. Three for 77 was a great change and the batsmen seemed a little bewildered, neither appreciating Mr Leveson-Gower's slows. A sharp shower came on but the cricketers played through it. Mr Marriott made four by a good hit on the leg side from Mr Fry. But two overs later he played back to a ball which bowled him. Four for 90.

Mr Wilson joined Mr Studd and Mr Cunliffe resumed at his old end. The new comer secured four by a lucky snick, and then Mr Lewis appealed for stumping against Mr Studd. It was very neatly done; but "Not out" was the reply. This batsman lost a run through not going, and then a splendid piece of fielding was shown by Mr Raikes at extra slip. Indeed, at this stage the whole of the Oxford men were fielding very cleanly. Mr Wilson, with a cut for four, caused the 100 to be completed as the result of as many minutes' play. The drizzle now increased and the adjournment was made a quarter of an hour earlier than usual.

The game was resumed at a quarter to 3, when Mr Fry and Mr Cunliffe again bowled. An off-drive for four was made by Mr Wilson, who was then caught by the wicket-keeper, and five batsmen

were dismissed for 108. Mr W G Druce arrived and the cricket became very slow. Nothing beyond singles were recorded for a few overs until Mr Druce hit Cunliffe to leg for four. The Cambridge captain drove Mr Foster to the off boundary. A hit for a single, which deserved more, by Mr Studd caused the 130 to be completed at ten minutes past 3. Runs came at a tardy pace until Mr Studd made a very fine hit for four; but the next ball struck his leg stump. He had played a patient innings, lasting an hour and a half. Six for 137.

Mr Hemingway cut a ball of Mr Fry's for four, after which the play became quiet for a little while. Then a snick by the last arrival sent the 150 up at half-past 3. Mr Hemingway made ten (in which were two cuts for four) in an over of Mr Fry's. Mr Hemingway got his 21 in ten minutes. Mr Leveson-Gower relieved Mr Cunliffe at 165, and Mr W G Druce at once drove him for four, and Mr Hemingway served Mr Fry in the same way. The latter was now taken off and at last Mr Raikes was tried. Mr Hemingway obtained seven in his first over and Mr W G Druce made a leg hit for four. The latter then returned the ball – a fine catch from a hard drive. Fifty-eight had been recorded in a little over half an hour.

Mr Burrough came in, and Mr Hemingway, with a hard drive to the off, passed Mr Grace's score in 40 minutes, and at the same time the 200 was signalled. A fine catch low down at wicket soon dismissed Mr Burrough, and eight batsmen were out for 210. Mr Hemingway, who was joined by Mr Lowe, made two remarkably good drives (one all along the ground). He completed his 50 in as many minutes, and then Mr Fry resumed bowling in place of Mr Raikes. Mr Lowe was badly missed in the long-field from a big drive, the ball going into Mr Raikes's hands - the batsman had then made seven. Mr Hemingway having driven Mr Fry straight for four was out the next ball but one through a splendid catch by Mr Cunliffe low down at mid-off. He had only been an hour getting his 57 and was loudly cheered; among his hits were ten fours, a three and three twos. Nine for 238. Mr Lowe was bowled and the innings, having lasted three hours and a half, closed for 244.

Oxford started their batting at ten minutes past 5 with Mr Warner and Mr Raikes. The bowling was opened by Mr Gray from the pavilion end. He had his men placed thus: - Mr W G Druce, wicket-keeper; Mr Burrough, point; Mr Marriott, cover-point; Mr Grace, mid-off; Mr Mitchell, slip; Mr N F Druce, extra slip; Mr Studd, third man; Mr Lowe, extra mid-off; Mr Wilson, mid-on; and Mr Hemingway, long-off. Nothing came from the first over.

Mr Wilson was the other bowler, with his field as follows: - Mr W G Druce, wicket-keeper; Mr Burrough, point; Mr Marriott, cover-point; Mr Grace, mid-off; Mr Mitchell, slip; Mr Lowe, extra mid-off; Mr Gray, mid-on; and Mr Studd, long-off. From his first over came a sharp single to Mr Warner and a couple to Mr Raikes through the slips. A leg hit and an off drive from which seven runs came were made by Mr Warner, who obtained a lucky four by a snick. This batsman also cut Mr Wilson to the ring. Thus 34 were made at a rapid rate.

But now a series of disasters befell Oxford. Mr Raikes, in hitting right across at a ball, was clean bowled. Mr Foster had the ill fortune to be bowled by the first ball he received. This was a great disaster for the Dark Blues, who had now lost one of their best batsmen. The light had become very bad. Mr Mordaunt hit the first ball (a full toss) to the leg boundary. Several maiden overs were bowled and both men played carefully. An especially fine bit of fielding was shown by Mr Lowe at extra mid-off.

Now came a remarkable over from Mr Wilson. Mr Warner was out to a capital one-handed catch low down at slip for 22; he had played fine cricket. Mr Fry came in, but he easily returned the second ball he received (a short-pitched one). Four wickets had been lost in three-quarters of an

hour for 38. Mr Mordaunt and Mr Leveson-Gower were now partners. The latter cut a ball of Mr Wilson's for four, and the umpires then consulted whether the light was sufficiently bad to stop play; but, unfortunately for Oxford, it was decided to keep on. Mr Leveson-Gower obtained another four by an off-drive; after which Mr Mordaunt, in trying to place a ball, misjudged it and his leg stump was struck. Half the wickets were now lost for 48.

Mr Phillips came in and the last ball of the over he hit to the leg boundary. This caused 50 to be signalled at five minutes past 6. A further mishap was in store for Oxford in losing Mr Phillips, whose off stump was bowled down. Mr Smith arrived at a quarter past 6, and Mr Leveson-Gower cut Mr Gray for four; he next snicked a ball and, thinking he was caught in the slips, began to leave his ground, but got back in time to avoid being run out. The light was still very bad. Both men were playing carefully and the total was advanced to 93, when Mr Wilson handed the ball to Mr Lowe (fast). At 13 minutes to 7, in addition to the badness of the light, rain fell rather fast and stumps were drawn . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 July, page 15)

The cricket match between the Universities was keenly fought at Lord's yesterday. Oxford extricated themselves in a great measure from their evil plight of Thursday evening, when they lost their best batsmen in a very bad light. Yet Cambridge, by sterling batting, reached a very strong position before the drawing of stumps, for they have set their opponents to make 331 in the fourth innings of the match. This means that Oxford, to win, must break the record as concerns the Universities' meetings, inasmuch as no fourth innings if 300 runs has been played in their history.

The day's cricket was full of exciting incident. Oxford in the morning were in a very bad position and had not even saved the follow on, having four wickets only to fall and 29 to get. But Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr G O Smith played beautifully. The former is the master of many fine strokes, which were all well marked, and there was general regret among impartial spectators when he played on. He forced the game extremely well. While he was doing this Mr Smith, himself capable of hitting, had shown great judgment in playing carefully. Then he finished up the innings with something like his Carthusian dash. These men quite revived Oxford's fortunes, and to them alone belonged the honours of the innings.

Mr Mitchell, in his splendid forward play, gave a brilliant start to the Cambridge second innings, but the tide subsequently turned for a while, and seven men out for 208 promised Oxford no wonderful task for the last innings. But the Cambridge captain's 66, by sound and vigorous batting, finally swelled the total to 288. This cricket by Mr Mitchell and Mr W G Druce was of a very high class and will rank among the best things of the match.

Of the fielding it is difficult to speak generally. There was much brilliancy in it, but also a little slovenliness, in which two missed catches were naturally the worst offences. Against these must be mentioned the great catch by Mr Arkwright which dismissed Mr Mitchell, and that of Mr Lewis at the wicket which disposed of Mr Studd. Luck seemed dead against the Dark Blues, for the fine bowling of Mr Cunliffe and of Mr Arkwright in many instances got through the batsmen's defence without striking the wicket. The trueness of the turf should not be overlooked, as the most skilful of bowlers could not have got much work on the ball on such a pitch.

It will be interesting to see how Oxford fare to-day. They possess a splendid array of batsmen, and unless the wicket goes should get many runs. Still the stake at issue and the fact of its being the last

chance for their side have often unnerved as strong a team; and Cambridge are sure to bowl and field very keenly from what, in most cases, is a winning position. Improved weather and the remarkable play of Thursday brought up thousands to Lord's, and the company was fully 20,000 strong. The promenade during the luncheon interval possessed all its characteristic brilliancy, while Knatchbull's corner, the nursery on the east side and the carriages and coaches were for the most part devoted to picnic parties.

The game was continued at 11.30, when Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr Smith (the not-outs with 34 and 8) resumed batting, and Oxford wanted 29 to save the follow on. Mr Gray again bowled from the pavilion wicket. A sharp single to Mr Leveson-Gower and a couple on the leg side came from the first over by Mr Smith. Mr Leveson-Gower made four by a beautiful late cut from Mr Wilson (the bowler at the other end). The 100 was passed in five minutes. Both men seemed in good form. Six came in an over of Mr Gray's, in whose next Mr Leveson-Gower made four through the slips. A change was tried at 114, Mr Lowe going on for Mr Wilson; and a cut for two shot Mr Leveson-Gower's 50 up in an hour and a quarter. An on-drive for three by this batsman saved the follow on, amidst hearty cheers, at five minutes to 12.

Mr Grace relieved Mr Gray at 126. A fine stroke to the pavilion rails by Mr Leveson-Gower caused him to become the top-scorer of the match. He followed this up with another drive, and at 139 Mr Lowe gave way to Mr Burrough. Fifty were added in 40 minutes. Mr Smith was nearly bowled by Mr Burrough, and Mr Leveson-Gower made a bad stroke through the slips. The 150 was telegraphed at 12.25 and Mr Lowe came on for Mr Grace. His second ball Mr Leveson-Gower played on, cutting the ball into the wickets. He had been in an hour and three-quarters and 83 were out on during his stay; his determined hitting had made all the difference in the match; his chief figures were ten fours and two threes. Seven down.

Mr Cunliffe joined Mr Smith, and an over of Mr Burrough's produced a dozen runs, in which were two fine cuts to the ring by Mr Smith. Mr Gray resumed at 164, and a bad return was made by Mr Wilson from mid-on, the ball going wide to the wicket-keeper, or Mr Smith would have been run out. He profited by this indulgence by getting four on the leg side. Mr Wilson relieved Mr Burrough at 179. In his first over Mr Cunliffe made a good cut, but was then easily caught at slip. Mr Arkwright came, and Mr Smith hit the ball through the slips for four, but Mr Arkwright was then caught at cover-point. Nine for 195.

The interest now centred upon the Dark Blues reaching 200 and on Mr Smith completing his 50. Mr Lewis got a single and then played a very good maiden over from Mr Gray, including a "yorker." Mr Lewis, with a single, caused the 200 to be signalled at five minutes past 1. Mr Smith completed his 50 amid hearty cheers; he had been batting two hours and 50 minutes. Two runs later, Mr Lewis was bowled and the innings closed. Mr Smith took out his bat for 51. He had shown beautiful defence and had a capital reception. Thus a great change came over matters, as, after six wickets had gone for 67, the last four added 135 and, after all, Oxford were only 42 behind.

Cambridge entered on their second innings at half-past 1. Mr Mitchell and Mr Grace, jun., again went in first. The bowling was intrusted to Mr Arkwright (pavilion) and Mr Cunliffe. Singles only came from the first five hits, and then Mr Grace sent a ball of Mr Arkwright's to leg for four and Mr Mitchell made a fine drive to the boundary. A lot of capital fielding was shown by Mr Fry, Mr Raikes and Mr Mordaunt. A dangerous single was scored, and through a fine piece of fielding by Mr Leveson-Gower at cover-point Mr Mitchell was nearly run out. Mr Grace drove Mr Arkwright for four and a double change in the attack was tried, Mr Fry (pavilion) and Mr Leveson-Gower going on. Mr Grace, when he had obtained 16, was badly missed by Mr Leveson-Gower at cover-

point. Mr Mitchell made an indifferent stroke and was almost caught, while his companion was nearly bowled. Indeed, the batsmen played very badly in the few overs before luncheon, when the total stood at 39.

After the interval Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr Fry bowled. Mr Mitchell, with an off-drive for four, caused 50 to be recorded at five minutes to 3. Mr Grace was again missed, this time by Mr Raikes at extra slip. Mr Mitchell cut Mr Fry for four and Mr Grace sent the other bowler to the leg boundary. The latter made a risky stroke over point's head. He then quite lost a very slow ball from Mr Leveson-Gower, which easily beat and bowled him. He had played a lucky innings and had given two chances, besides making some very loose strokes. One for 69 came after an hour's play, thus giving Cambridge a lead of 111.

Mr Studd came, and good fielding was shown by Mr Raikes at extra slip. An on-drive and leg hit, each for four, were secured by Mr Studd, who in the same over was caught at wicket. Mr N F Druce arrived and twice hit Mr Leveson-Gower for four. Mr Druce, with an off-drive to the ring (the ball having been misfortune by Mr Arkwright at cover-point), brought up the 100 at 3.35. Mr Cunliffe now relieved Mr Leveson-Gower, and when Mr Mitchell had again cut Mr Fry to the boundary that bowler gave way to Mr Arkwright. Mr Mitchell was beaten by Mr Cunliffe but not bowled. At this stage Oxford were fielding remarkably well, and at length Mr N F Druce, from a gentle stroke, was caught low down at cover-point. Three for 119. Mr Wilson aided Mr Mitchell, who was caught and bowled from a hard drive. He had been batting for an hour and three-quarters, had not made a mistake and had shown great driving powers. Four down.

Mr Marriott twice hit Mr Cunliffe for four. Nothing of note happened for some little time, and then a bad hit by Mr Wilson fell just in front of cover-point. The cricket was again slow until Mr Marriott brightened things with a drive over the bowler's head to the canvas. At half-past 4 the 150 was telegraphed. Mr Wilson having driven Mr Cunliffe to the off for four, that bowler handed the ball to Mr Leveson-Gower. The attack was now very good and the batsmen were several times beaten. At length Mr Marriott was bowled after an hour's partnership with Mr Wilson for 50 runs. Five for 170.

Mr W G Druce came and drove the ball to the spectators. Mr Arkwright was taken off at last; he had bowled very well for 90 minutes and now gave way to Mr Fry, while Mr Raikes was put on for the first time at 182. The latter change proved disastrous to Mr Wilson, who was bowled all over his wicket. Six for 194. Mr Hemingway started pluckily, and with a late cut to the members' enclosure he caused the 200 to be hoisted. Mr Hemingway was then bowled and seven batsmen were out for 208. Mr Burrough, who joined Mr W G Druce, played patiently for a few overs and then drove Mr Fry hard to the off boundary, and the Cambridge captain hit Mr Raikes to leg for four. Quiet play followed, and at 226 Mr Arkwright relieved Mr Fry. Four runs late Mr Burrough was easily caught at extra slip. Eight down.

Mr Lowe joined Mr W G Druce, who was batting in very fine style. He sent a ball off Mr Raikes to leg for four. Nor was Mr Lowe idle. With a drive to the off he caused the Light Blues' first total to be passed, and at a quarter-past 6 250 were registered. Mr Leveson-Gower stopped a very hard drive by Mr Druce. Mr Cunliffe came on again at 260 and in his first over Mr Lowe played on. Nine for 263. Mr Gray arrived and Mr Druce, with a leg hit for four, completed his 50. Mr Fry went on at the opposite end (the nursery) to that at which he had hitherto been. Mr Gray kept up his wicket while Mr Druce hit freely. He was at last bowled, however, in trying to place a ball to leg. He had played very good cricket and was in an hour and 50 minutes; among his hits were seven fours, two threes and seven twos. Duration of innings, four hours and a half.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 July, page 7)

The defeat of Oxford at Lord's on Saturday was of greater severity than had been expected. Oxford possessed so many tried and skilful batsmen that against ordinary bowling it was thought just possible they might succeed in their great task. But the Cambridge men bowled too straight on the pitch, which had become dusty, making the ball shoot a good deal; nine times was the wicket hit, and soon after luncheon Cambridge won by 134 runs.

No better style of cricket ever yielded 100 in the University match than that of Mr Foster, whose beautiful forward play and many strokes – the cut, the drive and the leg hit were all splendidly demonstrated – kept the large crowd of spectators in a high state of enthusiasm for the two hours that it took the batsman to make his 121. It was a wonderful innings to play at such a stage of the game, when his side were going to pieces, when no one stayed with him for more than half an hour, and when little else than defeat awaited Oxford. Mr Foster had plenty of good balls to meet and many that were bad, but all alike seemed not to trouble him. The kind of innings he played will be imagined from the fact that he got his 100 out of 132 added in 110 minutes.

The upset of public form in the defeat of Oxford can, of course, be traced to the bad time the Dark Blues had in the 90 minutes of Thursday, when the fast bowler Mr Gray, with his arm often lost among the black coats in the pavilion seats, established a procession of Oxford batsmen. But on Saturday the Oxford men had no such excuse to cover their poor defence, and if they had gone forward and hit the bowlers off their pitch instead of playing back, as most of them did, they might have made a bold bid for victory. Such back play, often to short bowling, on a fast pitch has ruined the chances of many a side. Mr Foster deserved better support than he got. The start was bad, and two wickets going for five blighted the prospects of Oxford at the outset.

In their trials Cambridge displayed no such cricket as in this game. Not only was their batting very good, but they fielded and bowled extremely well. The old Uppingham captain, Mr Wilson, is a capital bowler, with an excellent pitch, and gets some break on the ball; Mr Gray and Mr Lowe are both fast and came out with good analyses. Mr W G Druce is to be heartily congratulated on the success of his side, which was the result of thoroughly sound cricket and hard work. There were 12,000 spectators of the final stage of the match.

Oxford, who wanted 331 to win, sent in Mr Fry and Mr Warner at half-past 11. Mr Gray bowled from the pavilion end. From his first ball Mr Fry made a single, while his fourth Mr Warner cut to the boundary. Mr Wilson led the attack from the nursery side, and his fourth ball Mr Fry tried to place, but it shot a bit and struck the bottom of the stumps. One wicket for five runs was bad, but it became worse when the second ball of the next over bowled Mr Warner off his legs.

Mr Foster and Mr Mordaunt were then associated. The latter did not know much about a ball from Mr Gray, in whose next over Mr Foster got a lucky four to leg and a good cut for a couple; while the next nearly bowled him. This batsman followed up by making four from each end by a cut and off drive. Then came a beautiful drive to the ring by Mr Foster from Mr Gray, and two overs later he cut Mr Wilson finely for four. He next drove the ball to the off and Mr Hemingway misfielded it, which gave Oxford two runs more than they should have had. Mr Grace, jun., was tried for Mr Wilson at 38. In his third over he pitched a ball on a spot from which it rose high and dropped on Mr Mordaunt's wicket. Both batsmen had been playing in splendid style for half an hour and gave every promise of a long stand. Three for 43.

Mr Leveson-Gower began with a short and dangerous run, and had Mr Gray returned the ball better Mr Foster would in all likelihood have been run out. Mr Leveson-Gower gave a sharp chance at wicket from Mr Gray, whom he next cut for four. This bowler was twice driven by Mr Foster to the on boundary in the same over, and 50 runs came in as many minutes. Mr Foster drove Mr Grace well to the on boundary, and then he gave a sharp left-handed chance to Mr Burrough at point from the same bowler. Mr Gray handed the ball to Mr Lowe at 62, and a four to Mr Foster completed his 50 at 12.35. He then hit Mr Lowe to the square-leg boundary, and Mr Gray went on at the nursery end for Mr Grace at 81. There was now a lot of sharp and risky running, until Mr Leveson-Gower, in playing back, lost the ball, which bowled both the middle and leg stumps. Forty-seven had been put on for the wicket by excellent cricket. Four for 90.

Mr Phillips assisted Mr Foster, who hit a full toss to the on boundary and then cut the ball over point's head; Mr Burrough just touched it, but it went to the spectators. The 100 was reached after 80 minutes' play by an excellent cut for four by Mr Foster. Mr Wilson came on again for Mr Gray, and a maiden over was well played by Mr Foster. A piece of bad luck befell Oxford by the bowling of Mr Phillips, who played right outside a ball, which broke his leg stump. Half the wickets were lost for 111. A few more dangerous singles were made and each batsman stood a chance of being run out, but Mr Burrough fumbled the ball at point. Mr Smith was quite beaten by Mr Lowe, who struck the top of the stumps. Six for 115.

Mr Raikes followed in and cut Mr Gray for four, while Mr Foster, who had been batting quietly for a little time, sent Mr Lowe to the square-leg boundary. This bowler gave way to Mr Grace at 128, and in his first over Mr Raikes was missed by Mr Gray at mid-on; the ball was a little low but it ought to have been caught. Mr Foster made a late cut for four, and with a straight drive for a couple he completed his 100 amidst hearty applause, in which the Cambridge fieldsmen joined. He had obtained this number in an hour and 50 minutes. He next drive the ball for four, and ten runs were made in one over of Mr Gray's. This feat was soon afterwards repeated in an over from Mr Grace, who had relieved Mr Gray, the whole of these being made by Mr Foster, who, with a leg hit for four, sent up the 150 at 1.35.

Several other fine strokes took the score rapidly to 164, when Mr Foster mistimed a ball from Mr Gray, who had displaced Mr Wilson, and gave cover-point an easy catch. Mr Foster's stay at the wicket just exceeded two hours and his 121 was made out of 159 added while in. He had a great reception from the pavilion for his brilliant display. His best hits were 20 fours, a three and nine twos. Seven for 164.

Mr Cunliffe and Mr Raikes raised the figures to 177 before luncheon; but in 20 minutes afterwards Mr Lowe bowled out Mr Cunliffe, Mr Arkwright and Mr Lewis, and amid great enthusiasm Cambridge won by 134 runs. After luncheon Mr Lewis sent down four overs and two balls for five runs and three wickets.

"Wisden" gives a summary of results of Oxford v Cambridge and also the 100's scored. Of the 61 matches played Cambridge have won 31 and Oxford 27, while three matches have been drawn . . .

4th July: SUSSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4375.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 July, page 11)

County cricket is something of a novelty for Hastings, for it is 15 years since the last match was played there between the home county and Leicestershire. Yesterday the appearance of Yorkshire on the Recreation Ground furnished a considerable attraction.

Sussex, who went in first, were largely dependent for their respectable score on the brilliant batting of Mr K S Ranjitsinhji, and in a lesser degree to the efforts of Mr Murdoch and Tate. Mr Ranjitsinhji and Mr Murdoch put on 76 in 45 minutes for the third wicket; but the former was let off by Lord Hawke at mid-on when he had made 47. He was third to leave, dismissed by a beautiful one-handed catch at extra-slip, and in his 59 were 11 fours, two threes, and two twos. At luncheon half the side had gone for 107, while subsequently the ninth wicket fell at 142. Tate and Humphreys added 47 for the last partnership, and the innings, in two and three-quarter hours, was over for 189. Hirst came out with a fine analysis.

When Yorkshire went in Tunnicliffe and Mr Jackson both played fine cricket, and at the finish the visitors were 80 behind with seven men left them. During the day Humphreys and Mr Murdoch both hurt their hands.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 July, page 15)

Mr K S Ranjitsinhji's consistently brilliant batting shows no signs of abatement, and his fine innings of 74 yesterday at Hastings was the main element that helped Sussex to a respectable total in their second innings. In addition to this he had the distinction of completing by it his 1,000 aggregate for the season.

Yorkshire were set 111 to win, and the closing figures were 18 for no wicket. Fine weather prevailed and there was a large company.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 July, page 7)

The 93 runs which Yorkshire wanted when play ended at Hastings on Friday night were quickly got on Saturday morning, and Yorkshire beat Sussex by nine wickets.

Monday 8 July, page 7: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present state of the competition is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	12	9	1	2	8
Yorkshire	12	7	3	2	4
Lancashire	9	6	3	0	3
Derbyshire	6	2	1	3	1
Gloucestershire	6	3	3	0	0
Middlesex	9	3	3	3	0
Warwickshire	11	3	3	5	0
Hampshire	5	2	3	0	-1
Sussex	7	2	3	2	-1
Leicestershire	8	3	4	1	-1
Nottinghamshire	8	2	4	2	-2
Essex	8	2	5	1	-3
Somerset	7	1	4	2	-3
Kent	6	0	5	1	- 5

The points are secured by the deduction of losses from wins. Drawn games are ignored.

8 July: DERBYSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4376.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 July, page 12)

At Derby yesterday the Yorkshire eleven had all the better of the day's play and the hours of cricket were almost wholly occupied with their first innings. The score of 322 was well divided among the side and there was much brilliant batting. Derbyshire, who were without Davidson, W Storer and Mr Walker, fared badly in the last hour.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 July, page 13)

The fine hitting by Mr Evershed and the steady cricket of Bagshaw completely rescued Derbyshire from the bad position in which they were left on Monday night at Derby. The partnership of these two men, both of whom ran into three figures, yielded 190 runs in 100 minutes. Mr Evershed made 20 fours and Bagshaw 12 fours. Haigh took four of the last five wickets for three runs in six overs.

Yorkshire owed the position in which they stood at the close to the brilliant play of Mr F Mitchell, of the Cambridge eleven. They are now 183 on with four wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 11 July, page 11)

Yesterday, at Derby, Yorkshire batted so well that they set the home side much too heavy a task, and Derbyshire were beaten by 171 runs. On Tuesday night the score had been left in a fairly even position; but yesterday the later batsmen of the visitors did wonderfully well. Lord Hawke, who is in fine form this season, again came off, and with Hirst put on 80 for the sixth wicket, while the last partnership, between Haigh and Hunter, yielded 62. Lord Hawke hit eight fours.

Derbyshire had to go in to make 326 to win and, for a time, Bagshaw and Chatterton did so well as to hold out hopes of a draw. However, with Mr Milligan bowling, at 111 the innings collapsed, the last seven men adding only 39 runs. Mr Milligan had a fine analysis.

8 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4377.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 July, page 12)

The great crowd which went to Lord's yesterday to see the annual trial of the amateur and professional testified to the keen interest of the general public in the national game. The pavilion and members' inclosures were very full, while the numbers that paid gate were no fewer than 10,623.

The Marylebone executive had acquitted themselves well in the selection of the teams; they were not wholly fortunate with the Gentlemen, inasmuch as Mr Woods could not play, while K S Ranjitsinhji had to consider the call of Sussex on him. Derbyshire, in letting off Storer and Davidson when they had a big match on, set an example that might be well studied by some counties of greater strength. However, the sides were very powerful and the Players could not well have been strengthened. Young Hayward's choice was extremely popular, and besides him there were five great bowlers in the team – Mold, Richardson, Attewell, Peel and Davison. Storer was wicket-keeper. Dr Grace, with his team full of batting to a man, had no easy task to make out his order. It must be a side when Mr G MacGregor has to go in last.

The Gentlemen lost the toss, and in three hours and three-quarters managed to get the Players out by the aid of four bowlers. The best cricket of the innings was Hayward's 60; he played very soundly and was very quick to punish a bad ball. He went in third wicket down at 106 and was eighth out at 200 to a clever right-hand catch by Mr Stoddart, high up at extra-slip, while his innings extended over an hour and three-quarters and included seven fours, a three and four twos.

All this good play occurred in the afternoon. Before luncheon there was nothing striking in the batting. Abel made a very bad hit in getting caught in the slips, Ward was playing back to a ball well up when he was bowled, Gunn, in trying to hit, had his leg stump bowled out of the ground, and Sugg, who was never at home, gave cover-point a skier at 120. The bowling of Mr Ernest Smith and Mr Jackson necessitated the utmost care on the part of the batsmen. After the interval Hayward's play alone was worth the watching, and by a quarter to 5 the innings ended for 231. This was a pretty cheap dismissal for the Players.

When the Players went in Dr W G Grace and Mr Stoddart found Mold and Richardson bowling at a great pace. Still the batsmen, although occasionally beaten, made some splendid hits and had the credit of knocking off Mold, for whom Peel went on at 45. One of Mr Stoddart's drives off Richardson carried the ball to the pavilion seats. The 50 went up in rather more than three-quarters of an hour. The batsmen were well set, and although Davidson went on at 55 for Richardson, the score rose at a steady pace.

Dr W G Grace and Mr Stoddart ran at a very even rate. With 70 up the batsmen were "33 all," and at 90 it was "43 all." A confident appeal for a catch at the wicket against Dr Grace brought only "not out" from the umpire, after which there was a long burst of applause for the 100 and also for the completion of Mr Stoddart's thousand, these events being secured by a single off Mold and a single off Attewell, who had gone on at the nursery end. Mr Grace soon ran past the 50 and Mr Stoddart followed suit. In the closing overs both men made some splendid strokes, and although Mold and Richardson changed ends the score was up to 137 before the drawing of stumps.

These runs had been made in a couple of hours against the best bowling in England and on a wicket that was not of the truest. It was a wonderful performance and one that pleased the crowd well. The Players are not in the happiest of positions, with their opponents only 94 behind them and no wicket down.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 July, page 13)

The hundreds by Dr Grace have been so many this season as to grow almost commonplace. Yesterday's was his fifth at Lord's this summer, besides which there have been his 200's at Bristol and Gravesend; and now he is nearing his 2,000 aggregate – he stands at 1,756 – while a lot of his more youthful but skilled companions are yet only thinking of the 1,000.

His great innings, a part of which was played on Monday evening, secured additional merit from the fact that not only was it made against the best of English bowlers, but Dr Grace had to meet all the wonderful bowling talent on a fiery wicket, with the ball getting up often very dangerously and when to time it was a matter of extreme difficulty. Here, then, was the cause of Dr Grace's being in several instances nearly bowled and occasionally making an ill-judged stroke. Naturally it was the champion's 118, and further the big stand between him and Mr Stoddart for the first Gentlemen's wicket, that furnished the large crowd with their chief theme for discussion.

Mr Stoddart was out early in the morning; he made one beautiful drive from Mold, but at 151 he played on. The stand for the wicket had lasted two hours and a quarter, and Mr Stoddart had shown all his wonderful powers of driving, making 11 fours in his 71.

In the next half-hour the game underwent a marked change, and it seemed, even after the splendid start, that the Gentlemen would have to fight hard to get level with the Players. Mr Jackson and this year's three University representatives made only ten runs among them, and the score was only 187 when the fifth wicket went down. Mr N F Druce had bad luck in being called by his captain for a ridiculous single that cost the wicket.

Sir T C O'Brien played very good cricket. Several of his strokes on the leg side were beautifully made, while he risked his wicket for a single in his anxiety to help Dr Grace to the 100. Dr Grace, when he did run into his three figures, had a sustained round of cheers from the big company; he had played very carefully during the morning and his last 36 had taken him 90 minutes to get. Sir T C O'Brien assisted to add 41 for the sixth partnership, and then, at 241, Dr Grace was at length caught at wicket, being seventh out for 118. His batting extended over four hours and he gave no chance, while his chief figures were 11 fours, four threes and nine twos. Dr Grace had not scored 100 in Gentlemen v Players at Lord's since his great year of 1876.

The closing part of the Gentlemen's innings possessed no batting of merit. Indeed, three members of the team contributed no less a share than 210 of the 259. After Mr Stoddart left, in fact, nine wickets on this great batting side fell for 108 runs.

The second innings of the Players began at a quarter past 3 and went on until 7 o'clock, when six wickets were down for 269. For a long while the professionals fared badly. Abel gave an easy return catch, Gunn was bowled in trying to place a ball on the leg side, Frank Sugg was well caught by the wicket-keeper standing back, Hayward was run out through a blunder about a single between himself and Ward, and Davidson was bowled. In this way five men were out for 89.

But the fortunes of the Players mended in the last two hours. Ward played sound cricket and the splendid hitting of Storer gave a brilliant finish to the day. Ward towards the end of his innings played with some freedom, and he and Storer added 96 in 70 minutes for the sixth wicket. Ward, who hit 12 fours, completed his 1,000 runs for the season. Storer ran fewer risks as he approached his 100, and at the close his figures were 91, he and Peel having so far added 84. The last two hours had aptly illustrated the vagaries of cricket, for the Players had converted a losing into something of a winning score, for they are now 241 on with four wickets to fall.

There was an even larger attendance than on Monday, the official return of the numbers paying for admission being 11,208, while the pavilion and members' enclosures were again crowded. With the wind blowing freshly from the west, the heat was less felt than on the previous afternoon.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 11 July, page 11)

The Players beat the Gentlemen last evening at Lord's by 32 runs. It was a keenly-fought match on a fiery wicket to the end, and the narrowness of the professional victory was brought about by the fine hitting by Mr Fry and Mr Ernest Smith, who, when all seemed over, got together and out on 72 runs in half an hour for the last wicket. In this way was the finish made close; indeed, the Gentlemen were going strongly for a win when Mr Fry, stepping forward to Peel, fell to a fine piece of stumping.

The cricket of Mr Fry and Mr Smith was of a vastly different nature from that which had gone before. With the ball getting up badly, runs seemed very difficult to obtain, and for a long while an easy defeat appeared to await the Gentlemen. Mr N F Druce and Mr Dixon, with all their excellence and steadiness, failed to arrest the rapid decline of the side; but Mr Fry and Mr Smith found the best cure in some brilliant hitting. Most of the runs came by drives, and Richardson and Mold were hit off their pitch in a manner that smacked of success for the batting team. It must be said that, although the Gentlemen were beaten, the last half-hour yielded one of the best pieces of cricket in the match.

That the Players won was only in keeping with the position of affairs overnight, for it was generally felt that the pitch, already much against the batsmen, would get worse, and the professionals with four men in hand had an advantage of 241. But, as a matter of fact, the wicket lasted much better than had been expected. Not that it was to any great extent true. The ball rose dangerously. Dr W G Grace, who is rarely hit, received a bad blow in the ribs and, apart from sundry injured hands, there was a nasty accident to Sir T C O'Brien late in the day, the famous Middlesex amateur getting a bumping ball from Peel in his face. The spot in the pitch was rather too far up for the fast bowlers at the nursery end, and this was the reason why Peel's slows were mostly tried at that peculiar place.

In the first hour of the day, the Players' last four wickets yielded 94 runs. Storer, upon whom rested the honour of bringing such a change into the game, was not destined to reach his 100, although he wound up a vigorous innings by playing carefully for it, and he skied the ball to mid-on with his figures at 93. His was a fine display of batting, and 14 fours showed in some degree his freedom. Richardson was in the vein for hitting and contributed 43 of the 51 put on in 20 minutes for the eighth partnership.

Little hope could have been fostered by the Gentlemen that they would run to 300 in the last innings (the exact nature of their task was 336 to win) and their prospect seemed poor when Mr Stoddart and Dr Grace went cheaply. But each of these batsmen had made a few beautiful strokes, and in

particular there was a fine drive by Mr Stoddart off Mold. Both Dr Grace and Mr Stoddart were clean bowled, and when the fourth wicket went at 87 things seemed to be going from bad to worse.

Still the afternoon was made excellent, in the first place, by the cricket of Mr Druce and Mr Dixon. The last-named was sixth out at 188, after a stay of a couple of hours. He hit six fours and five threes. Mr Druce played wonderfully well all round the wicket, and Sir T C O'Brien, in spite of the injury he sustained in the face, did well. But it was after the ninth wicket had gone for 231 that Mr Fry and Mr Smith delighted the spectators with their determined attempt to win the match for the Gentlemen. Mr Fry hit nine fours and Mr Smith six fours.

To get 303 on such a wicket and against the most dangerous of bowlers is a feat of which the Gentlemen should be proud. The match was not over until 6 o'clock, so that it had lasted practically three full days. There were about 8,000 spectators.

Owing to the various county matches to-day the Oval team for Gentlemen v Players are in no sense representative. The sides will be as follows . . .

8 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4378.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 July, page 12)

Lilley's brilliant innings – his third 100 for Warwickshire this season – marked yesterday's play at Leicester. He went in third wicket down at 29 and took out his bat for 158, giving no chance until just before the last man fell, and hitting a six and 22 fours. Diver helped him to put on 78 for the fourth partnership, and Law 101 for the sixth. Woodcock's fast bowling was remarkably successful in the long innings.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 July, page 13)

In a dull day's cricket at Leicester yesterday the home side were continually fighting an uphill game, and last night found them still 18 runs behind with only three wickets left in the second innings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 11 July, page 11)

Warwickshire gained a decisive victory over Leicestershire at Leicester yesterday by an innings and nine runs.

8 July: SUSSEX v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4379.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 July, page 12)

There was much excellent batting yesterday at the Hove Ground, Brighton. Hampshire's first innings occupied most of the day, and it was made remarkable by the long third partnership between Mr Ward and Mr Studd. They got together when two men were out for 17, and in the course of 80 minutes put on 108 runs. Mr Ward hit eight fours. Mr Studd was unfortunate in just missing his 100. He left fourth at 195 and his innings included nine fours, while he had two singles increased to fives by overthrows. In the closing hour of the day K S Ranjitsinhji hit brilliantly, making 64 out of 84.

In the absence of Butt Mr Arlington kept wicket for Sussex. Neither Captain Wynyard nor Barton was able to play for Hampshire.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 July, page 13)

Yesterday's cricket at Brighton ran pretty evenly and, with the wicket still hard and true, there seems little in the match with Hampshire 157 on and five wickets to fall in the second innings.

Sussex, who had started well on Monday, did not get so many runs as was expected, in fact, it was left to the last few batsmen to bring up the score to within eight of the Hampshire figures. K S Ranjitsinhji only slightly improved on his overnight score, but his 83 were splendidly obtained and included 15 fours. When Hampshire went in again, the best thing was the play of Mr Studd and Webb, who put on 69 while they were together.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 11 July, page 11)

As the wicket remained firm and true at the Hove ground, Brighton, yesterday, it was not surprising that the game ended in a draw. Over 1,100 runs were made in the match.

Tuesday 9 July, page 12: THE CRICKETERS' FUND

Last night, at Lord's, the annual meeting of the members of this fund was held. Mr W E Denison, of the M.C.C. and Notts, presided over a large gathering of professional cricketers. Lord Harris, the M.C.C. president, and Mr Henry Perkins, the M.C.C. secretary, also attended the meeting.

The balance-sheet, which showed the fund to be in a very flourishing condition, was adopted. Mr Denison then addressed the meeting at some length on the subject of unfair bowling, in fact, throwing, in cricket. Although things had improved since the amendment of the law, a feeling still existed that a good deal of throwing went on in important matches, and the M.C.C., if they were appealed to, might have to take some unpleasant steps to prevent the practice by ordering the suspension of the breakers of the law. The point might arise, too, whether the umpire at the striker's wicket should not be called upon to judge whether a man's action was fair. He only made these remarks generally.

Frank Sugg, of Lancashire, protested against the address, but Mr Denison pointed out that he charged no one; but simply threw out a warning to the cricket world.

11 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4380.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 July, page 12)

The difficulties of getting a thorough representation of the amateur and professional talent for the usual test match on the Oval were not overcome by the Surrey executive, and the sides which took the field yesterday, while they included many skilled cricketers, were not of the strength to give great value to the contest as a test of the season. With the extension of the county championship so many more matches have to be crowded into the cricket year that there is very little room for the old-fashioned fixtures.

Yesterday eight of the counties were engaged, so that Surrey's field of selection was very limited. For the Players they drew strongly on their own county, while Middlesex, Sussex, Hampshire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire were also represented. The Gentlemen are strong in batting; but unless the weather changes their bowling will probably get some severe treatment on the true turf at the Oval to-day. It was surprising to find so many spectators of yesterday's cricket, and the fact that then numbered 7,000 or 8,000 points to the existence still of great public interest in a match in which the game can be enjoyed without all the excitement engendered by a county championship fixture.

The Gentlemen's innings spread over the whole of the day, beginning soon after noon and ending at a quarter-past 6. Although the pitch was hard and true a score of 320 against all the fine bowling was one of much merit. The chief features were the batting of Mr Gwynn and Mr Fry. It is quite pleasant to find Mr Fry showing something like the batting powers that used to mark his game in his early Oxford days. His hard and bright forward play sits on him much better than the patience which he has so often exercised of late. This success yesterday came well after his good score on the fiery wicket at Lord's on Wednesday.

Mr Gwynn, of Trinity College, Dublin, secured much fame this season by his big scores for Dublin University against Leicestershire and Cambridge University. He quite justified the honour conferred on him by the invitation to play in the Oval match. He has a steady and finished style, which yesterday he exercised for three hours and a quarter; his defence came, too, at an opportune time for the Gentlemen, who did badly at the start, and it was his batting that laid the foundation for the big total. His two chief partners were Mr Murdoch and Mr Fry; the former helped to add 44 for the fourth wicket and the latter 133 for the fifth.

The cricket had settled down to a certain dullness, when Mr Fry arrived and infused some life into the play, not only by his hitting but by the way he sprinted between the wickets for several sharp singles. Short running is dangerous, but there are few things more exciting in cricket to watch, and it is a good antidote for any sleepiness in the field. Mr Fry and Mr Gwynn were only 90 minutes in adding their 133, and the played all the good bowling with ease. Richardson was the most difficult, and he at last got Mr Fry caught at wicket. Ten fours were in his 77. Mr Gwynn left quickly afterwards, running himself out. It was a bad end for a fine innings, which lasted from one wicket for 30 until six for 247. Just after Mr Fry had passed him at 62, Mr Gwynn should have been caught at mid-on by Walter Quaife; but this was apparently the sole mistake in a long stay. He made nine fours in his 80.

Other points in the Gentlemen's innings were a careful and well-played 27 by Mr Murdoch before

luncheon, and a spirited 35 by Mr Leveson-Gower, who, helped by Mr Jephson, put on 55 for the eighth partnership. Mr Walter Read had a bad blow on the hand from Hayward and this necessitated his retirement.

George Lohmann's reappeared in first-class cricket, after an absence of two seasons through ill-health, is a subject of interest. Yesterday he took his old post of extra-slip, a position in which he acquired great fame as a fieldsman, and he also had several spells with the ball. In the morning the batsmen could not do much with him, for he sent down 15 overs (six maidens) for 16 runs. He bowled very well again in the afternoon, had a turn at each end and got out the last two men. A good pitch, a variety of pace and plenty of spin are still characteristics of Lohmann's bowling.

But Richardson did most of the hard work yesterday and, although very effective, he had 126 runs hit off him. The turf at the Oval is looking remarkably well considering all the dry weather, and it reflects much credit on the groundmen.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 July, page 15)

After a quiet morning's play the second day's cricket of this match at the Oval was made excellent by the brightness of the batting of George Lohmann and Lilley, who, when things were going none too well for their side, put on 96 in an hour. To begin with, Lohmann hit a little recklessly; but he soon settled down and played sound cricket, and his success greatly pleased the crowd, which, however, was scarcely half so large as that of Thursday. Indeed it cannot be disguised that the Oval test match has lost some of its standing by the inability of the Surrey executive to command representative teams, and this game falls particularly flat after all the splendour of the great fight on the first three days of the week at Lord's.

The Players yesterday morning lost Abel at seven, after which there was a lot of patient cricket by Quaife, supported by Marlow and Hayward, whose partnerships yielded 36 and 62. Hayward, who was third out at 98, was not seen in his best form; while Quaife, who did not leave until after luncheon, played very correctly and refrained from hitting until a very bad ball came along. As the Gentlemen bowled well these bad balls were not plentiful. So Quaife took two hours and a quarter to make his 55, being fifth to leave. His chief hits were six fours, two threes and eight twos.

Lohmann made his 47 out of 96 in an hour. Lilley's thoroughly good innings went on until 270, when he was ninth out for 74, these runs having been obtained in 100 minutes. His best hits were seven fours, six threes and five twos. The Warwickshire professional has made a great name for himself both as a wicket-keeper and batsman. Four hours and a quarter were occupied by the Players in scoring their 292, and there was not much to choose between the sides on the first innings. In bowling and fielding the Gentlemen did well. Mr Fry kept a fine length and bowled from the pavilion end all the morning – namely, for two and a half hours – and then again in the afternoon for three-quarters of an hour. Both he and Mr Hillyard had good analyses.

Mr Bainbridge and Mr Murdoch opened the second innings of the amateurs in a careful way and put on 71 for the first wicket. Then came a wonderful one-hand catch quite in Lohmann's old form at extra slip, which brought about the dismissal of Mr Murdoch, while a very good ball from Rawlin at once bowled Mr Gwynn. And in the end, the Gentlemen were 105 on with eight wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 July, page 11)

Another good day's batting at the Oval left the Players within 29 runs of victory and only five wickets down, so that the professionals had a slight satisfaction in the fact that to them belonged the better position in a drawn match. The Players ought to have made a better effort to win, and with the turf good and the bowling not very deadly the cheap dismissal of Abel and Walter Quaife left them little excuse for the caution which marked the early cricket in the long partnership of Marlow and Hayward.

At the beginning of the day the balance of the Gentlemen's second innings was got through. Mr Bainbridge's cricket was sound and finished, although at times slow to watch, and he was batting some three hours and a half for his 82, in which were nine fours. He was sixth out at 203, caught at wicket. Mr Druce played very brightly and helped to add 48 for the third wicket, while Mr Fry stayed with Mr Bainbridge and had a share on 52 put on for the fourth. The best point in the closing part of the innings was Mr Lucas's vigorous play. As Mr W W Read's injured hand prevented his going in, the Gentlemen finished for 225.

With three hours and a quarter left, the 254 runs wanted by the Players to win did not seem a very severe task under the existing conditions. But Marlow started very slowly and the effort to force the pace came too late. Marlow and Hayward put on 137 in two hours for the third wicket, and at the finish the score stood at 225.

The best batting of the innings was shown by Hayward in getting his 62; his splendid style was thoroughly demonstrated both in his driving and cutting, and he also made some fine strokes on the leg side. Marlow showed himself possessed of a sound defence. His 100 is the 17th made in Gentlemen v Players on the Oval during the last 30 years. Mr Fry again bowled very well, while George Lohmann on the other side distinguished himself both in bowling and fielding.

There was a capital attendance. If the sides were not representative the public has all through shown that the old fixture is still very attracted. But its popularity is endangered when the value of it as a proper test goes. North v South lost its vitality through the abuse of the fixture.

11 July: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4381.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 July, page 12)

At one period of yesterday at Bristol Gloucestershire seemed likely to get their opponents out cheaply, for in spite of a good stand by Ward and Sugg, six men were dismissed for 129 runs. Baker and Lancaster then changed the aspect of things by putting on 77 in an hour, after which there were several smaller partnerships. Baker's innings was characterized by brilliant off-driving and cutting, and the best hits in it were 11 fours.

Gloucestershire had only a little batting. It should be pointed out that the home side are without several of their best men.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 July, page 15)

Yesterday's cricket at Ashley Down, Bristol, ended in Gloucestershire's getting the better position, for Lancashire with six men out are only 133 runs to the good.

Gloucestershire innings was marked by the good batting of Board, Captain Luard and Dr Grace. The 53 made by the first-named were scored in 90 minutes and included seven fours. Dr Grace played with the greatest care and took over an hour and a half to get his 39. Captain Luard hit vigorously, but fortune was kind to him and he twice escaped while getting 71. His chief figures were eight fours. When Lancashire went in Paul and Ward scored 50 for the loss of a wicket, after which things went badly for the visitors.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 July, page 11)

There was an exciting finish to this match at Bristol on Saturday afternoon, when Lancashire won by 12 runs. Lancashire bowled and fielded well and deserved their win.

In the first hour of Saturday the last four Lancashire wickets added 34 runs, leaving Gloucestershire to make 167 for victory. Dr Grace and Mr Rice scored 41 for the first wicket; but then the game went steadily against Gloucestershire. Mr Rice, after being in three hours and a quarter for 42, was sixth to leave, and Mr de Winton was an hour making 16. The pitch had broken up, and Mold and Briggs were very difficult to play.

11 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4382.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 July, page 12)

Arthur Shrewsbury, who has taken part in very little important cricket in recent seasons, made one of his rare appearances yesterday and on the Trent-bridge Ground, Nottingham, played a splendid innings of 143. His game was marked by all that grace and power with which his batting used to be so famously associated. He gave no chance until well past the 100, and in the 4½ hours that he was in he hit 19 fours, three threes and six twos.

He was first in with Mr Jones and was seventh out at 270, when he stepped in to drive, missed the ball and was stumped. His best partners were Flowers, Attewell and Daft, and the stands of these men with him yielded 57, 56 and 69. Daft, who played wonderfully well, was joined by Carlin at 287 and another long stand was made.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 July, page 15)

With the wicket spoiled by rain on Thursday night at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, Derbyshire had to fight an uphill game throughout yesterday. Notts added 28 runs to their score and finished a six hours' innings for 363. Daft played very well for his runs and hit seven fours.

Derbyshire's first innings was marked by the skilful defence of Chatterton in the difficult situation, and he made nine fours. Derbyshire followed on against arrears of 209.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 July, page 11)

Derbyshire gave an excellent display of batting at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, on Saturday, and managed to draw the match. They had followed on and lost two wickets for 24, while at 36 Mr Wright was out.

However, the rest of the day was occupied largely by three long partnerships – Porter and Chatterton, 136; Davidson and Storer, 65; and Mr Evershed and Storer, 123. All these men played well, but Mr Evershed's 80, in which were 13 fours, was particularly brilliant. His innings was only ended through a good catch by Daft near the boundary in the long field. The game was drawn . . .

11 July: SOMERSET v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4383.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 July, page 12)

The Essex eleven did well at Taunton yesterday, for, after getting out Somerset for 246, they ran to within 22 of the total at the cost of only two batsmen. This fine position was largely the work of young Carpenter, who has been playing remarkably well this season, and the vigour of his game will be marked by the fact that he hit 25 fours.

Somerset's early batsmen were cheaply dismissed, and it was not until six had gone for 93 that anything like a good stand was made, and then Mr Porch, Tyler and Mr Welman showed excellent form. Essex are trying a new cricketer in Mr Bawtree, of Witham, while Gamlin, a young professional of Wellington, is making his first appearance for Somerset.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 July, page 15)

A remarkable score was put together by Essex at Taunton yesterday, their 692 being the third best ever made in county cricket. The two highest totals are the 726 by Nottinghamshire this year and the 698 by Surrey some seasons ago, both against Sussex.

There were three hundreds in yesterday's match, and a fourth was only missed by a single. Carpenter, who lost his wicket through a fine piece of fielding by Mr Woods and Tyler, hit a five and 26 fours in his 153. Mr M'Gahey took three and a quarter hours to get his 147, in which were 23 fours, and Mr Lucas hit a six and 18 fours in his 135. Somerset went in a second time 446 behind.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 July, page 11)

Essex gained a decisive victory over Somerset at Taunton on Saturday, the actual figures being an innings and 317 runs. The position on Friday night left Somerset little hope; but it was thought they would make a much better score. Mr Kortright, however, bowled with such great effect that the outstanding nine wickets were got down for an addition of 91 runs. In the double innings the amateur fast bowler had a record of 11 for 115 runs.

11 July: YORKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4384.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 July, page 12)

Bad weather shortened the hours of play at Dewsbury yesterday, when Kent ran up a good innings against Yorkshire, scoring 204. Mr Mordaunt, the Oxford captain, made his first appearance for Kent and played extremely well for his 28, and shared a useful partnership of 46 for the third wicket with Alec Hearne. Mr Le Fleming and Mr Bannon also did well, although the former had a couple of escapes in the field.

But by far the best play of the day was shown by Mr Marchant, whose 41 were made in his famous dashing style. He and Mr Baiss put on 70 while they were together, and then the last three men went for four runs. Yorkshire had lost two of their best wickets for 25 when the bad light caused the suspension of play.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 July, page 15)

A fine piece of batting by Denton and Brown on a difficult wicket at Dewsbury yesterday had the effect of rescuing Yorkshire from a bad position. They were together 100 minutes and added 106 for the third wicket; but both were missed. Brown made six fours and Denton three fours, and apart from a couple of errors the former played especially well.

Kent, who went in a second time, did excellently, and scored 127 for three wickets in a couple of hours. The feature of this was the splendid forward game of Mr Mason, the old Winchester captain.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 July, page 11)

After much excellent batting on Saturday by both sides at Dewsbury the Yorkshire and Kent match was drawn. The visitors took their overnight score from 127 for three wickets to 253 for eight, and then at ten minutes past 3 closed their innings. Mr Mason's 66 was brilliantly made and included eight fours.

Yorkshire did well in the three hours left them to play. Mr Jackson, although twice missed, hit splendidly, and while he and Denton were putting on 79 in 50 minutes there was just a possibility that the task of making 247 might be accomplished.

11 July: LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128967.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 July, page 12)

A great innings by Mr Frank Mitchell, of Cambridge, was the feature of yesterday's play on the Aigburth Ground, Liverpool. From the time he went in he hit with power and precision, and his off-driving was particularly good. When rain stopped play he was not out 151, in which were 23 fours. Mr Burnup helped him to add 88, and then Mr Marriott played carefully.

Neither Mr N F Druce nor Mr W G Grace, jun., was able to assist the University, and in their absence Mr Symes-Thompson and Mr Burnup appeared for the side.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 July, page 15)

On the Aigburth Ground at Liverpool, yesterday, the Cambridge eleven secured a great advantage. Mr F Mitchell only slightly improved his overnight score, but his 155 altogether was a brilliant display of hitting. Mr Gray and Mr Wilson made short work of the Liverpool batsmen in the first innings, and a follow-on resulted.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 July, page 11)

The Cambridge eleven easily won their match with Liverpool, at Aigburth Ground, on Saturday, by an innings and 172 runs.

Monday 15 July, page 11: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday's results brought the positions to the following state: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	12	9	1	2	8
Yorkshire	14	8	3	3	5
Lancashire	10	7	3	0	4
Warwickshire	12	4	3	5	1
Derbyshire	8	2	2	4	0
Middlesex	9	3	3	3	0
Hampshire	6	2	3	1	-1
Gloucestershire	7	3	4	0	-1
Sussex	8	2	3	3	-1
Leicestershire	9	3	5	1	-2
Nottinghamshire	9	2	4	3	-2
Essex	9	3	5	1	-2
Somerset	8	1	5	2	-4
Kent	7	0	5	2	- 5

Losses are deducted from wins and drawn games are ignored.

DR GRACE'S COUNTY BATTING

In seven matches for Gloucestershire this season Dr Grace has scored 1,054 runs. He has been in 12 times and was once not out, his average being 95.9.

15 July: DUBLIN UNIVERSITY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4385.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 July, page 12)

Cambridge were batting all day at Dublin yesterday and scored heavily. Mr W G Druce, the Light Blue captain, obtained his first 100 of the season and Mr Marriott, the old Malvern boy, also did extremely well. It was after the fifth wicket fell at 117 that these players made the big stand. Mr Druce hit 17 fours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 July, page 12)

Heavy scoring again marked the play in this match at Dublin yesterday. Mr Marriott, for Cambridge, followed up his captain's success with 128, and when Dublin went in Mr A Gwynn played splendidly, scoring 130 in two and a half hours and hitting 14 fours, seven threes and 12 twos.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 July, page 12)

Wet weather limited the hours of cricket to two at Dublin yesterday and the match was drawn. With the wicket spoilt by rain the Dublin first innings rapidly ended, and when the home side followed on they fared very badly.

15 July: ESSEX v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4386.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 July, page 12)

It is something uncommon in this season of batting triumphs to record such a day as the bowlers had at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday, when 22 wickets fell for an aggregate of 253 runs. When Essex went in Carpenter, who has played such fine cricket this month for the county, again came off, showing a steady defence and staying until 95, when he was sixth out. Davidson and Porter bowled very well.

The Derbyshire team were quite beaten by the great pace of Mr Kortright. In the visitors' innings occurred the longest partnership of the day – that was the 39 put on by Mr Evershed and Bagshaw.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 July, page 12)

A well-merited victory of 134 runs was gained by Essex over Derbyshire, at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday. Monday's play had left little difference in a small scoring game, but yesterday the Essex second innings was very fruitful. In the first place, Mr M'Gahey played steadily, hitting five fours and seven threes in his 57. Mr Kortright at a later stage of the innings played remarkably well, making his 55 in 75 minutes. Mr Kortright obtained a five and seven fours.

When Derbyshire went in a second time Mr Kortright bowled with great effect, and altogether he had a record of 13 wickets for 103 runs. Derbyshire's second innings lasted only an hour and a half.

15 July: HAMPSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4387.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 July, page 12)

The cricket at Southampton yesterday went rather in favour of Surrey; but not so much as might have been expected after the cheap dismissal of Hampshire. Lohmann, having slightly strained his leg in Gentlemen v Players, did not appear for Surrey, and Mr W W Read's injured hand kept him also out of the team.

As for the comparatively small totals of the day, the fiery wicket was the cause. At the outset the best play for the home side was shown by Barton and Captain Wynyard, who put on 89 while they were together, and the former made nine fours. Subsequently, when the team had done very badly, Wootton and Dr Bencraft mended things by adding 62 for the ninth wicket. Lockwood bowled effectively.

Abel and Maurice Read opened the Surrey innings with 58; but seven men were out before the Hampshire score was passed, and it was only the fine batting of Holland and Wood that placed the advantage with the visitors.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 July, page 12)

After a lot of good cricket at Southampton yesterday Surrey were left with the better position, as with all ten wickets in hand they want only 113 runs to win. The close of the Surrey first innings was made remarkable by the stand of Holland and Wood, who put on altogether 104 for the seventh partnership. Holland played excellently; but Wood, hitting out vigorously, was missed four or five times, mostly behind the wicket, Mr Robson's hands being rather bad. Holland, who was last out, made 13 fours and Wood nine fours.

The best thing in Hampshire's second innings was the splendid play of Captain Wynyard, who had the misfortune to be run out. In his 69 were ten fours. After getting rid of the arrears at the cost of only two men, Hampshire fared badly. At the outset Barton and Mr Hill and Mr Hill and Captain Wynyard made stands of 40 and 62.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 July, page 12)

As was suggested by the position of the score at Southampton on Tuesday night, Surrey's victory yesterday over Hampshire was very substantial, the actual result being seven wickets.

Surrey, who had been left with 117 to make in the last innings, lost Abel, Henderson and Smith for 47, but then a splendid piece of batting by Holland and Maurice Read produced the last 70 runs in three-quarters of an hour. Read's 52 included eight fours, and beyond a return chance at 19 he made no mistake. Holland obtained 127 in the match and was only once out.

15 July: KENT v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4388.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 July, page 12)

Nottinghamshire seem to have lost the art of getting sides out for moderate scores. Only on Saturday they were in the field all day against Derbyshire at Trent-bridge, and these experiences were repeated yesterday at Mote Park, Maidstone, when Kent scored 420 for eight wickets.

The visitors' troubles began with the splendid batting of the old Winchester captain, Mr J R Mason, who, playing a powerful game all round the wicket and helped by Alec Hearne, put on runs at a great pace. Mr Mason scored 120 out of 179 added for the first wicket in two hours and a quarter. He made no mistake until he was beyond the 100, and his chief hits were 17 fours, a three and 12 twos. Alec Hearne's finished style of play yielded 79 in three hours; he was third out at 252 and made 11 fours. Easby hit hard but Mr Patterson was not so good as usual.

In the last three-quarters of an hour Mr Marchant played very brilliantly and his partnership with Martin produced 76 in 30 minutes. Mr Wright captained the Notts side and kept wicket, and Wilkinson, the bowler, also found a place in the team.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 July, page 12)

The batting of Nottinghamshire broke down badly in the first innings at Mote-park, Maidstone, yesterday, but afterwards there was a splendid display of cricket by Shrewsbury and Gunn, and the arrears were largely reduced. At the beginning of the day Kent's two outstanding wickets yielded 48 runs, and Mr Marchant and Martin were separated after they had put on, since they got together on Monday night, 103 in 50 minutes. Mr Marchant hit 11 fours.

When Nottinghamshire went in Walter Wright and Martin bowled so well that they got the side out for 146 in two and a half hours. Shrewsbury and Gunn were both caught by the wicket-keeper standing back, and the score gained what little respectability it possessed by the 54 added for the last wicket by Bagguley and Wilkinson.

In the follow-on against 322 Notts lost Mr Wright at 38, but then Gunn and Shrewsbury in their best manner carried the record to 160, and are still in. Shrewsbury narrowly escaped a run out, otherwise there was no real chance offered to the field. The visitors are now 162 behind with nine wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 July, page 12)

Kent's first victory in a county match this season was brilliantly gained at Mote-park, Maidstone, yesterday, when they beat Nottinghamshire by an innings and 65 runs. From the position of affairs overnight the success of Kent was generally expected; but after the batting of Gunn and Shrewsbury, who had added 122 runs, it was not thought that their triumph would be so complete. Next week, Notts, who had lost one wicket in the follow-on for 160, were all out for 97 more runs in the course of a little over a couple of hours.

The day began badly, Gunn being caught at third man before another run was obtained, and afterwards little merit was in the defence away from Shrewsbury, who increased his overnight 75 to 111 before a catch at point dismissed him seventh at 223. Shrewsbury played in beautiful style, and beyond a chance in the long field made no mistake. His chief hits were 15 fours and nine twos. Walter Wright again bowled well and his 13 wickets in the match averaged about 11 runs each.

11 July: MIDDLESEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4389.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 July, page 12)

Lord's ground is suffering severely from all the dry weather and the incessant hard work on the turf, and the utmost attention in the way of watering fails to remove the difficulty of finding a good wicket. In fact, one was not found yesterday, for the ball sometimes jumped up and at others shot, while in the closing hour of the day Tate found a well-worn spot and, pitching on it with great accuracy, got six of the eight Middlesex men who were out at a cost to himself of 43 runs.

This collapse of the home eleven and the batting of K S Ranjitsinhji were the striking features of yesterday's play. K S Ranjitsinhji seems ever successful. The last time he played on the Marylebone ground he got 150 runs (this was for Sussex v M.C.C.), and his present 110 was full of much of that excellence which he then showed. But yesterday the uncertainty of the ground made it difficult to time the ball, and this caused the batsman to make sundry ill-judged strokes. Where he failed once or twice was in practising his wonderful and rather risky stroke on the leg side; but, taken all through, it was a brilliant innings, and the precision and power of his drive and his cut were equal to the best seen on the ground. He went in first wicket down at seven and was fifth out at 206, when he hit too quickly at a ball that he wanted to get round to the leg side, and so gave mid-on an easy catch. He obtained his 100 in about two hours, but his last ten occupied him 30 minutes. His best hits were 16 fours, four threes and six twos.

The two chief stands in the Sussex innings of 285 were by Ranjitsinhji and Mr Fry, who put on 117 in 65 minutes for the fourth wicket, and by Mr Brann and Hilton, who added 51 very quickly for the last. Mr Fry and Mr Brann both played remarkably well. Mr MacGregor's stumping of Mr Murdoch was a particularly fine piece of work.

Middlesex went in just before a quarter-past 5, and lost Mr Stoddart at 21, while after the second wicket fell at 47 Tate's bowling from the pavilion end was so deadly that eight men were out at the finish for 87, so that 79 are still wanted to save the follow-on.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 July, page 12)

In their severe uphill fight at Lord's yesterday Middlesex did far better than at one time seemed probable. And for this improvement they were much indebted in the first place to the kindness of the Sussex field and in the second to Mr A J Webbe, who, going in very late, made a big stand for the ninth wicket with Phillips, and finally took out his bat for 66. The Middlesex captain has had a good deal of ill-fortune in county cricket this season; but yesterday, although lucky in an early escape, he threw something of his old power into the play.

This big stand occurred in the follow-on, between half-past 3 and 5 o'clock, and made the final task for Sussex much less easy than was promised when eight men had gone for 208. But before the drawing of stumps the brilliant hitting of K R Ranjitsinhji again placed Sussex in a strong position, for the eight batsmen they have in hand ought surely to be worth 81. The wicket still helped the bowler.

Very quickly yesterday morning the home side finished their first innings and followed on with

arrears of 166. Mr Stoddart and Mr Hayman began well. However, the former played on, and at the fall of the third wicket the score was only 99. Mr MacGregor threw plenty of vigorous and good cricket into the game, and his 55 in 90 minutes included nine fours and three threes. He and Mr Ford had put on 67 while they were together in the fourth partnership.

But the game then ran badly for Middlesex, and with only two men left they were 42 runs on. It was then that Phillips and Mr Webbe added 98 in an hour and a half. Mr Webbe was badly missed by Mr Murdoch, who failed to catch a skier at cover-point, and the Middlesex captain made most of this error. He played the right game on the uncertain wicket and hit well. In the end he called Phillips for a fifth run for a big drive, which cost the professional his wicket. Phillips had played very soundly for his side. In Mr Webbe's 66 there were six fours, two threes and nine twos. Tate and Hilton bowled well in both innings and the former's ten wickets averaged 14 runs each.

Sussex, who wanted 148 to win, had about an hour's batting and lost two wickets for 67 runs. K S Ranjitsinhji played fine cricket and his strokes on the leg side were particularly good.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 July, page 12)

The Sussex eleven got the better of an exciting finish at Lord's yesterday and beat Middlesex by two wickets. On Tuesday night Sussex had eight men in hand and wanted only 81 to win. But Hearne and Rawlin bowled splendidly on the broken pitch and Sussex had a good share of luck in getting the runs.

Very largely they owed their success to the fine batting of [K S] Ranjitsinhji, who came off well in both innings and added further lustre to his cricket reputation by a wonderful 72. At one time yesterday Sussex seemed to be winning comfortably, and at the cost of five men got to within 14 runs of victory. But then Ranjitsinhji, in trying to hit, skied a bumping ball and was caught by the wicket-keeper. His 72 had been made in 100 minutes without a mistake and his chief figures were nine fours, three threes and five twos.

Hearne, who before this had bowled out Mr Murdoch and Mr Fry, next got Bean skilfully caught at point, when Sir T C O'Brien took the ball wide with his right hand and the same fieldsman held a skier from Butt directly afterwards. The fall of these wickets – eight were now down for 135 – converted the fight into one of great excitement. Mr Brann, who had given almost a chance to Rawlin at short slip, was still in. Thirteen runs were wanted. Mr MacGregor kept wicket in splendid form and Sir T C O'Brien made a great attempt to catch Tate at point; fielding close in he just got the ball in his right hand but lost it through falling over.

Singles and extras and a bad piece of misfielding at cover-point by Dr Scott, which yielded three, helped Sussex to scrape together the last few runs and finally a four through the slips to Tate won the match. The greatest aid to the visitors' victory was K S Ranjitsinhji's batting. He has played four times at Lord's this year, making 77, 150, 110 and 72. His aggregate for Sussex is now 1,332 in 22 innings (two not outs).

15 July: SOMERSET v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4390.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 July, page 12)

Yesterday's 555 for three wickets made by Lancashire at Taunton against Somerset is a record in the annals of that county, their previous best having been 487, while the partnership of Mr MacLaren and Paul, who put on 363 for the second wicket in a little over three hours, approached within 35 of Gunn and Shrewsbury's best stand in first-class cricket of 398, made against Sussex at Trent-bridge in 1890. All day at Taunton yesterday Lancashire averaged 100 an hour and the Somerset team felt the pace greatly after fielding to the 692 by Essex last week.

Ward and Mr MacLaren opened the innings by making 141, and then came the stand by the latter and Paul already mentioned. Paul gave no chance, and in his 177 were a six (a drive out of the ground), 30 fours, two threes and nine twos. Mr MacLaren should have been stumped when 76, and he also gave a chance to mid-on at 262, but these were the only mistakes in his long spell of batting, while in the last over of the day he passed Dr Grace's 288, the previous highest score of the season.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 July, page 12)

Dr W G Grace's record for a first-class match of 344 for M.C.C. v Kent, at Canterbury, in 1876, after standing for 19 years, has at last been beaten, and to Mr A C MacLaren, the old Harrovian, belongs the honour. Mr MacLaren yesterday, at Taunton, after batting all Monday and well into Tuesday, made 424, so that he exceeds Dr Grace's figures by 80.

Another record is also made by Lancashire, inasmuch as 801 is the biggest innings ever made in county cricket; and it has only twice been exceeded in first-class matches, the instances being the 843 by the Australians against Oxford and Cambridge Past and Present, at Portsmouth, in 1893, and by the Non-Smokers' 303 against the Smokers in 1887 on the East Melbourne Ground in Australia.

Yesterday, at Taunton, Lancashire, who on Monday made 555 for the loss of three wickets, completed their innings for 801, after eight hours' actual batting. Mr MacLaren was seventh to leave at 792, when a catch in the long-field disposed of him. He played splendidly from the time he went in, and his success, following on his fine feats in the colonies with Mr Stoddart's team, will be universally esteemed. The highest individual score ever made in any match was the 485 by Mr A E Stoddart for Hampstead v Stoics in 1886. In the present match Mr MacLaren was batting seven hours and three-quarters, and his best hits were one six, 62 fours, 11 threes and 37 twos. After Mr MacLaren had gone the Lancashire innings was rapidly finished.

Somerset fared badly, and there was little in their two and a half hours' batting in the first innings, and when they followed on against 658 the score was left as follows . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 July, page 12)

Lancashire won this match at Taunton yesterday by an innings and 452 runs. In the third day's play the best features were 55 by Mr Woods, who by this score increased his aggregate to over 1,000 for

the season, and 46 by Mr Fowler. These two batsmen put on 62 while they were together; but no other long stand was made, and between 11 o'clock and a quarter-past 1 the last nine Somerset wickets went down for an addition of 148 runs. Mr Woods took nearly an hour and a half for his innings, and his chief figures were eight fours and five twos.

The match will live long in cricket history because of the remarkable scoring, and for the county record of Lancashire's 801 and for Mr MacLaren's highest first-class individual innings.

15 July: YORKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4391.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 July, page 12)

Yesterday at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, Yorkshire gained a great advantage in this match, finishing up with a lead of 75 on the innings with eight wickets in hand. The chief credit for this fine position belonged, in the first instance, to Brown and Tunnicliffe, who scored 142 for the opening Yorkshire partnership in an hour and three-quarters. Brown, however, was missed in the slips when he had made a single. Tunnicliffe hit eight and Brown ten fours. Moorhouse and Denton batted with great vigour in the last half-hour of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 July, page 12)

At Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday, Yorkshire beat Leicestershire by an innings and 256 runs. Already on Monday night had the home side laid the foundation for a substantial success, possessed as they then were with a lead of 75 and only two wickets down.

Yesterday they increased their score to 486. The batting honours were well distributed through the side and a high rate of run-getting was maintained. Leicestershire were all out a second time in an hour and three-quarters.

18 July: MIDDLESEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4392.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 July, page 11)

After a very bad start at Lord's yesterday, the Middlesex eleven made a good score and then got out cheaply four of the chief Notts men (including Arthur Shrewsbury, who had not been seen at Lord's for two years), so that by the end of the day they had reached a position of considerable advantage. Bad batting and a few bad spots in the pitch had equal shares in the early failures of the home side. In fact, the ball kicked up occasionally all day, and this was especially the case when Notts had to face Hearne and Rawlin.

The day's play was very in and out. Mr Stoddart and Mr Hayman were both caught at point, and the bowling of Mr Bosworth-Smith made three wickets down for eight runs. Such a start as this scarcely heralded the subsequent attainments of the side. Rawlin did something to improve things for Middlesex, making many good strokes and scoring in all 35; but 67 was all that the board showed when the fifth wicket went.

It was from this point that the game mended for the home team. Sir T C O'Brien was in excellent form and had valuable aid in the steadiness of Phillips, who, if he did not score many, kept up his end for 55 minutes. Sir T C O'Brien was seventh out at 156, bowled by a breaking ball that he played right outside. His 62 was well made in 100 minutes and included six fours. Mr "Aldridge" [G Thornton] hit vigorously; but the longest stand occurred after the fall of the eighth wicket at 156, when Mr Webbe and Mr Bray played very fine cricket and added 76 in an hour. Then the innings quickly ended, and Mr Webbe, who seems in good form again, took out his bat for 39.

Notts were in for an hour and a half. Arthur Shrewsbury was in his best form and made some beautiful strokes; but at 37 the first two wickets fell, Mr Jones being cleverly caught low down at extra slip and Shrewsbury giving Hearne an easy catch at short slip at the other end. With the bowling of Flowers and Mr Wright four men were out for 49. Gunn exercised every care and kept up his wicket for 55 minutes, while Daft had a few bad balls to hit and got 17. In this way the visitors' position underwent a slight change for the better, although at the close they were still 173 behind.

Mr Dixon is away from Notts and the captaincy of the side devolves upon Mr Wright. Several good men are absent from Middlesex, notably Mr MacGregor, to fill whose place Mr Webbe called upon Mr E H Bray, a capital bat and wicket-keeper, who was in the Charterhouse eleven two years ago and who is now at Cambridge. Mr Bosworth-Smith, of Harrow and Oxford, also appeared for Middlesex and fielded extremely well at cover-point.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 July, page 12)

At Lord's, yesterday, Middlesex beat Nottinghamshire by an innings and 94 runs. Nottinghamshire stood badly on Thursday night; but the rain came and quite ruined the pitch for batsmen. Hearne and Rawlin were able to obtain wonderful analyses, and Rawlin's seven for 18 is, perhaps, the greatest piece of bowling that has been done this year at Lord's.

Besides the condition of the ground Notts had other ill-fortune against which to contend. This was

the injury Shrewsbury sustained, while batting, to his hands, which prevented his going in yesterday. The Notts men seemed utterly incapable of fighting against the difficulties offered by the pitch. The batting was devoid of merit and 15 wickets went down during the day for 79 runs. Mr Wright made a few good hits in the second innings, and in the first Gunn played with every care and, after staying 80 minutes for 19 runs, was out to a good catch at slip. Nottinghamshire, who had lost four wickets for 70, completed their innings in an hour and a quarter for 39 more runs.

In the follow-on disasters fell thickly upon Nottinghamshire; five men were out for 28 and the other four went for a dozen runs afterwards, and so Middlesex won easily. Rawlin's seven wickets for 18 runs brought his full record in the match to 10 for 68, while Hearne took nine for 73.

18 July: SURREY v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4393.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 July, page 11)

Yesterday's cricket on the Oval ran strongly in favour of Derbyshire, who finished up the day with a very good advantage, inasmuch as Surrey with half their side gone are 161 runs behind. The visitors gained their capital position in the first place by the many excellent feats in batting.

Getting the opening innings, Derbyshire remained at the wicket until a quarter to five and scored the fine total of 252, which was something to be proud of against the famous Surrey bowling. Two long stands marked the innings – Mr Wright and Bagshaw put on 71 for the second partnership and Davidson and Chatterton 86 for the fourth. The best innings, both numerically and in skill, was that by Bagshaw, who is a left-handed batsman. He was strong all round the wicket, and made his 70 in 85 minutes out of 103, he being the third to go. His chief hits were eight fours, four threes and four twos.

Chatterton played with his characteristic care; but Davidson, who was sixth out at 220, was vigorous, making two fives, seven fours and three twos. As 200 went up with only five men dismissed the score promised to be much heavier than 252; but Richardson, when he bowled for the last time, met with such success that the analysis of his closing overs reads thus – seven overs (four maidens), 15 runs, four wickets.

Surrey had a bad hour and a half, losing five men for 91. Abel did well, but he was easily missed in the slips by Bagshaw when he had made 20.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 July, page 12)

Throughout yesterday at Kennington Oval Derbyshire were playing something of a winning game, and they finished up well last night, as they were 346 to the good with four wickets in hand.

On Thursday night Surrey had made 91 for five wickets, and yesterday, apart from Abel, the batsmen did little against the bowling of Porter and Davidson. On a pitch made difficult by the rain Abel's 80 was an extremely good innings. He was ninth out at 145 and his chief figures were a five, five fours and four threes.

Surrey were 107 behind on the innings, and when they got three of their rivals out for seven it seemed that they were assuming a good position. But Chatterton and Bagshaw by excellent cricket put on 128 in two hours. Chatterton, who was fourth out, well caught low down at slip, hit ten fours, six threes and five twos. Subsequently Davidson and Bagshaw added 82 in 70 minutes. The latter played with great care and was three hours and a quarter getting his 76, in which were ten fours, three threes and four twos. Davidson was sixth out at 239; his 62 were obtained in an hour and a half, and he obtained a five, seven fours, three threes and four twos. There were about 5,000 spectators.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 July, page 11)

The heavy rain of Saturday prevented any cricket in this match at Kennington Oval, and the game was, therefore, drawn. Derbyshire had reached a strong position, as they had made 252 and 239 for six wickets against Surrey's 145.

18 July: YORKSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 July, page 11)

Brown, of Driffield, who made such a great name for himself by his batting in the test matches of Mr Stoddart's team in Australia and whose cricket this season has not been equal to his reputation, played a fine innings at Huddersfield yesterday, and the general body of cricketers will rejoice at his return to form.

His batting was the chief element in Yorkshire's big score on the first day of the match with Sussex, who were fielding the whole of the cricketing hours and only got out six men for 354. Brown went in second wicket down at 39 and, giving no chance, was not out at the close with 168, the highest innings yet scored by him in first-class matches. Denton helped him to put on 95 in an hour and a quarter for the fourth wicket, while, after six men had gone for 233, he and Moorhouse added 121 and are still in.

There had been some rain on the previous day and the wicket was slow to start with, and in the afternoon several showers imposed a handicap on Sussex, who had to bowl and field with a wet ball. In consequence of injured hands Hunter stands out of the home side and is succeeded by Wood, a local professional.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 July, page 12)

The bad weather prevented any cricket at Huddersfield yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 July, page 11)

This match at Huddersfield was abandoned as a draw. Not a ball had been bowled since Thursday . . .

Monday 22 July, page 11: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions up to date are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	14	10	1	3	9
Yorkshire	16	9	3	4	6
Lancashire	11	3	3	0	5
Warwickshire	12	4	3	5	1
Middlesex	11	4	4	3	0
Sussex	10	3	3	4	0
Gloucestershire	7	3	4	0	-1
Derbyshire	10	2	3	5	-1
Essex	10	4	5	1	-1
Hampshire	7	2	4	1	-2
Leicestershire	10	3	6	1	-3
Nottinghamshire	11	2	6	3	-4
Kent	8	1	5	2	-4
Somerset	9	1	6	2	- 5

Losses are deducted from wins and drawn games are ignored.

22 July: KENT v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4395.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 23 July, page 11)

The bowlers have had bad times on the fast and true wickets which have been so plentiful this summer, but they have promptly seized the first opportunity afforded around London of getting a soft, bad pitch on which to bowl. This remark applies particularly to George Lohmann and Richardson, who yesterday got out Kent in 80 minutes.

With the turf so false at Catford-bridge yesterday on the ground of the Private Banks Club, there was only one game for the batsmen to play and that was to hit. But even this was no easy matter against bowlers of the type of Richardson and Lohmann. When Surrey went in, and after the application of the light roller had only slightly improved the ground, Maurice Read and Abel played very good cricket and had placed Surrey already in a position of considerable advantage before a severe storm swamped the ground and put an end to play.

Kent's innings lasted from ten minutes past 12 until half-past 1. Disasters set in early; but, although two men were out for 26, no one imagined what the end would be. Easby made a few good hits and before the sixth wicket went the record was 42. In half an hour five wickets fell for the addition of a single. The sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth were all captured at 42. The score was a sorry spectacle – six of the team failed entirely.

Maurice Read and Abel had a quarter of an hour before luncheon and half an hour afterwards, and made 59 runs. Then the rain came, and at 5 o'clock the ground was pronounced unfit for further play. Mr Walter Read's injured hand keeps him out of the Surrey side and Lockwood also stands down. The vacancies thus called are filled by Mr N F Druce and Brockwell. There were several thousand spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 July, page 11)

After some remarkable cricket at Catford-bridge yesterday, Surrey beat Kent by ten wickets, a result that, if in a measure foreshadowed by the play of Monday, was not reached until the game had passed through more than one almost sensational phase.

The greatest of these was the stand in the second innings of Kent by Mr Mason and A Hearne, who for the fourth time this season made over 100 runs in their partnership for the first wicket. Their splendid cricket was the more marked from the fact that they had to play such bowlers as Lohmann and Richardson on a pitch which in the morning had found Hearne and Martin almost unplayable because of the great break they got on the ball.

There were several splendid analyses, and A Hearne's eight for 72 was not the least meritorious of these. He kept an excellent length and seemed to get either his off or leg break on with equal ease. The balls with which he bowled out Maurice Read and Mr Druce were especially skilful. Still it was a dreadful wicket, and the big Surrey score and the stand by Mr Mason and A Hearne must remain among the mysteries of the game.

Surrey, who overnight had made 59 without loss, were batting yesterday from about noon until 2

o'clock and added 132 runs. Maurice Read and Abel made 66 before they were separated, and when the fifth wicket went the score was only 103. Maurice Read, who was the fourth to leave, played wonderfully well. He made nine fours in getting his 51 in 90 minutes. George Lohmann also found that hitting was the game, and he twice got the ball over the rung and had made 21 before A Hearne gave him a short one which he went out to hit and was stumped. Brockwell played well, and Richardson, the last man, secured a very vigorous 23.

So bad was the turf that a single innings defeat seemed to await Kent, as they were 148 behind. Mr Mason and A Hearne, however, astonished everyone by their beautiful batting. Nit only did they play soundly, but their hitting was so good that they knocked Richardson and Lohmann off. But after the 100 went up these bowlers were put on again and at 118, when the partnership had lasted an hour and 40 minutes, Mr Mason was well caught in the deep field. A Hearne, who had forced the game well, was second out at 124; he hit seven fours, three threes and eight twos.

This splendid start was followed by such a complete collapse that when the eighth wicket went the innings defeat had not been saved. Lohmann and Richardson carried all before them, and altogether the last eight men were got out in less than an hour for 33 runs. The double analyses of Lohmann and Richardson are worth giving. Lohmann took nine wickets for 90 runs and Richardson ten for 66.

Surrey had only ten to get, and by a quarter past 6 they had won the match. For two years running Kent had beaten Surrey at Catford. The weather all day was very fine and the company numbered about 5,000.

22 July: LANCASHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4396.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 23 July, page 11)

The cricket was very even at the Old Trafford Ground, Manchester, yesterday, when, although there were two or three good pieces of batting, the bowlers in the main held the command, and the balance on the innings showed only eight in favour of Lancashire. Each county at one time looked like being in for a much better score; but the bowling of Briggs, Mr Townsend and Mr Jessop prevailed.

Gloucestershire's first innings was delayed for an hour and a quarter to give the turf an opportunity of improving. Dr Grace and Wrathall put on 54 before luncheon without being separated; but subsequently the cricket underwent such a marked change that the whole ten wickets went down for an addition of 45 runs. Dr Grace played carefully and was the seventh to leave; while Mr Hemingway made 12 of his 13 in three hits off Mold. Briggs' figures came out thus: - 15 overs (four maidens), 21 runs, eight wickets.

Mr MacLaren began well for Lancashire, scoring 25 out of 30 in half an hour. Ward was in for upwards of an hour for his 13. F H Sugg hit hard; but after 90 had been recorded with only three men gone, the last seven wickets fell in half an hour for 17 more runs. Mr Jessop went on at 55 and got five of the last eight wickets for 13 runs.

There were about seven thousand spectators of an exciting day's play. Painter stood out of the visitors' team, owing to the death of his father. For Lancashire, Tyldesley appeared for the first time.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 July, page 11)

For the first time this season in important cricket Dr W G Grace was at Manchester dismissed for a single-figure score. This was perhaps the most striking incident in yesterday's play on the Old Trafford Ground.

Gloucestershire went in a second time yesterday with a deficit of eight runs. There was much steady batting on an improved wicket. Wrathall, Mr Rice, Mr Jessop and Mr Ferris all played well. Mr Rice was in over two hours for his 37, while Mr Ferris and Mr De Winton added 51 for the eighth partnership. Owing to his recall to Aldershot Captain Luard was unable to assist his county in the second innings.

Lancashire were left with 193 to make in the fourth innings. Albert Ward forsook his usual careful game for one of vigour, and made 50 out of 83 in 70 minutes before he was caught at wicket. He hit six fours. Baker and Tyldesley put on 49 in a little over half an hour, and at the end of the day Lancashire, with five wickets in hand, wanted 45 to win. There were 8,000 spectators.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 July, page 10)

The heavy rain which fell on Tuesday night in Manchester left the wicket at Old Trafford in such a

condition yesterday as to make cricket impracticable, and the match was abandoned. Lancashire wanted 45 to win and had five wickets in hand, so that they had the stronger position. It was not until nearly 5 o'clock, when more rain fell, that all hope of finishing was given up. Mr MacLaren declined an offer made earlier in the day by Dr Grace to play the game out on a fresh wicket.

The people who assembled had the pleasure of seeing a single-wicket match between Board and Smith, the responded wicket-keepers of Gloucestershire and Lancashire. Board scored 11 before he was caught and bowled. Smith then obtained 12 and won . . .

22 July: SUSSEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4397.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 23 July, page 11)

Bowlers' days at the fast-batting ground at the Hove, Brighton, are rare. Yesterday was one of these exceptions, for an innings was played through by each side and Sussex held the advantage at this stage by 23 runs. As elsewhere, rain had damaged the pitch.

Mr J A Dixon played for the visitors, but Arthur Shrewsbury was away, while Mr Wright again kept wicket. Sussex suffered from the absence of Mr G L Wilson and Mr Brann also could not appear.

Notts were only in for 70 minutes before luncheon, owing to two slight delays. Four wickets went for 42, and the side were out in another hour for 98, of which number Bagguley and Wilkinson put on 24 for the ninth wicket. Gunn was seventh to leave at 68 in a rather unfortunate manner, the ball rebounding off the wicket-keeper's pads after he had played it. Sussex bowled and fielded well.

Attewell and Hardstaff were in such excellent bowling form that six of the home wickets were lost for 29. Then Mr Collins gave an easy return catch to Attewell, who missed it. The batting improved and Parris scored 35 out of 36 runs in 20 minutes. Butt also hit vigorously.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 July, page 11)

At one period of yesterday's play at the Hove Ground, Brighton, Nottinghamshire appeared to be in for a particularly heavy score, but the scene changed before the end of the day, and at the drawing of stumps it was anybody's match.

The visitors in their second innings made 222 for the loss of four wickets, but a subsequent collapse left them with 261 for the whole of their batsmen. The best incidents of the innings were the scores of Flowers and Bagguley. In the latter's 62 were nine fours, a three and six twos. He was careful for a long time, but finally hit vigorously, and his best partner was Gunn, who helped him to add 58.

The longest partnership occurred when Flowers and Mr Dixon were together, for they put on 116 – that is, they exactly doubled the score – in an hour and three-quarters. Flowers was unfortunate in missing his 100; but he played excellently and in his 95, which occupied him two hours and 40 minutes, were 11 fours, four threes and seven twos. He gave a chance at wicket early in his innings. The last six Notts wickets went down for 28, Tate and Parris bowling extremely well.

Sussex had to make 239 to win. Marlow and Bean were out for eight; but Mr Murdoch and K S Ranjitsinhji played so well that at the finish Sussex, with eight men in hand, wanted 187 to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 July, page 10)

In spite of a splendid three-figure innings by K S Ranjitsinhji – his fourth for the county this season – Sussex were beaten at the Hove, Brighton, yesterday by 67 runs.

Assuming that the condition of the ground remained unaltered, it was anybody's match on Tuesday

evening when Sussex, with eight wickets to fall, wanted 187 runs to win. But the rain came again and the wicket, soft and difficult to begin with, grew worse as the day wore on, and the Notts bowlers were very difficult to meet. Still Sussex made a fine effort to win and the tide did not turn against them until Mr Newham was fifth out at 141.

Earlier Mr Murdoch had played on and Mr Fry had helped K S Ranjitsinhji to add 57; but, after five men had been dismissed, the end came rapidly and the last five wickets yielded only 30 runs. K S Ranjitsinhji played excellent cricket; he exercised great tact in meeting the good bowling on the bad pitch and he never spared a loose ball. The only mistake in his innings of 100, obtained in three and a quarter hours, was a difficult chance to Gunn at point when his figures were 60; he hit 15 fours, a three and eight twos. K S Ranjitsinhji thus again proved his capacity for playing well under bad conditions. Only last week at Lord's he ran into three-figure on a severely worn wicket, whereas yesterday found him getting his hundred on soft and false turf.

Play was delayed until 1.15, and when the last Sussex man left it was a quarter to 5. Ranjitsinhji went in first wicket down at seven and was out ninth at 168. Attewell and Hardstaff bowled remarkably well and the latter's aggregate for the match was 11 wickets for 118 runs.

22 July: WARWICKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4398.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 23 July, page 11)

Bad weather prevented any play in this match at Birmingham yesterday; but, if possible, a start will be made this morning . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 July, page 11)

No play was practicable in this match at Birmingham on Monday, but yesterday's batting went all in favour of the home county. Leicestershire went in first and the turf greatly helped the bowlers. In spite of good play on the part of Tomlin and Mr Hillyard they were all out in two hours for 106. Pallett and Whitehead were unchanged throughout.

When Warwickshire went in Walter Quaife was dismissed at 31; but Mr Bainbridge and William Quaife put quite a different complexion on affairs. They scored at about the rate of a run a minute, until they had added 83, and then Mr Bainbridge was caught by King coming in from square-leg. From this rate of scoring it may readily be gathered that the turf had improved. Among Mr Bainbridge's hits were 11 fours; he had been batting two hours and ten minutes.

Lilley and William Quaife added 58 for the fourth wicket, the former being credited with 45, in which were seven fours. Santall went in, but he also was bowled, and Law joined William Quaife. These played out time, and when stumps were drawn Warwickshire were 132 on with five wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 July, page 10)

Leicestershire, befriended by the rain at Edgbaston, Birmingham, yesterday afternoon were able to make a draw of their match with Warwickshire. Mr Bainbridge, the home captain, seemed to err in not closing his innings earlier, and thus probably cost his side the credit of a victory.

On Tuesday evening Warwickshire, having got out their opponents for 106, had made 238 for five wickets. More rain had so saturated the turf that the start was delayed until 12.25, and then Warwickshire in an hour lost three more wickets for an addition of 35 runs before the innings was declared at an end. William Quaife took out his bat for a carefully-played 78, made in 4½ hours, and including a five, four fours and five threes.

Leicestershire were left with 167 to get to avoid a single innings defeat. On the bad wicket they seemed to be in for a severe beating, a probably that seemed all the greater inasmuch as five of the side went for 30 runs. Geeson and Knight doubled the score, but the last two men were together when at a quarter-past 4 rain stopped the game. It was renewed at a quarter to six. Knight and Whiteside kept up their wickets, and at a quarter-past 6 rain fell again and the match was abandoned, the draw being greatly in Warwickshire's favour.

22 July: YORKSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4399.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 23 July, page 11)

On a false wicket at Headingley, Leeds, yesterday, the scoring ruled small and the play was marked by two great bowling performances by peel and Captain Hedley. Yorkshire's first innings extended over about two hours and yielded only 73 runs. Of their batsmen Tunnicliffe alone did well. Captain Hedley took eight wickets in all for 18 runs, while his figures after luncheon were – nine overs and four balls (five maidens), nine runs and six wickets.

When Somerset went in Mr Hill and Mr Fowler played successfully and the score stood at 48 at the fall of the third wicket; but then Peel bowled with great effect and in his last eight overs he took seven wickets for nine runs; his full analysis was nine for 22. On the innings Yorkshire led by four.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 July, page 11)

The bowlers' triumphs continued more or less to the end of this match at Headingley, Leeds, and yesterday Yorkshire won by 103 runs. In the day's batting the best thing was Denton's 60. What little advantage there was in having the best of the wicket fell to Yorkshire. Denton, who was well supported by Mr Mitchell and Mr Jackson, obtained his runs in a hundred minutes. He had not given a chance and his chief hits were seven fours and three threes. Captain Hedley again bowled well and his full record was 14 wickets for 70 runs. At his second spell yesterday he took six for 24.

Somerset had to get 168 to win, but their batting was poor, and Peel and Mr Jackson got the side out in 75 minutes for 64. Peel in the match obtained 15 wickets for 50 runs.

25 July: HAMPSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4400.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 July, page 6)

In the couple of hours available for cricket at Southampton yesterday Hampshire made a good beginning to their innings on a wicket that is scarcely likely to recover. While the turf was wet and slippery Mr Hill and Barton played fine, free cricket and in an hour scored 76. Mr Hill hit seven fours.

Then came a successful piece of bowling by Mead, who got out Captain Wynyard and Mr R A Studd with successive balls at 99, and at 119 Mr Ward also fell to him. Barton, however, was in excellent form . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 July, page 10)

Although Essex managed to save the follow on at Southampton yesterday, they were in a bad position at the drawing of stumps. Thursday had found Hampshire with 122 runs on the first innings and only four wickets down, and the remaining six rather more than doubled the score.

Barton, who had played so well on the opening day, was sixth to leave at 148. He was finely caught in the long field. There was no mistake in his 79, made in two and a half hours, and he hit a five and seven fours. Mr Bencraft played well and, helped by Bacon, added 45 for the seventh partnership and with Soar 48 for the eighth. Mead bowled with remarkable effect, and his eight wickets for 67 brought his aggregate for the season to three figures.

When Essex went in five of the side were dismissed for 50, and this score was only reached by the steadiness of Mr Owen. Then came a bright stand of 50 minutes, during which Mr Lucas and Mr Kortright put on 56 runs. The latter batted very powerfully and made one drive out of the ground for six. Hampshire held a lead of 118 on the innings, and at the close of the day they were 159 on with seven wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 July, page 12)

As was almost indicated by the position of affairs on Friday night, at Southampton, Hampshire's success on Saturday was substantial. Their victory of 171 runs was only a retaliation for their loss at the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, a little time ago. But one of the best pieces of cricket in the match was executed by a member of Essex. This was the bowling of young Walter Mead, whose pitch and break were so effective as to yield an aggregate of 17 wickets for 119 runs.

Where Hampshire gained their advantage was in getting first innings before the wicket grew difficult, and much of their success could be traced to the fine start made by Mr Hill and Barton. In the second innings on Saturday the score was 41 for three; but Mead bowled so well that eight wickets were down for 66. Then Soar and Baldwin, profiting by some mistakes of Russell, put on 63 in 50 minutes, and in the end Essex were left with the very difficult task of making 255 in the last innings.

From the start things went badly for the batsmen, five of whom were out for 25 runs. Burns and Mr Kortright added 39 in 40 minutes, and then the end came quickly. Baldwin's double analysis showed a record of 13 wickets for 78 runs.

29 July: LANCASHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4401.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 July, page 6)

The wet weather prevented any cricket in this match arranged for yesterday at Old Trafford, Manchester. The decision to postpone start until this morning was arrived at early in the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 July, page 10)

Another downfall of rain again prevented any cricket at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, in this return fixture.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 July, page 12)

The Old Trafford Ground was, in consequence of the rain, unfit for cricket on Saturday, and this fixture was abandoned without the bowling of a ball on any of the three days.

25th July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4402.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 July, page 6)

Gloucestershire had the better of yesterday's play at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, scoring 173 to the home side's 86 for seven wickets. They certainly had an advantage in getting first innings while the wicket was at its best. But then it was heavy and difficult and gradually grew worse, so that their total was quite a good performance.

Much of its respectability belonged to the fine, fearless batting of Mr G L Jessop, who contributed 55 of the 61 added in the 35 minutes of his stay. This piece of cricket greatly changed the aspect of things, for when Mr Jessop arrived five of the visitors had gone for 61. Mr Jessop hit eight fours, and beyond a chance to Daft in the long field at 17 made no mistake.

For the second time during the week Dr Grace was got out for a single figure; yesterday he exercised great care and had been in 25 minutes for four runs, when he was caught by extra slip. Mr Townsend played steadily and was in with Mr Jessop while 49 runs were put on for the sixth wicket, and at a later period of the innings Board and Mr De Winton met with some success.

Nottinghamshire were in two hours. Bagguley and Mr Dixon raised the score from 10 to 57, but generally the batsmen fared ill on the bad turf with Mr Townsend bowling remarkably well. Nottinghamshire were weakened by the continued absence of Shrewsbury, who injured his hand at Lord's last week.

Gregory, a professional attached to the Notts Amateur Club, made a capital first appearance for the county as a slow right-hand bowler; Mr Lowe, of Notts Castle, is also new to first-class cricket. Dull weather prevailed and there was one delay of a quarter of an hour, owing to rain. The attendance was small.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 July, page 10)

During the hours that were available for cricket at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, the game went rather in favour of Gloucestershire, who at the close were 224 on with three wickets in hand, so that they quite maintained their position of Thursday.

There had been more rain during the night and the turf was naturally very slow. Notts, who had lost seven men for 86, completed their innings in 40 minutes for an addition of 34, of which number Mr Lowe and Wilkinson obtained 19 for the ninth wicket. Young Mr Townsend, who had bowled so well on Thursday, when he took six for 39, finished off his analysis at eight for 52. He kept a good length and got considerable work on the ball.

Going in a second time Gloucestershire, who were 53 ahead, began indifferently. Grace was caught and bowled at 20, and three of the side had gone by the time the record reached 34. Mr Hemingway and Wrathall, however, improved things for the visitors. The amateur threw great vigour into his game and made his 45 in 50 minutes. He gave difficult chances at 5 and 18, but his batting generally was excellent. This partnership yielded 61. After luncheon Wrathall was cleverly caught low down at cover-point; but then came some fine cricket by Mr Townsend, whom Board helped to

add 33 for the seventh wicket. Shortly after 4 o'clock a severe storm swamped the ground and caused the abandonment of play.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 July, page 12)

Gloucestershire beat Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, on Saturday, by 152 runs, a result that was in a great degree brought about by the skill of Mr Townsend. He kept a beautiful length and got on a great break, and his full record of 16 wickets for 122 runs was a wonderful performance for so young a bowler against a county side. His all-round play seems likely to preserve the family cricket fame first acquired by his father (Mr Frank Townsend) in Gloucestershire matches. Mr Townsend bowled right through both of the Nottinghamshire innings.

The position of the game on Saturday morning found Gloucestershire with a lead of 224 and still three wickets to fall. Neither Mr Townsend nor Mr de Winton was able to add to his score; but Mr Bracher and Roberts put on 17 for the last partnership and left Nottinghamshire to make 242 to win.

As the wicket was slow and difficult there was not much chance of the runs being got. Mr Townsend's bowling required a lot of playing and wickets soon fell steadily. Wrathall brought off a wonderful one-handed batch close to the square-leg boundary when he caught Gunn; but some mistakes in the field allowed Flowers to escape, and the score at luncheon time was 75 for four wickets. After the interval the innings collapsed, the other six men being got out in half an hour for 31 runs. Mr Townsend's last piece of analysis was five overs and one ball, 13 runs, five wickets.

25 July: SURREY v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4403.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 July, page 6)

On a bowler's wicket at Kennington Oval yesterday Surrey did excellently, inasmuch as they finished 133 up on the first innings and then got out one of their opponents at a small cost in the second. Even K S Ranjitsinhji, who has been doing so many fine feats with the bat on all kinds of turf, was got out cheaply; he found the Surrey bowling of a higher class than much he has had to play this season, and under such conditions his famous stroke on the leg side was not so easy of execution.

Until the last hour of yesterday the ground was dead and runs were very difficult to obtain. But 40 minutes of Richardson and Brockwell for the tenth Surrey wicket brightened everything. Richardson, who was in last, went in to "slog", and his tactics met with a wonderful amount of success, although his big drives often fell just short of the deep fieldsmen and thus made his score of 41 rather the result of fortune than judgment. Yet his was the game and it came off, and the spectators, of whom there were about 6,000, grew, for the first time in the day, enthusiastic.

Sussex played the opening innings on the false pitch, going in just after noon and being all out on the stroke on the luncheon hour. Their spell at the wicket was remarkable more for the bowling of Richardson than any particular merit in batting. Richardson came at a great pace down the slight incline and got on a wonderful break; the balls with which he dismissed Mr Murdoch and Mr Brann were such as would have beaten any one, while, when he hit the former's wicket, he sent the bail 55 yards by exact measurement. His full analysis was nine wickets for 49 runs and he was on unchanged at the top end.

Other good incidents in the fielding side were the catch at point that got out Ranjitsinhji, and that at slip which dismissed Mr Newham. Both were quick one-hand catches. The two batsmen named, with Mr Brann, alone did well in the defence.

When Surrey went in Maurice Read and Abel scored 49 for the first wicket; but when Tate crossed over to bowl at the pavilion end he did so well that six men were out for 106. The stumping of Abel by Butt was a very clever piece of work. Brockwell's vigour gave more life to the game, and Wood left with the record at 160 for nine. Then came the stand of Brockwell and Richardson. The latter went in to the bowling and hit it all over the field. For nearly three-quarters of an hour runs came at a fast pace and 63 had been added when Richardson started for a single and got half way up the pitch; Brockwell sent him back, and in turning he fell. But so that Richardson should have the credit of the not-out, Brockwell, seeing that perhaps the fault was with himself, chivalrously crossed to the other wicket.

Thus ended the Surrey innings for 223, a total that had occupied three and a quarter hours. Brockwell played sound cricket and made some very fine cuts. Tate's seven for 94 was an excellent performance, especially as he bowled right through the innings. Sussex lost one wicket in rubbing off 11 of the arrears of 133.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 July, page 10)

The Surrey eleven gained another victory on Kennington Oval yesterday, beating Sussex by ten wickets. Sussex stood very badly on Thursday evening, when with one man out in the second innings they were still 122 runs behind.

Yesterday morning during the partnership of Marlow and Ranjitsinhji they looked like making something of a fight; but disasters set in with the ill-judged call of Ranjitsinhji that cost Marlow his wicket, and it was only a little vigorous play by Parris and Killick that saved Sussex from an innings defeat.

What actual merit existed in the visitors' second attempt rested almost solely with Marlow and Ranjitsinhji, who played the difficult bowling on the bad turf with every confidence. Things were going well for Sussex, the bowling was twice changed and 55 runs had been put on when Marlow was run out. He had played the ball to short leg and, answering his partner's call, ran, but failed to get home; the wicket was skilfully put down by Lohmann from a fine return by Richardson.

Fry played hard on at 81 and Ranjitsinhji, after being hit, gave extra slip an easy catch. Half the wickets were down for 93 and eight for 111. Then Killick and Parris added 82 and, at the end of two and a half hours, the innings had been played through for 133. Richardson got three more wickets, bringing his full record for the match to 12 for 90 runs.

Surrey wanted only a single to win, and it was decided to play the match out without having an interval for luncheon. Mr Murdoch sent down a maiden and Mr Brann bowled a wide, which gave Surrey the game. A large company visited the ground.

26 July: YORKSHIRE GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS OF YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/189/189667.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 27 July, page 10)

Lord Hawke, the captain of the Yorkshire eleven, is entertaining some of the cricketers at Wighill Park, near Tadcaster, for this match, which began yesterday at York. The turf was heavy from the overnight rain; but a start was made just before 1 o'clock.

Going in first, the gentlemen did badly – two wickets were lost for nothing, eight were down in an hour for 56, and in a quarter of an hour after luncheon the innings was completed for 70. Peel bowled splendidly, while Foster, going on at 51, took four wickets for nine runs.

The pitch was still difficult when the Players went in. Wainwright and Brown put on 28 for the first wicket, Tunnicliffe and Denton 31 for the third, and Moorhouse and Lancaster 39 for the seventh. At the drawing of stumps the Players were 44 on with three men in hand.

Day 2 (report from Monday 29 July, page 12)

On a slow and difficult wicket at York on Saturday the Gentlemen were outplayed by the professionals, who won by an innings and 49 runs. In consequence of a storm in the morning, a fresh pitch was selected on which to finish the game, and then the Players increased their overnight score of 114 for seven to 177.

The sun soon made itself felt on the turf and the bowlers reaped a great benefit. Foster met with marked success and brought his record in the match to 11 for 37. A little more than an hour sufficed for the playing out of the Gentlemen's second innings.

The assemblage of so many Yorkshire cricketers was made an opportunity for the presentation of the wedding gift to Mr Ernest Smith from the county eleven.

Saturday 27 July, page 10: MR F MITCHELL'S TEAM FOR AMERICA. – Mr F W Milligan, of Yorkshire, will be included in this team, which visits America at the end of the summer.

Monday 29 July, page 12: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present positions of the counties are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	16	12	1	3	11
Yorkshire	17	10	3	4	7
Lancashire	12	8	3	1	5
Warwickshire	13	4	3	6	1
Middlesex	11	4	4	3	0
Gloucestershire	9	4	4	1	0
Derbyshire	10	2	3	5	-1
Hampshire	8	3	4	1	-1
Sussex	12	3	5	4	-2
Essex	11	4	6	1	-2
Leicestershire	11	3	6	2	-3
Nottinghamshire	13	3	7	3	-4
Kent	9	1	8	2	- 5
Somerset	10	1	7	2	-6

The positions are secured by the deduction of losses from wins.

29 July: DERBYSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4404.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 July, page 4)

Although the scoring ruled small at Derby yesterday, Surrey were yet able to build up a pretty good advantage on the first day's cricket, for, with a deficit of 110, their opponents went in a second time and lost one of their best men for eight runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 July, page 7)

Surrey beat Derbyshire in a decisive fashion at Derby yesterday by an innings and 53 runs. Overnight the position of the game pointed to some such substantial victory for Surrey, as the home side had gone in for a second time against 110 and had lost a wicket for eight.

In 90 minutes yesterday Richardson and Lohmann got out the other nine for an addition of 49 runs. Mr Marsden played pretty well, but generally the Derbyshire batting was extremely feeble. Richardson and Lohmann bowled unchanged in the two innings, the former taking 11 wickets for 60 runs and the latter eight for 59.

29 July: KENT v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4405.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 July, page 4)

The cricket at the Rectory Field, Blackheath, yesterday was mostly dull. The cause was to be found in the heavy turf. On Saturday the excellent pitch, which had been prepared for the county match, looked remarkably well; but the heavy rains which afterwards fell to a great extent spoiled it, and yesterday the start was delayed an hour so that there might be some recovery. However, it was very slow, and by the time Somerset's batting turn arrived the bowlers were able to get a lot of work on the ball, especially Alec Hearne, whose good length and break were the chief cause of the present bad position of Somerset.

A batting side such as Kent possessed ought to have done better, in a spell of over three hours, than score 133. The majority of the men seemed to forget that hitting was the game under the circumstances, while Mr Mordaunt, the great Oxford batsman, was caught in the slips from a ball that he ought to have hit in front of cover point. Mr Mason, too, who was first out, did not play his proper game.

The chief merits in the batting belonged to Alec Hearne and Mr Patterson. They were together about 70 minutes and added 56, and at 94 Mr Patterson was given run out – a very near thing. Some idea of Hearne's care will be gathered from the fact that when he skied the ball to the wicket-keeper he had been in two and a half hours for 32. Kent were all out just before 5 o'clock for 133. Tyler's slows had been very effective; his analysis was five for 57. The Somerset fielding was good and Mr Hill finished well with two capital catches at long-off.

Somerset had a bad hour at the end of the day. Hearne bowled with great effect. Four men were out for seven and five for 12, and the sixth would have gone soon afterwards had Martin accepted a hard chance from Nichols. At the drawing of stumps Somerset were 97 behind with six men out.

In W M Bradley Kent are trying a new fast bowler, whose recent success for Mote Park against Marylebone at Maintained brought him prominently to the notice of the county.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 July, page 7)

Another quiet day's cricket passed away at the Rectory Field, Blackheath, yesterday, and left the game at its close rather in favour of Kent, whose opponents have to get 138 to win with six wickets left.

Somerset were struggling in an uphill fight throughout yesterday, and they fought well. They started in the morning from a very bad mark, as with only four men left they were 97 behind. The pitch was still very slow. In the 40 minutes which were occupied in completing Somerset's first innings for an addition of 43, there were a badly missed catch by Mr Patterson, at third man, and some good hits by Captains Trask and Hedley, and Kent finished 54 up on the first innings. Alec Hearne bowled throughout at one end and had the fine analysis of seven for 29.

This he followed up by another fine innings. Going in first, he was eighth to leave at 126, after a stay of two hours and a half, being then skilfully caught at slip, where Mr R Palairet took the ball

wide with his right hand. A five and four fours were among his best hits. There was one thing to be said against him – namely, the running-out of Easby; he called the latter for a drive of his own and, having done so, it was his duty to go through, instead of which he told Easby to return when it was too late – Mr Woods had fielded the ball well at deep mid-off.

Mr Mordaunt played excellently for his 19. A vigorous 23 by Martin gave some brightness to the close of the Kent innings, which ended for 151. Captain Hedley had bowled with great success, and his eight for 62 has been so far one of the best things in the match. Somerset, who wanted 206 to win, made 68 in 75 minutes at the cost of four do the best wickets.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 August, page 7)

Kent won this match at the Rectory Field, Blackheath, yesterday, by 117 runs, a victory that was far more easily secured than might have been expected from the overnight position.

Somerset yesterday morning had six wickets left and were 137 behind. These all went down in half an hour for a mere 20 runs. Martin found the pitch drier than on either of the other days and exactly suited to him. He took four wickets for five runs and his analysis came out seven for 31.

A HEARNE. – This batsman reached his four-figure aggregate yesterday with his 32 for Kent v Somerset. His actual runs are 1,020 and his average is 31. He is the eighth cricketer to get his 1,000 this season.

29 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4406.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 July, page 4)

Good batting marked yesterday's play in this match at Leicester.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 July, page 7)

A brilliant innings of 178 by Captain Quinton for Hampshire marked yesterday's cricket at Leicester. He was batting about three hours and made three fives, 14 fours, 11 threes and ten twos.

Leicestershire saved the follow-on, and for this they were largely indebted to Tomlin's vigorous 51, in which were five fours. At the end of the day Hampshire were 398 ahead with four wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 August, page 7)

Hampshire won this match in brilliant fashion at Leicester yesterday by 342 runs. Overnight they had made 316 in the second innings for the loss of six wickets, and these figures were increased to 334 before the innings was declared at an end.

With the pitch helping the bowlers, Leicestershire were quickly got out in the second attempt, Baldwin, Soar and Captain Quinton all being effective in the attack, while Tomlin alone offered a tolerable resistance to them.

29 July: WARWICKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4407.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 July, page 4)

Yesterday the Lancashire eleven achieved no small feat in keeping in all day and scoring 349 for nine wickets on a slow pitch at the Edgbaston Ground, Birmingham. The chief element in this batting success was Tyldesley's fine score.

Ward, who was splendidly caught at point, played soundly; but Paul's batting was almost painfully slow, for he stayed 90 minutes and got only 18 runs. Baker was out to a remarkable catch at wicket by Lilley, who took the ball with one hand on the leg side. There was a bad mistake in the Warwickshire field – namely, an easy catch dropped by Law at cover-point from Tyldesley, when that batsman was only nine.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 July, page 7)

The Warwickshire team made a very good fight against the Lancashire bowlers at Edgbaston, Birmingham, yesterday, although at the close of the day, after following on, they were still in a considerable minority.

Lancashire completed their innings, in which nine wickets had fallen overnight, for an addition of 13. Tyldesley took out his bat for 152, made in three hours and three-quarters by one six (four for an overthrow), 17 fours, two threes, 14 twos and singles, and beyond a chance at nine his display was quite free from fault. It was a great performance for a young cricketer on the second occasion of his appearance in the county eleven.

When Warwickshire went in Walter Quaife played very well; but it was after six wickets had gone for 87 that Law and Richards made a fine stand and added 92 runs in a couple of hours. Then the innings quickly ended for 195. Richards took out his bat for 61. Warwickshire followed on 166 behind . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 August, page 7)

Yesterday, at Edgbaston, Birmingham, Lancashire beat Warwickshire by an innings and 54 runs. On Tuesday evening Warwickshire, with Mr Bainbridge out, wanted 117 to save an innings defeat, and it was thought by many that they would accomplish this task.

But Mold, helped by the wicket, bowled with great effect, and in 80 minutes the last nine batsmen were got rid of for an addition of 63 runs. Mold accounted for seven of them at a cost to himself of 42, while his analysis for the innings was eight for 61. Briggs, owing to an injured hand, was absent from the field, and Lancaster thus had an opportunity of distinguishing himself.

29 July: YORKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4408.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 July, page 4)

In a bowler's day at Park-avenue, Bradford, yesterday, Gloucestershire had the worst of the cricket. Not the least notorious of the batting failures was the dismissal of Dr Grace for 0 and 3.

Amid such a series of triumphs for the ball it is almost unnecessary to observe that the wicket was extremely difficult, for, following the rain of the last few days, there was a hot sun and the bowlers were able to get on a great break.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 July, page 7)

At was expected after the way Monday's play had gone at Bradford, Yorkshire yesterday won easily, beating Gloucestershire by eight wickets. Wainwright and Peel bowled wonderfully well on the wet wicket and the visitors set their rivals only 47 to get to win. These Yorkshire had in about half an hour, Mr Jackson hitting vigorously. In the double innings Peel took ten wickets for 59 and Wainwright nine for 41.

29 July: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v CAMBRIDGESHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/209/209561.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 July, page 4)

It is not a common occurrence to see a match of any note played through in a day; but this has to be recorded of the cricket at Lord's yesterday, when the M.C.C. beat Cambridgeshire by an innings and 45 runs. The result was mostly the work of the Middlesex bowlers, Hearne and Rawlin, who were unchanged in the two innings and whose remarkable figures are given below.

There was some successful batting for the M.C.C. by Burns, and Hayward's analysis for the county is also worthy of attention. Mr E M Butler, the old Harrow captain and son of the Master of Trinity, was to be found in the Cambridgeshire ranks, while D Hayward serves to remind the present cricket generation of some great players – Tom and Dan Hayward – of other days.

1 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4409.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 August, page 5)

Yesterday's play at the Spa Ground, Gloucester, was rather even in its nature, Gloucestershire completing an innings for 231 and Warwickshire losing three men for 114. Dr W G Grace did little, and then, in spite of the 34 and 36 added for the second and fourth wickets by Mr Ferris and Mr Hemingway and Mr Rice and Wrathall, six of the eleven went for 103. The other four wickets put on 128 runs. The runs were pretty well distributed among the side, whose dismissal took three hours and a quarter.

Warwickshire had three of their eleven out for 56, after which Walter Quaife and Lilley scored 58 in 40 minutes and were still together at the end of the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 August, page 7)

Yesterday's cricket at Gloucester was made remarkable by the fine winning game played by Gloucestershire, whose lead of 366 with two wickets in hand places them almost outside the range of defeat. Dr W G Grace, who, since the bad weather set in, has had a run of small scores, played a splendid innings of 70, and was backed up by several other good batting feats.

The earlier part of the day was occupied by the completion of the Warwickshire innings, in which three wickets had fallen overnight for 114. In an hour and a half the remaining seven batsmen were dismissed for 52 more runs. Mr Townsend bowled well and his figures yesterday were 16 overs, 32 runs and five wickets. As the pitch was hard and true this stood out as a particularly good piece of work.

Gloucestershire had a lead of 65, and going in a second time Dr Grace and Mr Ferris scored 106 for the first wicket in 90 minutes. Dr Grace was second out at 142 for a brilliant 70. He hit ten fours, two threes and six twos, and he got his runs in an hour and three-quarters. Mr Ferris contributed eight fours in his excellent 53, the highest score he has made for the county this season. Mr Jessop made a vigorous 50 in half an hour, but he was several times missed. There were a couple of delays through showers.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 August, page 5)

Gloucestershire gained a brilliant victory on Saturday over Warwickshire by 254 runs at Gloucester. Their position on Friday night, when with two wickets in hand they were 366 on, pointed to their success; but Saturday brought with it rain, and the delays once or twice threatened to deprive Gloucestershire of a win.

There was no play possible until half-past 1, and later in the afternoon the weather caused two interruptions. Dr Grace at once closed his innings, and Warwickshire were left with three and three-quarter hours in which to fight against the 366 majority of their opponents.

In 30 minutes before luncheon they lost Mr Bainbridge's wicket; but on the false turf the two

Quaifes did well. William G Quaife played very steadily, and as there were still six batsmen left at 4 o'clock, Warwickshire's prospect of saving the game slightly brightened. But Mr Jessop and Mr Townsend bowled excellently. Three more wickets fell in 40 minutes, and after the last shower the other three went in a quarter of an hour, the [whole] side being out for 112. The double analyses of Mr Jessop and Mr Townsend came out thus: - Mr Townsend, 10 wickets, 129 runs; Mr Jessop, nine wickets, 71 runs.

Friday 2 August, page 5: MR H W BAINBRIDGE. – The Warwickshire captain, at Gloucester yesterday, managed to secure his four-figure aggregate; his runs for the season are now 1,010. He is the ninth batsman to run to the 1,000.

1 August: LANCASHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4410.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 August, page 5)

There were several good pieces of batting in the Lancashire first innings at Manchester yesterday, and the home side may be said to have had rather the better of the day's play. Albert Ward's care, Mr MacLaren's vigour and a good stand by Mr C C Pilkington, this year's captain at Eton, and Baker were the chief things prior to the fall of the seventh wicket at 161.

Baker and Lancashire next added 62 in less than an hour, and finally the Lancashire score reached 242. The best innings of the day was Baker's 73. He was in two hours and gave no chance, hitting five fours, four threes and ten twos. Mr Pilkington made his 18 in characteristic Eton style and was warmly cheered by the company.

Derbyshire began badly, losing three men at 31, after which Davidson and Chatterton played out time. Briggs is absent from Lancashire, owing to an injured hand, and it was this that caused an opening for Mr Pilkington, who plays under the birth qualification.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 August, page 7)

Derbyshire played fine cricket at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, and converted almost a losing position of Thursday into one that promises success. They had gone in overnight against 241 and had lost three wickets for 63.

Chatterton and Davidson were separated after having obtained 48 while they were together, and then came partnerships of 70 in 80 minutes by Davidson and Storer, 65 by Davidson and Sugg, and 42 by Sugg and Mr Walker. These stands were for the fifth, sixth and eighth wickets. Sugg, who made a brilliant 84, went in at 149 for five and left at 291, after a stay of two and a half hours. He hit 12 fours. Davidson played with every care and contributed six fours, five threes and five twos, during three and a quarter hours.

Lancashire, who were 49 behind, lost both Ward and Mr MacLaren before the arrears were cleared off. Then at 55 Paul, Tyldesley and Frank Sugg were all dismissed. At the end of the day Lancashire were only 17 on and had five wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 August, page 5)

Derbyshire have not had the best of fortune in various of their matches this season. Rain probably robbed them of a victory over Surrey a little time ago on the Oval, and on Saturday their prospect of beating Lancashire was blighted by the weather, and the match was drawn.

Friday evening found Derbyshire in a very strong position, for in the second innings they had got out five of their opponents, who were only 17 runs ahead. Between various delays by showers, Lancashire completed their innings on Saturday for 166. Mr Pilkington, the Eton captain, again played well, but chief batting honours once more fell to Baker.

Derbyshire had to make 118 to win, but after Mr Evershed had gone the weather became so bad that it was decided to abandon the match.

A CRICKET FEAT. – George Davidson, the Derbyshire and M.C.C. professional, on Saturday increased his aggregate of wickets to 101, while on the previous day he had completed his 1,000 runs.

1 August: YORKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4411.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 August, page 5)

The Hampshire eleven came out pretty well in the first day's cricket with their powerful opponents at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday, when, on a slow and difficult wicket, they finished up 17 runs ahead, with a batsman in hand.

Yorkshire had the opening innings and were all dismissed in two hours for 110. The bowlers got the best of matters and the only two partnerships of note were by Brown and Tunnicliffe and Lord Hawke and Mounsey for 36 and 41 for the first and eighth wickets respectively. Mr E H Buckland, the Old Marlburian and Oxford cricketer, who is a master at Winchester, made a successful first appearance for Hampshire; he went on as change for Wootton and with Baldwin had an equal division of wickets.

The best thing in the Hampshire batting was the play of Mr Hill, who, going in third wicket down, was eighth out after a stay of 90 minutes. Hampshire at one time had 50 up with four men lost; but then several wickets were cheaply obtained. The cricketing day was shortened by 20 minutes owing to the bad light at the close. Mr Milligan and Mounsey came into the Yorkshire team in place of Mr Jackson and Mr Mitchell.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 August, page 7)

After a splendid finish at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday, Hampshire beat Yorkshire by two wickets. There is something a little satirical in this result, for it was Yorkshire who championed the cause of Hampshire's inclusion among the first-class shires. On this year's form Hampshire have certainly justified the acknowledgment of their claims, for they have invariably played good cricket, and at Southampton in the opening game with Yorkshire they gave their powerful northern friends a capital fight.

Yesterday's cricket was made doubly uncertain by the false wicket, for the bowlers were able to get on a great break and the timing of the ball was more a matter of fortune than judgment. On Thursday night it was anybody's game; Yorkshire had made 110 and Hampshire 127 for nine wickets. There was no addition to the visitors' score yesterday morning, so that Yorkshire went in a second time with a deficit of 17.

Soars bowling met with such great success that at one period of the game he got four men out at a cost to himself of only seven runs, while he took altogether five for 21. Yorkshire were disposed of for 111. Apart from Soar's there were also good analyses by Baldwin and Mr Buckland.

Hampshire wanted 95 to win. They lost three men for 19 runs, but a stand of 55 by Mr Hill and Captain Quinton altered matters. Mr Hill showed the best batting of the match. After four men had gone for 74 eight were down for 88, so that it was only a scramble home for Hampshire, whose chances were improved by the fact that a couple of showers made the ball greasy and imposed a handicap on the bowlers and field.

Saturday 3 August, page 7

THE FOLLOW-ON RULE

In spite of the prominence given to the rule as regards two-days' matches, Mr Henry Perkins, the secretary of the Marylebone Club, still receives many applications as to whether the runs are 120 or 80. It may again be clearly stated that for three-days' matches the follow-on occurs if the side is 120 or more behind, and that 80 is the number for a two-days' match.

MR A C MACLAREN. – The committee of the Lancashire County Cricket Club have decided to make Mr A C MacLaren a life member of the club and to present him with a gold watch and chain in commemoration of his record score against Somerset last month. The presentation will take place at the annual general meeting in January next.

Monday 5 August, page 5

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The results up to date are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	17	13	1	3	12
Yorkshire	19	11	4	4	7
Lancashire	14	9	3	2	6
Hampshire	10	5	4	1	1
Gloucestershire	11	5	5	1	0
Middlesex	11	4	4	3	0
Warwickshire	15	4	5	6	-1
Derbyshire	12	2	4	6	-2
Essex	11	4	6	1	-2
Sussex	12	3	5	4	-2
Kent	10	2	6	2	-4
Leicestershire	12	3	7	2	-4
Nottinghamshire	13	3	7	3	-4
Somerset 11 1	8 2 -7	7			

AN AUSTRALIAN VISIT FOR 1896

Mr Henry Perkins, the secretary of the Marylebone Club, having been asked by the Australian authorities whether a team would be welcomed next summer and a good programme arranged, including five test matches, sounded the first-class counties on the question.

The various committees expressed a unanimous wish for such a tour, with this stipulation – that only three representative matches should be played. Apart from the extension of the championship, the counties feel that three test matches are sufficient for deciding the honours of England v Australia. These will probably be arranged as before for Lord's, the Oval and Manchester.

Mr Perkins has written by the last mail to the colonial authorities, telling them that the M.C.C. and the counties will repeat the welcome given to the other teams.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SURREY. – Although this match at the Oval has in recent years, owing to the deterioration of Notts' cricket, lost some of the interest with which it used to be followed by the public, there is sure to be a big crowd to see to-day's play . . .

5 August: DERBYSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4412.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 August, page 8)

It is not often that the policy of putting your opponents in first when you have won the toss turns out so successful as at Derby yesterday, where Mr Evershed, thinking the wicket would improve, determined to pursue this course. Hampshire began well enough, and the partnerships of Mr Robson and Barton, 40, and Captains Wynyard and Quinton, 43, promised something better than the 135 for which Hampshire were out in two hours and three-quarters.

When Derbyshire went in Mr Wright and Mr Evershed made 77 in less than an hour for the first wicket, and at the finish Derbyshire were only three runs behind with seven men in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 August, page 8)

Yesterday's cricket at Derby went strongly in favour of Derbyshire, whose remarkably good position was largely due to the sound and steady batting of Bagshaw. His skilful play on the slow pitch extended altogether over three and a half hours. Derbyshire increased their Monday score of 132 for three to 277.

Hampshire fared badly before the bowling of Porter, and when rain put a stop to the game Hampshire were 66 behind with only four wickets left. Captain Wynyard played well and made 43 out of 68 in an hour and a quarter.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 August, page 7)

At Derby yesterday Derbyshire won this match by an innings and 50 runs. Some such result was more or less expected from the position of the game overnight, when Hampshire, with only four wickets left, were 66 behind.

As a matter of fact three more batsmen were out for an addition of only four runs. Then a dozen were obtained before a fine piece of fielding caused the running out of Soar. Porter again bowled splendidly and his full record for the match was 14 wickets for 100 runs.

5 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4413.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 August, page 8)

Bad weather prevented any cricket in this return match at the county ground, Bristol, yesterday . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 August, page 8)

The rain had quite ruined the original pitch prepared for this match at the county ground, Bristol, and a fresh one was chosen yesterday. On this Sussex went in, but they had only about 40 minutes' batting before more rainstorms stopped the game. Mr Jessop bowled out both Marlow and K S Ranjitsinhji.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 August, page 7)

Gloucestershire gained a brilliant victory by ten wickets over Sussex yesterday at Bristol. The result was only reached after some very remarkable play, and it came as a great surprise after the first two days had passed and the only progress made had been that Sussex lost two wickets for 30 runs.

On the rain-ruined pitch there were two men on the Gloucestershire side who played a wonderful part in the game – Mr Jessop and Mr Townsend. Both bowled with effect, more especially Mr Townsend, while Mr Jessop's dashing 53 in half an hour had a very material influence on the game. There was a crowd of 4,000 people and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed at the finish, when Mr Townsend came in for a very large share of the applause.

Fine, bright weather followed the previous day's dullness. Mr Townsend and Mr Jessop, who bowled unchanged, got down the last eight Sussex wickets in the first innings in [an] hour and a quarter for an addition of 69 runs.

When Gloucestershire went in Dr Grace was out for a single, and three wickets were lost for 20. But Mr Jessop, who hit nine fours, made 53 in half an hour and, helped by Wrathall, put on 70 for the fourth partnership. Later on Mr Townsend batted well, and Sussex were 60 behind when they went in a second time at half-past 4.

Things went badly for the visitors, and such was Mr Townsend's success with the ball that he sent down four overs (two maidens), two runs, four wickets. In spite of some vigour by Bean nine wickets were down for 56 and 20 minutes remained for play. Tate, the last man, made a couple of twos and then Sussex finished for 60. Gloucestershire just had time to get the necessary single and won with two or three minutes to spare. Mr Townsend's splendid bowling yielded 12 wickets for 87 runs, while Mr Jessop took seven for 54.

5 August: KENT v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4414.html)

Monday 5 August, page 5: THE CANTERBURY WEEK

The festival at Canterbury retains all its old charm and, with a strong programme, this week promises to equal the excellence of its predecessors. The St Lawrence Ground is in capital condition and good wickets have been prepared for the matches, in which Warwickshire and Yorkshire are the visiting teams. At the theatre, the Old Stagers will, as usual, perform, and there is quite a list of other entertainments.

This is the 54th annual celebration of the Canterbury week. The survivors of the earliest times are reduced to small numbers. The late Lord Bessborough (Fred Ponsonby of those days) always took a lively interest in the Week, together with Old Stagers and I Zingari, so that his death since the last festival removes another famous figure. The Hon Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, the hon. treasurer of the M.C.C., played in the second match of the first week, in 1842, appearing for Gentlemen of England v Gentlemen of Kent; while Martingell, the old coach at Eton, was in Kent v England in 1843.

To-day the Kent side to meet Warwickshire will probably consist of . . .

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 August, page 8)

Generally tame cricket with dull and wet weather were mournful heralds for the 54th celebration of the famous festival at Canterbury, and the loyal followers of the Week had to seek the theatre and the Old Stagers in the evening to shake off the dull effects of the wet finish to the lifeless Warwickshire batting yesterday, on the St Lawrence Ground. The narrow streets of the old-fashioned cathedral city were as gaily decorated as ever and, with all its splendid cricket traditions, the Week still outstrips its rivals in its manner of doing honour to the game.

The programme put forward this year was a repetition of 1894. In fact, since the last Australian trip Kent have had to fall back on Warwickshire for their first match, and it must be honestly said that Warwickshire, although promoted to the charmed circle of first class, are not possessed of the attraction of some of the old brigade. Still, the mere fact that 5,217 people yesterday paid for admission to the ground shows that the Kent public is still loyal to Canterbury.

Kent had a line side, although Walter Hearne's absence is still mourned; but Mr M C Kemp at wicket is a great help to the county, while Mr Bradley, the new fast bowler, in his second trial came off well and took four wickets in his first 20 overs for 18 runs. The Rev E Pereira, of the Oratory, Birmingham, reappears for Warwickshire after a lapse of nine years, and Mr J E Hill again plays. Diver and Richards stand down.

On a slow wicket in the three hours and a quarter before rain came Warwickshire made 128 for the loss of eight batsmen. Walter Quaife played pretty well and helped his captain to get 41 for the first partnership and, what was more, completed his 1,000 aggregate for the season. Mr Bainbridge remained in 90 minutes for 19 runs; and after four men had gone there was a steady partnership of 30 by W G Quaife and Law. The brightness in the batting occurred in the half-hour preceding the downpour that stopped play. Then the Rev E Pereira threw some vigour into the game, contributing 30 out of 34 and being still not out at the close.

The Old Stagers gave their usual four nights at the theatre, besides which there are dances and a cycling procession in the programme of the social part of the week.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 August, page 8)

The beautiful cricket by the old Winchester captain, Mr J R Mason, and the weather's kindness were much more like the good traditions of the Canterbury week than the general tameness of the opening day. The number fell short of Monday, but the spectators reached about 4,000.

Mr Mason has done many fine things for Kent this season, and his latest 100 will rank among his best, while he and Alec Hearne verged on a repetition of that feat, four times achieved by them, of running the first partnership into one of three figures. What made Mr Mason's fine batting so remarkable was that he had no drawing-room wicket on which to get the runs and the bowling talent against him lacked neither variation nor skill. The home county finished up with a lead of 76 and still four wickets to fall.

There was little of note in the balance of the Warwickshire innings, in which the overnight score was 128, for the two outstanding wickets went in half an hour for 16 more runs. The Rev E Pereira slightly increased his overnight figures, but he had the satisfaction of knowing that he had played the best innings, both numerically and in brightness, of the side. In bowling and fielding Kent had acquitted themselves well.

In three-quarters of an hour before luncheon Mr Mason and Alec Hearne played sound cricket for 30 runs. The bowling required a lot of watching. It was not until well in the afternoon that the first partnership of 100 minutes was severed, Alec Hearne being then out at 70. His 34 were well made. After this a steady dismissal of the side set in, until checked by a brilliant stand of 45 minutes by Mr Stewart and Mr Mason, who added 64. Mr Mason was stumped by Lilley at 210, being the sixth to leave, after a stay of three and a half hours. He gave a couple of difficult chances at 66 and 81, but these were forgotten in the excellence of his play; his best figures were eight fours, three threes and 13 twos. He was quick to punish a loose ball and he combined sound defence with some clean hitting,

Subsequently Mr Marchant and Mr Kemp played out time, the score standing at 220 for six, so that, as the wicket is scarcely likely to improve, Kent with their 76 lead hold a very strong position.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 August, page 7)

The friends of Kent have not had many results to rejoice over this season, so that yesterday's substantial victory of an innings and 15 runs over Warwickshire will be justly appreciated at a time when Kent's great cricket festival is in celebration. The eleven well earned their success, to which the batting of Mr Mason and the fast bowling of Mr Bradley mostly contributed.

It was very natural for the pitch to grow difficult, as it dried through Tuesday, and the sun on it yesterday reduced the batsmen's prospects to something like chance, so that Warwickshire, who stood badly overnight, were not in the happiest of positions. Kent were 76 ahead with four wickets in hand, and their remaining batsmen adopted the right policy in hitting.

Mr Marchant, whose game since his great innings at Lord's for Eton v Harrow has always been one of brilliancy, showed that his fine driving and cutting powers are still well preserved. In the course of 35 minutes he increased his overnight score of nine to 52, and he made eight fours and six twos. His other companions did little and the innings was completed in three-quarters of an hour for 278. Mr Glover bowled remarkably well and it was surprising that he was not given more opportunities. His five wickets cost only 21 runs.

Warwickshire had to make 134 to prevent an innings defeat. Mr Bainbridge and Walter Quaife began well and scored 35 (including eight fours) in the course of half an hour. But then Martin and Mr Bradley bowled with great success, and before a shower stopped the game five of the side had gone for 83 in 90 minutes. After luncheon the balance of the innings was finished off in three-quarters of an hour for an addition of 36 runs. Mr Bradley's fast bowling produced the fine aggregate for the match of nine wickets for 86 runs.

To-day the Yorkshire team to meet Kent undergoes a change from the side that drew with Lancashire, as Peel, being unwell, stands down for Foster.

5 August: LANCASHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4415.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 August, page 8)

There was a great crowd at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, when 25,331 people paid for admission to see the first day's cricket in the return between the powerful northern shires. Both counties were strongly represented, and the interest in the meeting was only the result of the good cricket played by the teams this year.

The game went against the home side. Lancashire getting first innings on a slow and difficult wicket found it no easy task to make runs. Paul was carefulness itself, taking 90 minutes to get 24, but Briggs hit vigorously for a little time. However, the team occupied two and three-quarter hours to play an innings of 103. Of the Yorkshire bowlers, who were backed up by some fine fielding, Peel was the most effective. Hirst with his one wicket had the satisfaction of bringing his aggregate to the season to 100.

It was left to Mr Jackson, the old Harrow and Cambridge captain, to perform the feat of the day, in scoring a splendid 76 on a bad wicket against the Lancashire bowlers. Mr Jackson has always been a fine bat on any pitch; but yesterday's 76 will rank amongst the best things he has done. In the first place he and Mr Mitchell put on 96 in 80 minutes for the opening partnership. Mr Jackson made his 76 out of 136 and was third to leave; he hit seven fours, two threes and 11 twos. Brown played well, and at the drawing of stumps Yorkshire were 43 ahead, with five wickets to fall. A dull morning was followed by a bright afternoon.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 August, page 8)

At Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, the ground was so affected by the heavy rain overnight that not a ball could be bowled on the second day of this match. At half-past 5 the umpires finally agreed that cricket was impossible.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 August, page 7)

Although there was a full day's cricket at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, this match could not be played out; but the draw very much favoured Yorkshire, whose fine all-round form should invest their game with Surrey next Monday on the Oval with more than the average amount of interest.

Tuesday's blank left little prospect of any definite issue to the contest if Lancashire scored at all substantially in the second innings. As it was, Lancashire, going in against great odds, did well and saved the game. The ground recovered in a wonderful manner from the effects of the rain and, if the wicket was slow, it never became absolutely difficult. There were about 6,000 spectators.

The balance of the Yorkshire innings, in which five men had gone for 146, was marked by a splendid stand for the seventh wicket by Lord Hawke and Moorhouse, who in 90 minutes added 120 runs. Then Lord Hawke declared the innings at an end at ten minutes past 1, the score being 270 for seven wickets. The Yorkshire captain's brilliant 61 included nine fours, a three and nine twos, while Moorhouse hit five fours, two threes and seven twos.

Mr MacLaren and Ward went in to start clearing off the Lancashire arrears of 167, and began well. The cricket of both men was extremely good and 76 were made for the first wicket. Lancashire struggled well in their uphill fight; Ward and Paul went to 99, Paul and Sugg to 123, Sugg and Tyldesley to 142 and Sugg and Baker to 173. At this stage six wickets were down and over an hour remained for play, so that Lancashire still looked like being beaten. However, the steadiness of Briggs, who was well assisted by Mr Pilkington and Smith, saved the match, which was drawn . . .

5 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4416.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 August, page 8)

What cricketing hours were permitted by the weather yesterday at Leicester were mostly absorbed by the first innings of Essex, who ran up the respectable score of 245. The best batting was that by young Carpenter, who has been doing particularly well this season. He went in first and was fifth out at 143, having made 87 in two hours and a quarter without giving a chance. His chief figures were seven fours, nine threes and six twos.

Mr Fane, the Old Carthusian, helped him to add 88 for the second wicket, while subsequently Burns and Mr Johnston put on 43 for the sixth. Russell and Mead also hit vigorously. Pougher bowled well and his six wickets for 82 was a good performance in a pretty long innings.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 August, page 8)

There was no play in this match at Leicester yesterday, owing to the bad weather . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 August, page 7)

Yesterday at Leicester the home county only just managed to sae their match with Essex and, had the old follow-on rule been in existence, they would probably not have done this. Tuesday had been a blank, and yesterday Leicestershire, who had scored five runs without loss of wicket, were out in an hour for 144. After the eighth had fallen at 111 Mr Hillyard and Geeson hit out and prevented the follow-on.

Essex remained in until 4.50 and then closed their second innings, leaving the home side with 164 to get and an hour and 20 minutes to play. Leicestershire lost four wickets for 11 and seven went for 32; but subsequently Mr Hillyard and Geeson kept up their ends and made the match a draw. Mead took 12 wickets for 93 runs.

5 August: SOMERSET v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4417.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 August, page 8)

The chief honours of yesterday's cricket at Taunton belonged to Mr L C H Palairet, the old Oxford captain, who in splendid form carried his bat through the Somerset innings for 113 made out of 172. His runs were made at a time when his side was being rapidly dismissed, for the only men who stayed any time with him were Captain Hedley, who helped to add 29 for the sixth wicket, and Mr Dunlop, who was in while 68 were put on in 35 minutes for the seventh. The first five Somerset wickets had gone for 46, but the last five realized 126.

Mr Palairet, who made 21 of the last 29 after luncheon, was warmly cheered for his great innings, which had lasted two hours and 20 minutes. He made his first 50 out of 67 in 65 minutes, and he got his 100 out of 155. He hit 17 fours, seven threes and five twos.

In the closing hours of the day there was some good batting by Middlesex. Mr Stoddart and Mr Douglas scored 50 in half an hour and raised the total to 64 before a ball from Mr Woods disposed of Mr Stoddart. Mr Douglas, who hit eight fours, was caught at slip for 47, scored in an hour. Subsequently, with the ground made greasy by a fine rain, Mr Lucas and Rawlin scored rapidly, and they had obtained 79 for the third wicket at the drawing of stumps. In the end Middlesex, with seven men in hand, were only three runs behind the Somerset total.

Both Combined Services are strongly represented, and it will be seen that Middlesex have the assistance of the two old Cambridge men, Mr C M Wells and Mr J Douglas.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 August, page 8)

Somerset came out well in their uphill fight on a difficult pitch at Taunton yesterday, although at the end of the day the prospect was still for a Middlesex success, as the home side were only 132 on with a wicket to go. The wetness of Monday had left the wicket slow and untrue. Middlesex had made 169 for three wickets against 172, and an addition of 99 saw the rest of the side out.

Somerset, who were 96 behind, did badly to begin with and, in spite of 42 by Mr Fowler, four wickets went for 62 runs. Then came some powerful hitting by Mr Woods and Mr Roe, who obtained 86 in 50 minutes. A little free play by several other members of the side helped on the figures to 228 for nine wickets.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 August, page 7)

Although the weather at Taunton yesterday morning was fine, the ground had been too much soaked by the rain overnight to permit of cricket, while at 3 o'clock another storm caused the abandonment of the match, which was left drawn . . .

5 August: SURREY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4418.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 August, page 8)

It is surprising how well the match between Surrey and Notts holds its own in the mind of the cricketing public, for Nottinghamshire have fallen upon evil times of late. Various things have tended to destroy the interest in the match, and the days when Notts used to come up and beat Surrey with remarkable regularity are almost forgotten. But still the Oval was crowded with spectators yesterday. The figures on a dull day, which at a late period turned rainy, are very instructive; about 27,000 people were on the ground, and of these 24,970 paid for admission.

The sides took the field yesterday with vastly different records. Surrey are at the head of the counties with 13 matches won out of 17 and with every prospect of again bearing off the championship, while Notts are far away down the list, last but one, with three wins in 13 matches. Surrey, too, are so wealthy in good players that it is no easy task to discriminate as to the rightful possessors of the last two places. Mr N F Druce, who established such a great cricket name at Cambridge this year, retained his place in the eleven, and Lockwood, after a rest from the bigger matches, was again taken back. Actually the men who stood down were Holland and Street. For Nottinghamshire, Shrewsbury, who was injured in the Middlesex match at Lord's, made a welcome reappearance, and Hardstaff, the left-hand medium-pace bowler, also played. Still there was a lack of strength in the bowling.

After all the rain of the last two days it was not surprising to find that a bowler's wicket existed at the Oval, and with the natural uncertainties of the game thus almost doubled there was a chance of evenness. Still the cricket went in favour of Surrey, who finished up 45 ahead with three wickets in hand. Richardson's great pace proved very deadly, and with George Lohmann's skill at the other end the Nottinghamshire batsmen cut up badly.

To begin with Mr Wright was soon dismissed, and Gunn and Shrewsbury's partnership, though profitable to the extent of 28 runs, was not marked by any great excellence. Shrewsbury showed a few of his best strokes; but Gunn seemed quite unable to play Richardson, by whom he was several times nearly bowled. Finally he was beautifully caught low down at the wicket, and from this period dated a terrible time for Nottinghamshire. Shrewsbury was in an hour for his 23, and was then bowled by a ball that he endeavoured to hit to leg; in this same over he had received two bad body blows, which, no doubt, unnerved him.

Richardson and Lohmann played havoc with the rest of the side up to the ninth wicket, which fell at 55; but Hardstaff threw the first life into the batting by hitting out. And he found his efforts so profitable that 28 were added and the bowling had also to be changed before he left, the Nottinghamshire innings closing on the stroke of luncheon time for 83; it had lasted about an hour and 55 minutes. The bowling figures of Richardson and Lohmann were very good.

Surrey were batting the rest of the day, but their innings was stopped by heavy rain from 25 minutes past 4 until 20 minutes to 6. Their early batsmen found the bowling of Hardstaff and Attewell very difficult. Maurice Read lost a ball which he tried to hit to leg; and then followed three-quarters of an hour of dull and lifeless batting by Abel and Hayward. Both men were very cautious, but even in their care made many false hits, and at the end of 50 minutes Abel gave short slip an easy catch, the score then being 29.

The next half-hour was the brightest of the day. Mr N F Druce set his more experienced companions a splendid example of what should be done on a wicket too false to time the rise of the ball. He hit with great power, his drives being particularly hard and clean, and although he gave two difficult chances to Hardstaff at mid-on and to Mr Oscroft in the long-field his batting was brilliant. He made 33 out of 38 added while he was in and then skied a ball, and Attewell brought off an awkward catch running from mid-on. Hayward's care in batting may be best judged from the time he was in – an hour for 13 – and he ultimately fell to a well-judged catch in the long-field.

When five wickets had fallen for 85 rain delayed the game for an hour and a quarter. Afterwards Surrey lost two more men. Brockwell played remarkably well on the difficult pitch, and was only out to a fine catch at point from the last ball of the day. He and Mr Key had put on 31 for the seventh wicket. The excellence of the batting almost entirely rested with Mr Druce and Brockwell.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 August, page 8)

The brief time of cricket at the Oval yesterday only served to strengthen the position of Surrey, who secured a lead of 75 on the first innings and then got four of the best wickets of their opponents down for 40. In the two hours to which play was confined the only brightness seemed to be in the 30 by Mr Key, and the other most striking incident was a very wonderful catch brought off by Brockwell when he got out Shrewsbury.

The pitch yesterday showed no improvement from the first day. The numbers of those present ran to about 10,000. The severe storm which came up immediately after luncheon must have given many a drenching and, although the weather cleared up towards 4 o'clock, further play was impracticable and stumps were drawn at a quarter past 5. Although to the average cricket mind the situation must have been intelligible, there were before the pavilion the clamouring and hooting by a section of the crowd which usually occurs when an early drawing of stumps through wet is made necessary.

Surrey's innings, in which three wickets remained with the score at 128, extended from 20 minutes to 12 until a quarter past, and in those 35 minutes 30 runs were added. Lockwood came in with Mr Key, who hit several fours; but when Mr Dixon took up the bowling again at 146 the end was soon reached. Mr Key and Wood fell to him at 153, and five runs later Richardson was given out caught at wicket. Mr Key's 30 was an extremely useful innings to his side.

A sharp shower fell between the innings, and the wicket was a little easier for awhile when Notts went in a second time. But 79 seemed a pretty big advantage for Surrey under the circumstances. Mr Dixon's amendment of the "order" was very proper. Mr Jones was far too good a batsmen to go in ninth as he had done on the first day, and he now opened the batting with Shrewsbury.

Both men were cautious, for the bowling of Lohmann and Richardson was straight and true. Forty minutes were occupied in getting 21 runs, and then Hayward went on at the top end for Richardson. The change rid Surrey of their most dangerous opponent, for in the second over Shrewsbury was out to a great catch by Brockwell running out under the ball from short leg; the fieldsman must have had great difficulty in sighting the skier, but he got nearly under it and stretched out his right hand and held the ball. No one seemed more surprised than Shrewsbury. One for 23.

Notts had a bad 40 minutes before luncheon. Richardson crossed over to Lohmann's end and got

Mr Jones caught at wicket, and Flowers was run out. A well-judged catch in the long field by Maurice Read disposed of Gunn, after which Mr Dixon and Mr Wright added eight runs before the interval, when the score was 37 for four. Mr Dixon had made one beautiful cut to the boundary. After luncheon only three more runs had been obtained when the rain set in. Notts, with six wickets to fall, want 35 to save the innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 August, page 7)

The weather and the wicket at the Oval spoilt the Surrey and Notts match from the very start, and last evening at half-past 6 the result was a draw, Surrey at the time holding a strong position. No cricket could take place till 20 minutes past 5, and then the surface of the turf was in quite a pulpy state. The gates were not opened until about 5 o'clock, and then a crowd of about a thousand people paid to see 70 minutes of the dreariest play possible.

With the ball cutting through the soft surface the batsmen had rather the better of matters, and as Notts had nothing to gain by playing for anything but the draw they zealously set themselves to the task. Between 20 minutes past 5 and half-past 6 the visitors rubbed off 20 more of their arrears at a cost of two more wickets. Various Surrey bowlers were tried, but the foothold and the state of the pitch were unfit for them. Lohmann got Mr Dixon caught at wicket at 42; but Mr Wright exercised the greatest care and was only dismissed in the last over after an hour and a quarter's batting for nine; Mr Key fielded and returned well a ball from mid-on off Mr Read's lobs and got him run out. The spectators behaved very disrespectfully to Mr Wright, who played the proper game to secure his side from defeat.

Mr Key, who began his bowling with Hayward and Lohmann, changed it to Richardson and Lockwood, while later on Mr Read went on. At the finish Nottinghamshire were 15 runs behind with four wickets to fall.

SURREY v ESSEX. – In this match to-day at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, Smith and Street play for Mr Key and Richardson; but, otherwise, the Surrey team will be the same as opposed Nottinghamshire.

8 August: ESSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4419.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 August, page 8)

There was an interesting day's cricket at the Lyttelton ground, Leyton, yesterday, when Mr Kortright bowled with great effect on a fast wicket. Surrey were three hours and three-quarters playing their first innings of 214.

Hayward was second out at 147 and, including his dismissal, Mr Kortright sent down 15 balls and got six men out. Lockwood and Wood, however, played vigorously. Abel, who was fourth to go at 152, was in two hours and a quarter for his runs; his best hits were eight fours, three threes and 15 twos.

Essex were in for an hour and a half and the score was left as follows. Carpenter played excellently and completed his 1,000 aggregate for the season. About 5,000 people were present.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 August, page 7)

It was something of a hardship for Essex that the condition of the wicket should have been so changed after they had played Surrey a very good game up to Thursday evening. Surrey seemed to get the upper hand all day yesterday at Leyton, and by the time stumps were drawn they were 248 ahead with three wickets left.

In spite of the bad pitch, which had been spoilt by rain, there was no lack of interesting cricket, and the spectators, of whom there were about 4,000, seemed thoroughly to enjoy it. The ground was declared unfit for play until nearly half-past 1, and then in 80 minutes the eight outstanding Essex wickets fell for an addition of 69 runs. As a matter of fact, after luncheon six were captured for 35. Mr Smith's piece of bowling at this stage read thus – eight overs and four balls (five maidens), 11 runs, four wickets. Carpenter, who was fourth to go at 91, played remarkably well, getting his 56 in two hours and hitting seven fours, two threes and five twos.

When Surrey went in again Hayward and Abel played steadily, but the best spell of batting occurred when in 40 minutes for the fourth wicket Hayward and Mr Druce added 62. Mr Druce played splendidly. Seven of the side were lost for 125, but then Wood and Street put on 47 and were still together at the close. Lohmann, through a strain, did not go in, while the softness of the ground presumably prevented Mr Kortright from bowling.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 August, page 7)

Surrey beat Essex at the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, on Saturday, by 201 runs. The best thing in the last day's cricket was, perhaps, the slow left-hand bowling of Smith. His figures on Saturday were six for 41, bringing his record in the game to ten for 59. Smith's length and break were as good as ever, and Surrey might well include him in their eleven for to-day's match with Yorkshire. Lohmann also did well on Saturday in bowling.

The balance of the Surrey second innings was finished off in half an hour for an addition of 37 runs,

Lohmann, who had recovered from his slight strain in the leg, hitting vigorously for 21. Walter Mead had bowled with good effect against the skilled batting team.

With the wicket slow and treacherous the prospect of Essex making anything like the 285 which they were behind was very poor indeed; and, as it turned out, their defence proved feeble. From the start of the innings a rapid dismissal of the side set in, and after luncheon they were all out for 84.

8 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4420.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 August, page 8)

Mr Townsend again distinguished himself by his fine bowling at Clifton yesterday, and to his skill with the ball on a false pitch the cheap dismissal of Middlesex was almost wholly attributable. There was a good deal of rain during the day, and after one delay of a quarter of an hour it finally caused the abandonment of play.

In the Middlesex innings the only batting worthy of note was, to begin with, Mr Stoddart's 26, made in 50 minutes out of the first 40, when he was fifth to leave. Subsequently Mr Webbe showed steady form and contributed 27 of the last 52 in upwards of an hour. Board kept wicket well, stumping two men and catching three. The only partnerships of note were by Mr Stoddart and Mr Lucas, who put on 23, and by Mr Webbe and Sir T C O'Brien, who added 28.

In the brief time that Gloucestershire were in Dr Grace was dismissed. Mr E H Bray took Mr MacGregor's place in the Middlesex team, while Mr F B H Champain, the captain of Cheltenham College, appeared for Gloucestershire.

DR W G GRACE'S BATTING

With his five at Clifton yesterday Dr Grace increased his aggregate for the season to 2,001.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 August, page 7)

There was a good day's play on the Clifton College-ground yesterday, and before the drawing of stumps a fairly even position was reached, that is, considering the state of the turf. Rain had stopped the game on Thursday when Middlesex had played an innings of 92 and Gloucestershire had made 34 for one wicket.

The ground was very soft and, with the ball coming straight through, a hitting game was the proper plan to adopt. Mr Jessop and Mr Hemingway realized the situation and met with much success, but the greater care of Mr Ferris and Mr Rice was also extremely useful to the side. Mr Ferris remained at the wicket over an hour and a half for his 19; but Mr Hemingway's 58 was a brilliant and faultless display, which included six fours, four threes and five twos. After five men had gone for 100, Mr Jessop hit hard, making 31 out of 36 in 20 minutes; but the last four wickets added only seven runs and Gloucestershire finished at 143, which gave them a lead of 51. Mr Wells bowled effectively.

The pitch got very difficult as the day wore on. Mr Stoddart and Mr Warner, however, played so successfully that the arrears were rubbed off at a cost of a wicket. But in spite of this the game changed and five men were out for 75. A couple of stands were made by Sir T C O'Brien and Mr Webbe, and the former and Mr Wells brought back evenness to the match. Sir T C O'Brien and Mr Wells raised the score from 98 to 165 and were still together at the drawing of stumps, when Middlesex were 114 on with four wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 August, page 7)

After Sir T C O'Brien and Mr C M Wells had by their fine batting rescued Middlesex from their dangerous position, and when the game had been reduced to something like evenness, the rain came at Clifton on Saturday and caused the match to be abandoned as a draw.

Sir T C O'Brien and Mr Wells had become partners overnight, when six wickets were down for 98, and had added 67 runs. This stand they increased on Saturday to 93, of which a share of 45 belonged to Mr Wells. Sir T C O'Brien was not out at the finish with 92. It was a great innings, and its earlier part had been played when the turf was false; but on Saturday the turf was too soft to help the bowlers very much and the ball cut straight through.

Sir T C O'Brien was in two hours and three-quarters and hit 11 fours, four threes and nine twos, and gave no chance. With two men to go, Middlesex at the finish were 186 on. The greatest feature of the match was the further striking success of Mr Townsend in bowling.

MR C L TOWNSEND'S BOWLING

The remarkable bowling figures of Mr Townsend in three weeks' consecutive cricket for Gloucestershire are worth producing. They are: -

			Runs	Wicket	ts
Gloucestershire	V	Lancashire	111	6	
Gloucestershire	V	Nottinghamshire	122	16	
Gloucestershire	V	Yorkshire	71	6	
Gloucestershire	V	Warwickshire	129	10	
Gloucestershire	V	Sussex	87	12	
Gloucestershire	V	Middlesex	173	13	
		Total	693	63	
		7 11	' 1	1	

Average, 11 runs a wicket

8 August: KENT v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4421.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 August, page 8)

After the unsettled weather of the earlier part of the week it was extremely fortunate that Ladies' Day at Canterbury should be fine. It was a glorious day from the beginning of the morning, and the St Lawrence ground in its traditions of 54 years never presented a brighter spectacle than it did yesterday afternoon in the brilliant sunshine. The public came out in great force and the official estimate ran to about 12,000, and approached very nearly a record for the day.

Of the tents, those which were most marked were the Zingari and the Band of Brothers, and that of the Mayor of Canterbury (Mr George Collard), who received a large number of guests, in whose entertainment he was assisted by Mr Mason, the ex-Mayor. In the Zingari tent it was pleasing to find Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, who, as the Hon S Ponsonby, took part in the first week 54 years ago, Mr John Loraine Baldwin, the first annual vice-president of the I Zingari, Lord Harris, the Hon Chandos Leigh and the Earl of Darnley; while Martingell, the Eton coach, who played for Kent against All England in the Week of 1943, again attended. Among others present were Mr George Marsham, Mr F A Mackinnon, Lady Harris, Lord Guildford, Lord Medway, General Denne, Colonel Fellowes, General Sir Bevan Edwards, M.P., Sir W Style, Mr R A H Mitchell, Bishop Jenner, Lord Hothfield and Lord Charles Beresford.

The day's cricket favoured Yorkshire. Kent had the worst of the pitch, which was spongy and helped the bowlers to begin with, but got better as the day wore on. The best thing in the batting line was the fine cricket of Alec Hearne, who never got a better 46 than he did at Canterbury yesterday. The old Cambridge and Harrow captain, Mr F S Jackson, bowled and batted with equal skill.

Kent, who went in first, seemed likely to do badly. With the wicket soft on the surface Wainwright and Mr Jackson bowled wonderfully well; but the former did the deadly work and three wickets went down for 17, all to his bowling. Mr Mason was caught at slip, Easby had to retire from a bailer and Mr Patterson was splendidly caught and bowled, Wainwright running forward and taking the ball wide with his right hand. It was after this that the best cricket of the day occurred. Mr Mordaunt, the Oxford captain, was yesterday in something like his best form. Alec Hearne, too, played well. He and Mr Mordaunt put on altogether 60 in 65 minutes for the fourth wicket, and then Mr Mordaunt left. Four wickets were down for 77.

Things went badly with Kent after this. A slow yorker disposed of Mr Stewart, Mr Marchant made a few good strokes and was then caught at the wicket, and at 103 Alec Hearne's leg stump was bowled down. Hearne had played fine cricket and his 46 included four fours, four threes and four twos, while his stay extended over two hours. Mr Kemp and Walter Wright made a few good hits; but by ten minutes to 4 the home county completed their innings for 135 in two hours and a half.

Yorkshire were batting for an hour and three-quarters and scored 113 for three wickets. Against Mr Bradley and Martin the first partnership yielded 13, of which Mr Mitchell scored 12. But Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe played in fine form and, in spite of bowling changes, added 71 in a little over an hour before Mr Jackson was bowled in going in to drive. A good return by Mr Patterson caused the running out of Tunnicliffe, whose batting was very good, and then Brown and Denton played out time, Yorkshire being 22 behind with seven wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 August, page 7)

The game on the St Lawrence Ground yesterday went steadily against Kent, and at one time there was every probability of the match ending last evening adversely to them. But a little excellence by Mr Frank Marchant, the captain, and a good deal of pluck on the part of Martin and Wright enabled the home county to put off the evil hour and give a shadow of a fight to the finish. At the end of play last night Kent were 44 up with two wickets to go.

The rain in the early morning made the surface of the pitch soft and false. Under these conditions Mr Bradley's fast bowling was very difficult to play. If the batting was disappointing yesterday, there were other good pieces of cricket that to a certain degree compensated for the absence of any great display of hitting powers. Mr Bradley, Kent's new fast bowler, came off and, although his five wickets cost 92 runs, those who saw him bowl the M.C.C. out in the latter's game at Mote Park were not far out in the judgment of his capacity for fast bowling.

But the bowling honours of the match belong to Mr F S Jackson, the son of Mr W L Jackson, M.P. It is remarkable how Mr Jackson retains his brilliant all-round skill; he was a good player when he was at Harrow, his years at Cambridge served to develop his game, and now, in a powerful side like Yorkshire, he outstrips such bowlers as Wainwright and Hirst. So far he has taken 11 wickets in the match and scored 35 runs. Cambridge have not had many greater men than Mr Jackson.

Yesterday's early play occurred in dull weather, but in the afternoon the wind cleared the sky and Kent's punishing uphill fight was made in plenty of sunshine. There were some 6,000 spectators and the tents were well patronized. Mr Akers-Douglas, Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane, Lord Harris and the Hon E Chandos Leigh were to be found in the tent of I Zingari.

Already on Thursday evening Yorkshire had established a position of some strength, for, with seven men left, they were only 22 behind the Kent score. Both Tunnicliffe and Brown completed their thousand aggregates for the season. It cannot be said that Brown did himself justice in getting his 28 yesterday, for altogether he was thrice missed, while at the end he was out to a splendid catch at extra slip, where Mr Mordaunt jumped up to secure the ball with his left hand. Brown was the sixth to go at 142. Before this Denton and Wainwright were both cheaply got rid of, and five men were out for 129.

Lord Hawke made the most of a sharp escape which he had from Mr Mason off Mr Bradley at short slip, and with Moorhouse some steady batting was watched for over an hour. Lord Hawke made a few good strokes, but in 65 minutes only 41 runs were added for the seventh wicket, the score being raised from 142 to 183. After Lord Hawke had gone the innings steadily ended. Moorhouse lost none of his patience; but Foster batted vigorously, making 22 out of 27 put on for the ninth partnership, and it was not until after luncheon that Yorkshire were all out for 224. The time completed by Yorkshire in scoring these runs was four and a half hours.

Kent, who were 89 behind, lost Alec Hearne and Easby for nine runs. Things brightened while Mr Mason and Mr Patterson were together, and also during the partnership of the last-named and Mr Mordaunt. All these batsmen played well but their sojourn was brief. Mr Jackson's fine bowling and Hunter's wicket-keeping were very effective, and when the sixth wicket fell at 63, an early finish seemed probable. Mr Marchant, however, played good cricket and, backed up by Mr Kemp, added 23 and then with Wright 19, after which he was bowled for 31. Then in the last half-hour

Wright and Martin hit out courageously and added 28, leaving Kent 44 on with two wickets to fall. Lord Hawke several times changed his bowling at the far end, alternating between Hirst and Foster, but Mr Jackson had been so effective that he justly let well alone.

The theatre was crowded last evening, when the Old Stagers gave their fourth and last performance, playing Liberty Hall, after which there was an epilogue entitled Change of Air, written by Messrs "N and N."

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 August, page 7)

The second part of the festival at Canterbury brought disaster to Kent, who were beaten on Saturday by Yorkshire by seven wickets. Some such result as this was foreshadowed by the position of things on Friday night, when a plucky stand by Wright and Martin drove the match into the third day.

Of Saturday's play little need be said. Walter Wright and Martin's full partnership was 32 and the innings ended for 139. Mr Jackson bowled splendidly in both innings and his full record of 12 wickets for 91 was one of the best pieces of cricket of the week, while, to show the retention of his fine all-round form, he also made 35 and 18.

On Saturday, when Yorkshire went in to get 51 to win, Mr Jackson and Mr Mitchell made 32 and seemed likely to hit off the runs without loss; but Walter Wright going on dismissed three men in four overs for three runs. However, by 20 minutes to 1 the match was over.

It cannot be said that the play this week was marked by many of those fine batting achievements which go to make the national game popular. With few exceptions, the most notable of which were the innings of Mr Mason and Mr Marchant in the Warwickshire match, the play possessed an element of dullness, for the reason that the batsmen mainly adopted careful tactics as the best means of reducing the advantage given to the bowlers by the slow wickets in both games. In a very bad season for Kenya it was satisfactory that the attendances should offer such substantial proof of the Week's continued popularity in its 54th week of celebration, and the record "gate" on the Ladies' Day marks well the popularity of the festival.

The Old Stagers on their four nights of the Week played to appreciative houses . . . The traditions of I Zingari are so closely allied with the Old Stagers and the festival that it was pleasing to find the Hon Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane and Mr John Loraine Baldwin able to attend once again. As usual, the last thing at the theatre was the delivery of the epilogue. The Zingari's jubilee naturally secured good notice, and Lord Harris had some lines to speak in response to the welcome on his return from India . . .

Captain Austin and Mr A J Lancaster are to be congratulated on their excellent management of the Week.

8 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4422.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 August, page 8)

Yesterday's play in this match at Leicester was of a remarkably interesting nature. Mr de Trafford won the toss and decided to put Derbyshire in, and so successful was this policy at the start that four of the visitors were got out for 41. Chatterton and Sugg considerably improved matters by adding 57, but a fresh spell of disasters for Derbyshire followed, and at the adjournment the score stood at 106 for eight wickets. Subsequently Mr Walker and Porter both batted brilliantly, and after the ninth wicket had gone at 142 the last put on 69.

Leicestershire's innings was marked by the fine play of Mr de Trafford, whose 72 included nine fours. At the finish Leicestershire were 68 behind with eight men in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 August, page 7)

After the good promise of a substantial score at Leicester the home county's batting yesterday broke down before the fine bowling of Mr G G Walker. Overnight Derbyshire had made 211 and Leicestershire 143 for two wickets. The outstanding eight added only 28 runs, and all of these fell to Mr Walker at a cost to himself of 23.

Derbyshire had an extensive second innings, beginning at 1 o'clock and finishing at 5. Walter Sugg played fine cricket for his 104 not out; his best hits were a five, 16 fours and six twos, and, beyond a chance in the slips at 94, he made no mistake. Mr Walker helped him to put on 78 for the ninth wicket. Leicestershire went in to get 316 to win . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 August, page 7)

The position of this match at Leicester on Friday night held out little hope for Leicestershire, who, with four men gone in the second innings, had still to make 255 to win, and on Saturday Derbyshire gained the victory by 127 runs.

The best thing in the closing stage was the batting of Knight, who possesses some very good strokes. Mr Walker's double analysis produced 13 wickets for 135 runs. The match went to show again how excellent is the eleven that Derbyshire has this season.

8 August: SOMERSET v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4423.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 August, page 8)

In the cricket at Taunton yesterday, when play was curtailed by the wet weather, which put a stop to the game at ten minutes to 4, the chief feature was another splendid innings by Mr L C H Palairet. He went in first for Somerset, and in two hours and three-quarters made 91 of 180 without giving anything like an easy chance. His batting was marked by all that excellence for which he is famous, and he hit ten fours, three threes and 11 twos. Mr Roe helped him to put on 70 for the third partnership, while Mr Woods and he added 60 for the fifth. The wicket was soft and easy in the morning, but it had become difficult when rain fell and stopped play.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 August, page 7)

An extraordinary day's cricket, in which the slow bowling of Tyler and the batting of Mr C B Fry were very remarkable, at Taunton yesterday, culminated in the brilliant victory of Somerset by ten wickets. This match was an illustration of the value in some cases of the choice of innings, for Somerset were batting when the turf was slow and not particularly difficult; but yesterday the powerful sun baked the surface of the pitch and the chances of Sussex were reduced to a minimum.

Tyler's slow bowling and wonderful break made him almost unplayable, and his aggregate of 15 wickets for 95 runs is one of the best things he has ever done for the county; it calls to mind a great feat by him at Taunton a few years ago, when, under rather similar conditions, Somerset beat Notts.

Somerset, who overnight had made 197 for nine, completed their innings in a quarter of an hour for 220. Sussex fell upon disaster immediately they went in. Marlow and K S Ranjitsinhji were out for 9 and, although Mr Murdoch played well for his 32 and Bean also hit freely, the whole side were dismissed in an hour and three-quarters for 97. This necessitated a follow-on; but when the eighth wicket went only five runs were wanted to prevent it.

For a long time Sussex fared worse in the second innings. Four men were out for 14 and seven for 31. But then Mr Fry, supported by Mr Hartley, added 30, while with Butt for a partner he forced the game so well that 75 were obtained in 40 minutes. Mr Fry, who had made his first 50 out of 71, was ultimately bowled for a great innings of 90, made in an hour and three-quarters and including 12 fours, a three and four twos. He made one or two mistakes, but it was a fine piece of batting. Somerset won by ten wickets and scored their second win of the season.

8 August: WARWICKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4424.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 August, page 8)

There was a pretty even day's play at Birmingham yesterday. In their first innings Hampshire made 151 in two hours and three-quarters. The chief stand was by Mr A J L Hill and Captain Quinton, who in 80 minutes added 67 runs, and at the luncheon interval the score was 103 for five wickets. Subsequently the home bowlers met with so much success that the last five wickets fell for an addition of 48. Mr Hill played splendidly, and in his excellent innings were ten fours, two threes and three twos.

When Warwickshire went in the best feature was the stand by Diver and William Quaife, who obtained 50 while they were together. Wickets, however, were captured steadily . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 August, page 7)

Yesterday's play at Edgbaston, Birmingham, went rather in Favour of Hampshire, for Warwickshire, at the close, with three good men lost, wanted 154 to win. On Thursday Warwickshire, going in against 151, had made 119 for seven wickets, and yesterday, in the course of half an hour, they completed their innings for an addition of 29.

Hampshire began their second venture badly and half the side went for 54 runs, only 23 of which had been hit from Pallett, who had taken all five wickets. Then came a great change. Mr Ward, who had been kindly treated by the field, was joined by Mr Buckland, and in less than an hour 75 runs were added to the score. Mr Ward was out to a good piece of stumping for 51, an innings marred by several chances. Soar helped Mr Buckland to put on another 55, and then the latter was caught at point. He had been missed in the long field when 48, but otherwise his play was free from fault; he got his runs in an hour and 50 minutes and hit five fours, seven threes and eight twos. Santall and Pallett both bowled well. Warwickshire went in to get 205 to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 August, page 7)

A very brilliant victory was gained by Warwickshire at Edgbaston, Birmingham, on Saturday, when Hampshire were beaten by five wickets. As Warwickshire had been set 205 to make in the last innings and had lost three good men overnight for 51, Hampshire had the better position at the renewal of the game on the third morning, and the dismissal of the younger Quaife at 62 still further improved their prospects.

But Lilley, who has so often done fine batting work for his side, was then joined by Law, and before these men were separated Warwickshire had the match in hand. Exactly 100 runs were added in two hours, and the full partnership had yielded 122 when Lilley was caught in the long field. He had played sound cricket for his 88; his best hits were eight fours, five threes and ten twos. The Rev E Pereira played vigorously and the rest of the runs were quickly got. Law's 51 was the result of very correct cricket and both he and Lilley came in for a big round of applause at the close.

Monday 12 August, page 7: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The position of the counties up to the present is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	19	14	1	4	13
Yorkshire	21	12	4	5	8
Lancashire	15	9	3	3	8
Gloucestershire	13	6	5	2	1
Middlesex	13	4	4	5	0
Derbyshire	14	4	4	6	0
Hampshire	12	5	6	1	-1
Warwickshire	17	5	6	6	-1
Essex	13	4	7	2	-3
Sussex	14	3	7	4	-4
Kent	12	3	7	2	-4
Notts	14	3	7	4	-4
Leicestershire	14	3	8	2	- 5
Somerset	13	2	8	3	-6

Points are secured by the deduction of losses from wins; drawn games are ignored. Lancashire v Somerset return was abandoned through rain without the bowling of a ball.

12 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4425.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 August, page 4)

Bad weather prevented any play in this fixture at Bristol yesterday and the start was deferred until this morning . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 August, page 4)

Bad weather again prevented any cricket at Bristol yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 August, page 5)

After two days' idleness, owing to bad weather, at Bristol, the chances of any definite issue to the return match between these counties was remote, for even on the worst of wickets the playing through a game in a single day is a remote occurrence.

Yesterday the pitch was bad. In the first two innings neither total reached three figures, and in the end the match was drawn. Once more has a good bowling analysis to be recorded to Mr Townsend, whose six wickets for a fraction over eight runs each bring up his record in seven consecutive matches for Gloucestershire to 69, with an average of ten runs each.

Dr Grace, thinking that the turf might get easier, put his opponents in. The best thing in the batting line came from Mr Mason, who, in conjunction with Mr Stewart, added 56 for the fourth Kent wicket. But the other six were down for 24. Gloucestershire did little better. Dr Grace was in 50 minutes and was fifth out at 48 for his 18; but Wrathall played remarkably well, scoring 44 out of 51 in 40 minutes, and it was one of the best pieces of cricket he has shown for Gloucestershire.

Kent in their second innings did so well that they had the better position at the finish, being 78 on with eight wickets in hand. Mr Livesay and Alec Hearne played excellently and scored 74 while together; the former, among other hits, made six fours.

12 August: MIDDLESEX v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4426.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 August, page 4)

Saturday night's storm and yesterday morning's rain made the turf at Lord's yesterday unfit for cricket until a late period in the afternoon. In fact, the hours of play were limited from a quarter to four to 6 o'clock.

Essex, who had first innings, lost half their side for 77 runs. Hearne bowled remarkably well and the batting for the most part was tame – a condition of things that could be excused with the ground so soft. The first three Essex men were in 40 minutes for 21 runs. Mr Fane, who was in a long time without scoring, lost his wicket through going forward with the idea that he had got the ball away to leg, whereas the wicket-keeper had secured it and was able to run the batsman out. Mr M'Gahey and Mr Johnstone played steadily and added 46, but Burns gave little trouble.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 August, page 4)

At an early hour at Lord's yesterday it was decided not to attempt play in this match, the heavy rain having completely saturated the turf. In the short period of cricket on Monday Essex scored 77 for five wickets.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 August, page 5)

It was a fairly interesting day's cricket on a bad wicket at Lord's yesterday, with the ultimate result of a drawn match. Yesterday morning the turf was too soft to allow of play before noon. Then Essex went on with the first innings, in which five of the side had gone for 77. Batsmen left steadily, and just before 1 o'clock the last of them was out, the score standing at 121.

The Middlesex team played the correct game, under the conditions, in hitting; but the ground was fearfully dead and the side met with such little success that the total reached only 63, made in an hour and a quarter. Four men were caught in the long field and, in fact, such was the collapse that after the interval the last six wickets went for an addition of 21 runs. Mead and Mr Bull bad unchanged and each had a fine analysis.

With the lead of 58 Essex, of course, ought to have forced the game well. Carpenter and Mr Owen scored 29 for the first wicket, but Mr Owen erred in the maintenance of his old "order." Mr Fane was much too steady a batsman to go in at such a stage, for a few good hits might have enabled Essex to close their innings at least 20 minutes sooner. But Mr Owen in playing for safety freed his opponents from the danger of defeat. Had Middlesex been set 107 runs and put in at half-past 4, with an hour and a half to play, they might have got out in their endeavour to get the runs. As it was the Essex captain could scarcely have hoped to dismiss Middlesex in 70 minutes when they had set their minds to play carefully. So the last stage of the match was a little dull. Mr Fane took nearly three-quarters of an hour to score his nine, but Mr M'Gahey made a few good hits.

Middlesex went in to get 125 to win, and at the drawing of stumps had lost four wickets for 66 runs. Three went in the first half an hour, but Mr Lucas and Rawlin added 30 and put the result beyond

doubt.

12 August: SURREY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4427.html)

Monday 12 August, page 7: ROBERT ABEL'S BENEFIT

The "gate" of the Surrey v Yorkshire match, which begins to-day at the Oval, will be devoted to the benefit fund of the Surrey professional batsman, Robert Abel.

Abel entered the Surrey ranks at the beginning of the eighties, when the county's cricket was at a low ebb, and his great skill as a batsman has enabled him to keep his place to a time when the county is in its most prosperous years. While the rapidity of Surrey's rise to the foremost position has been mainly due to the development of wonderful bowling skill, beginning with Mr Roller and Mr Horner, and going on with Lohmann, Beaumont, Bowley, Lockwood and the latest, and greatest perhaps, Richardson, the batting has also contributed its fair share, and for this Abel has worked with consistent excellence . . .

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 August, page 4)

Robert Abel, the popular Surrey cricketer, was very happy in his choice of the Yorkshire match for his benefit at Kennington Oval. It has been for some years one of the best of the Oval fixtures. There were about 18,000 persons present, the actual numbers paying were 15,301.

Thus was a very good start made towards a substantial fund. No cricketer either by his skill or good behaviour ever merited a more solid benefit than Abel, who, from the time he played himself into the eleven in 1881 until now, has worked zealously for his side. In his 16 years of Surrey cricket Abel up to the end of May had played in 319 matches (500 innings), scored 12,267 runs and been not out 33 times; his highest score is 217, made last year on the Oval against Essex, and his average is 26.26. This is a wonderfully consistent record of good batting. As a change bowler Abel has taken 199 wickets. It may be mentioned that Abel entered the eleven in his 22nd year in 1881.

The big crowd at the Oval yesterday watched the game under all the pleasing conditions that arise from a whole day of sunshine and a refreshing breeze, but the Oval executive would be thinking a little of the public's comfort by devising means for sitting down on the cement terraces. About a third of the people who attended yesterday must have been on their feet nearly all the time. But the spectators still enjoyed the game and were very impartial; indeed, they quite lost themselves in their enthusiasm for the splendid piece of batting by Mr Jackson and Brown in the closing hours of the day.

Brown, although he has got his 1,000 runs, has not been playing such good cricket as he showed last year and in the colonies; but yesterday his 79 on a slow pitch left nothing to be wished for in brilliancy and power, and his play was strong all round the wicket. What made his batting more remarkable was the fact that he started so well at a time when the first two Yorkshiremen had gone without scoring. His and Mr Jackson's great stand laid the foundation for the strong position which Yorkshire secured before the close of the day, when with six men (nearly all good bats) in hand they were 12 runs ahead of Surrey.

Indeed, it is not too much to say that Yorkshire outplayed Surrey all day yesterday. Their bowling was better, their fielding brilliant in the extreme, whereas Surrey's was a little slack, and the class of

the batting of Brown and Mr Jackson had nothing comparable to it in the Surrey eleven. Surrey looked like getting into a winning position in the opening hour and a half; then came a collapse and a struggle to get so high as 136. A disastrous start by Yorkshire was next followed by the feats of Mr Jackson and Brown.

Against the admirable bowling and fielding of Yorkshire Brockwell and Abel made a fine start to Surrey's first innings. Brockwell played very well. All round the play was excellent. Abel and Brockwell scored 74 in 90 minutes for the first partnership, and then both Brockwell and Hayward were out to great catches at the wicket. Mr Druce played carefully before luncheon; but he led the way in the collapse that subsequently overtook Surrey.

The score at the interval was 81 for two wickets. In the 90 minutes afterwards the other eight went for 55 runs. Abel was out to Hunter's third fine catch at wicket, being fourth to go after contributing in two and a quarter hours 32 towards 98. Mr Walter Read made some good hits, but the best incidents were with the fielding side. Hunter's wicket-keeping, the catches by Brown at point and Tunnicliffe at slip, and the bowling of Hirst and Peel were the instruments of Surrey's downfall. After the interval Peel took four wickets for 14 runs and Hirst four for 39.

Yorkshire began as badly as possible. With only a wide on the score-sheet Lohmann got Mr Mitchell wonderfully stumped, and he also bowled out Tunnicliffe. But here Surrey's successes were checked. So brilliantly did Mr Jackson and Brown play and so quickly did the game change that 80 were added in 50 minutes. Brown, apart from his off-driving, made many fine strokes on the leg side. Mr Jackson was equally good. The Surrey captain scarcely managed his bowling as well as usual. The score had rapidly reached 64 before he made his first change by putting on Smith for Richardson, and Lohmann was not put off till 86. Then, after a 65-minutes' partnership, with a yield of 90 runs, Mr Jackson was bowled, and Denton followed next ball.

Brown played better than ever after this and easily hit all the bowlers. Indeed, in the last 35 minutes he and Peel should have been caught off Lohmann by Street at cover-point just before the finish. At the close there were loud calls for Brown, whom the crowd in front of the pavilion warmly cheered. Lockwood and Maurice Read stand out of the Surrey team, while Mr Ernest Smith is absent from Yorkshire.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 August, page 4)

The good fortune experienced by Abel in his benefit match at the Oval quickly deserted him, for yesterday the heavy rain in the morning had such an effect on the turf that, although the afternoon was bright, no cricket was possible. Sundry inspections of the wicket were made by the umpires, and it was not until 5 o'clock that the latter resolved to give up all idea of play . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 August, page 5)

The defeat of Surrey by an innings and 30 runs at Kennington Oval yesterday breaks a spell of brilliant success. Since the first weeks of the season Surrey until yesterday had not known a county defeat. But the breaking up of the fine weather has brought better times for bowlers, who have in these last few weeks had a fine harvest.

This is only the second match in the championship in which Surrey have been beaten; the former

loss was on the Oval early in May, when Leicestershire fought them successfully. In the match for Mr Rae's benefit – Surrey v England – the county lost, while Middlesex and Derbyshire pressed them hard on the Oval, especially the latter.

All through the match the Yorkshiremen played by far the better cricket. Their fielding was excellent, their batting, particularly Mr Jackson's and Brown's, left nothing better to be wished for, and their bowlers were accurate in length and made most of the state of the ground to get on a great break.

From the strong position obtained by Yorkshire on Monday and with Tuesday's wet followed by a fine day with a hot sun, those well versed in the game were not wholly unexpectant of the things that came about. Slow in the morning, the wicket's surface was rapidly baked by the sun, and the Yorkshire bowlers between half-past 3 and quarter past 4 got out the last eight Surrey men for 32 runs. Hirst was almost unplayable and Wainwright got on a wonderful break. All the honours of the game were with Yorkshire and Surrey were fairly and squarely beaten. The home side played a losing game from the time of the collapse of their batting after luncheon on Monday.

With the game at a very interesting stage it was not surprising to find another large attendance – nearly 13,000 – of whom 9,865 paid for entry; so that Abel has received a very good benefit, for in addition to the big crowds on the two days, there is news of substantial subscription lists, while yesterday afternoon the spectators pretty liberally gave to the collection made round the ground.

When Yorkshire went on with their innings yesterday morning the wicket was very dead, but the ball kicked up a bit at both ends from Richardson and Lohmann. Brown and Peel's partnership, begun on the first day at 92, was quickly severed by a return catch which Lohmann, running towards mid-on, had from Brown. He and Peel were together only 40 minutes, yet they turned this time to such profitable account that 61 runs were added. From the moment he went in Brown played beautiful cricket; his strokes on the leg side were exceptionally fine and he showed much power in his cuts. His 83 occupied him 105 minutes and his hits were ten fours, ten threes, five twos and three singles.

The other best points in the Yorkshire batting were the continued steadiness of Peel, the good play of Moorhouse and the vigour of Lord Hawke. Peel was seventh out, caught at wicket at 204. He hit five fours. Moorhouse was in a long time and his batting was of great value to his side; Brockwell caught him deep in front of square leg. A little vigour by Lord Hawke ran Yorkshire's advantage into three figures, and this batsman made one of the best strokes of the match when he drove a ball from Richardson straight among the pavilion seats for four. It was nearly half-past 1 when Yorkshire were all out, and the balance of the innings, in which six wickets had remained with the score at 148 from Monday, had yielded 96 runs.

It was no easy fight for Surrey to face arrears of 108 on a pitch getting rapidly more false and with so many skilled bowlers among their opponents. Against Mr Jackson and Peel a fairly good start was made by Abel and Brockwell. Moorhouse, who had been hurt while batting, had Mounsey to field for him. After luncheon the score reached 27, and then a "yorker" dismissed Brockwell; but it was some time afterwards, when Street had joined Abel, that the first turn occurred. Wainwright, going on at 41, bowled Abel, who was trying to hit him, and also at 46 Peel got out Street. Mr Druce and Hayward made a few good hits, and Lord Hawke at 62 put on Hirst, whose great pace soon won the game for Yorkshire. He came down the incline very fast and the ball from his bowling broke and shot in a manner that would have doubled up any side.

With 63 up and seven wickets in hand it was thought that Surrey might get enough to put their opponents in. However, the next half hour brought disaster to Surrey. A shooter from Hirst took Hayward's leg stump at 63, and the other six wickets added only 15 runs. Mr Druce gave Peel an easy catch at mid-off, a good ball from Hirst was quite lost to Mr Read, and a shooter served to beat Mr Key. All these three amateurs went at the same total – 71 - and the end quickly came. Lohmann, going in to drive, was clean bowled. Wood gave slip an easy catch and Richardson was bowled. The innings lasted an hour and three-quarters.

Peel had been injured in attempting to catch Lohmann at mid-off; he took the ball too leisurely for it went through his hands and cut his cheek, so that he had to retire. Hirst's bowling figures were wonderful – five overs and four balls (one maiden), seven runs, four wickets. His aggregate for the match was nine for 53. At the close several thousand people assembled in front of the pavilion and insisted on the appearance of Brown and Hirst, whom they cheered very heartily.

In spite of this loss, Surrey still hold a very strong position in the championship with 12 points as the result of 14 wins and two losses against Yorkshire's 13 wins and four losses, in addition to which the latter have played two more matches than Surrey.

12 August: SUSSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4428.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 August, page 4)

Lancashire gained a substantial advantage in the match at Brighton yesterday, when the famous batsman's ground at Hove was for once caught favouring the bowlers. Even this splendid place for cricket yields at last to the persistency of wet weather; and the winning of the toss yesterday was in no degree an advantage, for the wicket slowly improved as the day wore on.

So Mold, Hallam and Lancaster got Sussex out in two hours and 20 minutes for 102. Before luncheon seven men went for 79 and afterwards the others added only 23. To begin with, Marlow and Mr Fry made 26 for the first wicket; but K S Ranjitsinhji's recent ill-fortune still attends him and he fell for a single figure, while four of the side were dismissed for 38. Mr Newham and Mr Brann played well in adding their 37 for the fifth partnership; but there was nothing much on which to dwell in the batting.

When Lancashire went in, Mr MacLaren, who several years ago in his first match for the county scored 100 on this ground when just fresh from Harrow, and Albert Ward made a brilliant start, obtaining 81 in less than an hour. Disaster overtook Lancashire for a while and the sixth wicket fell at 127. Mr Benton and Lancaster, however, put on 32, while after the eighth wicket had gone at 164 Smith and Hallam by vigorous play added 65 in 40 minutes. Lancashire in the end were 127 ahead with a wicket to go. Briggs is away from the county owing to an injured hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 August, page 4)

What cricket was possible on the Hove Ground at Brighton yesterday only served to strengthen Lancashire's position, for at the close of the day Sussex, with four men gone in the second innings, were still 84 runs behind.

Monday night had left Sussex with 102 and Lancashire with 229 for nine. The heavy rains prevented any play until ten minutes past 3, while at a quarter to six another heavy shower stopped the game for the day. In all there was about two and a quarter hours' cricket. Smith, who was not out 43 on Monday, and Mold made a stand for the tenth Lancashire wicket, and 35 were added before Mold left. Smith took out his bat for 67, obtained in an hour and a quarter and inclusive of nine fours, four threes and five twos.

In the other two hours available for play Sussex made 79 for four wickets. Marlow and Mr Fry hit off 30 of the 163 arrears. The latter was the second to leave at 50, and his 31 were well made. He was out to a brilliant one-handed catch at extra slip. Three of the side were down for 61. K S Ranjitsinhji played carefully on the soft turf, but Mr Newham was dismissed at 67, after which Mr Brann and K S Ranjitsinhji played out time. The last-named made no attempt to force the game and his 20 runs have so far taken him 70 minutes to put together. Lancaster's left-hand slow bowling was extremely good.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 August, page 5)

Lancashire beat Sussex on the Hove Ground, at Brighton yesterday, after a fine fight, by four wickets. The match was another instance of the proverbial capacity of Sussex to play well in an uphill game.

With the ground helping the bowlers Sussex yesterday morning found themselves with four good men out in the second innings and arrears still as heavy as 84. Thus a single innings defeat was among the probabilities. But the remaining members strove hard to better the position and Lancashire were very pressed at one time. Most of the batting merit rested with Mr Brann, K S Ranjitsinhji, Bean and Parris. Mr Brann exercised wonderful care for a cricketer of his usually dashing style, although throughout this season he has displayed much more steadiness than formerly marked his play. Yesterday he took three hours to get his 56.

Ranjitsinhji stayed with Mr Brann until 114, but his game lacked some of his best style. Still his 41 broke the spell of ill-fortune which has of late pursued him. Bean threw great power into his game and got 49 out of 65 in a little over an hour, making seven fours. Parris and Mr Brann added 60 for the seventh wicket and then the innings quickly closed. Lancaster again came out prominently in the bowling and his aggregate for the match was nine for 73.

Lancashire wanted 84 to win, and so badly did they begin that Mr MacLaren, Sugg and Paul were out for 18 runs. Bean, fielding at point, failed to take a difficult chance from Ward, and this mistake had a serious influence on the game, for Ward remained till the match was won. Tyldesley and Ward put on 41 for the fourth partnership, and then the game was secured at the expense of two more batsmen.

Melbourne, Aug. 13

The Melbourne Club and the trustees of the Sydney ground have decided to suspend preparations for a visit of an Australian eleven to England on the ground that they have not been invited by the Marylebone Club. In the absence of an invitation they feel they cannot proceed.

Thursday 15 August, page 5: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR 1896

With reference to the announcement that the Australian authorities had suspended their arrangements for the visit of a team to England in consequence of not receiving an invitation from the Marylebone Club, it may be pointed out that Mr Perkins, the secretary of the M.C.C., wrote to the Australians nearly a fortnight ago, conveying to them the unanimous wish of the counties in the matter and stating that the team would be warmly welcomed. The M.C.C. would not formally invite a team, and any delay in the Australians having news of an answer occurred through the time naturally taken to consult the counties. Hitherto Australian teams visiting England have had no direct invitation.

15 August: HAMPSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4429.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 August, page 11)

Hampshire had slightly the better of the day's cricket on the slow ground at Southampton yesterday, but there was really little to choose between the positions. Mr Bencraft, in winning the toss and putting Sussex in first, adopted a pretty successful policy, for in two hours and a quarter the visitors were out for 85.

This was a better score than seemed probable when eight wickets were down for 36. However, the steadiness of Mr Newham and the vigour of Butt improved things. These batsmen added 38 for the ninth partnership. Baldwin bowled finely, and his seven for 42 enabled him to reach his 100 wickets aggregate for the season.

When Hampshire went in Tate bowled with such marked effect that five wickets fell in 40 minutes for 21. Barton and Mr Ward put on 38, and finally Hampshire finished up with a lead of 23 runs. Sussex went in again and obtained 28 for one wicket. The weather was fine and there were several thousand people present.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 August, page 8)

The success of Sussex by 148 runs at Southampton yesterday was only brought about by a remarkable day's play. Sussex began the morning with a lead of five runs and nine wickets to fall in the second innings. K S Ranjitsinhji batted well, but the score had reached only 115 when eight wickets were down. Fine stands for the last two wickets were made by Parris and Butt and Tate and Butt for 72 and 73, so that Hampshire were put in to get 238 to win.

The home batsmen played very badly against the good bowling of Tate and Parris, and the side were dismissed in 90 minutes for 89. Tate's bowling record for the match was ten wickets for 81 runs.

15 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4430.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 August, page 11)

There was an interesting day's play at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, when, although the bowlers were helped by the condition of the turf, several good pieces of batting were performed.

Nottinghamshire, who had first innings, began remarkably well, and their early successes presaged a big score. Shrewsbury and Mr Jones played good cricket, making 83 for the first wicket, while at luncheon time the score was 106 for two. Subsequently the bowling of Phillips and Mr Wells was so good that the outstanding eight batsmen were got out for an addition of 72 runs. Shrewsbury played with his characteristic finish for his 67, made in two hours and ten minutes, and he was third to leave at 125; among his contributions were six fours, five threes and four twos.

Middlesex went in for an hour and three-quarters and lost four men for 89 runs. The best thing in their batting was the bright cricket played by the old Light Blue, Mr J Douglas, who got 50 of the first 76, hitting six fours, a three and seven twos. Longdon, of the Eastwood Club, makes his first appearance in county cricket. H B Daft was left out of the Notts side and Gunn was absent through an attack of rheumatism.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 August, page 8)

Middlesex gained a brilliant victory over Notts at Trent-bridge last evening by eight wickets, the hours of play being extended in order to finish the match. The fairly even position which existed on Thursday night in no way presaged the things that came about, and even for some time yesterday there seemed nothing much to choose between the sides, for eight wickets were down and Middlesex had a mere ten runs lead.

Sir T C O'Brien, who had been batting with great skill, received such aid from Phillips and Hearne that the last two men cost 83 runs. Sir T C O'Brien played a great innings of 123 on a slow wicket, and he took out his bat after a stay of three and a half hours without giving a chance. He went in fourth wicket down at 76 and his best hits were ten fours, nine threes and 15 twos.

Mr Jones and Shrewsbury, with 55 for the first wicket, made a good beginning to the Notts second innings. However, when the 93 deficit had been cleared off only four batsmen were left, and in the end Middlesex had merely 35 runs to get to win.

One of the best things in the match was the bowling of the old Cambridge blue, Mr Cyril Wells, whose 12 wickets for 71 runs formed a fine record, and one, too, that makes cricketers regret that his mastership at Eton should leave him such little time for important cricket.

SIR T C O'BRIEN'S BATTING. – Sir T C O'Brien is the latest batsman to reach his 1,000 for the season. This he did with his 123 not-out at Trent-bridge yesterday.

15 August: SOMERSET v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4431.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 August, page 11)

Mr J R Mason by his fine innings at Taunton yesterday attained a place among this season's scorers of a thousand runs. In a bad year for Kent he has played excellent cricket and, indeed, the Old Wykehamist captain has thoroughly merited the rank reached by him. It was his good form on the Somerset county ground yesterday that helped materially to Kent's first substantial score.

The wicket was slow to begin with, but after luncheon it dried and the Somerset bowlers did a good deal with the ball, especially [Woods], whose six wickets were captured at a comparatively small average. Mr Mason went in later than usual, but he and Easby, getting together at two for 65, put on 77 in less than an hour. Mr Mason hit eight fours. Easby played carefully and well, but finally Kent were out for 235.

Somerset did badly at first, and Mr Fowler and Mr R C N Palairet were dismissed for 24, after which Mr L C H Palairet and Mr Roe made a fine stand, and their addition of 53 left the home side at the close 158 behind with eight wickets to fall. F H Huish, who injured his collar-bone early in the season, reappeared for Kent as the wicket-keeper. Fine weather prevailed and a large company was present.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 August, page 8)

Evenness marked the play on the second day of this match at Taunton. Somerset, who had lost two wickets overnight for 77, got to within seven runs of the Kent score. Fortune fluctuated a good deal, and once or twice the home side seemed likely to establish a good lead. The best partnerships were 82 and 53 by Mr L C H Palairet and Mr Roe and by Nichols and Mr Dunlop. Nichols hit hard, making 39 in half an hour by seven fours, a three and eight singles.

In their second innings Kent did not but up to the class of their first, and it was only through a stand by Mr Baiss and Wright, who added 64 for the seventh wicket, that they made such a good score as 166. Somerset, who were left with 174 to get for victory, obtained 12 without loss.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 August, page 8)

The fine batting by several members of the Somerset side brought about the defeat of Kent at Taunton on Saturday by seven wickets. When the game was renewed on the third morning, Somerset had only to get 162 with all their ten wickets intact.

Only two hours were taken in reaching victory. Mr Fowler and Mr Dunlop, the not-outs, added 35 in a quarter of an hour before they were separated, and then at 47 Mr Fowler fell to a catch at short slip. With Mr L C H Palairet in, Mr Dunlop continued his brilliant hitting, and before he was caught at wicket the total reached 131. He had made his 65 in 90 minutes, and his best hits were nine fours, three threes and two twos. With the brothers Palairet together the score mounted at a steady pace. At 171 Mr L C H Palairet was bowled. He had played good cricket for his 59, in which were eight fours, two threes and three twos. Nichols made the winning hit – a four.

15 August: SURREY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4432.html)

Thursday 15 August, page 5: SURREY v LANCASHIRE

To-day, at the Oval, Maurice Read and Lockwood will probably be put into the Surrey side in place of Street and Smith.

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 August, page 11)

Yesterday at the Oval the wicket was in favour of the bowlers, and the batsmen in the majority of instances had a bad time. It was in vain that Mr Key, of Surrey, won the toss and, in hopes of improvement, put his opponents in. The improvement never came, and Surrey finished up with the worst of the game.

But, amid all the bowling triumphs and although the cricketing hours yielded only 228 runs at a cost of 18 wickets, the day's play was very interesting in every part of the game. The batting of Mr MacLaren and Brockwell, the catches of Frank Sugg and Mr MacLaren, and the bowling of Briggs and Lohmann furnished a chapter of cricket that for excellence it would be difficult to equal. There were 10,000 spectators present, of whom 8,450 paid for admission. The end of the day left Surrey with an up-hill fight, for, with two men to go, they were 58 behind.

Mr Key has not been the most fortunate of captains of late, and he was running great risk to win the toss and then put Lancashire in. Lohmann and Richardson bowled with a wonderful length and spin, and Lancashire fell rapidly. Ward, who seemed likely to give trouble, was easily stumped, and "yorkers" and "break-backs" accounted for most of the others.

But the game turned when seven men had gone in an hour for 37 runs. Mr MacLaren's cricket had been marked by remarkable skill in defence, and although a bumping ball would occasionally try him, he still scored steadily and made a few fine hits. Smith, too, met with much success. So, without giving a chance, these batsmen stayed together an hour and three-quarters, adding in that time 87 runs. Lohmann, who during the partnership had crossed over to Richardson's end, disposed of both of the batsmen. Mr MacLaren, who was eighth to go at 124, was in two and a quarter hours for his 52, in which were eight fours and four twos. A little vigour by Lancaster and a dropped catch in the long-field by Mr Druce marked the close of the Lancashire innings, which produced 143.

Surrey's innings began about half-past 4. Briggs's fine length and break and Mold's pace soon made themselves felt. Maurice Read was out with only a single up, and subsequently for a long time everything went wrong with Surrey. Lancashire's fielding was brilliant in the extreme and three great catches were brought off. In an hour and a half eight Surrey wickets went down for 57 runs.

Hayward, who played well in the few overs he stayed, was out to a grand catch at short-leg by Frank Sugg, who held the ball from a hard hit that never rose very far from the ground. This was the second wicket. Smith, the wicket-keeper, accounted for Abel and Lockwood, and both Mr Walter Read and Lohmann were out leg-before. Briggs caught Mr Druce very cleverly with his left

hand; and Mr MacLaren caught the Surrey captain. Mr Key made a big and lofty off-drive from Briggs and Mr MacLaren, running backwards very fast from mid-off, caught the ball high up and wide with his left hand – a wonderful catch that the crowd greatly cheered. Thus did the eighth Surrey wicket at 57.

Brockwell played excellently well and made many fine strokes from both ends. Wood, too, again showed himself an able man at a pinch and helped to add 28 in the last half-hour, which made the outlook for Surrey much better. Briggs bowled with great skill to the finish and the fielding was also well sustained.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 August, page 8)

The great Surrey eleven, who have been unconquerable on the hard wickets this season, lost on the soft and false pitch at the Oval yesterday to Lancashire by 44 runs. Thus the champion county finished a bad week, in which defeats had been sustained from the two great northern cricketing shires.

As in the Yorkshire match on the first three days of the week, not a little of the success of the visitors could be traced to the good fielding, which Lancashire showed both on Thursday and yesterday. This Lancashire and Surrey match was full of fine cricket and, although in the end the skill of Lancashire prevailed, Surrey, with the luck against them, made a great fight, in which Mr Key's 50 stood out as the best batting feat of the two days.

The reason why Lancashire won was that they proved the greater side on a difficult and completely a bowler's wicket. Such fine fielding as was theirs has not been seen on the Oval for many a day and everything came off for them. It was a wonderful match that fell to Lancashire and was full of remarkable phases. There was quite a sensation when Surrey's first three wickets in the second innings went without the scoring of a run, while seven men were down for 21. A brilliant piece of hitting by Mr Key reduced the severity of the Surrey defeat. Mold's bowling was as deadly as Richardson's had been in the morning, and the fine length and break of Briggs did much to disturb the judgment of the Surrey batsmen. Yesterday the spectators numbered 11,000, of whom 8,541 paid for admission.

At the beginning of the day Surrey were 58 behind in the first innings and had two wickets in hand. The balance of their innings lasted half an hour and yielded 23 runs. Brockwell and Wood, who had done so well overnight, added altogether 41 for the ninth partnership; Brockwell played well from the time he went in until he was bowled at 98. The analyses of Briggs and Mold were both very good. Surrey had made a capital uphill fight, for after losing seven men for 35 they finished up only 35 runs behind.

Sugg and Ward opened the Lancashire second innings with some very good strokes, scoring 32 for the first wicket. But Lohmann and Richardson bowled so well after this that Surrey seemed to be getting the match in hand, and four wickets were down for 42. Tyldesley was bowled by Hayward when he went on for Lohmann, while Briggs ran his partner Baker out and then fell to a fast "yorker." Seven men were out for 62, after which Mr Benton and Smith put on 29; but in two hours the side were dismissed for 94. Richardson had a splendid bowling average.

Surrey on a soft wicket had a big task in hand to make 130 against Mold and Briggs. In each of the first three overs a wicket fell. Maurice Read, playing back, had his leg stump bowled, a "yorker"

settled Abel and Hayward was caught at wicket. So far not a run had been scored. Lockwood broke the spell with a fine boundary drive, after which came Surrey's fourth loss – Mr Druce ran himself out through going for a second run, after a fine piece of fielding by Ward at third man. Five runs and four wickets were announced. The Lancastrians fielded finely and Ward saved two runs at mid-off. Mr Walter Read survived an appeal for leg before and was missed at wicket in an over from Mold. Then he drove a ball hard from Briggs, and as it passed the stumps and the bowler the men started for a run; but the ball had meanwhile struck the umpire on the ankle, and Briggs got Lockwood run out before he could get back. Five for 14.

At 21 Mr W W Read and Lohmann were dismissed, the latter going in to drive Mold and being cleverly caught at mid-off by Mr MacLaren – a running catch. After this Mr Key hit with vigour and made a great effort to save the match. He scored 50 out of 64 added in 50 minutes, and while he and Brockwell were together there was just a chance of the game being won. However, the professional was caught at extra slip at 43, while Wood stayed while 35 were made in 20 minutes. Richardson stayed just long enough for his captain to get his 50 and then the match was over. Mr Key made six fours, five threes and five twos. Mold in the double innings took ten wickets for 98 runs.

RICHARDSON'S BOWLING. – By his fine bowling at the Oval yesterday Richardson increased his aggregate for the season to 200 wickets.

15 August: YORKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4433.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 August, page 11)

In this match, at Harrogate, yesterday, the bowlers had a very good innings, inasmuch as 23 wickets went down on the false turf for an average of a fraction over ten runs each. To begin with, Essex lost five men for 15 runs, and it was only the good cricket of Mr Fane that helped them to reach 87. The best partners of Mr Fane were Mr Kortright and Burns, who helped to add 20 and 27. Hirst's fast left-hand bowling was very deadly and he got out seven batsmen for 16 runs.

Yorkshire at first seemed likely to get a big lead on the innings. Mr Mitchell batted well for 33, made in 35 minutes, out of 56; but after he was [third] out, the side fell rapidly before Walter Mead's skilful medium-pace bowling. Denton played well, but in the end Yorkshire were only 30 ahead. Mead took seven wickets for 56 runs. Essex at the second attempt lost three good men before the end of the day, when they were only eight runs ahead.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 August, page 8)

The victory of Essex by 16 runs over Yorkshire, at Harrogate yesterday, comes as a curious result after Yorkshire's play on the Oval at the beginning of the week, and well illustrates how a treacherous pitch reduces the chances of the strongest and weakest of the counties to much the same level. Essex proved quite the equal of Yorkshire yesterday; but the merits of their success belonged individually to Mr M'Gahey, Mr Johnston and Mr Bull for their fine batting, and to Walter Mead and Mr Kortright for their bowling.

On Thursday night Essex, with seven men in hand, were eight runs to the good. Mr Johnston and Mr Bull put on 62 for the fourth wicket, and afterwards Mr Johnston and Mr M'Gahey raised the score to 116. In the former's 63 were seven fours. The other five men added 49, and Mr M'Gahey took out his bat for 55 – he also hit seven fours.

Yorkshire had to make 136 to win. They started well enough but, after scoring 91 for three wickets, their batting broke down before the fine bowling and fielding of Essex. Indeed, the last seven men went for 38 runs. Mead, going on a second time, got five wickets for 19 runs.

Friday 16 August, page 11: THE PROPOSED AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR 1896

When the mail left Melbourne early in July active steps were being taken in the matter of the selection of the Australian Eleven which it was proposed should leave for England in March under the management of Mr Phil Sheridan. The following were then likely to constitute the team: -

George Giffen, Lyons, C Hill and Darling, South Australia; Iredale, Turner, Gregory and possibly M'Kibbin, New South Wales; H Trott, Johns, A E Trott and Graham, Victoria; Eady, Tasmania. Johns will be wicket-keeper, with Hill as reserve.

Saturday 17 August, page 8: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The strength of Surrey's position at the head of the counties has been much reduced this week by the two losses. With 14 wins and three defeats out of 21 matches they have 11 points, while Lancashire, with two wins this week, have considerably improved and have now won 11 and lost three out of 17 matches played, their points being eight. Yorkshire have played 23 matches, winning 13 and losing five.

Monday 19 August, page 8: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions up to the present are: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	21	14	3	4	11
Lancashire	17	11	3	3	8
Yorkshire	23	13	6	5	8
Gloucestershire	14	6	5	3	1
Middlesex	15	5	4	6	1
Derbyshire	14	4	4	6	0
Warwickshire	17	5	6	6	-1
Hampshire	13	5	7	1	-2
Essex	15	5	7	3	-2
Sussex	16	4	8	4	-4
Kent	14	3	8	3	- 5
Nottinghamshire	15	3	8	4	- 5
Leicestershire	14	3	8	3	- 5
Somerset	14	3	8	3	- 5

Points are secured by the deduction of losses from wins.

19 August: DERBYSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4434.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 August, page 8)

Lancashire established an advantage in this match at Derby yesterday, the close finding them 30 runs on with two wickets in hand. For a long time in the first innings Derbyshire fared badly against the bowling of Mold, who got four of the first five wickets in nine overs for 12 runs. Half of the home side were out for 35. But Storer and Bennett, playing well, added 59 while they were together. Mold had a fine analysis.

Some missed catches in the slips enabled Ward and Paul to score substantially for Lancashire. Getting together at 10, they obtained 113 before they were separated, and Ward was only third to go at 139, his 83 having been made in two hours. After the home score had been passed with only three men out, the game underwent a change. Davidson bowled with great effect. He performed the "hat trick" by dismissing Mr MacLaren, Briggs and Mr Benton with successive balls, and at one time he had taken four wickets in five overs without having a run scored from him.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 August, page 5)

Derbyshire played good cricket at Derby yesterday and, after finishing only 33 behind on the first innings, did so well that they set Lancashire the task of 303 to make for victory. To the end Davidson bowled with great effect for the home side, and his 822 for 25 runs stands out as one of the best pieces of bowling in county cricket this season. The last six cost him only three runs.

Derbyshire in their second innings owed much to Storer, who demonstrated his fine all-round ability by making his first 100 for the county. He scored his 108 in just over three hours and, although he gave a chance at wicket at 22, his play was singularly free from fault; he hit 16 fours, five threes and seven twos. There were several long partnerships, the best being 85 by Storer and Mr Walker. It is worthy of note that yesterday Storer and Chatterton completed their thousand aggregates.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 August, page 4)

A remarkable day's cricket at Derby yesterday ended in the defeat of Lancashire by 63 runs. Fortune fluctuated a good deal before finally turning in favour of Derbyshire.

Lancashire had to make 303 in the fourth innings to win, and when four of the side went for 72 runs an easy victory for Derbyshire seemed at hand. But Ward, Tyldesley and baker did so well that Lancashire got within 73 of success with five wickets to fall. And then came a great piece of bowling by Porter, who, going on at the Nottingham-road end, sent down six overs and two balls (three maidens) for four runs and five wickets. This complete transformation of the game made the spectators very enthusiastic. Albert Ward was batting three and three-quarter hours for his 77, and his partnerships with Tyldesley and Baker for the fifth and sixth wickets yielded 81 and 77. It was a fine match for Derbyshire to win.

19 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4435.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 August, page 8)

Dr W G Grace played his eighth three-figure innings of the season at Cheltenham, yesterday, on the opening day of the festival annually held on the college ground. His cricket, though full of all that fine skill which has always marked his play, did not furnish his customary rate of scoring. For this the reasons might be found in a slight help which the attack had from a hard wicket and in the accurate length of the Notts bowlers; Attewell was especially good. Dr Grace took a little less than two hours and a half to get his 50, and he had been in four hours and 25 minutes when he ran to the 100.

In the Gloucestershire innings, at the end of a cricketing day of less than five hours, seven wickets had fallen for 242 runs. Mr Rice, by the exercise of much caution, helped his captain to add 41 for the third wicket; but by far the most attracted partnership of the day was the fifth, when young Mr Townsend and Dr Grace put on 82 in 75 minutes. Fine weather favoured the play and there was a good attendance.

Mr H V Page, the old Oxford captain, makes another appearance for the western county; but Shrewsbury and Gunn are both away from Nottinghamshire, while Flowers before the end of the day was summoned home owing to the serious illness of his father.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 August, page 5)

With Gloucestershire's victory by an innings and 93 runs the first match of the Cheltenham festival yesterday came to an end. The great success of the western shire was due to two causes – the fine innings of Dr W G Grace on a wicket that was not of the best and the slow right hand bowling of young Mr Townsend, whose record was 13 wickets for 110 runs.

It is many years since a gentleman bowler took the cricket world by storm in the way Mr Townsend has done. His triumph yesterday was complete. Dr Grace on Monday night was not out 113 and Gloucestershire's score 242 for seven wickets. Only 15 runs were added by the other three batsmen. Dr Grace left ninth at 254l his 119 occupied him five hours and was a model of care and skill against good bowling on difficult turf. Eight fours, four threes and ten twos were the chief figures of the innings.

The Notts men cut up badly in the first innings and were out in 90 minutes for 65 runs, and in a similar time they were ousted again for 99. In this second innings occurred a stand of 55 for the fourth wicket by Mr Jones and Mr Dixon. Gloucestershire fielded excellently. The weather was fine and a large company witnessed the play. Notts were unfortunate in losing Flowers, who was called away by a domestic bereavement.

Wednesday 21 August, page 5: MR C L TOWNSEND'S BOWLING

The remarkable bowling figures of Mr Townsend in eight consecutive matches for Gloucestershire are worth producing. They are: -

		Runs	Wickets
Gloucestershire v	Lancashire	111	6
Gloucestershire v	Nottinghamshire	122	16
Gloucestershire v	Yorkshire	71	6
Gloucestershire v	Warwickshire	129	10
Gloucestershire v	Sussex	87	12
Gloucestershire v	Middlesex	173	13
Gloucestershire v	Kent	80	7
Gloucestershire v	Nottinghamshire	110	13
Total		883	83
7\	romago 10 52		

19 August: HAMPSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4436.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 August, page 8)

As the wicket at Southampton last evening showed signs of wearing badly the home side gained an advantage in making such a good score as 197 in the first innings. The merit of this largely rested with the excellent start made by Captain Wynyard and Mr A J L Hill, who, in the opening partnership of 75 minutes, scored 81. Mr Hill played splendidly for his 61 and was third out at 106; his best hits were eight fours and six threes.

Hampshire seemed in for a particularly good score at the interval, when the record was 123 for three; but afterwards the other seven men went for 74 runs. Warwickshire in an hour lost two batsmen for 41 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 August, page 5)

Walter Quaife's fine innings of 105 and the bowling of Mr Glover were the chief causes on the strong position in which Warwickshire found themselves at the close of yesterday at Southampton. Quaife, on a wicket that helped the bowlers, played with watchful skill, and before he was ninth out the score of the home side had been passed. His stay extended over four hours and three-quarters and he made few mistakes; he hit eight fours, nine threes and 15 twos. His most able partners were his brother and Mr Bainbridge, who helped respectively to add 55 and 80.

When Hampshire went in again Mr Hill and Barton made 41 for the first wicket. Then came a collapse, the home side, with their five best men out, being only 62 on at the finish.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 August, page 4)

Warwickshire won their return match with Hampshire at Southampton yesterday by six wickets. Some such result as this was expected from the position of affairs on Tuesday evening. Hampshire had then lost their five best men and were 62 on.

When Warwickshire went in again only 98 were wanted to win, and of these Mr Bainbridge and Walter Quaife scored 81 for the first wicket in 65 minutes. Then three others quickly fell. Mr Bainbridge's 42 included a six, five fours, a three and five twos.

19 August: SURREY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4437.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 August, page 8)

With the return of the hard and true wicket Surrey are themselves again, and on the Oval yesterday the fine skill of the side, so deplorably absent from last week's matches under difficulties, was completely demonstrated. A century by Abel, a big innings by Hayward and several good feats by other members of the team went to keep Kent in the field the whole day and, further, to place the visitors in a losing position, for 363 is commonly a winning score. Surrey's innings, which lasted from noon until 6.30, when Richardson was out from what would have anyhow been the last ball of the day, was more marked for the sound and correct nature of the defence than for any particular brilliancy.

Surrey v Kent is invariably a strong match in the Oval programme, and in the fine weather the crowd was great; 12,000 was the estimated number, and those who paid at the turnstiles were 9,875. Abel's 106 was naturally the event of the day. He took three hours and 20 minutes to play his innings. From the moment he went in he timed the ball with great judgment and mostly waited for the loose ball off which to score. He gave no chance and was third to leave, caught by the wicket-keeper standing back, at 214. His best hits were seven fours, five threes and thirteen twos.

It was Abel and Hayward who laid the foundation of Surrey's big score. They got together at 27, when Mr Walter Read had been bowled in trying to pull a straight one from the Kent fast bowler, and between half-past 12 and half-past 3 they put on 144 runs. Hayward generally played in excellent form and his drive possessed much power; he was second to leave at 171 and in his 76 were seven fours, three threes and seven twos.

As 200 went up with only two wickets down the Surrey total promised to be something out of the ordinary; but the Kent bowlers and fieldsmen lost none of their keenness. Mr Bradley maintained his pace and Maurice Read was caught off him at slip, when Mr Mason brought off the first of his two excellent catches during the afternoon; he held the ball high up with his right hand. Brockwell and Lockwood put on 53 for the fifth wicket, and then the former, who had played good cricket, was caught low down at cover-point, a catch against which the batsman in vain appealed.

The other five wickets added 82 runs. Lockwood and Wood made some very good hits; but Martin got the last four batsmen rather cheaply to himself. A very good catch by Mr Patterson in the long field when he caught Mr Key should not be overlooked. Mr Bradley, the new fast bowler, worked hard without having the best of fortune; but Martin did well, whereas Mr Patterson's lobs were rather expensive.

It is pleasant to record the appearance of Mr H D G Leveson-Gower in a first-class county team; he first acquired cricket fame by his fine play and captaincy of the Winchester Eleven, and his residence at Oxford has since strengthened his reputation as a batsman and field. Except that Walter Hearne is away, Kent have their best team for this match.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 August, page 5)

The Kent eleven acquitted themselves well on the Oval yesterday in an uphill fight against the

powerful Surrey bowlers. After a long day's fielding under a hot August sun and against a total of 363, Kent performed a great feat in making 311. And this good score had the merit of being well distributed among the side.

Kent were always fighting against odds, and the follow-on had yet to be saved when their seventh wicket went. But at one point of the day there was just a chance of the match being close – namely, at half-past 5, when Surrey had lost two men in the second innings for 28. Another very big crowd watched the play; there were from 11,000 to 12,000 spectators, of whom 8,959 paid for admission.

Kent's innings occupied the greater part of the day. The morning's cricket was particularly bright, and runs were made at a good rate in spite of the excellence of the bowling and fielding. Mr Mason and the Rev W Rashleigh each had a short but merry innings, although it was a very remarkable catch at mid-on that disposed of the latter; the ball went hard to Mr Key, who held it at the second or third attempt. Alec Hearne remained an hour for his 34 and was third out at 84.

Then came some fine batting by Mr Patterson and Mr Stewart, whose vigorous play yielded 62 for the partnership. The bowling had been a good deal punished; but Richardson followed up his return catch from Mr Patterson by getting a good ball past Easby and, with half the side gone for 160, the follow-on began to be talked of. But Kent were not nearly done with, for Mr Stewart and Mr Marchant added 67 in 35 minutes for the sixth wicket, Mr Kemp and Martin 41 for the ninth, and Surrey's lead was finally reduced to 52.

Mr Stewart was the sixth to go, Lockwood catching him in the long-field from a hard, low drive. He had gone in at 84 and the figures at his dismissal were 227; he gave no chance and got his 69 by good all-round batting in an hour and 35 minutes; his chief hits were nine fours and four threes. A second catch at mid-on by Mr Key disposed of Mr Marchant. The closing part of the Kent innings was made bright by the run-stealing propensities of Mr Kemp, who found an able seconder to his vigour and energy in Martin, with the result that the risk of the wicket for overthrows was not unprofitable. In the last 20 minutes Wood, the Surrey wicket-keeper, had the misfortune to strain his leg while running after the ball, and at his retirement Brockwell took the gloves.

With their lead of 52 Surrey went in for the last hour and a half. The start was bad for them. Abel was caught at wicket, and a great catch, low down with the left hand, by Mr Mason at short-slip ousted Hayward, who has already scored his thousand this season. Two wickets were down for 28. Maurice Read, after an escape at extra-slip, and Brockwell showed a strong defence; but for a long while they found the bowling of Mr Bradley and Martin very difficult. Eventually they hit out, and had put on 55 in an hour when Read was cleverly caught in the slips by Mr Mason at the fourth attempt. Surrey left off 135 ahead with seven wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 August, page 4)

After a splendidly contested match, Surrey beat Kent at the Oval yesterday by 77 runs. To show how the game changed near the finish it may be stated that at 6 o'clock Kent, with two men well set, had three wickets in hand; but in the next ten minutes Surrey won.

The turn came immediately after the occurrence of an unusual incident. Mr W W Read, who was bowling, had the ball apparently settled in his hands and was about to prepare to deliver it, when he heard Mr Marchant tell Wright to get back, and he ran up and put the wicket down. George Hay, the umpire, ruled the ball "dead," besides which Wright was inside his crease. The crowd, thinking

that Mr Read had attempted to run Wright out for backing up when he was about to deliver the ball, did not realize the situation and, with that love of fair play not always characteristic of a crowd, did not disguise their dissatisfaction with what they interpreted as Mr Read's "sharp practice." Mr Read quickly expressed his regret to Wright for the occurrence.

There can have been little hesitation among those who followed the match closely in regarding yesterday's as the best day's cricket of the three. This especially applied to the batting. For brilliancy Mr Rashleigh's 40 came easily first, and then followed in merit the splendid cricket of Mr Key and Mr Marchant and the defence of Brockwell. The match, in which Surrey deserved their win, was played out on one of the best wickets furnished at the Oval this season; it was hard and true to the end, in spite of the fact that 1,151 runs were made.

Surrey began the morning with the batter situation, as they had scored 83 at the cost of three wickets, and these runs, with the advantage of 52 on the first innings, placed them 135 ahead. Brockwell, the not-out, and Mr Read batted steadily, adding 39, and then, in the course of a few overs, the fall of three wickets again reduced the game to evenness. Mr Read skied one for the wicket-keeper to catch, and Mr Bradley got out Lockwood and Leveson-Gower in one over.

Mr Key was the next to arrive, and such was the fine cricket that in 75 minutes 114 runs were added for the seventh wicket, which carried the score from 124 to 238. Brockwell was out to a well-judged catch in the long-field; he had taken three hours and a quarter to make his 86 and hit nine fours and four threes. As a contrast to this, Mr Key obtained 77 out of 121 in 90 minutes; he was eighth to leave, caught at slip. Among his figures were nine fours and four threes. At luncheon Surrey were 297 on, but Mr Key let the time run to 3 o'clock before adopting the closure. So Kent were put in with three hours and ten minutes to play and 304 to make to win.

A fine piece of batting by the Rev W Rashleigh created great enthusiasm and gave a good start to Kent's second innings. Mr Rashleigh's cutting and driving had nothing comparable to them in the batting of the match. All the bowlers he played easily and scored from freely, and when at last Lockwood pitched him up a slow one, which he hit into the hands of long-field-on, he had made 40 out of 57 in 40 minutes. He hit seven fours. His was the second wicket that fell.

A period of dullness and disaster followed for Kent and an early finish seemed at hand. Richardson, in the course of three-quarters of an hour, dismissed Mr Patterson, Mr Mason, Mr Stewart and Easby, and the sixth wicket fell at 118. Mr Mason was quite out of form. But Mr Marchant, who went in fifth wicket down at 88, played brilliantly and, helped by Mr Kemp, added 30 runs for the seventh. And then he and Wright looked like saving the match, for they stayed together 50 minutes for 77 runs, and it had turned 6 o'clock when Mr Marchant, in going for the lobs, skied the ball to forward short-leg. His brilliant 82 were obtained in 90 minutes by nine fours, four threes, ten twos and singles.

Neither Martin nor Mr Bradley scored, and 20 minutes before "time" Surrey had gained the victory. Brockwell took Wood's place at wicket, owing to the latter's strained leg.

19 August: YORKSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4438.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 August, page 8)

A bowler's day has to be recorded from the Headingley Ground, Leeds, yesterday, when Yorkshire and Middlesex began their return match. The turf had not recovered from last week's rain, and such was the success of the ball that 21 batsmen were dismissed with an average of 11 runs each.

Yorkshire, who had first innings, found Hearne's bowling particularly difficult, and Mr Wells was also effective. Things went so badly with Yorkshire to begin with that nine men were out for 89. Hirst, who has so often before proved himself valuable at a pinch, again did good service and, with Hunter, put on 39 for the last wicket, the total reaching 128.

Middlesex did even worse than their opponents, and four of their batsmen were lost for 19 runs. Mr Douglas and Sir T C O'Brien, by the best piece of batting of the day, added 44 for the fifth wicket in 40 minutes. However, in the end Middlesex were 25 behind on the innings. Hirst followed up his success in scoring by getting six wickets for 49, and the fact that he also caught out Sir T C O'Brien and threw Mr Lucas's wicket down made his full share of the honours rather large.

Going in a second time Yorkshire lost Lord Hawke, and at the close of the day were 30 runs on with nine wickets to fall. Both sides are very strong. Moorhouse is kept out of the Yorkshire team by the injury sustained to his hand at the Oval last week.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 August, page 5)

The batting feats of Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe on the false turf at Headingley, Leeds, yesterday, enabled Yorkshire to convert an even into a winning game, while at a later stage of the day the bowling of the left-hand fast and slow bowlers, Hirst and Peel, brought about a collapse of the Middlesex batsmen. Middlesex want 232 runs to win and have only three wickets left.

The great incident yesterday was the brilliant stand for the third Yorkshire wicket by Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe, who added 130 runs in two and a quarter hours. Mr Jackson, beyond a sharp chance to mid-on at 33, played splendidly and once again illustrated his capacity for getting runs on a bad pitch; he made a four, six threes and 15 twos. Tunnicliffe gave chances to the wicket-keeper and third man when 15 and 53; otherwise his game was excellent and he hit a five, three fours and 11 twos. It should be mentioned that Mr Douglas brought off a wonderful catch in the long-field when he got out Mr Jackson.

In a failing light Middlesex had a bad hour of Peel and Hirst, and their case is now almost hopeless. A large crowd followed the cricket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 August, page 4)

The case of Middlesex at Headingley, Leeds, on Tuesday night was hopeless, for with only three wickets left they wanted 232 runs to win, on a bad wicket. In half an hour yesterday morning the three remaining batsmen were dismissed for an addition of 26, and Yorkshire won by 205 runs.

Hirst had the splendid record in the match of 12 wickets for 89.

Thursday 22 August, page 4: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The success of Surrey at the Oval yesterday brings their record at the head of the counties to 15 wins, three losses and four drawn games, equalling 12 points. They have four matches to play and are three points ahead of Yorkshire, who have only two games left.

Lancashire with three matches to decide are reduced to seven points. Warwickshire finished their championship season yesterday with six wins, six losses and six drawn games.

Mr F Mitchell's team for America leave Waterloo Station for Southampton on Saturday morning by the 9.40 train, and will sail from that port in the afternoon.

22 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4439.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 August, page 9)

Another bowling triumph for Mr C L Townsend was among the chief features of the opening of the second match of the festival at Cheltenham yesterday. Even the Yorkshiremen, with all their fine skill in defence, found the young slow bowler very puzzling with the variation of his break, and his eight wickets for 130 runs brings his aggregate for the whole season to 93. His performance yesterday was one of great merit, for although the pitch had been made slow by the overnight storm, the ball often went straight along.

It was an instance where the winning of the toss meant a very big advantage, for the turf was likely to grow in favour of the bowlers every hour. But Gloucestershire, after a pretty good score from their opponents, came out on the day far better off than might have been expected, a fact that was in a great measure due to a dashing innings by Mr Jessop.

Yorkshire were a little over three hours making their 221, and it was 4 o'clock when their innings ended. The chief batting was done by Moorhouse, who, in spite of an injured hand, came back in the side and, forsaking his usual game, threw such vigour into his play hat he scored 70 in 90 minutes out of 130 put on while he was in; he went in second wicket down at 18 and was fourth to go at 148. His best hits were nine fours, four threes and four twos. Denton, after being let off, helped Moorhouse to obtain 60 in a little over half an hour for the third partnership, and Peel stayed while 70 were added. Subsequently Lord Hawke and Mr Ernest Smith hit vigorously.

When Gloucestershire's turn arrived for batting Dr Grace played on and Wrathall was out at 15. But Mr Jessop then forced the game in such brilliant style that he made 63 out of 65 under the half-hour. His runs were obtained in 20 strokes – thus, 12 fours, two threes, three twos and three singles. He gave no chance. In the end Gloucestershire were only 98 behind with six wickets to fall.

Mr Mitchell was absent from Yorkshire through having to leave with his side for America, while Mr Jackson is suffering from an injured leg. There was a very big attendance.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 August, page 11)

So much delay occurred through rain at Cheltenham yesterday that the full time of cricket was only an hour and a quarter; but in this brief period Gloucestershire, by completing their innings (in which four wickets had gone overnight for 123) for 219, reduced the match to a condition of evenness.

The best thing in the second day's play was the batting of Mr Sewell, who, it may be remembered, was one of the South African team on tour in England last summer. He showed very good form and his 50 in 75 minutes is the highest innings he has yet played for the county. Among his strokes were five fours, two threes and six twos. Mr C L Townsend followed up his bowling success of Thursday with a steady 42. He went in fifth wicket down at 126 and left last, his runs having taken him 100 minutes to obtain. The two chief stands were 32 by Mr Sewell and Mr Townsend, and 45 by the latter and Mr Page. In the early part of the day the weather was bright and another large company visited the College Ground.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 August, page 5)

Mr C L Townsend goes from one triumph to another, and his great skill in bowling at Cheltenham on Saturday had much to do with Gloucestershire's win against Yorkshire by seven wickets. It is quite wonderful to note the change that Mr Townsend has of late wrought in the fortunes of Gloucestershire. This young bowler has taken 98 wickets in nine consecutive matches, and his aggregate for the season has now reached 100, while at present his average of 11 is easily first among all bowlers. His performances in the last five weeks are perhaps without precedent in amateur bowling, not excluding Mr A G Steel's fine feats.

Another great help to Gloucestershire's second success in the Cheltenham festival was the 63 by Mr Jessop, when the wicket was bad, on Thursday. On Saturday when Gloucestershire went in to get the 146 to win there was some splendid batting by Dr Grace, Wrathall, Painter and Mr Ferris.

On Saturday morning an innings had been played by each side, with a balance of a couple of runs in favour of Yorkshire. As the latter had to go in again when the pitch, though slow, had not yet grown difficult, it was thought that the north countrymen would secure a strong position. Tunnicliffe and Brown by good batting certainly laid the foundation for such, as 66 were made for the first wicket, while when the second went the score stood at 93.

But now came the turn for Mr Townsend, who had had 33 made from him without getting a wicket and had been given a second spell at 81, and this time he met with brilliant success. Of the last nine batsmen he got seven at a cost to himself of 21 runs. His pitch and break were too skilful for the Yorkshiremen, who, after getting 100 up with only two men gone, were all out for 143. Tunnicliffe played fine cricket for his 52 out of 103 in 100 minutes, and hit seven fours and three threes. When Brown and Tunnicliffe had been dismissed, Hirst alone batted with any spirit. Mr Townsend took 15 wickets in the match for 185 runs.

Gloucestershire were left with 146 to make in two hours and 50 minutes. Hirst and Peel bowled so well that Dr Grace and Mr Ferris exercised extreme care in the defence, and in 45 minutes only 23 runs were made. However, Wainwright was then given a trial, and Dr Grace hit so vigorously that he made 38 out of 50 in a little over an hour, and then he was caught and bowled. Half an hour of Painter and Mr Ferris served to run the total to 103, by which time Gloucestershire had the match in hand. Wrathall next made 26 out of 33, and only ten were wanted when Mr Jessop arrived, and the match was then quickly won. Mr Ferris, by his great care and judgment in defence, had a good share in the merits of the victory. There was great enthusiasm at the close, and Mr Townsend was warmly congratulated on his getting his 100 aggregate of wickets.

The Week was a great success, for Gloucestershire not only beat both Notts and Yorkshire, but the attendances, in spite of a little unsettled weather, were so good that the £700 received in gate-money was a record for the festival.

22 August: HAMPSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4440.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 August, page 9)

Steadiness characterized the batting on the United Services Ground, Portsmouth, yesterday, when the Leicestershire innings, extending over the greater part of cricketing hours, yielded only 212 runs. It took Leicestershire two and a half hours to make their first hundred.

The best stands of the innings were 42 by Pougher and Holland and 77 by Holland and Knight. The last-named, who is a new recruit to the eleven, played very good cricket, and in his 53 were seven fours and two twos. Holland exercised the greatest care and occupied three hours and a quarter in making his 54. At one time the visitors seemed likely to make a very good score; but the last six wickets went for 76 runs.

Hampshire in 12 minutes scored 25. It may be noted that they are trying a new wicket-keeper in Mr S R Olivier, an officer on H.M.S. Australia.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 August, page 11)

The wicket at the United Services Ground, Portsmouth, was affected by the rain of Thursday night, so that yesterday was something of a bowler's day. Captain Wynyard and Mr Ward made a pretty good stand for the first Hampshire wicket, taking the score to 54; but six men were out for 99. Subsequently Bacon and Soar gave more respectability to the total by putting on 35, yet the visitors led by 60.

However, Leicestershire in their second innings did so badly that they lost six men for 55, and it was only Mr Hillyard's success that enabled them to reach 117. Wootton bowled very well. Hampshire were left with 178 to get to win . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 August, page 5)

After a well-fought match and a capital third day's play, Hampshire beat Leicestershire at Portsmouth on Saturday by three wickets. They had been left with 178 to make in the fourth innings, but, on a pitch that to some extent helped the bowlers, the fight for success was very hard, in fact so much so that in several instances they seemed near to losing the commanding position.

Wootton, who had gone in overnight with Mr Ward, played steadily and was third out at 73. Captain Wynyard hit freely for a time and the first two wickets had yielded 54. But, with five men gone, Hampshire still wanted 65 runs. Captain Quinton's sound cricket undoubtedly saved the side, for the bowling and fielding of the visitors were particularly good. Bacon stayed while 29 more runs were added, and at lunch six wickets were down with 36 still wanted.

The next partnership virtually won the game, as Soar helped to add 31. Captain Quinton, who went in second wicket down at 54, took out his bat for 55; it was a very fine innings, the best hits of which were six fours, a three and seven twos. Fine weather was experienced and a large company visited the United Service Ground.

22 August: LANCASHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4441.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 August, page 9)

On a slow wicket at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, Lancashire finished up with eight batsmen in hand and only eight runs behind the Nottinghamshire total. The visitors began well with a bright 68 for the first partnership by Shrewsbury and Mr Jones; but when these batsmen were separated Briggs and Mold wrought a great change in the game and the side was out for 154 soon after 4 o'clock. Mr Jones's 57 was a very good innings; he was [fifth] to leave at 97 and hit seven fours and six twos.

Lancashire in a little over two hours made 146 at the cost of two batsmen, and the credit of this large score largely rested with Albert Ward and Mr MacLaren, who played fine cricket, and after adding 108 were still together at the end of the day. Ward had given a sharp chance to Mr Dixon at third man in the first over of the innings, while Mr MacLaren escaped at wicket at 35.

Neither Gunn nor Flowers was able to assist Nottinghamshire. There was a large attendance, but the atmosphere was dull and heavy.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 August, page 11)

An innings of 152 by Mr A C MacLaren, the Lancashire captain, who so greatly distinguished himself with Mr Stoddart's team in the colonies, marked yesterday's cricket at Manchester, in which the Lancastrians gained a great advantage, for Notts, with three men out, still wanted 129 to avoid defeat by a single innings.

From the time he went in on Thursday night Mr MacLaren played excellently, his strokes all round the wicket being equally good. The record was 38 for two when he arrived and he was eighth out at 327, having taken four hours and a quarter to get his runs. His only mistake was a chance at wicket at 34. Ward and Mr MacLaren put on 174 in two and a half hours for the third wicket, raising the figures from 38 to 212. The professional exercised all his well-known skill and care in defence. In the end Lancashire secured a lead of 213. Wilkinson was not put on to bowl at all for Nottinghamshire.

The visitors rubbed off 84 of the arrears in 75 minutes, Shrewsbury again playing very well before being bowled. There were two delays by rain and the cricket day itself was further shortened by nearly half an hour owing to the bad light.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 August, page 5)

Fine batting by Mr Jones and Mr Dixon at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Saturday enabled Nottinghamshire to avoid an innings defeat, although in the end Lancashire gained a ten-wickets victory, having only eight runs to get in the last attempt.

The fact that Notts at the beginning of the day wanted 129 to put their opponents in again and had three men out rather pointed to an early finish. As it was, the afternoon had well advantage before

the match was brought to an issue. For the fourth wicket Mr Jones and Mr Dixon put on 87 in an hour and three-quarters. Mr Jones, who was then out at 157, had been in over two hours and his 53 included seven fours and six twos. He played very well and gave no chance.

Mr Dixon had little aid from the rest of the side and remained not out 83, a careful and faultless innings, in which were 13 fours, two threes and four twos. Briggs had a splendid record of 12 wickets for 119, while Smith kept wicket so effectively that he had a hand in the dismissal of seven men. Lancashire got the eight runs necessary for victory without much trouble.

22 August: SOMERSET v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4442.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 August, page 9)

In a small scoring day at Taunton yesterday the cricket was marked by much evenness, for, after Somerset had made 168, Tyler's slow bowling was successful to such an extent that eight of Surrey were out to it for 135, of which only 45 were obtained from Tyler.

Both counties began well and then the batting broke down. The best piece of cricket of the day was that of the old Oxford captain, Mr L C H Palairet, whose average this month in six innings on the Taunton ground is 76. With scarcely an ill-timed stroke, he yesterday made 64 in an hour and a half, hitting nine fours, three threes and a two, and, having gone in first, he was seventh to leave at 133. His best partner was Mr Woods, with whom he added 51 for the fifth wicket in 35 minutes – a fine piece of work much applauded by the onlookers. It was also worthy of note that Mr Palairet, by his innings yesterday, completed his 1,000 aggregate for the season.

The chief incident in the Surrey fielding was a catch by Lockwood at mid-on, when, from a hard drive by Mr Dunlop, he took the ball low down with his right hand. Richardson carried off the bowling honours for his side and brought his aggregate of wickets to 222, which beats Lohmann's record of a few seasons ago by two.

Surrey promised to do well when their first three wickets yielded 93 runs; but after Maurice Read, Abel and Hayward had finished there was a collapse. Holland at 113 was out to a wonderful catch by Mr Dunlop running in from behind the bowler, while at 123 Mr Read, Mr Leveson-Gower and Lohmann were all dismissed. Lockwood and Marshall stayed together and Surrey finished 33 behind with two wickets left.

There was a good attendance and much enthusiasm was shown. Mr Key and Wood were away from Surrey and Holland and Marshall came in, while Somerset are trying a new professional in W Smith, who is attached to the Clifton Club.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 August, page 11)

There is a very keen fight in the Somerset and Surrey match at Taunton, and yesterday's play, after promising at one time well for Somerset, left the game very open, Surrey wanting 80 to win with five wickets to fall.

The great thing in the match so far has been the feat of Tyler, whose slow left-hand bowling, with its big break, got out the whole Surrey team, only 49 runs being hit from the bowler. This tenwickets achievement has been done by many men, from Dr Grace downwards, in the history of important cricket; but it is still an exceptionally fine feat and one of which the public on the Taunton ground showed substantial appreciation, inasmuch as over £35 was collected for Tyler, who had surpassed anything he had previously done for the county.

Surrey did little to improve their position of Thursday night, for their outstanding wickets went for an addition of four runs, and the home side led on the first innings by 29.

Going in a second time, Mr Dunlop and Mr Fowler made such a fine start that 50 went up in 35 minutes; but, after a shower had stopped the game, the sunshine made the wicket so favourable to the bowlers that Richardson and Lohmann brought about something like a collapse, for on resuming the whole ten wickets went down in an hour and a half for the addition of 82 to the 59 made before the rain. Mr Dunlop, who was first to go, fell to a good catch at extra mid-off, while a "yorker" settled Mr Fowler at 89. Marshall missed Mr Palairet, or the Somerset second innings would scarcely have reached 141, to which Tyler's useful contribution of three fours at the end was noteworthy. Richardson again carried off the bowling honours, and his full record for the match was 13 for 152.

Surrey were left to make 171 to win. They fared rather badly in the last hour and three-quarters of play. Somerset fielded and bowled well, and a fine piece of work by Mr Palairet brought about the running out of Abel. Brockwell and Holland made a useful stand of 28 for the fourth wicket, and finally the score stood at 91 for five.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 August, page 5)

The Surrey eleven were beaten by Somerset at Taunton on Saturday by 53 runs. Friday night's position promised a much closer finish than this, for Surrey had five wickets in hand and wanted 80 runs to win; but on Saturday ill-judged running quickly brought disaster to Surrey, and in the end the outstanding batsmen were got out for an addition of 26.

Marshall and Lockwood, the overnight not-outs, were separated at 93. Then Mr Leveson-Gower joined Lockwood and the batting became steady, the 100 soon going up. However, a single later Mr Leveson-Gower ran himself out; he played the ball hard to mid-off and dashed up the pitch, and Lockwood's shout of "go back" passing unnoticed, the amateur lost his wicket. Lockwood next fell to mid-off, and then Lohmann and Mr Read became partners. After missing the former in the long-field Mr Fowler returned the ball so well that Mr Read was run out.

Richardson had only a short stay and the innings was over soon after mid-day for 117, and Somerset won. In the double innings Tyler took 13 wickets for 91 runs. The home side are to be congratulated on a good win against Surrey, who have lost three matches out of four in a fortnight.

22 August: SUSSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4443.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 August, page 9)

Kent did so badly to begin with on the hard wicket at the Hove ground, Brighton, that, although their later batsmen were fairly successful, they finished up with the worst of positions. Such was the visitors' breakdown at the beginning against the bowling of Parris and Tate that five wickets fell for 17 runs. So all the advantage of getting first innings on a true pitch was allowed to slip.

After this feeble batting, Mr Marchant did his best to mend matters, and his 38 out of 47 was quite characteristic of his reputation. Eight of the side went for 65; but the remaining batsmen did wonderfully well. Wright kept up his end while Martin and Mr Bradley hit, with the result that the last two wickets added 76 runs in a little over an hour; Martin made his 43 out of 55 and Mr Bradley 20 out of 21. Still this 141 was a poor show for a side who had done so well against Surrey on the Oval.

The good position in which Surrey found themselves at the close was due in a great measure to the batting of Mr Fry and K S Ranjitsinhji, who took the score from 14 to 95 in 80 minutes. Mr Fry hit five fours in his capital 54; but Ranjitsinhji was not quite so accurate as usual in his timing of the ball. However, he made many fine strokes. Sussex at the finish were 35 behind and had seven wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 August, page 11)

For a long while at Brighton yesterday the Kent eleven played an excellent uphill game and seemed likely to recover from the position in which their small first innings had left them. But after a fine beginning in the second attempt, their batting again broke down, and Sussex had only 110 to get in the last innings.

Sussex did not do so well as was expected in the early part of the day, for, although the pitch showed no effects of the overnight rain, only 94 were added by the seven outstanding batsmen, the score reaching 200 – a lead of 50 for Sussex. Bean and Mr Brann put on 63 in an hour for the seventh partnership, while Bean's was a dashing 50, in which were five fours and nine twos. He might have been caught in the long field when 34. A noteworthy piece of cricket was the last spell of bowling by Alec Hearne, who finished off the innings by taking four wickets in nine overs and four balls for 15 runs.

When Kent went in again Alec Hearne and Mr Mason made 23, and this was followed by a fine stand by Hearne and Mr Rashleigh. The 100 was reached with only one wicket down; but a change came over the game when Hearne left at 107. In 90 minutes the other eight batsmen fell to Mr Fry and Tate for an addition of 61 runs, and after the splendid start the score amounted to only 168. The Rashleigh and Hearne partnership yielded 84 runs in 70 minutes. Mr Rashleigh made his 50 in a little over three-quarters of an hour, after which he took a long time to score four more runs. He hit six fours, four threes and two twos. Tate bowled well and took nine wickets altogether in the match for 128 runs.

Sussex made eight of the 110 necessary to win when stumps were drawn. The weather was fine and

there was a large attendance.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 August, page 5)

Sussex gained a nine wickets victory over Kent at Hove, Brighton, on Saturday. The task set them of getting 110 to win on their own ground was made light of, for after Mr Newham had gone at 19, an hour's batting by K S Ranjitsinhji and Marlow saw the other 91 runs obtained. The former hit eight fours and four twos, and the latter four fours and three twos.

22 August: WARWICKSHIRE v CHESHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/123/123983.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 August, page 9)

Yesterday, at Birmingham, in the return match between these counties, Warwickshire gained the advantage. Going in first, Cheshire lost seven wickets for 59 runs; but then Mr Bromley-Davenport and Wright added 49, and the ultimate score reached 118.

Warwickshire made a bad start, but Diver and William Quaife in an hour took the score from 11 to 93 for the third wicket. Diver hit very brilliantly, his 55 including ten fours. Other batting successes followed, Law doing especially well, and at the close Warwickshire were 167 ahead with two men in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 August, page 11)

In a great degree the excellent batting of Cheshire in their second innings at Birmingham yesterday compensated for their feebleness of Thursday, and they were able to make a draw with their powerful opponents.

Warwickshire, who had scored 285 overnight for eight wickets, closed their innings after Law had made his 100, and put Cheshire in to obtain 178 to avoid defeat by an innings. Law's 101 extended over two hours and a half and included 12 fours and six threes.

Hollowood carried off the batting honours for Cheshire in the second innings, and in his 74 were six fours. Warwickshire had not sufficient time to get the 94 they wanted to win, and so the game was drawn.

Monday 26 August, page 5: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

At present the positions of the counties are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	23	15	4	4	11
Lancashire	19	12	4	3	8
Yorkshire	25	14	6	5	8
Gloucestershire	16	8	5	3	3
Derbyshire	15	5	4	6	1
Middlesex	16	5	5	6	0
Warwickshire	18	6	6	6	0
Hampshire	16	6	8	1	-2
Essex	15	5	7	3	-2
Sussex	17	5	8	4	-3
Somerset	15	4	8	3	-4
Leicestershire	15	3	9	3	-6
Kent	16	3	10	3	-7
Nottinghamshire	17	3	10	4	-7

The xx are secured by the deduction of losses from wins; drawn games are ignored. Lancashire and Somerset return match was abandoned.

MR MITCHELL'S TEAM FOR AMERICA

Mr F Mitchell, with the members of his team, left Waterloo on Saturday morning for Southampton, where they embarked on the American liner St Louis for the United States. The side, which will engage in a brief tour, consists of Mr F Mitchell, Mr R A Studd, Mr N F Druce, Mr W M Hemingway, Mr H H Arkwright, Mr V T Hill, Mr F A Phillips, Mr J C Hartley, Mr C E M Wilson, Mr W W Lowe, Mr H H Marriott, Mr W Mortimer, Mr C D Robinson and Mr F W Milligan.

26 August: DERBYSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4445.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 August, page 6)

Rain fell so persistently yesterday at Derby that play in this match was deferred until to-day . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 August, page 11)

There was no play in this match at Derby on Monday, while yesterday, owing to rain, only two and a quarter hours' batting was practicable. Essex went in at a quarter past 3 and were all out in two hours for 87. Mr Owen and Mr Fane made 39 for the second wicket and Mr Fane and Mr M'Gahey 29 for the third. Bennett was put on to bowl at 72, and the last seven wickets went for 15, of which he obtained five for eight runs. Derbyshire started batting after a shower and lost two wickets for 18 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 August, page 6)

As might have been expected after the delays by rain, time did not allow of this match being played out, and the game was drawn at Derby last night. The wicket had recovered from the rain, and the home county went from 18 to two wickets to 191 for eight, when at luncheon, being 104 on, they closed their innings.

Bagshaw's batting was the best point of the morning and he missed his 100 by only a single. He had given a chance to cover-point at 58 and another to mid-on at 62. Among his hits were 11 fours, three threes and 11 two. Davidson batted very steadily and in an hour and a half he and Bagshaw advanced the total from 36 to 158.

Essex did badly against their 104 arrears. Six wickets were down for 96 and 90 minutes were yet left for play; but Russell and Mr Owen put on 62 in an hour. The former hit six fours and five twos, while Mead scored 19 in an over. At the finish Essex were 92 on with a wicket to fall.

26 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4446.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 August, page 6)

The recent successes of Gloucestershire seem to have revived all the old interest in the western county's cricket, and yesterday another large and enthusiastic company witnessed a capital day's cricket on the Clifton College ground. In spite of the threatening weather the rain, except for two showers in the early morning, held off.

With the pitch slow and unlikely to improve, it seemed that Surrey had gained an important advantage in winning the toss; but save for one prominent instance their batsmen, like those of other counties who have recently played on Gloucestershire's grounds, found young Mr Townsend's bowling very difficult. The slow right hand delivery of Mr Townsend had a large share in the dismissal of the Surrey team for [182], and his seven wickets for 80 bring his aggregate for the season to 108 in 11 matches.

To begin with, the visitors' score promised to be formidable, as Maurice Read and Abel made 85 for the first wicket. Up to this point the showers had kept the ground easy; but with the wicket drier the game underwent a change. It was after Maurice Read had left fourth at 157 that the first turn came, while eventually the innings closed so rapidly that the last five wickets went for an addition of 11 runs. The 182 had taken three hours and a quarter to put together. Maurice Read had played his best innings of the season for Surrey; he gave no real chance and in his 88 were six fours, nine threes and five twos.

When Gloucestershire went in, Dr W G Grace was out at five, but Mr Ferris and Wrathall hit well, and by carrying the figures to 64 got within 118 of the Surrey total, so that Gloucestershire have almost the better position.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 August, page 11)

On the Clifton College Ground, yesterday, Gloucestershire did some fine work against Surrey, and the advantage which they had gained on Monday was thoroughly sustained. The balance of their innings occupied nearly the whole of the time for cricket. Against Surrey's total of 182 Gloucestershire had made 64 for one wicket.

A lot of rain during the night rendered cricket impracticable until 20 minutes past 1, and for a long time the wicket played dead without being exactly difficult. The ball cut through the turf and the Gloucestershire batsmen turned this into account, although the scoring was slow. Their other nine batsmen added 179, which brought their total up to 243.

Mr Ferris and Wrathall (the not outs) went to 97 before they were separated. Dr W G Grace was out at five and 92 were put on for the second wicket. Wrathall's 59 (the best thing he has done for the county) was only marred by one chance to M Read in the long-field. He had been batting an hour and had hit eight fours, three threes and four twos. Three wickets were down for 109. The turf was fast drying but the home team went on strongly, Messrs Ferris and Rice batting well. They were together 80 minutes and put on 77, and Surrey's score was passed, Mr Ferris being fourth out at 186. He had played with a care and patience that were admirable, and was batting for three hours

and a quarter without giving a chance. In his 58 were three fours, three threes and nine twos. Mr Rice also batted well, and in his 46 were five fours and five threes. Subsequently the other five wickets went for an addition of 49.

Surrey, who were 61 runs behind, went in at ten minutes to 6, but when Mr Townsend had bowled an over rain stopped play for the day. There was a large company.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 August, page 6)

The Gloucestershire eleven were in a bad position when this match was drawn last evening at Clifton. In fact, Surrey adopted the closure rule, and then Lohmann and Richardson bowled with such great success that the home side were nearly defeated.

When the day's cricket opened Surrey, with arrears of 60 on the first innings, continued their second attempt. The pitch after an application of the roller did not afford the bowlers that advantage which was expected, and Surrey did pretty well. Of course, for a long while the visitors, being in a critical condition, could not afford to run the risk of forcing the game, and their steadiness prevailed.

A patient partnership in which 30 runs were scored by Read and Lockwood was followed by a stand of 65 minutes by Abel and Read, who added 55 runs. Maurice Read was second to go, having played a much steadier game than usual. Abel and Hayward both marked the cricket with care; but the fall of the sixth wicket at 142 left the match in favour of Gloucestershire. However, Brockwell's skill in defence enabled him to stay 90 minutes for 21, and at 20 minutes to 5 Mr Key closed his innings, leaving Gloucestershire with 134 to get to win in an hour.

An altered "order" met with disastrous results and seven wickets fell for 38. In this position the game was drawn.

26 August: MIDDLESEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4447.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 August, page 6)

The crowd who waited outside Lord's ground yesterday until 2 o'clock, when the turf, having sufficiently recovered from the morning's rain, was considered fit for play, profited by their patience, for in the three and a half hours' of the Lancashire batting the cricket was very good.

The visitors made a score of 236 for the loss of seven batsmen on a slow and dead wicket; but the turf never dried enough to allow the bowlers to put on much break and only from Phillips did the ball get up to any extent. Mr MacLaren played admirably, and his great strength in defence and hitting was well illustrated, while several members of the side also gave him much support. As there is not much prospect of the pitch improving, Lancashire have really gained a strong position.

Important cricket at Lord's used to be unknown in August, but the company which gathered at headquarters yesterday testified to its appreciation by the public. Lancashire began their first innings at 2.35 and a good start was made by Mr Hornby and Ward. The former played in his won vigorous style and obtained 24 out of the first 34 before a ball from Rawlin beat him. But the second partnership, that of Sugg and Ward, was of even greater liveliness, for 64 were added in three-quarters of an hour. Sugg was chiefly responsible for this quick scoring. He played the true game in hitting and necessarily ran some risks, notably in two instances, when Mr Hayman misjudged a catch from him in the long-field and by Rawlin in a similar position. Mr Douglas also made an attempt to catch Sugg at cover-point. This batsman was eventually second out at 98, and at 120 Ward, after a very sound innings, was taken at extra-slip from a bumping ball.

In the next two hours all the excellence of the cricket was centred in Mr MacLaren's play. His sole mistake was from a ball which got up and from which he was almost caught by Mr Warner at third man; the fieldsman had to go for it at an awkward angle and only just let the chance escape. Otherwise Mr MacLaren timed the bowling well and hit with much power, and was only a single short of the 100 when stumps were drawn with the record at 236 for seven wickets. Middlesex were a little handicapped by the greasy ball. It will be noticed, too, that they are without the services of several good men, among whom are Mr MacGregor and Sir T C O'Brien.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 August, page 11)

After the good score of Lancashire on the slow turf on Monday, it is not surprising to have to record the severe defeat of Middlesex at Lord's yesterday by an innings and 100 runs. As was expected the wicket did not improve, but it became worse and worse. Even Mr Stoddart, who has often proved so good on indifferent wickets, failed them, and their defence wholly broke down before Briggs and Mold. Mr Wells, who was not in good health on Monday, had to relinquish any part in yesterday's play and his side batted one short. About 5,000 people were present.

There had been some heavy rain during the morning and the ground was unfit for cricket until a quarter past 12. It was a few minutes later when Lancashire went on with their innings in which seven wickets had fallen overnight for 236. In half an hour the remaining batsmen were got out for an addition of 24, the total reaching 260 as the result of about four hours' batting. Mr MacLaren, who had played such fine cricket on the dead turf on Monday, stayed long enough to pass the 100,

but at 249 he was eighth to go, well caught by Mr Webbe at mid-off. From the time he went in he showed his many fine strokes, and altogether he made 108 in a little beyond two hours. He made nine fours, eight threes and 13 twos. His partnership with Smith yielded 65 for the eighth wicket. The slow bowling of Phillips was very good, and although he was last change his analysis of seven wickets for 56 was a fine performance.

With the wicket getting rapidly bad Middlesex had a sorry prospect, and after Mr Stoddart and Mr Douglas had been separated at 31 their misfortunes began in earnest. Mr Stoddart gave a sharp chance to cover-point before he had scored, and eventually played on. Mr Douglas showed very good form and he was third to leave – caught at wicket at 44. Afterwards, in spite of a few good hits by Rawlin and the steadiness of Mr Webbe, Middlesex were out in an hour and three-quarters for 83. Briggs and Mold bowled unchanged. The latter was very difficult.

With arrears of 177 and with the pitch worse than ever, Middlesex had no much chance of saving the game, especially against such bowlers as Mold and Briggs. In an hour and a half Mold and Briggs had prevailed to such an extent that the second total amounted to only 77. A well-judged catch in the long field which got rid of Mr Stoddart and the right-handed catch at short slip which disposed of Phillips were perhaps the best things in the fielding. Mr Webbe again did his utmost to save his side. However, Briggs and Mold were irresistible, and on the stroke of 6 o'clock Lancashire had decisively won the match. Mold and Briggs had bowled unchanged throughout the two innings.

26 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4448.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 August, page 6)

Bad weather reduced the time of cricket at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, to two hours and a half, during which Notts scored 153 for four wickets. The feature of the play was the splendid batting of Shrewsbury and Mr Jones, but the visitors were handicapped by having to bowl and field with a wet ball.

The two batsmen named scored 97 in 80 minutes for the first partnership. Mr Jones, who was first to go through returned the ball, played excellently and gave no chance except one to the wicket-keeper when his figures were 38. He hit five fours, three threes and six twos. Shrewsbury was fourth out at 151, caught at slip. When 35 he made three bad hits in one over, any of which might have been a chance; but for two hours and a quarter his defence generally was good, and he made eight fours, four threes and eight twos. Gunn is still absent from the Nottinghamshire eleven.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 August, page 11)

Bad weather again seriously interfered with the progress of Notts v Kent, at Trent-bridge ground, Nottingham, yesterday, for while the start took place about half-past 11, a heavy downpour put cricket out of the question between half-past 12 and 4 o'clock.

In the morning's play Nottinghamshire, who had lost four men overnight for 153, added 42 runs at the cost of Mr Dixon's wicket. The home captain showed capital form. Later in the day, when further play was possible, the turf helped the bowlers, and in an hour the other five batsmen went for 30 more runs, the total reaching 225. Daft played with extreme care for an hour and three-quarters altogether, but there was not much that was attracted in the balance of the Notts innings. Wright's bowling figures came out remarkably well. Kent in half an hour lost two wickets . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 August, page 6)

Rain interfered with the early stages of this match, and when it was resumed yesterday on the Trentbridge Ground Notts had completed an innings for 225 and Kent had lost two wickets for 20.

There was nearly an unprecedented rate of scoring yesterday on the old ground, for in a little over five hours 383 runs were regarding at the cost of six wickets. The pitch was such that the bowlers did not seem able to get any work on the ball. Kent kept triumphantly on and, having reached 308 at the cost of eight wickets, Mr Marchant declared his innings closed. There now remained an hour and a quarter for Notts to get 83 to avert an innings defeat. This proved a very easy matter, for Mr Jones and Shrewsbury ran up 96 in the allotted time, and the home county had all their wickets in hand when the stumps and the match were drawn.

The best batting on the Kent side was by Mr Mason, the Rev W Rashleigh and Mr Stewart. Mr Rashleigh's dashing 62, made out of 104 in 85 minutes, included six fours, seven threes and two twos, while Mr Stewart made seven fours and four threes in his 50, which lasted an hour. Mr Jones and Shrewsbury had an aggregate of 100 each for the match.

26 August: SOMERSET v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4449.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 August, page 6)

Yorkshire had rather the better of the day's play at Taunton yesterday, inasmuch as, having dismissed Somerset for 186, they scored 124 at the cost of four wickets. Even this scoring would have been smaller on the slow turf had all the chances been taken by the fieldsmen. The gatemoney of the match is to be devoted to the benefit fund of Nichols, who for some years has been a valuable servant of the county, in whose rise to the first-class ranks he had a share by his fine play in 1890, both as bowler and batsman. That was really his great season. Nichols originally entered county cricket as an amateur for Gloucestershire.

Unfortunately for him there was yesterday a disagreeable change in the weather, the dullness of which, with the morning's showers, must have gone some way to reduce the company to very ordinary dimensions. Perhaps the wet ground had something to do with the various errors committed by both sides in the field. One of the most useful pieces of batting on the home side was by Mr Porch, who, in spite of a couple of escapes, exhibited sound defence for 90 minutes. He and Mr Roe added 46 in three-quarters of an hour. After six men had gone for 108 Nichols played extremely well and was the last to leave, caught at deep mid-off, having contributed 42 out of the last 78. Mr Newton helped to add 26 and Westcott 39.

The Yorkshire batting was marked by the fine play of Mr Jackson, who scored 46 out of 71 in an hour. Tunnicliffe, who was missed when he had made two, hit hard, and Peel and Denton put on 42 in the last 35 minutes. Peel was badly missed by Westcott.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 August, page 11)

Mr L C H Palairet, who was twice captain of the Oxford Eleven, and who for style and power of hitting has had few equals at that University, gained further honours at Taunton yesterday by an innings of 148 not out against the skilful Yorkshire bowling. His success went a great way towards securing for Somerset the strong position held by them at the end of the day. Then in the second innings the home side were 227 ahead with five wickets in hand.

Mr Palairet scored his 148 out of 286 in three hours and 40 minutes without a chance, if a possible return catch to Wainwright be excepted. From the time he went in he was thoroughly at home and his batting was fully appreciated by the large company. Mr Palairet has achieved many great feats at Taunton, and he and Mr Hewett still hold the record for the first partnership with 346 here against Yorkshire in 1892. His early assistants yesterday were Mr Dunlop and Mr Roe, who stayed while 66 and 94 were added. He made his 100 out of 200 in two and three-quarter hours. The Yorkshire fielding grew a little slack towards the close, and Mr Woods was twice let off during the last 40 minutes, when 72 were added.

In the early hours of the day Yorkshire completed their innings; but their men found runs difficult to make on the slow turf, which was affected by the night's rain. When the eighth Yorkshire wicket went the score was only 152. But Hirst, Mounsey and Hunter, profiting by some errors in the field, carried the total to 245. Mounsey played particularly well, and in his 58 were a six (a drive out of the ground), eight fours and six twos.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 August, page 6)

Somerset beat Yorkshire, at Taunton, yesterday, by 29 runs. To have defeated the two great elevens of Surrey and Yorkshire in consecutive games is a feat of which the Somerset team may justly be proud.

Their success yesterday was closely allied with the remarkable innings of Mr L C H Palairet, whose 165 on what at times was not the best of wickets will rank among his greatest achievements for the county. The chief part of his innings was played on Tuesday, when he remained not out 148, and after adding 17 he was caught at cover point, at 309. He went in first and was sixth to leave, his stay extending over four hours. Among his contributions were 20 fours, seven threes and ten twos. He and Mr Woods altogether added 95 for the sixth partnership, and the captain in his vigorous 65 made a six, ten fours and a three.

Yorkshire were left with 295 to get to win in four and a half hours. After the dismissal of Mr Jackson at seven there was some beautiful cricket by Tunnicliffe and Wainwright, who scored at such a quick rate that the 100 were obtained in 75 minutes, while in spite of the good bowling and fielding 140 were altogether added in an hour and three-quarters before Wainwright was stumped. In his 82 were 13 fours, two threes and three twos.

While this partnership existed it seemed that Yorkshire would win; but, although Brown had a couple of lives, the performance of the "hat trick" by Tyler turned the game in favour of Somerset. Brown fell to a catch in the long field and Denton was bowled first ball. Tunnicliffe played good cricket for his 82, in which were 13 fours, a three and five twos. Lord Hawke and Mr Smith put on 28 for the seventh wicket and the latter and Mounsey 23 for the eighth. But when only two batsmen remained 57 were wanted to win. Mounsey and Hirst strove hard to save their side, but their efforts were unavailing and Somerset won. Tyler's double analyses showed 14 wickets for 247 runs.

29 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4450.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 August, page 6)

Mr AC MacLaren played his third three-figure innings in three matches yesterday, when his fine batting and Briggs's great bowling feat enabled Lancashire to get much the better of the day's cricket at Leicester. Going in first, Mr MacLaren made135 out of 220 in two hours and a quarter; he might have been taken at wicket and in the long-field with his figures respectively at 48 and 91; but his general game was excellent and he hit two sixes, two fives, 12 fours, ten threes and six twos. He got over 100 against Notts last week at Old Trafford and only on Tuesday he ran to 108 at Lord's.

To being with, his best partners were Mr Hornby and Ward, who stayed while 42 and 41 were added; but the great stand was made by Mr MacLaren and Briggs, who put on 118 in an hour. Paul had to retire through receiving a severe body blow from Woodcock's fast bowling. Leicestershire were all out for 82, Briggs achieving a fine performance in taking eight wickets for 17 runs.

The accident to Paul (the Lancashire professional) in the match yesterday against Leicestershire, at Leicester, proved more serious that at first appeared, and necessitated his removal to the hospital.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 August, page 11)

In their second innings at Leicester, yesterday, the home county fared even worse than in the first on Thursday, and Lancashire won by an innings and 100 runs. This time it was Mold who did the mischief, and he bowled out six batsmen for 35 runs.

It is remarkable to record that Mold and Briggs for the second time this week bowled right through a match, and the figures of the analysis show the small cost at which they got Leicestershire twice out. Mold now shares with Richardson, of Surrey, the honour of having taken 200 wickets this summer. Lancashire finished up their season with three brilliant victories against Nottinghamshire, Middlesex and Leicestershire.

29 August: MIDDLESEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4451.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 August, page 6)

The brilliant array of amateur cricketers in the ranks of Middlesex and Kent makes the meeting of these counties particularly attractive, so that, with the beautiful summer weather prevailing, it was not surprising to find some 5,000 spectators of yesterday's cricket at Lord's.

The complete recovery of the turf from the effect of the early week's rains made the winning of the toss a thing of much advantage, and the opening hours of the day presaged a big score for Kent, upon whom had fallen the choice of first innings. But when once Alec Hearne and Mr Stewart were got rid of there was little out of the common in the Kent batting, and after luncheon their men made such poor progress against the slows of Phillips that, when the 100 had gone up without any wicket down, the whole side went for 208.

Hearne has a variety of style and, though usually a careful batsman, he can force the game vigorously. Yesterday when Mr Stewart was with him he scored at a brilliant rate. The 50 went up in 40 minutes, and the partnership for the first wicket had only lasted an hour and a quarter and had realized 101 when Mr Stewart was the first to go through playing on. He showed very good form for his 52, but was missed from a return chance by Rawlin when 28. Rawlin in endeavouring to make the catch injured his hand so badly that not only was he obliged to retire, but it is questionable whether he can play again this season. Indeed he wired to Scarborough cancelling his engagement in the Festival.

Mr Stewart's best hits were six fours, four threes and two twos. Alec Hearne was eventually sixth to go, well caught at wicket at 152. For his 70 he was batting two hours and a half. He hit six fours, four threes and four twos. Mr Mason (who went in very late), Mr Livesay and Mr Kemp rescued Kent from a collapse after the dismissal of the early batsmen, and it was after 4 o'clock when the visitors completed their innings for 208.

Middlesex did extremely well in the hour and a half that they were in, scoring 16 for one wicket. The chief merit of this performance belonged to Mr Stoddart. His skill on the leg side in placing and his powerful driving and cutting were worthy of his best form. He made 52 out of 86 in a little over the hour, and the 100 went up in 75 minutes. Mr Lucas had been bowled at 24. Mr MacGregor played strongly, and he and Mr Stoddart have so far added 92. Middlesex have certainly the stronger position.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 August, page 11)

In attaining their great position at Lord's yesterday, Middlesex were indebted to two long partnerships, each of the same value – namely, 138, and these were between Mr Stoddart and Mr MacGregor for the second wicket and Mr Webbe and Hearne for the ninth. The cricket was thoroughly appreciated by a crowd of some 6,000 spectators.

The wicket was beautifully true and the Kent bowlers could get little or no break on the ball. But the ultimate lead of Middlesex came in the end as a surprise, for, in spite of the 200 going up with only two men out, the loss of six more found the score at 274. J T Hearne proved a very able

partner for his captain.

Middlesex stood pretty well on Thursday night with their 116 for one wicket against Kent's score of 208. Mr Stoddart and Mr MacGregor, the not-outs with 68 and 37, played very soundly; but with his figures at 82 Mr Stoddart put up a ball from Martin that Mr Stewart at mid-off might have caught had he dashed for it. Then the score ran on steadily to 162, when Mr MacGregor was caught at mid-off. A two hours' partnership had yielded 138 runs. Mr Douglas stayed a long time with Mr Stoddart, but he never judged the ball well and in sundry instances was quite beaten. Meanwhile Mr Stoddart rapidly approached his 100. When 99, however, he had two very good overs from Wright, and the spectators were kept waiting for some time for the single with which the famous batsman at last got his 100. He subsequently hit out vigorously, whereas Mr Douglas took 35 minutes to get seven runs. The partnership in 50 minutes produced 50 runs.

Mr Stoddart was fifth to go, a good catch in the long field disposing of him. During the morning, in a couple of hours, he added 63 to his overnight figures, but the full period of his cricket was three hours and a half. From the very first he played excellently, and his fine innings of 131 was marked by all his best strokes; he hit 13 fours, five threes and 13 twos. This is Mr Stoddart's first three-figure score since his 100 in the Whit Monday match at Lord's.

For a long while after this there were few points of note in the Middlesex batting, and the eighth wicket went at 274. Then occurred the wonderful stand by Mr Webbe and Hearne, who kept up their ends from five minutes past 3 until ten minutes to 5, and in this hour and three-quarters they so severely punished the Kent bowling that, without giving a chance, they put on 138 runs. Both batsmen hit with fine precision, and Mr Webbe was especially good with the cut and in his play on the leg side. All kinds of changes in the bowling were tried before Mr Marchant got rid of Hearne at 412. The latter made six fours, four threes and eight twos. Mr Webbe, for the third time this week, carried out his bat, in this instance for 89. He hit remarkably well and his best hits were ten fours, eight threes and two twos.

Mr Kemp's hands were rather bad from Thursday's play, and Easby, who kept wicket, found Mr Bradley's fast bowling so difficult to take that even when standing back he gave away many byes. Middlesex batted one short in consequence of Rawlin's injured hand, but they had a fine substitute in the field in W Hearn, of Hertfordshire, one of the M.C.C. professionals.

Kent had the formidable arrears of 204 to face, and in a little over three-quarters of an hour 40 of these were hit off at the cost of A Hearne's wicket. Mr Rashleigh and Mr Mason played steadily in the last half-hour, evidently with the idea of the morrow's prospects.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 September, page 6)

The Kent eleven did not make such a good fight at Lord's on Saturday as had been expected, and early in the afternoon Middlesex won by an innings and 14 runs. Twice during the day – that was while, first, Mr Rashleigh and Mr Mason and then Mr Livesay and Wright were together – Kent promised to make a particularly good score; but after the fifth wicket had gone fortune ran very strongly in favour of Middlesex. Mr MacGregor kept wicket well and brought off four good catches.

At the beginning of the day Mr Mason and Mr Rashleigh carried the overnight score of 40 to 78, when Mr Mason was bowled. This partnership had lasted altogether about 70 minutes and 59 runs

were added. In the course of a few overs catches at the wicket disposed of both Mr Stewart and Mr Rashleigh, and with four of the best bats gone the score stood at 87.

Mr Livesay and Wright threw plenty of life into the cricket and their stand yielded 53. Mr Livesay made some very good strokes and Wright was careful in his defence. Mr Stoddart and Mr "Lydyard" [P G Thornton] went on and got these two batsmen out, and after the sixth wicket had gone at 143 Hearne soon resumed bowling. Mr Marchant seemed disposed to play cautiously, and Mr Kemp made most of the 30 added for the seventh partnership before being caught at wicket. After luncheon the end came quickly. Mr Marchant, Martin and Mr Bradley were got rid of for another 17 runs, and so Kent suffered a severe defeat.

29 August: SOMERSET v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4452.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 August, page 6)

Somerset, after beating Surrey and Yorkshire, made a good start yesterday in their last match, at Taunton, with Gloucestershire; and, although Mr Townsend's redoubtable slow bowling again accounted for seven wickets, the home side, with a score of 235, got an important lead on the day. Gloucestershire, with a wicket to go, finished 133 behind, that is with 14 still wanted to save the follow on. A large crowd witnessed the cricket.

Somerset's first two wickets (Mr Fowler and Mr L C H Palairet) went for seven runs, but then Mr Dunlop and Mr Roe, by good batting, brought about a great change in their affairs. In a little over an hour they added 94 runs. Mr Dunlop made 50 out of 87; he then slowed down and, having scored 51 out of 101, was clean bowled. He had forced the game well and had hit six fours, two threes and seven twos. Mr Roe and Mr Porch put on 49 quickly, and at luncheon the score was 150 for three wickets.

Afterwards something like a breakdown occurred, the last seven batsmen going for an addition of 85. Mr Roe was fifth out at 175 – caught at mid-off. He ran up his 71 in two hours, and his best hits were eight fours, five threes and four twos. Mr Bartlett and Nicols added 29 and they were all out for 235.

Gloucestershire in an hour and three-quarters did so badly that Tyler and Captain Hedley (backed up by good fielding) took nine wickets for 102. Dr W G Grace made 31 out of 35, when he was caught at mid-off. Mr Ferris and Mr Jessop also went at the same total. Mr Rice and Mr W G Grace, jun., put on 32 for the sixth wicket – the second best stand of the day. The seventh, eighth and ninth-wickets went at 102.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 August, page 11)

Somerset followed up their advantage of Thursday by strengthening their position at Taunton, and now have a good prospect of victory, for Gloucestershire, with five wickets to go, want 198 to win. Yesterday morning the visitors required 14 to save the follow on and had only a wicket in hand. These runs Painter and Board managed to get, and the innings closed for 122, or 113 behind.

In itself the second day's play was even; but Gloucestershire could never make up for their bad first innings. There was nothing remarkable in the second attempt of Somerset, who were all out in three hours for 199, in which Mr L C H Palairet's 68 and Mr Woods's 41 were the best things. The former went in first and was seventh to go at 140; he was at the wickets two hours and a quarter and had played steady cricket, hitting four fours, four threes and eight twos. The Somerset batting at times verged on dullness, although, as usual, Mr Woods brightened matters and got his 41 out of 68 in three-quarters of an hour, his driving being very hard.

Gloucestershire had 313 set them to win, and in an hour and three-quarters had lost half their wickets for 115. Dr W G Grace did little, being caught by Mr Newton, who ran about 30 yards to get the ball from a skier at square-leg. Three wickets went for 38. Then Messrs Ferris and Rice steadied matters and in an hour put on 61. Wrathall was the fifth to leave at 102. The weather was

fine and the company large.

3 (report from Monday 2 September, page 6)

Somerset have wound up their season in a most brilliant manner. Indeed, like many others, they seem to do better at home than elsewhere, for it was at Taunton that they defeated Sussex, Kent, Surrey, Yorkshire and Gloucestershire, thus beating five of the original leading counties in succession.

When the game was continued at Taunton, on Saturday, Gloucestershire required 198 to win and had only five wickets left with which to get them. This, of course, was a difficult task. Yet the visitors were within measurable distance of accomplishing it, as they got 140 out of the number. Messrs Ferris and Townsend (not-outs 49 and eight) resumed batting to the bowling of Tyler and Nichols. Their start was unpromising. When Mr Ferris had added only three to his overnight score he was caught at mid-on. He had been batting two hours for his 52 without giving a chance, and his chief hits were three fours, three threes and three twos.

Mr Jessop managed to put together 17, but Mr W G Grace, jun., did little, and eight wickets were down for 153. Now came a capital display of batting by Mr Townsend and Painter. The former gave a chance to Mr Dunlop at third man with his score at 30, and when 19 runs had been added by him he was missed at short leg by Mr Bartlett. He had played in a very determined manner before being caught at wicket, and had batted a little over two hours; his principal figures were six fours, four threes and four twos. Painter began quietly but then threw plenty of vigour into his hitting and ran up 47 in 70 minutes. With the downfall of his wicket the innings closed. From the complete score attached it will be see that Somerset secured a well-deserved victory by 57 runs.

29 August: SUSSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4453.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 August, page 6)

Surrey, who have found the soft wickets this month very detrimental to their fortunes, got first innings on a batsman's pitch at the Hove, Brighton, yesterday, and, staying in all day, ran up the fine score of 346 for the loss of only three men. Their play was marked rather by sound defence than by any particular brilliancy. Abel got his fifth hundred in important cricket this season, and Mr W Read after many failures at last played another long innings.

To begin with, Abel and Maurice Read obtained 90 in 75 minutes for the first partnership. Read showed vigorous form and hit eight fours, a three and three twos. Hayward then stayed with Abel while 93 were added; the former contributed six fours. Brockwell did little and the fall of the third wicket left the total at 198. An hour and three-quarters remained for play, and this time was absorbed by Abel and Mr Read, whose stand has so far yielded 148. Abel played with great steadiness and his 138 runs have taken him five hours, while Mr Read was, as usual, very strong on the leg side. About 5,000 people visited the ground.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 August, page 11)

The Surrey eleven scarcely did so well as was expected after their big day on Thursday at Brighton, for yesterday their score of 346 for three wickets was increased by only 87. Yet they still gained a strong position, and Sussex, although getting 150 up with only three men out, finished badly, inasmuch as they were 255 behind on the first innings, with two wickets left.

Naturally, the great thing in the Surrey batting was the stand of Mr W W Read and Abel for the fourth wicket, but the partnership was quickly severed yesterday, when Abel was skilfully run out by Butt, the wicket. He and Mr Read had put on 159 runs. Abel had played with his characteristic care for five hours and a quarter, and his sole error during this long time was a chance at short-slip with his figures at 97; his chief hits were 15 fours, eight threes and 15 twos. Mr W W Read was sixth out at 375. His 111 were made at a good rate, in two hours and a quarter, and he gave no chance. Yesterday the balance of Surrey's innings was got through in an hour and 40 minutes.

When Sussex went in three wickets fell for 61, after which Mr Murdoch and Mr Newham played fine cricket against the powerful Surrey bowlers and kept up their wickets for two hours. In this time 93 runs were added. Mr Newham hit three fours and three threes, and Mr Murdoch five fours and three threes. Richardson, going on near the end of this long partnership, proved so effective that he sent down six overs (one maiden) for 12 runs and four wickets. Fine weather prevailed and about 5,000 people watched the cricket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 September, page 6)

Surrey gained a decisive victory over Sussex at the Hove Ground, Brighton, on Saturday, by an innings and 44 runs. On Friday night Sussex had only two wickets in their first innings left and were 255 runs behind. On Saturday morning the innings was completed without the addition of a run, and a follow-on thus took place against the odds of 255.

In their second attempt the home side, without achieving anything remarkable, played good cricket, and Surrey had to bowl and field very keenly to get them out in time to win. Indeed, Mr Fry, Marlow, Mr Murdoch and K S Ranjitsinhji all met with success and the 100 was reached at the cost of only two men. A couple of runs later, however, Ranjitsinhji was bowled by a fine ball from Richardson. He and Mr Murdoch had put on 55 runs in 50 minutes. The Sussex captain was out directly afterwards, having stayed long enough to reach his 1,000 aggregate for the season. The record at luncheon time showed 121 for four wickets.

Subsequently Mr Newham played well, but in spite of his efforts the ninth wicket fell at 170. The match seemed as good as over. However, it took a fresh lease of life when Tate and Killick got together and in three-quarters of an hour put on 41. Then the game ended and Surrey won decisively.

29 August: YORKSHIRE v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4454.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 August, page 6)

The annual festival opened at Scarborough yesterday, when the cricketing hours were brief. A late start occurred owing to the long journey the Yorkshiremen had to make from Taunton. The club entertained the teams at luncheon and Lord Harris, who played in the M.C.C. eleven, congratulated the club on the success of the festival in the past.

Neither Mr Jackson nor Mr E Smith could play for Yorkshire, who went in first. The wicket helped the bowlers and the county, in an hour and a half before luncheon, lost five wickets for 77. Afterwards Lord Hawke played a splendid game and took out his bat for 51 out of 74 made in an hour; among his hits were a five, six fours, three threes and four twos. He has now reached his aggregate of 1,000 runs for the season. Yorkshire were all out in two hours and a half for 151.

Marylebone had an hour and 25 minutes' batting, during which they scored 124 for two wickets. The weather was windy. There was a large crowd on the ground.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 August, page 11)

At Scarborough, yesterday, in the match between M.C.C. and Yorkshire, good headway was made, in spite of the cricketing day being briefer than usual. On the previous day the county were all out for 1511 and only two M.C.C. wickets were down for 124.

The latter completed their innings by an addition of 71 – this, too, after 170 had gone up with only four men out, and the last eight altogether went down in 85 minutes. Chatterton and Davidson were together till 139 was reached, and nine wickets fell for 174. Mead missed [?] Lord Harris and the total ultimately reached 195.

Yorkshire, who were 141 behind, lost three wickets for 39, and then Moorhouse and Tunnicliffe added 29. Mead, going on a second time, did well and all the Yorkshiremen were out for 139.

Marylebone required 96 to win and lost three men for four runs. They now want 75, with seven wickets to fall. Mr C I Thornton, having injured his leg, withdrew from the match, and Mr H C King has taken his place.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 September, page 6)

Saturday's cricket in the close of the first match of the festival was brief. Overnight the M.C.C., having gone in to get 95 to win, had lost three men for 21. Any hopes of an exciting finish were soon set at rest by the vigorous stand of Davidson and Burns, who, getting together when Chatterton left at 31, hit off the runs and won the M.C.C. the match by six wickets. Davidson made five fours and Burns six. A scratch game was got up for the amusement of the company.

Monday 2 September, page 6: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are now as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	25	16	4	5	12
Lancashire	21	14	4	3	10
Yorkshire	26	14	7	5	7
Gloucestershire	16	8	6	4	2
Derbyshire	16	5	4	7	1
Warwickshire	18	6	6	6	0
Middlesex	18	6	6	6	0
Hampshire	15	6	8	1	-2
Somerset	16	5	7	4	-2
Essex	16	5	7	4	-2
Sussex	18	5	9	4	-4
Leicestershire	16	3	10	3	-7
Nottinghamshire	18	3	10	5	-7
Kent	18	3	11	4	-8

The points are secured by the deduction of losses from wins; drawn games are ignored. Lancashire v Sussex return match was abandoned.

2 September: NORTH v SOUTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4456.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 September, page 6)

A wonderful innings of 105 played in 90 minutes by Tunnicliffe of the Yorkshire eleven marked yesterday's cricket in the opening of the second match at Scarborough. Making most of his fine reach, Tunnicliffe went forward and got many of his runs by powerful driving, while in one instance he sent the ball out of the ground.

Two innings were got through with a great advantage to the North, who hold a lead of 155. Mr C I Thornton had various disappointments in getting up the South team, and with such men as Dr Grace, Mr L C H Palairet, Sir T C O'Brien, Mr C L Townsend, K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr A E Stoddart and the Surrey contingent away, the old Cambridge captain did well to secure an eleven as strong as it was. Lord Hawke was far more successful in being able to bring a very fine team of the North. A large crowd followed the play with much interest.

It was a little disappointing to see the South batting break down so badly against Peel and Davidson, who bowled unchanged and got the side out in an hour and a half for 101. To begin with, Tunnicliffe brought off two good catches at short slip which disposed of Mr Hewett and Mr Douglas, while one at extra-slip by Mr MacLaren sent back Marlow. Mr Jessop made a few hard drives; but the South could not rally, and when Burns was run out by Hirst, who threw the wicket down from leg, five men had gone for 58. Alec Hearne played steadily, in spite of which the last had been seen of the South at 1.35. Davidson was the more successful bowler.

The North quickly lost Albert Ward; but afterwards came the fine batting of Tunnicliffe. So quickly did the runs come that 50 went up in 25 minutes, and Tunnicliffe reached his own 50 with the score at 74 in half an hour. Mr MacLaren, having helped to add 88 in 40 minutes, stepped into his wicket in the act of playing to leg. Then, after Brown had gone, Lord Hawke helped Tunnicliffe to add 63. The latter got his 100 out of 157 in 80 minutes, and was at last fifth of leave at 172, having contributed 105 out of 164 in an hour and a half. He was caught in the long field by Marlow, who, leaning against the boundary, raised his hands above his head to make the catch. An appeal was made as to its fairness because of the ball's being over the boundary; but the umpire decided against the batsman. Tunnicliffe hit a six, 16 fours, two threes and six twos, and was warmly cheered as he retired. Chatterton and Davidson gave some trouble, as did Attewell and Hirst, and in the end the total reached 256.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 September, page 10)

The festival was continued yesterday, when the second match was finished, the North beating the South by eight wickets. Each side on Monday completed an innings, and the South went in yesterday a second time 155 behind.

They hit hard, but lost three wickets for 48 runs in 40 minutes. Now came a fine stand between Marlow and Burns, which produced 62 runs in half an hour. Then, at 110, Mr Hewett and Marlow added 40 more in 25 minutes. The latter was bowled just before the interval for 71, and six wickets were lost for 160, or only five runs on. Marlow had generally shown fine batting, but he ran some risks; he made his 71 out of 122 put on while he was in in 80 minutes; and among his hits were 14

fours, a three and two twos. This score caused his 1,000 runs for the season to be completed.

The innings was over soon after luncheon and the North had 35 to get for victory. At a quarter past 4 they had won as above stated.

2 September: SURREY v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4457.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 September, page 6)

Hampshire have played so much good cricket this season that their match with Surrey, which furnishes the closing event of the county season, was watched with considerable interest. It was, indeed, an undisguised compliment to their skill that such a huge crowd as 10,000 people should assemble to see their game yesterday on Kennington Oval. It cannot be said that Hampshire, getting the advantage of the first innings on a sound and true wicket, did so well as was expected, and Surrey before the end of the day got to within 19 of their score and had still eight wickets in hand.

While the game ran rather strongly in favour of the home county, the day's play was interesting. Hampshire were batting from midday until ten minutes to 4 for their score of 182. To begin with, three men went for 31. Mr A J L Hill, the old Marlborough and Cambridge batsman, by some vigorous cricket, did much to rescue his side from an insignificant position. Going in at the fall of the third wicket, he made 59 out of 85 put on while he stayed in an hour, and was sixth to leave at 116. His best hits were ten fours. Captain Quinton and Mr Hill put on 54 while they were together. In the closing stage of the innings there was some capital defence by Mr Richards, who went in fifth wicket down at 86 and was last to go.

Surrey in the last hour and three-quarters of the day made 163 runs at the cost of two batsmen. Abel left at 40, caught at short slip, Hayward, after helping to put on 55 in three-quarters of an hour, gave a return catch, and then Read and Brockwell put on 68. Maurice Read played with much of his old vigour. He got his 50 out of 100 in 70 minutes and had reached 87 at the finish. He now wants only 13 to complete his 1,000 aggregate for the season and also his first 100 this year.

Opportunity was taken to give a trial to Nice, a good bowler, rather above medium pace, who has been doing excellently in the second team. For a first appearance he did well in getting three wickets.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 September, page 10)

By playing a little beyond the hour originally arranged for drawing stumps and by going on in a smart shower Surrey and Hampshire were able to finish their match last evening at the Oval. Surrey won by an innings and 20 runs.

It was a result not wholly surprising after the way the game had gone on Monday, for the home side yesterday morning entered the field with eight wickets in hand and only 19 runs behind the Hampshire total. Surrey ran up a big lead on the innings and then their opponents, after getting 100 up with only two men gone, broke down badly before Richardson when he went on at the top end.

The early feature of the play was the superb innings of Maurice Read, who not only got his first 100 for his county this season, but ran into his four-figure aggregate. He went in first and was fourth to leave at 239, having made 131 by a fine, vigorous, forcing game, in which his play on the leg side was particularly good. His chief hits were 16 fours, five threes and eight twos. Brockwell helped Read to add 93 in 65 minutes for the third partnership.

The other good thing in the batting line for Surrey was the stand by Mr Walter Read and Street, who put on 88 in the hour that they were together. Mr Read showed capital form and had bad luck in being run out.

Hampshire, with arrears of 192, were batting a second time from 3.25 until ten minutes past 6. The innings was marked by the fine play of Mr Ward and Barton, who put on 76 for the second wicket. Barton made a few risky strokes but his general play was excellent, and he hit eight fours. When there was every prospect that Hampshire would make a fight Mr Read gave Richardson his second trial at the top end, and this was the turning point of the game. Richardson came down the slight incline at a great pace, which was made more difficult by the haze which came over the ground. How effective he was will be gathered from the fact that he got eight of the last nine wickets, and his full record showed 15 for 155 runs. Wootton and Baldwin made a plucky attempt to avert the innings defeat and put on 43 for the tenth wicket.

Until near the end of the day the weather was beautifully fine and about 10,000 people were present.

Wednesday 4 September, page 10: COUNTY CRICKET IN 1895

Such a season for batsmen as that which closed yesterday in the victory of Surrey in the championship has not been known for many years. The fine weather which set in early in May went on through June and July; August was reached before the weather changed.

Surrey's position at the head of affairs was completely merited. They did certainly have a bad time in August, before which their position seemed unassailable; but the excellence of the cricket ran right through the side and an analysis of the team showed a wonderful possession of brilliancy in batting and bowling, while their fielding was excellent.

The maintenance of the championship could be well traced to the feats of a Surrey-born man in Thomas Richardson, who learnt his cricket on Mitcham-green. Such bowling as his was scarcely before known in Surrey, and his great pace and break on the hard wickets were the things that mostly led to Surrey's position. It has often been urged that three successive seasons for a cricketer are anything but beneficial to his health; and the hard work by Lohmann in this respect through his journey to the colonies with Lord Sheffield's team was often quoted as reason for the breakdown in his cricket. But Richardson not only had a big share in Mr Stoddart's team's triumphs in the colonies, but came back to England to bowl as no one else had ever done for the county in the past.

Richardson, Mr MacLaren and Peel all did so well for their counties as to dispose of the fallacy about the exertions of three consecutive seasons accounting for the loss of form. On the other hand, it must be borne in mind that neither Mr Stoddart nor Brown wholly sustained the form of last season. Mr Stoddart, however, rather disappointed his team even in Australia by relying too much on steadiness, for Englishmen had grown to know Mr Stoddart by his powerful and quick scoring.

The position of Surrey is not gained by any overwhelming majority. They were hard pressed by Lancashire and Yorkshire, and it was only really yesterday's win over Hampshire that placed them substantially at the head of affairs, for the scheme laid down by the Marylebone Club last October provided for the championship to be guided by the proportion of points out of matches finished. So that had Surrey actually lost the game with Hampshire they would have been beaten by Lancashire for the championship by a mere fraction. A draw with Hampshire would still have given them the highest position.

Yet it was a fine fight between Surrey, Lancashire and Yorkshire, all of whom played splendidly and quite outran the other counties in the competition. The past season, of course, marks a new era in the contest for the championship. The inclusion of five new counties widened the scope of the competition; but at the same time it brought into it a less satisfactory phase, inasmuch as the equity of the counties playing each other twice was removed, and Surrey and Yorkshire stood alone in arranging a full programme of 26 matches. Still Marylebone received the loyal support of the counties in the reorganization of the competition which had practically drifted into its previous state, and Essex and Hampshire had respectively to thank Middlesex and Yorkshire for their inclusion. But cricket has its satirical moments, and the defeat of Yorkshire by both Essex and Hampshire had much to do with the deprivation of Yorkshire's chances in the competition.

As to the actual positions in the championship table of the new "leading" counties it is not easy to speak. Figures can be twisted and turned to mean many things, and it would not be easy to imagine that the fine Kent side, though at the bottom of the list, would be often beaten by Derbyshire, Warwickshire, Essex, Hampshire and Leicestershire. Apart from the harshness introduced by results it would be difficult to picture the brilliant Kent batting team worse off than the new aspiring

shires.

Derbyshire are old friends and their high position was well merited by their cricket, for both Lancashire and Surrey were only befriended by the weather in order to escape defeat.

A thing that will be dwelt on with much gratification is the rise in the fortunes of Gloucestershire, whose fourth position was excellently merited. It was going back to the great days of the Graces, and for Gloucestershire to find Dr W G Grace completely restored to his unparalleled prowess as a batsman and the champion, with the youthful Mr Townsend, whose skill and success as a bowler have been unequalled since Mr A G Steel, then fresh from Marlborough, astonished the cricket world by his break and pitch, were the chief elements in Gloucestershire's resuscitation to its old position.

Before dealing with the counties individually, attention may be drawn to the record score of Mr MacLaren in first-class cricket at Taunton, when he made 424 against Somerset, and also Lancashire's 801, the highest innings ever registered in county cricket.

SURREY

The retention of the championship by Surrey will be welcomed by all southern cricketers. The county's position has been well earned by the general excellence of their cricket. Although August proved a bad month for them, it demonstrated that the side was far from being good on anything but fast wickets. Their bad week at the Oval when Lancashire and Yorkshire beat them was quickly followed by a loss at Taunton, where the eleven played Tyler's slows very badly.

Throughout the first three months of the season Surrey played in a manner that made it courageous [even to] hazard a turn of ill fortune, and this, too, though Lockwood, one of their most effective bowlers of other years, had shown that his loss of form in Australia was not wholly caused by the glare of the atmosphere and the hardness of the Australian turf. But Surrey found in Thomas Richardson a bowler of unparalleled stamina, and his great pace and break in a third successive season had much to do with their high position. Richardson beat all county records in his great aggregate of 237 wickets and exceeded George Lohmann's previous best feats for Surrey. Richardson's triumphs after all the hard work on the colonial fast and true turf rather disposed of the idea that three consecutive seasons endanger a fast bowler's career; but Surrey would be illadvised in allowing him to put his skill to such another test. A good deal has been heard about importation assisting Surrey in her rise to the old position among the counties which she formerly held as demonstrated by the tablets in the pavilion; and it must be gratifying to the club to know that Richardson is Surrey born, coming from Byfleet, and that Mitcham village green was his nursery ground.

Lohmann's reappearance for Surrey as a bowler was very opportune, and although he found Richardson, who was just coming on when Lohmann left for Africa because of ill-health, in possession of all the chief honours, he was an excellent help to Surrey. Hayward did well, and Lockwood also took over 50 wickets. Young Smith was a little disappointing on the hard turf, and although he did fairly well and kept a good length he rather lost the spin on the ball.

It is not ungratifying to find Abel, who is becoming quite a veteran in the team, at the head of the batting averages. His steadiness and soundness in defence are completely in keeping with his reputation already acquired as the able successor of the late Harry Jupp in the team. An average of

over 50 and an aggregate of 1,787 runs in a year of his benefit are performances not often achieved by a professional.

As a matter of fact no other batsman of the side ran into a four-figure aggregate for Surrey. Street, an old Surrey name and a relative of James Street of other times, is second in the averages. Wood and Maurice Read also exceeded 30. Brockwell, to begin with, did badly, but came on well in the later matches. Mr Walter Read had a bad turn of fortune, yet he also made up some lost ground near the end of the season.

Surrey is so wealthy in young talent that it became a matter of difficulty to fill the last places in the team. Mr N F Druce, who achieved many big things on Fenner's Ground at Cambridge, found batting on the soft wickets of August difficult, and Mr Leveson-Gower, the old Wykehamist captain, and of the Oxford eleven, was also a little disappointing. Still Surrey with quite a champion second eleven should find no trouble in filling any vacancies that may occur for a long time. Mr Key captained the team well and is to be heartily congratulated on the success of his side in the championship.

LANCASHIRE

Although often sharing with Yorkshire the honour of being the most dangerous opponents of Surrey in the championship and further at the finish being well ahead of Yorkshire for second place, the Lancashire eleven were far from being wholly consistent in their cricket. And it was the occasion collapse of the batting that brought them down when they had possibilities of securing the championship.

An analysis of the side quickly demonstrates the weaknesses. To say nothing of Mr MacLaren's absence from some of the early matches through his late arrival from Australia in the first instance and, secondly, by his mastership at Harrow, there were some weak places in the batting after the first few big names were exhausted, and Briggs, too, had nothing like the success attained by him as a batsman in other years. Again, the county wanted a third good bowler, for although Mold and Briggs, with their varied styles and pace, make such a fine pair to start with, the attack was very moderate when the changes were brought on.

When these facts are borne in mind it is wonderful that Lancashire should have had altogether such a splendid season when the great batsman's wickets of May, June and July are remembered. Mr MacLaren usually captained the side, whom he kept well together, and when cricketers possess the keenness of the Lancastrians there must be a pleasure in the captaincy. Naturally a great part of the success of the county in the later matches had its foundation in the fine batting of Mr MacLaren, who followed up his Australian triumphs with Mr Stoddart's team by many great achievements. The highest, of course, was the record score of 424. This at last beat Dr W G Grace's 344, which had stood for 19 years, having been made in 1876 at Canterbury. Mr MacLaren has so many fine strokes which he practises with great power and judgment that the regret exists that he cannot find more time for cricket. But when he did play he made most of his opportunities and had the splendid aggregate of 1,162 runs for 20 innings, with an average of 58. This is a vastly different position to that of last year, when he was fifth on the list with 546 and an average of 21.

Albert Ward, like his captain, seems to have profited by his experiences on the hard Australian wickets, for he played with marked success right through the season, and even with a good deal of wet in August his average of 43 in 35 innings with an aggregate of 1,446 is a marvellous

achievement. Paul's steadiness and care helped to a higher position than last season; but neither Frank Sugg nor Baker have done quite so well under the more favourable conditions.

Of the new blood in the team Tyldesley made a great name for himself by an extremely good innings of 152 against Warwickshire. Tinsley was disappointing, and neither Mr Benton for Mr Tindall seem to possess skill enough for a big county team. The Eton captain, Mr C C Pilkington, played in a couple of matches, and although he showed much excellent style his scores were small. But Lancashire can afford to wait for him until he has developed the talent he possesses as a bowler and a batsman; and of this he will probably have an opportunity at Oxford next summer. He goes into residence in October.

Smith is an improving wicket-keeper and a useful bat, but Lancashire must often think of the late Richard Pilling and his fine art behind the stumps. Mold preserves all his pace and break in bowling, and his success on the hard wickets was phenomenal, for he took 182 at an average cost of 13 runs. Briggs's break and pitch were as good as ever, and his 119 aggregate was 22 in excess of 1894. The Lancastrians usually fielded well; and on the Oval last month, in the Surrey match, their fielding possessed almost unparalleled brilliancy, and the catches brought off by Mr MacLaren and Frank Sugg will be always memorable.

Lancashire's 14 victories were against Sussex, Leicestershire, Kent and Nottinghamshire twice each, and Yorkshire, Somerset, Gloucestershire, Middlesex, Surrey and Warwickshire. Their losses were with Surrey, Derbyshire, Warwickshire and Middlesex.

YORKSHIRE

Taken generally, Yorkshire perhaps were not so good as last year, but they were yet a splendid side, a decision that is arrived at without the slightest hesitancy.

Mr F S Jackson, to begin with, was scarcely in form; but he soon settled down to his well-known brilliant all-round game, displaying wonderful skill as a batsman at the most valuable time to his side – namely, on bad wickets, and always bowling a good length and plenty of spin. All his splendid powers, which were first seen when he was at Harrow and were afterwards developed at Cambridge, are completely preserved to him, and to show his excellence it is not unkind to the team to observe that he was generally away when disaster overtook them. Although he does not head the batting averages as last season, he has done much better than in 1894, when his average was 28 for 659 runs; but as an all-round cricketer his success has been more pronounced, for he has secured twice as many wickets.

Lord Hawke, the captain of the county eleven, has never done better for his side in batting, and although usually reserving for himself a rather late place on the "order" he generally came off. He takes fifth place in the table of batting with 24 and an aggregate of 846, whereas in 1894 he made only 197 runs, at the rate of ten an innings. Lord Hawke often forced the game with great precision at the right time, and had a big share in the fine work with which the late men going on often turned a match. Indeed, the remark became general that "Yorkshire had no tail to their side."

Among many other things that enabled Yorkshire to do so well was the improved form of Moorhouse and Tunnicliffe. The former, who was left out of the side in the early games of 1894, proved his capacity to such an extent that, aided by various not out innings, he come out first in the average. He is a batsman of wonderful resource in defence and usually had a late place in going in.

Tunnicliffe, while still a fine hitter, forsook some of his inclinations to "slog" and was more content to play a good ball. This has quickly converted him into a sounder and better cricketer with remarkable results, for his 1,167 runs with an average of 27 is a wide difference from his aggregate of 302 in 1894.

Of Brown it is more difficult to speak. May be the severity attached to three successive seasons accounted for his loss of excellence. He got 1,118 runs with an average of 26; but agreement is general that he did not play as a rule as in 1894 or as in the colonies. His splendid cut and off-drive were not so identified with his cricket as usual. Mr F Mitchell, of Cambridge, is a brilliant batsman and has a big career before him, and Denton too promises well.

With men such as these coming along Yorkshire should have little fear of the future, not that there are any veterans as yet in the eleven. But it must have been with some pangs of regret that the north countrymen viewed a decline in Wainwright's all-round play. His aggregate of wickets fell nearly 30 short of last season's; and his batting, though pretty successful, lacked some of his old style. But Robert Peel's slows and Hirst's great pace compensated for any shortcomings. It was not a little curious that these two left-hand men should each secure aggregates of 136 and 130 wickets in mostly a dry season. Besides which both rendered great service to the side in batting. Yorkshire have cause to be proud of these cricketers and to be gratified with the season's results.

Yorkshire beat Middlesex and Leicestershire twice each; and Warwickshire, Hampshire, Nottinghamshire, Essex, Sussex, Derbyshire, Somerset, Gloucestershire, Kent and Surrey once each. Their losses were from Surrey, Lancashire, Hampshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Derbyshire and Essex.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The rise of Gloucestershire to fourth place in the championship was one of the most striking features in a remarkable season. For this great improvement there were two chief causes. The first was the batting of Dr W G Grace in the opening three months of the season, and the second the bowling of young Mr C L Townsend, whose skill with the ball was such that in ten consecutive matches for the side he took over 100 wickets.

Dr Grace's early batting took the cricket world by storm; all his wonderful skill in defence and hitting, which naturally seemed declining after his lengthened career, was more than restored to him. Hundred followed hundred, and twice his scores exceeded over 200 - viz., 288 against Somerset and 257 against Kent. His 100 hundreds in first-class cricket were quickly completed and were the subject of something like universal congratulation. With his aggregate of 1,424 and an average of 50 he did better for Gloucestershire than he has done for years. When the wet of August came he was much less successful and his full figures scarcely reached the sum that May and June promised.

Mr C L Townsend's great effect as a bowler perpetuates a cricket name already dear to Gloucestershire, for he is son of Mr Frank Townsend, who for a long period was one of the county's best bats. Mr Townsend's right-hand slows with their beautiful pitch and great break – he has the skill to vary it between leg and off – secured 124 wickets at an average cost of 12 runs each, and his great feats with the ball have had no parallel since Mr A G Steel's 164 17 years ago. Mr Townsend's and Mr Jessop's presence in the Gloucestershire ranks in the last six weeks made the county a very great side, and until the last match at Taunton defeat was an unknown thing to

Gloucestershire in August.

They opened the season well with consecutive wins over Somerset, Kent and Middlesex, but then the last week in July was reached before another game was won, this being against Notts at Trentbridge. Their four August victories were against Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, Sussex and Yorkshire. They were six times beaten – by Sussex, Surrey, Warwickshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Somerset. The greatest victory was in the Kent match at Gravesend, when, going in against 470, they scored 443; Kent were out a second time for 76 and Gloucestershire won by nine wickets. This was something like a record game for the amount of brilliant incident possessed by it.

DERBYSHIRE

The county of the Peak, who at one time were able to hold their own against any of the leading shires, had bad fortune last season. Rain interfered with them on three occasions in particular — when they met Surrey at Kennington Oval, Leicestershire at Leicester and again in their match against Lancashire at Manchester. On these occasions it seemed probable that they would have been victorious, but the matches had to be drawn. Out of 16 games they managed to win five and only lost four, while seven were drawn. Their most meritorious wins were against Yorkshire and Lancashire last month.

Bagshaw heads the batting with an average of 30.11 for 25 innings. Chatterton comes second with 29.4; W Storer third, 28.2; Davidson fourth, 26.17; and Mr S H Evershed, 26. Indeed, that such a strong batting side – who possess, perhaps, the best wicket-keeper we have – should not have been more successful is surprising.

Davidson, who batted so well, also carried off the bowling honours, having taken 89 wickets for 15.62, which ranks him as the most prominent member of the eleven. Bennett, who only bowled 261 overs and a ball, came second with 29 wickets for 16.1; and Porter third with 700 overs and three balls, 70 wickets, for an average of 18.13 runs.

MIDDLESEX

With so much brilliant talent in their ranks it is surprising that a batsman's year should not have found Middlesex in a higher position than that occupied by them. The secret of the ill-fortune that often overtook them might be found in their shortness of bowling on the hard wickets and in Mr Stoddart's playing with less success than was looked for.

The hard work entailed on J T Hearne told its tale as the season progressed, and if his length remained good he lost some of the spin. This remark applies equally to Rawlin, who met with an accident to his hand in the last match at Lord's. Phillips might have been bowled more when he did play, but during the summer he, too, was incapacitated by an injury sustained at the nets. Mr Wells played in some of the later matches and was an aid to the bowling, while Mr Stoddart also came in useful as a change.

Sir T C O'Brien played extremely well and his position at the head of the averages is thoroughly merited. Another cause for gratification to the county was the success of their captain, whose excellent form in the last match helped them to finish with a decisive win over Kent. Mr R S Lucas was very unsuccessful, but Mr MacGregor, taking a higher place on the "order," played very good

cricket and often showed something like his old Cambridge form. As a wicket-keeper Mr MacGregor quite sustained his reputation and on his day he has no equal in this position. Unfortunately, his absence in one or two instances made a great difference to his side. Mr G F Vernon in the early contests got a lot of runs for the county.

The 18 matches which made up the programme were equally divided among wins, losses and drawn games. Middlesex beat Nottinghamshire and Kent each twice and Lancashire and Essex once, and their losses were sustained from Surrey, Lancashire, Gloucestershire and Sussex (once) and Yorkshire (twice). They had the better of the drawn game with Surrey on the Oval.

Saturday 7 September, page 7: COUNTY CRICKET IN 1895

Mr Arthur J Herbert draws attention to an error that accidentally crept into the introduction to the Middlesex tables. It should have been stated that Surrey had the better of the drawn game with Middlesex at the Oval, for they had gone in to get 386 and had scored 303 for the loss of only four wickets.

WARWICKSHIRE

Warwickshire possessed a very good side and secured a record precisely similar to that of Middlesex. At times their batting was apt to grow dull and their bowlers in the hard wickets, like those of other counties, were more expensive than in 1894. Mr Bainbridge, Walter Quaife and Lilley all exceeded the 1,000 aggregate; but perhaps the most remarkable thing in this connexion was the play of Lilley, whose brilliant batting is only excelled by his fine abilities as a wicket-keeper. Pallett and Santall did most of the bowling, but Mr Glover and Whitehead also greatly helped.

Warwickshire did not win a match until late in June, when they beat Gloucestershire, and their subsequent wins were over Essex, Lancashire, Hampshire (twice) and Leicestershire. They lost to Surrey on the Oval, Lancashire, Kent, Derbyshire, Gloucestershire and Yorkshire.

ESSEX

Essex began the season in a most disheartening manner. Having drawn their first engagement with Warwickshire, they were thoroughly beaten by Surrey at the Oval, and then by Middlesex and Leicestershire. Their supporters took heart, however, when they managed to beat Somerset at Leyton by two wickets, and a far greater feat was performed by them when they played the return match at Taunton in the early part of July.

Going in second, they amassed the heavy total of 692. Three of their batsmen were well past the century, and one of them (Russell) got within a single of it. The first honours below to Carpenter, who carried his bat throughout the innings and was top scorer with 157. Then came Mr M'Gahey with 147 and Mr Lucas with 135. Essex won this match easily by an innings and 317 runs.

Their greatest achievement, however, was accomplished quite recently at Harrogate, and was a feat of which any county might well be proud. Yorkshire, who at one time looked very much like winning, had only 136 set them in their fourth innings of the match, but this number they could not

get and lost by 16 runs. A few years back it would have seemed incredible for such a county as Essex to beat a powerful Yorkshire team.

Carpenter and Mr M'Gahey batted well for their county and the former heads their averages, while Mr M'Gahey obtained an average in 29 innings of 26.1. Far too little was seen of that accomplished bat, Mr A P Lucas, but when he did appear it was to some purpose, for it will be seen that in the six innings played by him he averaged 29. Mr A S Johnstone was another batsman whom one would wish to see oftener playing for the county. Burns comes out well, as does Russell. Both played 27 innings and each has an average of 16.

Mead, medium pace, bowled nearly twice as many overs as any other member of the team and comes first in the averages with 15.96, a very fine performance, especially when in is borne in mind that he had to bear the brunt of the attack; Mr C J Kortright, who bowled 430 overs, comes second with 15.65; and Pickett third. The county engaged in 16 matches – won 5, lost 7 and 4 were drawn.

SOMERSET

However disastrous in the early part of the season, Somerset finished in very brilliant style with five splendid wins on the Taunton Ground against Sussex, Kent, Surrey, Yorkshire and Gloucestershire. A great element in their success was the batting of Mr L C H Palairet, the old Oxford captain, and the slow bowling of Tyler, while Mr S M J Woods as usual set his side a fine example by his keenness in the field and his useful all-round play.

The late victories were especially relished, coming as they did after a good deal of misfortune, during which the Somerset public began to tire of attending the headquarters of the club. But of course everything was enthusiasm at the finish, the wins against the two great sides of Surrey and Yorkshire being especially well received. The renewal of the Hampshire fixtures increased Somerset's programme to 18 matches, but the return with Lancashire fell through owing to bad weather. Previous to their victorious spell in August the county only secured one win, and that was in July over Hampshire. They were defeated by Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Surrey, Essex (twice), Lancashire, Yorkshire and Kent.

Mr L C H Palairet, although missing some of the matches, has the fine aggregate of 1,159 runs, with an average of 46, and Mr Woods is second with 31. Next to Tyler, Mr Woods and Captain Hedley did most of the bowling, and Nichols, too, did some useful work. The county were handicapped in not always having the services of one of their wicket-keepers – Mr Newton and Mr Wickham.

HAMPSHIRE

The county that can boast of being the birthplace of cricket is amongst those of the five that have been admitted to the rank of first-class. Their record for the season gives them the tenth place. They engaged in 16 matches, of which they won six and lost nine, while only one was drawn.

They began well by winning a good game against Somerset at Taunton by 11 runs. This they followed up by an easy win over [Derbyshire at] Southampton by an innings and 79 runs. Their four other victories were against Essex at Southampton, Leicestershire at Leicester, Yorkshire at Sheffield and Leicestershire at Portsmouth.

Batting was their strong point. In this section of the game Mr R A Studd has the best average – 34.2; but he only played four innings. The virtual head, therefore, is Captain Quinton, who in 20 innings got an average of 26.7. He and Mr A J L Hill (average, 23.13), Barton, Captain Wynyard, Mr Ward and Dr Russell Bencraft all batted exceedingly well.

Baldwin comes at the head of the bowling, having taken 102 wickets at a cost of 16.12, while Soar is second with 89 for 18.6 each.

SUSSEX

The southern county acquired this season the services of the most valuable cricketer in K S Ranjitsinhji, and with the assistance of many other good batsmen, not the least among them Mr W L Murdoch, they should have given a far better record than that which they have rendered.

As it is they only had five wins out of 18 matches. Nine they have lost and the other four were drawn. Their victories were over Gloucestershire at Brighton, Kent at Catford-bridge, Middlesex at Lord's, Hampshire at Southampton and Kent at Brighton. The most creditable of these was that against Kent at Catford-bridge. Sussex, who were 178 behind at the close of an innings each, followed on, and ultimately won the match by 45 runs.

K S Ranjitsinhji easily heads the batting averages with 41.11 for 34 innings, and Mr G Brann comes second with 27.1; Mr W Newham, third, 23.27; and Mr C B Fry, 21.14. Of the bowlers, Mr J C Hartley comes out first, but he only went on for 65 overs and one ball for 12 wickets. The real head of the bowlers was Tate, who did a lot of hard work during the season and bowled as many as 715 overs and two balls, and took 82 wickets at an average of 19.41. Butt kept wicket in a very plucky style.

LEICESTERSHIRE

After starting splendidly with a victory over Surrey on the Oval the Leicestershire eleven did so badly as only to win two other matches (Nottinghamshire and Lancashire) in the season. After May they did not gain a single success, so that their record of three wins, ten losses and three drawn games is not particularly good for them in the first season of participation in the championship.

Mr de Trafford did not get as many runs as were expected on the fine, true wickets. Tomlin did pretty well and played one very fine innings of 100 on the Oval against Surrey, while Pougher, both in bowling and batting, worked very hard for the side. Indeed, Pougher since he slackened his pace has proved a much better bowler. Woodcock was of great service to the side, but he sacrifices his pitch to his pace and is often of no particular kind of length.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The evil times that have overtaken Nottinghamshire can be for the most part traced to the deterioration of their bowling, an art which used to be credited to Nottingham with its famous little cricket villages above all other counties.

Cricket history shows that fortune in the national game is as fickle as in other things, and counties

with a great past have, as their men in whom the genius of the side was wrapped up have gone, fallen into insignificance for a few seasons. No better instance of this could be furnished than that of Surrey, who in the early eighties were in a bad way, and were helped to rise again by cricket not native to the county, for Lockwood, Sharpe, Beaumont and Bowley were good cricketers before residence gave them a qualification for Surrey.

It is through a stage of this nature that Notts are now passing. They have at present only one bowler worthy the name, and he is Attewell, who has done his best on the hard wickets for his side. Flowers has found the fast turf unsuited to him, and the youngsters are only of a moderate class. Hardstaff, who actually heads the bowling, has a peculiar style of delivery, but there is not much sting in him, and neither Wilkinson nor Handford has come up to expectation.

In batting the team often did pretty well. Shrewsbury's reappearance was a great help to the side; but Gunn was not himself and was further troubled by bad health. And then apart from Mr Jones, Mr Dixon and Flowers there was not much class about the batting. Pike, who gave early promise of good wicket-keeping, lost his form and dropped out of the side, so that, in the circumstances, the county might have done worse than fall back on Sherwin, whose keenness, vigour and courage would have done the side much credit.

As it was, the general play of Nottinghamshire lacked brightness and the attendances at Trentbridge, which much improved early in the season, fell away near the close. The only remedy for the Nottinghamshire eleven is a good influx of new blood. Such a bad season as the team had is probably without a parallel in the annals of the county. Three wins (two against Sussex and one against Leicestershire) marked the record, while double defeats were sustained from Middlesex, Lancashire and Gloucestershire, and one each from Surrey, Yorkshire, Kent and Leicestershire. They made 726 in the first of the Sussex games at Trent-bridge, establishing a county record, that was subsequently beaten by Lancashire at Taunton.

KENT

With the really powerful batting team possessed by Kent it is almost astounding to find them absolutely at the bottom of the list. That a county which has such a history and is so closely identified with cricket should be in such a position seems impossible. They engaged in 18 matches, and of these they won three (against Nottinghamshire, Somerset and Warwickshire). Their losses are heavier than those of any other county – viz., 11 – while four games were drawn.

Alec Hearne heads the batting with an average of 28.7 for 33 innings. He with Mr J R Mason, in such a batting season, are the only two in the team who attained the dignity of reaching the century. Mr Mason's average for 33 innings is 26.1. Mr Marchant, who managed to take part in 31 innings, averaged 21.17; but the Rev W Rashleigh could only bat in nine innings, yet in these he managed to get an average of 25.2. Mr W H Patterson played ten innings for 23.6.

To Alec Hearne also belongs the first place in the bowling, as he took 66 wickets for an average of 20 in 703 overs and two balls. Martin, who bowled nearly 300 more overs, comes close to him with 64 wickets at an average cost of 25.58, while Wright is second on the list with 51 wickets, average 24.4, in 632 overs and one ball.

The home matches were, as usual, well distributed over the county, and it would be probably better if they could get one or two settled abodes. As it was, they played on six different grounds in Kent

 $-\ viz.,\ Gravesend,\ Tonbridge,\ Maidstone,\ Catford-bridge,\ Blackheath\ and\ Canterbury.$

5 September: SOUTH v NORTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4459.html)

Thursday 5 September, page 6: THE HASTINGS FESTIVAL

The annual festival which has been such a marked success in other years opens to-day at Hastings with the time-honoured fixture of North v South, the more attractive game between Mr Stoddart's Australian team and the Rest of England being reserved for the second part of the festival. To-day the sides will be as follows . . .

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 September, page 5)

The Hastings executive fell back upon the old-fashioned fixture of North v South for the first partnership of their annual festival. Difficulties present themselves at this late period of the season in getting together anything like representative elevens; but the committee did well, and although Mr Walter Read was unable to appear at the eleventh hour a substitute was found in George Hearne.

But the names that attracted the large crowd on the Hastings ground yesterday were many. Dr W G Grace, Mr A E Stoddart and Shrewsbury had a part in the match, and Mr C L Townsend also found a place. Abel and Richardson, too, of Surrey, appeared in the ranks of the South.

It proved an entertaining day's cricket. The South put together a good score. A little of Dr Grace's skill was seen, and much more of Mr Stoddart's, while Abel and Mr Townsend played soundly. With Richardson's bowling out Shrewsbury and Albert Ward near the end the home side were left with the better position. Splendid weather prevailed and the crowd was the largest seen on a first day at Hastings.

The South were batting from a little after noon until a quarter to 5, and their score of 226 was made against a lot of good bowling. Dr Grace and Mr Stoddart started brightly, and a drive by the former out of the ground from Briggs delighted the crowd. Fifty-four were made at a very fast rate before Dr Grace was caught at wicket, and then Abel and Mr Stoddart carried the score to 108. The public did not overlook the fact that Abel ran to his 2,000 aggregate for the season, while Mr Stoddart had a hearty reception on his way back. He had been bowled in attempting to drive. His cricket was generally good. He was in an hour and 40 minutes for his 68, in which were seven fours, two threes and seven twos. Brockwell did not do much, and the figures were at luncheon time 121 for three wickets.

Abel and Mr Townsend played steadily and well, and the former was fourth to go at 143. The only other stand of note was by Mr Townsend and Lockwood, who added 47 for the sixth wicket. There was little merit in the rest of the batting. Abel and Mr Townsend were both out to catches in the slips. Lilley kept wicket well.

With the light on the decline and shadows thrown across the ground, the North batsmen found Richardson's great pace very trying. Shrewsbury was bowled middle stump and Ward off stump.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 September, page 7)

A great innings by Dr Grace and the partnership between him and Mr Stoddart for the first wicket in the South second innings were the features of yesterday's cricket in the Hastings Festival. Dr Grace played well and obtained his ninth hundred of the season. Dr Grace and Mr Stoddart had no easy bowling to play, and if their defence was at times a patient one, it was solely because the attack was strong. The weather was good and the attendance large.

Chatterton and Davidson met the bowling of Richardson and Mr Townsend very well; but at 55 Chatterton gave the Surrey fast bowler a return catch, and 13 runs later Davidson put up a ball to mid-off. Lilley and Denton played an attractive game and the last-named, amid some cheers, ran into his 1,000 aggregate for the season. Seventy-three were added in 40 minutes, when Lilley was bowled by a fast ball from Richardson. Mr de Trafford and Denton hit vigorously. Mr Townsend secured his first wicket by getting the former caught one hand at short slip.

Eight wickets were down for 150; but Denton and Pougher did well, and finally the innings closed for 206. Between 11.35 and 1.20 the last eight wickets went for 179 runs. Denton secured his 62 in 70 minutes, and his chief hits were 11 fours, two threes and two twos. Richardson bowled well, getting seven men out for 75 runs. The North finished 20 runs short of the South.

In the second innings of the South Dr Grace and Mr Stoddart scored 150 runs in less than a couple of hours. They played the bowling carefully at first; but when set they forced the game well and there was much fine driving. The 100 were obtained in 85 minutes, but at 150 Mr Stoddart was well caught at long-on. In his 71 were ten fours, three threes and four twos. Subsequently Dr Grace continued to do well, and from the last ball of the day he ran to his 100, having been in about three hours. He gave a chance in the slips to Mr Wright when he had made 35, but apart from this error the Gloucestershire captain played with all his old excellence. At the drawing of stumps the South were 212 ahead with eight wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 September, page 4)

With the wicket made treacherous by the rain of Friday night, Dr W G Grace took an early opportunity on Saturday of closing the South innings and giving the home side ample time in which to win, and the North were beaten by 109 runs. The Gloucestershire captain, by his 100 of the previous afternoon, had helped to place his team in the commanding position they held on the third morning, when, with eight wickets left, they were 212 ahead.

The day possessed several points of great interest, and the best of these was the batting of the skilful Warwickshire cricketer Lilley, who has grown famous by his share in the rise of his county's fortunes. His fine play on Saturday came at a time when the side were going to pieces, and his powerful driving brought back life to a losing fight. Lilley was especially severe on Richardson, whose four wickets cost over 20 runs each. Still, the great Surrey bowler, by his 11 in the match, brought his season's aggregate to 279, a record that is unparalleled in cricket.

In the early part of Saturday the people, who had arrived in the hope of seeing a good deal more of Dr Grace, must have been a little disappointed by the speedy completion of the champion's innings. He added only four more runs to his overnight figures and then gave mid-on a catch. In this 104, which had extended through three hours, there were seen the fine judgment in placing and the powerful driving that invariably mark Dr Grace's play; his best hits were 15 fours, five threes and four twos. A little steadiness by Mr Townsend and a few good hits by Mr Woods were other notable things that preceded the closing of the South innings with the score at 255 for six wickets.

With three hours left for play, the North went in to get 276 to win. The bad start presaged an early end. Four wickets fell in half an hour for 15 runs and, although things soon slightly improved, the score was only 72 when the seventh wicket went. Then came the good batting of Lilley. The spectators were delighted with his fine driving and the steady support given him by Mr Wright. This eighth partnership yielded 81, and then Mr Wright left, while at 162 Lilley was bowled. He took only 80 minutes to get his 75, in which were 14 fours and three threes. After this the finish came quickly, and the South were left with a victory by 109 runs.

5 September: A YORKSHIRE XI v ENGLAND ELEVEN

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4460.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 September, page 5)

The withdrawal of Mr H T Hewett from the England side, which he had undertaken to captain, at Scarborough, yesterday, through the abuse of the crowd, was a disagreeable incident to mark the opening of the last event of the festival. Yesterday the crowd levelled their abuse at Mr Hewett when he came out with the England team after the game had been delayed by the rain, which, starting in the early hours, had gone on until 11 o'clock. A shower was still falling when the England team took the field at half-past 1. Lord Hawke threatened to withdraw the Yorkshire eleven unless the public desisted from their behaviour. Mr Hewett fielded until a substitute was found, and then withdrew from the game as a protest against the action of the crowd.

On the wicket, which was slow and false, a great deal of progress was made. In 25 minutes before luncheon Yorkshire scored 35 for two wickets, and afterwards the side was out for 80, the innings lasting only an hour and a quarter. Tunnicliffe alone made much headway and, going in first, he was eighth out at 76. Mead and Hearne bowled splendidly and had fine analyses.

When the England team went in Mr MacLaren made 24 of the first 29, and afterwards Alec Hearne played so steadily that 50 was reached with only two men out. Another 71 saw the completion of the innings. Hearne was the last to go for a well-played 44, made in an hour and three-quarters. In the end the England team secured a lead of 41.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 September, page 7)

The Yorkshire county team experienced a sharp defeat in the last of the Scarborough matches yesterday, when the England side won by nine wickets. After the small scoring of Thursday and with the pitch cut up, there was little chance that the second day would furnish improved conditions for the batsmen, but even the expectations founded on these grounds did not prevent surprise at the collapse of the county before the bowling of Mr F R Spofforth, who does not often afford the public an opportunity of seeing him away from the Hampstead Club, and Walter Mead.

Yorkshire, who began the morning with arrears of 41, lost six wickets in three and a quarter hours for 39 runs. Among the things that conduced to this position was the beautiful catch at short slip that got rid of Wainwright. Some subsequent mistakes in the English fielding helped Yorkshire to get to 82. Mounsey and Haigh hit vigorously. But the innings was got through in 80 minutes.

The England team wanted only 42 to win, and Mr Jones played so well that these runs were speedily obtained, the game being continued into the ordinary luncheon hour in order to finish it. Mead took 11 wickets in the match for 67 runs. The turf was soft and treacherous.

9 September: A E STODDART'S XI v THE REST

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4460.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 September, page 4)

It might have been wished by the more strictly earnest element of English cricket society that the match between Mr Stoddart's team, which acquitted themselves so well in the colonies, and the Rest of England had been less delayed, so as not to be absolutely the last first-class fixture of the season and a part of the closing festivals. Perhaps Lord's or the Oval at an earlier period of the season would have been looked for as the place for a more genuine trial of the merits of such a match, as, although the festivals are pretty well preserved in the observation of correct cricket rules, the element of holiday cricket is not wholly kept out, for with the shortening of the days and the heavy dews the hours of play must of necessity be rather limited.

But the last fixture of the Hastings festival gathered to itself an importance not unmerited by its title, and as the day went Mr Stoddart's men held out promises of success over the Rest of England. The innings of the captain and Peel and the bowling of Mold and Mr Woods furnished the chief points in a thoroughly enjoyable day's play, which took place under the best conditions the weather could well afford.

As in the colonies, for the most part, Mr Stoddart left out Mr Gay and Humphreys, while the English eleven, though splendidly strong, scarcely reached the strength that the most scrupulous examiner of the season's merits would have expected. Such names as K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr L C H Palairet were absent from the list of the England side. In the last hour the fine batsmen of the England team had a bad time against Richardson. Still the play was full of interest, and the advantageous position of Mr Stoddart's team was not always likely. The partnership of Mr Stoddart and Peel was one of the turning points of the first day's game.

With the advantage of first innings and the wicket good, it was thought that Mr Stoddart's side would obtain a big score. Albert Ward and Brockwell made a bright beginning and 49 were put on in half an hour before Brockwell fell to a catch at short-slip. Ten runs later both Ward and Mr MacLaren were out, the latter going first ball. Brown and Mr Stoddart, however, played fine cricket and caused various changes in the bowling, and Mr Townsend, who had originally begun it, had another spell without success. However, at 97 Brown was skilfully caught at extra-slip.

Then came the stand by Mr Stoddart and Peel, who in the course of 70 minutes added 89 runs. Mr Stoddart was fifth to go at 186, caught by the wicket-keeper. His 55 was one of his best innings, extending over an hour and three-quarters and including seven fours, three threes and two twos. The bowlers after this got the upper hand and the last five wickets went in half an hour for an addition of 31 runs. Peel had a share of good fortune, for Dr Grace missed him at point at 25, and at 41 he escaped at wicket.

When the Rest of England went in Richardson bowled with effect. Dr Grace played hard on and Abel was out in the same way, while Davidson had his middle stump bowled down . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 11 September, page 8)

The splendid batting of Mr Walter Read and Mr S M J Woods at Hastings, yesterday, completely

rescued the England team from the bad position into which they had fallen on Monday night. With only four wickets left Mr Stoddart's team are only 117 runs ahead.

Good batting was certainly the great feature of yesterday's play, for after the labours of Mr Read and Mr Woods were done there was seen in Mr Stoddart's play a style and a vigour that the spectators had too often to lament the absence of at other times this season. Mr Stoddart in the closing matches has been something like himself and his cricket during this festival has been completely worthy of him.

Fortune fluctuated during the day. England, with four wickets down for 49, were in a position of having to fight a stern uphill game, and when Lilley, one of the not-outs, was beaten and bowled by a fast ball from Richardson at 57 the prospect became worse. Mr Woods, who joined Mr W W Read, then began to hit out in that dashing manner which characterizes all his cricket. His driving and general forward play were very fine and he timed the ball well. He got 50 in 40 minutes, and although he gave half a chance to Lockwood on the boundary and was missed by Brockwell in the slips, his batting held the attention of the crowd. But Lockwood, who was first change to Peel at 134, at last got Mr Woods caught at mid-on. He had made 67 out of 95 in 50 minutes. His best hits were ten fours, three threes and five twos.

Mr Townsend played carefully but Mr Read hit hard. The last-named at 34 might have been caught at wicket. Still, he played very finely and was as usual strong on the leg side, some of his pulls being quite daring. Mr Townsend, after contributing one out of 24, was caught at mid-on. Subsequently Pougher was out and the luncheon total of 220 for eight wickets was not improved upon. Mr Read, who was caught at wicket, played finely for his 76. He stayed two hours and a quarter and hit ten fours. It was a splendid match, for Mr Stoddart's team were only three runs behind on the innings. Richardson bowled well and his six wickets for 99 runs was a big performance.

Mr Stoddart's eleven started badly in the second innings. Mr MacLaren, who had failed completely on Monday, made only seven before playing on, and at 27 Ward fell to a catch at wicket. Brockwell and Mr Stoddart, however, played splendidly, the latter being especially good in driving. There were plenty of changes in the bowling, and the dismissal of Brockwell and Brown made four wickets down for 89. Mr Stoddart still hit hard and had passed his 50 when Mold got through and hit his leg stump. His was a fine innings in which were ten fours and three threes. After Peel had played on at 120 the umpires ruled that the light was too indifferent for cricket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 September, page 5)

Cricket kept up its characteristic for uncertainty in the closing day of the festival at Hastings. From the turn things had taken on Tuesday afternoon there could not have been many people who would have readily prophesied the success of the team that so distinguished themselves in Australia. For here were their six presumably best men gone in the second innings with a lead of only 117. But yesterday the outcome of great batting, bowling and fielding feats by the members of Mr Stoddart's team culminated in the defeat of the Rest of England by 218 runs.

The turning point of the game was the long partnership of Mr Ford and Lockwood, and this was of such profit that without losing another wicket since Tuesday, Mr Stoddart declared his innings at an end by the time luncheon was reached. There have not been many finer pieces of hitting on the Hastings ground than that of yesterday by Mr Ford and Lockwood. Mr Ford yesterday batted in a

way that did credit to his name. Lockwood's cricket showed that his loss of form had been only temporarily, at least as concerns his batting.

It was disappointing to see Dr Grace fail to reach double figures; but any batting side might have broken down before the bowling and fielding as shown by Mr Stoddart's team. Richardson as usual had a lion's share of the wickets in the match. Mr Stoddart's men thoroughly deserved their victory. To the end the Hastings festival had its characteristically good weather and the large crowd yesterday watched with interest the closing work of one of the most successful meetings.

The Anglo-Australian team stood in the morning rather badly, as they were only 120 runs in the second innings with six wickets down. However, a great change was wrought in the game between 20 minutes to 12 and 2 o'clock. Mr Ford, the not-out overnight with four, was joined by Lockwood, and the batsmen played a great game on the slow turf. Pougher, who started the bowling with Mold, had a chance missed off him by Lilley at wicket, and Mr Ford, who then escaped, had at the time scored only nine. Lockwood was missed by Shrewsbury at third man with his figures at 17. All the other cricket was excellence itself. Mr Ford's driving was very powerful and when once the men were set the changes at the command of Dr Grace were of no effect. Mr Woods, owing to a strain, was unable to bowl, while Mr Ford was very severe on Mr Townsend.

At luncheon Mr Stoddart closed the innings, the score standing at 289 for six wickets; 169 had been put on during the morning. Mr Ford's 111 were made in two hours and 25 minutes by 13 fours, three threes, five twos and singles. Lockwood hit five fours, three threes and five twos.

The England team had to keep up their ends for two hours and three-quarters or make 286 to avoid defeat. But the bowling and fielding of Mr Stoddart's team turned the Rest of England's second spell at the wickets into one solely of disaster. Brown made some splendid catches at point and the other fieldsmen were good in a less degree. Dr Grace made eight out of ten before being caught at extra slip, and this was the beginning of the procession. The whole side was out in an hour and three-quarters, Richardson and Peel bowling unchanged, and Mr Stoddart's team won by 218 runs.

Thursday 12 September, page 5: THE CLOSE OF THE SEASON

The great batsman's season of 1895 came to an end yesterday with the remarkable cricket in the closing day of the Hastings Festival. There is a holiday game for the latter part of this week at Reigate, in which the sides will be captained by Dr W G Grace and Mr Walter Read, but this fixture, which is repeated for the third year, is outside the pale of first-class cricket. Any chance it had of reaching the higher standard was thrown away when a substitute was allowed to bowl.

The M.C.C. has, however, of late been rather more liberal in its views of the first-class standard than were those who formerly held sway, and Dublin University have crept into the list. Trinity College, Dublin, has some very good cricketers, notably Mr L H Gwynn, whom the Surrey executive chose to appear for the Gentlemen at the Oval, but, although he is a fine bat, his small number of innings scarcely justifies the high place at the top of the list with Mr MacLaren and Dr Grace, and his figures are therefore placed at the end of the batting tables.

In this wonderful season for batsmen it is not surprising to find unusual aggregates. It has been a great fight for first place between Dr Grace, K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr MacLaren, and another ten runs at Hastings yesterday would have placed the champion in front of Mr MacLaren by a fractional advantage. But apart from actual averages it has been Grace's year. Through May, June and July he maintained a position that promised to eclipse anything previously done by him in his 30 years of first-class cricket. But even the "hero of a hundred centuries" found a wet August full of sorrows. A number of small scores rapidly reduced his average, and the prospects of his beating his previous best aggregate faded away some time ago.

His season has nevertheless been remarkable. His average is the second best since 1876, while his total of 2,346 has only twice before been exceeded by him – in 1871, when he made 2,739, and in 1876, when he ran to 2,622. His batting showed all his old powers of placing and most of his former vigour; but naturally he has lost some of his elasticity in the field and cannot get down to the ground-fielding as of old. Everyone will be ready to congratulate Dr Grace on his splendid position, which contrasts with his 16th place last year, with 1,293 runs and an average of 29.

As it is, Mr MacLaren only beats him by a fraction; but the old Harrow boy, with his fine aggregate of 1,229 for just half as many innings as Dr Grace played, merits his place. Mr MacLaren as a schoolboy impressed every one by his style, and his career with Mr Stoddart's eleven in Australia on the hard wickets of the colonies more than confirmed the expectations of his school and county play.

The tables given below teem with excellence; and it is questionable whether such a list ever existed before. Twenty-eight players have run into four-figure aggregates. Dr Grace is the best, and the steady-going Abel is the only other man to get to 2,000. One of the features of the figures is the record of K S Ranjitsinhji, whose brilliant finish and power of hitting secured for him the admiration of some of the best judges at Lord's, where he played several very fine innings. Mr L C H Palairet maintains his fine cricket which he developed at Oxford; but Mr Stoddart, although doing better than last year, has not done so well as might have been expected from the season's opportunities.

The increased number of first-class matches, apart from the rise of Hampshire to the chief rank, have all helped to swell the aggregates, so that comparison with some other years is out of place. The wickets generally were hard and true; but those at Lord's were occasionally fiery, and the Oval, too, was not altogether so good as might have been expected. The absence of rain in the early

months was a source of great anxiety to ground men, and with cricket almost every day at Lord's the turf at headquarters had absolutely no rest.

In bowling the great thing of the season has been the work of Richardson, of Surrey. No other player in purely English cricket ever secured 290 wickets, and it says much for Richardson's pace and skill that he should have established something like a record in a year when most men were, during the early months, engaged in heart-breaking tasks on the true turf. Mr C T B Turner in one of the Australian tours took some 300 wickets, but he had more favourable conditions.

Richardson does not head the averages; but apart from the actual numerical position it is not a very difficult matter to estimate the proper value of the aggregate of wickets and the average. Young Mr Townsend startled the cricket world by his right-hand slows, with their great break, on the slow August wickets; but Richardson was bowling hard and well right through the season. Arthur Mold, of Lancashire, also did splendidly, and is the only bowler after Richardson who got over 200 wickets. The medium pace of Mead secures the young Essex professional a high place in the tables, and Lohmann, Peel, Baldwin (of Hampshire) and Briggs, with many others, all come out well.

The averages given below are compiled from the University, county, the leading M.C.C. matches, and such games as North v South, Gentlemen v Players and Mr Stoddart's team v Rest of England. Dr Grace, it may be noted, made nine three-figure innings, and Abel was next to him with five.

[Note: these first-class averages for the season can be found from: http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/1895_ENG.html]

12 September: W G GRACE'S XI v W W READ'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/209/209562.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 September, page 7)

This match began at Reigate yesterday. There was much delay in the composition of the elevens, and the order of batting was settled by the drawing of lots, which brought about the position of Richardson going in first and Dr Grace sixth wicket down. The game began at ten minutes past 1 and stumps were drawn at 20 minutes past 5.

The festival seemed to secure a wide measure of support, a fact that was testified by the large company yesterday assembled on the ground of the Priory Club. Little need be written of the play. Mr Murdoch and Abel showed a measured defence; but for the most part the men went in for hitting. In three hours and a quarter Dr Grace's side scored 254 at a cost of nine wickets. Mr Murdoch and Abel put on 67 for the second wicket; but seven men were out for 178. Then in 35 minutes Mr Brann showed the retention of all his fine batting abilities by making 51 out of 66; thrice he drove Peel out of the ground, getting six each for the hits, while he also obtained two fours, a three and six twos. Before this Mr MacLaren made one very fine drive out of the ground, while Dr Grace was taken in the long field from a big hit.

For Mr Read's team Brockwell bowled unchanged from one end, while the duties at the other were shared by Peel and Mr Harrower, the latter of whom had kept wicket before Mr A F Clarke arrived. To-day the cricket will begin at half-past 11.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 September, page 7)

The Priory Ground at Reigate was visited by a large and enthusiastic company to witness the holiday match between these teams. Mr Wright and Mr Toller added 40 runs for the last wicket of Dr Grace's team, and the innings realized 294.

Mr Read's side were at one time in danger of following on. But after five wickets had gone for 84, the batting of Mr Graburn and Mr Read brought the match to something like evenness. K S Ranjitsinhji played very excellently for his 36, and Mr Graburn and Mr Read were equally good. Mr Townsend and Lohmann did most of the bowling. At the finish Dr Grace's team were 125 on with ten wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 September, page 5)

An entertaining day's play at Reigate on Saturday closed a successful holiday festival, which was well appreciated by the town generally. One little incident occurred at the close of Saturday when, as a protest against the clamouring of the crowd for Richardson to bowl, the captains of the side called off their men a few minutes before the hour arranged for the drawing of stumps, the game being left unfinished. A number of people went to the Priory Ground to see the great fast bowler and were disappointed at his not being tried. But, with the surface of the wicket crumbling, Dr Grace felt that a man of Richardson's pace would be absolutely dangerous and so refrained from putting him on.

Dr Grace's side, who began the day with a lead of 125 and all ten wickets in hand, were batting from five minutes to 12 until just before 2 o'clock. The feature of the innings was the fine forcing game of Abel, who took out his bat for 75. Mr Hewett made some good hits, being third out at 83, while Mr Brann helped Abel to add 58 for the eighth wicket.

Mr W W Read's team in about two hours had scored 207 for the loss of seven wickets, when the match was abandoned; but as they had gone in to get 276 to win they had perhaps the worst of the position at the finish. Brockwell and Peel began the innings well by making 62 in 35 minutes, but by far the most brilliant thing in the batting was K S Ranjitsinhji's 67 not out. He hit six fours, two threes and six twos. The match was drawn . . .

Monday 16 September: 13 OF SURREY v 23 OF RICHMOND AND DISTRICT

13 OF SURREY 140 (Abel 24, Lockwood 21; M Pavri 4/59, V F S Crawford 8/35) and 156 (Brockwell 52, M Read 27; M Pavri 5 wkts). RICHMOND AND DISTRICT 145 (W F L Frith 57, H Trevor 22; Richardson 5 wkts, Street 4 wkts, Mills 4 wkts) and 43/8 (V F S Crawford 25; Mills 4/1). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 September, page 10)

In an interesting match at Richmond yesterday between 13 of Surrey, in which were eight regular members of the Surrey eleven, and 23 of Richmond and District, the two best things were the batting of Mr Frith and the bowling of Mr Crawford for the local side. Richardson took his first five wickets at a cost of ten runs. The pitch rather helped the bowlers.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 September, page 8)

The match between 13 of Surrey and the team of Richmond and district ended in a draw, at Richmond, last evening, the local side, who had gone in to make 151 to win, having lost eight wickets for 48 runs.

In the second day the best incidents were the batting of Brockwell, who hit nine fours, and the bowling of Mills and Street, who go out the last ten Richmond men in the first innings for an addition of 39 runs, while Mills in the second took four wickets for one run.

Saturday 9 November, page 8: KENT COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

At the annual meeting of the general committee of this club, held this week at the Golden Cross Hotel, Charing-cross, Major-General Denne, R.H.A., the president, took the chair. Among those present were Lord Harris, Hon Ivo Bligh, Mr Akers-Douglas, M.P., Mr George Marsham, Major Spens, Mr F S W Cornwallis, Mr F Marchant, Mr C S Hardy, Rev R T Thornton, Mr W H Patterson, Captain Austin, Rev C Randolph, Mr K McAlpine, Rev C E Nepean, Mr F A Mackinnon, Captain Lambert, Mr W B Pattison, Mr L Wilson, Mr S Christopherson and Mr A J Lancaster.

After the adoption of the accounts and the decision to invest £700 in Consols, the report for the season was considered. Walter Hearne's absence from the eleven through illness was much regretted, and the committee stated that they were still unable to find any new professional talent. Thirty cricketers were tried last season, and each one played in at least two county matches.

Reference was made to the great services rendered by Mr Marchant, the captain of the eleven, and to the assistance received from Mr J R Mason and Alec Hearne. Members were invited to send to the secretary the names of any promising players of whom they had heard.

The receipts for the season were £3,332, an increase on the previous year, while a record gate was the outcome of the ladies' day at Canterbury. On the register the number of members is now £1,261. Lord Harris proposed the appointment of Mr F W Furley as honorary treasurer and the motion was unanimously adopted.

It was decided to play the same matches in 1896 as this year, with the addition of one game with the Australians. For the Canterbury Week it was decided to invite Lancashire to play on Bank Holiday and the Australians on the last three days, while the other matches will be distributed thus: - Two at Tonbridge, two at Catford, two at Gravesend, and one each at Beckenham, Maidstone and Blackheath.

A discussion arose as to the advisability of instituting a club and ground, but the settlement of the question was deferred. Walter Wright's application for a benefit was also left for the next meeting. Ten pounds was voted for Huish, the wicket-keeper, as recompense for the loss of time incurred by him through the accident at Manchester; while, on the motion of Lord Harris, seconded by Mr Patterson, it was agreed to make a donation of 30 guineas to the Marylebone Club Grace testimonial fund.

Mr W H Patterson and Mr F Marchant were delegated to represent Kent at the meeting of secretaries at Lord's on December 10. Walter Hearne was reappointed ground bowler at Canterbury, but Walter Wright was not re-engaged for Maintained as a berth in the north of England will prevent his being available for the county on the last three days of most weeks.

Tuesday 10 December, page 7: THE MEETING OF COUNTY SECRETARIES

At the invitation of the Marylebone Club, the county secretaries hold their annual meeting at Lord's to-day for the arrangement of next season's programme. The business will be made more interesting than usual by a statement as to the Australians and the representative matches, while the misunderstanding that seems to have arisen between Lancashire and Yorkshire over the Bank Holiday fixtures will probably be arranged.

Early in the day the representatives of the minor counties will discuss the proposed scheme for a championship among themselves. The meeting proper begins at noon.

THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR 1896

It is officially stated that the Australian programme for next summer will include matches with all the first-class counties, and three representative contests with England at Lord's, Manchester and Kennington Oval.

The Australians will play the South at Hastings, the North at Manchester, an England eleven at Scarborough, Gentlemen and Players, and Oxford and Cambridge Universities. The Bank Holiday games will be at Sheffield and Birmingham, and the visitors will play Kent in the second match of the Canterbury week.

Wednesday 11 December, page 10: THE MEETING OF COUNTY SECRETARIES

The meeting of county secretaries, which is annually held at Lord's on the Tuesday in Cattle Show week, has assumed much importance, for the reason that it affords the only occasion when the delegates of the shires can properly discuss any questions that affect county cricket. Sundry facts helped to make yesterday's meeting at the headquarters of the Marylebone Club especially interesting.

There were the new conditions under which the Australians were coming to England, and the settlement of the misunderstanding between Yorkshire and Lancashire; While Lord Harris, the president of the Marylebone Club, addressed the meeting on two subjects, one of which was of much interest – the county qualification rule. The question of a reduction in the *minimum* number of matches his a county had to play to qualify for the championship also arose, because two of the shires, owing to pressure through the Australian programme, were unable to get on the regulation number of games.

Mr Henry Perkins, the secretary of the Marylebone Club, was in the chair. Those present included Lord Harris, president of the Marylebone Club; Mr C W Alcock, Mr K J Key and Mr W W Read, of Surrey; Mr S H Swire, Mr J M'Laren and Mr E B Rowley, Lancashire; Mr F S Jackson, Mr J B Wostinholm and Mr Michael Ellison, jun., Yorkshire; Dr W G Grace, Gloucestershire; Mr Walter Boden and Mr W Berkeley Delacombe, Derbyshire; Mr A J Webbe and Mr A E Stoddart, Middlesex; Mr W Ansell, Warwickshire; Nr A F Somerset, Mr W L Murdoch and Mr W Newham, Sussex; Mr H Murray Anderdon and Mr Gerald Fowler, Somerset; Mr W Wright, Mr W E Denison and Mr G H Turner, Nottinghamshire; Mr W H Patterson, Mr F Marchant and Mr A J Lancaster, Kent; Captain E G Wynyard and Dr Russell-Bencraft, Hampshire; Mr C E Green, Mr C M Tebbutt,

Mr H G Owen and Mr O R Borradaile, Essex; Mr T Burdett, Sir A R Palmer and Mr J Perkins, Leicestershire; Mr H D G Leveson-Gower and Mr P F Warner, Oxford University; Mr Frank Mitchell, Cambridge University; Mr E Roper, Liverpool and District; Mr P H Foley and Mr H K Foster, Worcestershire; Mr C Pigg, Hertfordshire; Mr P J de Paravicini and C Nares, Berkshire; Mr J H Brain, Glamorganshire; Mr H M Turner, Oxfordshire; Mr R H Mallett, Durham; Mr T H Vialls, Northamptonshire; the Rev – Walters, Northumberland; Mr J Horner, Cheshire; Captain G N A Harris, United Services; Mr C I Thornton, Mr Denzil Onslow, Mr W Carless, Mr A Worsley and Mr T Mintoft, North and East Riding; Mr E G Buxton, Norfolk; Mr E Smith, Cornwall; Mr J Wheeler, Wiltshire; and Mr L F Steadman, Monmouthshire.

Mr H Perkins, in opening the meeting, said that of course they were aware that the Australians intended visiting England again next year; but they were coming in rather different circumstances. When he heard from Mr J Portus last summer asking whether an Australian team would be heartily welcomed in 1896 he circularized the leading counties asking them specifically whether such a visit would be welcome and whether they would be prepared to arrange representative matches. The Australians suggested five of the latter, similar to the number played by Mr Stoddart's team in the colonies; but he thought three was the only reasonable number that could be given considering the different nature of the county contests in existence to that when they visited this country before. With the exception of one county there was a unanimous desire for only three games between England and Australia. Now, if these matches were to be played, he appealed to the counties loyally to give up any men that were wanted for them, and thus relieve the various selection committees of difficulties so often before experienced.

Mr C W Alcock explained the delay in corresponding with the secretaries. He pointed out that it was never an easy matter to arrange an Australian programme, and the difficulty had been increased by the late notice he received from the Australian authorities. He mentioned the suggested dates of the England and Australia fixtures, and in response to Mr Wostinholm, who inquired whether the profits of the England matches should be retained by the clubs on whose grounds they were played, said that Surrey would at least follow the usual precedent.

Lord Harris said that he had been commissioned by the committee of the Marylebone Club to draw the attention of the secretaries to two subjects. First, in regard to representatives elevens with test matches, Australia v England, the meeting was aware that Marylebone had some small claim on the sympathies of the counties, for whom in various ways the M.C.C. had undertaken work; and he was quite sure that the counties were anxious to accommodate themselves to the views of the Marylebone Club. The M.C.C. Committee felt very strongly as to the three matches between England and Australia, and he trusted that the counties would do their utmost to set free such men as were wanted to represent England. And, further, no reasonable consideration possible should stand in the way of men selected by the M.C.C. and other committees from playing for England.

The second question which he had to dwell on was the construction put upon the county rule at to qualification. It seemed to the M.C.C. that the rule as drawn was rather laxly interpreted. The M.C.C. understood that there were, in certain instances, Gentlemen, possibly Players, who were recognized now as qualified for certain counties, although, as a matter of fact, their residence in those counties was of a very superficial nature. He believed he was justified in saying there were persons who played for counties who had only a lodging in those counties in which they rarely slept. The committee thought this lax reading of the rule was not within the intention of the framers.

But the fact remained that this qualification was recognized now as sufficient, and he felt sure no

one in cricketing circles wanted the rule read to keep good cricketers for playing for counties for which they wished to play. Therefore, the committee considered that, in the course of next year, the counties ought to consider whether, under existing circumstances, the rule should not be given more elasticity. The M.C.C. thought that where a man was qualified for a Parliamentary vote in a county it was considered sufficient qualification. They did not want to keep out any one who wished to play, and this was their reason for the suggestion that the present drastic reading of the rule should be modified. Any amendment should permit a man to qualify in an easier manner.

The present rule which demanded a two years' qualification could be modified so that it would insure that cricketers could not move about from one county to another, but would get up an enthusiasm for one county and would not leave it. The two years' rule would be a sufficient safeguard against any oscillation of players from one county to another. It was possible and not harmful [so to] word the rule as to recognize the present practice that a lodging was a sufficient qualification without actual residence in that lodging. The first question as to the test matches demanded present action, the second might require no treatment until they met again next year. The M.C.C. had only the interests of the game at heart.

Mr Denison called attention to the fact that, with the increase of fixtures through the Australian tour, some of the counties in the championship experienced much difficulty in arranging the *minimum* number of matches – namely, eight home and home – qualifying for the championship, and thought that in an Australian year the *minimum* might be reduced to six.

Mr Perkins said that the county secretaries might get the authority of their respective committees and request the M.C.C. committee to deal with the subject at their meeting in January. It was incidentally mentioned that Leicestershire and Essex were the counties who had failed to get the *minimum* number.

Mr Webbe was of opinion that six would be quite enough in an Australian year; it was an impossibility to squeeze all the fixtures in this year. The discussion was continued by Mr C E Green and Mr C W Alcock; but Lord Harris said that the M.C.C. could scarcely accept the opinion of the secretaries unsupported by the authority of their respective committees. The matter was eventually settled by Mr C W Alcock, as representing the champion county of the year, being requested, by 12 votes out of 14, to get the opinion of the counties and submit them to the M.C.C. This resolution was moved by Mr W Boden, of Derby, and seconded by Dr Bencraft, who pointed out that were six not allowed to qualify various other counties would of necessity drop out of the competition.

As the meeting progressed Mr C W Alcock asked for an undertaking from the leading counties to let off their men for the test matches. Mr Perkins said that unless this was given he should advise Mr Alcock to cancel the whole programme. The vote was then taken of the leading counties, and the proposal, which was seconded by Dr W G Grace, was unanimously agreed to.

An excellent programme was arranged, and it was satisfactory to find that after much delay Lancashire and Yorkshire came to terms, although their first meeting was fixed for an extremely early day in May, when the men can scarcely have got into form. The disagreement arose through Yorkshire failing to rearrange their home and home matches with Lancashire for the Bank holidays.

So far the Australian list consists of 28 games, in which, of course, the three test matches with England are the features. These are on Monday, 22 June, at Lord's, at Manchester on Thursday, July 16, and at the Oval on Monday, August 10. They play Marylebone at Lord's in June, and they

have fixtures in June 18 and July 9 with the Gentlemen and the Players, for which grounds have not been arranged. All the leading counties will be contested, Yorkshire being met thrice. They also take part in the festivals at Canterbury, Cheltenham, Scarborough and Hastings. The Australians, of course, monopolize any room that remained for the introduction of fresh fixtures between the counties; but it may be safely said that county cricket is too firmly established to be easily affected by any outside element.

Therefore the county programme is as strong and attracted as ever. Middlesex are giving J T Rawlin, their valued batsman and bowler, the Whit Monday match against Somerset for a benefit; while the Surrey v Yorkshire match will be for the benefit of George Lohmann. At Trent-bridge Sherwin will receive the "gate" of Cambridge University v Nottinghamshire. A list of the chief fixtures follows . . .

[Note: the full fixture list for 1896 can be found at: http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/1896 ENG.html]

THE MINOR COUNTIES

Prior to the meeting of the leading shires, the representatives of the minor counties discussed the proposed scheme for a championship among themselves and the system of points upon which it should be decided.

Mr H Pigg, Hertfordshire, presided, and the shires represented were Worcestershire, Durham, Northamptonshire, Berkshire, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Monmouthshire, Cornwall, Norfolk, Northumberland and Wiltshire. Mr P H Foley was elected honorary secretary. The propositions of which Durham had given notice were withdrawn and the following was submitted in their place and adopted: -

"That, in the case of two or more counties in the competition being equal in points, at the top of the competition, on an unequal number of matches played, the M.C.C. authorities shall be asked to decide which county is at the top of the competition."

The resolution by Worcestershire as to neutral umpires was lost by five votes to two, and the appointment of these officials therefore remains on the old system.

The management of the minor counties championship will be in the hands of the committee formed by a representative from each club.