

The annual meeting of the Lancashire County Cricket Club was held last evening at the Albion Hotel, Manchester, Mr A N Hornby presiding.

The report, read by Mr S H Swire, the honorary secretary, stated that the county again occupied the second place in the championship. The attractive programme played, including as it did Australian matches, had the effect of considerably increasing the membership, which now reached greater proportions than ever. Last season there were 2,637 members, 320 having been elected during the year, while 42 resignations and 28 deaths were recorded. On no previous occasion was the interest and patronage of lady subscribers more marked, no fewer than 659 tickets having been taken, as compared with 475 in the preceding year.

One of the most interesting features of the season had been the splendid support accorded by the general public. Allowing even for the Australian visit, the figures were abnormally large, reaching a total of 202,300 - an increase of 52,000 as compared with 1895 and more than double the number that passed through the turnstiles in 1894.

The financial statement, read by Mr James Maclaren, showed that the subscriptions amounted to £3,446 and the gate-money to £6,233. The surplus on the year's working was £2,569. Payments amounting to £2,879 had been made on account of the new pavilion, which was now fully paid for, the total cost being £9,033. The report and balance-sheet were adopted, and Mr A N Hornby was re-elected president, Mr Swire honorary secretary and Mr James Maclaren honorary treasurer.

Thursday 4 February, page 11: THE NOTTS COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Notts County Cricket Club was held in Nottingham yesterday, when the chair was occupied by the Bishop of Southwell and there was a large attendance.

In moving the adoption of the report, the chairman remarked that in the matches which he witnessed last year he was struck by the bad luck which Notts experienced and hoped their turn would come in future, and also that in this commemoration year the number of subscribers would be increased to 2,000. Lord Belper and Mr W C Denison spoke to the report, and the former congratulated the team upon the improved form shown last season.

Whereas 12 months ago the club's balance at the bank was £195, it was now £1,312, which showed that interest in cricket was fully sustained in Notts in spite of all that had been written to the contrary. Mr Denison expressed the opinion that luck and Notts had been dissociated for some years. The performances of the team last season were, however, extremely good, and if only they could find a somewhat terrifying bowler and keep batsmen and fielders in good health they would win many more matches and regain what they regarded as their normal position at the head of the list. Nottingham now had two clubs left in the competition for the Football Association Challenge Cup, and they hoped that success on one athletic pursuit would follow them in the other, with which the name of the county was more intimately associated.

Lord Belper and Mr Ernest T Hooley were among those elected on the committee and, upon the nomination of the chairman, Mr W W Hall, of Mansfield, was appointed president.

It was announced that the Philadelphians would meet Notts at Trent-bridge on July 12. The hon. secretary said that the ground and approaches were being greatly improved, and the club and ground scheme promised to be a success. The Bishop of Southwell was cordially thanked for his services as president.

Thursday 4 March, page 6

The annual meeting of the Kent County Club was held on Tuesday at the Golden Cross Hotel, Charing-cross, among those present being Major-General Denne, Mr F Marchant, Mr W H Patterson, the Rev C E B Nepean, Hon Ivo Bligh, Mr F A Mackinnon and Mr George Marsham.

The new president of the club is General Sir Bevan Edwards, M.P. The Hon Ivo Bligh, Mr Stanley Christopherson, Mr C S Hardy and the Rev C Randolph, who retired from the committee by rotation, were re-elected, and six vacancies were filled by the election of Colonel Isacke, Hon J Tufton, Mr Percy B Neame, Mr J N Tonge, Mr M J R Thornton and Lord Camden.

An application for a benefit match during the forthcoming season was made by Alec Hearne, but the committee, while fully recognizing Hearne's brilliant services to the club, decided to defer the match a little longer, the purchase of the St Lawrence Ground at Canterbury having for the time put rather a severe strain upon the club's finances.

Walter Hearne, whose injured knee has closed his active career as a cricketer, was appointed official scorer to the club in place of Mr Crow, while G H Remnant was again nominated by Kent to umpire in county matches. Five young players - three of them Kent-born - are to be coached this season at Tonbridge by Webbe, the Tonbridge School professional.

Since the meeting of county secretaries at Lord's in December some slight alterations have been made in the Kent fixtures. Gloucestershire will play Kent on May 27 at Maidstone instead of at Gravesend, as originally arranged. The Notts eleven will appear at Gravesend on June 17, instead of at Maidstone, and the match with Somerset on July 15 will be played at Blackheath and not at Maidstone. The match with the Philadelphians, which in December was left open to be played somewhere in Kent on July 26, will now come off at the new Athletic Ground, Maidstone. Moreover, matches between the second elevens of Kent and Sussex will be played at Brighton and Tonbridge on dates to be decided upon.

The annual general meeting of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club was held at Sheffield yesterday, Major Shepherd (Bradford) presiding. The report showed that the past season had brought to the club an addition of £1,566 to the credit balance, which now stood at £4,243.

The county team were to be congratulated on having again attained the chief honour of the season, and although the play had not always been consistent, it had been characterized on frequent occasions by extremely good scoring, and chiefly by the record innings against Warwickshire.

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said it was a great pleasure to find that Yorkshire occupied such a high position. They owed a great deal to their professionals for the manner in which they fought for the championship, and also to Lord Hawke, the captain of the team. The other amateurs had also served the county well, especially Mr Jackson. They had excellent young cricketers coming forward and could look hopefully to the future. At the instance of Lord Hawke they were now giving a retaining fee to their professionals to keep them together during the winter months.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted. A resolution was submitted by Mr C Stokes, of Sheffield, to substitute 25 per cent for 15 per cent as the allowance to county grounds. The resolution was lost, although strongly supported.

(From a correspondent.)

As a result of their meeting at St James's Palace on Monday, the Committee of the Marylebone Club yesterday, through Mr Perkins, the secretary, issued the official decision on the "follow-on" question. This decision is given in a resolution, thus:-

"The result of the references to the counties and Australia as to the desirability of an alteration in the 'follow-on' rule shows such an even decision of opinion between the merits of (1) total abolition and (2) the option being given to the leading side, that the committee are not prepared at present to recommend the club to legislate upon the subject."

The opinion of the M.C.C. Committee will be received with considerable disappointment by a large body of cricketers who have the interest of the game at heart and who were much grieved by the unpleasant incidents in some recent Oxford and Cambridge matches. It was thought that the M.C.C. having laid down two propositions for the consideration of the counties would at least adopt one of them, so that any chance of what almost amounted to "roping" would in future be prevented. The option of the leading side or the abolition of the rule were the points left for the decision of the cricket world; and the cricket world is so divided that the M.C.C. Committee refuse to interfere with the law at all.

The Marylebone Club Committee erred at the start in taking the opinion of county committees. On a majority of these committees is found a number of gentlemen very worthy in themselves, but not of sufficient standing to discuss the vital interest of the great game itself. And this fact is shown by the instance of Yorkshire, where Lord Hawke and Mr F S Jackson took an entirely opposite view to that held by their committee.

The M.C.C. might have consulted only the county captains, but a far better course would have been to rely solely on themselves. In addition to the Earl of Pembroke, Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane and Mr Henry Perkins, the officers, the M.C.C. executive consists of Mr V E Walker, Mr W E Denison, Mr C E Farmer, Mr W H Patterson, the Earl of Dartmouth, Captain J St J Frederick, Mr Edward Ritter, Mr John Shuter, the Earl of Jersey, Lord Hawke, Mr E L Bateman, Mr Walter H Long, M.P., Mr G W Ricketts, the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord Harris, Mr H Philipson and Mr A J Webbe. This is a thoroughly representative body, in whose hands the subject might have been left. But, the counties having been consulted, the committee felt it was only logical to acknowledge their opinions and to come to the decision set out above.

As to the colonies the conditions are so different from those existing in this country that the follow-on rule is of small necessity, for the big matches in Australia are given almost unlimited time for their decision. The follow-on rule was originally framed in order to assist in bringing matches in England to a definite issue. In the correspondence in The Times last July, arising out of the attempt of the Cambridge captain to "best" his opponents in the University match, the policy which the M.C.C. should have followed was laid down by Sir Courtenay Boyle. The follow-on rule was never intended to benefit the side which had fallen short on the first innings, but only to save time. Therefore, the present rule might have been so amended that the side which had established an advantage should not be deprived of the opportunity of developing such advantage.

Under the latest ruling of the M.C.C. Committee things drift back to their old position, and law 53, as it was abused in two years by Cambridge captains, may be abused as much as ever and, if silence is to be taken as meaning consent, the Marylebone Club Committee condone such abuse. But, as before laid down in The Times, this is not cricket.

The annual meeting of the Berkshire County Cricket Club was held yesterday at Reading. Prince Christian, president of the club, occupied the chair, and was supported by a large company, including Mr C T Murdoch, M.P., chairman of the committee, Mr F T Barry, M.P., the High Sheriff (Mr H Gold) and the Head Master of Wellington College, and Mr M J Sutton.

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report - which showed that in the county fixtures last year Berkshire played nine, won one, drew six and lost two - said they were pleased to gather from the report that almost all those who played for Berkshire last year were again available. It was also most gratifying to hear of the amount of rising talent in the county. Though the weather interfered with the results of their first county cricket week, they might congratulate themselves on the increase in the number of the members and affiliated clubs.

The statement of the committee as to the excellence of the new ground was satisfactory. Prince Christian was re-elected president of the club.

In Middlesex v Somerset on Whit Monday at Lord's the "gate" will be devoted to the benefit fund of the well-known Hertfordshire professional William Hearn.

There was a large gathering of members, presided over by General Sir J Bevan Edwards, M.P., at the annual meeting of the Kent Club, yesterday afternoon, at the Golden Cross Hotel, Charing-cross. Among those present were Lord Harris, Major-General Dunne, General Trevor, Sir Charles Oakley, Captain Austin, Major Spens, Mr W H Patterson, Mr Frank Marchant, Mr G J V Weigall, Mr George Marsham, Mr T Pawley, Mr K M'Alpine, the Rev H G Rolt, Mr F A Mackinnon, Mr H Mackeson and Mr A J Lancaster, secretary.

In the report and statement of accounts the committee wished to draw attention to the fact that a nursery for young cricketers will be established early in May at Tonbridge, and secretaries of clubs were requested to recommend any promising young players to Mr Marchant or Mr Pawley. The committee thought it would be of assistance to the county if cricket clubs would make a practice of playing their professionals in their matches whenever possible.

During the year the county club purchased the St Lawrence Ground at Canterbury at a cost of £4,500, and in order to defray this sum they sold £1,952 12s 5d Consols, which realized £2,178 12s 8d. In addition £1,634 15s 6d was subscribed by the supporters of county cricket, and this left a deficiency of £686 11s 10d, in addition to £68 6s 6d advanced by the club to pay for the surveyor's fees and other expenses. The committee hoped that a sufficient sum in donations would have been realized to clear off the debt before this time, and are still hopeful that by the exertions of members this may be done before long.

From a financial point of view last year was the most prosperous since the foundation of the club, the profit on the general account being over £800, without taking profit for the credit of £225 19s 4d made on the sale of Consols; the St Lawrence Ground Purchase Fund benefited by this transaction, as the entire proceeds of the sale were paid into that account. The receipts from the Canterbury Week showed an increase, the takings at the gate and stands being £1,409 12s 6d, as against £1,285 10s, the largest amount taken in any former year. The net value of the assets of the club at this date is £4,817 19s, as against £2,269 11s 1d a year ago.

Lord Harris, Mr Akers-Douglas, M.P., Mr F Marchant and Mr W H Patterson were appointed trustees of the club, and various vacancies on the general committee were filled.

The county captains met at Lord's yesterday and decided that the following should be the county umpires for 1897:-

R G Barlow, W F Collishaw, R Clayton, W Draper, L Hall, G Hay, W Hearn, J H Holmes, Arthur Hide, J Lillywhite, T Mycroft, J Potter, G H Remnant, Walter Richards, C E Richardson, W Shrewsbury, M Sherwin, A F Smith, J Street, R Thoms, V A Titchmarsh, J J Tuck, W A J West, John Wheeler, W A Woof and A Young.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY CLUB

At the forthcoming meeting of the Sussex County Club at Brighton the Duke of Norfolk will be nominated as president.

THE NOTTS' COLTS MATCH

At a meeting of the Notts County Club, held at Nottingham yesterday, the teams were selected for the annual colts' match, beginning at Trent bridge on Easter Monday. The eleven will be chosen from Messrs C W Wright (captain), A R Bennett and P W Oscroft, and S Brown, H B Daft, Flowers, Gunn, Guttridge, Hardstaff, Pike, P Mason and A Shrewsbury.

The colts, who will be captained by Mr J A Dixon, will include W Simpson and T Simpson (Kegworth), T Oates (Eastwood), R M Carlin (Newthorpe), G Pinder and P Glover (Heeley), A Lowings (Linby), T Jennisson (Bulwell), W Herson (Beeston), J Iremonger (Wilford), H Speight (Bede College, Durham), W A Dexter and F Hawley (Radford), S Dickinson (Misson), F Stills (Bingham), F P Walker (Nottingham), W Scothern (Kirkby-in-Ashfield), Drury and Taylor (Kimberley), C P Dench and J Gunn (Nottingham).

The late Easter and the fine weather have turned cricketers' minds to thoughts of activity earlier perhaps than usual. Lord's is already well mown, and at the Oval the practice began yesterday. At St John's-wood the nets will not be open until the 26th inst., and then all depends on the continuance of the present spell of weather.

But, after all, the English cricket season is a thing of much brevity, and of late years the growth of important cricket almost imposes the necessity of an earlier beginning. This is the part of the season that should be extended, and not the end, when the declining light and the heartily dews impose a severe handicap on the cricket in late matches.

The Philadelphians will furnish this season's foreign element to the game; but from what has been seen of them before, and even allowing for their improvement as shown by their play last autumn with the Australians, their programme, though ambitious - all the first-class counties are to be met - is unlikely to arouse any remarkable degree of interest. It is the county cricket that will hold the public.

The last six weeks have not been wholly favourable to the grounds. There has been too much rain, and if the new grass has come on well, the old became long and rank before it was possible to get the mowing machine at work. But these conditions were preferable to drought, and green-keepers, who invariably make a scapegoat of the weather, report the turf generally in good order.

THE MARYLEBONE CLUB

Amid the wreck of the neighbourhood by the new railway, visitors to Lord's will find a large extension of the practice-ground. The whole of what was formerly the Clergy Orphan School estate has been taken in, and when the "little tunnel under Lord's" is completed the auxiliary ground will be almost as extensive as the original field.

The fine turf from Morley's at Neasden, which has passed away through the cutting of the new railway, has been secured for the addition to the M.C.C. enclosure, and it has settled so well that by July it may be possible to put up the nets there and thus give some relief to the other parts handed over to practice. Pearce, the head ground man, deserves every credit for the present condition of the old ground, which never looked better at this time of the season. The M.C.C., too, have now become their own caterers.

Most of the leading counties enter the lists against the M.C.C. and Ground, and from the opening of the season until its end there is an unbroken series of matches. The anniversary meeting, held by tradition on the first Wednesday in May, will again be associated with the practical opening of the cricket year, for on that day the Club and Ground play Nottinghamshire. Oxford and Cambridge and Eton and Harrow have, after much difficulty, been arranged for the same week, an innovation to which the schools at one time were strongly opposed, while Gentlemen v Players follows on the succeeding Monday.

The Middlesex matches have grown to be a strong element in the cricket at Lord's, and they now keep the season there thoroughly interesting until the end of August. An old fixture is to be revived, too, in M.C.C. v Middlesex Colts, through which it was that J T Hearne got the chance of introducing himself into big cricket.

Further additions have been made to the ground staff, which will now consist of Thomas Hearne, F Farrands, R Clayton, A Rylott, G G Hearne, J Wheeler, M Sherwin, T Mycroft, W Hearn, W Flowers, W Barnes, W Gunn, G Hay, W Attewell, G Burton, H Pickett, G Davenport, J Pentecost, V A Titchmarsh, W Chatterton, J E West, F Martin, A D Pougher, J T Rawlin, A Hearne, J Carlin, G Davidson, J Phillips, H Richardson, Lees Whitehead, J P Whiteside, J Burns, G Bean, R Moorhouse, F Needham, J T Hearne, F Geeson, J H Board, W Mead, H Carpenter, W Storer, Moss, T Attewell, W A J West, R Bagguley, T M Russell, T Brown, H R Butt, A Pike, A Woodcock, J Harry, A Handford, F H Huish, H Wrathall, A E Trott and Thompson, of Northamptonshire. It is probable, too, that Roach and O'Halloran, from Australia, may be retained at Lord's.

Mr Henry Perkins, the M.C.C. secretary, has not been enjoying very good health lately, and members at Lord's will hope to hear of his early recovery.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY

There are in residence now only four of last year's side, which gained such a wonderful victory at Lord's in the match made famous by Oxford's score of 330 in the last innings and notorious by reason of the incident which resulted through Cambridge's endeavoured to prevent Oxford from following on.

Mr G R Bardswell, who has been away in the West Indies playing cricket, has succeeded Mr H D G Leveson-Gower in the captaincy. In any post it is always difficult to follow an especially good man, and Leveson-Gower at Winchester and Oxford had the coolness, the judgment and the cricket ability which made him quite a genius as a captain, and which have virtually given him a reversionary interest in the captaincy of Surrey. Oxford's new captain, Mr Bardswell, will also be able to bring into use a considerable experience of important cricket; he is a steady bat, a good slip and a change bowler, although last season his services in bowling were not often utilized.

The old Blues to help him are Mr F H E Cunliffe and Mr J C Hartley, whose splendid bowling did so much to win Oxford the match last summer. Mr Cunliffe is one of the best amateur bowlers of the day, while as a contrast to his splendid length and varying pace there are Mr Hartley's slow leg breaks. Mr P S Waddy is also up, so that Oxford should be pretty well provided with bowling talent.

Of the Freshmen who have gone up the most promising are Mr R E Foster (a brother of H K), who had an average for his school last year of 46; Mr F H B Champain, a good all-round cricketer from Cheltenham; and Mr C P Nickalls, a batsman from Rugby. Winchester are sending up two of last year's eleven - Mr G H Rowe, a very fine bat, and Mr E C Lee.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

Mr Norman Druce should find no difficulty in getting together a splendid Cambridge eleven, for of last year's team there are eligible, in addition to himself, Mr C E M Wilson, Mr H H Marriott, Mr G L Jessop, Mr E B Shine, Mr F Mitchell, Mr C J Burnup and Mr E H Bray. So there is plenty of both batting and bowling, and with the latter department in the hands of Mr Jessop, Mr Shine and Mr Wilson the Light Blues should do particularly well.

Mr Druce himself is a very fine batsman; going well forward he has a splendid drive, while his cutting, too, is well timed and powerful. His 72 last year at Lord's in the Cambridge second innings was one of the best things in the match. Of the seniors who will probably make big efforts to get into the side the most likely are Mr J H Stogdon, Mr E Garnett, Mr H B B Hawkins, Mr G H Simpson and Mr H J Davenport.

Mr Stogdon went up to Cambridge with a splendid schoolboy reputation from Harrow, and those who remember his fine cricket in the schools' match at Lord's were much disappointed when they saw how he failed to retain the good cricket name which he carried away with him from Harrow. But it is with startling recurrence that school reputations are lost both at Oxford and at Cambridge, and the failure of that great Harrow bat - Mr T Greatorex - to get his "blue" - was a lesson that has never been forgotten by those who deal in cricket prophecy.

The best known Freshmen are Mr T L Taylor, of Uppingham, who had a batting average of over 84 last year for his school, and who has a reputation as a wicket-keeper that makes the cricket community talk of him as another MacGregor; Mr A W Wright, a batsman from Wellington; and Mr J F Carter, a batsman from Haileybury.

The fixture list is much the same as usual except that the Philadelphians will visit Cambridge on June 14. Robert Carpenter will receive the profits of Cambridge University v Hampshire for his benefit fund.

YORKSHIRE

With all last year's men in good healthy there seems no reason why Yorkshire should not have another splendid season. Whatever happens, they are sure to make a pretty bold bid for the retention of the championship honours which they won so well in 1896.

There is neither a more popular nor a better side of sportsmen than the Yorkshire team, and Lord Hawke is largely responsible for the good name which it bears. Since his Cambridge days Lord Hawke has developed a splendid talent for captaincy. He keeps his men well in hand, and both by example and tuition he has made them throw their whole hearts into the game. And in his efforts to bring the team to a high standard of efficiency he has been strongly supported by Mr F S Jackson, a brilliant cricketer of great popularity, and the kind of bat and field that is wanted at a pinch. Last year, alike in county and in English v Australian play, Mr Jackson completely justified the good things that were said of him when he was at Harrow and Cambridge, and he hopes to give quite as much time to cricket this year as he did in the season of 1896, which ended in Yorkshire's championship for the second time in four years.

Mr C E M Wilson will, no doubt, be asked to play after the University matches. The other men available for the team are Brown, Peel, Tunnicliffe, Hirst, Moorhouse, Wainwright, Haigh, Denton, Hunter and Mounsey, with Mr Ernest Smith and Mr F W Milligan also available for certain matches. Great things are expected of Schofield Haigh, a right-hand bowler with a long run, whose dangerous ball is the slow one that he delivers without any apparent change in his action. He made his mark in a small match - Yorkshire v Durham - and subsequently had a good share in Yorkshire's success.

Yorkshire's decision to give a winter allowance to their professionals was really the work of Lord Hawke, and the policy might well be followed by some of the other rich counties.

The county programme differs little from that of last year. The Philadelphians play at Sheffield in the last week of June, and the eleven visit Lord's for a match with the M.C.C. early in May. David Hunter, who has done so much good wicket-keeping, is to be given the profits of Yorkshire v Lancashire for his benefit fund.

LANCASHIRE

Lancashire have followed in the footsteps of Yorkshire and Surrey, and have arranged matches with the whole of the other first-class counties, and, in addition, they have some second eleven games and trials of colts, while the Philadelphians appear at Old Trafford in Whitsun week.

The eleven will be much the same as in 1896, and Mr A C Maclaren's duties at Harrow will again keep him away from the captaincy until the holidays. Mr G R Bardswell, the Oxford captain, will be asked to play after the University match. Mr Ernest Rowley, who made such a mark in batting for the county last summer, is expected greatly to help the side.

There is a variety of excellence in the team, alike in batting and bowling, and Lancashire should continue to hold their high place in the estimation of cricketers as one of the best sides to watch. The professional staff engaged by the new executive has received some important additions, and now comprises Mold, Holland, Lord, Hallam, Briggs, Tyldesley, Thomas, Paul, Hargreave, Clapham, Baker, G Taylor, R Taylor, J Wright, Entwistle, Huddleston, Hallows, Nicholls and C Smith.

The Whit Monday match at Manchester with Kent has been set apart for the benefit of that dashing batsman and brilliant field Frank Sugg, who by his great services to the county has completely merited a substantial reward. On the August Bank Holiday Lancashire will play at Canterbury.

MIDDLESEX

Mr A J Webbe has little to tell of Middlesex apart from the facts that he hopes to have the help of all last year's men and, after Oxford v Cambridge, of Mr F H E Cunliffe, the Eton and Oxford bowler, who will play under the birth qualification.

Mr Stoddart has spent some part of the winter in the West Indies with Mr Priestley's team, and has returned home in excellent health, and Sir Timothy O'Brien and Mr MacGregor are also extremely well. J T Hearne, who has been away in India, and Rawlin will again do most of the bowling; and it may be here suggested that the Middlesex executive for their own sake should by some means or another endeavour to prevent Hearne from working so hard in matches extraneous to the county. Hearne has a splendid pitch and spin, and the severe work which he did on the hard wickets last summer made it all the more remarkable that he should have come out at the head of the general bowling averages.

Middlesex v Somerset at Lord's on Whit Monday will be for the benefit of William Hearne, of Hertfordshire. Hearn is a splendid judge of the game, a brilliant field and a steady bat, while his manner to cricketers generally, together with his ability, has made him one of the most respected umpires attached to the Lord's staff. It is not for the first time that the Middlesex executive have shown their generosity in giving up one of their most attracted matches for the benefit of a professional who has never played for the county.

SURREY

There is not much that is new to say about Surrey cricket. The whole of last year's excellent side can be called upon, and Mr K J Key, so far as is known at present, will again be the captain. Now that Mr Leveson-Gower is down from Oxford the Surrey executive hope to have his services right through the season.

All the other men are reported to be in good health. Brockwell is back from the Cape, and George Lohmann will also return very shortly from Majesfontein. Surrey have a wealth of talent such as they have not had before; and much of this is the result of the way in which the young players of the county are looked after and the manner in which they are coached in the second eleven, so ably managed by Mr W T Graburn. As a matter of fact the Surrey second eleven would be more than a match for some of the smaller of the counties taking part in the championship.

There is one thing that may be pointed out in relation to Surrey cricket - namely, the tendency shown by the side generally during the last two years to go in for too much steadiness. In the finest standard of cricket what may be termed an unorthodox batsman is really a necessity. Surrey sadly missed such a fine forcing player as Maurice Read on several occasions last year; and the wonder still is that he was allowed to leave the county for a coaching engagement in Hampshire.

Cricketers generally will be glad to learn that Richardson is in the very best of health. The Prince of Wales has granted a new lease of the Oval to the Surrey Club, the conditions of which have been already recorded in The Times, and it has been decided to build a new pavilion and tavern next winter. Surrey have their usually long list of fixtures, the first of which is on May 3 at the Oval with Leicestershire.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

All the friends of cricket were gratified at the change for the better which came over the affairs of Nottinghamshire last summer. The side played better and brighter cricket, and with this came a revival of the old interest in the county club and increased attendances at Trent-bridge. There is every cause to think that the improvement will continue.

But what the county want is some more good bowling; and they hope to discover it either among the new ground staff or in the Colts' trial on Easter Monday. The committee had no easy task to select the Colts from the great number of applications, but they paid

particular attention to the bowling, and seven or eight young players, recommended as "fast," were put into the 21 Colts, who will be captained by Mr J A Dixon. P Glover, of Kimberley, is described as fexceptionally fast."

All last year's men will be at the service of the county, and the eleven in the opening match against the Colts will consist of Mr C W Wright, Mr A R Bennett, Mr P W Oscroft, Shrewsbury, Gunn, H B Daft, Brown, Pike, Hardstaff, Flowers, and Guttridge or Mason.

In addition to playing the same eight counties who were met last year Notts have given fixtures to Northamptonshire and Staffordshire, and the Philadelphians will also appear at Trent-bridge. Great improvements have been made on the ground both for the members and the general public.

KENT

Mr Frank Marchant, who continues in the captaincy of the eleven, hopes to have the services of all last year's players at his disposal; but, as usual, several of the best amateurs cannot play regularly until the latter half of the season. Kent cricket has always suffered more or less through this.

What the county most needs just now is a bowler of the stamp of Walter Hearne, whose breakdown when he was at his best was almost an irreparable calamity for the county. Hearne's leg will never be strong enough to stand the strain of much bowling, and the fact that he has undertaken the duties of scorer for the county would seem to show that he has abandoned all idea of trying to play again.

Walter Wright, whose services last year were not wholly given to the county because of a club arrangement in the north, has resigned that post and will now be able to play regularly for Kent. So, no doubt, he and Martin and Alec Hearne will do most of the bowling, and will appear with Mr Stewart, Mr Mason, Mr Weigall, Huish and Easby in the early matches. The remaining places will be filled by any of the amateurs who may be at liberty - Mr Patterson in Whitsun week and Mr W Rashleigh in the Tonbridge week. The Kent committee know of no new players at present, but they hope to discover a bowler among the six young cricketers who are to be coached at Tonbridge this season.

Last year's county programme is repeated with the addition of a game with the Philadelphians. The matches are again distributed among the various cricket centres. There will be the week at Canterbury, where Lancashire and Yorkshire appear - this is a particularly strong programme; while Tonbridge, in addition to a week's cricket at the end of June, has the Warwickshire match late in August. Maidstone, Gravesend and Beckenham have also been awarded fixtures.

Kent have not been able to afford any benefit matches, having sold out all their investments to provide for the purchase of the Canterbury ground. The debt on that fund has now been paid off, with the exception of £650, and donations are still being received, so that before the season is over the executive hope to be quite clear.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Dr W G Grace has little news to tell of the prospects of Gloucestershire cricket. The general composition of the side will be very little changed and the fixture list is much the same as last year.

Captain Luard, who has received a military appointment at Portsmouth, will be absent from the county ranks and, being fully qualified for Hampshire, he will play for them on the few occasions that he can get away. Mr W M'G Hemingway will be able to appear throughout the season, and so will Mr W S A Brown, who did so well last summer at Leys School, for whom he scored 1,032 runs and also took 57 wickets. Mr G L Jessop and Mr F H B Champain, being up at the Universities, cannot play until the vacation, while Mr W G Grace, jun., and Mr R W

Rice, who have masterships at Oundle and Forest-hill schools respectively, will not be avail until the summer holidays begin.

The committee have decided to give Roberts, the bowler, the Middlesex match at Bristol in August for his benefit. This immediately precedes the Cheltenham week, in which Kent and Notts appear against Gloucestershire.

SOMERSET

Somerset will play two matches each with Surrey, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Kent, Middlesex, Sussex and Hampshire; one match with Oxford University, at Oxford, and one with the Philadelphians on the new recreation ground at Bath. The Cambridge University fixture has unfortunately fallen through this year.

Mr Woods will again captain the eleven, and he will have the support of all last year's men. There is some new talent - both amateur and professional - and it is hoped that in this way the bowling will be strengthened. The side hope to do much better than last summer, when in spite of many fine batting triumphs they often failed through the weakness in their attack.

Improvements have been made in the pavilion on the Taunton ground, and the turf shows much benefit from the care bestowed on it during the winter. The finances of the county are now in satisfactory order again and the outlook generally is very bright.

SUSSEX

A new fixture appears on the Sussex programme and one too that should add to its attractions; that is the home and home game with Essex. Apart from this and the visit of the Philadelphians to Hove in June the Sussex card has been arranged on the same lines as last year. The club and ground matches, a young players' trial and a second eleven game with Kent should all help to develop the cricket in the county.

With all last year's men available Mr Newham thinks that the side should retain its fine batting reputation. The old disease - weakness in bowling - it is hoped to cure by the inclusion of Bland, a fast right-hand bowler who will play under the residential qualification.

That the club is going well may be gathered from the fact that it has been found necessary to enlarge the pavilion. As to the condition of the ground, there seems no reason why Brighton should not continue to furnish those splendid wickets which have made the Sussex headquarters almost a paradise for batsmen.

There is a feeling of much regret that Lord Sheffield, who has been such a good friend to cricket, has determined for various reasons to resign the presidency of the club. His successor, it is understood, will be the Duke of Norfolk.

OTHER COUNTIES

Although DERBYSHIRE again challenged all the first-class counties they could only get for 1897 a repetition of last year's programme - Yorkshire, Surrey, Lancashire, Nottinghamshire, Hampshire, Essex, Warwickshire and Leicestershire. In addition to these there is the usual visit to Lord's for the game with the M.C.C.

The eleven will be much the same as last year, unless any fresh talent is brought to light by the trial of colts on Easter Monday and Tuesday. To show the interest taken in this trial, it may be stated that the committee had 90 applications to play.

George Davidson, who has done such splendid work with both bat and ball for the county, was offered a benefit match, and he selected that with Notts on July 5, 6 and 7 at Derby.

Widdowson, the ground man, has got the turf in good order and the wickets promise to equal all the excellence of the past.

ESSEX, with the help of last year's players who created the best record the county has ever had and secured it fifth place in the championship, are looking forward to a very good season. Their strength lies not only in the present skill of the eleven, and also in the fact that many of the members have youth on their side.

Mr C E Green has received congratulations from everyone upon the turn which things have taken in the tide of Essex affairs after many years of failure and discouragement. The increased membership, the attractions of a thoroughly good programme and the reputation built up last season by the eleven make everything in the future of Essex very bright.

Additional fixtures have been made to those of 1896 by the arrangement of home and home matches with Lancashire, and Essex also go the Lord's to play the M.C.C. On county match days the Great Eastern Railway Company have decided to run to Leyton a special express train from Liverpool-street at 2 o'clock, so that visitors about that time from London may see the whole of the afternoon's cricket.

HAMPSHIRE have been steadily improving in their cricket; but they still want some more bowling. That excellent bat, Captain Wynyard, again hopes to help the county in many of their matches. Mr F E Lacey may play more often, and Captain Bradford, Captain Quinton, Captain Luard, late of Gloucestershire, Mr A J L Hill, Mr H F Ward and Mr Robson will, no doubt, be able to assist the side. Of the professionals Barton, Baldwin, Bacon, Soar, Webb and Kitchener are available.

A good list of fixtures has been arranged and there is some talk of several promising young players being introduced to the side, so that altogether the county's prospects are very hopeful.

WARWICKSHIRE have a very attractive list of fixtures, including home and home matches with Surrey, Essex, Hampshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Kent, Leicestershire, Lancashire and Gloucestershire. Mr H W Bainbridge will again captain the side, and will be supported by Mr A C S Glover, Mr J F Byrne (the Rugby international), Mr T S Fishwick (who made a promising first appearance against Derbyshire last summer), and occasionally by Mr J E Hill, Mr L C Docker and the Rev E Pereira.

The professional staff consists of Diver, Law, Lilley, Santall, Pallett, Whitehead, Ward, William and Walter Quaife, and Welford. The Lancashire match in July will be devoted to the benefit fund for Pallett.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

There is every promise of a good eleven at Eton, although perhaps the bowling may be a little weak. A D Legard, a very good bat and field, is the new captain, in succession to Mr C T Allen, who has gone up to Oxford. Of those who played at Lord's last July there will also be available R Lubbock, H C Pilkington, F H Mitchell, C H Browning and G L Tryon. Among these there are several good batsmen, while Browning is a wicket-keeper of much promise.

Tryon has the treble merit of being a fine field, a first-rate left-hand bowler and a powerful hitter. C Marsham, the son of a famous bowler, C D Marsham, of Oxford, seems likely to become a strong bat. As there is some new bowling wanted R Campbell might get into the eleven if he can only improve his fielding; A Frith can also bowl pretty well and gets on plenty of spin, and G Roberts has a steady defence and can bowl.

Other boys of promise are Lord F Scott, a capital bat; R Pryce Jones, an all-round cricketer; A Akers-Douglas and V Bosanquet. A year makes a great difference to boys, and no

doubt there will be plenty of others who will have improved on last season's form. In Mitchell the school possesses an extremely useful lob bowler, who came off at Lord's. Eton v Winchester will be played at Eton in June 25 and 26.

Harrow will have the following old choices from last year:- P T Maw, captain, T G O Cole, E M Dawson, F W Rattigan, H J Wyld, E B T Studd and W P Robertson. There are several promising batsmen coming on; but the school badly needs a fast bowler and a wicket-keeper.

From last year's victorious eleven Winchester have left A B Reynolds, who will captain the side, R A Williams, E B Noel and R O Hunter. A fast bowler is badly wanted; but generally the prospects of the eleven being above the average are good.

19 April: THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COLTS' MATCH

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

Potted scores: THE COLTS 80 (J Gunn 20; Hardstaff 6/32, Guttridge 8/17, A R Bennett 5/24) and 96 (J Iremonger 25; Hardstaff 6/27, Guttridge 4.5, A R Bennett 5/21). THE COUNTY 200 (H B Daft 52, R Bagguley 54, J A Dixon 27, A Pike 22; S Dickinson 3/10). The County won by an innings and 24 runs.

Day 1 (report from Thursday 20 April, page 9)

Mr A O Jones, Mr C W Wright, Flowers and Attewell are all away from the Notts eleven in the Colts match, which, in accordance with long-established custom, began yesterday at Trent Bridge, and although Arthur Shrewsbury's name appears on the official card, there is some doubt as to whether he will play.

Dull weather and the heavy state of the ground were much against the game, but the cricket, for all that, had its attractive features. J Gunn - a nephew of the famous batsman, William Gunn - showed steady defence, and not only made the top score for the Colts, but kept up his wicket for an hour and three-quarters. He had some good bowling to play, for both Hardstaff and Guttridge were in form. Guttridge bowled with great success after lunch and finished up with a startling average.

When the eleven went in H B Daft batted remarkably well. In less than two hours he made 52, and when he left the total was exactly double his individual score. He hit four fours and gave no chance. Bagguley, on the other hand, was missed early in his innings.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 April, page 7)

At Trent-bridge yesterday, the Notts County team, though without the services of Shrewsbury, beat the Colts by an innings and 24 runs. Some such result had been foreshadowed by the cricket on Monday, and very few spectators troubled to see the finish of the game.

In the county's innings Bagguley, apart from an early mistake, played exceedingly well. He was at the wickets for two hours and a half. Of the many bowlers for the Colts Dickinson and Scothern - both right hand medium pace - met with most success.

When the Colts went in for the second time J Gunn and Dench were unlucky, but Iremonger played capitally for an hour and twenty minutes. He received a prize bat for the highest aggregate of runs on his side.

19 April: THE DERBYSHIRE COLTS' MATCH

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

Potted score: COLTS 88 (F Wright 19; Warren 8/23, Storer 9/43) and 62/12 dec. THE ELEVEN 65 and 38/7. Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Thursday 20 April, page 9)

Run getting was a difficult matter at Derby yesterday in the opening stage of the Colts' match, the ground, owing to recent wet weather, being very heavy. Play was in progress for about four hours and a half, but in all that time only 115 runs were obtained.

For the most part the Colts - no doubt short of practice - gave a feeble exhibition of batting, but Wright, of Ilk, played very well for his 19. Warren, a right-handed fast bowler who had an engagement last year at Sandhurst, met with marked success with the ball, and so did Storer. It took the eleven an hour and a half to score 29.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 April, page 7)

There is no necessity to print the score of the Derbyshire Colts' match which yesterday resolved itself into a mere practice game, the teams being slightly rearranged after an innings had been completed on each side. This was done in order to give a better trial to some of the bowlers, and Bourne, of Church Gresley (left hand fast) did very well . . .

Monday 26 April, page 12

24 April: W G GRACE'S XI v W H LONG'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/345/345637.html)

A match between an eleven got together by Mr W H Long, M.P., and another captained by Dr W G Grace was played at Trowbridge on Saturday, and was won by Dr Grace's team by 115 runs on the first innings.

The cricket team which Lord Hawke took out to the West Indies returned to England by the steamship Medway, which arrived at Plymouth yesterday.

Writing from Georgetown, British Guiana, on April 15, a correspondent says:- "By the homeward mail which left to-day Lord Hawke and his team of English cricketers sailed for England, after a most successful tour of about ten weeks in the West Indies. During the greater part of this period these colonies enjoyed - or suffered - almost a surfeit of cricket, there being two English teams in the islands at the same time.

"The circumstances leading to the simultaneous visit of Lord Hawke's and Mr Priestley's elevens were much discussed in the West Indian papers. Lord Hawke had the gratification of returning home after a remarkably successful tour. Indeed, the victories of his team were so complete that the opinion was general that the team was really much too strong for the cricketing capacity of the individual colonies visited.

"British Guiana, which aspires with some reason to the premier position in West Indian cricket, suffered two crushing defeats, and would, no doubt, have been beaten a third time had not rain fallen on the last two days of the third match. Against this significant result, however, must be placed the two matches played against All Trinidad, where Lord Hawke's team were twice defeated. These losses in Trinidad were the only two that befell Lord Hawke's eleven. Including these, they played 14 matches, of which they have won nine and lost two, while three were drawn.

"It was generally expected that they would have had a harder task in British Guiana than in some of the islands, but the first match against the Georgetown Club showed that it was almost hopeless for the colonists to look for success against the greatly superior play of their opponents."

At a meeting of the Yorkshire County Committee, held yesterday at Sheffield, it was decided to select the eleven for the matches up to and including that with Leicestershire at Leeds on May 24 from the following 13 players:- Lord Hawke, Mr F S Jackson, Mr F W Milligan, Brown, Denton, Haigh, Hirst, Hunter, Moorhouse, Peel, Wainwright, Tunnicliffe and Mounsey.

At the Gloucestershire county meeting in Bristol, yesterday, the financial position of the county was reported to be extremely satisfactory, for there was a sum of £1,502 in hand.

30 April: SURREY FIRST ELEVEN v NEXT SIXTEEN

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

Day 1 (report from Saturday 1 May, page 15)

What promised to be an interesting trial match of Surrey young players at Kennington Oval has so far been quite spoiled by bad weather. A beginning was made yesterday, but after a little over an hour's play rain came on and fell steadily throughout the afternoon.

In the time that cricket was possible the Eleven, going in first, scored 64 for one wicket. Baldwin and Ayres put on 40 for the first partnership, the former batting very steadily, while Hayward, who went in first wicket down, made a square-leg hit out of the ground, the wicket being pitched rather near one of the boundaries. The game will be resumed to-day at 11 o'clock.

Day 2 (report from Monday 3 May, page 13)

The actual result of this match was of no importance, for the cricket simply served as a trial to see what form the active members of the club and the professionals were in. And at this early moment of the season a few days at the nets are insufficient for more than to get a tolerable sight of the ball.

But with all the handicap of a slow pitch and lack of practice there were two or three points in Saturday's cricket at the Oval of more than average merit. The 41 by Mr H B Chinnery was an extremely good innings and well worthy of the excellent reputation which he built up as a boy at Eton, where he was head of the school averages in 1895. But the absolutely best thing in the way of batting was the innings of Hayward, whose finished method of play was thoroughly demonstrated during his stay for 42.

Mr Crawford and Mr Parkes came out well for the Next Sixteen against much excellent bowling and fielding. Lockwood, who is in very good health, bowled much slower than usual; but his pitch and break were very difficult to contend against. The wicket was unsuited to the pace of Richardson; but Hayes, a young professional from Forest-hill, who came out last year, kept a nice length and achieved a fair measure of success . . .

The following is an abstract of the report of the committee to be presented to the general meeting at the Oval on the 13th inst.:-

The committee express regret that the eleven last summer failed to maintain the high position the county had occupied for some years past, the brilliant promise of the first half of the season being followed by disappointing and uneven play in the later matches. At the same time the committee point with satisfaction to the continued success of the second eleven, who for the fourth consecutive year were unbeaten.

The report deals at length with the question of the new lease of the Oval, which has been obtained for 31 years from Lady-day, 1896, from the Duchy of Cornwall at the increased rental of £750 a year. By the terms of the lease the committee are under obligation to spend a sum of not less than £10,000 in improvements and additions to the club buildings, subject to the approval of the Duchy.

As was made known last season, the committee have determined to build a new pavilion on a considerably enlarged scale. The scheme will include the erection of a new tavern with every convenience for catering adequately for the vast numbers of people who attend the principal matches. For this purpose it may be requisite to borrow some money, and the committee propose to take powers to raise debentures to an extent not exceeding £10,000, and they ask the members of the club for their concurrence in this proposal.

They point out that the payment of interest on any money borrowed will undoubtedly increase the annual expenditure of the club, and they therefore propose that the annual subscription

of all new members elected after May 1, 1897, shall be two guineas. They also ask for power, if necessary, to raise the subscription of all members to a sum not exceeding two guineas, but they trust it may not be necessary to exercise this power so far as existing members of the club are concerned. They further propose to raise the number of members to 4,000.

The balance-sheet for last year shows an invested capital of £10,999 9s, a sum of £1,000 on deposit, and a sum of £133 4s 7d in cash in hand and at the bank. The balance of revenue account for the year ending December 31, 1896, was £1,803 14s 8d. Some of the match receipts last year were very large, the England and Australia match drawing £2,406 13s 6d, the two games between Surrey and the Australians £1,952 10s 6d and the Notts match on the August Bank holiday £1,036 8s. In no first-class match at the Oval last year, except the one with Oxford University, did the gate receipts fall below £100, and only in two other instances were they below £150.

Lohmann received in gate-money from his benefit £625 1s 3d, £200 of this having been paid him in advance in 1895, while £615 was also subscribed by members and others towards the fund.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.- On Saturday, Mr N F Druce, the captain of the eleven, playing for Trinity College against St John's, scored 72 in fine style, hitting nine fours and five threes. He was well supported by the Cambridge wicket-keeper, Mr E H Bray, and the Old Carthusian, Mr E Garnett, who made respectively 43 and 48. Mr H W de Zoete, the Eton slow bowler, took five wickets for 28 runs. Trinity made 235 to their opponents' 87, and thus gained an easy victory.

GEORGE LOHMANN.- It is understood that Lohmann has almost made up his mind to stay permanently in South Africa. His decision will ultimately rest upon the reply from the Surrey executive relative to the terms on which he is prepared to come back to assist Surrey this summer.

3 May: SURREY v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4728.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 May, page 7)

The Surrey eleven have begun the season with a great batting achievement at the expense of one of the weaker of the counties, for yesterday on the Oval they scored 466 in the course of, roughly, five and a half hours at the cost of only six wickets.

The honours of the day belonged to two of Surrey's greatest batsmen - Abel and Hayward - nothing of whom ran well into three figures, while Abel came near to repeating his feat of the same match last year, when he scored 152. He was yesterday only eight runs short of this number. Many of our best batsmen often take a long time to play themselves in; but Abel is not in this category. He is an excellent starter, and yesterday, from the moment when he cut the first ball of the match for four to the end of his innings, he showed all that easy and vigorous precision which has invariably brought him runs all round the wicket. He times the ball well and generally manages to get it in the right place, namely, the middle of the bat.

But, while he is so successful, the admirer of the highest art in batting is apt to be won away from him by the dexterity of Hayward. Yesterday these two batsmen were a great while together, during an increase of the score by 172 runs, and a comparison of their styles could not be avoided. Hayward has all the cricketing ability of his famous uncle, Tom Hayward, who had a hand in making Cambridgeshire the biggest county in cricket long ago. Hayward's innings yesterday was the quicker, for he was in half an hour less than Abel, who took about three hours to get his runs. But while Abel was caught in two minds by a very good ball from Wood, Hayward was out to a very bad stroke, for he apparently took a blind hit at a straight one from Woodcock and was bowled. This was his first and only mistake, and he suffered for it. Beyond one bad stroke in the slips there was no fault in Abel's 144, the best hits of which were one five, 16 fours and seven threes. Hayward hit three fives and 18 fours.

Mr Leveson-Gower was once or twice beaten by the ball without being bowled; but he made many fine strokes on both sides of the wicket, while Mr Read, if not so certain as usual on the leg side, severely punished the worn-out bowling. On the nice wicket the Leicestershire bowling seemed particularly easy. Woodcock with his great pace pegged away energetically all day, but the pitch was not fast enough for him and his length at times was uncertain. Now and then Coe and Geeson had spells of good bowling; but the Leicestershire attack as a whole was terribly weak.

The only really great cricketer Leicestershire possesses was absent, for Pougher had sprained his ankle during practice. Thus the county was very unfortunate. There were some 5,000 spectators of yesterday's cricket; but the north-west wind was much felt in spite of the brightness of the weather.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 May, page 14)

The Surrey eleven beat Leicestershire on the Oval by an innings and 285 runs. After the way the game had gone on Monday some such result as this was more or less expected; but with the wicket faster than on the first day and equally as true few expected Leicestershire to collapse as they did yesterday evening, especially after the plucky fight they made against great odds in the first innings.

But Richardson's splendid pace and break, the latter of which was rather helped by the strong west wind which blew across the wicket, and Hayward's good length and medium pace at the other end proved too much for Leicestershire. Richardson and Hayward secured the whole of the wickets that fell to the bowlers in the two innings. By far the best thing in the Leicestershire batting was the well-played innings of 70 by Tomlin, whose cut was his great stroke. With the wind much more in the west the weather yesterday was very enjoyable and there were again about 5,000 spectators.

3 May: THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COLTS' MATCH

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

Potted scores: GLOUCESTERSHIRE COLTS 54 (Roberts 8/26, C L Townsend 13/25) and 130 (R Bennett 23; Murch 8/51, C L Townsend 13/49). THE COUNTY TEAM 254 (W G Grace, jun., 80, C L Townsend 28, R W Rice 20, A H Grace 37; Paish 3/45, E Freeman 6/59). The County Team won by an innings and 70 runs.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 May, page 7)

Beyond everything else the feature of yesterday's cricket at Bristol in the Gloucestershire Colts' match was the admirably effective bowling and fielding of Mr C L Townsend, who took 13 wickets at a cost of only 25 runs. At one time four wickets fell to him in one over. He was capitally backed up by Roberts, and as the result of the efforts of the two bowlers the Colts, though they managed to stay in for two hours and three-quarters, only obtained a score of 54. In no instance was the batting marked by any energy or spirit.

When the County team went in to bat there was some excellent cricket. Mr Grace, jun., after being two hours and a half at the wickets, was not out 59 at the drawing stumps.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 May, page 14)

At Bristol, yesterday, the county team never lost the substantial advantage they had gained on Monday, and in the end they beat the Colts by an innings and 70 runs. In gaining this easy victory they were largely indebted to Mr C L Townsend, who followed up his fine bowling on the opening day by again taking 13 wickets. This time 49 runs were hit from him, his record for the whole match being 26 wickets for 74 runs. Young Mr Grace, again batting well, increased his overnight score of 59 to 80, but his father did very little, being bowled off his pads after scoring two.

The colts, when they went in for the second time, had to face a majority of 200, and it never seemed likely that they would escape a single innings defeat. Roberts was thought to show the best cricket, though Bennett and Freeman by hard hitting made more runs. Of the colts bowlers, Paish, the Clifton professional, and Freeman were probably the best, the latter keeping a very awkward length. Though not very successful as a colts' match, the game deserves to be remembered for Mr Townsend's bowling.

3 May: THE FRESHMEN'S MATCH AT CAMBRIDGE

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

Potted scores: MR N F DRUCE'S SIDE 174 (W N Pilkington 61, A H Hornby 56; A E Fernie 5/52) and 118 (W N Pilkington 25, W P G M'Cormick 22; A W White 4/40, A E Fernie 4/29). MR E H BRAY'S SIDE 235 (L J Moon 34, A M Simpson 35, J C Tabor 73, O W Wright 34; C F Parry 3/71, H M Biddell 4/44) and 58/2 (L J Moon 41*). Me E H Bray's Side won by nine wickets.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 May, page 7)

Some cricketers of good reputations from the Public Schools are taking part in the Freshmen's match at Cambridge, which began yesterday - notably, Mr T L Taylor, of Uppingham; Mr L J Moon, of Westminster; Mr W N Pilkington, of Clifton; Mr J Stanning, of Rugby; Mr J F Carter, of Haileybury; and Mr A E Fernie, of Wellingborough.

Mr A H Hornby, son of the famous Harrow and Lancashire cricketer, Mr A N Hornby, did very well yesterday, showing, indeed, the steadiest batting of the day. He and Mr Pilkington were together for two hours and a half, and in that time raised the score of Mr Druce's side from 42 for five wickets to 156 for six. Mr Pilkington, however, did not play so well as his partner, his innings being disfigured by several chances.

Mr Druce's side ran up a total of 174, and when Mr Bray's team went in some excellent batting of a free and attractive kind was shown by Mr Moon, who scored 34 in less than half an hour.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 May, page 14)

The Freshmen's match at Cambridge yesterday came to an unexpected end, Mr Bray's side winning easily by nine wickets. There had been nothing in Monday's cricket to point to such a result as this, but yesterday the game went all one way, the winners showing very much the better form.

In gaining an advantage of 61 on the first innings they were largely indebted to the batting of Messrs J C Tabor, of Eton, and O W Wright, of Malvern, who stayed together for a considerable time and added 95 runs for the eighth wicket. Mr Tabor, who did not gain much distinction at Eton as a cricketer, was batting nearly two hours for his highly creditable 73, and did not give a chance. Among the chief hits in his innings were a five, five fours and seven threes.

When Mr Druce's side went in for the second time five wickets were down for 37 runs and, despite some plucky cricket by Messrs Pilkington, M'Cormick and Biddell, the innings was all over for 118, an accident to Mr A L Routh causing the team to be one man short. Mr Fernie, of Wellingborough, again bowled with considerable success, taking four wickets for 29 runs, and Mr White, of Wellington, got the same number of wickets for exactly ten runs each. Mr Bray's side had only 58 set them to win, and this number they hit off in 40 minutes for the loss of two wickets, Mr Moon, the Westminster batsman, playing brilliantly.

The report of the M.C.C. to be presented to the general meeting at Lord's to-morrow has been issued, and an abstract is given below:-

In 1896 the club consisted of 4,197 members, of whom 3,731 paid, 210 are life members and 256 abroad. During the season 178 matches were played, of which 100 were won, 39 lost and 39 drawn.

Mr W E Denison, Mr C E Farmer, Mr W H Patterson and Mr G W Ricketts retire by rotation from the committee, and the Earl of Pembroke, Lord Wenlock, Mr A Appleby and Mr M Turner have been duly nominated to fill the vacancies, and have expressed their willingness to serve.

The portrait of the Hon Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane by Mr W W Oules, R.A., is completed, but, having been sent to the Royal Academy, will not be hung in the pavilion this season.

The site of the Clergy Orphan School has been handed over to the club, and, as the turf has been carefully laid, it is hoped that a portion of the ground will be fit for practice later in the season.

The committee have taken over the whole catering department, including the hotel, and the lease of No 1, Grove-end-road, for 16 years, has also been secured. They have also purchased the freehold of No 3, Grove-end-road, immediately behind the pavilion.

Owing to the incident which occurred at the Oxford and Cambridge match, the committee considered it desirable to take the opinions of the leading counties and of the Australian cricket associations as to whether any, and, if so, what, alteration in the law of "follow-on" (law 53) was expedient in the interests of the game; but, as the result of this reference showed a great diversity of opinion, the committee decided not to recommend the club to legislate on the subject at present.

The committee have decided to present the Hon Alfred Lyttelton with a replica of the gold prize in recognition of his great skill as a tennis player and of his having won the gold prize on 15 different occasions.

The ground staff will consist of . . . [repetition of list published on 16 April].

5 May: M.C.C. v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4729.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 6 May, page 11)

The opening of the season at Lord's, yesterday, was not favoured by pleasant conditions. Following the delightful weather of Tuesday rain fell for several hours in the morning, rendering the turf, already rather soft, so unfit for cricket that it was promptly decided not to attempt to make a start at the usual time. With a strong wind blowing, however, there was a prospect of a speedy improvement, and it was arranged to take lunch early and begin as soon after 2 o'clock as possible. Even then, however, the weather was by no means settled, and twice during the afternoon the game was interrupted by showers. Altogether, cricket was in progress for about three hours and a quarter, and such an advantage did the bowlers hold on the slow ground that 15 wickets went down and only 140 runs were scored.

Mr W G Grace telegraphed in the morning that he would not be able to play, but every one else whose name had been announced went into the field for the club, Mr A N Hornby being captain. Not often at the start of the season has the M.C.C. been better represented. Mr M R Jardine, so well remembered for his splendid batting in the University match of 1892, had not till yesterday been seen at Lord's for three or four seasons. In the Notts eleven there were two changes from the advertised list, Flowers and Brown giving place to Mason and Dench - two of the young cricketers now retained at Trent Bridge in connexion with the Notts Club and Ground scheme. Both met with success, Mason by very good cricket making the best score of the day and Dench (right hand, medium pace) taking two wickets.

It was ten minutes past 2 when Notts, having won the toss, went in to bat, and at 20 minutes past 5 their innings closed for 112. Up to a certain point they did not seem likely to do as well as this, seven wickets being down for 59 runs. The early play was disastrous indeed, Shrewsbury and Gunn being out with the score at six to successive balls from Martin. Shrewsbury was out leg before wicket and Gunn, playing forward to a rather short-pitched ball, sent it into mid-off's hands. Mr A O Jones and Daft put a slightly better appearance on the game, staying together for nearly half an hour and adding 23 runs during their partnership. Then at 29 Daft played a ball from J T Hearne into his wicket. Attewell was out before the first shower came on, the score being then 41, and before another run had been added Mr Jones, who played very fair cricket, was caught at short slip.

With the total at 65 for seven wickets rain at 4 o'clock delayed the game 20 minutes, and on a fresh start being made Storer kept wicket in place of Mr Philipson. Mr C W Wright and Mason gave more trouble than any other batsmen on the side, and caused a change of bowling, Hearne, who had been on from the start with Martin, giving way to Davidson at 76. However, Hearne was tried again at 92 and with four runs added he dismissed Mr Wright, who had been batting an hour and five minutes for a very valuable 16. Mason's capital display came to an end at 102, and except for a hit or two by Hardstaff there was nothing else in the batting to call for notice. Martin and J T Hearne took the ten wickets between them, Martin with six for 51 runs having the better record.

The M.C.C. went in with less than an hour remaining for play and they fared very badly in the drying ground. Mr de Trafford, with a couple of drives for four from Hardstaff, hit up 14 out of 16 before being caught at mid-off, and then there was a rapid downfall. Two other wickets fell with the score unaltered, Mr Warner being very smartly caught at mid-on and Mr Ernest Smith bowled, and then at 24 Davidson, who had gone in first wicket down, was bowled, and at 28 Mr Jardine was caught at point. With the fall of the fifth wicket stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 2 (report from Friday 7 May, page 9)

The opening match of the season at Lord's ground came to a conclusion yesterday afternoon, after a highly interesting game on a soft and treacherous wicket, by 43 runs. Notts, it may be remembered, had on Wednesday scored a first innings of 112 and the M.C.C. had lost five of their best wickets for 28.

The remainder of the Marylebone innings lasted from 25 minutes to 11 until ten minutes to 1, the overnight total being increased to 106. Dench, a young professional from Nottingham, met with great success as a bowler, taking in the whole innings seven wickets for 28 runs, while yesterday morning his figures were 17 overs and two balls, 24 runs and five wickets.

In their second innings Notts made 101 and the M.C.C. were left with 108 to get to win. Five wickets fell for 18 runs, but a stand was then made by Davidson and Mr Jardine, the two men putting on 35 runs during their partnership. Mr Jardine, however, was clean bowled at 53, and then the other wickets fell so rapidly that the whole side were out for 64 and Notts were left victorious, as already stated, by 43 runs. In the second innings of the M.C.C. Attewell bowled wonderfully well, taking five wickets at a cost of 25 runs, and Hardstaff met with striking success, his three wickets being obtained for seven runs.

The annual meeting of the Marylebone Club was held in the pavilion at Lord's yesterday afternoon, the Earl of Pembroke, the retiring president, being in the chair. There was a fairly good muster of members, among those present being Lord Harris, the Hon Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, Lord Hawke, Mr W E Denison, Mr V E Walker, Mr A J Webbe, Mr G MacGregor, Mr H T Hewett, Mr C I Thornton, Mr W J Ford, Mr Denzil Onslow, Mr C E de Trafford, Mr A N Hornby, Mr H Philipson and Mr C W Wright.

The proceedings were as usual private, but it was stated that the report of the committee was adopted after some little discussion on points of detail. Mr W E Denison, Mr C E Farmer, Mr W H Patterson and Mr G W Ricketts retire by rotation from the committee, their places being filled by the Earl of Pembroke, Lord Wenlock, Mr A Appleby and Mr M Turner. The new president of the club is the Earl of Lichfield. The annual dinner was held in the evening.

DEATH OF AN OLD CRICKETER.- William Goodhew, the old Kent cricketer, who used to play for the county in the days of Willsher and George Bennett, died a few days ago at the age of 68, and was buried yesterday at Canterbury.

6 May: THE SOMERSET TRIAL MATCH

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

Potted score: MR S M J WOODS' SIDE 233 (M H Toller 38, W G Borough 20, M Sturt 26, W Sloman 56, S M J Woods 57; Bailey 3/78, Lewis 4/54, Bucknell 3/54). MR L C H PALAIRET'S XI 160/7 (R Sloman 47, F Ball 50*; Cranfield 5 wickets). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 May, page 9)

In bright but cold weather a trial match for the Somerset cricketers was commenced at Taunton yesterday, the sides being under the leadership of Mr S M J Woods and Mr L C H Palairet.

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

Rain prevented play at Taunton yesterday, and the trial match for the Somerset cricketers, which was begun on Thursday, had to be abandoned.

6 May: THE SENIORS' MATCH AT CAMBRIDGE

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

Potted scores: MR G H SIMPSON'S SIDE 176 (H J Davenport 29, H G Curgenven 23, F O Houseman 26; H H B Hawkins 3/48; E A Druce 5/44) and 288 (J H Stogdon 100, G H Simpson 64; H H B Hawkins 3/54). MR E GARNETT'S SIDE 409 (A G Richardson 24, C R Worthington 63, E Garnett 54, E A Kidman 70, A C Miller 22, H H B Hawkins 91, H W de Zoete 34; H G Curgenven 4/68) and 7/0. Mr Garnett's Side won by eleven wickets.

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 May, page 9)

An uneventful day's play was seen yesterday at Cambridge, four hours and three-quarters being taken to score 259 runs. The sides are captained by Mr G H Simpson and Mr E Garnett.

Mr Simpson's team, on going in first, stayed at the wickets until just upon 5 o'clock, the batting, though it never rose above an ordinary level, being in several instances commendable. Mr H J Davenport headed the score with 29 and was in for an hour and a half. Considerable success rewarded Mr E A Druce's efforts with the ball, five wickets falling to him at a cost of 44 runs.

When Mr Garnett's side went in runs came at a quicker rate than before, Mr Worthington scoring rather freely. He and Mr Richardson put on 49 runs together, their partnership being the most productive of the day.

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

Some bright and interesting cricket was seen at Cambridge yesterday, when the Seniors' match was continued, batsmen showing their appreciation of a good wicket by scoring rapidly throughout the afternoon. Mr H H B Hawkins, the old Whitgift boy, showed to best advantage, scoring a brilliant innings of 91, not out. He was at the wickets just two hours, during which time he made no mistake and hit five fours, four threes and 18 twos. His most useful partner was Mr de Zoete, an old Etonian, who helped to add 87 for the tenth wicket; but earlier in the day Mr C R Worthington, Mr E Garnett and Mr E A Kidman all scored over 50.

Mr Garnett's side were not got rid of till their total reached 409. This gave them a lead of 233, against which Mr Simpson's side scored 93 in the last hour and a half for the loss of two wickets, so that at they close they were 140 runs behind with nine wickets to fall. The feature of the last portion of the play was the splendid batting of J H Stogdon, the old Harrovian, who hit with great vigour.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 May, page 14)

Mr J H Stogdon infused some little interest into the concluding stages of the Seniors' match at Cambridge on Saturday by a further display of capital batting. Overnight he had made 68, and before falling to a catch at extra cover-point he succeeded in raising his score to exactly 100. It was in every respect an excellent innings, being quite free from serious fault. He obtained his runs in two hours and a half, and hit one six, 11 fours, three threes and 12 twos.

Mr G H Simpson also did well, playing a capital innings of 64. His stay at the wickets extended over an hour and three-quarters, and included in his score were eight fours. Apart from these two gentlemen there was little else in the batting of Mr Simpson's side worthy of commendation, and it was only through faulty fielding they escaped an innings defeat.

Overnight, going in a second time in a minority of 233, Mr Simpson's team had scored 93 for two wickets, and their innings was finished on Saturday for a total of 238. The six runs required to win were obtained without loss, and Mr Garnett's side thus won shortly after lunch by 11 wickets.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4730.html)

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

Following a custom which has now been observed for a good many years, Mr C I Thornton took a team down to Cambridge yesterday for the first important match of the University season. A notable reappearance was that of Mr A J L Hill, the Hampshire cricketer, who was away from England all last season. The Cambridge eleven comprised six Old Blues, four Seniors, in the persons of Mr J H Stogdon, Mr E A Kidman, Mr H H B Hawkins and Mr H W de Zoete, and one Freshman, Mr A E Fernie, of Wellingborough.

Cambridge had the good fortune to bat first, but it cannot be said that they made much of their advantage, 169 being, in fine weather, a very moderate score on the University ground. The early cricket gave promise of better things, Mr Burnup and Mr Kidman scoring in three-quarters of an hour 42 runs for the first wicket. At lunch time three wickets were down for 70, Mr N F Druce, to the disappointment of the spectators, being bowled for a single.

After the interval, Mr Marriott and Mr Stogdon - the Harrow batsman of two years ago - stayed together for some time, and when they had been separated Mr Jessop in characteristic fashion scored 18 in five hits. Mr Stogdon, who was at the wickets an hour and 20 minutes for his 40, played not only the highest but the best innings of the day. After he left very little was done, the innings closing at half-past 4.

Mr Thornton's eleven, like the University, proved curiously unsuccessful in batting. Their score reached 42 for two wickets, Mr Jackson, the second man out, being dismissed by a very fine catch at mid-off, but at the close of play five wickets had fallen and the total was only 76. The feature of the day's cricket was unquestionably the success that attended the bowlers on both sides.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 May, page 14)

The Cambridge eleven, who had made a creditable start against Mr Thornton's team on Monday, accomplished a very fine performance yesterday and left off with every prospect of gaining a decisive victory. Everything was eclipsed by the magnificent batting of Mr Norman Druce, the University captain, who, in the second innings, scored 227 and was still not out at the call of time. The total at the drawing stumps reached 385 for the loss of only five wickets.

Mr Druce, who had gone in at 20 minutes past 1, played from the first with splendid vigour and determination, hitting all round the wicket in most brilliant fashion. He has already made the highest score ever obtained on Fenner's Ground at Cambridge, but as he has to go on again this morning there will be another opportunity of referring to his innings as a whole. Cambridge now hold a lead of 422 runs and have still five wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 May, page 11)

The University eleven yesterday at Cambridge gained a brilliant victory over Mr Thornton's team by 334 runs. In the morning the Cambridge innings was declared at an end, Mr Norman Druce being left not out with 227. This is the best innings he has ever played in his career, and establishes a new record for the highest individual innings played on Fenner's Ground.

Mr Druce was batting for just under four hours. Among his figures were two fives, 30 fours, 13 threes and nine twos. Mr Thornton's team failed badly on a pitch that had been affected by rain.

10 May: DERBYSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4731.html)

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

On their own ground at Derby, yesterday, the Derbyshire eleven gave a most disappointing display against Lancashire, and they have already so much the worst of the game that they will have to accomplish something out of the ordinary to escape a bad beating. They had the good fortune to gain first innings, but made singularly poor use of their opportunity. They managed to stay at the wickets for three hours and a quarter, but could only put together a total of 127.

The cricket for the most part was very tame, the only really bright piece of play being seen during the partnership of Davidson and Walter Sugg, who in 50 minutes put on 53 runs for the sixth wicket. At one point Derbyshire had 120 on the board with only five men out, but after Sugg ran himself out at 121 the batting collapsed, the last four wickets falling for six runs. Mold bowled well, keeping an excellent length, while Hallam also met with success.

When Lancashire went in some admirable batting was shown by Albert Ward and Paul. So well did the two men play together that in a little over an hour and a half they scored 102 runs without being separated. The weather was cold and threatening, but there was only one brief interruption through rain.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 May, page 14)

The Derbyshire eleven, who were outplayed on the opening day at Derby, lost further ground yesterday, and they will now have great difficulty in escaping defeat. Lancashire, who overnight had scored 102 without loss, raised their total to 420, for directly after their innings came to an end rain fell heavily for an hour and prevented any further cricket.

The chief honours of Lancashire's big score rested with Albert Ward and Paul, who took the score to 171 before being separated, their partnership lasting two hours and 35 minutes. Paul played very finely, his 65 being free from blemish. Ward, who stayed until the score was 281 and made 162 off his own bat, had more than a fair share of good fortune, being missed no fewer than five times. The weather, however, was very cold, so there was some excuse for the fieldsmen. Ward obtained his runs in three hours and three-quarters, and hit 16 fours, 12 threes and 14 twos.

The batting of the other members of the eleven calls for no special comment. With a deficit of 293 against them Derbyshire will go in a second time to-day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 May, page 11)

For the second time the Derbyshire batting broke down completely and Lancashire gained an overwhelming victory at Derby yesterday by an innings and 220 runs. With a majority of 293 against them Derbyshire had no chance of saving the game, particularly as, after the previous day's rain, the wicket was anything but easy - a state of things of which Mold and Hallam took the fullest advantage.

10 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4732.html)

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

In an excellent day's cricket at Lord's yesterday, when the wicket was easy and true and the weather generally fine, there were sundry points of much interest. But most of the excellence lay in the batting of three members of the Yorkshire side - Brown, Tunncliffe and Moorhouse - who between them contributed 186 towards the score of 274, the getting of which occupied the county from midday until after 5 o'clock.

Against much good bowling and fielding runs were in no degree a matter of easy attainment; but the professionals mentioned, without exception, played excellent cricket and scarcely made a bad hit. Each had his own particular method of batting. The cut was Brown's great stroke; and while Tunncliffe relied largely on his driving powers as the result of correct forward play, Moorhouse played a hard and courageous game all round the wicket.

To Moorhouse belonged the chief honour of the day, inasmuch as he scored a good many more runs than any of his companions. In two or three late seasons Moorhouse has figured well in many a tight pinch for Yorkshire, but yesterday he went in sooner than usual. From the time of his appearance at "two for 104" until he easily eighth out, well caught in the long field, he played with unvarying excellence, taking only two hours and a quarter to score 78 out of 136. His best hits were 12 fours.

Brown's was a much quicker innings than Tunncliffe's, but the batting in both was warmly cheered. The chief stands in the innings were the 86 for the first wicket and the 54 for the third by Tunncliffe and Moorhouse. Denton, one of the best bats on the Yorkshire side, was out rather unluckily, for in backing up to Tunncliffe he lost his wicket, the ball being driven hard back to the stumps and just touching the bowler's hand.

Marylebone bowled and fielded well; but Mr Wright scarcely gave Albert Trott sufficient opportunity, as may be gathered from the analysis of the bowling. The M.C.C. committee gave Roche, their new Australian professional, a trial; he is a medium pace right arm bowler with a nice action and a fine length, and yesterday he achieved a fair measure of success.

When the club went in the light became so bad that at the end of three-quarters of an hour the umpires sustained the objection against going on made by Mr Wright, and the cricket day was therefore curtailed by some 20 minutes. As to the composition of the sides, it will be noticed that neither Mr Jackson nor Hirst was with Yorkshire, and that the M.C.C. are rather deficient in batting power.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 May, page 14)

For a long time at Lord's yesterday the M.C.C. team were engaged on the true wicket in a severe uphill game. Against Yorkshire's good score of 274 they began the day badly, and in the course of an hour lost five men for 84; but from that point the game underwent a gradual change. Last evening, when the bad light put a stop to cricket, it was anybody's game, Yorkshire being 83 on in the second innings with seven wickets in hand.

Mr C P Foley played the highest-class cricket; after an escape at point when he was only four he settled down and played brilliantly. His fine cutting and off-driving were completely typical of the Eton school. Mr Bruce Wentworth, M.P., exercised every care at a critical stage of the game, but now and then he showed well how to punish a loose ball. He was a long time getting his runs, but he did more than anyone to check the success of the Yorkshire bowlers.

Martin came to his aid when there were only three wickets left and 25 were still necessary to save the follow-on; and from that stage it was Martin's batting that brought the Marylebone team to an even position. He did so well that after going in seventh wicket down at 130 he was last out, caught at wicket for 71. The partnerships for the ninth and tenth

wickets yielded 96 runs. Roche, the Australian, played extremely well. Martin's 71 is the highest score he has ever made in important cricket, his previous best having been the 70 secured by him last year at Hastings in the match between Kent and Sussex. He was batting yesterday some two and a quarter hours, but beyond a five his hits were few, for twos and singles were the things that built up his score. Yorkshire fielded well; but the bowling as a whole did not seem to possess much sting.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 May, page 11)

At Lord's, yesterday, the Marylebone team beat the champion county by seven wickets. The finest event in a match which was particularly fruitful of good cricket was the splendid innings of 108 by Mr P F Warner, formerly of the Rugby and Oxford elevens.

In his first two years at Oxford Mr Warner failed to convince the captain of the eleven of his capacity, but he got his Blue in 1895 and retained it last season. But in first-class cricket he has never done anything to equal his innings of yesterday. No doubt he has profited by his trip with Lord Hawke to the West Indies, where he scored nearly 1,000 runs. Mr Warner has an excellent style of batting, keeping the ball down and being particularly good in placing it on the leg-side. This leg-stroke of his brought him a great many runs yesterday.

He went in first in Marylebone's second innings, which had to produce 226 for victory, and made the winning hit after a stay of two hours and 20 minutes. His innings was faultlessly made and included 15 fours. His partner during the stand for the second wicket was Albert Trott, who played a sound and quick game and contributed 62 towards the 145 added while he was in.

There were early in the day the fine bowling of J T Hearne, to which the analysis bears testimony; the powerful driving of Lord Hawke, who scored 63 out of 101 in an hour; and the wicket-keeping of Board, who made in all five catches, that which got out Mounsey being particularly skilful. Mounsey had cut the ball hard, but Board made a clutch at it, turning it on to the stumps and getting it at the second attempt.

There was a good deal of fluctuation in the fortune of the match and the cricket was always interesting to watch. The pitch played absolutely true, and even the Yorkshire bowlers looked easy when Mr Warner and Trott were well set. Lord Hawke, however, might have given Peel more opportunity.

10 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4733.html)

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

Cricket at Trent-bridge yesterday was carried on under conditions the reverse of agreeable, the temperature being so cold as to take nearly all the pleasure out of the game. Nevertheless, some very good play of a quiet kind was seen during the afternoon, the batting of Sussex and the bowling of the Notts men being alike excellent. Indeed, considering the fine condition of the ground, the Notts bowlers did very well, and though they were at work the greater part of the day, they were never really mastered.

Notts made two changes from the team that last week beat the M.C.C. at Lord's, Mr J A Dixon and Brown taking the places of Mr C W Wright and Mason, while Sussex gave a first trial to Bland, a young fast bowler who has just recently qualified by residence. Bland had little to do yesterday - only bowling half-a-dozen overs at the close of the afternoon - that it would be quite premature to express any opinion about him.

Bean and Marlow started the Sussex innings in good form, scoring 35 together during their partnership, and by lunch time 100 runs had been obtained for the loss of three wickets. Ranjitsinhji was more than usually cautious, but it was evident that he retained his style in full perfection. The best batting of the day was shown by Mr Murdoch and Mr George Brann, both of whom stayed in about two hours. Mr Murdoch, though he scored slowly, was seen to great advantage, and he was out at last through pulling a ball in to his wicket.

Mr Brann went in with the score at 122 for four wickets and was out ninth at 229. A little unsteadiness marked his cricket at starting, and once or twice he narrowly escaped being caught, but having once become set he played exceedingly well.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 May, page 14)

A great innings was played for Notts at Trent Bridge yesterday by Mr J A Dixon. Having on Monday evening made three runs, the Notts captain was batting all the time the weather allowed the game to be in progress yesterday, and when at five minutes to 6 play had to be given up he was not out 198, the Notts total standing at 343 for five wickets.

This innings is considerably the highest Mr Dixon has ever played in a first-class match, his previous best being 139 some few years ago against Kent. He hit with extreme brilliancy, and yet his cricket was so correct that, apart from a high stroke in the slips which fell harmless and a very hard return to the bowler there was scarcely a fault to be found with it. When he put the ball up in the slips he had made 56, and when Bland had a chance of catching him his score was 65. He took an hour and 35 minutes to make his first 50 runs, half an hour to get his second hundred, and something under an hour and 10 minutes in carrying his score from 100 to 150.

He found two capital partners in Shrewsbury and the colt Dench, the former, who seemed in first-rate form, helping to put on in an hour and three-quarters 158 runs for the second wicket. Dench joined his captain with the score at 234 for five wickets and without further loss 109 runs were added. A bitterly cold wind blew from the north-east in the morning, and when it shifted the weather became so showery that after luncheon there was rather less than two hours' play.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 May, page 11)

The brilliant batting of Mr J A Dixon being followed up by some admirable bowling on the part of Attewell, the Notts team yesterday at Nottingham beat Sussex in a decisive fashion by an innings and 74 runs.

Mr Dixon considerably increased his remarkable not-out score of 198; he hit with as much freedom as before and succeeded in setting up a new record for the Trent Bridge ground. His score of 268 not out is the highest individual innings ever made there, beating by a single run Arthur Shrewsbury's 167 for Notts against Middlesex in 1887. Mr Dixon's wonderful innings extended over five hours and ten minutes, his chief hits being one five, 28 fours, 21 threes and 14 twos.

10 May: SURREY v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4734.html)

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

In their first match this season Essex made a splendid beginning at the Oval yesterday, for they kept Surrey in the field for nearly five hours, during which they scored 316 runs. The chief batting honours rested with Mr Perrin, Mr M'Gahey and Mr Lucas. The two first-named had both their fair share of luck, and Mr Lucas played the finest cricket; his cutting was magnificent and it is a pity that he should be so little seen now in first-class matches.

Surrey had largely themselves to blame for the big score made against them owing to their mistakes in the field. Mr Perrin gave chances when his individual score was two and 31 respectively; the second was a hard chance, but Mr Key certainly ought to have held the first. Mr M'Gahey was also missed off two consecutive balls from Hayward, one of which Richardson ought to have caught. As it was these batsmen put on 137 for the third wicket. Mr Perrin's hits included four fours, six threes and eight twos, while Mr M'Gahey hit two fives, ten fours, one three and seven twos.

Mr Lucas went in fifth wicket down and carried his bat out without the semblance of a chance; it was an exceptionally pretty innings and included one five and nine fours. Apart from his fine cutting he made some splendid drives; one of his strokes of Hayward, who was bowling from the Vauxhall end, went out of the field on the leg side. Richardson took four wickets for 92 runs, three of which he captured in one over, bowling Mr Owen and Mr Kortright with consecutive balls, while Baldwin caught Mr Bull at the second attempt in the slips off the last.

Towards the conclusion of the innings a few drops of rain fell, and the light grew so bad that play was abandoned for the day. Notwithstanding the cold wind, the attendance was very good, there being considerably more people than at the Leicester match. It will be seen that Surrey put the same team in the field as last week, and that Essex had their full strength.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 May, page 14)

Surrey were not very successful in their uphill task yesterday on the Oval - in fact, at one time it seemed very doubtful whether they would save the follow-on; this, however, they succeeded in accomplishing by the small margin of two runs, taking three hours and ten minutes to make 199 runs.

The chief feature of the innings was the good batting of Hayward and Mr Key/ The former was at the wickets for one hour and 40 minutes for 66, and hit ten fours, two threes and five twos; his innings was only marred by one chance in the long-field to Carpenter, who seemed to misjudge the ball. Mr Key must also be given much credit for his innings, as he was batting at a very critical time, and it was in a great measure due to his play that the follow-on was averted.

Of the others, Mr Chinnery showed some promise. Surrey's comparatively small score was in a great measure due to the very fine bowling of Mr Bull, who took nine wickets for 93, a wonderful performance on a good pitch. He varied his pace with great skill and his break always puzzled the batsmen.

Essex opened their second innings at a quarter to four, having a useful lead of 117 runs, and some bright cricket was shown by Mr Fane and Carpenter, who put on 77 runs in one hour and ten minutes. Both played fine cricket. Of the five wickets which fell Mr Chinnery, who is a slow left-handed bowler, claimed three, but he was rather lucky. Wood caught Perrin off a full pitch, which he tried to hit to leg. There was again a good attendance, but the weather was very cold, a keen wind blowing across the ground, while the light at times was very bad.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 May, page 11)

Surrey just managed to save their match with Essex at the Oval, but only after an uphill fight of much severity rendered necessary, not only by their mistakes in the field on Monday, but by their incapacity to play Mr Bull's slows on Tuesday. Although the wicket was very true they were set a pretty hard task by Essex yesterday, for they had to keep in four hours and a quarter, or make the 362 which the visitors had set them to win.

At one time yesterday Essex seemed to have victory within their grasp, as they had got four of the best Surrey wickets down for 79 runs, and then there remained nearly two hours and three-quarters to play. But Abel and the old Etonian, Chinnery, checked the successes of Essex by a partnership of 65 minutes, and subsequently Mr W W Read came out with a fine innings. But too much praise cannot be bestowed upon Abel for his skilful and patient innings. He was batting altogether three hours and 25 minutes for his 95, and his principal hits were two fives, 11 fours, four threes and four twos. He undoubtedly saved Surrey from defeat. His chief partners were Mr Chinnery and Mr Read, with whom he added 81 and 61. Before the end came Surrey had many an anxious moment, and then there was a good deal of excitement. When Mr W W Read left there were 25 minutes to play and Surrey had three wickets to fall.

Essex are to be warmly congratulated on their fine cricket in the first match of their season. They played the better game and deserved to win. Mr Lucas's 57 (he made 116 in the match without being once out) was the best feature in yesterday's batting of the Essex eleven. Essex on Tuesday night were in a position which almost secured them from defeat, and their captain yesterday did quite right in closing the innings at about 1.20. This match has certainly brought one fact into prominence, and that is that Surrey want some more bowlers. The weather was cold but the company was fairly numerous.

10 May: THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SENIORS' MATCH

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

Potted scores: MR J M QUINTON'S SIDE 363 (A Eccles 101, A S Crawley 83, R H de Montmorency 93; G B Scobell 3/43, T B Henderson 6/58) and 20/2. MR E G BROMLEY-MARTIN'S SIDE 231 (H F Morres 41, E G Bromley-Martin 66, K A Woodward 25, J W Stratton 25, A F Mullins 48; F W Stocks 4/76, G Jordan 5/59, R G L Horton 3/48) and (following on) 257 (T B Henderson 36, H F Morres 33, E G Bromley-Martin 31. K A Woodward 35, J W Stratton 74; R G L Horton 4/81, R W Mitchell 3/42). Match drawn.

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

The heroes of yesterday's play in the seniors' match, which opened the season at Oxford, were Mr A Eccles, who in 1894-95 headed the batting averages at Repton School, Mr A S Crawley, who was at Harrow in 1895, and Mr R H de Montmorency, a senior from St Paul's School. These three gentlemen all appeared for Mr Quinton's side against Mr Bromley-Martin's, and with so many vacancies in the Oxford eleven this season they are sure to be given a further trial.

Mr Eccles in his admirable 101 hit ten fours, four threes and 12 twos, while Mr Crawford in his 88 made 15 fours. Mr Montmorency scored his 93 in an hour and 25 minutes, hitting one six and 15 fours. When there seemed every prospect of a huge total by Mr Quinton's side Mr Henderson bowled with great success, taking six wickets for 58 runs and bringing the innings to a rapid conclusion.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 May, page 14)

There was nothing remarkable in yesterday's cricket at Oxford, but some good batting was shown by Mr Bromley-Martin's side, who, considering the position in which they had been left on Monday, played up very well. In face of their opponents' total of 363 they had lost two wickets for four runs.

Mr Bromley-Martin himself hit 10 fours in a capital 66, and Mr Mullins nine fours in his 48, the play of these two gentlemen considerably enlivening a game which in some respects was rather tame. Mr Morres showed strong defence and was at the wickets nearly two hours for 41. The innings closed for 231. Mr Bromley-Martin's side had to follow on and, as will be seen below, they had made a good start when time was called.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 May, page 11)

The cricket at Oxford yesterday presented few features of interest and, after a long and uneventful afternoon's play, the game ended in a draw. At one time Mr Bromley-Martin's side looked like being defeated, but the danger was averted by a capital innings on the part of Mr Stratton, who hit eight fours, four threes and eight twos in his 74. Some fairly good form was shown by Messrs Morres, Bromley-Martin and Woodward.

HERE

14 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4735.html)

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

Yesterday's cricket at Bristol went greatly in favour of Yorkshire, and such a result is hardly to be wondered at considering the fact that Gloucestershire were represented by one of the weakest elevens the county have ever sent into the field.

Gloucestershire went in first on a fast run-getting wicket, but so weak was the resistance offered to the Yorkshire bowlers that in less than three hours the whole side were dismissed for 155. Dr W G Grace played in fine form, scoring 55 out of 79 in an hour and ten minutes, and hitting five fours, three threes and eight twos. Brown and Mr F S Jackson batted very well indeed for Yorkshire and, as the game stands now, Yorkshire, with only one man out, hold a lead of four runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 May, page 16)

At one time at Bristol, yesterday, it seemed possible that Gloucestershire might make a creditable struggle with their opponents, who with half their wickets down had only increased their overnight advantage of four runs (with one man out) to 25, but from that point the batting obtained the upper hand.

Wainwright was chiefly responsible for this, scoring 100 in faultless style in two hours and three-quarters. Hirst played a more vigorous innings and was twice missed, but a few faults were almost inevitable in such a dashing display. He occupied only two hours and a half in scoring 134, the chief hits of which were 19 fours and five threes. Seven of the Yorkshire wickets fell to Mr Townsend, but he was very expensive.

Mr Grace and Wrathall opened Gloucestershire's second innings by scoring 41 in 20 minutes, but at the drawing stumps they had only hit off 84 of their arrears of 339, while losing three wickets, so that to-day they will face a majority of 255, with seven wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 May, page 13)

From the position in which the game had been left the previous night a victory for Yorkshire at Bristol on Saturday was almost inevitable; but the Gloucestershire eleven played up so well that, though beaten in the end by ten wickets, they came out of the game without discredit. No surprise would have been felt if the match had ended before luncheon on Saturday, for, with three wickets down in their second innings for 84, Gloucestershire had still to face a balance of 255 runs. However, they kept the Yorkshiremen hard at work in the field till nearly 4 o'clock, carrying their score to the substantial figure of 358.

Board, always one of the most fearless of cricketers, played a resolute game, and in making 126 beat by two runs his best previous effort in first-class matches. He was at the wickets for two hours and a half, and in all that time his only serious mistake was a palpable chance to Mr Jackson at cover-point when he had made 105. A desperately hard chance with his score at 78 to Haigh at mid-off could hardly be considered a blemish. In his 126 Board hit seven fours, ten threes and 20 twos. He had valuable partners in Mr Townsend and Mr Brown, the fifth wicket putting on 95 runs and the sixth 119. Board went in at 91 and was out at 305. Mr Townsend was batting an hour and 40 minutes without a mistake for his 51, and Mr Brown took two hours in obtaining a highly creditable, though not faultless, 47.

Yorkshire had only 20 to get and, hitting off this number without loss, they won the match by ten wickets. In the course of the three days 1,028 runs were scored, the wicket being an exceptionally good one.

13 May: M.C.C. AND GROUND v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4736.html)

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

K S Ranjitsinhji has not allowed many days of the cricket season to pass before playing a great innings which recalls his wonderful feats of last year. Yesterday, at Lord's, he exceeded anything previously done by him by playing a four hours' innings of 260 for Sussex against Marylebone. His highest had been hitherto the 171 for the county against Oxford University last June at Brighton.

Although he has had scarcely any practice even at the nets this spring, the young Indian Prince's batting seemed as fine as ever. He frequently employed his great stroke on the leg side, while his driving and cutting were marked by extraordinary power and freedom. He went in first wicket down before a run had been scored and was eighth out at 376, when in going forward to Hearne he played inside a ball which went into the hands of slip. Early in his innings he made two or three ill-timed strokes, and Mr Bruce Wentworth should perhaps have caught him at extra slip.

The great points of his innings were seen after the luncheon interval; he scored his 100 in 100 minutes out of 150 runs made, and his 260 were made in just beyond the four hours. Among his figures were one six (a single by an overthrow), 36 fours, 14 threes and 17 twos. Ranjitsinhji was of course very warmly cheered at the various stages of his innings. Mr Murdoch stayed with him while 173 were put on in 95 minutes, and the steadiness of the old Australian captain only brought into stronger relief the brilliancy of Ranjitsinhji.

There was nothing else of note in the day's play. Marylebone fielded well, especially Mr Jardine; but Ranjitsinhji made the bowling look very weak on the easy pitch. Sussex are trying three new men fresh to Lord's ground - Vine, Cox and Bland.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 May, page 16)

Marylebone were engaged in a severe uphill game throughout yesterday, and even now, after following on, and although they have scored 201 in the second innings, they are only 49 runs ahead and have only five wickets left. Early yesterday Mr Warner and Mr de Trafford played pretty well, but without doubt the best cricket in the first innings was that of the old Oxford blue, Mr M R Jardine, whose driving was particularly good; he got his 53 in a little over an hour and made seven fours.

In the follow-on Marylebone, who were 152 behind, lost three men for 69; but then came much good batting by Chatterton and Mr Foley - players of extremely different styles. The Sussex fielding was only moderate; but the new fast bowler Bland met with some success, and in dismissing six men he hit the wicket four times. Dull weather prevailed and the company was small.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 May, page 13)

After an uphill game of much severity the M.C.C. beat Sussex at Lord's on Saturday by 46 runs, a result that was without doubt very surprising when the course of the cricket on the first two days is remembered, for Saturday had found Marylebone only 49 runs ahead with five of their best men gone in the second innings. The remaining five, however, profiting by some errors of the fielding side, put on no fewer than 134, and this left Sussex with the respectable number of 184 to make in the fourth innings.

Butt was the chief delinquent in the Sussex field through his letting off at wicket both Martin and Mr Wentworth. Davidson and Storer both played very good cricket on the third morning, and the innings was wound up in vigorous fashion by Martin, who had proved a pretty useful bat against Yorkshire. Marylebone were not all out until on the stroke of the

luncheon interval, so that Sussex were left some three hours and three-quarters in which to make the 184 for victory.

But in a little over two hours the M.C.C. bowlers got out Sussex for 137. The wicket had worn just enough to make Hearne and Davidson particularly difficult to play, and only at one period did the county seem to have a chance of winning. This was when Mr Wentworth had badly missed Killick, who afterwards made many fine strokes from both ends and with Parris scored over 50 for the sixth wicket. But when once these two men were separated the finish came quickly, Davidson crossing over and bowling with much effect from the pavilion side.

It was a great game for the M.C.C. to win after playing against a first innings of 418; indeed, there are not many English records of a side getting 400 in the first innings and then losing. Sussex thus justified an old tradition which has it that Sussex rarely win except when they have to fight an uphill match. It will be seen that K S Ranjitsinhji for once failed; on Saturday he played a few overs fairly well and then, hitting out at Davidson, gave extra mid-off an easy catch. Marylebone concluded a successful week's cricket which furnished victories for them over both Yorkshire and Sussex.

The fact that Ranjitsinhji made 260 recalls an item of history - namely, that the highest individual score on Lord's Ground is still that of 278 made by Mr William Ward so long ago as 1820. This William Ward was a great patron of cricket and actually at one time possessed the freehold of Lord's Ground; and it may be gathered from the little book on the M.C.C. centenary in 1887, written by Mr Henry Perkins and the late Mr George H West, that through altered circumstances he had to sell the lease in 1836 to Mr Dark.

13 May: SURREY v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4737.html)

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

The Surrey eleven have quickly shaken off any depression caused by the bad show against Essex, and yesterday at the Oval they came out well. For the excellent position in which Surrey now stand, 28 runs ahead with eight wickets in hand, thanks are mainly due to Robert Abel's superb batting.

He scored his second hundred of the season, and in doing so he maintained the form with which he has started the season. So far his innings for the county have been 144, 8, 95 and 105 (at present incomplete). In his game yesterday he showed his usual soundness and vigour, whether in cutting or driving or in drawing himself up for a good stroke on the leg side. He and Hayward were together while 149 were made for the second wicket, and their correct batting on the true pitch was highly appreciated by the spectators, who were in strong force.

The Warwickshire innings was of a very ordinary character. Walter Quaife made some good and careful strokes, and Diver and Lilley did pretty well. But they were all alike troubled by Richardson's pace and break. The great Surrey bowler obtained seven wickets for 61 runs. It will be noted that Mr W W Read and Lockwood are away from the Surrey team and that two of the young players - Holland and Lees - are being given another trial.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 May, page 16)

A great batting triumph has to be recorded for Surrey, whose innings against Warwickshire on the Oval yesterday produced 602 runs - a score which is, however, less than their previous best on the Oval - namely, 698 against Sussex nine years ago. They had started batting on Thursday and, at the cost of two wickets, had made 181, of which Abel was credited with 105 not out.

Yesterday the famous little Surrey batsman continued his robust cricket until at 468 he was seventh out for 250 after a stay of six hours and a quarter. From start to finish there was the same easy excellence in his play and he rarely misjudged a ball, although when 84 he might have been caught by Walter Quaife at point. His best hits were two fives, 29 fours, 15 threes and ten twos. In his long connexion with Surrey cricket Abel has never played so high an innings; his previous bests were 231 against Essex last year and 217 against the same county in 1895 - both scores being made on the Oval. Abel was very warmly cheered as he returned to the pavilion.

The other chief features in yesterday's batting were the 81 by the old Winchester and Oxford captain, Mr Leveson-Gower, who stayed with Abel while 180 were made for the third wicket, and the brilliant forcing game by Mr Key, who drove and cut the worn-out Warwickshire bowling with great power and hit 18 fours, two threes and seven twos. Mr Leveson-Gower made nine fours. With the wind blowing gently from a warm quarter, there was a much larger company than had assembled on any of the other days of this week.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 May, page 13)

Surrey won this match at the Oval, on Saturday, by an innings and 222 runs. Some such result as this was quite expected after the way the game had gone on Thursday and Friday, for on Saturday morning Warwickshire, with all ten wickets in hand, wanted 425 to avert defeat by a single innings.

Mr Bainbridge and Walter Quaife played pretty well and put on 85 for the first wicket, while afterwards the only thing of excellence in the batting was by William Quaife, who received a little assistance from Diver and Mr Glover. William Quaife went in first wicket down and

was ninth out at 217, after a stay of two hours and 40 minutes for 69, in which were a five and 11 fours. Brockwell and Abel carried off the bowling honours.

13 May: THE FRESHMEN'S MATCH AT OXFORD

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

Potted score: MR F H E CUNLIFFE'S SIDE 439 (H R Parkes 35, R E Foster 41, E O Wright 100, B J T Bosanquet 25, E C Lee 34, A J Hook 73, T C G Sandford 29, E H Blunt 22; E B Carter 4/146). MR G R BARDSWELL'S SIDE 315 (A M Hollins 30, J T Weatherby 69, H Martyn 25, E M Toulmin 22, R L G Irving 27, E B Carter 30*, G R Bardswell 61; C D Fisher 3/66, E C Wright 3/51, B J T Bosanquet 3/46) and 203/7 (A Hollins 36, G H Rowe 95*; E C Wright 3/21). Match drawn.

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

The public schools have sent to Oxford this season many promising cricketers and, as there are a good many places to be filled by Mr Bardswell, the captain, particular interest has been aroused by the Freshmen's match, which began yesterday. It is now understood that Mr Hartley will not be available this summer, and his bowling will be much missed.

Yesterday's cricket was made remarkable by the fine forcing game poll by Mr Wright, of the Clergy Orphan School, Canterbury, where Mr W N Roe, who so long held the record of 415 for the highest English score - it was afterwards surpassed by Mr Carrick and Mr Stoddart - learnt his cricket. Mr Wright hit 14 fours in his 100. Mr R E Foster, who is a brother of Mr H K Foster and who has already represented Oxford at golf and racquets, also played very well.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 May, page 16)

The second stage of this match at Oxford failed to produce any very promising cricket. The bowling, both for Mr Bardswell's side and for that led by Mr Cunliffe, was distinctly poor. Much of the batting was satisfactory, but the credit was discounted by the weakness of the bowling.

Mr Cunliffe's side overnight had lost seven batsmen for 322, and yesterday the remaining wickets went down for the addition of 117 runs. The best form shown was that of Mr Hook, a left-handed batsman, from Blundell's School, Tiverton. At the beginning of the innings Mr Bardswell's side scored at a great pace, but when stumps were drawn they had half their wickets down and were 260 runs behind. Mr Weatherby, of Winchester, hit ten fours and gave no chance in his 69. The fielding all round was smart and clean.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 May, page 13)

The weather at Oxford on Saturday was more genial than on the previous days and, as might have been expected, the attendance was better. Mr Bardswell's side, who, in face of a total of over 400, had scored on Friday 176 for six wickets, played up well and did not find any great difficulty in saving the game, which, after three days of heavy scoring, had to be left drawn.

Mr Bardswell himself gave a fine display in the first innings, hitting in his 61 no fewer than ten fours. When the side followed on, Mr G H Rowe, who was in the Winchester eleven last year, played admirably for 95 not out, hitting 14 fours and giving only one chance.

Friday 14 May, page 12: CRICKET AT CAMBRIDGE

There was some heavy scoring in the Trinity and St John's match yesterday. Trinity made 523 for six wickets. Mr J Stanning, last year's captain at Rugby, scored 205 and Mr J C Tabor, an Etonian Freshman, 106. For Jesus College v Magdalen an innings of 110 was played by W Mendelson, the Cambridge athletic blue. T W Smith also took seven wickets for 49 runs for Jesus College, who won easily.

THE SURREY CLUB

Sir Richard Webster, M.P., presided last evening at the annual meeting at Kennington Oval. An abstract of the year's report has already been given in The Times.

In addressing the members the chairman stated that the committee had gone as far as they felt justified in trying to secure Lohmann's services for Surrey this season. Turning to the question of the new pavilion and tavern he said that the plans prepared had given every satisfaction.

In answer to a question, Sir Richard said that the total cost of the new buildings would probably not be less than £24,000 or £25,000. Work would begin on September 1, and it was hoped that, with an open winter, everything would be in readiness for the cricket season next May. The report of the committee was unanimously adopted.

By this the committee acquire power, in order partially to defray the cost of the new pavilion, to raise debentures to an extent not exceeding \$10,000. Sir Richard Webster was unanimously re-elected president, General Marshall vice-president and Mr Wildman Cattley treasurer.

The balance sheet, some details of which have already been published, showed that at the end of 1896 the club possessed an invested capital of £10,999 9s, and in addition £1,000 on deposit and £133 4s 7d in hand. The profit on last year's working was £1,803 14s 8d.

It was agreed, as proposed by the committee, that all members elected after May 1, 1897, should pay an entrance fee of two guineas and an annual subscription of two guineas, but the meeting, by a large majority, decided not to give the committee power to raise the subscription of old members.

Saturday 15 May, page 16: CRICKET AT CAMBRIDGE

More heavy scoring occurred yesterday at Cambridge. Queens' College made 313 for four wickets (Mr E W Tate 150, not out) against Corpus Christi, who replied with 226 for three wickets (Mr A G Richardson 146). Trinity scored 523 for six wickets against St John's 211 and 83 for seven wickets.

In Pembroke v Caius there were two "centuries" - Mr R Boucher's 136 for Pembroke and Mr J Sharple's 105 for Caius.

DR W G GRACE.- Dr Grace will make his first appearance in London this season next Monday at Lord's, when he will play for the M.C.C. against Lancashire.

Monday 17 May, page 13. CRICKET AT CAMBRIDGE. - The Light Blue and Kent cricketer, Mr C J Burnup, played a fine innings of 192 on Saturday for Clare College v St John's. He went in first, and so rapid was the rate of scoring that 300 were scored in two hours. By the aid of the Uppingham Freshman, Mr K E M Barker (who made 81), 216 runs were added for the third wicket. In Burnup's innings were one five, 26 fours, ten threes and nine twos. Clare

declared their innings closed when they had scored 349 for six wickets, and then dismissed their opponents for 81, thus winning easily.

17th May: M.C.C. AND GROUND v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4738.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 May, page 13)

The conditions for cricket yesterday were far worthier of the game than those of last week, for at Lord's there was only a light wind and the weather proved warm and bright the whole of the day. But there was a remarkable change from the cricket which the early days of the season had made common. The batting triumphs gave way to fine feats in bowling, so that yesterday great progress was made with the match of M.C.C. v Lancashire.

The causes of the small scoring were not difficult to discover. The cold winds of last week not only stopped the growth of the young grass but made the surface of the ground very brittle, so that a slight crumbling of the turf gave the bowlers an advantage which Mold, Hearne, Martin and Briggs were not slow to appreciate. Two complete innings were got through, and the M.C.C., having begun the second, are three runs ahead, with nine wickets in hand.

In the first hour it was quite startling to see the great M.C.C. batsmen so rapidly going out. Dr Grace made only a single in his first innings on Lord's ground this season and K S Ranjitsinhji scored only seven. Mr de Trafford was well caught in the long field, and when the sixth wicket went the score was only 47. Mr Foley and Storer both played fine cricket and gave a little respectability to the M.C.C. figures, and the former had bad luck to be run out through his wicket being thrown down from mid-on. Storer's batting was as sturdy as ever.

When Lancashire went in Paul hit out well and his vigour promised the county a good position; but the match soon changed and six of the side were out for 70. C Smith batted vigorously, and the last few men, encouraged by the plucky cricket of Mr A N Hornby, who threw into his game all his old energy and vivacity, met with so much success that Lancashire secured a lead of 20 runs. The fielding all round was extremely good, and the catch in the long field by Mr Foley that got out Smith evoked a loud burst of cheering. The attendance was the largest yet seen at Lord's this year.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 May, page 14)

The wonderful change that came over the match at Lord's yesterday, when, following a bowlers' day on the Monday, the M.C.C. second innings extended until about 6 o'clock and yielded 404, was chiefly the work of two men - the Indian Prince, Ranjitsinhji, and Mr Jardine. These batsmen were partners for a couple of hours and put on 170 runs for the sixth M.C.C. wicket.

Before they got together there seemed every prospect of the match being brought to an issue yesterday, for the wicket to a certain degree still helped the bowlers, and Mold often got up high enough to present a batsman from timing the ball accurately. But Ranjitsinhji and Mr Jardine played splendidly and raised the position of the M.C.C. to one in which defeat is now scarcely possible.

To begin with, Ranjitsinhji was not quite himself; he was troubled by the renewal of a bad strain in the leg just above the knee, and he often in running showed not only lameness but evident pain. But when he once settled down he played with all that excellence and variety of stroke so completely his own in batting. His driving and his play on the leg side were perfect. His lameness cost him a good many runs; but in his 157, which took him about three and a half hours, he hit two fives, 18 fours, six threes and 11 twos. In the end he was easily stumped in going out to play Briggs.

Indeed, the latter came out with a fine analysis considering the length of the innings; and he was untiring in his efforts to get his length and break. Mold also bowled very well. Mr Foley assisted Ranjitsinhji in checking the Lancashire bowlers to begin with, for he made 40 by excellent cricket out of the 92 added for the fifth partnership. Lancashire were left

with 385 to get to win, and at present with all their wickets in hand they are possessed of nine runs. There were 5,000 spectators of yesterday's play and the weather was fine.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 May, page 14)

The M.C.C. beat Lancashire at Lord's yesterday by 174 runs. Some such result as this must have been expected for the county were set 385 to make to win. The fourth innings of the match lasted about three hours yesterday.

The cricket was uneventful. The Marylebone bowlers were very good, but the fielding was not free from error. Two or three of the Lancashire batsmen did fairly well, and Mr Hornby for the second time was "not out." Mold having strained his knee did not go in, while it may be mentioned that K S Ranjitsinhji seemed still rather lame in the field.

17 May: SOMERSET v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4739.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 May, page 13)

The Yorkshire eleven were seen to immense advantage at every point of the game, yesterday, at Taunton, and had all the best of the start of their match against Somerset, completing a first innings of 385 and getting five of their opponents' wickets down for 33. The weather was entirely favourable but the attendance did not number more than a thousand.

Yorkshire, having the good fortune to go in first on an excellent wicket, punished the Somerset bowlers severely, scoring throughout at an average rate of more than a hundred runs an hour. When two wickets had fallen for 30, Mr F S Jackson and Denton hit the bowling to all parts of the field, putting on 205 runs, in rather less than two hours, during their partnership. Considering the pace at which he was scoring Denton's innings of 112 was singularly free from fault, being made in brilliant and attractive fashion. He completed his hundred after being in an hour and 30 minutes, and among his figures were one six (four for an overthrow), 17 fours, three threes and four twos.

Mr Jackson took two hours and ten minutes to make his hundred, and altogether his innings of 124 occupied him two hours and three-quarters. When only two he gave a sharp chance in the slips, and at 41 was badly missed by Mr Lionel Palairet at long-off, but on the whole his cricket was kept at a very high standard of excellence. His chief hits were 11 fours, seven threes and 11 twos. Late in the innings some vigorous and determined hitting was witnessed on the part of Wainwright and Hirst, the former scoring 47 in 50 minutes by seven fours, a three, three twos and singles.

The cricket during the hour that Somerset remained at the wickets was in strange contrast to what had gone before, the batsmen falling in most dismal fashion, and five men being dismissed by Hirst, Haigh and Wainwright for 33 runs. Apart from the batting of Mr L C H Palairet, the resistance offered to the Yorkshire bowling was of a very feeble description. Somerset now want 233 runs to avoid a follow-on, and have only five wickets to fall.

Yorkshire are playing the same team that defeated Gloucestershire on Saturday and Bristol, while Somerset, rather poorly represented, are trying Mr M H Toller, the Rugby football three-quarter back, and Gill, a professional right-handed fast bowler, now under engagement with the Bridgwater Club.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 May, page 14)

At Taunton yesterday the Somerset eleven made a desperate and plucky attempt to atone for their disastrous commencement of the previous afternoon, and their efforts were attended with so much success that at the drawing stumps they held a lead of 38 runs and had still six wickets to go down.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 May, page 14)

The Yorkshire eleven yesterday at Taunton gained a victory over Somerset by five wickets. The home side had played a plucky and uphill game on Tuesday, holding a lead at the call of time of 38 runs and having six wickets still to fall.

Yesterday no one except Robson, Nichols and Mr Fowler offered any serious resistance to the bowling of Peel and Hirst, and in the course of 70 minutes' cricket the innings was finished off for the addition of 76 runs. Robson's 80 was the result of rather less than two hours' batting, his performance being in advance of anything he had previously done for the county.

Yorkshire were left with 115 runs to get to win, and the ground being as good as at the start the task seemed easy. To all appearances Brown and Tunnicliffe put the result beyond doubt, scoring 62 runs during their partnership for the first wicket in 50 minutes, but an

unwise attempt to bring off a third run cost Tunnicliffe his wicket, and just afterwards Yorkshire had a few anxious moments. The bowling of the new professional Gill met with so much success that the score had only reached 88 when the fifth wicket fell. The position of Yorkshire at this time was more critical than the concluding score would indicate.

17 May: WARWICKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4740.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 May, page 13)

The Warwickshire eleven went in first at Birmingham yesterday, and took very fair advantage of their opportunity, staying in for the greater part of the day and scoring 281. Seven members of the team got into double figures, but great success only fell to one batsman - W G Quaife.

This admirable cricketer, who played so well against the Surrey bowlers at the Oval on Saturday afternoon, went in with the score at 26 for one wicket and, after batting for a little over four hours, was out eighth with the total at 270. Clean hitting, strong defence and great confidence marked his innings of 120. He hit one five, 15 fours, six threes and seven twos, and gave no chance that went to hand. His play gave extreme satisfaction, and a collection on his behalf resulted in £11 being subscribed. He found his most valuable partner in Mr J E Hill, The two batsmen being together for an hour and ten minutes and putting on in that time 75 runs for the sixth wicket.

Early in the day some very brilliant cricket was shown by Diver, who, in his innings of 36, three times drove Bull on to the top of the pavilion. Pallett also played well and had the distinction of carrying out his bat. Of the half-dozen Essex bowlers, Pickett came out with by far the best figures. It will be seen that Kortright and Mead met with little success.

Essex had rather more than half-an-hour's batting at the end of the afternoon, and succeeded in scoring 30 runs for one wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 May, page 14)

A remarkably fine and steady innings of 141 was played at Birmingham yesterday for Essex by Carpenter. He hit 15 fours, nine threes and ten twos, and, except that Diver missed him at the wicket while Lilley was bowling, he gave no chance.

Warwickshire, on going in a second time against a majority of 65 runs, scored 15 without loss before the drawing of stumps.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 May, page 14)

At one time yesterday at Birmingham it seemed quite possible that Warwickshire would lose their match with Essex, but, thanks mainly to the steady play of W G Quaife and in a lesser degree to the efforts of Mr J E Hill and Mr Glover, the danger was averted and a draw became inevitable. The match was left unfinished.

17 May: YORKSHIRE COLTS v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COLTS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/193/193449.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 May, page 13)

The Notts Colts made a brilliant start at Sheffield yesterday in their annual match with the Colts of Yorkshire. They were batting all the afternoon, and as the result of four hours and a quarter's cricket ran up the big total of 366. Dench hit 19 fours in his fine innings of 150 and did not give anything like a palpable chance.

At the fall of the fourth wicket he was joined by J Gunn, and so complete was the mastery the two batsmen obtained over the not very strong bowling of Yorkshire that the partnership produced 203 runs. Gunn showed excellent defence during his stay of two hours and three-quarters. Dench was batting three hours and three-quarters. Early in the day some good batting was shown by Armstrong.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 May, page 14)

The match at Sheffield between these teams, being limited to two days, ended yesterday in a draw.

17 May: MR BARDSWELL'S SIDE v MR CUNLIFFE'S SIDE

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

Potted scores: MR G R BARDSWELL'S SIDE 312 (F L Fane 71, G E Bromley-Martin 65, R E Foster 62, R H de Montmorency 48; G Jordan 4/68) and 176 (F L Fane 21, G E Bromley-Martin 42, C D Fisher 43, R H de Montmorency 23, J M Quinton 20; E C Wright 5/33, J W Stratton 3/18). MR F H E CUNLIFFE'S SIDE 300 (B D Bannon 47, F H B Champain 20, T B Henderson 22, J W Stratton 84, G B Scobell 24, F H E Cunliffe 55; E C Lee 6/72, C D Fisher 3/62) and 176/6 (B D Bannon 34, F H B Champain 22, E C Wright 28, T B Henderson 59*). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 May, page 13)

The third trial match at Oxford has been generally between the University Eleven and Sixteen Freshmen, but last week a change was made in the arrangement, it being thought better, with no old Blues available except Mr Bardswell and Mr F H E Cunliffe, that these two gentlemen should captain mixed sides of seniors and freshmen.

Mr Bardswell's side were batting all the afternoon, yesterday, a splendid start by Messrs Fane and Bromley-Martin, who scored 139 together for the first wicket, being fairly well followed up. Mr R E Foster, the Malvern freshman, gave further evidence of his ability as a batsman, and some very attractive cricket was shown by Mr Montmorency, who was only at the wickets 40 minutes. Mr Foster's innings included eight fours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 May, page 14)

At Oxford, yesterday, Mr Cunliffe came to the rescue of his side when a follow-on seemed in the highest degree probable. In face of a total of 318 ten wickets had fallen for 162 when Mr Cunliffe became Mr Stratton's partner. The two played capital cricket together, and for nearly an hour and a half maintained a complete mastery over the bowling. Mr Stratton hit seven fours and Mr Cunliffe nine. Thanks to their efforts the score reached 300, and when the innings ended stumps were pulled up for the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 May, page 14)

After three afternoons' cricket this trial match at Oxford was yesterday left drawn. Mr Cunliffe's side, however, made a brilliant effort to win. They went in at 5 o'clock with 195 to get, and such excellent use did they make of the limited time at their disposal that when stumps were finally pulled up and the game abandoned they had scored 176 for six wickets. An especially fine display of hitting was given by Mr Henderson, whose figures included a six and 11 fours.

20 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v A J WEBBE'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4741.html)

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

The opening day's play in this trial match at Cambridge yesterday was thoroughly interesting. Up to an advanced stage it looked as though the Cambridge men would secure an advantage, but at the drawing stumps there was little in the position, the Light Blues, after getting rid of their opponents for 203, having lost seven wickets for 174.

The batting all round was only moderate. Burnup played in brilliant style, scoring 76 in an hour and a half, and hitting 12 fours, four threes and four twos. De Zoete, in dismissing five batsmen for 35 runs, accomplished a notable performance.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 May, page 15)

A brilliant victory by nine wickets rewarded the efforts of the University Eleven at Cambridge yesterday. Burnup, in scoring 155 runs for once out, was unquestionably the hero of the match. The weather was again fine, and Cambridge's victory was witnessed by a large number of spectators.

20 May: ESSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4742.html)

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

Essex got the better of the day's play with the county champions at Leyton yesterday. They owe to their fine fielding, as much as anything else, their present good position. At the close of play Essex were nine runs behind with five wickets still in hand. There were quite 5,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 May, page 15)

Essex gained a wonderful victory over Yorkshire at Leyton yesterday by three wickets. The result was always in doubt, for the uncertainty of cricket was intensified by the crumbling turf, of which all the bowlers took advantage. Too much praise cannot be bestowed on Essex for their plucky victory, which they thoroughly deserved.

On Thursday they had considerably the better of the play and this advantage stood them in good stead. The game fluctuated considerably and was full of exciting incidents the whole afternoon. When the seventh Essex wicket went in the last innings 39 runs were still wanted to win, but Russell, Mr Kortright and Mead by their courageous play once more turned a losing into a winning game.

In the early stages of yesterday Essex fought fairly well against much good bowling and fielding, but even then they only managed to add 54 runs to their overnight score. The difference in the innings of 45 was very valuable to the home county, for, in spite of much splendid batting by Mr Jackson, six of the Yorkshiremen were got out for 74 runs. Peel and Mr Milligan did well after this and brought back something like evenness to the match. It was a keen and exciting struggle right through the afternoon, and the game was continued beyond the regular time in order to finish. The big crowd at Leyton yesterday was very enthusiastic.

20 May: HAMPSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4743.html)

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

Having the good fortune to bat first at Southampton yesterday on an excellent wicket, the Lancashire eleven gave a fine display of hitting. Baker has never before done so well in a first-class match. Going in second wicket down at 104 he scored 140 in less than two hours and a half, his chief strokes being a straight drive for six out of the ground, 19 fours, five threes and seven twos. After luncheon he hit with tremendous vigour, actually making 93 out of the 120 runs put on by himself and Smith in an hour and a quarter for the sixth wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 May, page 15)

In face of Lancashire's big score of 172 the Hampshire eleven at Southampton yesterday were engaged in a task which held out no promise of ultimate success. Lancashire, with an innings to play to-day, want only 63 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 May, page 13)

The position of the game at the drawing of stumps on Friday at Southampton left scarcely a doubt as to the result of the match between these counties, Lancashire with an innings to play wanting only 63 runs to win. Saturday's cricket consequently excited a very small amount of interest, 50 minutes' play sufficing to bring about a definite issue.

Briggs and Sugg were got rid of when only 16 runs had been scored, but afterwards a big display of hitting was given by Baker and Albert Ward, the two men obtaining the remaining runs, and victory resting with Lancashire by the substantial margin of eight wickets. Paul had so badly injured his hand that it was thought inadvisable for him to bat on Saturday, but it is expected that he will appear for his county against Nottingham at Trent Bridge to-day, when Mold will also resume his place in the team.

20 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4744.html)

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

William Storer, the well-known Derbyshire professional, played a great innings for Marylebone at Lord's yesterday, when he went in at a point where the club was doing badly - four wickets were down for 46 - and carried out his bat for 160. He was in four hours and a quarter, and hit 17 fours, five threes and 18 twos. The Kent fielding was not particularly certain.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 May, page 15)

The great feature in yesterday's uphill fight by Kent against the M.C.C. at Lord's was the excellent innings of Mr H C Stewart, who in his five or six years' experience of first-class play had never before scored 100. Kent with only a wicket in hand in their second innings are not more than 29 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 May, page 13)

At Lord's on Saturday there was little more than half an hour's play, for Kent's second innings closed for an additional two runs, and Marylebone, getting the 32 necessary for victory without loss, won by ten wickets. Woodcock's full analysis gave a record of 13 wickets for 132 runs. In a fortnight's cricket at Lord's the M.C.C. have beaten Yorkshire, Sussex, Lancashire and Kent.

20 May: SURREY v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4745.html)

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

After a bad start at the Oval yesterday - the first four wickets went for 70 runs - Surrey finally put together 295. Sussex have yet to get 106 runs to avert the follow-on. There was a large and enthusiastic crowd.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 May, page 15)

Some wonderful batting by Brockwell and Abel, each of whom ran well into three figures, on the Oval yesterday has placed Surrey in a position secure from defeat, as with seven men in hand they are at present 399 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 May, page 13)

The Surrey eleven gained a brilliant victory over Sussex at the Oval on Saturday by 279 runs, a result that was reached after Surrey had declared their second innings closed and had left themselves with a majority of 511 runs and five hours in which to get their opponents out.

Sussex were in a very bad way on Friday evening, for, mainly through the wonderful batting of Brockwell and Abel, who put on 231 for the first wicket, Surrey stood in the fine position of being 399 ahead with seven wickets in hand. Before closing his innings on Saturday Mr Key allowed his side rather less than another hour's cricket, and in this time 112 were added. Mr Key and Mr Chinnery made 91 of these at a grand rate of scoring; in fact, they were only 35 minutes getting the runs. It was a fine piece of hitting.

Mr Chinnery for the second time made 53 by cricket in every way typical of the Eton school, and if this young amateur retains his form he should be pretty useful to the county. Abel added only a dozen to his overnight score; but his 156 was a great innings and completely worthy of him. The best hits in this were 18 fours, seven threes and 13 twos.

Although Surrey are not so strong in bowling as they have been in the last few years, Sussex had a severe task to stay in five hours with the only chance of avoiding defeat by making a draw. Much depended on Ranjitsinhji, who turned out to be scarcely himself - he has never done particularly well on the Oval - and his 55 would not come in the category of his best innings. He and Marlow made 76 for the second wicket; but by far the best thing of the day was the beautiful cricket of Mr W L Murdoch, who in getting his 72 scarcely made a bad stroke and played a strong and correct game all round. He hit eight fours and seven twos.

Although 200 went up with only five men out, the whole side went in the end for 232. The rapid finish was wrought by Brockwell, who in his second spell, at 212, quickly got three wickets. Brockwell unquestionably had the most prominent position in the match, for he scored 197 runs and his bowling record was nine for 87. This must be one of the best things he has ever done for the county.

It was a heavy-scoring match, for over 1,200 runs were made, while Surrey got their 448 in the second innings at the rate of 100 an hour. There was a large crowd to see the closing day's cricket, the attendance considerably exceeding 10,000 . . .

With reference to the report of this match which appeared in The Times of yesterday, "R.V.T." writes:- "Your report states, 'The score given below is the accurate record of the game, whereas the official card gave a wholly wrong "order" for the Sussex innings.' I do not know which innings of Sussex you refer to, as the score of both innings is given, but this brings up an old grievance, small though it may be, that in order to follow the game, especially where the batsmen are not known by sight to the spectators, it is always necessary at the Oval to buy a second card on the completion of every first innings to see the correct order of going in of the batsmen on the opposing side.

"This was so on Thursday in this match. It is a vexatious and needless exaction, and has been complained of before. It is needless because, instead of numbers 1 and 2 being put on the board as going in first, it could easily be, say, 3 and 5, these numbers agreeing with those printed on the original card at the beginning of the game. Perhaps a repetition of the complaint might do good."

Wednesday 26 May, page 14: OFFICIAL SCORING CARDS AT THE OVAL

The suggestion which our correspondent "R.V.T." made in The Times of yesterday has borne speedy fruit. "R.V.T." complained that in order to follow the game, especially where the batsmen were not known by sight to the spectators, it was always necessary at the Oval to buy a second card on the completion of every first innings to see the correct order of going in of the batsmen on the opposing side. This hardship has at once been remedied, as it was at Lord's last year.

Yesterday's scoring card at the Oval issued before the second innings of Derbyshire retained the original numbers before the players' names, at the same time, however, giving the names in the correct order of going to the wicket. It may be mentioned that some hesitation was shown by the M.C.C. committee in adopting this plan, which it is satisfactory to record is now in force at both the great cricket-grounds of the metropolis.

20 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY - FIRST TWELVE v NEXT SEVENTEEN

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

Potted score: NEXT SEVENTEEN 319 (A Eccles 30, A S Crawley 62, G H Rowe 22, J M Quinton 27, A G Hook 48, E C Lee 45; F H E Cunliffe 8/58, P S Waddy 3/82) and 272/7 dec (B D Bannon 62, A Eccles 43, A S Crawley 68, T B Henderson 53*). FIRST TWELVE 241 (R E Foster 61, F H B Champain 23, C D Fisher 28, P S Waddy 46; T B Henderson 5/52). Match drawn.

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

An even and consistent display of batting was given yesterday at Oxford in the last of the preliminary trial games, the Next Seventeen remaining in for the whole of the time that cricket was in progress, and scoring 285 for the loss of ten wickets.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 May, page 15)

Without presenting any remarkable features, yesterday's cricket at Oxford in the last of the preliminary trial games proved to be of an interesting and attracted character. With three batsmen to be got rid of, the First Twelve are 105 runs behind, and there is consequently every prospect of a full afternoon's cricket to bring the match to a conclusion.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 May, page 13)

There was a very tame finish to the series of preliminary trial games at Oxford on Saturday, when the match between the First Twelve and the Next Seventeen ended in a draw, the latter in the end being 350 runs to the good with nine wickets in hand.

Although the Seventeen scored very well at their second attempt, much of their success was due to the bad fielding of the First Twelve, Crawley, who was the highest scorer, being missed five times and Bannon three. Eccles played creditably for 43, but distinctly the best batting was that of T B Henderson, an old Wykehamist, who followed up some capital bowling with an innings of 53 not out.

24 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4746.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 May, page 13)

A feeble exhibition of cricket was given yesterday at Cambridge by the University eleven, the performance being all the more disappointing considering that the team had opened their season in brilliant fashion by defeating the sides brought down by Mr C I Thornton and Mr A J Webbe. The University were outplayed at all points and left off with very much the worst of the game. Though without their captain, Mr N F Druce, Cambridge had all their other best players available.

The Light Blues were actually dismissed in an hour and three-quarters for 91. Bland, the new Sussex fast bowler, accomplished a highly creditable performance, taking seven wickets at a cost of only 40 runs. Sussex went in after luncheon . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 May, page 14)

Two heavy showers of rain curtailed yesterday's cricket at Cambridge by nearly a couple of hours, but a good deal of progress was made with the game, and Sussex added materially to the long lead they had obtained on the previous afternoon. Cambridge, it may be remembered, had given a most disappointing exhibition on Monday, being dismissed for a total of 91, while Sussex scored 216 for the loss of only three batsmen.

The performance of the Cambridge team yesterday showed little improvement on what had gone before, the bowling being treated very lightly and the score of Sussex being carried to 455 before the innings closed. Mr Murdoch, who had been left not out overnight with 83, increased his individual total to 105. His stay extended over three hours and a half, and among his hits were a five, nine fours and six threes. Mr Brann played very fine cricket, making few mistakes during the four hours he was at the wickets, and hitting 13 fours and five threes in his 126. Bean batted in determined fashion, making his 77 in an hour and three-quarters and sending the ball ten times to the boundary.

Cambridge went in for ten minutes at the end of the day, scoring three runs without loss, and they have now a terribly up-hill task before them, wanting 361 runs to avoid a single innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 May, page 11)

At Cambridge, yesterday, Sussex gained a most decisive victory over the University by a single innings and 264 runs. The weather was dull and showery, causing several interruptions before luncheon, and preventing any cricket after the interval until about half-past 4, but the end was reached just before 6 o'clock.

Once again the Cambridge batting was singularly feeble. Bland again met with remarkable success, and by taking seven wickets for 32 runs obtained a record for the whole match of 14 wickets for 72. His bowling was one of the great features of the game, and the handsome victory of Sussex was due in a very large measure to his efforts.

24 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4747.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 May, page 13)

With the wicket helping the bowlers by reason of its crumbling at Lord's yesterday, good batting was scarce, and two innings were played through, with an advantage to the M.C.C. of 107 runs.

Marylebone were mostly indebted for this to the really good play of Mr R W Nicholls, who was in the Rugby eleven in 1892 and 1893, and helped Middlesex in three of their matches last summer. He has a steady defence and a very good off-drive, and yesterday in his 75, which took him two hours to make, he hit nine fours. After three M.C.C. wickets had gone down for 132 the balance of the innings was finished off after luncheon for an addition of 61 runs.

Apart from a little good play by Mr Perrin and Mr M'Gahey, the Essex batting was poor; but on both sides there were some striking bowling analyses. Essex were giving a rest to Mr F G Bull, the slow bowler, and the M.C.C. had comparatively a weak side.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 May, page 14)

It was a rather curious day's cricket yesterday at Lord's. The wicket remained helpful to the bowlers, who often seemed certain to carry all before them; but in each of the second innings there came a check. Essex, however, were always in a losing position, and not all the courageous batting by Mr H G Owen and Mr A L Gibson in the last hour and a half could give them any hope of success.

Marylebone began with a lead on the first innings of 107, and before they had finished they had set Essex 338 to get to win. Martin and Board by some plucky play put on 82 for the sixth partnership; but the brightest batting came from Mr Harrison, who hit eight fours in an innings of 55, which occupied only 40 minutes.

So well did Hearne and Trott bowl when Essex went in again that six men were out for 43, following which came a superb stand by Mr Owen and Mr Gibson, who put on 89 and delayed their side's defeat until this morning, when Essex, with only three wickets left, have to face odds of 205.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 May, page 11)

Marylebone defeated Essex at Lord's yesterday by 111 runs, this being the club's fifth successive win this season against first-class counties. At one period of the day there seemed little prospect of finishing the match; but when the rain ceased the wet was quickly absorbed by the parched ground, and cricket was possible at a quarter to three.

The last three Essex men gave more trouble than might have been expected, although the numerous mistakes in the M.C.C. fielding were largely the cause of the prolonged innings. Mr Owen's thoroughly sound play produced in all 67 runs, in which were seven fours, while Mr Kortright hit the bowling all over the field and made 66 in 55 minutes, his chief figures being eight fours. Albert Trott bowled remarkably well, and his double analysis showed 10 wickets for 108 runs.

24 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4748.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 May, page 13)

Yesterday's cricket at Trent-bridge in the first match of the season between Notts and Lancashire was rendered specially noteworthy by a very good performance on the part of G R Baker. Going in when two Lancashire wickets had fallen for 38, he hit away with great vigour for nearly three hours and a quarter, and was the seventh man out, a catch at the wicket bringing his innings to a close with the total at 290.

A completing his hundred his play was a little uncertain, but his only real mistake was a very hard chance to Brown at mid-on when he had made 93. Splendid driving was the distinctive feature of his innings, and among his hits were 18 fours. This 153 is the highest score he has ever made in a first-class match, beating as it does his 140 last Thursday against Hampshire at Southampton.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 May, page 14)

There was little cricket at Nottingham yesterday owing to the bad weather; but in the brief time allowed for play the home side lost one more wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 May, page 11)

Early yesterday at Nottingham the weather was again wet and, with the wicket at Trent Bridge saturated and quite unfit for cricket, it was quickly decided to abandon the game. The scores, details of which have been already published in The Times, were:- Lancashire, first innings, 318; Nottinghamshire, first innings, 64 for three wickets.

24 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v A J WEBBE'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4749.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 May, page 13)

In the first of the important trial matches at Oxford yesterday the University team gave a very fine display of batting against Mr A J Webbe's eleven, the Dark Blues being at the wickets for nearly four hours and a half and in this time running up a score of 357. The best performance of the day was that of Mr A Eccles, who followed up his success in the recent Seniors' match by playing an innings of 102. Although twice let off after scoring 80, Mr Eccles played extremely fine cricket, and included in his innings were 14 fours, four threes and eight twos.

Earlier in the day there was some brilliant hitting by Mr Fane and Mr Bromley-Martin, whose partnership produced 97 runs in an hour, and another notable stand was that of Mr Foster and Mr Champain - two of the Freshmen - who together put on 74 runs in 50 minutes. Mr Bardswell, who was assisted by only two old Blues, completed his eleven with five Seniors and three Freshmen.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 May, page 14)

Although their bowlers tired somewhat late in the afternoon and were severely punished, the Oxford eleven acquitted themselves very creditably in their match with Mr Webbe's team for the greater portion of yesterday's cricket at Oxford. They succeeded in making their opponents follow on, 135 runs behind, and dismissed six of the visiting team in the second innings before the arrears had been cleared off, at this point having apparently an easy victory before them.

Some hard hitting by Mr Bromley-Davenport, who put together a score of 87 in an hour and 20 minutes, changed the aspect of the game, however, and as the last four wickets produced 172 runs the Dark Blues will to-day have 163 runs to get to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 May, page 11)

At Oxford, yesterday, good batting on the part of the University team enabled the Dark Blues to beat Mr A J Webbe's eleven by five wickets. Towards this result the chief contributor was Mr F H B Champain, the old Cheltenham boy, who, going in first, hit up 64 out of 110 in an hour and 20 minutes.

Half the Oxford wickets were down for 120, and had not one or two mistakes been made in the field, the University would probably have been hard pushed. As a reward for their capital all-round performance, the same eleven have been chosen to play for the University in the match against Somerset to-day.

27 May: SURREY v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4750.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 May, page 13)

Surrey in the opening day's play at the Oval yesterday again gave a grand batting display at the expense of one of the weaker counties, for they kept Derbyshire in the field until a quarter past 6, when with the completion of their innings play ceased for the day. They were at the wickets five hours and a half for 408. At one time it looked probable that the score would be even larger, as they had scored 310 runs for the loss of five men.

The chief batting honours were carried off by Abel, Hayward, Brockwell and Mr Chinnery, who between them made 261. Abel batted very carefully, being at the wickets for two hours and 20 minutes, and he has certainly been seen to greater advantage. When his score was two he put a ball up in the slips, which might be considered a chance; but apart from that his innings was free from fault. His 64 included one five, seven fours, five threes and three twos. Hayward was batting about two and a half hours for his 88; he hit one five, ten fours, three threes and four twos.

By far the brightest cricket was shown by Brockwell and Mr Chinnery, Brockwell in particular making some fine off-drives and cuts. Mr Chinnery must be congratulated on making his third consecutive 50, the old Etonian having scored 53 and 53 not out against Sussex. Yesterday he played with plenty of confidence and made some very pretty strokes on the off side.

Storer, having given up the gloves at wicket, went on and was by far the most successful of the bowlers. He took the last five wickets for 40 runs. Neither of the new men, Warren and Hancock, made a favourable debut at the Oval, as they took only one wicket between them for 156 runs. The Derbyshire fielding was rather loose during the latter part of the afternoon. There were about 5,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 May, page 14)

Derbyshire started their uphill task at the Oval yesterday morning at 20 minutes to 12, having to make 289 to save the follow-on. At one time it looked as if this feat might be accomplished as they scored 185 for four wickets, but from this point the batsmen failed to cope with the bowling of Richardson and Brockwell, and were all dismissed for 218.

The chief feature of the day's cricket was the left-hand play of Bagshaw, who carried his bat through the innings for 114, or more than half the score. He made a few bad strokes but gave no chance. His vigorous innings, which was noticeable for his good driving, included 18 fours, two threes and five twos. Brockwell had the best bowling average, taking four wickets for 43.

Derbyshire went in a second time at 25 minutes past 4, being in the unenviable position of having to make 190 to save a single innings defeat, and again fared very badly as they lost five wickets for 108. Bagshaw again played well, but the chief batting honour rested with Mr Wright who was at the wicket for an hour and 35 minutes for his 43. Play was delayed for ten minutes soon after the luncheon interval, but this in no way affected the wicket. There were not so many spectators as on Monday.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 May, page 11)

Surrey won the match yesterday on Kennington Oval by an innings and three runs. As Derbyshire had followed on and, with only five wickets left, were still 82 runs behind, some such result as this was expected. But more than once during the day the wet and unsettled weather threatened to save the Midland team from that defeat which eventually overtook them.

There was little in the actual play of interest. Cricket began at a quarter to 3, there was a 20 minutes' delay by rain, and the match was over by a quarter past 4, the last five wickets having added since Tuesday night 79 runs.

24 May: YORKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4751.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 May, page 13)

The great disparity in strength between the Yorkshire and Leicestershire elevens rendered it improbable that the cricket at the Headingley ground at Leeds yesterday would be very interesting; but for all that about 5,000 people watched the opening stages of the match. With Yorkshire fortunate enough to win the toss and so bat first on a capital pitch, the game went very much as might have been expected.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 May, page 14)

By scoring on Monday at Leeds 399 runs for seven wickets, the Yorkshire eleven got very far towards winning their match with Leicestershire, and yesterday they followed up their brilliant hitting by some excellent bowling and fielding. The result was that at the close of the day the game was almost as good as over, Leicestershire, with six wickets to fall, still requiring 225 runs to avert a single innings defeat.

Yorkshire's innings was finished off in the morning in less than half an hour, Woodcock, who bowled exceedingly well, taking the three remaining wickets, but the score was increased to 435. Hirst who had made 73 on Monday was batting altogether two hours and ten minutes for his 89.

Leicestershire made a disastrous start, losing four wickets for seven runs, and though Mr Wood and Brown managed to make 61 during their partnership, the innings, which extended over three hours, came to an end for 124. Brown played well for his 36. Tunnicliffe made no fewer than five catches.

Following on against a majority of 311, Leicestershire had a hopeless task. Mr De Trafford and Tomlin by vigorous hitting put on 61 runs in 35 minutes for the second wicket, and the former was unlucky in being out to a wonderful catch, Denton, when close on the boundary, securing the ball with one hand. At the drawing stumps four wickets had fallen for 86. Of the catches made by Tunnicliffe yesterday by far the best was the one - low down with the left hand - by which he got rid of Smith in the first innings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 May, page 11)

Wanting, with six wickets to go down, no fewer than 225 runs to avoid a single innings defeat, the Leicestershire eleven were in an almost hopeless position at Leeds yesterday; but they did not lose without making something like an effort, two hours and ten minutes being occupied in finishing off the game. The overnight score of 86 was carried to 182, and so in the end Yorkshire won by an innings and 129 runs.

Some excellent batting was shown yesterday by Coe and Geeson, who, despite repeated changes in the Yorkshire bowling, put on, in the course of an hour, 43 runs for the eighth wicket. No chance was given by either man. The weather was showery in the morning, but it cleared up before the time for starting play, and with no interruption the match ended at 20 minutes to 2. Apart from the fine batting, two of the best features of the match from Yorkshire's point of view were the bowling of Haigh and the fielding at short-slip of Tunnicliffe. The latter cricketer made no fewer than seven catches.

Thursday 27 May, page 11: DEATH OF FRANK SILCOCK

The death is announced of the once well-known professional cricketer Frank Silcock. He had been ill some little time, and it was stated last week at Leyton during the Essex and Yorkshire match that his condition was hopeless. Rather less than 30 years ago he was at

his best, excelling both as bowler and batsman. He particularly distinguished himself in the Gentlemen v Players matches in 1869. He was born in October, 1838.

27 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4752.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 May, page 13)

At Cambridge yesterday Mr N F Druce on winning the toss for his University adopted the risky policy of putting his opponents in to bat, but the afternoon's cricket so far justified his course of action that at the drawing of stumps his side were one run to the good with three wickets down.

As may be imagined, the ground, after the heavy rain of Wednesday, assisted the bowlers. The Yorkshiremen made a good start, Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe putting on 54 runs during their partnership for the first wicket. When they had been separated, however, a complete change came over the game, the last nine wickets falling for the addition of 46 and the side being all out for 100. Mr Jackson, who played a fine forcing game, went in first and was the last to leave, his innings of 61 including seven boundary hits. Mr de Zoete bowled throughout, dismissing five batsmen for 63 runs, but a much greater measure of success fell to Mr Jessop, whose five wickets cost only 19 runs.

Cambridge went in at half-past 3 and, though they found run-getting a matter of extreme difficulty, they succeeded, by adopting very cautious methods, in scoring 101 for the loss of seven batsmen. By far the best form was shown by Mr Druce, who remained in an hour and 50 minutes for his 31.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 May, page 15)

Owing to the bad weather there was very little cricket at Cambridge yesterday, heavy rain coming on directly after the luncheon interval and preventing anything further being done. In face of Yorkshire's total of 100, Cambridge had von obtained 101 for seven wickets, and this score the University succeeded in carrying to 138. While these 37 runs were being obtained play was stopped by a shower for ten minutes. The innings was all over by half-past 12. Haigh took five wickets at a cost of just over 13 runs each.

On Yorkshire going in Tunnicliffe and Brown started the innings. Tunnicliffe was caught in the slips at 16. Denton for the second time in the match failed to score, and just before lunch time Brown was bowled for a valuable 30.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 May, page 13)

At Cambridge, on Saturday, the University eleven had the extreme satisfaction of beating Yorkshire, their well-earned victory being gained at 5 o'clock by four wickets.

The position of the game when rain put a stop to Friday's cricket left the University with a slight advantage, but there were all the elements of an exciting finish, Yorkshire, with three wickets down in their second innings, being 13 runs ahead. The county went on batting soon after half-past 11, and up to a certain point did very badly, Moorhouse, Hirst and Peel being out in such quick succession that six wickets were down for 72.

At this point, however, Mr Jackson, who had gone in on Friday, was joined by Wainwright, and the two batsmen made a fine effort, adding together 60 runs and so taking the score to 141. After Wainwright left very little was done, the innings, which towards the close was interrupted by a brief shower, coming to an end at 25 minutes to 2 for 162. Mr Jackson took out his bat for 59, which made his aggregate for the match 120 runs. For the most part he played a splendid game, but he was fortunate in being badly missed in the long field by Mr Druce when he had made 24.

Cambridge wanted 125 to win and, though the chances were in favour of their making the runs, the result against the Yorkshire bowling was by no means a certainty. Very careful play marked the early part of the innings, Mr Marriott, for one, maintaining a firm defence for

over an hour. Mr Moon did very well, but when the sixth wicket fell 26 runs were still required. The loss of another wicket at this point might have been very serious, but, as it happened, Mr Jessop went in and finished the game in his most refreshing manner, hitting up 25 runs in five overs, and so securing Cambridge their well-deserved victory.

27 May: ESSEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4753.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 May, page 13)

In a remarkably keen and interesting day's cricket at Leyton yesterday the Sussex eleven, after a severe struggle, came out in the better position, seeing that at this stage of the game Essex with five of their best wickets gone are 107 runs behind the Sussex total. This was a condition of things that often seemed unlikely to be reached; but after a splendid beginning for Essex by Mr M'Gahey and Carpenter, who got 70 up without loss of wicket, the batting broke down.

To begin with, Sussex on a wicket that, if steadily improving, always helped the bowlers, played an innings of rather more than three hours for 226, a score that was particularly good against the fine bowling. K S Ranjitsinhji was beaten now and again by the ball, but under the circumstances a few errors were thoroughly excusable, and the great Indian batsman played all round the wicket with a skill that is quite his own. He made his 79 in 80 minutes, and was then bowled by a ball from Mead which he just touched as it passed into his wicket.

Bean made many fine drives and Mr Brann played with great steadiness. For the fielding side the best things were the fine fielding of Mr Kortright, who brought off four brilliant catches, and the bowling of Mead, who was on throughout the innings, and whose pitch and break always made him difficult to play. Yesterday's attendance was very large. The flags at Leyton were at half-mast in consequence of the death of Frank Silcock, the well-known county professional.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 May, page 15)

The hours of cricket at Leyton yesterday were made brief by the bad weather; but they were yet sufficient to advance the match to a position that promises well for an exciting third day, for at present Sussex, on a wicket likely to become very difficult, are only 55 runs to the good in the second innings, with three of their best men gone.

Although Essex in the brief play of the morning made no use of the advantage of the wet pitch to force the hitting, they were aided late in the day by some fielding errors in reducing the difference between the two innings to 36. The last five men left from Thursday added in all 71 runs. One of the best things so far in the match has been the medium pace bowling of Killick, who bowled unchanged from the time the first wicket fell and came out with the fine analysis of six wickets for 47 runs. The mere fact that 27 of his 43 overs were maidens at once shows that his pitch was always good.

When Sussex went in Ranjitsinhji would have lost his wicket but for the generosity of Marlow, who had not answered his partner's ball, and who, finding himself and Ranjitsinhji both at the same crease, saved the Indian Prince at the cost of his own wicket. The weather after 4 o'clock was fine and there were several thousand spectators.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 May, page 13)

After 40 minutes' play at Leyton, on Saturday, rain set in heavily and caused the abandonment of the match at a stage when the position of the game was extremely international, Sussex in their second innings being 73 runs on with six wickets in hand.

27 May: KENT v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4754.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 May, page 13)

With sunshine in the afternoon following heavy rain in the morning, it was doubtful whether Mr Marchant, on winning the toss yesterday for Kent against Gloucestershire at Maidstone, acted wisely in letting his team bat first. The Kent batsmen found Roberts, the left-handed bowler, in fine form, and they did not do well against him. Despite some steady batting by Mr Mason, who stayed in nearly an hour for 27, there were seven wickets down for 66, and it was only the plucky hitting of Mr Marchant and Walter Wright that enabled the side to reach the modest total of 127. Roberts took eight wickets and had only 40 runs hit from him.

Gloucestershire on going in to bat did much better, having 98 when the second wicket fell. Mr W G Grace, when batting in capital form, was out to a wonderful catch at slip. Perhaps an even better innings than his, however, was the 40 of Mr Richardson, a senior at Cambridge. Wrathall hit freely, and there was some lively cricket afterwards by Mr Goodwin and Board. Gloucestershire left off with three wickets in hand and a lead of 59 runs. During the afternoon the Mote-park ground was largely attended.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 May, page 15)

After some attractive cricket yesterday, at Maidstone, Gloucestershire gained a decisive victory over Kent by nine wickets. A lot of rain had fallen during the night but some remarkable batting was witnessed on both sides, the honours being carried off by Mr J R Mason and Dr W G Grace. On Thursday Gloucestershire had scored 186 for seven wickets, against Kent's total of 127, and yesterday their innings was finished off for 236, or 109 runs to the good.

Kent at the commencement of their second attempt got within five of their opponents before the third wicket fell, but towards the finish the batsmen, with the exception of Easby, Mr Weigall and Wright, once more failed badly before the bowling of Roberts, the side being all out for 203. Mr Mason made his 70 out of 110 in an hour and a half without giving a chance. Among his hits were 12 fours, three threes and three twos. Roberts, by taking seven wickets for 83 runs, brought his record for the whole match to 15 wickets for 123 runs.

Gloucestershire were left with 95 runs to get to win and, treating the task very lightly, obtained the number in an hour and a half for the loss of only one batsman. Dr Grace was seen quite at his best, hitting eight fours and five twos in his 56 not out.

27 May: LEICESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4755.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 May, page 13)

After a fairly interesting afternoon's cricket yesterday at Leicester, The Lancashire eleven gained a substantial advantage, scoring an innings of 248 and getting three of their opponents' wickets down for 51.

The ground, to some extent, suffered from the effects of Wednesday's rain, and Lancashire, who won the toss, did extremely well. The innings lasted from a quarter past 12 until just upon 5 o'clock. The honours of the day fell to Albert Ward who forced the game in quite his best form. He scored 62 out of 90 put on for the first wicket in an hour and 25 minutes without giving a single chance and hardly making a bad stroke. Among his hits were a straight drive for six, five fours, five threes and six twos.

When Leicestershire went in an hour and ten minutes remained for play, and three wickets fell before the bowling of Briggs and Mold for 51 runs. Matters at one time looked like being a good deal worse, the third wicket going down at 27, but Leicestershire owed much to the patience and judgment exhibited by Mr Wood and Brown. Leicestershire have a good deal the worst of the game, being 197 runs behind with seven wickets to fall. Fine weather prevailed, but there was only a small attendance.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 May, page 15)

At Leicester yesterday on a wicket which was affected by rain and played very badly, the Leicestershire batsmen made a poor show against the fine bowling of Briggs and Mold, and quite early in the afternoon the match came to an end, Lancashire winning by an innings and 101 runs. Overnight Leicestershire had, in the face of their opponents' total of 248, lost three wickets for 51 runs.

Play began yesterday morning at 25 minutes to 12, and the innings was all over by ten minutes past 1 for 93. This involved a follow-on against a majority of 155 runs and, with the ground as it was, the game was as good as over. At 20 minutes to 4 Leicestershire were all out for 54, Lancashire being left with a single innings victory. Briggs had the fine average of 12 wickets for 70 runs.

27 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4756.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 May, page 13)

A short and somewhat uneventful day's cricket was seen at Oxford yesterday, stumps being drawn at half-past 5 on account of the Summer Eights on the river. Mr Bardswell had intended to put into the field the same team which on Wednesday beat Mr Webbe's eleven by five wickets, but he found it necessary to make one change, Mr G Bromley-Martin, owing to an injured finger, giving place to Mr B D Bannon, formerly of Tonbridge School.

Somerset batted first on a wicket that never seemed easy, and by some consistent, though not specially good, play ran up a score of 213. The best cricket was shown by Nichols and Mr Woods, who just before lunch obtained 52 runs together in 25 minutes. Mr Cunliffe, though his average does not read particularly well, bowled in good form and, apart from two mistakes by Mr Eccles, Oxford's fielding was excellent, Mr Bardswell, Mr Champain and Mr Waddy deserving special praise.

Oxford had an hour's batting. Three of the best wickets were lost for 38, but Mr Bannon kept up his end while Mr Eccles made runs, and at the finish the total had been carried to 60.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 May, page 15)

Some good hitting on the part of Messrs Eccles, Bardswell, Henderson and Wright, followed by some capital bowling and fielding, helped the Oxford eleven yesterday to gain a substantial advantage over Somerset at Oxford, the cricket throughout being bright and attractive. A shower of rain in the morning caused a delay of 35 minutes, and stumps were drawn earlier than usual owing to the Summer Eights on the river, the day's play consequently being reduced to about four hours of actual cricket.

Oxford, who had made 60 for three wickets against Somerset's total of 213, were not disposed of until the score require 270, or 57 runs to the good. Mr Eccles, in his 67, obtained in an hour and 20 minutes, hit nine fours, two threes and six twos; while Mr Bardswell, though only at the wickets 25 minutes, scored 38. A capital display was that of Mr Henderson, whose 49 was made in a quarter of an hour.

Going in a second time Somerset fared badly, losing five wickets for 104. Mr R C N Palairret played well at the start, and later on Robson and Nichols rendered useful service, but, on the whole, the batting was quite moderate.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 May, page 13)

At Oxford, on Saturday, the University gave a capital display of all-round cricket, and had the satisfaction of beating Somerset by seven wickets, their victory arousing a great deal of enthusiasm among the large number of people who went up to the Parks to see the match.

With five wickets down for 104 Somerset went on with their second innings in the morning, and for a little time did very well, Nichols and Mr Hook, the not-outs of Friday evening, offering a stubborn resistance to Oxford's bowling. When once they had been separated, however, the batting fell off very much in quality, the innings being finished off for a total of 189. Nichols, who had overnight gone in third wicket down at 30, was out eighth at 172, the only mistake in his invaluable 55 being a chance at the wicket when he had made 38. He both played and hit well, among his chief figures being six fours and three threes.

Oxford only had 133 to get to win, and the result was practically put beyond all doubt by Mr Fane and Mr Champain, who, in an hour and ten minutes, scored 76 together for the first wicket. Mr Champain was out first for a really first-rate innings of 46, in which there was no blemish except a chance in the slips at 17. Mr Fane stayed ten minutes longer, playing

exceedingly well, till a poor stroke brought about his dismissal. Mr Foster hit up 25 in vigorous style, and at the finish Mr Bannon and Mr Eccles were together. Just after Mr Fane left rain drove the players from the field, but they were out again almost immediately, and apart from this brief interruption the weather, though always threatening, kept fine. Oxford's victory was a most creditable one.

27 May: WARWICKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4757.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 May, page 13)

A good display of patient and skilful batting by W G Quaife was the special feature of yesterday's cricket at Birmingham. Warwickshire had the good fortune to win the toss, and on a wicket which, though a little slow at first, was in excellent condition, they stayed in all the afternoon. When the time came for the drawing of stumps they had scored 339 and had still two wickets to go down.

Going in first wicket down, Mr W G Quaife stayed in for four hours and 40 minutes, and was not out 124 when the afternoon's cricket came to an end. He gave a chance to the wicket-keeper, standing back, when he had made 16, and with his score at 36 he might have been caught from a hard drive, but there was nothing else in his batting with which fault could be found. Mr Fishwick, Lilley and J E Hill gave him valuable help, his partnership with Mr Hill producing in an hour and five minutes 91 runs for the sixth wicket. Mr Hill lost his innings in generously attempting a third run that would have given Quaife his 100. The Hampshire fielding all day was very good.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 May, page 15)

At Birmingham yesterday the Hampshire eleven - much weakened by the absence of several of the best batsmen in the county - had to face a total of 382 on a pitch considerably affected by rain.

The team did very well. They were assisted to some extent by bad fielding in scoring 177 in their first innings, but when they followed on against a balance of 205 some really brilliant cricket was shown by Mr A J L Hill and Mr Robson. When these two gentlemen went in the ground, under the influence of a driving wind, had recovered itself, and they did not fail to take advantage of its improved condition. They scored 107 together in an hour and ten minutes, and Hampshire left off in a much better position than could have been expected, being at the drawing of stumps only 82 runs behind with nine wickets in hand.

W G Quaife, who had played so admirably for Warwickshire on Thursday, added 12 runs yesterday to his previous score of 124 and took out his bat. He was at the wickets altogether five hours and 40 minutes, his principal hits being 11 fours, seven threes and 15 twos.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 May, page 13)

Whatever chance the Warwickshire eleven might have had of forcing a win at Birmingham on Saturday was destroyed by wet weather. A shower during the luncheon interval and a heavy downpour afterwards prevented any cricket in the afternoon until 20 minutes to 5, and then only two more overs were bowled before rain came on again and the match was abandoned.

When the decision was arrived at Hampshire - who, following on overnight 205 to the bad, had made 123 for one wicket - had raised their score to 262 for four wickets. Robson, who went in first and was not out 58, stayed until the score reached 147, out of which number he made 75. He played finely, being at the wickets an hour and 50 minutes and hitting ten fours, three threes and five twos. Barton and Webb also batted very well and, in the circumstances, the Hampshire eleven deserve great praise for the creditable struggle they made. They wiped off the arrears with only three batsmen out, and when the game was finally abandoned were 57 runs to the good with six wickets in hand.

27 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v MIDDLESEX COLTS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/302/302688.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 May, page 13)

At Lord's yesterday there was a revival of an old fixture - namely, a match between the Club and Ground and 17 Middlesex colts with J Phillips as captain. As the figures given below will show several of the colts bowled fairly well, and more attention was given to the bowling, as Middlesex are not in any particular need of batsmen.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 May, page 15)

Yesterday, at Lord's, the trial of Middlesex colts was completed, the actual result, to which, of course, no importance was attached, being a draw. Roche and O'Halloran, the new Australian professionals at Lord's, came off well for the club in bowling and batting respectively, while for the colts Mr Marsden (five wickets for 29) and Bannister (seven wickets in the double innings for 67 runs) showed great promise as bowlers.

Below are given the averages of prominent cricketers who have played six innings or more this season. One exception is made in favour of the younger Quaife, whose consistent success merits his inclusion in the list:-

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Times		Average
			Innings	not out	
Abel	7	722	250	0	103.1
William Quaife	5	393	138*	1	98.1
Mr K J Key	7	330	110*	3	82.2
K S Ranjitsinhji	11	656	260	1	65.6
Baker	7	343	153	1	57.1
Mr F S Jackson	9	440	124	1	55
Hayward	7	352	130	0	50.2
Albert Ward	7	300	162	1	50
Mr G Brann	7	291	126	1	48.3
Brockwell	7	316	131	0	45.1
Mr H B Chinnery	7	260	53*	1	43.2
Mr W L Murdoch	9	353	105	0	39.2
Board	6	226	126	0	37.4
Carpenter	9	301	141	1	37.5
Hirst	10	335	134	1	37.2
Storer	11	369	180*	1	36.9
Paul	6	215	65	0	35.6
Mr J R Mason	6	203	70	0	33.5
Dr W G Grace	8	168	56*	1	33.3
Mr C P Foley	7	200	47	1	33.2
Mr C J Burnup	8	225	79*	1	32.1
Mr P F Warner	9	247	108*	1	30.7
Mr H D G Leveson-Gower	7	216	81	0	30.6
Chatterton	7	214	59	0	30.4
Mr F L Fane	6	178	46	0	29.4
Mr P Perrin	8	237	63	0	29.5
Mr C M'Gahey	9	235	94	1	29.3
J T Brown	10	247	72	1	27.4
Wainwright	9	243	100	0	27
Mr C E M Wilson	6	105	65*	2	26.1
Moorhouse	10	261	91	0	26.1
Frank Sugg	7	175	71	0	25
Lord Hawke	7	144	63*	1	24
Mr M R Jardine	9	185	85	0	23.1
Mr H G Owen	8	183	67	0	22.7
Mr H H Marriott	6	137	73	0	22.5
Tunnicliffe	11	219	54	1	21.9
George Bean	8	171	77	0	21.3
Marlow	9	192	60	0	21.3

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Dench	72.3	30	136	15	9.1
Mold	198.3	79	366	30	12.6
Attewell	153.4	89	266	19	14
Brockwell	192.1	86	338	24	14.2
Roberts	109	36	264	17	15.9
Mr G L Jessop	146	52	295	18	16.7
Briggs	239.3	85	435	26	16.19
Mr H W de Zoete	149.2	44	359	21	17.2
J T Hearne	364.1	120	819	46	17.37
Mr F H E Cunliffe	119	28	299	16	18.11

Hirst	296.4	119	561	30	18.21
Haigh	250.4	89	551	29	19
Mead	239.1	87	458	23	19.19
Richardson	275	77	715	35	20.16
Woodcock	200.2	63	503	24	20.23
Wainwright	253.3	85	549	25	21.24
Bland	253.3	71	644	29	22.6
Davidson	229.1	73	468	21	22.6
Mr F G Bull	254.4	66	674	30	22.14
Martin	322.4	110	702	30	23.12
Peel	233	99	372	15	24.12
Mr C J Kortright	160	39	429	15	28.9
Tate	296.1	82	731	24	30.11
Mr C L Townsend	104	12	363	11	33

31 May: DERBYSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4758.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 June, page 12)

Considering that they were at the wickets for the whole of yesterday at Derby, the Derbyshire cricketers scarcely took full advantage of their opportunities, their score of 263 against Warwickshire being only a moderate achievement. Extreme caution was the characteristic of the batting, Davidson and Bagshaw, who raised the score from six to 91, taking two hours and a half to do so. A promising addition to the batting strength of the county was discovered in Mr Ashcroft, who played admirable cricket for his 50, giving no chance and making a number of fine hits.

Derbyshire, in the absence of Storer, who has injured his hand, gave a trial to a new wicket-keeper named Wilmott. The Warwickshire bowling was weakened by the absence of Santall, who was kept away through indisposition.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 June, page 14)

There was no play in this match at Derby yesterday, heavy rain in the morning being followed by a further downpour in the afternoon, which completely ruined the slowly recovering wicket. The score as it was left on Monday evening was - Derbyshire, first innings, 263.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 June, page 14)

At Derby, yesterday, the Warwickshire eleven had rather a hard task to avoid following on, but when once they had escaped that danger the match resolved itself into a certain draw. Rain had rendered Tuesday an entire blank, and Monday had been occupied by Derbyshire in playing a first innings of 263.

The wicket was slow and rather treacherous yesterday morning, and with Davidson bowling in his best form Warwickshire found run-getting a difficult matter. Four of the best wickets were lost for 72 runs, and though Mr Bainbridge and Lilley - the [former] of whom was palpably missed at short leg when he had scored 14 - made a capital stand together, there were six men out by lunch time for 125. Nineteen runs were then wanted to avert a follow-on, with four wickets to go down. On starting afresh, Davidson got rid of Pallett and Mr Glover with successive balls, but Mr J E Hill and Whitehead saved the follow-on, and thenceforward a draw was certain. Warwickshire's total, as will be seen below, reached 159.

Derbyshire on going in for a second time declared their innings closed after an hour's batting, but with only an hour and a half left they could not expect to win. The Warwickshire batsmen played a strictly defensive game and in the end the match was left drawn . . .

31 May: LANCASHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4759.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 June, page 12)

The cricket at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday was very interesting, and at the drawing of stumps there was really little to choose between the positions of the sides. To some extent the wicket helped the bowlers and runs were always difficult to make.

In the Lancashire batting the great thing was the partnership for the fourth wicket by Frank Sugg and Tyldesley, who put on 93 runs. Sugg was sixth out for a brilliant 71, in which were 13 fours; his cricket was, without doubt, the best of the day. Lancashire up to luncheon time seemed in for a big score, but subsequently the effective bowling of Phillips completely changed the complexion of the match.

In spite of good batting by Mr Hayman and Stoddart, five of the Middlesex wickets went for 68, after which Mr Ford's success brought evenness to the game. There were 5,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 June, page 14)

Heavy rain yesterday morning at Manchester reduced the Old Trafford ground to such a state that under the most favourable circumstances no play would have been possible until late in the afternoon. After a slight improvement in the weather about 11 o'clock, a heavy thunderstorm burst over the ground at noon, and it was quickly decided to postpone the resumption of the game until this morning.

On Monday, it will be remembered, Lancashire completed an innings for 176 and then got six Middlesex wickets down for 123.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 June, page 14)

After a very well fought match, Lancashire yesterday beat Middlesex at Manchester by 46 runs. Inasmuch as a whole day's cricket had been lost owing to the rain on Tuesday and play was not possible until half an hour after the usual time yesterday, there seemed little chance of a definite result; but the wet weather had rendered the ground very difficult, and between noon and 6 o'clock - that is to say, within four hours and three-quarters of actual cricket - 24 wickets went down at the rate of nine runs apiece.

The concluding part of the Middlesex innings lasted three-quarters of an hour, but, against some skilful bowling by Briggs and Hallam, produced only 12 additional runs. Lancashire going in had a lead of 41 runs, and in the course of an hour's play before lunch scored 71 for five wickets, thanks mainly to some resolute, but slightly lucky, hitting by Mr Tindall. In the 40 minutes afterwards, however, the innings was finished off for an addition of 34 runs.

Middlesex had 147 runs to get to win, a formidable task under the conditions which prevailed; but, thanks to the skilful cricket of Mr Stoddart, 46 of them were obtained before the second wicket fell. Later on the score reached 91 with five wickets standing, but then Mold, resuming, carried all before him, and the innings was finished off for the addition of only nine runs, the fast bowler sending down five overs and a ball for three runs and four wickets.

For Middlesex Hearne bowled finely in the second innings, taking six wickets for 42 runs, and Phillips in the match dismissed nine batsmen for 79 runs. Except for Mold's sensational work at the finish, Hallam did the best bowling for Lancashire.

31 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4760.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 June, page 12)

Leicestershire had the best of the play at Lord's yesterday against a weak Marylebone team. It should be mentioned that Bean was out in a remarkable manner: he had played the ball back to Woodcock and was eventually under the impression that "over" had been called. Woodcock returned the ball to the other end with apparently no intention of hitting the wicket, when Bean was at least a yard outside the crease, but the ball rolled into the wicket and on appeal Bean was given run out.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 June, page 14)

Leicestershire beat M.C.C. and Ground at Lord's yesterday by four wickets. At one time it was not at all improbable that the club might save the match. This is all the more remarkable as in their second innings they had lost eight wickets for 54 and still required 79 to save a single innings defeat; but the last two wickets added 118, which left Leicestershire with 40 to get to win.

On going in a second time, the wicket played very treacherously, and Leicestershire had great difficulty in getting the necessary runs, the batsmen being continually beaten by Roche and Mead. No play was possible until a quarter to 1, and when a start was made the weather looked very threatening; even then the wicket hardly seemed fit for cricket, and both batsmen and bowlers had difficulty in getting a foothold. Woodcock again bowled well and in the match took 13 wickets for 125 runs.

31 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4761.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 June, page 12)

Without having any very striking feature, the cricket at Trent-bridge yesterday was thoroughly interesting and was played under very fair conditions. Most of the hours were absorbed by the Kent first innings.

Mr Mordaunt, the Oxford captain of two seasons ago, and Alec Hearne put on 67 in 45 minutes while they were together, and their partnership furnished the highest class cricket of the day. Mr Mordaunt was run out through attempting an ill-judged single, and then, when Kent had seven men lost, the record was only 137. Walter Wright and Easby then added 78 by steady cricket. Attewell bowled extremely well for the home side. In the brief time that they were in Notts lost two of their best men.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 June, page 14)

At Nottingham, yesterday, rain prevented any cricket until after half-past 3, caused a delay of three-quarters of an hour afterwards, and finally compelled stumps to be drawn 25 minutes before the usual hour. During such time as the players were in the field Nottinghamshire, who overnight had scored 34 for the loss of two wickets, did very well, adding 94 runs for the loss of only one more batsman.

Gunn played well, and after Mr Dixon's dismissal he and Daft put on 48 runs without being separated. As the game was left last evening, the home county, with seven wickets to fall, were only 91 runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 June, page 14)

With a draw inevitable no very lively interest could be felt in yesterday's cricket at Nottingham. In the face of Kent's total of 219, Notts had, when rain put an end to a very restricted afternoon's cricket on Tuesday, obtained 128 for the loss of three wickets. This score the Notts players increased yesterday to 231, thus gaining a lead of 12 on the first innings.

Gunn, who was at the wickets altogether for three hours, only added 12 to his previous score of 62. By far the best batting for Notts yesterday was that of Daft, who did not make the least mistake in his 63. His chief figures were six fours, three threes and eight twos. His driving was unusually good.

Kent went in after luncheon, and the rest of the day was occupied by their innings, which closed for 177. A capital start was made by Mr Mason and Alec Hearne, who scored 58 together in 65 minutes for the first wicket. Some admirable batting was afterwards shown by Mr Stewart. When stumps were drawn and the game abandoned Notts had an innings to play and wanted 166 runs to win.

31 May: SURREY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4762.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 June, page 12)

Runs had to be fought very keenly for at the Oval yesterday, for, with the wicket soft on the top and hard underneath, the ball in the first few hours "kicked" so much that even the batsmen who were successful made many ill-timed strokes.

Dr W G Grace, on winning the toss, decided to take the risk of putting Surrey in first. For a great while his policy was eminently successful, for five Surrey men went for 30 runs and nine were out for 104; but the tenth partnership, between Baldwin and Richardson, yielded 53 runs in the course of less than half an hour. So the Surrey score, under all the circumstances, was in the end very respectable.

Hayward played very well, and going in first wicket down at five was sixth out, bowled by a leg break from Mr Townsend, at 77, his stay having extended over an hour and a quarter. He and Mr Key put on 47 while they were together; but Mr Key was badly missed at short slip by Mr Townsend when only eight, while after making 16 the Surrey captain was only out to a very clever one-hand catch at point.

When Gloucestershire went in Dr Grace himself made many good strokes and left the impression that he was in for a long score, but having contributed 29 to 41, he was completely beaten by a ball from Lees; and after this things went so badly for Gloucestershire that six men were out for 87 and seven for 115. Afterwards Mr de Winton and Hale added 57 in three-quarters of an hour, and Gloucestershire in the end were left with a lead of 15 and three wickets to fall. Towards the end of the day the ball came along pretty easily, and if the weather is to be relied on to keep fine the match may be regarded as being in an even position. Mr Kitcat's 54 was an invaluable innings to Gloucestershire; he watched the ball very carefully and made many good strokes, but his rather cramped style prevents his being termed an attractive batsman.

About 15,000 people were at the Oval and the weather was thoroughly worthy of the game. Gloucestershire had in their eleven Mr F H B Champaign, who has a good chance of getting his "blue" at Oxford this summer, and Mr G L Jessop, the Cambridge University cricketer. Mr Jessop bowled with much success yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 June, page 14)

If the weather remains fine Surrey, in the ordinary course of events, will probably sustain their first defeat of the season on the Oval to-day, for Gloucestershire, with seven batsmen left and most of them run-getters, have only 61 to make to win.

After the fairly even position of things on Monday night a great change took place after 3 o'clock yesterday. Previous to this time cricket was impossible because of the effects of the great storm in the early morning, but when once the game was renewed it progressed with much rapidity. In a little over half an hour the last three Gloucestershire batsmen were got out for an addition of 16 runs, which left the visitors with a balance of 31 on the innings.

Abel and Hayward hit off the arrears and took the score to 49 before the second wicket went, but afterwards Mr Chinnery alone met with any success. Mr Townsend's slow leg breaks puzzled everybody, while Mr Jessop made the ball get up awkwardly. Surrey, indeed, had a very bad time and, to make things worse, their opponents brought off some wonderful catches, especially the left-handed return that got out Mr Leveson-Gower and the left-handed catch, high up, by third man that got out Mr Chinnery, while it was a beautiful piece of fielding by Mr W G Grace at cover-point that brought about the dismissal of Lees. Mr Jessop brought his bowling record in the match to ten wickets for 107 runs.

As Gloucestershire had only half an hour to play, Dr Grace determined to save most of his best men for to-day, for the wicket was still very bad. Of the 70 wanted to win, 18 were scored at the cost of three wickets.

The running out of Murch furnished a disagreeable incident that should not occur in good cricket. There was an appeal for stumping, and Barlow, the umpire at the striker's wicket, replied "Not out." Simultaneously with this decision the wicket-keeper significantly threw the ball up. Murch, thinking he was out, walked away from the wicket, and Marshall, catching the ball as it fell, immediately pulled up a stump and ran Murch out. Murch, who suffers from deafness, had perhaps no right to leave his crease; but there are some good judges who think that after an umpire has decided one point the ball should be ruled "dead." The matter was discussed with heat by the large company; and however keen the struggle for victory the highest spirit of cricket should be maintained, for the player in small matches is apt to take up his standard from those presumably possessed not only of a thorough knowledge of the laws, but of the honourable traditions of cricket. "Sharp practice" is the only term to be applied to last evening's incident on Kennington Oval.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 June, page 14)

In about three-quarters of an hour at the Oval yesterday morning Surrey and Gloucestershire finished their match, Gloucestershire winning by five wickets. Although no more rain had fallen since Tuesday, the turf was still treacherous, and the last 61 runs took some trouble to secure.

Mr G L Jessop made many fine hits, and his 26 out of 28 in a quarter of an hour considerably influenced the result. He forced the game splendidly, and one or two of his drives sent the ball over the ring. After he had gone Dr Grace played very well; but a dropped catch by Abel, who let off Mr Champain, made some difference to the actual result. However, by 20 minutes past 12 the match was all over. This was Gloucestershire's first win on the Oval against Surrey since 1885, when they were successful by two wickets.

31 May: YORKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4763.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 June, page 12)

Yesterday at Park-avenue, Bradford, the Yorkshire eleven were batting nearly the whole day and made 279; but the credit for this good score belonged largely to two men - Mr F S Jackson, the old Harrow and Cambridge captain, who seems in particularly good form this season, and Denton, who broke his spell of ill-fortune with a fine score of 90.

Mr Jackson, whom Tunnicliffe helped to make 70 for the first wicket, was second to leave at 97. Denton had a little luck during the first hour of his stay, but he got his 90 in two hours and a half, and his batting was very attractive to watch. He hit 14 fours and, in company with Moorhouse, put on 110 for the fourth wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 June, page 14)

The bad weather prevented more than two hours' cricket at Park-avenue, Bradford, yesterday; but in this time Hampshire, who had begun a first innings overnight, fared badly. Peel and Wainwright bowled so well on the ruined wicket that Hampshire's last nine men went for an addition of 64 runs, while in the follow-on against odds of 185, four more wickets fell, leaving arrears of 144.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 June, page 14)

Less than two hours' play at Bradford yesterday sufficed to bring this match to a conclusion, Yorkshire winning with ten wickets to spare. Hampshire, with four wickets down in their second innings, entered upon the day's cricket still 144 runs behind, and an even more severe defeat for the southern county was probable; but the visitors struggled very hard yesterday and increased their overnight score of 41 to 201 before the innings closed.

For this creditable performance Hampshire had mainly to thank Mr Steele, who, going in when five men were out for 50, made 67 out of 107 in less than an hour, playing fine determined cricket and hitting five fours, six threes and six twos. Bennett helped to put on 57 runs for the sixth wicket and Heseltine 50 for the next.

Yorkshire had only 17 runs to get to win, and obtained this number without loss. Peel and Wainwright each took nine wickets in the course of the match, but neither succeeded in hitting the stumps.

Thursday 3 June, page 14

THE PHILADELPHIAN TEAM. - The Philadelphians arrived yesterday at Southampton by the American liner St Paul. They will probably have some practice at Lord's to-day; their first match is against the Oxford eleven next Monday, at Oxford.

3 June: LANCASHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4764.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 June, page 10)

So wet was the weather at Liverpool yesterday that only 35 minutes' cricket took place in the match between Lancashire and Derbyshire. A start was made at the usual hour, but at half-past 12 rain interrupted play for 35 minutes, and on the resumption of the game very little more play had been possible when the players were again driven to shelter. A mist hanging over the ground prevented the turf from drying, and a sharp shower at 4 o'clock precluded any possibility of further progress with the game yesterday, stumps being finally pulled up at 5 o'clock.

During the little while that the players were in the field Derbyshire scored 35 runs without loss, Davidson and Mr Wright both playing very well.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 June, page 13)

Yesterday was a day of bowlers' triumphs at Liverpool. Little play had been possible on Thursday, and on a drying and false pitch the batsmen were always in great difficulty. Indeed so much was this the case that, after Briggs's splendid bowling had so ruined the Derbyshire innings, Lancashire against Davidson and Cross did even worse.

Five wickets in fact fell at 36 - namely, the fifth to the ninth. In the second innings Derbyshire did much better, and at present the visitors are 154 on with three men in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 June, page 11)

After a most exciting finish at Liverpool on Saturday, Lancashire beat Derbyshire by the bare margin of one wicket. The condition of the ground, which on Friday favoured bowlers, had undergone a marked improvement, but run-getting was never easy. Derbyshire's second innings, in which seven men were out for 108, closed in three-quarters of an hour for 137, Walter Sugg, who was last man [out], hitting nine fours in an excellent innings of 48.

Lancashire were set 184 to get to win. With four wickets to fall, Lancashire only wanted 35 runs, but eight of these were still required when the last man came in. These were soon made and Lancashire won a closely-contested game. Pleasant weather favoured the play and there was a large attendance.

3 June: MIDDLESEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4765.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 June, page 10)

The Middlesex eleven at Lord's yesterday gave a splendid exhibition of batting, remaining at the wickets nearly the whole of the day and making the large total of 386. Dr Grace, for the second time during the week, adopted the policy of putting his opponents in; but in this case it proved a complete failure. The Gloucestershire bowling was weakened by the absence of Mr G L Jessop, who had gone back to Cambridge. With the pitch soft on the top Jessop was the one bowler in the side who could have made the ball kick.

It was really Mr Hayman's forcing tactics at the very beginning of the innings which made the game for the subsequent batsmen. Mr Hayman played a beautiful innings of 62; driving was his great stroke, and the way he drew himself up to deal with a difficult ball delighted the close observers of his cricket. He made his 62 out of 89 in 55 minutes, and among his figures were 11 fours and four threes. Mr Warner played strongly all round the wicket, and his cut and his stroke on the leg-side were particularly good. His best hits were 11 fours, two threes and five twos, and he was third out at 177.

By this time the Gloucestershire bowling was pretty well worn out, and Mr Ford and Sir Timothy O'Brien hit it all over the field. Mr Ford's driving all along the ground was admirable, and in his 66 were eight fours. Mr Webbe scored 58 of the last 95 in 90 minutes. Gloucestershire fielded well, and Mr C L Townsend, though expected, bowled with much skill.

Mr Stoddart stood out of the Middlesex eleven owing to a bad cold. Mr M'Gregor's usual post at the wicket was occupied by Mr H Philipson. The weather yesterday was dull and oppressive, but the crowd at Lord's numbered between 6,000 and 7,000.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 June, page 13)

Gloucestershire came out more than creditably from their uphill fight at Lord's yesterday, for their innings extended over nearly the whole of the cricketing hours and in the end the score was only 56 less than that of Middlesex.

But if Gloucestershire met with so much success their batting scarcely reached the high standard of excellence which marked that of Middlesex on Thursday. The two best things were the 80 by Wrathall and the 95 by Mr Kitcat, the latter of whom has done particularly well on the London grounds this week. His cricket was marked by soundness, and if at times slow his care was necessitated by the position in which he found his side. He made 12 fours during his stay. Previously Wrathall had done excellently; his batting was brighter, and when any loose ball came along he hit with great power. He was fifth out at 168 when in playing forward he put the ball up to point. His chief figures were 13 fours.

Some disappointment was felt when Dr Grace got out, for he looked in for a good score when he was caught at wicket. With seven men gone Gloucestershire still wanted 72 to save the follow-on but the next partnership (that between Kitcat and Dearlove) settled this question, for it produced exactly the requisite number of runs. Then, after nine of the side had left for 295, Roberts kept in for nearly an hour and made a couple towards the last 35 runs. Hearne bowled extremely well and the fielding generally was good.

As the game stands at present Middlesex, with one wicket gone in the second innings, are 69 runs to the good. Mr Webbe in fielding was badly hit early in the day and retired; but later in the afternoon he was able to resume the captaincy of the side.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 June, page 11)

With the wicket perfectly true, it was not surprising that the match at Lord's on Saturday ended in a draw. This result was reached after Middlesex had declared their innings closed

and when Gloucestershire had for some three hours played only to save the match, in doing which they scored 158 at the cost of six batsmen.

The feature in Saturday's cricket, of which there were about 7,000 spectators, was the brilliant innings of the old Cambridge Blue, Mr F G J Ford, who in less than two and a half hours scored 150 runs. Some idea of the power with which Mr Ford hit may be gathered from his figures: these were 19 fours, six threes and 11 twos.

To begin with three of the Middlesex men were out for 37. Mr Webbe declared his innings closed soon after 3 o'clock, and Gloucestershire set themselves to keep in for the rest of the day. After Dr Grace had been cleverly caught at cover-point, Mr Kitcat and Mr C Townsend stayed together an hour and five minutes. Mr Kitcat smothered all the good bowling of Hearne and Rawlin, and stayed altogether two hours for his 36, while Mr F Townsend made some good hits.

3 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4766.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 June, page 10)

Charming weather yesterday favourites the commencement of the third important match of the season at Oxford, and the presence of the Surrey eleven was a great attraction. The Surrey committee determined to give a rest to Richardson, in view of the heavy work he will have to do in county matches, and, with Mr W W Read also away, places were given to Nice and Hayes.

Nice is a medium pace bowler, who has before now had a trial for the county, and Hayes will be remembered as a young batsman who made a brilliant first appearance last season at the Oval against the Australians. Oxford enjoyed for the first time this year the services of their slow bowler, Mr J C Hartley, and, with Mr G E Bromley-Martin able, after an injury to his hand, to reappear, Mr R E Foster and Mr B D Bannon were left out.

The day was one of disaster to the Oxford eleven, who, on a treacherous wicket, were completely outplayed at every point. The ground had not recovered from the heavy rain of Tuesday, and Mr Bardswell, on winning the toss, may well have hesitated as to what he should do. He decided to go in, but it is certain that Oxford gained nothing by batting first, the wicket seeming to get easier as the afternoon went on.

The Oxford batsmen could do nothing against the bowling of Hayward and Hayes, only Mr Bromley-Martin and Mr Eccles getting into double figures, and in rather less than two hours the innings was all over for 65. Hayward bowled superbly - no milder word would do justice to his work. Combining a very good break with an unimpeachable pitch, he hit the stumps six times and took in all seven wickets at a cost of 33 runs. Hayes took three wickets for three runs.

Surrey went in at a quarter past 3 and their innings, which lasted for the rest of the afternoon, realized a total of 192. Allowing for the improvement in the wicket, the batting was vastly better than that of Oxford. Mr Leveson-Gower and Hayward played particularly well, Brockwell, Abel and Mr Key being also seen to advantage. Hayward, when firmly set, was out to a brilliant catch in the slips. Mr Leveson-Gower went in with the score at 56 for two wickets and was out seventh at 183, his innings of 50 lasting a little over two hours and including four fours, one three and seven twos. He made very few mistakes and it was quite appropriate that he should have been successful on the ground on which during four seasons he did so much good work for Oxford.

Mr Cunliffe and Mr Hartley bowled exceedingly well, but the other bowlers did not look at all difficult. As the score stands now Surrey have a great advantage, leading as they do by 127 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 June, page 13)

The weather at Oxford yesterday was delightfully fine and the game again attracted a large attendance. Thursday's cricket had gone so much in Surrey's favour that yesterday morning there seemed little prospect of other than a one-sided match.

Going in a second time, however, with a balance of 127 against them, the Oxford eleven up to a certain point played so finely as [really to] threaten their opponents with a heavy task in the last innings. Thanks to the splendid batting of Mr Champain and Mr Bromley-Martin the arrears of 127 on the first innings - Oxford's first total being 65 and Surrey's 192 - were hit off for the loss of two wickets and, but for the fact that an unfortunate run-out cut short Mr Bromley-Martin's career when he was playing his best, the position might have been even better. However, the hopes held out by this capital start were not realized, and with seven wickets down Oxford's score was only 160, several of the batsmen again finding Hayward's bowling much too good for them. At this point Mr Waddy hit away in most determined style and, owing to his efforts and those of Mr Cunliffe, the remaining wickets carried the total to 227.

Mr Champain played a fine innings of 78, scarcely making a mistake during his stay of about two hours. Going in first, he was out fourth at 149, his chief hits being ten fours, four threes and six twos. Hayward, as on Thursday, had a splendid record with the ball, seven wickets falling to him at a cost of only 70 runs. With the ground so much faster than on the opening day this was an even better performance than his seven wickets for 33 runs in the first innings.

Surrey wanted 101 runs to win the game and, as an hour and ten minutes remained for cricket when they went in, it was fully expected that the end would be reached last evening. The Oxford men, however, bowled and fielded in such admirable form that when the time came for drawing stumps only 65 runs had been made with one wicket down. Thus, as the score stands now, Surrey with nine wickets in hand require 36 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 June, page 11)

Though the game at Oxford lasted only 50 minutes on Saturday, the play was very interesting, Surrey's victory being only gained by five wickets. On Friday evening the county seemed to have the match quite in their hands, wanting only 36 runs to win with nine wickets to fall. The Oxford men, however, gave an excellent account of themselves, and they got down four more wickets before the requisite number could be hit off.

Mr Cunliffe took three wickets for 30 runs. His full record for the match was eight wickets for 102 runs. A feature of the morning's cricket was a splendid catch at extra mid-off with which Mr Eccles dismissed Abel.

3 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY - TWELVE v SIXTEEN

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

Potted Score: THE SIXTEEN 477 (J H Stogdon 90, H J Davenport 59, C R Worthington 34, H G Curgenvin 69, J B Dyne 71; A E Fernie 5/81, R Boucher 4/46). THE TWELVE 161 (G H Simpson 43; H H Joy 6/60) and (following on) 509/9 (H B J Taylor 42, N F Druce 225, E Garnett 79, T L Taylor 64*, C E M Wilson 36; H G Curgenvin 4/105). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 June, page 10)

As Cambridge University have already engaged in four first-class matches and the team can scarcely be expected to undergo many further changes, no great importance attached to this trial game at Cambridge yesterday.

Some good batting was shown for the Sixteen, Stogdon and Davenport putting on 158 runs for the third wicket, but with neither Jessop nor Shine taking part in the match, the bowling against them was far from strong.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 June, page 13)

Perhaps the best thing in yesterday's cricket at Cambridge was the batting of Mr J B Dyne for the Sixteen. He hit with great freedom and made his 71 in a little over an hour, contributing nine fours and six threes. When the Twelve went in Mr Joy bowled effectively .

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 June, page 11)

Mr N F Druce, the Cambridge captain, played a fine innings of 225 in this trial match at Cambridge on Saturday, hitting 26 fours, nine threes and 28 twos. Altogether his innings lasted three hours and three-quarters. Mr Garnett assisted him to add 255 runs for the sixth wicket in rather less than three hours, and Mr T L Taylor and Mr Wilson put on 99 runs for the ninth wicket. Thanks to the fine batting, the Twelve, who had followed on 316 runs in arrear, succeeded in making a good draw, as when stumps were finally pulled up they were 193 runs on with two wickets to fall.

Friday 4 June, page 10

THE PHILADELPHIANS.- The Philadelphians, who arrived in England on Wednesday, visited Lord's yesterday, and during the afternoon had a long spell of practice at the nursery wickets. The players are in excellent health.

Below are given the chief averages up to Saturday, inclusive:-

BATTING

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Times		Average
			Innings	not out	
William Quaife	7	408	136*	2	81.3
Abel	11	801	250	0	72.9
K S Ranjitsinhji	11	656	260	1	65.6
Mr A Eccles	6	234	102	2	58.2
Mr F S Jackson	11	505	124	2	58.1
Mr H C Stewart	6	324	142	0	54
Mr G Brann	7	291	126	1	48.3
Mr K J Key	11	383	110*	3	47.7
Hayward	11	463	130	1	46.3
Bagshaw	7	259	114*	1	43.1
Mr W W Read	6	200	86*	1	40
Mr W L Murdoch	9	353	105	0	39.2
Baker	11	386	153	1	38.6
Carpenter	9	301	141	1	37.5
Brockwell	10	349	131	0	34.9
Albert Ward	11	334	162	1	33.4
Dr W G Grace	10	262	56*	2	32.6
Mr F H B Champain	8	244	78	1	32
Mr H B Chinnery	11	312	53*	1	31.2
Mr J R Mason	8	243	70	0	30.3
Mr P Perrin	8	237	63	0	29.5
Storer	14	384	180*	1	29.7
Mr P F Warner	13	354	108*	1	29.6
Mr C M'Gahey	9	235	94	1	29.3
Mr H B Hayman	8	203	62	1	29
Chatterton	10	290	79	0	29
Walter Quaife	7	171	45	1	28.3
Mr H D G Leveson-Gower	11	277	81	0	27.7
Mr C J Kortright	8	159	66*	2	26.3
Wainwright	10	264	100	0	26.4
Board	9	255	126	0	26.3
Mr C E M Wilson	6	105	65*	2	26.1
Denton	11	286	112	0	26
J T Brown	11	257	72	1	25.7
Mr C P Foley	9	202	47	1	25.2
Mr H H Marriott	8	200	73	0	25
Frank Sugg	11	267	71	0	24.3
Mr H W Bainbridge	7	170	69	0	24.2
Lord Hawke	7	144	63*	1	24
Lilley	8	163	37*	1	23.2
Mr F L Fane	8	186	46	0	23.2
Mr M R Jardine	8	185	86	0	23.1
Tunncliffe	13	262	54	2	22.10
Mr H G Owen	8	183	67	0	22.7

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mold	260.4	105	485	39	12.17
Dench	115.3	40	204	15	13.9
Briggs	349.1	121	631	44	14.15
Mr G L Jessop	189.1	65	402	28	14.10
Attewell	230.2	101	363	25	14.13

Hallam	213.3	93	337	23	14.15
Mr F H E Cunliffe	188.3	61	401	24	16.17
Brockwell	219.1	92	404	24	16.20
Woodcock	251.2	65	628	37	16.36
Mr H W de Zoete	149.2	44	359	21	17.2
Davidson	338.1	124	635	37	17.6
Hayward	254.2	85	658	32	17.14
J T Hearne	506.1	176	1083	62	17.29
Mead	297.1	110	565	31	18.7
Haigh	259.4	93	564	30	18.24
Wainwright	301.2	98	660	34	19.14
Richardson	314	89	800	41	19.21
Peel	277	116	478	24	19.22
Hirst	305.4	121	598	30	19.28
Bland	253.3	71	644	29	22.6
Mr F G Bull	254.4	66	674	30	22.14
Roberts	165.2	55	482	21	22.20
Martin	352.4	129	755	32	23.19
Mr C L Townsend	176.2	23	614	23	26.16
Mr C J Kortright	160	39	429	15	28.9

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the championship is as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Lancashire	6	5	0	1	6	1
Essex	4	1	0	3	1	1
Nottinghamshire	3	1	0	2	1	1
Yorkshire	5	4	1	0	3	.6
Surrey	6	4	1	1	3	.6
Gloucestershire	4	2	1	1	1	.3
Kent	2	0	1	1	-1	
Middlesex	2	0	1	1	-1	
Somerset	1	0	1	0	-1	
Warwickshire	4	0	1	3	-1	
Hampshire	3	0	2	1	-2	
Sussex	3	0	2	1	-2	
Derbyshire	4	0	3	1	-3	
Leicestershire	3	0	3	0	-3	

The official method of deciding the championship is laid down as follows:-

One point shall be reckoned for each win; one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have in finished matches obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned the champion county.

7 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4767.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 June, page 4)

An extremely interesting day's play was witnessed at Fenner's, Cambridge, yesterday, when a moderate side from Lord's played the University. Going in first, the early Marylebone batsmen met with a good deal of success; but eventually the score was comparatively small, a result that was the work of the fine bowling of Mr E B Shine. Mr Hornsby and Albert Trott were the best of the M.C.C. batsmen.

When Cambridge went in Mr Burnup and Mr Marriott played very well, and chiefly through their efforts the University made 179 in about an hour and three-quarters. Mr Shine had the fine bowling analysis of seven wickets for 79. Mr Frank Mitchell, although not in residence, was able to take his place in the Cambridge eleven, and he and Mr A G Richardson supplanted Mr J H Stogdon and Mr de Zoete.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 June, page 7)

There was no cricket at Cambridge yesterday owing to the bad weather; the scores on Monday night were - M.C.C., 210; Cambridge, 179 for one wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 June, page 12)

There was never any prospect of cricket at Cambridge yesterday in the match between the University and the Marylebone Club, rain having ruined the wicket and continuing so steadily that soon after 2 o'clock the game was abandoned. On Monday, the only day when any play took place, the M.C.C. scored 210 and Cambridge 179 for the loss of only one wicket.

7 June: ESSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4768.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 June, page 4)

There was a record attendance at the Essex County Ground at Leyton yesterday, when the company ran to quite 12,000 spectators, which may be taken as a significant indication of the interest generated by the recent good cricket of the young Essex eleven. The company, however, saw them with the worst of the wicket get the worst of the day's play, for the turf, if gradually improving, always helped the bowlers to a great extent until the roller had been on it between the innings.

Here, then, was an instance of the winning of the toss being anything but good fortune. The best thing in the Essex batting was Mr Perrin's 46; but even he did not play particularly well. What was needed on turf such as yesterday's was the type of batsman of the late Percy M'Donnell or Frank Sugg. Essex had not this, and so they were all out for 149, the last five wickets going down after lunch for 30 runs. The Leicestershire bowling possessed no wonderful merit and the ground fielding was slovenly.

When the visitors went in Knight and Mr Wood put on 56 for the first wicket, and then Knight and Mr Rudd played out time, the former making a lot of very fine hits. There was a delay of half an hour through rain, and bad light eventually put an end to the cricket a few minutes before the regular time. Leicestershire, with only 11 runs behind and nine wickets in hand, had much the better of the position.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 June, page 7)

On the Leyton ground yesterday, the Essex eleven, after having at one time a severe uphill game before them, followed up some excellent bowling and fielding with a capital start in their second innings, and were thus able to reduce the match to evenness.

No play was possible until after 3 o'clock, and then, as the ball came along easily on the wet turf, Leicestershire looked like establishing a very big advantage, for 160 went up before the second wicket fell. Subsequently the innings was finished off for an addition of 63. Mr Bull's slow leg-breaks were very effective and yesterday he took five wickets for 20 runs, while Mead, with his fine length and spin, required a lot of watching. Knight, who made 110 for the visitors, made most of his runs in front of the wicket, and the power of his play will be readily gathered from the fact that he hit 17 fours.

Essex, who were 74 behind, did so well in the last hour that at present they have nine wickets in hand and are three runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 June, page 12)

The County Ground at Leyton was so quickly affected by the rain that at an early hour the match was abandoned. Scores:- Essex, 149 and 77 (for one wicket); Leicestershire, 223.

7 June: HAMPSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4769.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 June, page 4)

Evenness marked yesterday's cricket at Southampton, for, at the drawing stumps, Hampshire, with three men left, were 41 behind the Derbyshire total. The game attracted a good deal of attention and there was a crowd of about 5,000.

The best thing in the visitors' batting was the stand for the first wicket by Mr Wright and Mr Evershed, who put on 72; but after 125 had gone up, with only two men lost, the whole side went for 174. Mr Wright played carefully and well throughout. Hampshire began successfully; but the good start was followed by several failures.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 June, page 7)

There were two fine individual innings at Southampton yesterday on the second day of this match; but, although one of these belonged to each county, Hampshire at the close could certainly claim to have the better position, seeing that Derbyshire with four wickets left are only 92 runs on in the second innings.

Mr F E Lacey, the old Sherborne boy and Cambridge blue, was always a splendid bat on a fast, hard wicket, and yesterday he gave a fine exhibition of his skill. He had gone in overnight when there seemed every prospect of nothing more than a small difference between the two innings; but Hampshire's last three men added 188. Mr Lacey had some luck, for he was twice missed; but he made his 121 in two and a half hours, and contributed a five, 14 fours, four threes and eight twos.

Derbyshire hit off the arrears of 147 for the loss of three men, but they afterwards scarcely maintained their run of success. Bagshaw, who may be said to share with Mr F G J Ford, of Middlesex, the honours of the best left-handed batting of to-day, scored 105 in two hours and 35 minutes, thus following up very quickly his fine three-figure innings against Surrey on the Oval last month. Yesterday he went in first wicket down and was fourth out, caught at mid-on. His best hits were 14 fours, two threes and eight twos.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 June, page 12)

No play was possible at Southampton yesterday and the game was abandoned as a draw, with the scores as follows:- Derbyshire, 174 and 239 (for six wickets); Hampshire, 321.

7 June: LANCASHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4770.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 June, page 4)

Cricket at Old Trafford, Manchester, has always been a big attraction on Bank Holiday, and over 20,000 people paid to see yesterday's play in Kent v Lancashire, so that Frank Sugg, to whom the gate-money is being given as a benefit, has every prospect of securing an amount approaching the sums secured by the late Richard Pilling, Watson, Barlow and Briggs. Sugg, if inferior, perhaps, as a batsman to such men as Gunn, has served his county well; and his fearless play on bad wickets, which, by the way, have often showed him to best advantage, has turned many a match in Lancashire's favour.

Yesterday's game had one great feature, and this was the innings of Mr Frank Marchant for Kent, who until his appearance fared quite badly. Mr Marchant, however, with his brilliant forcing on the off side, materially changed the aspect of the match and in his 80 he made eight fours, five threes and seven twos. But the Kent batting near the end completely failed.

Lancashire began badly and lost three men for ten runs, after which Baker and Tyldesley added 64, and at the finish Lancashire with six wickets left were 89 batting average the visitors' total.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 June, page 7)

Rain fell so heavily at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday that it was found impossible to continue this match, and the scores were left as on Monday, thus:- Kent, 192; Lancashire, 103 for four wickets.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 June, page 12)

As on Tuesday no cricket was possible at Old Trafford yesterday, and the match was drawn, the scores being:- Kent, 192; Lancashire, 103 for four wickets.

7 June: MIDDLESEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4771.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 June, page 4)

Middlesex v Somerset at Lord's on Whit Monday has become as much an institution in cricket as the August bank holiday fixture at the Oval. It was thus not surprising to find there yesterday a crowd of 16,000 or 17,000 persons, a number which no doubt would have been exceeded had the weather of the forenoon been a little more promising.

Middlesex maintained their great reputation as a batting side and played a brilliant and rapid innings of 377. The old Rugby and Oxford cricketer, Mr P F Warner, has never done so well as he is doing this year, and both he and Sir Timothy O'Brien secured much prominence yesterday. Mr Warner has a variety of fine strokes and his skilful play on the leg side is particularly good. Sir Timothy O'Brien forced the game strongly in front of the wicket and varied his powerful driving with an occasional brilliant cut. Mr Stoddart, who has been suffering from a bad cold, made his first appearance at Lord's ground this season, and he seemed to be in pretty good form.

Middlesex, who for the first time in the history of the club appeared in county colours in the shape of a cricket cap on which are the Middlesex arms, very similar to the three scimitars of Essex, are devoting the gate money of the match to the benefit of William Hearn, a worthy professional of the M.C.C., who played much good cricket in his day for Hertfordshire and who has in him a strain of the old Buckinghamshire cricket family which has acquired so much fame.

First choice of batting on a wicket that was perfectly true meant a great advantage to Middlesex, and when Mr Webbe put his side in the onlookers were prepared for a fine score. Mr Warner began excellently, timing the ball easily and being quite at home from the start; but Mr Hayman found Tyler's very slow bowling difficult and he made sundry false strokes. Later on, however, Mr Hayman played a fine forcing game. Warner was in trouble from Woods more than once, and with his score at 30 came the visitors' first serious blunder in the field, for Roe badly missed the old Oxford Blue at third man. Somerset suffered by this error. By beautiful cricket the score was raised to 90 in 85 minutes, and then Hayman was caught in the slips for 54 in which were nine fours.

Stoddart did not start very well, but he settled down very quickly and made some beautiful drives, and at lunch time the score was 141. In the afternoon the first 40 minutes rather changed the prospects of the game, for at 178 Stoddart in trying to hit the ball round to leg gave the bowler a catch, and at 195 Warner was bowled and Ford was out first ball. Thus were four men gone for 195, while 170 had gone up with only one wicket down. Warner played beautiful cricket for his 83, made in two and a half hours, and his best hits were eight fours, two threes and 13 twos.

For a long time after this O'Brien absorbed most of the batting, for while Rawlin and M'Gregor did little, Sir Timothy played strongly all round the wicket, making his 50 out of 57 in 40 minutes. The sixth wicket had gone at 250; but Dr Thornton stayed and scored rapidly, in fact he got his runs quicker than O'Brien, who, when he reached the seventies, had quite a slow spell of run-getting. The 300 was reached at the end of four hours' actual cricket, but 12 runs later Thornton was out to a skilful catch at wicket wide on the leg side, after a partnership with O'Brien that had yielded 6w runs. Sir Timothy was himself easily caught at slip in the next over; he got his 80 by brilliant batting in 80 minutes, and his best hits were 13 fours, two threes and five twos.

Hearne stayed with Mr Webbe about three-quarters of an hour in a very bad light and helped to add 50 runs, while soon after 6 o'clock the innings was brought to an end with the bowling of the Middlesex captain, who had played good cricket and had made many hard hits in his 41, an innings that followed well after his 50 odd against Gloucestershire last Thursday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 June, page 7)

The few thousand people who were courageous enough to go up to Lord's yesterday in face of this week rainy morning and the bleak, cheerless weather from the east were compensated for a long wait - there was no play until 3 o'clock - by seeing one of the finest pieces of batting of the season. Mr Lionel Palairet, who had the honour, contemporarily with Mr F S Jackson at Cambridge, of captaining the Oxford eleven two years running, long ago established a great cricket name for himself; but the regret always exists that he should so seldom be seen on the London grounds.

Mr Palairet has all the finish of Gunn's style with the additional art of greater power in hitting; his driving yesterday was superb and in the 15 fours of his 92 there was one for a hit that sent the ball among the seats on the top of the pavilion. Every one almost was wishing for some more of him, and at least hoping that he would have the distinction of getting 100; but a good catch at wicket closed his innings at the end of two hours, when he was fifth out at 162. He and his brother Richard put on 118 in 80 minutes for the second wicket; but the latter was badly missed by Sir Timothy O'Brien at point.

While the two Palairets were in there seemed every chance of a very good Somerset score; but towards the close there was a keen struggle to save the follow-on, and even now Somerset still want 25 runs more in order to do so and have only two wickets left. Mr MacGregor kept wicket very well and his stumping of Mr Roe was a splendid piece of cricket. Among other good things on the fielding side was the catch in the slips by Mr Stoddart that got out Captain Hedley. If the wicket rolls out well this morning there should be plenty more good play in the match.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 June, page 12)

There was never any prospect of cricket at Lord's yesterday, and after an early lunch Mr Webbe and Mr Woods agreed to abandon the match. Both from a cricket point of view and for the sake of the loss to William Hearn, the bad weather was extremely unfortunate. The scores were:- Middlesex, 377; Somerset, 233 for eight wickets.

7 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4772.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 June, page 4)

William Gunn, for whose benefit half the proceeds of the match begun yesterday between Notts and Surrey at Trent-bridge are to be set apart, is so famous a cricketer that very little notice is required of his career. Seventeen years ago he appeared at Lord's as one of the colts of England against the Marylebone Club and achieved some success, while a week later for the colts of Notts against the colts of Yorkshire an innings of 70 suggested that a young player of more than ordinary merit had been discovered.

He was directly afterwards tried in the Notts eleven, but his powers took some time to mature, and although he did fairly well in 1881 - the year of the schism - it was not until three seasons later that his position was assured. In that year he stood second to Shrewsbury and played with great success for the Players against the Gentlemen. Since that time Gunn has held a position as one of the greatest batsmen of the day, and in 1893 he had the distinction of making over 2,000 runs in first-class cricket.

In the matter of style Gunn has certainly no superior amongst the cricketers of the day, his strokes being all characterized by an elegance and finish which even many famous cricketers are unable to approach. During the last season or two his health has not been of the best and he has hardly been so remarkable a run-getter; but that he has lost none of his powers he showed yesterday by scoring on the occasion of his benefit match an innings of more than 100. Before dealing with yesterday's cricket it only remains to add that in addition to his splendid abilities as a batsman Gunn is one of the finest fields in the country.

Practically the whole interest in yesterday's cricket centred in the batting of Gunn, who went in for Notts soon after mid-day and was not out 121 at the drawing of stumps, the Notts total then standing at 249 for eight wickets. Some larger number of runs would generally have been expected from a side remaining at the wickets all day, but yesterday the Surrey bowling, especially that of Richardson, was maintained at an exceptionally high average of merit, and the ground, though in good order, was scarcely as fast as usual. Despite Gunn's admirable cricket Notts did not acquit themselves very well otherwise, as by half-past 3 in the afternoon they had half their wickets down for 113. At this point there seemed little chance that they would derive much benefit from having batted first, although Dixon had assisted Gunn to put on 51 runs for the fourth wicket.

The turning point of the game came when the colt Dench joined Gunn, these two taking the score from 113 to 201. The young player, although rather nervous at starting, played a very creditable 34. After Dench's departure Attewell batted with some freedom, and the partnership for the seventh wicket produced 47 runs. Gunn at the drawing of stumps had been batting for five hours and 20 minutes, and it is only right to point out in relation to his rather slow scoring that the bad start made by Notts naturally rendered him very cautious, and that later on he was incommoded by a blow on the knee. The course of the game was keenly followed by a large crowd of people estimated at about 12,000.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 June, page 7)

Heavy rain greatly interfered with yesterday's cricket at Nottingham, the start being delayed until half-past 4 o'clock. This was singularly unfortunate for William Gunn, as had the weather remained fine there would doubtless have been another very large attendance.

Notts, who on Monday had lost eight wickets for 245 runs, finished off their innings in rather less than half an hour for 275. Gunn only added four runs to his overnight score of 121, being caught in the long-field off Hayward's bowling. His finely-played innings of 125 included 12 fours, nine threes and 13 twos.

When Surrey went in at 20 minutes past 5 the ground, with no sun to dry it, was far too wet to be difficult, and Brockwell and Abel took such splendid advantage of their opportunity

that before the call of time 77 runs had been scored for the loss of one wicket. Of this number Brockwell, who was out in the last over of the day, made 49. Surrey, with nine wickets to fall, are 198 runs behind, and there seems every prospect of a full day's cricket to bring the match to a conclusion.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 June, page 12)

So wet was the weather at Nottingham yesterday that not a ball could be bowled in the match between Nottinghamshire and Surrey, the game being abandoned as a draw before 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The rain was much to be regretted both from a cricket point of view and that of the attendance, the proceeds of the contest having been set apart for the benefit of the famous batsman, William Gunn. When stumps were drawn on Tuesday evening the score stood:- Nottinghamshire, 275; Surrey, 77 for one wicket.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4773.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 June, page 4)

The Philadelphians, who have had, since last Thursday, a good deal of practice at Lord's, played the first match of their somewhat ambitious tour - for they meet all the first-class counties - at Oxford yesterday when they met the University eleven on the Christ Church ground. Their first experiences were not for them particularly favourable, for the Oxford men, under conditions extremely kind to batsmen, kept in nearly all day and played an innings of 363.

Nearly the whole of the Oxford men had a hand in this excellent total; but amid all the merits, the batting of Mr Champain, Mr Wright and Mr Hartley stood out prominently. Mr Champain, whose style at the Oval last week for Gloucestershire impressed many good judges of the game, played splendidly for his 63; he went in first and was third out at 120, and his chief hits were five fours, four threes and seven twos. Mr Bromley-Martin, Mr Foster and Mr Eccles all showed capital form; but with seven men out for 200 there seemed no prospect of the big score that was ultimately secured.

However, Mr Hartley and Mr Wright took advantage of a certain slackening in the visitors; bowling and in 80 minutes put on 94 runs, while Mr Wright and Mr Cunliffe added another 68. Mr Wright, who is a senior and came from the Clergy Orphan School, Canterbury, played the highest innings of the day. He has several very good strokes and he scored at a normal pace; his best hits were 11 fours and four threes.

The fielding was generally good; but the bowling seemed of rather an ordinary nature. But as the Philadelphians only landed in England last Wednesday it would be something of an injustice to them to be too severely critical on their yesterday's form. The attendance was very small considering the title of the match.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 June, page 7)

In their first match of the tour the Philadelphians were not kindly treated by the weather, for yesterday at Oxford they had to bat on a wicket made soft by the rain, and with the afternoon cold and dull, while the game itself was delayed by the wet until after luncheon.

It was a quarter to 3 when the match was continued, and before a drizzling rain and the bad light put an end to the cricket there was a spell of three hours and three-quarters' play. In this time the Philadelphians advanced their overnight score of six to 163 for seven wickets. Without exception the batsmen adopted a studiously careful style, necessitated perhaps by the position in which they found the game. Mr J A Lester carried off nearly all the honours of the innings, for going in second wicket down at 30 he was still not out at the drawing stumps, when his figures were 72. Playing a purely defensive game he invariably waited for the loose ball from which to score, and under these circumstances he scarcely made a bad stroke.

The game will be renewed to-day at half-past 11, and stumps will be drawn at 5 o'clock in order that the Philadelphians may catch the train to Manchester. As the score will show, the visitors are still in want of 84 runs to save the follow-on.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 June, page 12)

In the weather which attended their opening match, the Philadelphians were even more unfortunate yesterday than they had been on Tuesday, when no play took place at Oxford until after lunch. Rain fell heavily during the night and again yesterday morning, so saturating the wicket on the Christchurch ground that about midday the captains agreed to abandon the match as a draw. So far as the game proceeded Oxford put together a first innings of 363 and the Philadelphians scored 163 for the loss of seven wickets.

7 June: SUSSEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4774.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 June, page 4)

A disappointment was in store for the crowd of 7,000 or 8,000 persons who gathered on the Hove Ground yesterday morning, for during the luncheon hour rain set in and put a stop to what had promised to be an exceptionally good day's cricket.

In the hour and three-quarters before the adjournment the spectators saw some very good cricket by Dr Grace, Wrathall and Mr C L Townsend. The champion and Mr Townsend played very well against much good fielding and bowling, and took 70 minutes to add 41. Rain descended heavily after 3 o'clock and speedily dispersed the crowd.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 June, page 7)

There were some 5,000 spectators of yesterday's cricket at Brighton, and the game went in favour of Gloucestershire, a result that was largely due to the weather, which made its effect felt on the turf when Gloucestershire had finished their innings. The visitors in the little time of play on Monday made 75 for the loss of two wickets, and yesterday Dr Grace and Mr Kitcat were quickly out, so that with four of the side gone for 80 there seemed only a prospect of a small score.

Subsequently Gloucestershire's position was very materially improved, and this was chiefly the work of Board, who forced the game at a great pace and in a quickly played innings of 72 made nine fours and five threes. Sundry other members of the side met with a certain amount of success, and Gloucestershire in the end were able to boast of the respectable total of 245. Bland bowled with much effect, and his figures would have been even better had he accepted a return chance from Murch almost immediately the latter came in.

Sussex at the start fared so badly that six of the chief batsmen fell to Mr Townsend and Roberts for 63 runs. But when there seemed every prospect of a follow-on Mr Brann rescued his side from their bad position. He received much assistance from Parris and Butt; but his fine, vigorous cricket was the chief feature of the innings. He was last out and in his 68 were eight fours, a three and eight twos.

Gloucestershire, who were 98 runs ahead, went in a second time and the finish showed them 116 runs on with nine wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 June, page 12)

Rain at Brighton yesterday probably robbed Gloucestershire of a victory over Sussex. As at every other place where important cricket should have been played not a ball could be bowled, and the match was given up very early in the afternoon. Gloucestershire scored 145 and 18 for one wicket, and Sussex 147; the visitors, with nine wickets in hand, being 116 runs ahead.

7 June: YORKSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4775.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 June, page 4)

Yesterday, before a huge bank-holiday crowd, on the Bramall-lane ground, Sheffield, Yorkshire gave a fine display of batting, keeping at the wickets all day and making 337 for the loss of five men. Lord Hawke was still away from the champion eleven, who were again under the captaincy of Mr F S Jackson.

The famous old Harrow and Cambridge player, with Tunnicliffe, obtained 175 in two hours for the first Yorkshire wicket. It should be mentioned that, owing to the rain overnight, the game started 45 minutes late and was further curtailed by a bad light. Tunnicliffe had some luck, for he ought to have been caught when only a single; but generally he played with great skill and in his 96 were 14 fours. Mr Jackson scarcely made an error in his 81, hitting strongly all round the wicket; his chief figures were nine fours, two threes and six twos. The next best thing of the day was the play of J T Brown; he made two fives and nine fours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 June, page 7)

Yesterday there was no play at Sheffield owing to the weather. Score:- Yorkshire, 337 for five wickets.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 June, page 12)

At Sheffield rain continued all through Tuesday night and more fell yesterday morning, with the result that the wicket, already seriously affected by the downpour of Tuesday, was reduced to such a deplorable condition as to render cricket impossible. The match between Yorkshire and Warwickshire had accordingly to be abandoned as a draw, the outlook being so hopeless that the declaration not to attempt further play was arrived at before noon. In the course of the first and only day's cricket Yorkshire scored 377 for the loss of half their wickets.

7 June: SURREY SECOND XI v GLAMORGANSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/96/96978.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 June, page 4)

Yesterday on the Oval the Surrey Second Eleven, which is equal in strength to several of the smaller shires, met Glamorganshire and had rather the better of the day's cricket. Henderson played very well, while Mr W Morgan for the visitors met with much success in bowling.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 June, page 7)

Robert Henderson, the old member of the county team to whom Surrey are giving the Yorkshire match this year for a benefit, continues to keep his name before the public by his fine batting for the second eleven. Yesterday at the Oval in the drawn match with Glamorganshire he made 103 not out; his game all round the wicket was particularly good.

Tuesday 8 June, page 4

DEATH OF MR H F WARD.- The famous young Hampshire amateur, who played so well for his county in the last few years, died yesterday, at Winchester, after a brief illness from typhoid fever. He was in the eleven so recently as three weeks ago against Lancashire, and the news of his death caused general regret on the various cricket grounds yesterday. Mr Ward was only 24 years of age.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4776.html)

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

The match which began at Cambridge yesterday between Cambridge University and Hampshire is being played for the benefit of Robert Carpenter, who, as lovers of cricket will not need to be told, was in his day one of the greatest of batsmen. Coming prominently before the public when George Parr's powers were beginning to show signs of decay, he and the late Thomas Hayward were for several seasons the chief stars of the cricket world, Richard Daft being almost their only rival, till Mr E M Grace, in 1862 - playing in a far less orthodox style than the professionals - astonished everyone by his vigorous hitting and big scores.

Carpenter and Hayward were members of the English eleven that visited Australia in 1859, and they went to Australia with George Parr's team in 1863. Though the older man by six years, Carpenter lasted longer than Hayward and was seen in representative matches till well into his seventies. The distinctive feature of his batting was the strength of his back play. Except when he meant to hit he rarely went forward to good-length balls. His benefit match yesterday was very fairly patronized and considerable efforts are being made in Cambridge itself and various parts of the county to get him a good subscription list.

After two days' rain the University ground was very slow and it must have been with some hesitation that Mr N F Druce, on winning the toss for Cambridge, decided to take first innings. Results proved, however, that he acted wisely, the University, after a bad start, running up a score of 263. The turning point of the innings was the partnership of Mr Mitchell and Mr Druce, the two batsmen putting on 1207 runs together for the third wicket and carrying the score from 19 to 126. Mr Mitchell played well, but his cricket was overshadowed by a really splendid performance on the part of Mr Druce. The Cambridge captain, who was out sixth at 218, was batting two hours and a half and scored 117 without a mistake. Among his hits were ten fours, 12 threes and 12 twos.

After he left the Cambridge batting was of a much quieter character than before, Mr Bray and Mr de Zoete slowly adding 26 runs for the eighth wicket. In order that the players might get down to the Cambridge to see the boat-racing it has been arranged to draw stumps early, and Hampshire had only 25 minutes' batting.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 June, page 16)

Unfortunately for the success of this match, which had been arranged as a benefit for the famous old batsman, Robert Carpenter, the wicket at Cambridge yesterday was in a terribly treacherous condition, and in the course of the day the game was finished off, the University winning by an innings and 21 runs.

By scoring 263 on the opening day the Light Blues had placed themselves practically safe from defeat, and it was obvious yesterday that the county team would be desperately hard put to it to save the game very soon. Hampshire had half their side out for 45, and although Captain Wynyard batted skilfully for an hour and a quarter and Mr Heseltine did fairly well, the other members of the visiting team failed so badly before the bowling of Mr de Zoete that the whole side were out for 126.

Following on, Hampshire fared even worse than before, losing five wickets for 36 and having seven men out for 46. Captain Wynyard again stayed for over an hour, but the only stand was that of Webb and Baldwin, who added 38 for the eighth wicket, and the last wicket fell for 116. Pleasant weather favoured the game and there was a fairly large attendance.

10 June: LANCASHIRE v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4777.html)

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

At the Old Trafford Ground, at Manchester, yesterday, before a crowd of close upon 8,000 spectators, the Philadelphian team rendered a highly creditable account of themselves, and though they had slightly the worst of the position at the finish they more than held their own up to the time of the eighth county wicket going down. In view of the many important engagements Lancashire have before them, the committee rested Albert Ward and Mold, playing in their places Mr Ernest Rowley and Paul.

After the heavy rain of Tuesday and Wednesday it was only to be expected that the ground would be soft and treacherous, and throughout the whole of the afternoon runs were very difficult to obtain. Going in first, the Philadelphians made a good start, Messrs Patterson and Wood hitting vigorously, but when they had been separated the visiting eleven had to display much more caution, and Mr J A Lester, who scored 24, remained at the wickets for over an hour and a half. The Philadelphian total reached 123, the innings lasting rather more than two hours and a half. Cuttell, who did not go on until the score had reached 57, bowled with great success, taking five of the last nine wickets and having only 26 runs hit from him.

At the start of Lancashire's innings Mr Hornby and Paul hit freely, but afterwards the batsmen failed to such an extent before the bowling of Messrs Bailey and King that the eighth wicket went down at 90. At this point Mr Rowley and Smith became associated, and made such a valuable stand that, by the call of time, while still together, they had carried the score to 130. Mr Rowley displayed great caution but Smith hit in vigorous style. As the game stands now Lancashire, with two wickets to fall, are seven runs ahead.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 June, page 16)

After playing a very close game with Lancashire at Manchester on Thursday, the Philadelphian cricketers yesterday gave a rather disappointing display and, in the course of the afternoon, had to admit defeat by seven wickets. They entered upon the day's cricket with slightly the worse of the match, the county, with two wickets to fall, being already seven runs to the good.

Lancashire added only 19 runs yesterday and the innings was all over for 149. For the ninth wicket Smith, by resolute hitting, and Mr Rowley, by the exercise of great caution, had put on 56 runs and so given their side the upper hand. Of the Philadelphian bowlers, Mr Baily, with six wickets for 51 runs, was by far the most successful.

The visitors in their second innings fared well for a time, raising their score to 57 for three men out, but at that point Hallam went on to bowl, and he and Cuttell finished off the innings for the addition of 29 runs, the side being all out in an hour and a quarter for 86. In the course of the match Cuttell took ten wickets for 65 runs, and Hallam yesterday sent down 5 overs for 15 runs and four wickets.

Lancashire had only 61 to make and, although two batsmen were dismissed for eight runs, some resolute hitting by Mr Tindall and Mr Rowley soon gave the county team a victory. About 4,000 people witnessed the termination of the match.

10 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4778.html)

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

A number of extraordinary games during the past 12 years have taken place between these counties on the Aylestone-road enclosure, at Leicester, but no more sensational match has been played than that begun and concluded in a single afternoon yesterday. Surrey gained a victory in a single innings, with 94 runs to spare.

The condition of the ground after the heavy rain of Wednesday afforded the bowlers a large amount of assistance, but the manner in which the Surrey men seized their opportunities at every point was worthy of the highest praise. The game was only in progress for four hours and three-quarters, but during that time 30 wickets fell and only 234 runs were scored.

It looked as if the wicket would be too soft to be really difficult, and Leicestershire, on winning the toss, decided to go in first. Their batting broke down completely before the fine bowling of Richardson and Hayward, and in an hour and a quarter the whole side were dismissed for a meagre total of 35.

The Surrey batsmen adopted very different tactics from those shown by their opponents. The players hit fearlessly when they had already seen that a defensive game proved ineffective. So admirable was the batting of Hayward, Abel, Key, Read and Baldwin that a total of 164 was obtained - an exceptionally good performance.

Going in a second time Leicestershire made another feeble display of batting and, by a singular coincidence, were again dismissed for 35, the innings this time lasting an hour and ten minutes. Richardson and Hayward bowled unchanged throughout the match. The first-named bowler took five wickets for six runs and seven for 14, making an extraordinary record for the two innings of 12 wickets for 20 runs. Even allowing that Richardson was materially assisted by the state of the ground, this was an achievement for which a parallel probably does not exist in first-class cricket. Hayward most ably supported his colleague; his record for the match being seven wickets for 43 runs. Though dull the weather kept fine, and the remarkable afternoon's cricket was witnessed by about 5,000 spectators.

10 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4779.html)

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

Additional interest was centred in this match at Lord's yesterday from the fact that Mr A B Tancred, the celebrated South African cricketer, was playing for Marylebone. It was very unfortunate that in this, his first appearance, he should have run himself out, as at the time he was playing with plenty of confidence.

Derbyshire started their innings at five minutes past 12 o'clock on a soft wicket, and at lunch time had scored 124 for four wickets; but after the interval Trott and Mead bowled splendidly, capturing the last six wickets for the addition of 32 runs. The Midland team took two hours and three-quarters to get 156. Trott was not tried until the total had reached 71, but met with marked success, dismissing six of the last eight batsmen for 47. Mead bowled with very bad luck. Mr L G Wright batted excellently for 55, an innings only marred by one chance when he had made 40. His figures included six fours, one three and six twos.

The club went in to bat at 4 o'clock, and on the completion of their innings play closed for the day. Mr C W Wright, like his namesake, played good cricket for 52. He was at the wickets for nearly 70 minutes, and hit seven fours, three threes and four twos. Storer ought to have stumped the Old Carthusian when he had made 19, but he eventually atoned for his error. The game closed in an interesting position, as the club are only 29 to the good. Considering the quantity of rain that fell on Wednesday, the wickets played fairly well, although naturally rather soft.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 June, page 16)

The Marylebone Club beat Derbyshire at Lord's yesterday by two wickets, after a very exciting finish, a result which at one time did not look at all probable, as the Club had lost eight wickets for 102 and still required 74 to win, but, thanks to some plucky batting by Trott and Mead, this was accomplished. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon these two batsmen for their resolute stand, as it was entirely due to them that the Club could claim a victory. Mead made one or two lucky strokes, but Trott played very good cricket.

At the close of play on Thursday both elevens had completed an innings, the home team having an advantage of 29. When play was resumed yesterday morning Mr L G Wright again showed some good cricket, making some beautiful cuts and drives. His batting was the feature of the day's play, and during his stay at the wickets, which lasted an hour and 35 minutes, he did not give the semblance of a chance. Eleven fours, one three and six twos were included in his vigorous innings. Sugg also batted very well for his runs. Derbyshire were batting two hours and 40 minutes for 204, which left the Club 176 to get to win.

When they started their task at 25 minutes past 3 o'clock, runs came very slowly, the first hour's play only yielding 42; but afterwards Mr M'Gahey and Carpenter added 64 during a partnership of three-quarters of an hour. The bowlers then held the upper hand for a time, and it looked as if Derbyshire might win. It was at this period that Trott and Mead became associated and gave the home team a victory by two wickets. The pitch wore very well right up to the finish. There was a much better attendance than on Thursday, which was probably due to the beautiful weather.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4780.html)

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

Mr Webbe captained a strong Marylebone side at Oxford yesterday, when the first day's play of the University's last trial match proved to be extremely interesting. Naturally, after Wednesday's rain, the pitch was soft and the ball required a lot of playing; but the improvement which Mr Webbe expected the turf would undergo never came, and the M.C.C.'s policy of putting Oxford in turned out to be rather an error. Indeed, the few batsmen who got runs had to exercise all their skill.

Oxford had the better of the day's cricket, for they secured an advantage on the innings of 66. The fine bowling of J T Hearne was a noteworthy feature of the day's play. He took nine of the Oxford wickets at a cost of 54 runs. Oxford began well enough, for Mr Fane, Mr Bromley-Martin and Mr Foster all played very well, and with 116 up and only two men gone it seemed that Mr Webbe's policy was likely to become a great failure; but in little more than an hour the other eight wickets went for the addition of 51 runs. Hearne's bowling after lunch was very remarkable, for his figures read thus:- 14 overs, seven maidens, 25 runs, seven wickets.

When the M.C.C. went in Mr Webbe, who was always a splendid bat on a slow pitch, alone met with much success. He went in first and was eighth out at 97. The Oxford men bowled and fielded well, and their capital cricket made a very favourable impression on visitors from London.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 June, page 16)

There was a most exciting finish to the match at Oxford yesterday, the result being in doubt up to within a few minutes of the close, and the University eleven winning in the end by the narrow margin of 13 runs. The M.C.C. made a plucky and determined attempt to recover the ground they had lost on the first day, and certainly showed better form than their opponents yesterday, but as it turned out their efforts came too late.

The weather was fine, a large company visited the ground in the Parks and the cricket from first to last proved of a varied and interesting character. The wicket was distinctly faster than on Thursday, but it again afforded the bowlers some assistance and runs were always hard to obtain. On Thursday an innings was completed on each side, Oxford holding a lead of 66 runs, and therefore they entered on yesterday's proceedings in a highly favourable position.

Their second innings started well, Messrs Champain and Fane putting on 46 runs in 35 minutes for the first wicket; but afterwards they failed so badly before the admirable bowling of Hearne and Roche that the side were all out for 117. At one time the number looked like being even smaller than this, but a fine display of forcing cricket was given by Mr Cunliffe, who scored 31 out of the last 46 and hit one six and six fours. Hearne again bowled with remarkable success, taking six wickets for 56 runs, which gave him the wonderful record for the whole game of 15 wickets for 110.

The M.C.C. were left with 184 runs to get to win, and under the conditions that prevailed this was anything but an easy task. Thanks to Board, Mr Webbe and Mr Kemp 50 went up on the board with only one man out, and so great a change came over the game that the score had only reached 83 when the seventh wicket fell. It was known that owing to a badly bruised hand Sir Timothy O'Brien would be unable to go in to bat, and therefore there were only two wickets to fall, so that Oxford looked to have the issue at their mercy.

Mr Vernon and Hearne hit so finely that in the course of half an hour the score was carried to 138, the partnership producing 55 runs. Later on Mr Vernon, in company with Roche, continued his hitting, and the two men got so well set that a victory for the M.C.C. seemed more than likely. However, Roche, after scoring 20 out of 32, was caught at point and the

innings closed for 170, leaving Oxford victorious, as already stated, by 13 runs. Mr Vernon's most admirable not-out innings of 57 was obtained in an hour and ten minutes without a chance, and included six fours, four threes and five twos.

10 June: SUSSEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4781.html)

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

Yesterday was largely a bowler's day on the Sussex County Ground at Hove; but, getting the better of the wicket - Mr Murdoch's judgment in putting his opponents in met with great success - Sussex established a substantial advantage before stumps were drawn last night.

Under the influence of the sun the pitch, still soft from Wednesday's rain, helped the bowlers so much that Somerset's strong batting side was out before luncheon for 75. Mr Woods, who was missed after scoring two, and Mr Richard Palairt, who exercised extreme care and was in 80 minutes, were the only double-figure scorers in the innings.

When Sussex went in the sky became clouded and the turf was less difficult. There were two or three fine pieces of cricket on their side, more particularly the 49 by Ranjitsinhji, who with the help of Marlow put on 65 in 50 minutes. The rest of the innings was marked by the patient play of Mr George Brann, who seems to have wholly given up his powerful forcing game, which used to be feared by all bowlers when the Brighton wickets were hard and true. From the score given below it will be seen that Somerset, with one man gone in the second innings, are 113 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 June, page 16)

After a splendid finish Sussex just managed to beat Somerset at Brighton yesterday by the bare margin of one wicket. The position of the game when play was resumed was so greatly in favour of the home county that an easy victory for them seemed assured. With one man out in their second innings, Somerset were 113 runs behind, and for a time Sussex increased their advantage. However, the Messrs Palairt added 67 runs and Messrs Woods and Hill 47, so that in the end Sussex went in requiring 101 runs to win.

As the wicket had been gradually improving Sussex seemed likely to have no trouble in winning. But this was far from being the case. Against some admirable bowling and fielding runs were obtained with the utmost difficulty, and for a time Mr Murdoch alone withstood the efforts of the Somerset men. When he left at 80, for an admirable 35, Sussex still wanted 21 runs, and, two more wickets quickly falling, Parris and Tate - the last pair - came together when 15 runs were required. Play was prolonged past the usual hour, and amidst great excitement among the 2,000 spectators the necessary runs were slowly hit off, Sussex gaining their victory at ten minutes past 7. A collection for Parris and Tate realized £6.

Messrs Woods and Richard Palairt both played extremely well for their respective scores of 59 and 50. Besides his plucky batting at the finish Parris greatly helped his side to victory by taking five wickets for 49.

10 June: YORKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4782.html)

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

The Yorkshire eleven came out in something like their old form at Halifax yesterday, when they were batting for the greater part of the cricketing hours and scored 279, a couple of the later batsmen doing so well that the prospects of a small total were dispelled after six wickets had gone for 135.

But the foundation of Yorkshire's success was really laid by Tunnicliffe, who played splendidly on a pitch that looked so much like a bowler's at the start, that Mr F S Jackson after winning the toss showed some hesitation in taking first innings. Tunnicliffe, for the second time during the week, after running into the nineties, had bad luck in missing his 100. Yesterday he was seventh out for 92, having made very few bad strokes, and his best hits were ten fours, five threes and eight twos. Hirst, who helped him to add 57, hit with great power and in a rapidly scored 68 made 13 fours, a three, five twos and only three singles. He and Schofield Haigh put on 66 for the ninth wicket.

When Kent were in Peel bowled with great effect, and at present the visitors, who have, by the way, only a moderate side, are now 225 behind with six wickets left.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 June, page 16)

On a treacherous wicket at Halifax yesterday the Kent batsmen failed altogether in their efforts to cope with the Yorkshire bowling, and shortly after 3 o'clock in the afternoon Yorkshire had gained a victory by an innings and 103 runs.

Overnight the home side had left off with a considerable advantage, as, after scoring 279, they had got down four of the visitors' wickets for 54 runs. Peel so far had dismissed all four batsmen, and yesterday he sent back four of the remaining six, gaining the splendid record of eight wickets for 53 runs.

Kent, being all out for 102, had to follow on 177 behind, and fared even worse than before, Peel quickly getting rid of Mason and Hearne, and Haigh afterwards bowling with such effect that he took five wickets for 27 runs. In a little more than an hour and a half the ten wickets went down for 74, and Yorkshire were left with a very easy victory. Hunter kept wicket very finely yesterday, the stumping of Mordaunt and the running-out of Wright being especially brilliant efforts.

10 June: SURREY SECOND XI v MONMOUTHSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/135/135057.html)

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

Mr W T Graburn captained a Surrey team, the members of which have all at some time or another played for the county, and had all the better of yesterday's cricket on the Oval against Monmouthshire. The wicket was soft and treacherous, and the home team was more skilful in batting and bowling.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 June, page 16)

Yesterday on the Oval in the second day of this match the Surrey bowlers were altogether too good for Monmouthshire, who were beaten by an innings and 28 runs. Lees's medium pace bowling was the chief cause of the visitors' collapse, and in the double innings he took 12 wickets for 42 runs.

Saturday 12 June: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Yesterday's results have left the positions of the counties as follows:-

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present position of the championship is as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Lancashire	7	5	0	2	5	1
Essex	5	1	0	4	1	1
Nottinghamshire	4	1	0	3	1	1
Yorkshire	7	5	1	1	4	.6
Surrey	8	5	1	2	4	.6
Gloucestershire	5	2	1	2	1	.3
Middlesex	3	0	1	2	-1	
Warwickshire	5	0	1	4	-1	
Sussex	5	1	2	2	-1	
Kent	4	0	2	2	-2	
Somerset	3	0	2	1	-2	
Hampshire	4	0	2	2	-2	
Derbyshire	5	0	3	2	-3	
Leicestershire	5	0	4	1	-4	

Friday 11 June, page 11

DEATH OF MR J J SEWELL.- News has been received in London by telegram of the death on Tuesday, the 8th inst., of Pietermaritzburg, Natal, of the once well-known cricketer Mr John Joseph Sewell. Though it is now about 29 years since Mr Sewell left England and settled in Natal, he will be remembered by middle-aged cricketers, first as a member of the Marlborough eleven, and afterwards as one of the brilliant band of players who assisted the Messrs Walker in the early days of the Middlesex County Club. Among his innings for Middlesex the highest and best was 166 against Surrey at the Oval on August 20, 1866.

He was a batsman of the vigorous school, always playing a free and attractive game. At the time of his death he was in his 54th year, having been born at Cirencester on February 10, 1844.

Monday 14 June, page 13: THE AVERAGES

A list of the chief averages up to date is given below:-

BATTING

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Innings	Times not out	Average
Mr N F Druce	5	384	227*	1	96
William Quaife	7	408	136*	2	81.3
Abel	13	847	250	1	70.7
K S Ranjitsinhji	14	730	260	1	56.2
Mr F S Jackson	13	610	124	2	55.5
Mr H C Stewart	6	324	142	0	54
Mr F G J Ford	5	257	150	0	51.2
Mr K J Key	12	408	110*	3	45.3
Gunn	6	226	125	1	45.1
Hayward	12	489	130	1	44.5
Mr G Brann	10	397	126	1	44.1

Bagshaw	11	415	114*	1	41.5
Mr A Eccles	9	266	102	2	38
Hirst	12	408	134	1	37.1
Mr C J Burnup	10	295	79*	2	36.7
Baker	14	428	153	2	35.6
Carpenter	13	392	141	2	35.7
Mr W L Murdoch	12	417	105	0	34.9
Mr F H B Champain	11	343	78	1	34.3
Brockwell	12	407	131	0	33.11
Tunncliffe	15	440	96	2	33.11
Mr P F Warner	14	437	108*	1	33.8
Dr W G Grace	11	299	56*	2	33.2
Mr P Perrin	10	295	63	1	32.7
Mr A J Webbe	8	226	58*	1	32.2
Mr H B Hayman	9	257	62	1	32.1
Mr H H Marriott	10	278	73	1	30.8
J T Brown	13	365	89	1	30.5
Albert Ward	12	334	162	1	30.4
Board	12	355	126	0	29.7
Mr H B Chinnery	12	320	53*	1	29.1
Mr C M' Gahey	13	333	94	1	27.9
Mr J R Mason	11	285	70	0	25.10
Mr H D G Leveson-Gower	12	284	81	1	25.9
Storer	18	434	180*	1	25.9
Wainwright	12	308	100	0	25.8
Mr F L Fane	10	250	46	0	25
Chatterton	14	342	79	0	24.6
Denton	13	308	112	0	23.9
Mr C P Foley	10	215	47	1	23.8
Moorhouse	13	307	91	0	23.8
Paul	12	258	65	0	21.6
Frank Sugg	13	279	71	0	21.6
S M J Woods	9	182	59	0	20.2

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mold	290.1	111	549	43	12.33
Hallam	256.3	115	396	28	14.4
Mr G L Jessop	225	75	470	32	14.22
Dench	121.3	41	222	15	14.12
Briggs	430.4	145	803	53	15.8
Mr H W de Zoete	177.2	51	430	23	15.10
Richardson	387	127	894	57	15.39
Cuttell	144.4	45	315	20	15.15
J T Hearne	597.1	209	1231	80	16.1
Peel	322.4	133	563	35	16.3
Trott	132.2	38	326	20	16.6
Hayward	309.1	98	671	41	16.15
Mr F H E Cunliffe	262.3	86	545	33	16.17
Mr E B Shine	163	52	387	23	16.19
Attewell	280	124	455	27	16.23
Mead	410.4	160	743	44	16.39
Haigh	274.3	96	599	35	17.4
Woodcock	294.2	77	736	42	17.22
Brockwell	247.1	106	444	24	18.12
Hirst	319.4	130	614	33	18.20
Bland	355.3	115	839	44	19.3
Davidson	409.1	158	772	39	19.31
Roberts	214.4	69	532	26	20.12
Wainwright	317.2	102	698	34	20.18

Mr F G Bull	289.1	78	747	35	21.12
Mr C L Townsend	206.2	28	710	28	25.10
Martin	420.4	149	896	35	25.21
Mr S M J Woods	128	21	418	16	26.2

MIDDLESEX v PHILADELPHIANS. - Play in this match, which begins next Monday at Lord's, will be suspended on Jubilee Day and continued on the Wednesday morning.

14 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4783.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 June, page 13)

The impression formed last week that the Philadelphians had arranged a somewhat ambitious programme received confirmation yesterday from the cricket shown at Cambridge. The University dismissed them for 149, and then scored 268 for the loss of only three wickets. The Philadelphians, with nine men out, had scored only 93. Mr P H Clark was badly missed at third man by Mr Burnup, and Cambridge paid rather heavily for the blunder.

Some admirable batting was seen when Cambridge went in, everybody making runs. Mr Jessop hit in a style he has scarcely approached this season on the University ground. Once he sent a ball from Mr Baily clean over the wall for six. One hundred runs were put on in three-quarters of an hour. This is the fourth time this season that Mr Druce has made over 100 at Cambridge, three of the scores being in first-class matches.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 June, page 14)

At Cambridge yesterday the University defeated the Philadelphians in the most decisive fashion by an innings and 163 runs. From the state of the game overnight a single innings victory seemed highly probable, but no one was quite prepared for the collapse of the Philadelphians in their second innings.

With three wickets down for 268 the Cambridge team went on batting in the morning, and it was not until the total had been carried to 412 that the innings came to an end. Mr Druce only added two runs to his overnight score of 107 and was then caught and bowled. His beautifully played innings lasted an hour and three-quarters, and included 14 fours, six threes and nine twos.

Mr Jessop increased his 59 not out to 140 and gave an extraordinary display of hitting. He actually scored in 40 minutes 81 runs out of 90. In one over from Mr Patterson he got two fours and a drive clean over the hedge next to the pavilion for six, and in one over from Mr King he punished that bowler for four fours and a two. Altogether he was at the wickets an hour and thirty-five minutes for his 140, among his figures being two sixes, one five, 21 fours, one three and 10 twos.

With a heavy balance of 263 against them the Philadelphians went in for the second time, and so good a start was made by Mr Patterson and Mr Wood that 45 runs were scored before the first wicket went down. After that, however, not one of the batsmen, except Mr Ralston, could make any stand against the excellent bowling, and in summary fashion the innings was finished off for 100. Mr Wilson, who had bowled so well on Monday, did even better yesterday, taking six wickets for 32 runs. In the whole match he secured 12 wickets and only 80 runs were hit from him.

14 June: DERBYSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4784.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 June, page 13)

Though the conditions at Derby yesterday were apparently favourable to heavy scoring, batsmen had to struggle hard for their runs. Only once during the day was anything like a mastery obtained over the bowling.

Derbyshire won the toss, but only made moderately good use of their luck. The great feature of the innings was the splendid stand by Chatterton and Davidson, who, coming together with three wickets down for 30, added 111 runs in an hour and three-quarters. Chatterton was batting for two hours and ten minutes without giving a chance. Davidson took out his bat for 90, but he was missed three times. Derbyshire are trying for the first time a local professional named Steeples, at present engaged with a club in Monmouthshire. He batted in promising style and seems a fair bowler, rather fast with a high delivery.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 June, page 14)

After varying fortunes the Yorkshire eleven at Derby yesterday succeeded in getting the upper hand of the home county, and left off at night with every prospect of a comfortable win. At the outset there was little in the position, Yorkshire, with Mr Jackson out, having scored 42 in reply to Derbyshire's total of 234. Though conditions were apparently favourable batsmen had again to fight hard for their runs, and the Yorkshiremen took three hours and 40 minutes to add 223 runs, their total reaching 265.

The game varied in a remarkable way during their innings. Tunnicliffe and Brown, the not-outs, took the score to 104, their partnership for the second wicket realizing 79 runs. Brown, who played a faultless innings of 53, left at that point, and then for a time the batting broke down so badly that six men were out for 127. At that stage Derbyshire certainly had the best of the match, but the remaining Yorkshire batsmen played up with great resolution and pulled the game round. Wainwright and Peel put on 44 runs for the seventh wicket, Mounsey and Haigh added 46 for the ninth partnership, and Mounsey and Hunter 36 for the last wicket.

Derbyshire were only in a minority of 31, but before the arrears were cleared off three wickets were lost and a fourth fell at 34. Storer played finely, but despite his efforts Derbyshire at the drawing of stumps had lost seven batsmen for 108 and are only 78 runs on.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 June, page 14)

There was a splendid finish yesterday to the match between these counties at Derby, Yorkshire winning at ten minutes past 6 by one wicket. Unfortunately the weather was so cold and showery as to keep all but the most enthusiastic lovers of cricket from the ground, and the finish, though intensely exciting, was witnessed by a mere handful of people.

The position of the score at the drawing of stumps on Tuesday seemed to promise a severe beating for Derbyshire, who, with seven wickets down in their second innings for 109, only held a lead of 78 runs. Yesterday, however, they played up in brilliant style and all but snatched the game out of the fire. Storer, not out overnight with 46, batted very finely in the morning, and his partners, though, with one exception, they did little or nothing in the way of scoring, kept their wickets up so patiently that 75 runs were put on, the innings coming to an end for 184. Storer took out his bat for a superb 104, among his hits being 12 fours, four threes and 12 twos. He was at the wickets altogether for two hours and 50 minutes, and did not, as far as could be seen, give a chance of any kind. It is a fact worthy of mention that this is Storer's fourth hundred within a twelvemonth against the Yorkshire bowlers. In the two matches between Derbyshire and Yorkshire last year he made 100, 100 not out, 16 and 122.

Yorkshire were left with 154 to get to win, and some rain that fell before their innings commenced probably told against them. They made a dreadfully bad start, losing Mr Jackson and Brown before lunch for six runs. After the interval the batsmen found their task a very hard one, and with five wickets down the score was only 58. Then, however, Denton and Hirst by some admirable batting brought about a remarkable change in the game. In an hour they added no fewer than 69 runs and apparently put Yorkshire on the high road to victory, only 27 runs being required with four wickets in hand when Denton left for an admirable 41. He was at the wickets two hours and 20 minutes, and his only mistake was a chance in the slips when he had made 34.

Though Yorkshire seemed to have the result in their hands the game, as it turned out, was by no means over. Peel was foolishly run out, and with Mounsey bowled there were eight wickets down for 129. Hirst continued to play fine cricket, but he lost Haigh - caught at short slip - at 138, and Hunter, the last man, went in with 16 still wanted. The position was a desperate one, but Hunter soon settled the matter, getting the 16 runs by means of a three, a single and three fours. Yorkshire thus won the match by one wicket.

14 June: MIDDLESEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4785.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 June, page 13)

Considering the excellence of the pitch at Lord's yesterday there was a singular lack of brightness in the batting, a remark which applies particularly to the Notts men, who, on a fast run-getting pitch, were in for over four hours for 202 runs.

The standard of dullness set by Shrewsbury and Gunn was closely followed by the rest of the Notts batsmen with the exception of Guttridge, whose little vigorous spell came as a great relief. The ultimate Notts score of 202 was altogether better than at one time seemed likely, for, while the luncheon figures showed 94 for two wickets, an hour's play after the interval saw the record change to 135 for seven. Dench, the newest introduction to the Notts eleven, played with commendable care and, going in fifth wicket down at 105, remained for an hour and three-quarters and was then well caught at wicket for 202.

Gunn and Shrewsbury put on 59 for the second wicket before a clever catch at extra slip dismissed Shrewsbury. Gunn, who was fourth out, easily taken at cover point, made some beautiful drives all along the ground during his stay of 90 minutes for 41; but, with his splendid reach and all his great knowledge of batting, he ought to have done much better under the favourable conditions. The Middlesex men bowled and fielded well, while Hearne's bowling figures furnished almost the best thing of the day.

When Middlesex went in little more than an hour was left for play, so that after the long and hot day in the field there was every excuse for any patience shown by them. The bowling was straight and mostly a fine length; but after Mr Hayman and Mr Stoddart had gone for seven runs Mr Warner and Mr Rawlin played out time, Middlesex at the finish being 153 behind with eight wickets in hand. There were four or five thousand spectators and the weather was beautifully fine. Mr MacGregor was unable through business to appear for Middlesex, and so Mr Philipson took the post of wicket-keeper.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 June, page 14)

Yesterday's batting at Lord's was in strong contrast to the dullness of Monday; but the change from the first day was not wholly surprising, for Middlesex have long possessed the reputation of being a spectators' side. And yesterday their excellence led them to a position of great advantage on the day, for they were 173 ahead at the end of the first innings.

Much of the interest in Middlesex was absorbed by two men - Mr P F Warner and Mr F G J Ford, who between them scored 253 runs. These batsmen possess wholly different methods of play; Mr Ford with his brilliant forcing powers and his wonderful drive on the off side is the most distinguished left-handed batsman of the day, and he was seen at his best yesterday. But Mr Warner is a cricketer of an entirely different stamp. He has a splendid knowledge of batting, but neither at Rugby nor at Oxford even last year, when he went down, did he promise to do anything like so well as he has done this season. He has come off nearly every time that he has played and this 176 was his second three-figure score at Lord's and his best innings this summer.

He went in first and was ninth out at 357 for 176 for a stay of about five and a half hours. Guttridge eventually bowled him with a half-volley which he wholly misjudged. He made very few bad strokes, and after running into three figures he forced the game splendidly. His best hits were one five, 20 fours, five threes and 12 twos.

Mr Ford's powerful batting may be easily appreciated by the mere statement that he made 77 out of 122 in 80 minutes, and hit nine fours. J T Hearne, going in when eight wickets had gone for 264, helped Mr Warner to add 93, and at the end of the innings Middlesex were 173 ahead. In the last hour of the day Shrewsbury and Mr Jones played well for Notts, and 74 of

the arrears were cleared off. There were four or five thousand spectators and splendid weather was experienced.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 June, page 14)

In this match, with arrears of 173 on the first innings and only 74 of these wiped off overnight, Notts had little to hope for but a draw. For this they sedulously worked all day, and before 5 o'clock the result was beyond doubt. Notts had one bad turn, and that was about half-past 3, when, with half the side out and one man injured, they were only 39 runs ahead; but the partnership of Dench and Attewell, who stayed together for the next two hours and put on 141 runs, completely settled the match.

In the early part of the day Shrewsbury played with every care and finish, and his 80 took him three hours and three-quarters to make; but Mr Dixon, the Notts captain, if not very free, was much brighter to watch, and got his 61, in which were nine fours, in an hour and a half. It was almost impossible to work up any interest in the cricket, for the pitch was beautifully true and even a batsman of no great pretensions could easily time the ball. Dench and Attewell may be said to have saved the game for their side. Considering the long day and the scoring, Hearne, again, had wonderful bowling figures . . .

14 June: SURREY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4786.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 June, page 13)

Somerset made a very good start at the Oval yesterday against their formidable opponents. They had the good fortune to win the toss, and went in to bat at five minutes past 12 o'clock on a hard wicket which rendered no assistance whatever to the bowlers. Of this they took full advantage, as they kept Surrey in the field until ten minutes to 6, and during this time scored 349.

The good score was compiled by general consistency, for ten of the eleven succeeded in making double figures. Mr R C N Palairet, who made top score, was at the wickets just over two hours and a quarter, and hit eight fours, three threes and four twos. Although rather slow, he played good cricket, his only mistake being a chance to Abel, when he had scored 40; but in style and finish his innings did not compare favourably with his brother's, which was put together by beautiful cricket without anything approaching a chance. His 42 included some magnificent off drives and cuts.

Nichols also batted well, and with Mr R C N Palairet put on 102 in an hour and a half. He hit eight fours and five twos. The Surrey fielding was very smart, the catch which dismissed Robson being a very fine one, as Baldwin, at long-off, had to run for it and take the ball sideways. Against so large a total the bowling naturally suffered, and Hayward had the best analysis, Richardson being very expensive.

Surrey had 25 minutes' batting before the close of play, but started badly, as Brockwell was caught and bowled by Tyler when the total was only 9. Eventually the score was taken to 32 without further loss, and consequently the home team are 317 behind with nine wickets to fall. It was ideal cricket weather and the attendance was very good.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 June, page 14)

Surrey, after making a very good start at the Oval yesterday in their uphill task against Somerset, collapsed very badly, for at the luncheon interval they were 206 for four wickets, but the remaining six added only 43 runs and, if the visitors had accepted the chances which were offered them, in all probability the follow-on would not have been averted.

The best stand was made when Hayes and Baldwin were together. They added 106 for the second wicket. Hayes was batting for an hour and 20 minutes, and hit seven fours and four twos, without giving a chance. Baldwin remained at the wickets for two hours and three-quarters, during which he hit one five, ten fours, three threes and five twos. He played good cricket during his partnership with Hayes, but afterwards had a considerable amount of luck, as he was missed by Mr L C H Palairet when he had made 59, and again by Robson at 65, both of which chances ought to have been taken. Tyler bowled well, but with ill-fortune, for three easy catches were missed off him.

Somerset began their second innings just before 4 o'clock, and again gave a good batting display. The chief feature was the partnership of Mr Hill and Mr Woods, who put on 92 in 55 minutes. Mr Hill's innings was rather a lucky one, as he gave two chances; he was batting for an hour and 20 minutes, and hit one five, four fours, three threes and five twos. At the close of play Somerset had lost seven wickets for 194. Consequently, they are now 294 to the good with three wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 June, page 14)

Somerset beat Surrey at the Oval yesterday by 224 runs - a victory which they thoroughly deserved in every respect. On the first day they gave a very consistent batting display, which was followed up by some excellent bowling to Tyler on a pitch which rendered him no assistance. At one time only did Surrey look like making a good fight: this was in their

first innings, as they were 206 for four wickets on Tuesday at luncheon time; but afterwards they hopelessly collapsed, and from this point had little to look forward to but defeat.

The home team owed their reverse in a great measure to their inability to play Tyler's slows, which on more than one occasion have proved a source of trouble for them. In the match he took 13 wickets for 163, a very good performance, for it was a batsman's pitch. Mr Woods must also be complimented on his excellent batting; the old Cantab was at the wickets for two hours and five minutes without giving a chance. His vigorous innings included one five, 12 fours, four threes and six twos. At the close of play on Tuesday Somerset had made 194 for seven wickets.

When the game was resumed yesterday morning at 25 minutes to 12 o'clock, Mr Toller was soon dismissed, but Mr Woods and Tyler played very lively cricket, the professional hitting out at everything, and between them they added 79 for the ninth wicket. Tyler's 51 included ten fours. The innings eventually closed for 274, which left Surrey 375 to get to win, with five hours remaining for play.

They started their hopeless task at a quarter to 1, but gave an inglorious display, being all dismissed for 150 just before 4 o'clock. Their small score came rather as a surprise, as the pitch played fairly easily right up to the finish. There was a little rain before play began, but this in no way affected the wicket. Baldwin again made the highest score, but was badly missed by Mr Hedley when he had obtained 15. This is Somerset's first victory at the Oval since 1893, when they were victorious by 39 runs.

14 June: WARWICKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4787.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 June, page 13)

Kent, having but a moderate side against Warwickshire at Birmingham yesterday, were fortunate to win the toss, and they succeeded in occupying the wickets for the whole of the day in completing an innings for 285.

The chief feature of the day's play was the admirable batting of J R Mason, Alec Hearne and R O'H Livesay. The score was 212 with only four men out, but afterwards the bowlers obtained the upper hand, though Wright and Huish made a plucky stand for the last wicket. Cresswell bowled exceedingly well, his four wickets costing only 52 runs, and Lilley, in addition to making three fine catches at the wicket, was twice called upon to bowl, and dismissed two batsmen for comparatively few runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 June, page 14)

The cricket at Birmingham yesterday went immensely in favour of Kent, who, having completed an innings for 285 on Monday, dismissed the home county for 207, and then going in again themselves scored 78 for the loss of one wicket. This state of affairs leaves Kent with a lead of 156 with nine wickets to go down, so that they should at least be safe from defeat to-day.

The Warwickshire batting with two exceptions was disappointing, and with six men out for 88 at luncheon they looked fairly certain to have to follow on. A resolute stand by Bainbridge and Glover, who contributed 96 together, averted this however and to a certain extent redeemed the credit of the side. Bainbridge was in for three hours without making the slightest mistake, while Glover's 53 was also free from fault. The former hit nine fours, two threes and 11 twos, while the latter's figures included six fours, one three and four twos.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 June, page 14)

After three days' steady cricket Warwickshire succeeded in drawing their match against Kent, at Birmingham, yesterday, having, indeed, none the worst of the position at the finish. Kent, who with one man out in their second attempt for 78, were 156 runs on, raised their score for 194 for eight wickets, and then declared their innings, leaving the home side three hours and 40 minutes' batting after luncheon in which to make 273 to win.

The Warwickshire batsmen, however, were content to draw, and in the end only lost four wickets in scoring 186 runs. The features of the concluding stage were the admirable batting displays of A Hearne, Walter Quaife, Diver and Bainbridge - of whom the three first-named each scored his highest innings this season - and the superb wicket-keeping of Lilley, who brought off five grand catches. Hearne was three hours at the wicket and Quaife two hours and a quarter, the former's hits including eight fours.

14 June: DUBLIN UNIVERSITY v DR W G GRACE'S TEAM (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/157920.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 June, page 13)

Yesterday at Dublin the feature of the day's cricket was the brilliant innings played by Dr Grace [121], whose side had all the better of the game.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 June, page 14)

Very little progress was made with this match at Dublin yesterday, no cricket taking place after the luncheon interval. The University continued their innings in which overnight 40 runs had been scored for the loss of six wickets, but could make no stand against the fine bowling of Mr C L Townsend and Roberts. They were all out for 72. Mr Townsend took five wickets for 40 runs and Roberts four for 11.

Being in a minority of 223 the University had to follow on, and in their second attempt lost three wickets for 62. Thus, with seven batsmen to be got rid of, they still require 161 to avoid being beaten in a single innings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 June, page 14)

Yesterday, at Dublin, Dr Grace's team won this match by an innings and 92 runs. Roberts bowled with great effect, as with be gathered from the analysis.

17 June: KENT v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4788.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 June, page 14)

Some very good cricket was shown by Kenya yesterday at Gravesend, in their return match with Notts, for the home team going in to bat on a perfect wicket kept the visitors in the field for four hours and a half, during which they made the large total of 406.

The first 200 runs were scored in an hour and 50 minutes. This was chiefly brought about by the splendid batting of Mr Burnup and Mr Mason. Martin is to be congratulated on making his largest score, not only for his county but in first-class cricket. He was batting two hours and 20 minutes, during which time he hit 11 fours, five threes and seven twos.

During the last 40 minutes Notts fared very badly, losing four men for 36, so that they now require 251 to save the follow-on with six wickets still to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 June, page 9)

When the game was resumed at Gravesend yesterday at 25 minutes to 12 the wicket had to a great extent recovered from the rain which had fallen during the night. The chief feature of the day's cricket was the batting of Mr Dixon, who remained at the wicket for just over three hours, during which he hit 17 fours, two threes and five twos. The value of his innings cannot be overestimated, for the rest of the team gave a very poor display.

From the position in which Notts were placed at the close of play on Thursday it did not seem probable that they would save the follow-on, as they had lost four wickets for 36 and still required 251. They were eventually dismissed for 168, and consequently had to go in a second time against the heavy deficit of 238. The batting at times was very slow, for Shrewsbury took 55 minutes to make 16, while Gunn was batting 50 minutes for 21. Notts in a great measure owed their comparatively small score to the good bowling of Mr Mason, who took six wickets for 42.

The visitors started their second innings in very different style, as Mr Jones and Shrewsbury put on runs at a good pace, scoring 101 in the first hour. Altogether they were batting for two hours and 20 minutes, during which they made 174 for the loss of Mr Jones's wicket. They are now 64 behind with nine wickets to fall.

Mr Jones played very vigorous cricket for 75, which took him 85 minutes to get, and his innings was only marred by one chance - to Martin at point when he had made 60. Shrewsbury so far has not given the smallest chance. The weather was in great contrast to Thursday, for a strong wind was blowing which made the afternoon quite cold, and the players were twice driven to the pavilion by rain, which curtailed the cricket by 55 minutes.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 June, page 15)

Notts drew with Kent at Gravesend on Saturday and showed what a good team they are in an uphill game, for after being in a very bad plight and having to follow on against the heavy deficiency of 238, they extricated themselves from their critical position by some resolute batting, and at the finish were actually 255 runs to the good.

Their score was obtained by thoroughly sound cricket, and took then seven hours and 50 minutes to make. They started their innings at 25 minutes past 3 on Friday and remained at the wicket until 6 o'clock on Saturday. During the match 1,067 runs were scored for the loss of 29 wickets, Shrewsbury not being included as he retired ill, and these figures amply demonstrated the excellence of the pitch.

17 June: LANCASHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4789.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 June, page 14)

The Surrey eleven came out well from their first day's play with Lancashire at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday; their cricket possessed something of its old sting and the result was that they not only ran up the very respectable score of 301 but dismissed five of their opponents for a mere 43.

This was a day's cricket that must have been the more appreciated by the county's friends, coming as it did after Surrey's failure against Tyler's slows on the Oval this week, while it must not be forgotten that Lancashire have been making the running very strongly for the championship. Although there were sundry creditable pieces of batting the chief honours in Surrey's innings belonged to two men - Robert Abel and Baldwin.

Going in first, Abel was third out at 157; in making his 68 he showed all his well-known power in driving, cutting or placing the ball on the leg side, and his partnership with Baldwin was particularly fruitful. This stand for the third wicket yielded 102 runs in 80 minutes, while after some good batting by Mr Chinnery there was a useful addition of 47 for the ninth wicket by Lees and Wood. Baldwin was seventh to leave, caught at short leg for 93, an innings that included 13 fours.

Surrey took about four and a half hours to make their 301, the relative merit of which was increased by the fact that the pitch was a trifle slow and the bowlers were able to get some work on. Lancashire still wanted 139 to save the follow-on.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 June, page 9)

Rain prevented any play at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, and the scores remain as published in The Times of yesterday. Surrey played a first innings of 301 and Lancashire made 43 for five wickets.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 June, page 15)

Friday's rain had ruined the wicket at Old Trafford, and Surrey's victory of an innings and 24 runs on Saturday was more or less expected from the position in which the game stood when stumps were drawn on the Thursday, for Surrey had then played an innings of 301 and Lancashire had lost five wickets for 43 runs. There were some 5,000 spectators of Lancashire's first defeat in the championship.

17 June: MIDDLESEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4790.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 June, page 14)

For many seasons at Lord's the Middlesex and Yorkshire fixture has been among the most attractive, not only because of the fine, bright cricket played by the sides, but by virtue of the keen and exciting finishes. In point of excellence the match begun yesterday seems unlikely to fall short of its immediate predecessors, for Yorkshire scored heavily, remaining at the wicket from midday until half-past 6, and making 397 at the cost of eight batsmen.

Nothing like such a fine score was promised by the early hours of the game, for the Yorkshiremen seemed to have to fight very hard for their runs. In fact, Hearne and Rawlin both got some work on the ball and kept a splendid length, so that it was only by severe cricket that Yorkshire were able to get 97 for four wickets before luncheon; and then afterwards six men were out for 134.

This was a bout a quarter past 3; but the next few hours changed the whole course of events. Peel joined Wainwright, and the pair in an hour and a half put on 126 runs. Peel, finding Wainwright doing well was content for a long time to do little more than keep up his end; but after a while he, too, hit hard and his share of the 126 was 46. Then Lord Hawke, playing in the county championship for the first time this season, came out brilliantly; he forced the game strongly and his driving was particularly good. In fact, he scored his 75 in 100 minutes and he hit ten fours, while, when he was caught at third man in the last over of the day, he had helped to put on 137 runs.

But the great thing of the day was Wainwright's fine innings of 154, not out; he went in fourth wicket down at 98 and, finding his game at once, he played steadily and well until the drawing of stumps. Wainwright has a variety of good strokes, and yesterday his cricket was marked by an average strength all round the wicket, with, perhaps, a little more power in the off-drive than anywhere else. Although Wainwright long ago made quite a name as an all-round cricketer in the Yorkshire eleven, he has never before played such a fine innings on Lord's ground, and his 154 came, too, at a time when his side were in want of runs. The last few hours saw a wonderful change in the game, for whereas six of the visitors were out for 134 at a quarter past 3, the next two wickets before half-past 6 put on 263 runs.

In the early part of the day the best batting was shown by Mr F S Jackson, who, however, ran himself out, and Denton. Splendid weather prevailed and there was a crowd of six or seven thousand people.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 June, page 9)

The intermittent rain showers at Lord's yesterday and the cold winds made things very unpleasant, and the rain always reduced the hours of the game to about three. In the change in the weather the Middlesex eleven had very bad luck; for while Yorkshire had enjoyed all the benefits of first innings on fast true turf the home side found the pitch almost ruined by the rain, and Peel and Wainwright, although the latter did not get a wicket, required a lot of playing.

The best thing yesterday was without question the brilliant manner in which Mr Ford forced the game when the cricket was turning badly for his side, and his 79 in a little over an hour was one of the best pieces of vigorous batting seen at Lord's this year. He went in when three men were out for 23, and he was admirably caught at point at 144, being the fifth to leave. His off-drive and his cut were the strokes by which he got most of his runs, and he hit 13 fours.

Mr Stoddart and Sir Timothy O'Brien both played very well, although the former does not seem quite the splendid batsman that he was; while Rawlin, after beginning well, was out to a

wonderful return catch. Middlesex, with six men gone, at present want 142 to save the follow-on.

With regard to the balance of the Yorkshire innings it may be mentioned that Wainwright was the ninth to leave at 426 after a stay of four hours, his 171 being by far the best thing he has ever done for his county. He hit no fewer than 24 fours. In the long Yorkshire innings Hearne again bowled exceptionally well.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 June, page 15)

The Middlesex eleven came out from their severe uphill game at Lord's on Saturday with much credit, and at the finish they had easily escaped from defeat, for in the drawn match they were 94 runs ahead with six wickets left in the second innings.

17 June: SUSSEX v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4791.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 June, page 14)

The Philadelphians at Brighton yesterday accomplished a remarkable bowling performance. They had put together a score of 216 against Sussex, and then in little more than an hour succeeded in dismissing their opponents for 46. There was scarcely anything in the condition of the ground to give the bowlers assistance, but Mr King, the American fast bowler, got rid of seven of the Sussex batsmen in the course of ten overs at the extraordinarily low cost of 13 runs. He kept up a great pace with an accurate pitch and the ball seemed to the batsmen to swerve in the air.

Sussex, 170 in arrears, followed on, and as the game was left last evening Sussex, with nine wickets to fall, wanted 158 runs to escape being beaten in a single innings. Mr King hit the wicket five times, and amongst his triumphs was that of bowling K S Ranjitsinhji first ball.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 June, page 9)

On the Hove ground yesterday, the Philadelphians gained their first victory of the tour, beating Sussex by eight wickets. Such a result as this was more or less expected; and although Sussex made a very good score in the second innings they were never able [completely to] shake off the effects of their failure in the first on Thursday.

Yesterday Ranjitsinhji, Mr Brann and Mr Newham all played splendid cricket; but Mr King again met with much bowling success, and his double analysis of 13 wickets for 115 runs will increase the interest in his first appearance next Monday on a London ground. Mr Lester batted well, and with Mr Wood had the most to do with the easy way in which the Philadelphians secured the runs in the second innings.

17 June: SURREY SECOND XI v LANCASHIRE SECOND XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/99/99528.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 June, page 14)

Yesterday at the Oval the Lancastrians had the better of the day's cricket, seeing that they got within 44 of the home score and lost only three wickets.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 June, page 9)

Yesterday at the Oval this match was drawn.

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages in batting and bowling are, up to the end of last week, as follows:-

BATTING

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Times		Average
			Innings	not out	
Mr N F Druce	6	493	227*	1	98.3
Mr J A Dixon	8	591	268*	1	84.3
Mr F G J Ford	8	456	150	1	65.1
Abel	16	953	250	1	63.8
William Quaife	9	410	136*	2	58.4
K S Ranjitsinhji	16	804	260	1	53.9
Mr F S Jackson	16	662	124	2	47.6
Mr C J Burnup	12	433	103	2	43.3
Mr L C H Palairret	7	292	92	0	41.5
Shrewsbury	10	329	80	2	41.1
Mr G Brann	12	448	126	1	40.8
Mr P F Warner	17	640	176	1	40
Dench	9	239	65*	3	39.5
Hayward	15	546	130	1	39
Mr A Eccles	9	266	102	2	38
Hirst	15	472	134	2	36.4
Baker	16	501	153	2	35.11
Bagshaw	13	429	114*	1	35.9
Carpenter	13	392	141	2	35.7
Mr K J Key	15	427	110*	3	35.7
Gunn	10	321	125	1	35.6
Wainwright	15	515	171	0	34.5
Mr F H B Champain	11	343	78	1	34.3
Mr A J Webbe	10	305	74	1	33.8
Dr W G Grace	11	299	56*	2	33.2
Mr P Perrin	10	295	63	1	32.7
Mr A E Stoddart	8	258	57	0	32.2
Mr G L Jessop	11	321	140	1	32.1
Mr J R Mason	14	442	70	0	31.8
Tunnicliffe	18	504	96	2	31.8
Baldwin (Surrey)	15	438	93	1	31.4
Lord Hawke	8	219	75	1	31.2
Walter Quaife	9	245	59	1	30.5
Brockwell	15	455	131	0	30.5
Mr G F Vernon	8	183	57*	2	30.3
Mr W L Murdoch	14	421	105	0	30.1
Mr H H Marriott	11	298	73	1	29.8
Board	12	355	126	0	29.7
Mr H B Hayman	12	325	62	1	29.6
Storer	20	552	180*	1	29.1
Mr W W Read	10	229	86*	2	28.5
Albert Ward	14	368	162	1	28.4
Mr H B Chinnery	15	390	53*	1	27.12
Mr C M'Gahey	13	333	94	1	27.9
S M J Woods	11	297	88	0	27
Chatterton	16	421	79	0	26.5
Mr L G Wright	13	338	68	0	26
Lilley	10	205	37*	2	25.5
Mr H D G Leveson-Gower	13	284	81	1	23.8
Sir T C O'Brien	9	185	80	1	23.1
Martin	21	408	90	2	22.12
Mr H G Owen	9	196	67	0	21.7
Alec Hearne	14	295	69	0	21.1

It shall be competed for by first-class counties. 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 the weather or other unavoidable causes, such match shall be reckoned as unfinished.*

One point shall be reckoned for each win; one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned.

The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county.

*In 1896 the number of out and home matches qualifying for the championship was reduced to six, owing to the Australians' tour, and for 1897 the number was fixed at seven.

21 June: KENT v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4792.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 June, page 8)

The Tonbridge Week was begun yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 June, page 16)

At Tonbridge, yesterday, there were 8,000 spectators of the second day's cricket. Sussex want 191 to win with eight wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 June, page 11)

Sussex easily won this match at Tonbridge yesterday, getting the 101 that remained necessary on Tuesday night at the cost of a couple more wickets. Ranjitsinhji batted beautifully, and in his 65 were eight fours, a three and seven twos. He and Mr Brann added 96 while they were together, and in the end Sussex gained the victory by six wickets.

21 June: MIDDLESEX v GENTLEMEN OF PHILADELPHIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4793.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 June, page 8)

Before a splendid company at Lord's yesterday the Philadelphians had all the worst of the day's cricket.

There will be no play to-day in consequence of the Jubilee. [Note: Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.]

Day 2 (report from Thursday 24 June, page 11)

The records of Lord's are full of great batting achievements; but nothing in the past can have excelled the fine piece of cricket of Mr Ford's last evening when, bringing into use all his splendid cutting and driving powers, he scored 112 in 85 minutes and almost wholly by his own effort enabled Middlesex to beat the Philadelphians by seven wickets.

Middlesex were really playing against the clock when they went in to get 154 to win in 115 minutes and Mr Webbe altered his batting order in consequence; but with Mr Stoddart failing altogether the chances of the county were not very hopeful. From the moment he came in Mr Ford forced the game, and beyond a chance to the wicket-keeper when he was in the forties he scarcely made a bad stroke, scoring at the same pace throughout his innings. Fifteen fours and 11 twos were among his figures, and he also had a three increased to seven by an overthrow. Middlesex had a quarter of an hour to spare at the finish.

The suspension of cricket for the Jubilee celebrations reduced the match to two days, so that the Philadelphians yesterday morning had to follow on, for they were 117 behind. Mr Wood batted so well and received so much assistance that with 200 up and only three men out the side looked like saving the game, but such a prospect was changed by the effective bowling of Hearne and Rawlin. Fine weather prevailed and the attendance numbered about 6,000.

21 June: SOMERSET v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4794.html)

Day 1 (scorecard but no report from Tuesday 22 June, page 8)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 June, page 16)

At Taunton yesterday Lancashire played so well that they have turned what looked like a losing into a winning game, for at present they want only 65 to win and have six wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 June, page 11)

The match at Taunton yesterday was quickly over, for Lancashire obtained their last 65 runs in a little over an hour and won by four wickets. Baker again batted excellently.

21 June: WARWICKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4795.html)

Day 1 (scorecard but no report from Tuesday 22 June, page 8)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 June, page 16)

Warwickshire scored heavily at Birmingham yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 June, page 11)

Yesterday, at Birmingham, the Warwickshire team beat Leicestershire in brilliant style by an innings and 29 runs. Some such result was expected after the way the game had gone on the first two days, for Warwickshire had made 415 at the cost of nine wickets against their opponents' score of 128.

Mr Wood made a splendid effort to save the game for his side, and his batting aroused great enthusiasm, for his 100 was the first he had ever obtained in important cricket. Forester bowled extremely well for the winners.

21 June: YORKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4796.html)

Day 1 (scorecard but no report from Tuesday 22 June, page 8)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 June, page 16)

Before a big crowd at Leeds yesterday Yorkshire played brilliant cricket, and Surrey are now in such a bad way as to require 157 to win with only three wickets left.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 June, page 11)

The close of Tuesday's cricket at Leeds left the Yorkshire eleven with an almost certain victory in prospect, and yesterday morning they won by 100 runs, 50 minutes' cricket proving sufficient to finish of the match. Wanting, as they did, 157 to win with only three wickets to fall, Surrey would have had to do something quite wonderful to escape defeat.

Mr W W Read had Lees for his partner when the game was resumed and, had a chance in the long-field given by the latter batsman when he had made five runs been accepted by the player who was acting as substitute for Tunnicliffe the end would have been reached very quickly. Profiting by his escape, however, Lees hit in fine form and gave the fielding side a lot of trouble. The overnight score of 115 had been increased to 138, when Mr Read, in trying to pull a breaking ball from Wainwright, was clean bowled. For the second time in the game he had played a very good innings.

Wood followed in, and Lees continued his hitting until a catch at the wicket brought his career to a close. He scored his 44 in three-quarters of an hour and, apart from the one chance, his innings was a capital display. He left at 167 and, with four runs added, Wood, from a hard hit, was finely caught at mid-off, the innings closing at 25 minutes past 12 for 171 and the match ending in a brilliant victory for Yorkshire.

All the bowling in the last innings was excellent in quality, but Wainwright, with four wickets for 43 runs, took the chief honours. The Yorkshire eleven, after their disastrous first innings on Monday, played a splendid game; but, while every member of the side worked hard, the result was clearly due to the remarkable bowling of Haigh and the splendid batting of Mr Jackson and Denton.

24 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4797.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 June, page 12)

Gloucestershire had all the worst at Bristol yesterday in their match with Lancashire, but their cricket, otherwise very poor indeed, was redeemed by an excellent display of batting on the part of the young Oxford Freshman, F H B Champain. Going in when two Gloucestershire wickets had fallen for a single run, he was the last man out, a catch, close in at point, bringing his innings to a close when he was only three runs short of his hundred. He made his 97 out of a total of 137, staying in for two hours and 20 minutes and, apart from one faulty stroke at 91, making not the slightest mistake.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 June, page 14)

The big advantage gained by the Lancashire eleven at Bristol on Thursday stood them in good stead yesterday, and they had the satisfaction of beating Gloucestershire in the easiest fashion by ten wickets. It was a day of success for bowlers rather than batsmen, Dr W G Grace alone making a noteworthy score.

With three wickets down for 188, Lancashire went on batting in the morning, but they did not by any means keep up their previous standard, the batsmen getting out rather quickly to Mr Townsend. Smith had great luck in getting his 26, and by ten minutes past 1 the innings which had opened so well was finished off for 273, seven wickets having fallen in a little over an hour and a half for 85. Mr Hornby alone played good cricket. Still Lancashire led on the first innings by 136, and this as it turned out was quite enough to give them an easy victory.

Gloucestershire on going in for the second time had 60 on the board with only two men out, but a regular collapse followed, and despite all Dr Grace's efforts the innings was finished off for 137 - curiously enough, the same total that Gloucestershire had made on the previous day. This left Lancashire only two runs to get to win, and they were naturally hit off without loss.

24 June: HAMPSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4798.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 June, page 12)

On the county ground at Southampton yesterday the Essex eleven came out very well in the opening of their match with Hampshire, whose consistent ill-fortune in losing the toss for choice of innings has become almost proverbial. Essex were in all day and made 367, a score that was well distributed among the eleven.

Chief honours were borne off by Carpenter, Mr M'Gahey and Mr Lucas; but the foundation of the fine total was laid by the two first-named, who put on 104 for the first wicket in a little over an hour, both men playing extremely well. Carpenter hit 12 fours in his 73. A curious incident arose as regards Carpenter, who when he was 67 was given out stumped. An examination of the wicket showed that neither bail had been removed, and after some discussion the batsman was allowed to continue his innings.

Mr Lucas went in at the fall of the fourth wicket and stayed until 357, and in his 70, made in his own inimitable style, were six fours, two threes and 11 twos. Mead hit hard towards the finish.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 June, page 14)

At Southampton yesterday Essex followed up their fine display of batting by some equally good bowling and fielding, and had the satisfaction before the end of the afternoon of beating Hampshire by an innings and 87 runs. At no time did Hampshire look like making a fight of it, their players with two or three exceptions finding the bowling of Mr Bull and Walter Mead a great deal more than they could manage.

Their first innings, in which four runs had been scored overnight without loss, was finished off before lunch for 147. Even this was a far better total than at one time seemed probable, the first five wickets being down for 25 runs. Mr Bull took five wickets and had 71 runs hit from him.

Hampshire followed on against the heavy balance of 220, but could still make no headway, faring, in fact, a little worse than before. Three wickets were lost for 17 runs, and only two members of the team made over 20. This time Mead was the most successful bowler, six wickets falling to him as against Mr Bull's four. The latter bowler was unchanged in the two innings.

24 June: KENT v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4799.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 June, page 12)

The whole of yesterday's cricket at Tonbridge in the second match of the festival was occupied by the Kent batsmen in scoring an innings of 293. There was a late start, and stumps were drawn when the last Kent wicket went down at ten minutes past 6, the period during which the game was in progress not greatly exceeding four and a half hours.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 June, page 14)

The Middlesex cricketers gave a very disappointing display of batting at Tonbridge yesterday, and left off last evening with every prospect of being badly beaten to-day, since, with nine wickets down in their second innings, they were only 69 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 June, page 13)

An interesting week's cricket came to an end at Tonbridge on Saturday afternoon, when Kent, by defeating Middlesex, secured their first victory in the county championship this season. They had made their triumph almost certain overnight, for Middlesex, having followed on against a majority of 161, had lost nine wickets in their second innings for 230 and were thus only 69 ahead.

As the visitors' innings quickly finished off for an additional six runs Kent were left with 76 to make. This number cost them six good wickets, J T Hearne - who completed his 100 wickets aggregate for the year - bowling splendidly and dismissing five batsmen for 32 runs. Half the side were out for 52; but Mr Stewart, favoured by some good fortune, Mr Tonge and Mr Marchant did all that was necessary and Kent won by four wickets. The weather was charmingly bright and there was a large company present.

24 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4800.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 June, page 12)

The Yorkshire eleven acquitted themselves well at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, on a fine wicket, which they occupied throughout the hours of cricket, and made a score of 364. The great thing of the day was the three-figure innings of Brown - his first this season.

As a rule Brown is a fairly rapid run-getter, but yesterday he was often very slow. Going in first, he was fifth out at 283, and his best hits were 11 fours, seven threes and nine twos.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 June, page 14)

Going in yesterday morning against the formidable total of 364 which Yorkshire had put together in the course of Thursday's play at Trent-bridge, the Notts eleven gave a splendid display of batting, staying at the wickets for the whole of the day and running up a score of 358 for the loss of six batsmen.

The chief share in the credit of yesterday's performance belonged to Shrewsbury and Gunn, who came together when one wicket had fallen for 33 and in about two hours put on 143 runs. Shrewsbury, who was second man out at 176, made his 83 in two hours and a half, and hit seven fours, eight threes and nine twos, his only mistake being a chance at the wicket. Gunn again made over a hundred, putting together an innings of 110 in three hours and a quarter. He gave two sharp chances, one at 44 and the other at 77, but otherwise his play was quite free from fault, and included in his score were 12 fours, five threes and eight twos. Every one on the side reached double figures.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 June, page 13)

At one time on Saturday afternoon at Nottingham it seemed quite within the range of possibility that the Yorkshire eleven would be beaten. So finely did the Notts team bat that their overnight score of 358 for six wickets was carried to 490, the innings lasting till ten minutes to 2.

In their different ways Dench and Attewell played admirable cricket, and altogether they put on no fewer than 126 runs during their partnership for the seventh wicket. Attewell, who, for the third time in succession, rendered his side most valuable service as a batsman, was at the wickets two hours and three-quarters for his 86, while Dench in getting 75 was batting just three hours. Every succeeding game gives further evidence of Dench's usefulness to the Notts team.

In a minority of 126 Yorkshire went in after lunch, and the cricket up to a certain point was most interesting. So well did the Notts men bowl and field that with two hours left for cricket five wickets were down for 85. However, at the critical point Lord Hawke and Peel made a splendid stand and saved the game, carrying the score from 85 to 233 without being separated. In Lord Hawke's 91 not out there were 11 fours, three threes and six twos. The draw at the finish was a very even one, Yorkshire being 107 runs ahead with five wickets to go down. About 4,000 people watched the play.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4801.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 June, page 12)

It was ridiculous to give such a fine title to the side which played against the Philadelphians at the Oval yesterday as that of "Oxford Past and Present," for the public in a casual judgment might have taken the title too literally.

The day's cricket was of a very ordinary nature; the Oxford men met with a moderate measure of consistent success in their first innings, but the batting never reached any high degree of excellence. Mr H T Stanley played very steadily and there was a good deal of vigour with Mr Montmorency and Mr Henderson. And the end of it all was that Oxford put together the respective score of 261, which will no doubt serve them well considering the severe thunderstorm that subsequently affected the pitch, and now leaves the Philadelphians with a hard uphill task before them.

The Philadelphians' bowling seemed very plain but the visitors' ground fielding was good. Little public interest was aroused by the game and there was only a small company.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 June, page 14)

Cricket at the Oval yesterday was carried on in gloomy weather and attracted only a few hundred people, while all say long the Philadelphians, who had fielded out an innings of 261 on a hard wicket on Thursday, were engaged in an uphill task. It was noon before the ground was fit for play and then, in about two hours and 20 minutes, the Philadelphians' innings, in which 22 runs had been scored without loss, was finished off for the addition of 98 runs. Mr Stocks bowled very finely, dismissing seven batsmen at a cost of only five runs apiece.

The Americans had to follow on, 141 runs in arrear, and in the course of three hours scored 202 for the loss of nine wickets, thus leaving off last evening 61 runs ahead with only one wicket to fall. One of the American batsmen met with great success. This was Mr Coates, who hit so hard that he made 84 in an hour and three-quarters, his innings including 12 fours, two threes and eight twos. He was very lucky, being missed as early in his innings as 16.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 June, page 13)

Very little interest remained in this match on Saturday, the Philadelphians, with nine wickets down in their second innings for 202, being only 61 runs to the good. Less than 15 minutes' play sufficed to bring the Americans' innings to a conclusion for 221. Mr P H Clark batted rather freely and scored 16 out of the 19 runs added. Mr Stocks obtained four wickets for 98 runs and Mr Berkeley five for 77, the former gaining the fine record for the match of 11 wickets for 12 runs apiece.

The Oxonians had only 81 to get to win and, although Mr Rowley was dismissed at 21, Mr Fane and Mr Eccles batted in excellent form and put on 57 runs for the second wicket. At one time only three runs were wanted to win, with nine wickets to fall, but before they had been obtained both Mr Eccles and Mr Stanley had been sent back. In the end the Dark Blues won by seven wickets. The Philadelphians bowled indifferently and their fielding again lacked smartness. The attendance was exceedingly meagre.

24 June: SUSSEX v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4802.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 June, page 12)

Fresh from a brilliant victory over Kent at Tonbridge, the Sussex eleven met Cambridge University at Brighton yesterday and gave an excellent display of batting. They won the toss and, staying in all the afternoon, scored 333 for the loss of seven wickets. Neither Ranjitsinhji nor Mr Murdoch succeeded in obtaining any mastery over the bowling, and just after luncheon there were four wickets down for 99.

From this point, however, the character of the game underwent a complete change, Mr Brann and Mr Newham becoming firmly set and in the course of two hours and 20 minutes carrying the score to 264. Mr Newham, who played considerably the freer game of the two, was the first to leave, being caught and bowled for a very fine innings of 107.

THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN.- Mr H W de Zoete has been given his blue by the Cambridge captain Mr Druce, for the match with Oxford on July 5.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 June, page 14)

With seven wickets down for 333, the Sussex eleven went on batting yesterday morning at Brighton, and so much trouble was given by the remaining batsmen that the innings did not end till the total had reached 412. But for one or two mistakes in the field, however, this score would have been smaller.

In face of such a number as 412 Cambridge had necessarily a very uphill game to play, and it cannot be said that their first innings was in any way remarkable. At one time they seemed likely to do well, Mr Stogdon and Mr Druce making such an excellent stand for the third wicket that the hundred was up with only two men out. However, Mr Stogdon left at 112, and from that time very little was done against the admirable bowling of Tate and Bland. Mr Druce was out fifth, after playing in capital form for 45, and the innings was finished off for 159, the illness of Mr C M Wilson compelling the side to bat one man short.

With a balance of no fewer than 253 against them Cambridge followed on, and this time some very different cricket was seen, Mr Burnup and Mr Mitchell giving a splendid display. They quite mastered the Sussex bowling and at the drawing of stumps had scored 120 without being separated.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 June, page 13)

The match at Brighton came to an unexpectedly speedy end on Saturday, Sussex winning before 2 o'clock by nine wickets. Cambridge had on Friday evening scored 120 runs in their second innings without the loss of a wicket, but their display on Saturday, apart from a magnificent display of hitting by Mr Jessop, was very disappointing and, with Mr Wilson again too unwell to bat, the innings ended for 270.

Mr Jessop played an astonishing game, scoring in 55 minutes 72 runs out of the 79 put on while he was in. He hit a dozen fours and gave no real chance. Mr Burnup and Mr Mitchell, who had opened the innings so brilliantly, were separated at 143, the former gentleman playing a ball on to his wicket. His admirable innings of 81 lasted an hour and three-quarters and was quite free from fault. Mr Mitchell, though slower than he used to be, also played good cricket.

Sussex wanted only 18 to win, and after Marlow had been quickly got rid of with the score at two, Killick and Parris hit off the remaining runs.

24 June: WARWICKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4803.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 June, page 12)

Surrey scored heavily at Birmingham yesterday, making 445 at the cost of only five wickets. There were several fine individual feats; but the greatest of these was that of Robert Abel. He hit eight fours, six threes and 15 twos, and had the satisfaction of running into his thousand aggregate for the season. He and Brockwell made a splendid start and for the second time this season obtained over 200 for the first wicket.

ROBERT ABEL'S BATTING.- The Surrey professional by his innings at Birmingham, yesterday, ran into a four-figure aggregate for the season, in which he is the first batsman to score 1,000 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 June, page 14)

The five wickets down for 455 Surrey went on batting yesterday morning at Birmingham, and their innings did not end till the total had reached 568. Mr H B Chinnery increased his overnight score of 95 to 149. Apart from one palpable chance and another that might perhaps have been taken, there was little or no fault to be found with his cricket. He was at the wickets for three hours and a quarter and hit 14 fours, 11 threes and nine twos.

Warwickshire's first innings was only redeemed from failure by the excellent play of Lilley, who went in second wicket down and took out his bat. Twelve fours were included in his score. In the follow-on Walter Quaife and Mr J F Byrne batted freely, but the latter was lucky in escaping a run out.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 June, page 13)

There was little interest left in Saturday's cricket at Birmingham. In order to escape defeat it was necessary for the Warwickshire men to stay at the wickets all day, but they never showed the least likelihood of doing that. They had lost two wickets in their second innings for 88 overnight and were all out a second time directly after lunch for the addition of 123 runs. The total thus reached 211 and Surrey were left with a decisive victory by an innings and 194 runs.

William Quaife, who took out his bat for 40, played very correct cricket, and Diver hit brilliantly for 37, his score including eight fours, but no one else gave any particular trouble. Richardson dismissed five batsmen for 74 runs and made his record in the match eleven wickets for 154 runs. Though the weather was fine very few people troubled to visit the Edgbaston ground.

The following will play for Oxford at Lord's next Monday:- G R Bardswell (Uppingham and Oriel), F H E Cunliffe (Eton and New College), J C Hartley (Tonbridge and Brasenose), P S Waddy (Parramatta and Balliol), G Bromley-Martin (Eton and New College), A Eccles (Repton and Trinity), R W Fox (Wellington and Hertford), E C Wright (Clergy Orphan School and Keble), F L Fane (Charterhouse and Magdalen), R E Foster (Malvern and University) and F H B Champain (Cheltenham and Hertford).

The Cambridge team has not been quite completed, but, as announced in The Times of Friday, Mr H W de Zoete has been given his colours, and his choice and the eight old Blues available leave only two places for Mr Norman Druce, the captain, to fill up. Mr J H Stogdon, the Old Harrovian, will very likely get his blue. He is certainly one of the best bats Harrow has produced for some seasons.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Last week's cricket has brought the championship table to the following position:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Essex	6	2	0	4	2	1
Nottinghamshire	7	1	0	6	1	1
Lancashire	10	7	1	2	6	.75
Yorkshire	11	7	1	3	6	.75
Surrey	12	7	3	2	4	.4
Gloucestershire	6	2	2	2	0	
Sussex	6	2	2	2	0	
Warwickshire	3	1	2	5	-1	
Middlesex	6	0	2	4	-2	
Somerset	5	1	3	1	-2	
Kent	8	1	3	4	-2	
Hampshire	5	0	3	2	-3	
Derbyshire	6	0	4	2	-4	
Leicestershire	6	0	5	1	-5	

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "one point shall be reckoned for each win; one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have in finished matches obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned the champion county."

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages up to the present are given below:-

BATTING

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Innings	Times not out	Average
Mr J A Dixon	9	655	268*	1	81.7
Mr N F Druce	8	559	227*	1	79.6
Abel	19	1091	250	1	60.11
William Quaife	12	527	136*	2	58.5
Mr F G J Ford	12	621	150	1	56.5
K S Ranjitsinhji	19	888	260	2	52.4
Mr F S Jackson	18	754	124	2	47.2
Mr A P Lucas	7	229	70	2	45.4
Shrewsbury	11	412	83	2	45.7
Lord Hawke	10	364	91*	2	45.4
Dench	10	314	75	3	44.6
Mr H C Stewart	10	438	142	0	43.8
Mr C J Burnup	14	521	108	2	43.5
Gunn	11	431	125	1	43.1
Mr L C H Palairret	7	292	92	0	41.5
Mr G Brann	15	578	126	1	41.4
Baker	19	625	153	3	39.1
Carpenter	14	465	141	2	38.9
Mr P F Warner	19	689	176	1	38.5
Mr F H B Champain	13	448	97	1	37.4
Mr A Eccles	11	324	102	2	36
Bagshaw	13	429	114*	1	35.9
Hayward	18	602	130	1	35.7
Mr G L Jessop	13	408	140	1	34
Mr K J Key	18	507	110*	3	33.12
Mr P Perrin	11	331	63	1	33.1
Mr A J Webbe	14	357	74	3	32.5

Dr W G Grace	13	356	56*	2	32.4
Mr H B Chinnery	18	550	149	1	32.6
Wainwright	19	613	171	0	32.5
J T Brown	20	599	119	1	31.10
Mr W W Read	12	282	86*	3	31.3
Brockwell	18	552	131	0	30.12
Mr C M'Gahey	14	386	94	1	28.9
Albert Ward	18	470	162	2	29.6
Tunnickliffe	20	523	96	2	29.6
Storer	20	552	180*	1	29.1
Lilley	13	290	79*	3	29
Mr J R Mason	18	510	70	0	28.6
Mr F L Fane	12	308	46	1	28
Mr A E Stoddart	12	326	57	0	27.2
Mr H B Hayman	16	407	62	1	27.2
Walter Quaife	12	293	59	1	26.7
Chatterton	16	421	79	0	26.5
Mr W Newham	14	342	107	1	26.4
Mr H H Marriott	13	312	73	1	26
Attewell	12	311	102	0	25.11
Mr W L Murdoch	17	439	105	0	25.14
Board	14	359	126	0	26.9
Denton	20	501	112	0	25.1
Sir T C O'Brien	12	265	80	1	24.1
Mr S M J Woods	13	307	88	0	23.8
Mr C P Foley	12	232	47	2	23.2
Alec Hearne	18	410	69	0	22.14
Mr A N Hornby	10	154	32	3	22
Peel	19	371	115	1	20.11
F Sugg	18	368	71	0	20.8
Mr A O Jones	10	202	75	0	20.2
Mr H D G Leveson-Gower	16	300	81	1	20
Martin	25	460	90	2	20

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr C E M Wilson	193	66	332	27	12.8
Mold	395.1	141	798	56	14.14
Hallam	395.1	163	656	44	14.40
Cuttell	267.4	99	513	34	15.3
Richardson	620.2	189	1496	98	15.26
J T Hearne	823.1	303	1630	105	15.55
Mead	454.3	171	831	52	15.51
Trott	132.2	38	326	20	16.6
Briggs	493.3	156	987	60	16.27
Mr F H E Cunliffe	262.3	86	545	33	16.17
Hayward	480.4	150	1076	65	16.36
Mr G L Jessop	303	93	632	38	16.24
Mr E B Shine	209	84	495	28	17.19
Mr H W de Zoete	193.2	53	499	28	17.23
Bland	506	163	1192	63	18.58
Peel	496.1	188	915	48	19.3
Haigh	421.3	139	935	48	19.23
Attewell	429.3	198	684	35	19.19
Woodcock	345.2	94	838	42	19.38
Hirst	496.1	194	948	47	20.8
Mr F G Bull	347.1	91	894	44	20.14
Davidson	475.4	190	878	43	20.18
Wainwright	505.1	172	1075	51	21.4
Roberts	243.3	79	592	28	21.4
Tate	552.3	167	1178	51	23.3

Tyler	322	80	859	36	23.31
Mr C L Townsend	241.1	32	820	34	24.4
Martin	583.4	200	1150	44	26.6
Mr S M J Woods	202.4	36	807	22	27.13

28 June: ESSEX v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4804.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 June, page 14)

There was a thoroughly interesting day's cricket at Leyton yesterday, when Derbyshire, on a pitch that gave some assistance to the bowlers, established an advantage. The great feature of the play was Chatterton's 120. His innings was the result of finely-finished batting, in which the ball was seldom misjudged.

Derbyshire were doing badly until Chatterton and Storer made a stand, and these batsmen added 128 for the fifth partnership. Indeed, these were the only two men who made any headway against the Essex bowling, for they were responsible for 179 of the total of 216. Mr Bull bowled very well and the fielding was generally good.

Essex began badly, losing four men for 29; but then Mr Turner and Mr Lucas ran the score up, and at the finish Essex, with six men left, were 123 behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 June, page 12)

Yesterday at Leyton there was an interesting fight between these counties. Essex had certainly the worst of the position on Monday evening; But on the second day they managed to secure an advantage, and unless the wicket should get bad they ought now to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 July, page 12)

The Essex eleven gained a brilliant victory over Derbyshire at the county ground, Leyton, and thus maintained their unbeaten record in the championship. Yesterday morning when their third wicket went at 36 (they had been set 119 to get to win) they were in a critical position; but subsequently Mr Perrin played splendid cricket and with Mr Turner, of the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, hit off the rest of the runs and long before luncheon time Essex had won by seven wickets, a result that created great enthusiasm.

It was a fine match to win; but the game may be said to have been turned by the partnership on Tuesday of Mr Turner and Mr A P Lucas, the latter of whom is just now batting as well as he did in his Cambridge days. Mr Bull, who took 13 wickets for 156, had a large share in the Essex success; and this season his slow bowling has been so effective that he will no doubt be asked to play for the Gentlemen against the Players at Lord's.

28 June: LANCASHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4805.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 June, page 14)

After their single-innings defeat at the hands of Surrey last week, it seemed that the Warwickshire men had little chance against Lancashire, but in the match which commenced yesterday at Manchester they made a capital start, remaining in for nearly the whole of the time that play was in progress and running up a total of 227.

The honours of the day fell to Mr J F Byrne and William Quaife. The former scored his 63 in rather more than two hours, going in first wicket down at 12 and being the fourth man out at 132. He made no mistake and among his hits were nine fours, four threes and four twos. W G Quaife played a quiet and watchful game, just beating Mr Byrne's score by a single run, but being in rather more than half an hour longer. His innings was not quite free from fault. Among his hits were six fours and five threes.

Messrs Fishwick and Glover played well, but otherwise the batting was very moderate. Hallam and Cuttell were the most successful bowlers, but Mold did far better work than his figures would suggest. He was unlucky in having several catches missed off him. When Lancashire had scored six runs without the loss of a wicket, a thunderstorm broke over the ground and prevented any further cricket taking place.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 June, page 12)

Yesterday, as was the case on Monday, the progress of this game at Manchester was considerably interfered with by rain, it being impossible to resume until half-past 12, and a violent thunderstorm causing the abandonment of play for the day at 5.45.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 July, page 12)

For some time yesterday Warwickshire at Manchester looked to be in danger of defeat, for on resuming from their overnight position Lancashire with five men out for 251 were already 24 ahead. Thanks to some vigorous cricket by Briggs, who was batting an hour and a half for 74, in which were ten fours, four threes and seven twos, the home side's innings reached 349, which gave them a lead of 122.

Against this Warwickshire lost one wicket for 30 before luncheon and subsequently had two men out for 47, but Walter Quaife, who was missed when 21 by Ward, and his brother made a stand. The elder batsman left at 62 and Bainbridge was dismissed at 77, and there was still plenty of time for the visitors to lose, when William Quaife and Lilley became partners. This pair, however, made runs, the latter batting brilliantly and scoring 53 in an hour and ten minutes, while later Diver kept in until 171.

Towards the close the batsmen contented themselves with defensive cricket, and in the end they succeeded in saving the game. When stumps were drawn at 6.10 to allow the Warwickshire men to catch a train, they had six wickets down for 221, so that they were 99 runs on.

28 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4806.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 June, page 14)

In a singularly even day's cricket at Lord's yesterday - the difference between the innings was only a couple of runs - the best thing in the batting was the fine innings of Mr Norman Druce, the Cambridge captain. While his side were doing badly he played beautiful cricket. All the skill of the M.C.C. professional bowlers seemed to give no trouble to Mr Druce, who got his 74 in 90 minutes, and going in second wicket down at 15 was the sixth to leave at 118, when Captain Charles, who kept wicket, brought off a very fine catch.

The best partnership of the innings was that between Mr Stogdon and Mr Druce, which yielded 68 runs. Marylebone fielded and bowled excellently, and the return catch from a very hard drive that got out Mr Stogdon was a wonderful piece of work.

The fine batting of Mr C W Wright and Gunn, who put on 76 at a rapid rate for the second M.C.C. wicket, promised a big advantage for the club on the first innings; but subsequently there was something of a breakdown and Albert Trott alone came off. The wicket was rather slow on the surface and the batsmen were beaten by the pace of the ground rather than any particular skill in the bowling. Both the old Blues, Mr C E M Wilson, who was rather unwell at Brighton, and Mr E H Bray, were absent from the Cambridge eleven, in which Mr H [G] Curgenvin and Mr E A C Druce were tried.

As regards yesterday's cricket in this the last of the Cambridge trial matches, it cannot be said that the Light Blues showed form sufficiently good to make them the favourites for the Oxford and Cambridge match that they are supposed to be.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 June, page 12)

The Cambridge eleven gained a splendid victory over the Marylebone Club at Lord's yesterday by 102 runs. The merit of this result was increased by the fact that Cambridge always had the worst of the wicket, which was at its best perhaps when the M.C.C. were left to play the fourth innings with 228 to make to win, and then it was that the Cambridge slow bowlers completely puzzled the majority of the M.C.C. eleven.

The Light Blues in every part of the game played very well yesterday, and there was nothing better in the day than the batting of the captain, Mr Norman Druce, who followed up his superb innings of Monday with a faultless 52.

28 June: SOMERSET v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4807.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 June, page 14)

At Taunton, yesterday, Somerset, although without Mr L C H Palairet, Mr V T Hill, Captain Hedley and Tyler, put together the very creditable total of 255 in the course of three and a half hours against Gloucestershire, Nichols, Mr G Fowler and Mr A E Newton all playing exceedingly well.

Nichols, who obtained his runs in an hour without giving a chance, hit nine fours, while Mr Fowler was an hour and a half getting his 61, which was also without blemish. The old Oxonian's figures were six fours, five threes and six twos. Mr R C N Palairet helped Nichols to put on 52 for the third partnership, while Mr Fowler with Mr Newton scored 59 for the [seventh] wicket.

Gloucestershire, who went into the field without Messrs G L Jessop, E C Wright and F B H Champain, started well and had scored 95 for the loss of one wicket, when rain came on at 5.35 and prevented any further play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 June, page 12)

The meeting between these western counties came to a surprisingly early end at Taunton yesterday, Gloucestershire winning by ten wickets. At a quarter past 3 in the afternoon the ground had recovered from the effects of the previous evening's rain, and Somerset, 39 runs behind on the first innings, went in a second time, and in another hour were all dismissed by Roberts and Mr Charles Townsend for the poor score of 57.

By 5 o'clock the match was over. There was no excuse for the failure of Somerset. Roberts took six wickets at a cost of only 21 runs, and Mr Townsend four for 36.

28 June: SURREY v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4808.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 June, page 14)

Surrey had the worst of the opening day's play against Middlesex at the Oval yesterday. When the home team commenced their innings at 12 o'clock the pitch had not recovered from the rain on Sunday morning, and it would have been to their advantage had Middlesex won the toss.

Notwithstanding the excellence of the bowling, Surrey certainly ought to have made a better score, especially as at one time they had 79 up for three wickets; but at this total four men were dismissed, and the eleven were eventually all out for 112, after batting for two hours and a half. The only redeeming feature in a poor display was the patient defence of Abel, for during his stay at the wickets, which lasted two hours and a quarter, he gave no chance. Rawlin was the most successful bowler, obtaining five wickets for 61; but after the luncheon interval Hearne bowled splendidly, taking three of the last four wickets for three runs. Mr M'Gregor kept wicket exceedingly well and was ably backed up by the field.

Middlesex commenced batting at 20 minutes to 4, and their display was in marked contrast to their opponents'. Nevertheless, they started in none too reassuring a manner, for they lost five wickets in getting 70 runs. The pitch certainly had improved after the rolling; but Richardson bowled admirably at the beginning of the innings, and by taking the first two wickets brought his aggregate up to 100 for the season. Nearly all the runs at first came from Hayward's end, who shared the bowling with Richardson, Mr Warner making some good on-drives; but with the total at 46 Lees relieved him and eventually got rid of both Mr Warner and Mr Ford.

After the dismissal of these two gentlemen Sir T C O'Brien played lively cricket for 22. The Surrey total was passed for the loss of seven wickets, during the partnership of Dr Thornton and Mr M'Gregor, who put on 60 runs in 40 minutes, and it is chiefly to them that Middlesex owe their favourable position. With the close of the visitors' innings play ceased for the day, so that Middlesex are now 67 runs to the good. The Surrey fielding was excellent, and the catch by Hayward which disposed of Mr Stoddart was an especially good one. The morning opened rather dull, but after lunch the sun was very hot. There was a very good attendance.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 June, page 12)

Surrey gained a clever and somewhat unexpected victory over Middlesex at the Oval yesterday by the narrow margin of nine runs. After being 67 behind at the drawing of stumps on Monday, when an innings each had been got through, they played up well yesterday and, thanks to some splendid batting by Hayward, who was well backed up by Mr Key and Abel, they set Middlesex 98 to make to win.

But the visitors found runs very difficult to get against the bowling of Richardson, Lees and Hayward, who were supported by keen fielding, and the side was dismissed for 88 just before 6 o'clock, after a very exciting finish.

18 June: SUSSEX v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4809.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 June, page 14)

At Brighton yesterday the Oxford eleven outplayed Sussex at every point, and with an innings completed on each side, left off at the end of the afternoon with a lead of 160 runs. They were largely indebted to Mr G E Bromley-Martin, who made 137. Going in first wicket down with the score at 20, he was the last man out. His play varied greatly in character, for while he took an hour and a half to score 46 before lunch, he made 91 afterwards in an hour. Among his hits were 19 fours, four threes and 14 twos. He was very lucky, giving three chances.

Mr Champain's innings of 60 was beautifully played and quite free from fault. The wicket, which was a good deal affected by rain, was probably more difficult during the Sussex innings than it had been before, but its condition did not excuse the county being out for 90.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 June, page 12)

Any chance the Sussex eleven might have hoped for of making up for their disastrous first innings, at Brighton, on the previous day, was destroyed yesterday by the weather. Rain fell during Monday night, and the wicket yesterday morning was so difficult that the county - following on against a majority of 160 runs - had little prospect of avoiding defeat.

As it turned out they did even worse than might have been expected, being got rid of in a couple of hours for a score of 120. Seven members of the eleven failed so completely that they only scored 15 runs between them. On the other hand, a good display of batting was given by Mr W L Murdoch, who went in second wicket down with the total at 12 and took out his bat for 46. He hit five fours, and during a stay of an hour and forty minutes did not give a chance of any kind. K S Ranjitsinhji in getting 20 made some good strokes, and Bean and Tate also managed to get into double figures.

The Oxford team played their winning game in capital form, the excellent bowling being backed up by first-rate work in the field. The bowling honours were very evenly distributed, Mr Cunliffe taking seven wickets for 64 runs, Mr Wright six for 64 and Mr Stocks five for 56. It was a capital win for Oxford, but they clearly had a great deal the best of the wicket.

28 June: YORKSHIRE v PHILADELPHIANS

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

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 June, page 14)

At Sheffield yesterday the Philadelphian cricketers entered upon their match with Yorkshire, and, fortunately, they were able to command the services of Messrs Patterson, Ralston and Baily - three important members of the team who had been kept out of the cricket field at the end of last week owing to injuries. The northern county executive did not place their full strength in the field, Tunnicliffe being still unwell, and Hirst, Haigh and Hunter being given a rest.

Still, the other men who play regularly for Yorkshire were taking part in the contest, and the Philadelphians, who, after putting together a score of 225, dismissed four of the Yorkshiremen for 77, accomplished a highly creditable performance. Mr Wood, Mr King and Mr Cregar all played freely and well, the last-named hitting ten fours during the 55 minutes he was making his 50. Yorkshire tried a new fast bowler named Brown from Darfield, near Barnsley, but he did nothing of note. The weather proved dull and about 3,000 people assembled to see the play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 June, page 12)

Heavy rain during Monday night at Sheffield reduced the wicket at Bramall-lane to a condition quite unfit for play, and yesterday morning the ground was enveloped in a thick fog. After waiting until 2 o'clock the umpires examined the pitch, and while they were doing so another downpour came on, and it was quickly resolved to make no attempt to resume play in the match until this morning. The score was left on Monday evening:-
Philadelphians, first innings, 225; Yorkshire, 77 for four wickets.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 July, page 12)

The match between Yorkshire and the Philadelphians at Sheffield was practically ruined by bad weather. A full afternoon's cricket took place on Monday, the Philadelphians scoring 225 and Yorkshire losing four good wickets for 77, but not a ball could be bowled on Tuesday; and yesterday the weather was so unfavourable that only 25 minutes of actual play took place.

The game was resumed at ten minutes to 12, but after the Yorkshire score had been increased by 27 runs without further loss, play was suspended owing to the bad light and, rain coming on heavily a little later, stumps were pulled up at five minutes past one, and the match abandoned as a draw. At the finish Yorkshire, with six wickets to fall, were within 111 runs of their opponents, and therefore there was nothing to choose between the teams.

28 June: HAMPSHIRE v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/135/135058.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 June, page 14)

The first cricket week under the patronage of the municipal authorities began at Bournemouth yesterday. There was only a moderate number of spectators present and the cricket was of a poor description.

Hampshire batted first and in a little over two hours were all out for 112. Against this the Marylebone Club had made 124 for the loss of four wickets when rain stopped play for the day. As the game stands the M.C.C. with [six] batsmen still to be got rid of are 12 runs ahead.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 June, page 12)

At Bournemouth, yesterday, the Marylebone Club defeated Hampshire in decisive fashion by an innings and 18 runs. On Monday the M.C.C. had obtained a considerable advantage, as, on facing the Hampshire total of 112, they made 124 for the loss of four wickets. Yesterday the innings was finished off for 165, or 53 on.

Hampshire on going in again fared badly, and so well did Roche and Geeson take advantage of the opportunities the ground presented that the southern county were all dismissed in an hour for the small total of 35. Roche obtained his five wickets at a cost of only 14 runs, and Geeson took five for 20.

The Cambridge eleven to play at Lord's next Monday will be as follows:-

*Mr N F Druce, captain; *Mr F Mitchell, *Mr H H Marriott, *Mr C J Burnup, *Mr G L Jessop, *Mr E B Shine, *Mr C E M Wilson, *Mr E H Bray, Mr H W de Zoete, Mr J H Stogdon and Mr A E Fernie.

The Oxford eleven will be:-

*Mr G R Bardswell, captain, *Mr F H E Cunliffe, *Mr J C Hartley, *Mr P S Waddy, Mr G Bromley-Martin, Mr A Eccles, Mr R W Fox, Mr E C Wright, Mr F L Fane, Mr R E Foster and Mr F H B Champain.

*Played in last year's match.

Yesterday the championship positions were left as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Essex	7	3	0	4	3	1
Nottinghamshire	7	1	0	6	1	1
Lancashire	11	7	1	3	6	.75
Yorkshire	11	7	1	3	6	.75
Surrey	13	8	3	2	5	.45
Gloucestershire	7	3	2	2	1	.2
Sussex	6	2	2	2	0	
Warwickshire	9	1	2	6	-1	
Kent	8	1	3	4	-2	
Middlesex	7	0	3	4	-3	
Somerset	6	1	4	1	-3	
Hampshire	5	0	3	2	-3	
Derbyshire	7	0	5	2	-5	
Leicestershire	6	0	5	1	-5	

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "one point shall be reckoned for each win; one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have in finished matches obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned the champion county."

Thursday 1 July, page 12: SURREY v YORKSHIRE

Of late years there has been no more attractive fixture on the Oval than Surrey's match with Yorkshire, which begins to-day, and this season the interest in it is as widespread as ever.

Surrey will probably play the same side as last Monday, while the only change in the Yorkshire eleven from that which beat Surrey at Leeds in Jubilee week will be that Lord Hawke, who is in such fine form, takes his place as captain and Mr Ernest Smith stands down. The Surrey executive are giving the profits of this match to Robert Henderson.

1 July: HAMPSHIRE v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4811.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 July, page 12)

In the second match of the Bournemouth week, which began yesterday, the Philadelphians gave a display of batting better than anything they have done during their present tour in England. They had the good fortune to win the toss and so had the chance of going in first on a firm and true wicket; but so excellent was the use they made of their opportunity that they remained in for nearly the whole of the time that play was in progress and ran up a total of 292. The county team had a little batting at the end of the day and scored 25 runs without losing a wicket.

The weather was charmingly fine, but not more than 1,000 spectators visited the ground. The Philadelphians played the same team that opposed Yorkshire at Sheffield, but Hampshire lacked the services of Captain Wynyard, Mr F E Lacey, Mr E I M Barrett, Webb and Soar.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 July, page 14)

A very fine display of batting was given yesterday at Bournemouth by Major Spens, and it was due very largely to his efforts that Hampshire gained the upper hand of the Philadelphians and left off in a highly favourable position.

In their second attempt the Philadelphians quite failed to follow up their fine batting of the previous afternoon, losing five wickets for 92 runs. They are thus 103 ahead with half their wickets to fall and there seems every prospect of a thoroughly interesting finish. Hampshire may have to bat two short, as, in addition to Baldwin being away, Barton was taken ill yesterday after playing his innings.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 July, page 14)

The Hampshire eleven on Saturday at Bournemouth gained their first victory this season, defeating the Philadelphians after a capital match by five wickets.

1 July: LANCASHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4812.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 July, page 12)

The Essex eleven, who are in fine form just now, rendered a creditable account of themselves yesterday at Manchester, leaving off 55 behind the Lancashire score with half their wickets to fall, and consequently holding distinctly the better position. The fortunes of the game varied during the afternoon in a remarkable manner.

Lancashire won the toss, but by doing so gained no advantage, as the ground, never at all easy, became a good deal faster when Essex went in. Lancashire were batting nearly three hours and three-quarters for their total of 167. This score would have been considerably smaller had the Essex team accepted all the chances that were offered. The batting honours fell to Tyldesley and Mr Hartley, and, though both batsmen had a fair share of luck, they deserve great praise for the manner in which they made their runs under difficulties. Mr Kortright was by far the most successful bowler for Essex, taking five wickets at a cost of only 28 runs.

Essex went in at a quarter to 5 and, thanks to the excellent batting of Mr M'Gahey, Carpenter and Mr Perrin, the score had reached 85 at the fall of the second wicket. Thus Essex looked like leaving off with an immense advantage, but Mold's bowling proved so effective that at the call of time five men were out for 112.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 July, page 14)

The weather was delightful at Manchester yesterday and the second day's cricket in the Lancashire and Essex match was watched with keen interest by about 4,000 people. Albert Ward played a great innings, and Lancashire now hold a lead of 234 runs and have still five wickets to go down.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 July, page 14)

A splendidly-contested match ended at Manchester on Saturday in a victory for Lancashire by 66 runs, this being the first time during the present season that Essex have been beaten in the county championship. Some of the umpires' decisions in the last innings gave must dissatisfaction to the visitors.

1 July: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4813.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 July, page 12)

The team which represented the Marylebone Club at Lord's yesterday against Oxford University was a considerably stronger batting side than that which opposed Cambridge early in the week. The Oxford captain, Mr Bardswell, was giving Mr Hartley, Mr Waddy and Mr Fox a rest, and their places were taken by Me Lee, Mr Stocks and Mr Mathews.

The chief feature of the University's innings was the splendid bowling of Trott, who, after crossing over to the pavilion end at 115, carried everything before him, taking the remaining eight wickets for 53 from the time he started bowling at 79. The best batting was shown by Mr Fane and Mr Bromley-Martin, who during their partnership put on 87. Mr Fane was at the wickets for an hour and a half for his 51, and hit one five, five fours and six twos. Mr Foster and Mr Lee also batted well, but Oxford were all out for 190.

When the club went in at 20 minutes past 4 a much better exhibition was given. Dr Grace and Mr Mordaunt played free cricket, scoring 95 in the first hour. The total was taken to 140, when Mr Mordaunt was dismissed for a very stylish 51, which included some splendid off-drives. Mr Grace left soon after, beautifully caught at point by Mr Wright. His vigorous innings of an hour and a half included 12 fours and eight twos, and was only marred by one chance when he had scored 78.

After his dismissal things went rather badly for the club, and when stumps were drawn at 7 o'clock the home team were only 27 runs to the good, with four wickets still in hand. Although the fielding at times was rather loose, Mr Wright brought off two very good catches at point, but the best of the day was distinctly that which disposed of Trott, Mr Foster taking the ball in the slips low down with the left hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 July, page 14)

The club beat Oxford University at Lord's yesterday by eight wickets. The Oxford batting generally was rather disappointing and anything but likely to strengthen the hopes of their friends as to the result of their match with Cambridge on Monday. Mr Cunliffe did not bowl in the Club's second innings, as Mr Bardswell, the Oxford captain, thought it better to give him a rest in view of Monday's match. The University fielding was very smart.

1 July: SURREY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4814.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 July, page 12)

It was a very keen fight for runs yesterday at the Oval. The cricket was always very engrossing, and in the end Surrey were able to claim an advantage, having made 94 for two wickets against a total of 197. The score might perhaps give the impression that the play was dull, but as a matter of fact the bowling and fielding were excellence itself. Denton, if he had some luck, Wainwright and the Surrey batsmen are to be congratulated on their scores. It was a typical June day and the crowd numbered over 15,000.

Yorkshire, who had the choice of first innings, appeared under the captaincy of Mr Jackson, for Lord Hawke was not well enough to play. Mr Jackson again showed what a fine player he is at a pinch, for yesterday he played sterling cricket and was out to a catch so remarkable that it would not be brought off once in a hundred times.

With Lord Hawke standing out Mr Ernest Smith was telegraphed for, and he arrived in time to take his innings, so that the Yorkshire eleven was the same that had beaten Surrey so decisively a little more than a week ago at Leeds. From the Surrey side Mr Leveson-Gower was absent. He has had rather a spell of ill-fortune of late and he decided to stand down. In these circumstances Mr Key decided to give Mr Jephson, the old Cambridge blue, who has before played for the county, another trial. Apart from the fact that the Surrey men would have liked to see that splendid bat Mr Norman Druce playing for the county of his birth, Surrey may be said to have had their full strength.

Although Yorkshire began the season without any great dash, they have since come into form, and their success at Leeds against Surrey was the triumph of the better side. Yesterday's match again showed them in a pretty favourable light. On a wicket that was in no sense easy they put together a very responsible score. Mr Jackson had no other reasonable policy open to him yesterday than to go in when he won the toss, and as things turned out he could not complain much of the result. He himself - he was always a great bat when the wicket was at all difficult - was only out to a most wonderful catch by third man at 40. The Yorkshire captain hit the ball hard and it curled high up over third man's head. But Hayward, running under the ball, sighted it well and just managed to make a running catch with his right hand fully extended.

Yorkshire had a bad turn after this and four of the side were out for 65. Denton and Wainwright then put on 90 in a long partnership marked by robust cricket; but Denton should have been caught at wicket before he had scored, and this proved an extremely serious error for Surrey, for after each player had been missed off Brockwell the score amounted to 155 before Denton was brilliantly caught by Jephson, running from mid-off.

Richardson, after a trial at the pavilion side, had crossed back to his original end, and he bowled so well that in spite of Hirst's vigour there was something like a collapse of the Yorkshire innings. Richardson has not bowled much better this year than he did yesterday; his length, break and pace were worthy of his most triumphant days. Altogether his eight wickets for 108 runs was an admirable performance. It may be remembered that he took 15 wickets in Surrey's lost match at Leeds in Jubilee week.

When Surrey went in runs were very difficult to get against the bowling of Hirst and Wainwright. Indeed, both Abel and Brockwell were several times beaten, but the ball in every case just missed the wicket. Mr Ernest Smith and Haigh each got a wicket when they went on; but after two men had gone for 53 Hayward and Baldwin, playing exceptionally well, added 41 and were still together at the call of time.

Surrey are now 103 behind with eight wickets to fall. Robert Henderson, the well-known professional, receives the gate money of this match for his benefit fund.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 July, page 14)

The second day's cricket on the Oval yesterday was worthy of the great occasion. Its keenness, the variety of the play, the alternations of fortune and finally the way in which Yorkshire steadily fought their way to a position of much strength completely engrossed the attention of the great crowd, which for the second time ran to about 15,000. There was a heavy and dull atmosphere, and the light at times was so bad that at any moment it would not have been surprising to see the umpires stop the play.

As on Thursday the wicket in the first hour of the day suffered from the effects of the dew. The surface of the ground was sufficiently soft to give great help to the bowlers. Afterwards the turf recovered, so that Yorkshire yesterday had practically the experience of Surrey on the first day. Surrey on Thursday evening were only 103 behind with eight wickets in hand; but the fine bowling of the Yorkshiremen, the clean fielding and the falseness of the pitch in the first hour yesterday morning put an altered complexion on the game. Surrey actually lost six more men for an addition of 22 runs, but nearly an hour was spent in getting down the last two Surrey wickets, for the addition of 69 runs.

The great batting feat [of] the day was achieved by Wainwright. The consistency of this player this year has been one of the best features of Yorkshire cricket; his batting has never been so good, and his 75 yesterday - he was out from the last ball of the day - was the result of a vary of fine strokes practised with an easy precision. His aggregate for the match now stands at 116, and yesterday his best hits were a five and seven [fours].

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 July, page 14)

The great match at the Oval between Surrey and Yorkshire was left drawn on Saturday; but not until a keen and exciting third day's cricket had been played. Mr F S Jackson almost risked the game in order to win, for he closed the Yorkshire innings when the side were 321 ahead, and left Surrey over four hours and a half to play.

Upon Brockwell and Baldwin rested the chief credit for saving the game. The crowd numbered nearly 20,000. When the last ball had been bowled and Surrey had finished 77 behind with four men left, there was a great rush for the pavilion and the chief players were warmly cheered.

1 July: SUSSEX v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4815.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 July, page 12)

The opening of this fixture - the first great county match ever played on the Saffrons at Eastbourne - was marked by a steady exhibition on the part of the Sussex batsmen who, gaining first innings on an excellent wicket, kept in the whole of the afternoon, only to score 282 for the loss of seven wickets.

So moderate a result is the more remarkable as Marlow and Mr Brann, who began the batting, contributed 140 before they were parted. Marlow was out first, and he hit four fours, five threes and eight twos in his faultless 61, while Brann made the same number of fours and threes, and nine twos.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 July, page 14)

The best thing in yesterday's cricket at Eastbourne was beyond doubt the fine innings of Mr A J Webbe, the Middlesex captain, who has met with more consistent success this season than for several summers past.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 July, page 14)

In this drawn match at Eastbourne on Saturday the chief feature was the batting of K S Ranjitsinhji, who had just lately met with something of a spell of ill-fortune at the wicket.

According to the official conditions the competition now stands as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Nottinghamshire	7	1	0	6	1	1
Lancashire	12	8	1	3	7	.7
Yorkshire	12	7	1	4	6	.75
Essex	3	3	1	4	2	.5
Surrey	14	8	3	3	5	.45
Gloucestershire	7	3	2	2	1	.2
Sussex	7	2	2	3	0	
Warwickshire	9	1	2	5	-1	
Kent	8	1	3	4	-2	
Hampshire	5	0	3	2	-3	
Somerset	6	1	4	1	-3	
Middlesex	8	0	3	5	-3	
Leicestershire	6	0	5	1	-5	
Derbyshire	7	0	5	2	-5	

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages up to the present are as follows:-

BATTING

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Innings	Times not out	Average
Mr J A Dixon	9	655	268*	1	81.7
Mr N F Druce	10	685	227*	1	76.1
William Quaife	14	639	136*	4	63.2
K S Ranjitsinhji	23	1107	260	3	55.7
Abel	23	1189	250	1	54.1
Lord Hawke	11	393	91*	3	49.1
Mr F G J Ford	14	632	150	1	48.8
Shrewsbury	11	412	83	2	45.7
Mr F S Jackson	21	808	124	2	42.10
Mr L C H Palairet	7	292	92	0	41.5
Mr A P Lucas	10	326	89	2	40.6
Gunn	13	478	125	1	39.10
Dr W G Grace	15	460	79	2	35.5
Hayward	22	737	130	1	35.12
Albert Ward	21	658	162	2	34.12
Carpenter	18	546	141	2	34.2
Mr P F Warner	23	739	176	1	33.13
Mr A J Webbe	17	435	74	3	31.1
Chatterton	18	550	120	0	30.10
Baldwin (Surrey)	22	643	103	1	30.13
Mr K J Key	22	549	110*	4	30.9
J T Brown	23	663	119	1	30.8
Brockwell	22	663	131	0	30.9
Mr J R Mason	18	510	70	0	28.6
Mr F L Fane	15	395	80	1	28.3
Tunncliffe	22	557	96	2	27.17
Mr H B Chinnery	22	560	149	1	26.14
Mr C M' Gahey	18	447	94	1	26.5
Mr W L Murdoch	21	502	105	1	25.2
Mr A E Stoddart	16	392	57	0	24.8
Mr W W Read	16	291	86*	4	24.3

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Richardson	753.4	223	1843	121	15.28
Cuttell	361.4	139	677	44	15.17
Hallam	476.4	198	813	52	15.33
Mr G L Jessop	332.1	99	692	44	15.32
J T Hearne	957.1	366	1847	115	16.7
Mold	520.4	177	1076	66	16.20
Mr F H E Cunliffe	326.3	107	701	42	16.29
Hayward	534.4	160	1205	72	17.11
Mead	567.3	215	1024	59	17.21
Briggs	615.4	194	1191	68	17.35
Peel	575.2	225	1017	56	18.9
Bland	581.3	184	1397	71	19.48
Mr F G Bull	458.1	112	1191	60	19.51
Woodcock	345.2	94	838	42	19.38
Attewell	536.3	251	866	43	20.6
Haigh	460.3	153	1014	50	20.14
Davidson	558.4	225	1025	50	20.25
Hirst	558.1	219	1076	50	21.26
Wainwright	567.1	194	1190	55	21.35

OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE

The sides for to-day at Lord's, which are generally thought to be pretty well matched, are printed below. Play begins this morning at 12, but at 11.30 on subsequent days, and stumps will be drawn each evening at 7 o'clock.

Oxford.- *G R Bardswell (Uppingham and Oriel) (capt), *J C Hartley (Tonbridge and Brasenose), *F H E Cunliffe (Eton and New College), *P S Waddy (Parramatta and Balliol), G Bromley-Martin (Eton and New College), A Eccles (Repton and Trinity), F H B Champain (Cheltenham and Hertford), F L Fane (Charterhouse and Magdalen), E C Wright (Clergy Orphan School, Canterbury, and Keble), R W Fox (Wellington and Hertford), R E Foster (Malvern and University).

Cambridge.- *N F Druce (Marylebone and Trinity) (capt), *C E M Wilson (Uppingham and Trinity), *H H Marriott (Malvern and Clare), *C J Burnup (Malvern and Clare), *E H Bray (Charterhouse and Trinity), *G L Jessop (private and Christ's), *F Mitchell (St Peter's, York, and Cairns), *E B Shine (private and Selwyn), H W de Zoete (Eton and Trinity), J H Stogdon (Harrow and Trinity), A E Fernie (Wellingborough and Clare).

*Played last year at Lord's.

5 July: DERBYSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4816.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 July, page 14)

In the opening of their match with Notts yesterday at Derby the home county gave a highly creditable display of batting. Winning the toss and going in first on an excellent wicket, Derbyshire made admirable use of their opportunity, staying in the whole of the time cricket was practicable and scoring 294 runs for the loss of seven wickets. Late in the afternoon there were two interruptions from rain and the game was only in progress for three hours and three-quarters.

The match is being set apart as a benefit for George Davidson, who has been a regular member of the Derbyshire eleven since 1886 and is probably the best all-round cricketer the county has produced.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 July, page 14)

Owing in a very large measure to the superb batting of William Gunn, who, for the third time this season in important cricket, scored over 100 runs, the Notts eleven had the best of yesterday's play at Derby.

After Derbyshire, who had scored 294 for seven wickets on Monday, had completed their innings for 338, Notts, going in shortly after 1 o'clock, stayed at the wickets for the remainder of the day and made 250 for the loss of four wickets. Under any circumstances this would have been a meritorious performance, but it was all the more notable as the first three wickets fell for 46 runs. At that point a resolute stand was made by Gunn and Mr J A Dixon, the two men playing so well together as to add 129 runs in two hours and ten minutes.

After the Notts captain left, with a finely played 59 to his credit, Dench also rendered Gunn valuable assistance, and in the last 65 minutes 75 runs were put on without another wicket going down, and Gunn, who went in first wicket down at 21, was not out 113 at the close, having been batting for three hours and forty minutes. During that time his play was of a highly skilful and masterly description, his command over the ball being so perfect that nothing like a bad stroke marred his performance. With six wickets in hand Notts are now only 88 runs short of their opponents' score.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 July, page 12)

The match at Derby yesterday ended in a draw. On Tuesday Notts, going in against a total of 338, scored 250 for four wickets, and yesterday they increased their total to 348, their innings not coming to a conclusion until nearly 3 o'clock.

As they could not have been afraid of suffering defeat, the Notts men might well have tried to force the game yesterday, but they played as cautiously as on the previous day, Gunn and Dench, the not-outs, taking over an hour and a half to add 46 runs. While they were together the two men scored 111, their partnership lasting two hours and a half. Gunn, who had gone in first wicket down at 21 and had scored 113, was eighth out at 315, for an excellent innings of 152. He was batting for five hours and 20 minutes, and during that long time he gave nothing like a chance. The chief figures of his innings were 14 fours, five threes and 22 twos.

Derbyshire started badly in their second innings, losing four wickets for 57, but the threatened breakdown was averted by Storer and Davidson, who added 62 in 50 minutes. Derbyshire were put out in two hours and 35 minutes for 156, and with the close of their innings, at 6 o'clock, stumps were finally drawn. As Notts with an innings to play only required 147 to win they had the best of the draw.

5 July: HAMPSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4817.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 July, page 14)

The two principal features in yesterday's cricket at Southampton were the admirable batting of Victor Barton and a fine bowling performance by Mr F S Jackson. So pleased were the spectators was Barton's excellent innings that over £21 was subscribed for him on the ground.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 July, page 14)

Some highly interesting play was witnessed yesterday at Southampton in this match, and after beginning the day rather badly Yorkshire finished with a decided advantage. Owing to some rain in the early morning the wicket for some time played rather queerly, and Yorkshire, who had lost Brown overnight for 15 runs, had three wickets down for 43.

Afterwards the fortunes of the northern county steadily improved, and some steady batting was shown by Moorhouse and Wainwright, the pair adding 112 runs for the fifth wicket in 85 minutes. Wainwright took out his bat for 118, an innings which was quite free from serious blemish. He was batting for two hours and 50 minutes, and hit 16 fours, four threes and six twos. The Hampshire total of 251 was passed with five wickets in hand, but Hill, going on to bowl for the third time, took four wickets in nine overs at a cost of only five runs.

Hampshire, who were 42 behind on the first innings, did rather badly at their second attempt, losing five of their best batsmen for 112 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 July, page 12)

A brilliant victory was gained by Yorkshire at Southampton yesterday, the northern eleven beating Hampshire by the substantial margin of ten wickets. Hampshire, who had lost five wickets overnight in the second innings for 112, were all got rid of for 179, the innings being finished off in 70 minutes.

Mr Jackson did another fine bowling performance, his full analysis being six wickets for 61 runs. In the match he obtained 12 wickets for 80 runs. Yorkshire were set 138 to get to win, and this number was actually obtained by Brown and Tunnicliffe.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4818.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 July, page 14)

As regards yesterday's cricket at Lord's it may at once be laid down that neither side did itself justice - that is, as regards batting - and the idea that it was going to be a keen and even match was undisturbed by the position of things last evening when Oxford, with two men in hand, were 26 runs behind.

When two such teams of many good batsmen are so cheaply got rid of it is natural to look for the reasons. Here were Cambridge getting out for 156 and Oxford losing eight men for 130. And the only thing to be said of yesterday's failures was that they were due to bad batting. The wicket was fast enough; and if the truth must be told the batsmen were invariably too slow for the ball, which came along very quickly.

The occasion has over and over again been too great for the cricketers in this match. The large crowd, the friends of the sides and the conditions of the match generally have made many a cricketer fail in this game in other years. Perhaps the two best things were the 41 by Norman Druce, the Cambridge captain, and the 27 by R E Foster. Cunliffe, of Oxford, bowled extremely well, and his left hand, almost more than medium pace, with its nice length, rather contrasted with the great pace of Jessop, who kept his bowling pretty short and ostensibly went for catches.

Taken altogether in this even day's scoring the batsmen were never at home with the bowling, and the defence on either side was certainly disappointing. The condition of the game is so even, however, that the original forecast as to its being anybody's match still holds good.

One of the best things of yesterday was the excellent fielding, and in this merit both sides equally shared; in fact, in no other University match were the bowlers backed up by better fielding than they were on this occasion. Short running was an ailment - it can be called nothing else - that troubled both teams and, considering the splendid return, it was a wonder that several other batsmen were not run out.

Yesterday the weather varied between sunshine and dullness; but although the wind came from the west and north and there was a falling glass, no rain fell, and the brilliant company, some 20,000 strong, followed the cricket with keen interest. The practice ground, with its many tents, Knatchbull's corner and other places furnished every facility for luncheon gatherings, and the Oxford v Cambridge promenade during the afternoon was thoroughly typical of the traditions of the University match. As usual, the Four-in-Hand and the Coaching Clubs occupied respectively the north-west and south-west ends of the ground.

The Cambridge men began their innings shortly after mid-day in a manner that seemed unlucky, for in Mr Cunliffe's first over, after Mitchell had scored a single, Burnup was clean bowled by a "yorker." He had failed to score; but maybe his sight of the ball had been interfered with by the members in the pavilion, who were constantly moving - he had refused to play the previous ball on this account. This shifting of members is an old grievance with batsmen, for the bowler's arm is constantly being lost amid the black coats and hats of the pavilion spectators.

One run and one wicket was not a happy beginning for the Light Blues; but worse was to follow. Marriott, who had joined Mitchell, was called for a stroke of his own through the slips. The ball went slowly to short slip, who returned it to the non-striker's end. Meanwhile Mitchell fell halfway up the pitch and Marriott returned to his wicket. Mitchell strove to get back but was out by yards. It was never a run and it was a bad blunder on the part of Mitchell ever to have started for such a run, and he had only himself to blame.

Two of the Cambridge men were out for 12, and then with only 13 added there was a clever catch at the wicket that got out Marriott. Three for 25 placed the Cambridge men in a worse position than ever. The advent of Jessop, who has established something of a reputation as a hitter at Cambridge, was anxiety awaited. But he came and went and the result of his

batting was insignificant. He made a "flukey" four from Cunliffe and was completely beaten and bowled in the next over by Hartley. He seemed quite lost with the ball, which struck the off stump; and the score was only 30.

Wilson and Norman Druce faced this bad position, but the former did none too well to call his captain for a sharp run at this stage, and then, from Cunliffe, he gave a sharp chance to Bardswell's left hand at short slip. Cunliffe's left-hand bowling was very good, and was supported by splendid fielding. Norman Druce got rather a lucky four through the slips, and then the batting steadied itself. Wilson, however, seemed a bad judge of a run, and in going for a single he again risked his captain's wicket.

At the end of 50 minutes the 50 was reached. The Oxford fielding continued good and Cunliffe seemed to trouble Wilson. The short-running propensity of the Cambridge men gave their friends constant anxiety. One of the best strokes of the match - there were not many up to this point - was made by Wilson, who cut one of Hartley's slows very late for four. Bardswell thought it necessary to change his bowling at 66 and put on Waddy, who is rather fast, for Hartley. Norman Druce, whose early game seemed rather affected by the lamentable start of his side, gradually got his stroke, and there was one beautiful hit on the leg side by him; previously he had missed several easy balls from Hartley on the leg side.

The game proceeded quietly enough. There was another change in the bowling, Wright, who has a slower place than Cunliffe, going on at the pavilion end. But the batting never had the bowling in hand, and it was not surprising when, at 75, Wilson was apparently easily caught at the wicket off Waddy. This partnership had lasted some 50 minutes and had yielded 45 runs.

Stogdon, one of the three new Blues, started very badly and made two strokes that fell just in front of Bardswell at short slip. Norman Druce seemed well in now, and he made a beautiful on-drive that was in every way worthy of him, and another cut, for both of which hits he secured a four. But just when he seemed going well he skied a ball a great height and was caught by point at 91. He had made a courageous effort to rescue his side from their bad position, and his cricket was not lost on the Oxford men, who were the first to applaud him as he retired to the pavilion.

When Bray came in Bardswell at once had Cunliffe on again for Wright at the pavilion end, while Hartley had another trial for Waddy. Still, no further disaster befell Cambridge before luncheon, when Oxford, with the score of their opponents at 105 for six, had no reason to feel dissatisfied with the position of the game.

When the game resumed just before 3 o'clock Cunliffe and Hartley were again the bowlers. Two more wickets fell quickly. Stogdon, who made one hard off-drive and looked like going strongly, was well caught low down at mid-off, and Bray was bowled, eight of the side being lost for 122. De Zoete could do nothing with Hartley, by whom he was quickly bowled, the ninth wicket falling at 135. Fernie and Shine scraped together a few for the last partnership. They were not always quite certain of the destination of the ball which they had struck, and at last Shine hit one straight back to Cunliffe, who struck it up and mid-on made the catch. The Cambridge innings was all over soon after half-past 3 for 156.

Oxford certainly dampened the enthusiasm of their friends by their start, for Champain was bowled out by a splendid ball from Jessop in the first over of the innings. Jessop bowled at a great pace from the pavilion end and, keeping a little short, Bray at wicket stood a great distance back for him. Fane, who had gone in first with Champain and now had Bromley-Martin for a partner, made two fine fours, a cut and a drive, from Wilson; but at 13 he just touched a short ball from Jessop and was caught by the wicket-keeper. He might before have been caught by the wicket-keeper at short slip.

Two wickets lost so cheaply was as bad a beginning as that of Cambridge. R E Foster has the same easy style as his brother H K, and he began with a fine cut for two, and he continued to put plenty of strength into his stroke. Jessop maintained a great pace; but Foster in brilliant style drove him three times for four in one over. However, soon afterwards he skied a kicking ball back to the bowler. His 27 was up to this point the best piece of batting, so far as class went, in the match.

Three of the side had now gone for 47, and Eccles left very quickly, for he was bowled off his legs, the fourth wicket going down at 54. Bardswell and Bromley-Martin plodded away quietly, and at 67 Norman Druce changed his bowling at both ends. Shine, made notorious by last year's "incident," went on for Jessop, and Fernie's slows were tried at the other end. Bromley-Martin, who had played nothing like his game and had been in 75 minutes for 14, in attempting to hit was caught at mid-off. Bardswell strove to force the game and made some good hits - in fact, his 35 was an excellent innings and was closed by an easy catch at cover-point, the sixth wicket falling at 98, which was just a slightly better record than that of Cambridge when their sixth wicket went.

With Waddy and Hartley together the former had a nice long hop to hit, which sent up the 100 as a quarter to 6. Jessop came on again at this stage and got Waddy finely caught at slip, where Mitchell took the ball high up with his right hand. Another good catch at third man dismissed Wright; but after eight men had gone for 113 Cunliffe and Hartley played out time, Oxford at the finish being 26 behind with two wickets to fall. Stumps were drawn at half-past 6; but as a rule in the University match the hour for ending play has been 7 o'clock.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 July, page 14)

The Cambridge eleven on the second day of the University match yesterday fought their way to a position that commands success, for the Oxford side can hardly be expected to repeat their feat of last summer and make a good many more than 300 in the fourth innings. There are two things especially that must weigh heavily against such a proposition - the batting is not as good as it then was and the wicket is not of the same excellence. The actual state of the game is that Oxford, with all ten wickets in hand, want 328 to win.

The match went through many varying phases. There was the stand of over 100 for the second wicket by Burnup and Marriott, the dismissal of three men for 114, then a fine exhibition of batting by Jessop, followed by a bad turn for Cambridge, who, with seven men out for 191, left it anybody's game. But the steadiness of Wilson and the slogging of Shine, who chose the right moment for having a "go" at everything, completely turned the fortunes of the day and made Cambridge's prospect of victory extremely bright.

With the exception of 45 minutes the cricketing hours were absorbed by the Cambridge second innings, and the batting was far better than on Monday. But even yesterday the men who did get runs were often in difficulties, especially to Hartley, who seemed to find a spot to pitch on. The Cambridge runs were well distributed among the side; but the batsmen varied much in style. Marriott got a proportion of his runs by powerful and finished cricket; Burnup cut well but was not so free as usual; Jessop was a typical hitter of the C I Thornton class; Shine played good, vigorous cricket; and then, perhaps, the best and most skilled batting was shown by Wilson, who, going in at a time when things were not particularly promising, kept the side together by his steady play. Indeed, to the young Yorkshire amateur belonged the chief honours of the innings, both numerically and in point of form.

Cambridge had to fight hard for their runs against the good bowling of Oxford. Cunliffe, with his left-hand medium pace, bowled splendidly, whether from the pavilion or the nursery end; and how hard he worked will be gathered from the analysis. He took six wickets and brought his record for the match to ten for 159, while Jessop for Cambridge also came off well.

Speaking of the bowling, an old University cricketer made the suggestion that this should be dubbed the "no-ball" match. The umpires were constantly pulling bowlers up for going over the crease or getting outside the return crease, and although there were a good many of these no-balls hit, no fewer than 24 were left to go down on the score sheet. The cause of all this no-ball business can be easily traced to the lack of care of the umpires in the early trial matches at Oxford and Cambridge, in which the bowlers, going unchecked, acquire the bad habit of getting over.

The condition of the wicket was unchanged from Monday; it was fast and generally true, but the ball now and again would pop about. Cambridge have redeemed their good name, injured by Monday's feebleness, and it has now to be seen whether Oxford will follow suit. The weather yesterday was very pleasant and bright, and Lord's Ground, with the 20,000 people it contained, presented the attracted scene so familiar in Oxford and Cambridge cricket.

The balance of the Oxford innings was not productive of any very startling cricket. Hartley and Cunliffe scored steadily and there were many snicks. The Cambridge score was at last equalled and the partnership in all yielded 47 runs. Hartley then had his leg stump knocked down and, Fox doing nothing, the innings was completed for 162. It had taken rather more than half an hour to raise the overnight score of 130 for eight wickets to this total, and the difference between the innings was only six runs.

Less difficulty than usual was experienced in clearing the ground, and the interval between the innings was of only about 20 minutes' duration. Frank Mitchell and Burnup began the second spell of Cambridge batting; but against Cunliffe and Hartley they started in very feeble fashion. Hartley's slows were badly played by both men. The umpires were pretty severe on the bowlers, and it was chiefly by no-balls and leg-byes that the score reached 11. Then Cambridge's first ill-fortune occurred, for Mitchell, in attempting to hit, misjudged a rising ball which went off the wicket-keeper's gloves into the hands of short slip.

Marriott came next; but the bowling was still very puzzling and both men were constantly "stuck up." In addition to this Oxford gave nothing away in fielding, for the ball was cleanly picked up and returned with great accuracy. One exception should be made in regard to this general criticism, for Champain, who, as a rule, is a very fine cover-point, let a ball pass, giving the other side two runs. There were more no-balls; and the cricket was still uneventful. Hartley made the ball get up awkwardly, and in one instance Marriott had rather a nasty hit on the right arm. Now and again there was a good stroke, notably a cut for four by Burnup and a square-leg hit for four by Marriott.

Bardswell then had Waddy on for Hartley. The batting about this time changed materially for the better. There were a couple of fine boundary drives by Marriott, and the 50 went up just outside three-quarters of an hour. Wright had a turn at the other end; but both Burnup and Marriott were now going strongly and the driving was particularly good. Bardswell went on himself to bowl at 74 and had Hartley back at the other end. This change certainly had the effect of checking the rate of scoring. A ball from Bardswell flew up off Burnup's glove and Waddy, running from short-slip, made a praiseworthy effort to bring off the catch. Cunliffe and Waddy bowled again before luncheon, but the batsmen exercised much care, no doubt with the object of having another spell at the wicket in the afternoon. The score was raised to 92 before the interval, and this placed Cambridge in a very favourable position.

Bardswell completely changed his plan of attack after luncheon, by putting on Wright at the pavilion end and giving Cunliffe his first chance at the nursery. The change met with success, for with 22 added Marriott and Druce were easily caught in one over from Cunliffe, and the game assumed a fresh complexion. While 100 had gone up with only one man out, three were gone for 114. The Marriott and Burnup stand, lasting about an hour and a half, had yielded 103 runs. Marriott's figures included seven fours. Druce's quick dismissal was a great disappointment.

Jessop did not disappoint the company, who always expected something vigorous from him. He treated them to a quarter of an hour's great hitting, the like of which has not been seen at Lord's this season. In the brief time mentioned he scored 42 out of 51 for the fourth wicket. He made some beautiful drives; three times the ball pitched into the pavilion and twice into the enclosures, while, in all, he scored nine fours, two twos and two singles. Bardswell tried all sorts of bowling changes. An over of Hartley's slows at the pavilion end yielded 13 runs; and from one of Waddy's Jessop scored 14. The bowling was being altered each over; but when Cunliffe went back to his original end Jessop was cleverly caught by cover-point. It was a bad stroke at the last, but men who force the game at this rate must expect these mishaps.

The game now resumed its former plodding state. Cambridge did none too well. Burnup sent a half-volley into the hands of extra mid-off for a steady 58, and without alteration Cunliffe, who had once more returned to the nursery end, also got out Stogdon, whose leg stump he bowled down. Both these wickets fell at 172, and another would have gone at the same total had Bardswell held a catch at short-slip from Bray. But Bray did not give much trouble, as the wicket-keeper soon caught him and the seven wickets fell at 191.

Very steady play by Wilson and a little vigour by de Zoete again helped Cambridge into the stronger position. These men, in spite of many bowling changes, stayed together three-quarters of an hour and added 54 runs. Then came Shine, who showed no mercy to any of the bowlers, and when at last he was caught at extra mid-off 72 had been added in 40 minutes. Of this number his share was 45. The ninth wicket fell at 317; and the Cambridge position was still further strengthened by the tenth partnership. Wilson played a thoroughly sound game to the end, Fernie simply keeping up the other wicket. The former was at the wickets about two hours and a half, and in his 77 were ten fours, three threes and six twos.

Cambridge had Oxford in for a couple of overs in the declining light; but Bardswell and Fane successfully defended their wickets and scored three of the 331 required by Oxford to win.

Play will be continued this morning at 11.30.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 July, page 12)

There is always a great satisfaction in cricket in recording the victory of the better side, and the fact that Cambridge beat Oxford at Lord's yesterday afternoon by 179 runs was not only gratifying to Cambridge men, but also to those disinterested spectators of the whole three days' play who had followed the game closely. Cambridge, after a bad batting failure in the first innings, of which their opponents were incapable of taking advantage, outplayed the Oxford team, whose complete discomfiture in the last spell at the wickets was the result of bad batting on their own side, with pretty good bowling and very accurate fielding on the other.

To Oxford men yesterday's display by the Dark Blues was made the more painful by the memories of the remarkable achievement of last year's eleven. Few experience this year's side to repeat their predecessor's feat; but most people expected something more than they got. The form of the trials, however, was illusory. Oxford completely failed through weak batting on a wicket the condition of which furnished not the slightest excuse for a bad performance. Jessop's great pace and rather short bowling could get only one man out; but the better length of Shine and the moderate pace of de Zoete wrought the discomfiture of the Dark Blues.

The company yesterday had scarcely ceased talking of the Cambridge batting triumphs of Tuesday, when the match was virtually lost to Oxford. Perhaps the most disappointing failures in batting on the third day were those of Champain, Bromley-Martin and Foster. Oxford had one good chance of winning the match, and that was when they were rid of Cambridge on the first day for 156; but their own feebleness quickly dispossessed them of the opportunity.

The various meetings of Oxford and Cambridge are often remembered by some individual feat or incident. Although there was a lot of fine batting for Cambridge on Tuesday, and Cunliffe, of Oxford, demonstrated his right to be called the best bowler of the match, the University game of 1897 will most likely go down to posterity as the "no-ball" match. The weather yesterday was fine and the company, if much smaller than on the preceding days, ran to well over 10,000.

There is no necessity to dwell at any length on the Oxford second innings. The Dark Blues had gone in overnight to get 331 to win, and Bardswell and Fane had made three without the loss of a wicket. For three-quarters of an hour the Oxford captain and Fane batted so well there seemed at least a prospect of a responsible score. Both men made many good strokes, and Jessop and Wilson, the bowlers, gave way to Shine and de Zoete. Then, with Fane easily caught at slip, the batting degenerated and became very dull. The first wicket fell at 48

and Bardswell left at 49. Bromley-Martin, who had done so well in the trials, made a very bad show; and the same remark applied to Foster and Champain.

Six men were out for 91, and the moderate efforts of Eccles, Waddy, Hartley, Wright and Cunliffe never occasioned the slightest anxiety to Cambridge. By 20 minutes to 4 Mr Norman Druce was able to lead his Cambridge men back to the pavilion with an easy victory to their credit.

[Note: a list of results of Oxford v Cambridge matches follows.]

Sixty-three matches have been played. Cambridge have won 32, Oxford 29 and three have been left drawn.

5 July: WARWICKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4819.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 July, page 14)

Unfortunately for Henry Pallett, the well-known Warwickshire bowler, for whom this match had been set apart as a benefit, the weather at Birmingham yesterday was cold and threatening, and as a consequence the attendance was materially affected, the company on the Edgbaston ground not exceeding 2,000. Pallett has for many years rendered Warwickshire valuable service as a bowler, and in company with Shilton, the left-hander, had a very large share in raising the county to the front rank.

The day's play was mainly occupied by the first innings of Lancashire, who stayed at the wickets for four hours and 20 minutes and put together the highly creditable total of 292. Warwickshire had 50 minutes' batting at the close and did very well, scoring 34 runs without the loss of a wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 July, page 14)

A capital day's cricket was witnessed at Birmingham yesterday, the Warwickshire eleven, by some consistently good batting, fully holding their own with their powerful opponents. There is thus every prospect of an interesting finish to the match to-day, Lancashire, with eight wickets in hand, being 53 runs on.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 July, page 12)

At Birmingham yesterday, Tyldesley, the Lancashire professional, accomplished the exceptional feat of making two separate hundreds in the same match. On Monday he made 106 and yesterday obtained 100, not out.

The northern eleven, who had lost two wickets overnight for 66, had seven men out for 149. At that point, however, Tyldesley, who had gone in fourth wicket down at 90, was joined by Cuttell, and in an hour and 20 minutes the pair added 87 runs. Mr Hornby stayed [?] until the total was 276, and then with a wicket to fall he declared the innings at an end. Tyldesley was batting for two hours and 50 minutes. His chief hits were nine fours, seven threes and ten twos.

A little over two hours and a half remained for play when Warwickshire went in a second time with 264 to get to win, and they drew the match, scoring 154 runs for three wickets.

Several prominent members of the Surrey eleven were engaged yesterday in a match at Eastbourne for Mr John Watt's eleven against New College, Eastbourne. Going in first, the college scored 144, H Bryan playing well for 50, but against this Mr Watt's eleven made 150 for seven wickets, and so won easily.

George Lohmann, the famous Surrey professional, appeared on the cricket field for the first time since his return from South Africa and, in addition to taking two wickets, played remarkably well for 85. His innings was the more noteworthy as he had not till yesterday had a bat in his hand this season.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The competition now stands as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Nottinghamshire	8	1	0	7	1	1
Yorkshire	13	8	1	4	7	.7
Lancashire	13	8	1	4	7	.7
Essex	8	3	1	4	2	.5
Surrey	14	8	3	3	5	.45
Gloucestershire	7	3	2	2	1	.2
Sussex	7	2	2	3	0	
Warwickshire	10	1	2	7	-1	
Kent	8	1	3	4	-2	
Somerset	6	1	4	1	-3	
Middlesex	8	0	3	5	-3	
Hampshire	6	0	4	2	-4	
Leicestershire	6	0	5	1	-5	
Derbyshire	8	0	5	3	-5	

GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

The Marylebone Committee, apart from one disappointment which every one will regret - Mr Norman Druce, the Cambridge captain, was unable to accept the invitation extended to him - have secured two splendid sides for the great test match which begins next Monday at Lord's. The names are . . .

8 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4820.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 July, page 8)

Of recent years the Surrey executive have been very unfortunate in not being able to get representative elevens for this match, and yesterday was no exception, for although the Players put a very strong team into the field the Gentlemen's side was decidedly weak. This was all the more to be regretted as the majority of the counties had no engagements to fulfil. Only seven of the two elevens took part in this fixture last year - namely, Dr Grace and Mr Townsend for the Gentlemen and Abel, Richardson, Hayward, Hearne and Carpenter for the professionals.

The chief feature of the day's cricket was the batting of Mr Champain, who made 82, and during his stay at the wicket, which lasted two hours, he hit one five, ten fours, three threes and six twos. He seemed rather nervous at the commencement but on settling down played very pretty cricket, making most of his runs on the off-side. His innings was only marred by one chance to Quaife at cover-point when he had made 17.

Dr Grace, Mr Hill and Mr Milligan also batted well. Dr Grace played in quite his old form, not making a bad stroke until his dismissal. It was Mr Milligan's first appearance in a representative match, and he justified his selection by compiling a hard-hit 47, which included eight fours. Mr Hill was at the wickets for an hour and a half for his 50, and hit one six (two for an overthrow), five fours, three threes and two twos. Peel did a fine bowling performance, considering the score, by taking five wickets for 46.

Dr Grace was fortunate in winning the toss, and started batting with Mr Warner ay five minutes past 12. Runs came really fast at the commencement, the Gloucestershire captain making 32 out of the first 33; and 50 went up after half an hour's play. But with the total at 56 Mr Warner was caught at the wicket and Dr Grace taken in the slips by Hearne for 41, which took him as many minutes to make. At this period Captain Wynyard and Mr Champain became partners and put on 74 for the next wicket, when Captain Wynyard was dismissed for a very steady 33. The total was then taken to 142 without further loss, when the players went to lunch.

After the interval Mr M'Gahey and Mr Townsend were soon dismissed. Mr Champain, however, who was 52 not out before the adjournment, added 30 to his score before he was bowled by Hearne in attempting to place the ball to leg. Mr Hill and Mr Milligan then got together, and theirs proved the longest stand on the innings, for they treated the bowlers with scant courtesy and put on 93 in an hour. Mr Milligan hit Richardson for three consecutive fours in an over, but the professional had his revenge as Mr Milligan was caught at the wicket off the next ball. Mr Hill did not long survive him, but was given out to a catch at wicket. The innings eventually closed at 5 o'clock for 284.

The professionals on going in made rather a disastrous start as Carpenter played on in the first over. Abel and Hayward then took the score to 49, when the former was well caught at deep square-leg by Mr Milligan. Quaife joined Hayward, and the total was taken to 77 without further loss when play ceased for the day. The Players are now 207 behind with eight wickets still in hand. There were between 7,000 and 8,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 July, page 16)

At the close of Thursday the Gentlemen had completed an innings and the Players had lost two wickets for 77. When the game was continued yesterday at the Oval the Players gave a very good exhibition of batting against the weak bowling opposed to them. They succeeded in passing their opponents' total for the loss of five batsmen, and were not all dismissed until they had made 431, for which they were in five hours and a half.

This big score was in a great measure due to four men - Baker, Hayward, Wainwright and Hirst - who between them made 296. The best display was that by Hayward, who occupied just over

two hours and a half for his 73, and hit seven fours, five threes and four twos. He played very attracted cricket and made no mistake until he had scored 71, when Mr Kitcat missed him badly off Dr Grace's bowling. Baker, when once he had settled down, gave a vigorous exhibition, and towards the end of his innings caused some excitement but hitting Dr Grace twice in succession on to the roof of the covered stands. But he eventually paid the penalty for his rashness by being well caught in the long field by Mr Kitcat, who had previously missed him from a difficult chance. His hard-hit innings, which had taken him an hour and 50 minutes, included 13 fours, three threes and four twos.

Both Wainwright and Hirst batted well. Wainwright hit eight fours, three threes and four twos, while Hirst's 65 included ten fours, one three and five twos. Of the others Quaife fully justified his selection by giving a finished display for 44 without the semblance of a chance.

The Gentlemen went in a second time at 5 o'clock having to make 147 to save a single innings defeat. They did not start well, as Dr Grace and Mr Warner were soon dismissed. With the total was Mr Champain played on to Hearne, while at 62 both Captain Wynyard and Mr Townsend left. The score was then taken to 80 without further loss, so that with five wickets still in hand they are 67 runs behind. The attendance was considerably smaller than on Thursday, as there were only about 5,000 spectators.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 July, page 7)

The Players beat the Gentlemen at the Oval on Saturday by eight wickets, thus reversing the decision of last year, when the Gentlemen won by one wicket after a very exciting finish. At the close of the first day's play the game was in a fairly even position, for the Gentlemen had scored 284 and the Players had lost two wickets for 77. But on continuing their innings on Friday they punished the weak bowling opposed to them and put together the big total of 431.

From this point it simply became a question as to what they would win by. The Gentlemen overnight had lost four wickets for 80, so that when the game was resumed they still required 67 to save a single-innings defeat. At one time it looked very doubtful whether this task would be accomplished, for eight men were out for 100. But at this point Mr Milligan and Mr Newton became partners and added 68 in three-quarters of an hour. Mr Milligan again batted very well, and hit hard-hit 47, which took him as many minutes to make, included nine fours and two threes. The Gentlemen's failure was in a great measure due to their inability to play Wainwright, as the wicket gave the bowlers very little assistance; in fact, it played nearly as well at the finish as at the start.

The Players went in a second time with 30 to make to win. This task they accomplished for the loss of two batsmen, Hirst making the winning hit just before half-past 1. Richardson, who had started the innings with Peel, obtained the first 27 runs. Very little interest was shown in the finish.

8 July: SUSSEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4821.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 July, page 8)

Sussex did extremely well in their match with Notts yesterday at Hastings, for they finished with five wickets in hand and eight runs ahead on the innings. It was not a good pitch.

Notts went in first and Bland's fast, short bowling and the better length of Tate prevailed to such an extent that Notts were all out for 146. Mr O A Jones went in fourth wicket down at 59 and was ninth to leave at 141 for a good 58, in which were eight fours and eight twos.

Sussex lost three men for 25; but Mr Murdoch, Mr Newham and Bean all played so well that the home side secured the better position before the drawing of stumps. There was a large attendance and the weather was fine.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 July, page 16)

A singularly interesting day's cricket was witnessed yesterday at Hastings, the fortunes of the game varying from time to time in quite a surprising manner. The Sussex men, who overnight had scored 154 for five wickets in reply to a total of 146, quite failed to follow up the advantage they had gained, the five outstanding wickets going down in three-quarters of an hour for 36 runs. Bean increased his overnight score of 50 to 69 and played very bright cricket, his score including no fewer than 13 fours. Guttridge was mainly responsible for the cheap dismissal of the Sussex batsmen, taking four wickets yesterday morning for 14 runs.

On going in a second time Notts did quite as badly as their opponents, losing four of their first batsmen for 53. From that point, however, a great change came over the game, Attewell, Dixon and Dench all playing finely for their side. Attewell and Dixon put on 75 for the fifth wicket, and then came the invaluable stand by Dixon and Dench, the two men adding 103 runs for the sixth partnership. Dixon, who made 80, batted with fine judgment for two hours and a quarter, and hit 11 fours, one three and seven twos, while Dench, who played equally fine cricket for 55, hit eight fours, three threes and four twos.

In the end the Notts total reached 268 and Sussex were left with 225 to get to win. At the drawing of stumps they had scored 67 of the number for the loss of two wickets, Ranjitsinhji obtaining 46 not out by brilliant cricket. With eight wickets in hand Sussex require 158, and there is thus every prospect of an interesting finish to the game to-day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 July, page 7)

At Hastings, on Saturday, the Nottingham eleven gained a victory over Sussex by 69 runs. The game had been left overnight in an interesting position, Sussex, who wanted 225 runs to win, having scored 67 for the loss of two wickets. Thus with eight wickets in hand they required 158, and with Ranjitsinhji still in the game seemed quite open. However, the wicket played none too well, the ball flying about awkwardly, and against Guttridge and Attewell the Sussex batsmen did rather badly, the eight wickets going down in an hour and 40 minutes for the addition of 88 runs.

Ranjitsinhji and Murdoch, who had become partners overnight at 25, took the score to 87, and after they were separated the two Notts bowlers carried all before them. Ranjitsinhji was fifth out at 99, having played an excellent innings of 57, the chief hits of which were 11 fours, a three and three twos. Guttridge, who, it will be remembered, formerly played for Sussex, again bowled very finely, dismissing six batsmen, and in the whole match he had the fine record of 12 wickets for 140 runs. Attewell also bowled with excellent judgment, taking four wickets for 48 runs.

8 July: WARWICKSHIRE v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4822.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 July, page 8)

After a well-earned rest in the early part of the week the Philadelphians continued their tour yesterday, when they met Warwickshire at Edgbaston. The visitors, who were without Ralston, their wicket-keeper, had to field first and on a good wicket, and did very well to dispose of the county for 296, King taking five wickets.

Mr H W Bainbridge and W G Quaife were absent from the home side, the professional being engaged at the Oval. Thus room was found for Law, and he played the best innings of the day. During a stay of two hours he scored a faultless 72, in which were nine fours, a three and seven twos. Lilley, after a bad start, hit with much freedom, making 70 in less than a couple of hours, and among his figures were seven fours, three threes and seven twos. Mr J F Byrne and Mr R Williams showed good form for their runs.

The Philadelphians made a very fair start, scoring 79 for the loss of two wickets. Mr Patterson was soon dismissed, but Messrs Wood and Lester were seen to advantage. Lilley, owing to an injured hand, did not keep wicket, Diver taking his place.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 July, page 16)

At Birmingham, yesterday, the cricket was exceedingly interesting, first one and then the other side gaining an advantage before Warwickshire finally left off with the better position. The Philadelphians, who had lost two wickets overnight for 79 against the home score of 296, began badly and had six men out for 142. Mr Bohlen offered a stubborn resistance, and assisted by Cregar and Baily he put a much better complexion on the game, ultimately carrying out his bat for 56 when the innings closed for 269.

Against this Warwickshire made a disastrous start, and with eight wickets down for 93 looked to have much the worst of it, but, as Bohlen had done for the Americans, Santall offered a splendid stand and the total was raised to 201 before the last wicket fell. Pallett helped to put on 48 and Field 60 - Santall, who had bowled finely earlier in the day, taking out his bat for 44.

Left with 229 to make the Philadelphians speedily lost two wickets for 13, so that they have to make 216 to-day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 July, page 7)

Up to the match with Warwickshire which ended on Saturday, at Birmingham, the Philadelphians' solitary victory in a series of eight matches was that they obtained over Sussex in the middle of June. On Saturday, however, they played up splendidly against the Midland county, and though having the worst of the position when play was resumed, they fairly mastered the bowling and won by five wickets.

They had gone in overnight to make 229, and had lost two wickets in securing 13, so that they required 216. Cregar, the not-out, was joined by Lester, and the pair did so well that in the course of about an hour and a quarter they advanced the aggregate to 109, when the former was bowled for 57, in which he had hit a five and seven fours. Wood did not give much trouble, being caught in the slips at 136, but Lester continued batting finely until he played on at 154. He was at the wickets two hours without making a bad stroke, and his figures included five fours, six threes and six twos. This proved the last success the county bowlers met with, for when King and Bohlen became partners the necessary runs were hit off by a quarter to 4.

8 July: LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/129/129005.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 July, page 8)

Though they had all the bowlers who did so much towards gaining the victory over Oxford on the previous afternoon, Cambridge had to field all the time play was possible at Liverpool yesterday while 294 runs were scored against them for the loss of only two wickets. Mr C J Burnup and Mr E J Bray were the absentees.

For their splendid score the local side, which included Frank Sugg and Walter Sugg, the two well-known professionals, have chiefly to thank Mr C Holden. Going in first he scored 143 by fine, free cricket, and was still not out when rain came on at a quarter-past 5 and caused an early adjournment. Frank Sugg made 55 out of the first 90, hitting seven fours, a three and six twos, and Mr T Ainscough stayed while 140 were added. His 51 included seven fours, three threes and two twos. The free scoring by the local men was much appreciated by the fairly numerous company present.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 July, page 16)

The great feature of yesterday's cricket at Liverpool was the splendid batting of Mr N F Druce, the Cambridge captain, who gave an example of rapid hitting that can rarely have been surpassed.

Liverpool, who had scored 294 for two wickets when the rain stopped the proceedings on Thursday, finished off their innings yesterday for 399. Mr C Holden increased his not-out score of 143 to 172, an innings which greatly delighted his admirers. He hit vigorously and well throughout, making 23 fours, seven threes and 12 twos. Mr C E M Wilson, in such a long innings, bowled most successfully.

The start of the Cambridge innings gave little promise of what was to follow, four of the best wickets on the side going down for 88 runs. However, Mr Druce then hit the bowling to all parts of the field, and actually scored 163 in rather less than an hour and three-quarters. His first 50 were obtained in 40 minutes, and he completed his 100 in a few minutes under the hour. Though making his runs at a tremendous pace his innings was singularly free from fault, there being only one real chance that could be urged against him. The follow-on was averted while the last two batsmen were together, and the total in the end reached 290 or 109 to the bad.

Going in for about 35 minutes at the close of the afternoon, Liverpool lost two good wickets for 23, so that they are now 132 runs ahead with eight batsmen still to be got rid of.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 July, page 7)

After a very hard struggle at Liverpool on Saturday the Cambridge men succeeded in saving the game, but it was no near a thing that at the finish they had only one wicket in hand.

The Liverpool team did none too well in the morning and, but for an excellent stand by Barnes and King, might easily have been beaten. These two batsmen, however, at a critical point, added 87. Barnes, who played an excellent innings of 53, was in while 117 runs were put on and, except for one chance just before he was out, he made no mistake. His chief hits were five fours, two threes and six twos. Liverpool were put out for 172, Wilson taking eight wickets for 61 runs. Altogether in the match the Cambridge bowler obtained 13 for 98, and this on the hard ground was a wonderful performance.

Cambridge required 282 runs to win, but as only three hours and ten minutes remained for cricket, they had only a draw to play for. For a time things went well with them, Stogdon and Mitchell putting on 51 for the first wicket, and afterwards some fair batting was shown

by Marriott and Wilson. Towards the close, however, Barnes and Oakley bowled with success, and 20 minutes were left when the ninth wicket fell. Shine and Fernie kept up their wickets until the close, and this saved their side from defeat. At the finish Cambridge with a wicket to fall wanted 79 runs to win and, though the draw was all against them, they deserved every credit for their fine uphill fight.

Saturday 10 July, page 16: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS AT LORD'S

An alteration has been made in the Players' team for Monday at Lord's. Warwickshire having refused to let off Lilley for the match, the post of wicket-keeper has been given to Storer.

The competition now stands as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Nottinghamshire	9	2	0	7	2	1
Yorkshire	13	8	1	4	7	.7
Lancashire	13	8	1	4	7	.7
Essex	8	3	1	4	2	.5
Surrey	14	8	3	3	5	.45
Gloucestershire	7	3	2	2	1	.2
Sussex	8	2	3	3	-1	
Warwickshire	10	1	2	7	-1	
Kent	8	1	3	4	-2	
Somerset	6	1	4	1	-3	
Middlesex	8	0	3	5	-3	
Hampshire	6	0	4	2	-4	
Leicestershire	6	0	5	1	-5	
Derbyshire	8	0	5	3	-5	

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages up to the present are all printed below:-

BATTING

	No. of Innings	Most in an Times			Average
		Runs	Innings	not out	
Mr J A Dixon	13	797	268*	1	72.5
Mr N F Druce	12	726	227*	1	66
William Quaife	16	685	136*	4	57.1
K S Ranjitsinhji	25	1172	260	3	53.6
Abel	24	1218	250	1	53
Mr F G J Ford	14	632	150	1	48.8
Lord Hawke	12	393	91*	3	42.6
Gunn	16	643	152	1	42.13
Dench	13	426	75	3	42.6
Mr L C H Palairret	7	292	92	0	41.5
Mr J F Byrne	9	373	100	0	41.4
Mr A P Lucas	10	326	89	2	40.6
Mr F S Jackson	22	814	124	2	40.14
Wainwright	24	918	171	1	39.21
Baker	25	858	158	3	39.1
Mr C J Burnup	18	537	108	2	37.5
Mr H C Stewart	12	444	142	0	37
Hayward	23	810	130	1	36.18
Shrewsbury	14	440	83	2	36.8
Mr G Brann	21	726	128	1	36.6
Mr P Perrin	15	461	71*	2	35.6
Tyldesley	22	705	105	2	35.5
Mr H W Bainbridge	14	448	81	1	34.7
Mr G E Bromley-Martin	12	409	137	0	34.1
Dr W G Grace	17	510	79	2	34
Mr F H B Champain	20	637	97	1	33.10
Hirst	24	668	134	4	33.8
J T Brown	25	767	119	2	33.8
Albert Ward	23	709	182	2	33.7
Lilley	19	489	79*	4	32.9
Storer	25	782	160*	1	32.14
Chatterton	20	647	120	0	32.7
Carpenter	19	546	141	2	32.2
Mr P F Warner	25	753	176	1	31.9

Mr A J Webbe	17	435	74	3	31.1
Baldwin (Surrey)	22	643	103	1	30.13
Mr G L Jessop	17	489	140	1	30.9
Mr K J Key	22	549	110*	4	30.9
Tunnickliffe	24	635	96	3	30.5
Brockwell	22	663	131	0	30.9
Mr J R Mason	18	510	70	0	28.6
Mr H B Chinnery	22	560	149	1	26.14
Mr F L Fane	17	425	80	1	26.9
Mr W L Murdoch	23	585	105	1	26.13
Mr A Eccles	16	356	102	2	25.6
Mr H H Marriott	17	401	73	1	25.1
Mr C M'Gahey	20	472	94	1	24.16
Mr A E Stoddart	16	392	57	0	24.8
Mr H B Hayman	20	464	62	1	24.8
Mr W W Read	16	291	86*	4	24.3
Denton	25	593	112	0	23.18
Mr H G Owen	13	282	67	1	23.6
Attewell	18	419	102	0	23.5
Mr C P Foley	12	232	47	2	23.2
Mr A O Jones	13	299	75	0	23
Davidson	26	508	90*	3	22.2
Mr W Newham	20	414	107	1	21.15
Bean	23	453	77	2	21.12
Sir T C O'Brien	15	302	80	1	21.8
Moorhouse	24	491	91	1	21.8
F H Sugg	23	485	71	0	21.2
Alec Hearne	20	419	69	0	20.19
Mr S M J Woods	15	311	88	0	20.11

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr F W Stocks	145.4	57	281	24	11.17
Mr C E M Wilson	233	82	380	29	13.3
Trott	207.1	61	508	35	14.13
Mr G L Jessop	374.1	111	791	51	15.26
Richardson	806.4	237	1969	125	15.94
J T Hearne	1004.1	388	1948	119	16.44
Hallam	544.4	230	925	56	16.29
Mr F H E Cunliffe	396.3	131	860	52	16.28
Mr H W de Zoete	229	59	595	35	17
Mr E B Shine	245.2	76	567	33	17.6
Cuttell	434.1	169	811	47	17.12
Mold	556.4	185	1180	68	17.24
Mead	567.3	215	1024	59	17.21
Hayward	538.4	160	1260	72	17.38
Briggs	642.4	203	1247	69	18.5
Roberts	284.3	96	677	37	18.11
Peel	655.1	247	1180	64	18.28
Bland	651.2	205	1590	81	19.51
Mr F G Bull	458.1	112	1191	60	19.51
Woodcock	345.2	94	836	42	19.38
Attewell	659.4	300	1137	57	19.54
Davidson	620.4	257	1087	54	20.7
Mr F S Jackson	215.4	82	435	21	20.15
Haigh	494.3	166	1065	50	21.15
Wainwright	613.1	200	1313	60	21.53
Tate	708.4	229	1501	67	22.27
Hirst	632.1	287	1266	56	22.34
Tyler	322	80	859	36	23.31
Guttridge	290	80	723	30	24.3

Mr C L Townsend	322.1	44	1116	46	24.12
Martin	634.4	216	1259	48	26.11

12 June: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4823.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 July, page 12)

The crowd, which must have been about 15,000 strong, that gathered at Lord's yesterday to see the test match of the year between Gentlemen and Players, was favoured with [?] splendid conditions for the game and saw much cricket of the highest class.

Arthur Shrewsbury never played better than he did during his three and a half hours' stay at the wicket and, next to his 125, the best thing was Gunn's 59; but several of the other Players also contributed smaller scores by the exercise of much skill and so had a share in the building up of a total which placed the professionals in a position which in a three days' match almost secures them from defeat. Then near the drawing of stumps - it was a long day from 12 to 7 - there was a fine piece of hitting by Dr Grace. All this excellent batting, combined with much good fielding and bowling, made the cricket bright and attractive throughout.

The Marylebone executive had got together two splendid sides, and these were almost completely representative of the two classes of amateurs and professionals. There was, of course, the regret that Mr Norman Druce, the distinguished batsman and Cambridge captain, was unable to accept the invited to play, and one would also have liked to have seen that great bat, Mr L C H Palairet, among the Gentlemen. As regards the Players, the name most missed was that of Wainwright, who is in the best form this season that he has ever shown; but Yorkshire, with an important county match on, had done well to furnish two such cricketers as Mr F S Jackson and Hirst to the match. But if Gentlemen v Players is to preserve its prepared character the counties must learn either to give up any men required for the match or else arrange no fixtures for the same days. As if to balance Yorkshire's liberality Ranjitsinhji sacrificed his county, with whom Yorkshire were engaged at Sheffield.

Everyone expected that the side going in first on a perfectly true and very fast pitch would score heavily; and although the Gentlemen are stronger in bowling this summer than in some other seasons, it was not surprising that the Players' innings extended from about midday until just after 6 o'clock. Mr F G Bull, who has made such a name for himself in connexion with Essex cricket, bowling from the pavilion end, could not get his men out deep enough, and from Hayward and Gunn he experienced a very bad time, for these batsmen hit the ball over the fieldsmen's heads into either the enclosure or the pavilion.

After Hayward had gone Gunn, who usually keeps the ball all along the ground, made three lofty drives and a pretty leg hit for four each, scoring with another drive 19 in one over. Mr Cunliffe, who kept a fine length and got some work on the ball, bowled Gunn off his legs at 118 for 59, a much quicker innings than Gunn generally plays and one that included ten fours.

The great excellence of the rest of the innings belonged to Arthur Shrewsbury, whose best partners were Baker and Hirst, these men staying with him while 59 and 93 were added for the fourth and seventh wickets. Shrewsbury was ninth to leave at 332, when he was run out through a fine piece of fielding by Cunliffe, who threw the wicket down from mid-off when he had just stopped a hard drive with his right hand. The great Notts batsman's 125 was an innings thoroughly worthy of him; his correctness of style and powerful execution held the attention of the spectators the whole time that he was in. There were 19 fours, four threes and nine twos among his figures.

The Gentlemen fielded splendidly; Mr Cunliffe at mid-off was especially good, and the catches of Mr Bull, both when he caught Chatterton at long-off with the sun in his eyes and Hayward at mid-off from a hard drive, were even beaten by the way Mr Jessop secured Hirst ay extra mid-off and Dr Grace took Attewell with his right hand at point.

When the Gentlemen went in Dr Grace took to hitting and was very severe on Richardson, off whom he scored five fours; but he was easily caught at short slip at 41, which were made in

about 20 minutes. Mr Stoddart did not play Hearne very well and was eventually bowled out by Richardson. The Gentlemen certainly require the splendid batsmen left to them with the big up-hill task which they are left to fight.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 July, page 12)

The great match at Lord's is in a highly interesting condition if we remember the strength of the gentlemen's eleven as a batting side. The actual state of the game is that the Players are 295 on with one wicket left, a condition of things that was only reached last night after a keen and exciting day's cricket, but of not quite the same excellence as Monday possessed. Still, the spectators, of whom there were again about 15,000, were intent on the game itself, and showed a fine discrimination in their applause of the good points.

Early visitors to Lord's saw the best batting of the day, and the hour of Mr Dixon and Mr Mason was a thing not to be missed. Mr Dixon's powerful cut and drive and the brilliant play of Mr Mason on the off-side completely held the crowd for some 60 or 70 minutes; and these batsmen added in all 109 runs for the third wicket. Mr Dixon hit eight fours, but Mr Mason, who is one of the best Winchester cricketers playing, was in rather longer, and scored 12 fours.

Hayward's going on at the pavilion end turned out a very happy change by Shrewsbury - the Players' captain; he found one or two places in the wicket that helped him and he completely beat Ranjitsinhji, Mr Jackson and Mr Jessop. These successes of Hayward so changed the game that at half-past 1 the Gentlemen, who had had 150 up and only two men lost, were struggling keenly to save the follow-on. With seven of the side gone for 192 they still wanted 47 to prevent them from playing the third innings.

Mr Ford and Mr MacGregor rescued their team from the bad position, and in the course of three-quarters of an hour - their partnership extended into the after luncheon cricket - they put on 74 runs, and in the end the score ran to within 72 of that of the Players. Mr Ford made some beautiful drives in his not-out innings of 50, in which were six fours. The Players bowled and fielded admirably; Hayward's spell at the wickets was very successful, while Richardson, after the interval, took the last three wickets at a cost to himself of 13 runs.

At the beginning of the second innings the professionals did well. Abel, Hayward, Gunn and Baker all batted excellently, and with 150 up and only three men out the side seemed in for another big score. But then the character of the game changed and seven of the team were got rid of for 165. It was a splendid piece of work in the field by Mr Jessop, Mr Mason and Mr MacGregor that had brought about the running out of Hayward, and it was a particularly good ball that dismissed Gunn. Subsequently the batting deteriorated and the Players chiefly owed the final strength of their position to the sturdy game by Hirst, who hit very hard.

The Gentlemen, with one or two exceptions, again fielded brilliantly. Fine summer weather prevailed, but the wind blew with unpleasant strength from the east.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 July, page 12)

The Gentlemen were beaten at Lord's yesterday by 78 runs. Those who had knowledge that the wicket had worn rather badly were not unprepared for some such result, even from the position of the game on Tuesday night, to say nothing of the strengthening of the Players' score in the first half-hour yesterday morning, for in that time 56 runs were added for the last wicket, and the Gentlemen finally had to make 352 to win.

But the game was not over before several great things with the bat had been done. Dr W G Grace from his earliest days could always appreciate fast bowling, and yesterday the pace of the ground and the fast balls from Richardson and others made him appear at his best for more than an hour. In the power of his stroke or the nicety of his placing whether in the cut, the drive or the leg-hit the spectators had a glimpse of the W G Grace of old, and it

seemed to astonish the company that the champion could still run a single with all the zest of a young cricketer.

It may not be generally known that Dr Grace enters on his 50th year next Sunday. Unless he plays for Marylebone against the Philadelphians this day week he has probably finished his season on Lord's itself. And the manner in which he ended was thoroughly worthy of him, for in the course of 80 minutes he made his 66 from splendid bowling, and was then out to Richardson, who bowled him off his legs. There were 10 fours among his hits.

Previous to this Richardson and Hayward had got out Mr Stoddart, Mr Dixon, Mr Jackson and Ranjitsinhji. Richardson was very deadly and the strong wind behind him enabled him to get on increased pace and break. With six wickets down for 136 the Gentlemen seemed in for a very severe beating. But after luncheon there was a wonderful half-hour of Mr Jessop, who came down on the ball with tremendous power; he made hits over the ring and on to the top of the pavilion off Hayward. Indeed, he had regard for no bowler, and the result of all this fine hitting was that he had scored 67 out of 88 in 35 minutes when he "lofted" a ball to mid-off and was caught. It was a wonderful innings and included a five, eleven fours, a three and three twos.

Mr Jessop is perhaps the hardest hitter we have had since Mr C I Thornton's Cambridge days; an hour or half an hour of him would easily turn a game. Yesterday he did his best, when six men had gone, to save the match. While he was in attention for the time being was removed from Mr Ford; but afterwards this powerful player got back his own and, with neither Mr Cunliffe nor Mr Bull staying long, he took out his bat for 79, bringing his aggregate for the match to 129 not out. His game was marked as usual by beautiful forward play and his runs were mostly the work of driving all along the ground. He hit eight fours, a three and ten twos and was in about an hour and a half.

The match, which had been so full of excellence, came to an end about 10 minutes to 4, the aggregate of runs in the three days being 1,196. How quickly runs were made in the last innings may be gathered from the fact that the 273 were made in less than two hours and three-quarters. Richardson in the double innings took ten wickets for 218 runs. Attention should perhaps be called to the excellent batting in the morning, when Richardson and Hirst put on 56 for the last Players' wicket in 25 minutes. The Points thoroughly deserved their win, and it may also be said that this Gentlemen v Players furnished, as it should always do, some of the finest cricket of the season. The weather was again beautifully fine and the crowd amounted to about 10,000.

12 July: HAMPSHIRE v SOMERSET

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

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 July, page 12)

Somerset had the better of an interesting day's cricket at Portsmouth yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 July, page 12)

Generally at Portsmouth, yesterday, the bowlers maintained the upper hand, the ball flying about almost dangerously; and 20 wickets fell between 25 minutes to 12 and half-past 6.

A notable exception to the general batting failures was a fine display by Captain Wynyard and Victor Barton, the two men putting on 130 runs in rather more than an hour and a half for the fourth wicket in Hampshire's first innings. They had to contend against many difficulties, but surmounted them in wonderful fashion, scarcely a mistake being made. Captain Wynyard, in his 80, hit 12 fours, three threes and four twos, while Barton, who was such for Hampshire for the third time in succession, made 11 fours, three threes and five twos in his most admirable 81.

Though Somerset held a lead of 49 runs on the first innings, they were dismissed at the second attempt for 105, only Mr Palairet and Tyler doing at all well. Hampshire were left with 155 to get to win, and in the course of 35 minutes lost two good batsmen for 44. As the game stands at present, therefore, the southern county with eight wickets to go down want 111 more runs, and the finish looks like proving highly interesting. Delightful weather prevailed and some 3,000 people visited the ground.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 July, page 12)

After a very interesting finish yesterday, at Portsmouth, Hampshire gained a hard-earned victory over Somerset by three wickets, the result hanging in the balance up to within ten minutes of the last ball being bowled.

12 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4825.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 July, page 12)

Yesterday, at Leicester, the Warwickshire eleven gave a brilliant batting display, and had not finished their innings at the drawing of stumps.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 July, page 12)

Yesterday's cricket at Leicester went all in favour of the Warwickshire eleven, who now only need fine weather to achieve a victory. After finishing off their innings, in which seven wickets had fallen overnight for 733, for a total of 472, they put out Leicestershire in two hours and a half for the small score of 122, Pallett, who bowled unchanged with Santall, having the fine analysis of seven wickets for 67 runs.

Following on in a minority of 350, Leicestershire gave a much better display, and thanks to some capital batting by Knight, Mr Wood and King scored 158 for three wickets. They still, however, require 192 to avoid being beaten in a single innings.

Mr Glover, who had made 88 overnight for Warwickshire, yesterday had the satisfaction of raising his core to 115, this being his highest innings in a first-class match. He had some luck but he hit very well, his score including 15 fours.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 July, page 12)

Maintaining in fine style the strong lead they had obtained on Monday and Tuesday, The Warwickshire eleven, at Leicester yesterday, beat Leicestershire in brilliant and decisive fashion in a single innings with 57 runs to spare.

12 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v PHILADELPHIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4826.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 July, page 12)

Against a weak Notts team the Philadelphians scored heavily at Trent-bridge yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 July, page 12)

The Philadelphians, who on Monday at Nottingham had given an admirable display of batting, were yesterday seen to advantage in bowling and fielding, and they wound up the afternoon with every prospect of placing another victory to their credit. Their overnight score of 360 for six wickets was increased to 421 before the innings closed. Mr G S Patterson was the last man out for a remarkably fine 162 - the highest and best individual score yet obtained for the Philadelphians.

In facing such a big score, Notts, who were without their three best batsmen, had, of course, a severely uphill task, and though some highly creditable form was shown by Dench, Daft, Mason and A O Jones, the side were dismissed in three hours and three-quarters for 244. Having to follow on against a majority of 177, Notts lost two good batsmen for 25 runs, and thus with eight wickets to fall they still require 152 to avoid being beaten in a single innings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 July, page 12)

With the conditions favourable, the wicket being perfect and the weather gloriously fine at Trent-bridge yesterday, Notts saved their game against the Philadelphians in most creditable fashion. The match was drawn . . .

12 July: YORKSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4827.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 July, page 12)

J T Brown and Tunncliffe batted so well at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday, that, after a poor score by Sussex, they put their side 52 ahead, and with this lead Yorkshire have still all their ten wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 July, page 12)

A performance of altogether exceptional merit was accomplished at Sheffield yesterday by Brown and Tunncliffe, the two men carrying the score to 378 and establishing a new records as the partnership for the first wicket.

Overnight, against a total of 164 by Sussex, Brown and Tunncliffe had scored 216 without being separated, but, admirable as had been their batting, it scarcely seemed likely that they would succeed in eclipsing the remarkable stand of 346 for the first wicket made by Messrs H T Hewett and L C H Palairret at Taunton for Somerset against Yorkshire in 1892. However, they quickly got set again and punished the Sussex bowling without mercy. They were together for just over four hours and a half, Tunncliffe being the first to leave - caught at mid-on. Tunncliffe had never before done so well for his county and his innings was singularly free from fault. He gave a chance in the slips when 97, and four runs later played a ball on to his wicket without dislodging a bail, but these were small blemishes in a really great innings. Among his figures were 20 fours, three threes and nine twos.

Brown continued for some time after Tunncliffe's departure, and it was not until the score had reached 519 that he was the fourth man out for 311. His wonderful innings put into the shade anything he had previously accomplished for his county and stands as the highest individual innings of the present season. With it he completed his thousand runs in important matches this summer, and achieved the additional distinction of being the fifth batsman to play an innings of over 300 in a first-class match. Dr W G Grace has done this thrice - 344, 318 and 301 - while the other scores are Mr A C Maclaren's record of 424, Mr W W Read's 338 and Mr W L Murdoch's 321.

His stay extended over six hours and a quarter, and he kept up an average rate of scoring of 50 runs an hour. It would be impossible to imagine a finer display of batting, as, though he was always scoring rapidly, the only blemish of any account that could be urged against him was a sharp chance at extra slip when he had scored 170. His magnificent innings was made by 45 fours, 19 threes, 11 twos and 52 singles. So delighted were the Sheffield public at the success of Brown and Tunncliffe that a subscription raised on their behalf resulted in over £23 being obtained.

With the dismissal of Brown, when all the sting had been taken out of the Sussex bowling, Wainwright, Mitchell and Peel scored with the utmost freedom, and at the close of the day the total had been carried to 681 for the loss of five wickets. Wainwright, like Brown, had the distinction of completing his thousand runs in first-class cricket this summer. Yorkshire are now 517 runs ahead, and it is highly probable that Mr Milligan will declare the innings at an end early this morning.

Many complaints were made last year about the state of the Bramall-lane ground, but the splendid batting of the last two days suggests that the defects have been entirely remedied. The weather was again charmingly fine and some 7,000 people watched with delight the brilliant success of Yorkshire.

BROWN AND WAINWRIGHT.- With their scores at Sheffield yesterday these famous Yorkshire cricketers ran to the thousand aggregate, thus equalling the feat already accomplished this season by Abel and K S Ranjitsinhji.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 July, page 12)

With the score of 681 which Yorkshire had put together at the drawing of stumps at Sheffield on Tuesday Mr Milligan, who acted as captain, was very wisely content, and yesterday morning, on arriving at the Bramall-lane ground, he declared the Yorkshire innings closed.

Sussex accordingly had to go to the wickets, wanting 517 runs to escape a single innings defeat, so their only chance of saving the game was to stay in for the whole of the day. This they failed to do, and by 20 minutes past 3 a memorable match had come to an end, Sussex being all out for 210 and Yorkshire being left with a victory by 307 runs and an innings to spare.

Tuesday 13 July, page 12: THE CRICKETERS' FUND

Lord Harris, Mr W E Denison, Mr Henry Perkins and Dr W G Grace attended the meeting of this society at Lord's last night. The financial position of the society is very satisfactory, but in these days it was felt that there should be more elasticity in the revenue.

Mr H Luff, 21, Cranbourn-street, W.C., succeeds Tom Hearne in the secretaryship in consequence of the latter's ill-health.

Wednesday 14 July, page 12: YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB.- At the meeting of the committee at Sheffield yesterday it was decided to vote 50 guineas to the testimonial that is being subscribed for Mr Michael Ellison, the president of the club.

MR STODDART'S TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Mr Stoddart's invitations to Mr A C M'Laren, K S Ranjitsinhji, Storer and J T Hearne to join his side for Australia have been accepted, but Mr F S Jackson, Abel, Richardson, Lilley and Attewell have not yet come to any definite conclusion as to going out with the team.

The positions, including the results of yesterday, are now as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Nottinghamshire	9	2	0	7	2	1
Yorkshire	14	9	1	4	8	.8
Lancashire	13	8	1	4	7	.7
Essex	8	3	1	4	2	.5
Surrey	14	8	3	3	5	.45
Gloucestershire	7	3	2	2	1	.2
Warwickshire	11	2	2	7	0	
Sussex	9	2	4	3	-2	
Kent	8	1	3	4	-2	
Middlesex	8	0	3	5	-3	
Hampshire	7	1	4	2	-3	
Somerset	7	1	5	1	-4	
Derbyshire	8	0	5	3	-5	
Leicestershire	7	0	6	1	-6	

15 July: ESSEX v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4828.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 July, page 11)

Essex gave a very fine batting display at Leyton yesterday in their return match with Warwickshire.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 July, page 16)

At the close of play on Thursday Essex had made 393 for five wickets, and on the game being continued yesterday at Leyton, this score was only increased by 96. Altogether they were batting nearly seven hours and a quarter for their 489. When play ceased for the day Warwickshire still required 141 to save the follow-on.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 July, page 11)

Essex gained a brilliant victory over Warwickshire at Leyton on Saturday by an innings and 49 runs, a result which was brought about by superior all-round play. At no time did Warwickshire look like saving the game.

At the close of the first day's play Essex had made 393 for five wickets, which they increased to 489, a score which practically made defeat impossible. Their big total was remarkable for Mr Perrin's 153, which is the largest innings he has played in first-class cricket, his previous best being 139, made at Birmingham last year, singularly enough against the same team. He was ably backed up by the rest of the eleven, who all succeeded in making double figures with the exception of Pickett, who was not out.

Warwickshire, on Saturday, managed to add only 45 to their overnight total of 229. Apart from the batting of Mr Byrne and Lilley their exhibition was rather disappointing as the pitch was still true. At the same time W G Quaife's innings must not be overlooked. He was batting two hours and a quarter for 39, a valuable display considering the state of the game, which justified the caution he exhibited.

The Midland team went in a second time at ten minutes to 1, having to make 215 to save a single innings defeat. But they fared very badly against the bowling of Mead and Mr Bull, who were backed up by some very keen fielding, and were all dismissed for 166. There were nearly 5m000 spectators of the finish.

15 July: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v GENTLEMEN OF PHILADELPHIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4829.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 July, page 11)

The honours of the cricket at Bristol yesterday were shared by Dr W G Grace and Mr G L Jessop, each of whom made over a hundred.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 July, page 16)

This match was continued yesterday on the county ground at Bristol. On Thursday, Gloucestershire scored 330 for the loss of nine wickets, and as this number was increased to 363 before the innings closed, the Americans found themselves with a severe up-hill task. Their batting, without presenting any striking features, was fairly good, six members of the side reaching double figures. The total in the end was carried to 181.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 July, page 11)

Though Messrs Patterson and Lester on Saturday at Bristol made a fine effort to save their side they received such feeble support from their colleagues that the game came to an abrupt conclusion shortly after half-past 1, Gloucestershire gaining a decisive and well-earned victory in a single innings with 29 runs to spare.

Such a complete triumph for the home side seemed practically impossible three-quarters of an hour from the finish. Overnight the score stood at 60 for one wicket, and on resuming on Saturday morning Patterson and Lester continued to play so well that the score was carried to 136 before the second wicket fell, the partnership having yielded 111 runs.

Up to this period everything pointed to the Philadelphians making a creditable fight, but when Patterson and Lester had been dismissed an extraordinary change came over the game, the batting breaking down so completely that the last eight wickets fell for the addition of 17 runs, and the side were all out for 153. Mr Patterson was batting just two hours for his 53, and both he and Mr Lester acquitted themselves to well that it was a matter for regret that the support accorded them was so wretchedly weak. Roberts and Dr W G Grace bowled with remarkable success, and were backed up by superb work in the field, Messrs Hemingway, Brown and Wright all distinguishing themselves in this respect.

15 July: KENT v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4830.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 July, page 11)

Charming weather favoured the opening of the first match of the season between these counties at Blackheath yesterday; but, perhaps owing to the counter attraction of Surrey v Middlesex at Lord's, the attendance was small. As the game stands now Somerset are 204 runs behind, and furthermore require 85 to avoid a follow-on with six wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 July, page 16)

Somerset entered upon the second stage of their match with Kent at the Rectory-field, Blackheath, yesterday, with an uphill struggle before them. Two great batting performances marked the play, Mr S M J Woods scoring 92 for Somerset and Mr J R Mason 105 not out for Kent.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 July, page 11)

Kent beat Somerset at the Rectory-field, Blackheath, on Saturday, by 213 runs. The game was practically even at the end of the second day, the home county leading by 246 runs and having three wickets to fall.

Of course Somerset were at a serious disadvantage in having to bat last and by allowing their opponents' last three wickets to add 118 runs they lost all chance of winning. To score 365 in the last innings was a tremendous task and proved quite beyond the powers of the visitors. In three hours they were dismissed for 151, the match ending just after 5 o'clock.

Mr J R Mason gained all the honours on Saturday. He increased his overnight 105 to 183, being at length bowled by a lob after batting four hours and 20 minutes. As far as could be seen he gave only one chance, and that was at 140. Mr Mason had never met with such success before in first-class cricket, his previous best innings having been 142 not out against Oxford University in 1895. Throughout his long innings the old Wykehamist showed splendid form, his hitting all round the wicket being beautifully clean and hard. Among his figures were 21 fours, five threes and 14 twos.

At one time it seemed possible that Somerset might save the game. At 4 o'clock, with only three men out, they had scored 94 runs, but then Mr Mason was put on to bowl, and in a little more than an hour the game was over, Mr Mason having taken five out of the last seven wickets at the remarkably small cost of 20 runs. Mr H T Stanley was batting nearly two hours for his 29. This is Kent's second victory in the county championship, their only previous success having been over Middlesex at Tonbridge.

15 July: LANCASHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4831.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 July, page 11)

With the conditions in every way favourable to batting at Old Trafford yesterday the Sussex eleven gave a splendid account of themselves, scoring 407 for six wickets in five hours and a half. Glorious weather prevailed and there were 14,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 July, page 16)

The big crowd that visited the Old Trafford ground yesterday witnessed some more remarkable batting. Continuing their innings, Sussex increased their overnight score of 407 for six wickets to 476, Bean playing in splendid style for 64.

In face of this big total Lancashire made 291 for five wickets, leaving off 185 runs behind. The great feature of the play was the batting of Tyldesley, whose 113 not out was this third consecutive three-figure innings, he having made two hundreds against Warwickshire last week. The young professional batted in extremely good form, punishing the bowling with great vigour.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 July, page 11)

The heavy scoring that had marked the early play at Old Trafford was continued on Saturday, and the game ended in a draw - a result that seemed highly probable from the overnight position. Then Lancashire required only 66 runs to save the follow-on, and this they easily did, thanks in a large measure to the faulty fielding of their opponents.

Tyldesley, in increasing his 117 not out to 174, was let off three times, but, notwithstanding these errors, his innings was a fine one, lasting as it did four hours and three-quarters and including 28 fours, six threes and ten twos. Smith's 52 was a capital display and his partnership with Tyldesley realized 95 runs. Lancashire's total of 420 left them only 56 behind.

Going in a second time Sussex scored 254 for six wickets, Mr George Brann contributing 107. Owing to a strained leg he had a man to run for him but, though handicapped in this way, Mr Brann showed splendid form, and during a stay of three hours and 25 minutes he hit 12 fours, eight threes and nine twos. Marlow also played well for 61 and with Mr Brann scored 128 for the first wicket. At the close Sussex, with four wickets in hand, led by 310 runs.

In the course of the match 1,150 runs were scored and only 26 wickets fell. About 14,000 people witnessed the conclusion of the game.

15 July: MIDDLESEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4832.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 July, page 11)

The Surrey eleven scored rather heavily on the true wicket at Lord's yesterday, making 373 for eight wickets. Middlesex had plenty of good bowling and their fielding, though at fault now and then, was generally good.

The mistakes that were made proved expensive. Hayward, who should have been caught in the slips before he had scored, hit a five and eight fours, while Abel made nine fours. Holland played some of the best cricket of the day. He had a life at the hands of short slip (Mr Ford) when 56. The average rate of runs scored per hour was nearly 70, and there were between six and seven thousand spectators.

Mr Cunliffe, the Eton and Oxford left-hand bowler, made his first appearance for Middlesex and he bowled remarkably well. Mr Walter Read stood down from the Surrey eleven and Mr Leveson-Gower was absent owing to an injured hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 July, page 16)

The most gratifying thing to cricketers in yesterday's game at Lord's was the return to form of Mr Stoddart. He went in first wicket down at 48 and was fifth out at 233, and in his 91 were 12 fours, four threes and six twos. Towards the end of the day Middlesex followed on and they now stand with arrears of 113 with one wicket down in the second innings.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 July, page 11)

Middlesex never got rid of the handicap which was of their own creation on the first day at Lord's by reason of dropped catches, and Saturday saw them easily beaten by eight wickets, the game coming to an end about an hour and a half after the luncheon interval.

Somehow or other Middlesex never seemed quite themselves in this match, and not all the excellence of Mr Stoddart's batting, the vigour of Rawlin and the steadiness of Mr A J Webbe could get them on terms with their opponents. Sir Timothy O'Brien's services were much missed; but the moral effect of misfielding certainly made itself felt in this match.

Surrey are to be congratulated on their splendid win, and if they had some luck in just beating Middlesex on the Oval they beat them on their merits in this match. Richardson bowled splendidly on the second and third days, and his share in the victory may be gathered from his two analyses; these made his record for the match 13 wickets for 193 runs. The great Surrey bowler had really a wonderful week at Lord's, and in Gentlemen v Players and Middlesex v Surrey he took in all 23 wickets for 411 runs, a great piece of work on the beautifully true turf at headquarters.

On Saturday Middlesex were at one time in danger of an innings defeat, for five of the side were dismissed for 102; but subsequently Mr MacGregor, Mr Webbe and Mr Bromley-Davenport (who hit very hard) met with success, and Surrey had to go in to get 57. Brockwell and Abel made 45 of these by brilliant cricket. There were 3,000 or 4,000 people to see the finish.

15 July: YORKSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4833.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 July, page 11)

Nearly 8,000 people were present at Dewsbury yesterday to witness the opening day's play in the return match between Notts and Yorkshire, the previous encounter between the two elevens at Trent-bridge a few weeks ago having produced an exceptionally fine batting performance on the part of the Notts cricketers.

Yesterday, however, the play of the Notts eleven was rather disappointing, for, though they batted first on a good fast wicket and withstood the Yorkshire bowling from noon until nearly 6 o'clock, their score amounted to only 260. After a good start matters went rather badly with the visitors, and this probably accounted for some of the extreme care which was displayed. Mr Dixon and Dench, as at Hastings last week, made a fine stand, the two batsmen in about 70 minutes adding 85 runs. Mr Dixon furnished further proof of the excellent form in which he is this season, playing with great skill for his 53. Towards the close of the Notts innings Bairstow, who is keeping wicket in the absence of Hunter, had the misfortune to dislocate a finger.

Yorkshire in rather less than 20 minutes at the close of the day scored 20 without loss, and thus left off 240 runs behind with all ten wickets in hand. Peel, who, like Hunter, is suffering from an injury, was unable to play, and Lord Hawke was also absent, while Guttridge, owing to indisposition, could not assist Notts. The visitors' team included a new right-hand, medium-pace bowler named Henson.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 July, page 16)

Yorkshire were engaged yesterday at Dewsbury in a stern uphill fight. In their first innings they did fairly well until J Gunn was tried when two wickets were down for 80; and he bowled so well that he had the fine analysis of six wickets for 22.

In the follow-on there was a splendid stand of 119 in the third partnership by Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe. Mr Jackson played particularly well. Yorkshire are now 25 on with six wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 July, page 11)

At Dewsbury on Saturday the Yorkshire cricketers extricated themselves in very brilliant style from the difficulties of their match with Nottinghamshire. They began the day with four wickets down in their second innings for 146 and, as at the end of an innings on each side they were 121 behind, they found themselves only 25 runs to the good with six wickets to fall.

The position was, of course, a very anxious one, but Wainwright, with assistance from Tunnicliffe, Hirst and Mr Milligan, played up in such admirable style that not only did the Yorkshiremen escape the defeat which had threatened but, closing their innings with their score at 358 for nine wickets, they sent Nottinghamshire in with 238 runs to get in three hours and ten minutes.

The Notts men made no attempt to hit off the runs, contenting themselves with an endeavour to save the game. Although they fared well for a time, a series of disasters befell them afterwards, and half-an-hour before the call of time there were only two wickets to go down. Fortunately for Nottinghamshire, however, William Gunn, who had gone in first wicket down with the score at two, was still not out, and he and Pike stayed until the end, when the visitors with two wickets in hand wanted 87 more runs to win - the draw being thus considerably in favour of Yorkshire.

William Gunn, who certainly saved his side from defeat, played splendid cricket for 86, not out, hitting nine 4s, five 3s and nine 2s. The only blemish was a chance at the wicket at 50.

Wainwright, who, with a score of 103, made his third hundred for Yorkshire within a fortnight, had gone in fourth wicket down at 144 and stayed until the game was safe, being eighth man out at 352. He was twice missed at the wicket, first at 33 and again at 85, but in other respects his innings was a splendid one and, considering the circumstances under which it was played, his performance must rank as one of the best things he has done. He was at the wickets for two hours and forty minutes, and hit eight 4s, six 3s and 13 2s.

Tunnickliffe played with wonderful patience for nearly four hours and, although he scored only 58, he did his side fine service. His partnership with Wainwright produced 59 runs, while of the other men who assisted Wainwright, Hirst helped to put on 58 and Mr Milligan 80, the amateur hitting very finely. J Gunn, the Nottingham colt, was not so successful as on Friday, but he took four wickets and for the whole match had a record of ten wickets for less than 14 runs each.

Friday 16 July, page 11: K S RANJITSINHJI

The statement made in some quarters to the effect that the present is K S Ranjitsinhji's last season in England is not quite correct. The Prince will accompany Mr Stoddart's team to Australia at the end of the summer and play throughout the tour there, after which he will journey back as far as Colombo, whence he will go on to his home in India. His presence, therefore, will be lost to English cricket in 1898; but he hopes to be back again to play in 1899.

The competition now stands as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Nottinghamshire	10	2	0	8	2	1
Yorkshire	15	9	1	5	8	.8
Lancashire	14	8	1	5	7	.7
Essex	9	4	1	4	3	.6
Surrey	15	9	3	3	6	.5
Gloucestershire	7	3	2	2	1	.3
Warwickshire	12	2	3	7	-1	
Kent	9	2	3	4	-1	
Sussex	10	2	4	4	-2	
Hampshire	7	1	4	2	-3	
Middlesex	9	0	4	5	-4	
Somerset	8	1	6	1	-5	
Derbyshire	8	0	6	3	-5	
Leicestershire	7	0	8	1	-6	

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below:-

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Innings	Times not out	Average
Mr N F Druce	12	726	227*	1	66
Mr J A Dixon	16	922	268*	1	61.7
Mr F G J Ford	18	805	150	3	53.10
Abel	28	1328	250	2	51.2
W G Quaife	19	742	136*	4	49.7
K S Ranjitsinhji	29	1273	260	3	48.25
Gunn	20	840	152	2	46.12
Wainwright	27	1138	171	2	45.13
Mr P Perrin	16	614	153	2	43.12
Lord Hawke	12	393	91*	3	42.6
J T Brown	28	1105	311	2	42.13
Tyldesley	23	879	174	2	41.18
Capt E G Wynyard	8	327	80	0	40.7
Mr J F Byrne	11	441	100	0	40.1
Mr G Brann	25	960	126	1	40
Dr W G Grace	20	713	113	2	39.11
Mr F S Jackson	26	908	124	3	39.11
Baker	28	981	153	3	39.6
Mr A P Lucas	11	353	89	2	39.2
Hayward	26	976	130	1	39.1
Barton	17	582	125	2	38.12
Dench	17	537	65*	3	38.5
Shrewsbury	18	609	125	2	38.1
Mr J R Mason	22	796	183	1	37.19
Mr C J Burnup	18	597	108	2	37.5
Mr H C Stewart	14	515	142	0	36.11
Tunnicliffe	27	883	147	3	35.23
Lilley	22	642	79*	4	35.12
A Ward	24	767	162	2	34.19
Mr G L Jessop	20	661	140	1	34.15
Hirst	28	787	134	5	34.5
Mr G E Bromley-Martin	12	409	137	0	34.1
Mr K J Key	23	625	110*	4	32.17
Mr H W Bainbridge	17	523	81	1	32.11

Mr F H B Champain	21	637	97	1	31.17
Mr A J Webbe	19	474	74	4	31.9
Carpenter	20	558	141	2	31
Chatterton	22	670	120	0	30.10
Storer	27	783	160*	1	30.3
Mr P F Warner	27	782	176	1	30.2
Diver	20	601	111	1	30.1
Brockwell	24	708	131	0	29.12
Nichols	15	413	74*	1	29.7
Mr F L Fane	18	492	67	1	28.12
Baldwin (Surrey)	24	655	103	1	28.11
Mr C M'Gahey	21	553	94	1	27.13
Bagshaw	17	436	114	1	27.4
Mr A E Stoddart	20	541	91	0	27.1
Mr W L Murdoch	26	664	105	1	26.14
Mr A C S Glover	18	453	115	1	26.11
Mr F W Milligan	16	393	55	1	26.3
Mr H B Chinnery	23	571	149	1	25.21
Board	17	407	126	1	25.7
Mr A Eccles	16	356	102	2	25.6
Mr H H Marriott	17	401	73	1	25.1
Mr R C N Palairot	17	426	58	0	25.1
Dr G Thornton	15	323	56	2	24.11
Denton	27	657	112	0	24.9
Mr H G Owen	14	318	67	1	24.6
Mr W W Read	18	291	86*	4	24.3
Mr H B Hayman	22	505	62	1	24.1
Mr W Newham	24	550	107	1	23.21
Mr S M J Woods	19	444	92	0	23.7
Bean	27	580	77	2	23.5

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Richardson	931.2	262	2380	148	16.12
Mr G L Jessop	441.2	129	924	57	16.12
Roberts	320	110	746	44	16.42
Mold	617.4	215	1270	74	17.12
Mr E B Shine	316	92	749	43	17.18
Mead	633.3	240	1169	66	17.47
J T Hearne	1095.3	413	2215	124	17.107
Hayward	605.4	178	1459	80	18.13
Hallam	589.4	246	1041	57	18.15
Peel	679.1	253	1220	65	18.50
Mr F H E Cunliffe	503.3	165	1165	62	18.49
Cuttell	504.1	195	917	48	19.5
Woodcock	364.1	102	921	46	20.1
Davidson	620.4	257	1087	54	20.7
Briggs	768.4	236	1553	73	21.20
Bland	772.1	233	1907	89	21.38
Haigh	582.3	197	1223	57	21.26
Attewell	775.4	340	1362	63	21.39
Mr F G Bull	578.1	138	1538	70	21.68
Hirst	703.1	260	1407	64	21.63
Tyler	443.4	105	1175	51	23.2
Wainwright	674.1	217	1446	62	23.20
Rawlin	508.1	181	1017	40	25.17
Tate	817.4	266	1720	68	25.20

19 July: DERBYSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4834.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 July, page 12)

Getting first innings on a beautifully true wicket at Derby yesterday, the Derbyshire eleven batted brilliantly, and remaining in all day scored 393 for the loss of only six men. There were three long partnerships - Mr Evershed and Mr Wright, 94; Mr Evershed and Bagshaw, 111; and Davidson and Walter Sugg, 163.

Mr Evershed's 112 was a remarkable innings and included 16 fours, three threes and nine twos. Essex left out Pickett and lacked the services of their wicket-keeper, Russell.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 July, page 12)

Owing to rain in the morning the game at Derby, yesterday, could not be resumed until after luncheon. Derbyshire, who on Monday had scores 393 for six wickets, finished off their innings for 428, and in two hours and 40 minutes Essex lost nine wickets for 122.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 July, page 11)

By dint of sturdy, determined batting the Essex men at Derby yesterday struggled out of the desperate position in which they were placed overnight and succeeded in saving the match.

19 July: HAMPSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4835.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 July, page 12)

Owing to a late start and the delay caused by rain, this game at Southampton was actually in progress only about two hours and a quarter. Yesterday the best features were the bowling and fielding of the Hampshire eleven, who got Surrey out for 157.

Mr Heseltine, bowling at a great pace, made the ball "kick" a great deal and, although Baldwin and Holland put on 47 while they were together, half the Surrey side went for 60 runs. In addition to his successes with the ball Mr Heseltine by a fine piece of fielding at mid-off brought about the running out of Holland.

Wood, Hayward and Mr Leveson-Gower were absent from the Surrey eleven; and Mr Norman Druce, the Cambridge captain, could not, after all, play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 July, page 12)

Yesterday at Southampton was essentially a bowler's day. That Hampshire on a bad wicket should be got out for 88 was within the range of probabilities; but the dismissal of Surrey for a mere 77 was unexpected. However, despite the batting disasters Surrey held the upper hand, and what with Richardson's success and the performance of the "hat trick" by Lees near the close they had reached a winning position last night, for to-day Hampshire have only two wickets left and are in need of 68 runs.

Richardson's bowling in the first innings was remarkable, for he took his first five wickets for 12 runs and in the end had seven credited to him for 43. Mr Heseltine and Mr Steele bowled with marked success. The extraordinary day's play was witnessed by a large company.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 July, page 11)

Owing to rain and the state of the ground at Southampton yesterday, it was agreed as early as half-past 2 to abandon the match as a draw. The rain came at a most unfortunate time for Surrey, as, under favourable circumstances, they would have been almost sure of a victory. With two wickets to go down, Hampshire wanted no fewer than 68 runs to win.

In the second innings of Hampshire Lees had a remarkable bowling analysis, six of the eight wickets that went down falling to him at a cost of only 27 runs.

19 July: SOMERSET v GENTLEMEN OF PHILADELPHIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4836.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 July, page 12)

Very little play was possible at Bath yesterday owing to the rain . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 July, page 12)

Yesterday's cricket at Bath was again interfered with by the bad weather, although not to such an extent as on Monday. Mr Richard Palairret played good cricket for the county, but the best batting was seen when Mr Patterson and Mr Wood were in for the visitors.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 July, page 11)

There was very little cricket yesterday at Bath. A heavy fall of rain in the morning delayed the start, and during the luncheon interval a storm broke over the ground. As the weather showed no sign of improvement a draw was agreed upon.

In the little time available yesterday the Philadelphians increased their overnight score of 107 for one wicket to 171 for five. Mr Patterson, who had overnight made 48 not out, was batting just two hours for his 52.

19 July: WARWICKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4837.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 July, page 12)

If Warwickshire's last seven wickets be estimated to be worth more than 50 runs it may be said that Gloucestershire had the worst of yesterday's cricket at Birmingham. When Gloucestershire went in Dr W G Grace was quickly out and the subsequent batting of several members of the side failed to send up a high score. The home men fielded and bowled extremely well, Lord coming off with marked success with the ball. Warwickshire owed their good position at the end of the day mostly to the batting of Walter Quaife.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 July, page 12)

Mr G L Jessop, the Cambridge University cricketer, at Birmingham, yesterday, made 126 runs in about 90 minutes. From the time that the first ball was bowled to him he scored at a wonderful pace, making his first 50 in half an hour and his 100 in 70 minutes. He hit 19 fours, three threes and ten twos.

For Warwickshire there was also an individual 100, which took four hours to make, and which was scored by Walter Quaife.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 July, page 11)

Warwickshire succeeded in beating Gloucestershire at Birmingham yesterday, but the result was only arrived at after a severe struggle, the margin in favour of the home county being two wickets. Thanks chiefly to Mr Hemingway's dashing play, the visitors' overnight lead of 155 runs was increased to 217. The Cambridge man hit six fours in his 47, which only occupied 50 minutes.

Mr Bainbridge had a very big share in his side's success, scoring a splendid 101 and only being dismissed when all but four of the 218 runs required to win had been obtained. The Warwickshire captain's batting was as brilliant as it was faultless, and he was most unfortunate in being bowled off his pad in attempting to pull a ball and make the winning hit. The chief figures of his innings, which lasted two hours and 50 minutes, were 12 fours, five threes and five twos. For the most part the Gloucestershire bowling and fielding were admirable, but Diver was missed three times - mistakes which probably lost the visitors the game.

19 July: YORKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4838.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 July, page 12)

The excellence of Yorkshire cricket was well demonstrated at Park-avenue, Bradford, yesterday, when most of the side had a hand in the good score of 323 for nine wickets against Lancashire. Amid much good batting the innings of Denton and Moorhouse stood out with some prominence. The Lancashire fielding was not wholly worthy of the side, for six catches were dropped, and five of these were off Mold.

Except that Lord Hawke was away, Yorkshire had their best side, and the same may be said of Lancashire, who appeared under the captaincy of Mr Hornby. The match was attended by over 20,000 visitors, and as the gate money taken amounted to £795 and £61 was collected on the ground, Hunter is assured of a successful benefit. David Hunter, who has kept wicket in brilliant form regularly for the county since 1889, virtually succeeded his late brother Joseph in this particular position.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 July, page 12)

A great innings of 110, not out, by Mr A C Maclaren marked the cricket day, restricted to two hours and a quarter by bad weather, at Bradford yesterday. Mr Maclaren went in first with Albert Ward, and during their two hours' partnership these two batsmen knocked together 167 runs. Albert Ward's good play was, however, completely eclipsed by his partner's, whose batting yesterday was perfect. In spite of the bad weather there were 15,000 spectators of yesterday's cricket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 July, page 11)

Following the heavy scoring by each side in the first innings at Bradford, the cricket in the last two hours of yesterday became quite sensational, and Yorkshire within an hour of time for drawing stumps were in danger of defeat. The position of things at 5.25, when there was an hour left, was that Yorkshire (with Peel injured) had practically only one man and were only 29 runs ahead. Hunter and Haigh, however, settled the question of the result by staying together half an hour and adding 28 runs.

Thus were Yorkshire saved from defeat. But the draw was all in favour of Lancashire, who at the finish had an innings to play and wanted 58 to win. The Lancastrians fielded and bowled splendidly.

Early in the day Mr Maclaren continued his great innings and he advanced his overnight score of 110 to 152, when he was fourth out at 253. It was a splendid innings and included 15 fours. This remarkable drawn match was of great benefit to Hunter, who will probably secure some £2,000 from gate money and subscription lists.

19 July: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/129/129009.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 July, page 12)

Rapid progress was made with the match at Lord's yesterday. The county went in a second time towards the close of the day with a lead of nine on the first innings, and at the close the score was 25 for two wickets. The best bowling was by the Australian, Roche (six for 79), Woodcock (four for 45) and Thompson (five for 38).

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 July, page 12)

The county played up extremely well at Lord's yesterday and beat the M.C.C. by 161 runs. In the second innings East took five wickets for 22 runs and Thompson three for 23.

22 July: LANCASHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4839.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 July, page 11)

In their return match with Somerset at Manchester yesterday the Lancashire eleven were seen to splendid advantage, and quite outplayed their opponents at all points. Though gaining first innings Somerset made poor use of their opportunity and were put out in two hours and a quarter for 140. Mr Woods hit with some vigour and Nichols played very steadily, but for the most part the batting was very disappointing. The Lancashire bowling was excellent.

That the comparatively cheap dismissal of the visitors was in no way due to the state of the wicket was made evident when Lancashire went in, as in the three hours remaining for play the home county scored 239 runs and only lost three wickets. An excellent beginning was made by Mr Maclaren and Albert Ward, the pair scoring 95 for the first wicket in 70 minutes. Of that number Mr Maclaren contributed the large proportion of 70 and, though not quite faultless, his innings was one of great merit. He hit with fine judgment and power, his score including 14 fours.

Ward was third out at 125 for a carefully-played 40, and then Frank Sugg and Tyldesley, by capital cricket, added 104 runs in the last 75 minutes without being separated. Thus with seven wickets in hand Lancashire now hold a lead of 99 runs. The weather was fine and the attendance numbered 5,000.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 July, page 14)

On the Old Trafford Ground, Manchester, yesterday, Somerset failed badly and were beaten by an innings and 75 runs. Mold and Hallam bowled well and the Lancashire fielding was also very good. Lancashire indeed played a splendidly-winning game from the start.

22 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4840.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 July, page 11)

So far this season Leicestershire, who have been handicapped by the absence of Pougher, have had a very bad time; but yesterday as an exception they secured the better of the day's cricket with Derbyshire at Leicester. For their good position they were chiefly indebted to the good bowling of Mr Stocks and the batting of Mr Marriott.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 July, page 14)

Derbyshire were fighting rather a losing game throughout yesterday at Leicester. Leicestershire went in to get 187 to win, and 54 of these had been made last night at the cost of one wicket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 July, page 11)

After having had all the best of the game throughout, the Leicestershire men at Leicester on Saturday defeated Derbyshire by five wickets, and thus gained their first victory this season. No serious doubt could be felt as to the result, as of the 187 runs required to win Leicestershire had obtained 54 overnight for the loss of only one wicket.

Some steady play was shown by Mr Marriott and King, and the score was up to 117 when the fourth wicket fell, 70 being then required to win. Coe and Tomlin came together at that point and looked like hitting off the runs without further loss. They had added 68, when Coe, in attempting a short run, lost his wicket. No further disaster was experienced and Leicestershire won the match at half-past 1. Coe hit with considerable vigour, scoring 53 in a little over an hour, and Tomlin, who took out his bat for 31, also played extremely well.

22 July: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v GENTLEMEN OF PHILADELPHIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4841.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 July, page 11)

The great thing in yesterday's cricket at Lord's was the fine innings of Mr Frank Mitchell, whose 133 were more than half the runs made by the M.C.C. from the bat.

In his early days at Cambridge Mr Mitchell used to play as a rule a fine forcing game; but yesterday before reaching his 100 he was rigidly careful and it took him more than three hours to get that number. However, his was the innings that placed the M.C.C. in the advantageous position now occupied by them. He went in first and was sixth out at 236, after a stay of three and a half hours. If not faultless his innings was marked by many fine strokes, and he hit 16 fours. Mr Maude played very well and seemed in for a good score until he was rather badly run out by Mr Mitchell. The Philadelphians did not field very well and of their bowlers Mr Clark was by far the best, for he hit the stumps every time that he got a wicket.

Near the end of the day the Philadelphians had a bad hour, and with four men out they now require 99 to save the follow-on. The weather was fine but, judging from the smallness of the company, little interest was taken in the match.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 July, page 14)

The cricket at Lord's yesterday had the high merit of soundness; but from first to last there was nothing to disturb the calm of the spectators. Marylebone had on Thursday made their way to something like a winning position, and at no time yesterday was their chance of victory anything but very bright. And this morning they will continue the game with a lead of 343 and two wickets left in the second innings.

In the first two hours the Philadelphians saved the follow-on, a result that was brought about by the good cricket of Mr Patterson, who is considered to be the best bat on his side. By his strength all round the wicket he thoroughly upheld his reputation, and his drive, above everything, was clean and hard. It was his and Mr King's stand of 71 that gave the respectability to the visitors' score. Albert Trott bowled uncommonly well for the club and wrought great havoc among the Philadelphians. The best batting in the M.C.C. second innings was done by Mr Frank Mitchell and Rawlin.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 July, page 11)

In their second match at Lord's the Philadelphians have been no less unfortunate than they were in Jubilee week, when Middlesex beat them, for on Saturday they failed so badly in the last innings that the M.C.C. won by 227 runs. This result emphasizes the objection already urged that the programme arranged by the American team was much too ambitious.

On a good fast ground they were got out for scores of 179 and 152. Trott's skilful bowling was at the root of all their trouble, for, keeping a fine length and mixing his pace, the Australian met with consistent success, and in the two innings took 13 wickets for 170 runs. The Philadelphians were handicapped by the injury sustained by Mr Patterson on Friday, for this prevented his taking any part in the three hours' cricket of Saturday.

Amid many bad failures there was one brilliant piece of batting and that was the 71 by Mr Lester. Playing a quick and strong game he got his runs out of 118 added during his stay; but when he was sixth out at 133 the end of the innings came quickly. There were very few spectators.

22 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4842.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 July, page 11)

The Notts eleven won the toss at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, and staying in from shortly after 12 till 20 minutes to six, ran up a total of 311. There was some capital batting, early in the day from Arthur Shrewsbury and Mr A O Jones, but despite their efforts the score had only reached 187 when the eighth wicket fell.

At this point a remarkable change was brought about by Guttridge and Pike, who hit the bowling to all parts of the field and put on 107 runs in an hour and 20 minutes. Guttridge hit with great power and determination, and has never been seen to such an advantage as a batsman at Nottingham. Among his hits were 12 fours, two threes and seven twos.

With 35 minutes left for cricket Wrathall and Board began Gloucestershire's innings and proved so successful that they scored 49 runs without being separated.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 July, page 14)

This match was continued yesterday at Nottingham in the presence of a large number of spectators. The game was remarkable for the success of Dr W G Grace, who for the second time this season in first-class matches played an innings of over 100.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 July, page 11)

After a fine finish at Trent Bridge on Saturday and within five minutes of "time," Gloucestershire beat Notts by three wickets, and thus had the distinction of being the first county to do this during the season. The game fluctuated a great deal on Saturday and at several periods the Gloucestershire eleven were engaged in what seemed a losing fight.

On Saturday morning the match stood fairly even. Shrewsbury's 58 was not such a good innings as his 64 on Thursday; he was batting a couple of hours and hit six fours. Mr Townsend again bowled well and his double analysis gave him a record of ten wickets for 215 runs.

Gloucestershire went in to get 214 to win and, with the wicket still true, the task seemed fairly easy. Fifty was reached for the loss of one batsman, and Dr Grace and Mr Champain were going strongly; but then such a change came over the game that six of the side were out for 101 and 113 runs were still wanted in the next two hours. Mr Richardson and Mr Townsend played so well that 86 were added in an hour and 40 minutes, and then Richardson was leg-before.

Twenty-seven were wanted in 20 minutes when Murch went in. Hereupon Mr Townsend forsook his hitherto steady game for one of vigour and made six fours (three in an over of J Gunn's) and then at 6.25 he won the match. It was a splendid game and the crowd followed the cricket with the greatest enthusiasm.

22 July: SURREY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4843.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 July, page 11)

Kent yesterday at the Oval gave a very uneven batting display in their first match with Surrey this season. Out of a total of 217 three men - Mr Mordaunt, Mr Mason and A Hearne - were responsible for no less than 196, and as there were five extras the remaining eight batsmen made only 16 among them.

Mr Mason, who is in very fine form this season, gave a finished exhibition for 65, for which he was batting an hour and a quarter. He was nearly bowled first ball by Richardson, and with his score at 45 he put one up in the slips off Brockwell just out of Holland's reach. His excellent display was chiefly noticeable for his off-driving, and included in his innings were 11 fours, two threes and two twos.

Mr Mordaunt's vigorous 81, which only took him 65 minutes to make, included one five, 12 fours, four threes and three twos. This is the largest score he has obtained since 1895, and it was very gratifying to see him in something like his old form again. His innings was only marred by a difficult chance to Wood at the wicket on the leg side. The batting of A Hearne was in marked contrast to that of Mr Mason and Mr Mordaunt, for he took two hours and three-quarters for 50. He played very correct cricket, only attempting to hit the loose balls, and gave no chance. The Surrey fielding was very smart, Baldwin's catch at point to dismiss Martin being very good.

Kent at the start of their innings looked like making a big score, as both Mr Mason and A Hearne were playing with plenty of confidence. But when Mr Mason was disposed of at 90 the game took a decided change, as four more wickets went down for the addition of ten runs, which had taken 25 minutes to get, while the score at the luncheon interval was 113 for the loss of six batsmen. At this period Mr Mordaunt and A Hearne became partners and succeeded in adding 70 runs in 40 minutes, most of which were claimed by Mr Mordaunt.

Surrey opened their innings at a quarter past 4, but soon met with disaster, Abel being bowled at five. Hayward and Brockwell then took the score to 109, when the former was dismissed for 47. This score enabled Hayward to complete his 1,000 runs for the season. Brockwell was out soon afterwards for an excellent 62, which was made without a chance, and included ten fours, two threes and four twos. At the close of play Surrey were 99 behind with six wickets still in hand. The pitch was in good condition although rather slow. There were about 7,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 July, page 14)

The Surrey eleven at the Oval yesterday gave a splendid demonstration of their batting powers, for the innings did not conclude until nearly 6 o'clock, by which time they had made the fine score of 617. At the close of play on Thursday the game was in a fairly even position. Kent had made 217, while Surrey had lost four wickets for 118.

Surrey in a great measure owed their splendid total to two men - Mr Jephson and Baldwin, who, during a partnership of two hours and a half, put on 230 runs. Mr Jephson's 102 is the first 100 he has ever made in first-class cricket. It included one five, 13 fours, two threes and eight twos. But the honours of the day were secured by Baldwin, who went in at the fall of the second wicket and was last out for a grand 234. His magnificent display only included two chances, both of which were at the wicket. He hit 29 fours, seven threes and 21 twos.

When Mr Jephson left the score was 348. With Hayes in the tired bowlers were knocked all over the field and 62 were put on in 35 minutes. After his dismissal Mr Key helped Baldwin to add 67, while with Lees in 42 runs were rapidly obtained. After this Wood and Richardson gave a considerable amount of trouble.

Kent went in a second time at 6 o'clock having to face the heavy deficit of 400, and at the close of play had lost one wicket for 43 so they now require 357 to save a single innings defeat with nine batsmen still in hand. There was again a very good attendance.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 July, page 11)

Surrey gained a brilliant victory over Kent on Saturday, at the Oval, by an innings and 148 runs. At the close of play on Friday Kent, who had to go in against the heavy deficit of 400 runs, had made 43 for the loss of Mr Tonge's wicket. Consequently on Saturday the visitors still required 357 to save a single innings defeat.

Under any circumstances this task would have been a very formidable one, but taking the bowling strength of Surrey into consideration their position was almost hopeless. Mr Marchant and Mr Stewart, who were not out at the drawing of stumps on Friday, with 20 and ten respectively, continued their innings, but the score had only increased by three when Mr Marchant left, while at 67 Mr Mason was caught at the wicket. After this, however, Mr Stewart, Mr Livesay and Mr Mordaunt helped to bring the total to 143 for the loss of six batsmen.

At this period Wright and Martin became partners and succeeded in putting on 82 in an hour and a quarter, when Wright was dismissed for a very useful 38. Martin, however, received very little assistance from the remaining batsmen, and Kent were all out at half-past 3 for 252. Martin carried out his bat for a well-played 57, which included eight fours, three threes and two twos. A Hearne was unable to bat owing to a strain; but he hopes after a rest this week to be well enough to play at Canterbury.

22 July: SUSSEX v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4844.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 July, page 11)

Taking full advantage of the opportunity afforded them by winning the toss yesterday at Brighton, the Sussex team remained in for the whole of the time that cricket was in progress, scoring 293 runs and only losing two batsmen. The game was seriously interfered with by rain, and altogether only three hours and three-quarters of actual play took place, the Hampshire bowlers during the last hour being seriously handicapped by having to use a wet ball on a greasy wicket.

Mr Brann and Marlow set a splendid example by scoring 102 runs in less than an hour and a half for the first wicket. The total had reached 167 when Mr Brann was clean bowled for an admirable 77. He had made his runs in two hours and a quarter, almost without a mistake, his chief hits being six fours, eight threes and four twos. By this innings he has been enabled to complete his 1,000 runs in first-class cricket this summer.

With the score at 204 for two wickets rain came on so heavily at a quarter to 4 that no further cricket could take place until half-past 5. In the last hour Ranjitsinhji brilliantly seized his opportunity and did practically as he liked with the bowling. He completed his 100 after being in as many minutes, and at the close was not out 129. Already the partnership for the second wicket has yielded 126 in an hour and 25 minutes.

Despite the unfavourable weather there were nearly 2,000 people present. Hampshire, it will be seen, are represented by a very weak side.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 July, page 14)

With the conditions against them yesterday at Brighton, Hampshire were completely outplayed, and nothing but rain can save them to-day, as, with four good batsmen already disposed of, they still require 271 to avoid being beaten in a single innings.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 July, page 11)

At Brighton, on Saturday, Sussex inflicted a severe defeat on Hampshire by an innings and 176 runs. Wanting no fewer than 271 to save the single innings defeat, the visitors were in quite a hopeless position, and the Hampshire innings was completed in an hour and a half for the addition of 95 runs.

Though the wicket had apparently quite recovered from its treacherous state of the previous afternoon Mr Andrew alone offered any serious resistance. On Friday he had batted half an hour for seven runs, and when the end arrived he was still not out with 54 to his credit. Among the figures in his quite faultless display were seven fours, two threes and four twos. Tate and Bland both bowled well, and Mr Hartley dismissed the last three men at a cost of 15 runs.

22 July: YORKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4845.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 July, page 11)

Having beaten Yorkshire at Leyton after a very close match early in the season, Essex were naturally anxious to make a hood fight with the champions in the return engagement at Huddersfield yesterday. They succeeded in placing their best team in the field, except for the absence of Mr A P Lucas, but Yorkshire lacked the services of Peel and Hunter.

Winning the toss and going in first on a fiery wicket, Essex began badly, losing Carpenter, Mr Perrin and Mr M'Gahey for 22 runs; but then Mr Turner came to the rescue of his side. Mr Turner, who is a great acquisition to the batting strength of the side, played admirable cricket for an hour and three-quarters, and in scoring his 40 gave only one chance. Hirst, whose bowling got up very awkwardly at times, took six wickets at a cost of only 46 runs, while Mr Jackson obtained four at a cost of only 38. The total amounted to 139.

Yorkshire began quite as badly as their opponents, Brown, Tunnicliffe, Mr Jackson and Denton being all out for 28 runs, while later on, though Wainwright and Moorhouse added 21, there were actually eight wickets down for 62. The Yorkshire batsmen seemed quite unable to face Kortright, and there was every reason to expect that Essex would lead by 50 or 60 runs. But Hirst hit with pluck and vigour and, finding a useful partner in Haigh, 43 runs were put on for the ninth wicket and 30 more for the last. Haigh's 24 not out was especially praiseworthy, coming as it did immediately after his fine work in saving the game against Lancashire on Wednesday.

In the end the total amounted to 135, or only four behind. Bull came out with better figures than Kortright, but the latter had the chief share in the dismissal of Yorkshire. Pleasant weather prevailed in the afternoon, and about 5,000 people were on the ground.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 July, page 14)

The match at Huddersfield between Yorkshire and Essex is consistent in its uncertainties. The end of the second day finds Essex in a strong position, for their opponents have yet to make 218 to win with six wickets left.

The turning point in the play yesterday came with the fall of the fifth Essex wicket at 51, when Mr Fane, of the Oxford eleven, and Mr Turner altered the position of things by their splendid partnership of 121 for the sixth wicket. Then came a stand of 80 for the ninth wicket by Mr Kortright and Mr Turner that simply left Yorkshire with a nearly hopeless task.

When Yorkshire went in to get 299 to win they lost four wickets for 23, but then Wainwright and Moorhouse made a stand and added 58. There were some seven or eight thousand spectators of the cricket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 July, page 11)

After a match full of interest and excitement from start to finish, Essex beat Yorkshire at Huddersfield, on Saturday, by the smallest possible margin - a single run.

The Yorkshiremen entered upon the final stage of the contest with a good deal the worse of the game, but they batted with freedom and confidence, and although some time elapsed before they succeeded in getting on terms with their opponents, half an hour before the finish the prospects were all in favour of the northern county achieving a victory. Through over-anxiety the Essex players made several mistakes in the field, but they never relaxed their efforts and eventually snatched a narrow but memorable win. Mr Kortright worked untiringly, and although freely punished at times had, so far as the last day's play was concerned, the chief share in the success of his side.

The one run in their favour at the finish gave Essex their second victory over Yorkshire this season and their fourth in the last five engagements between the two counties. Yorkshire on Friday afternoon had been set 299 runs to get to win, and after four of the best wickets had gone down for 23 runs, Wainwright and Moorhouse had by skilful and confident cricket added 58 runs before the drawing of stumps. Thus on Saturday morning, with 81 runs scored and six wickets to go down, the home team still wanted 218 more runs to gain a victory.

Wainwright and Moorhouse again batted in fine style and raised the total to 138 before Wainwright, who had been missed at 43 but had otherwise played capital cricket, was caught in the slips, the partnership for the fifth wicket having produced 115 runs. Moorhouse also batted in excellent form, but was also taken in the slips.

The total was then 169, so Yorkshire, with only four wickets to fall, had still 130 to make when Hirst and Mr Milligan came together. These two, favoured with some luck, put on 85 runs in 40 minutes, Yorkshire looking to be sure of victory, when at 254 a foolish run cost Hirst his wicket. Then came some exciting play. Mr Milligan and Lord Hawke added 29 before the former was bowled for a dashing 64, Yorkshire, with two wickets to fall, wanting 16 to win. Five of these had been obtained before Haigh was dismissed, so that there were 11 to get when Bairstow, the last man, came in.

To the delight of the spectators nine of these were scored, but then Bairstow was palpably out leg-before wicket and the innings closed for 267. Essex won the match by a single run.

Friday 23 July, page 11: THE CRICKETERS' FUND

Mr G F Hearne, of Lord's, has been appointed honorary treasurer of this fund, in succession to his father, Tom Hearne, who is in failing health.

Saturday 24 July, page 14

MR STODDART'S AUSTRALIAN TEAM.- Hayward, of Surrey, has accepted Mr Stoddart's invitation to join the team for Australia. Abel has declined; but Richardson has as yet given no definite answer.

MR W SOUTH NORTON.- A testimonial is being raised for this once famous cricketer, who years ago was captain of the Kent eleven. The subscribers include:- Lord Harris, Sir William Hart Dyke, Lord Hawke, Viscount Oxenbridge, General Denne, the Rev H B Biron, the Rev C D Marsham, the Rev C Randolph, Captain M'Canlis, Messrs V E Walker, F H Norma, Denzil Onslow and H A Richardson. Mr Kelson is opening an account to be called "The Norton Fund" at the National Bank, Oxford-street branch, to which subscriptions can be paid.

WEST INDIAN CRICKETERS.- Mr Gerald B Mason writes from 49, Chepstow-place, Bayswater, under date July 22:- "As the recent cricket matches in the West Indies have attracted considerable attention, may I be permitted to announce through the medium of your valuable paper that a team of West Indians resident in England will be playing next week? By the courtesy of the Richmond Cricket Club the match will be played at Richmond on July 28, beginning at 11 o'clock, between this West Indian team, captained by Mr P F Warner, and one kindly brought together by Mr R S Lucas.

After the match there will be a West Indian dinner at the Holborn Restaurant, the tickets for which will be 5s each (exclusive of wine) and can be obtained from me on receipt of a postal order for this amount. It is hoped that as many West Indians as possible will bring their friends to the cricket match and to the dinner, which, it is intended, shall take place annually. The Earl of Stamford has kindly consented to preside at the dinner. Amongst those who are kindly giving their support are Lord Selborne, Sir Charles Lees, Bishop Mitchinson, the Attorney-General of British Guiana, and Mr Nock, secretary of the Trinidad C.C."

Yorkshire's second defeat this season at the hands of Essex and Nottinghamshire's first loss caused a great stir in cricket circles on Saturday, for while Essex strengthened their position, both Notts and Yorkshire were reduced in the table of results, that is, on the lines laid down by the M.C.C. and approved of by the sub-committee of the counties.

The single loss that Notts sustained made all the difference to the Midland team, for they had only two points, eight of their previous games having, as they were not finished, to be ignored under the clumsy and involved regulation officially adopted for the championship. The fight for first place is very keen, and Lancashire and Essex are about evenly placed. The county season, however, has more than a month to run, so that the interest will be sustained for a long while yet.

The Essex eleven have made a great name for themselves this summer; and their high position is thoroughly deserved, for their fine variety of bowling and batting and their splendid form in the field advance their cricket to the highest rank. It must not be forgotten, also, that they ought to have easily beaten Surrey on the Oval early in the season and that bad umpiring had a great deal to do with their loss quite recently at Old Trafford.

Within the next month there are several unusually interesting fixtures in London. Essex meet Lancashire and Surrey on August 5 and 12 at Leyton; at the Oval Surrey play Notts and Lancashire on August 2 and 19, and Lancashire play Middlesex at Lord's on August 23. Both Yorkshire and Lancashire will be seen at Canterbury next week. The table of results is now as under:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Lancashire	16	9	1	6	8	.8
Essex	11	5	1	5	4	.6
Yorkshire	17	9	2	6	7	.63
Surrey	17	10	3	4	7	.53
Nottinghamshire	11	2	1	8	1	.3
Gloucestershire	9	4	3	2	1	.14
Warwickshire	13	3	3	7	0	
Sussex	11	3	4	4	-1	
Kent	10	2	4	4	-2	
Hampshire	9	1	5	3	-4	
Middlesex	9	0	4	5	-4	
Leicestershire	8	1	8	1	-6	
Somerset	9	1	7	1	-6	
Derbyshire	10	0	6	4	-6	

THE AVERAGES

The first-class averages are given below:-

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Innings	Times not out	Average
Mr N F Druce	12	726	227*	1	66
Mr J A Dixon	18	952	268*	1	56.10
Mr F G J Ford	18	805	150	3	53.10
K S Ranjitsinhji	30	1422	260	3	52.18
Abel	31	1333	250	2	45.28
Mr A J Turner	8	357	111	1	44.5
W G Quaife	21	749	136*	4	44.1
Wainwright	31	1239	171	2	42.21
Gunn	22	845	152	2	42.6
Mr G Brann	28	1037	126	1	41.12
Lord Hawke	14	414	91*	4	41.4
Tyldesley	25	952	174	2	41.9

Shrewsbury	20	731	125	2	40.11
Dr W G Grace	24	886	128	2	40.6
Mr F Mitchell	12	475	133	0	39.7
Hayward	27	1023	130	1	39.9
Mr P Perrin	20	704	153	2	39.2
Baker	30	1055	153	3	39.2
Mr A P Lucas	13	386	89	2	38.6
J T Brown	32	1154	311	2	38.14
Dench	19	569	65*	4	37.14
Mr C J Burnup	18	597	108	2	37.5
Mr J F Byrne	13	472	100	0	36.4
Mr G L Jessop	24	838	140	1	36.10
Mr J R Mason	24	868	183	0	36.4
A Ward	26	862	162	2	35.22
Mr F S Jackson	30	964	124	3	35.19
Mr H W Bainbridge	19	635	101	1	35.5
Baldwin (Surrey)	27	910	234	1	35
Mr H C Stewart	16	557	142	0	34.13
Lilley	24	688	79*	4	34.8
Mr G E Bromley-Martin	12	409	137	0	34.1
Hirst	32	888	134	5	32.24
Tunnickliffe	31	911	147	3	32.15
V Barton	21	612	125	2	32.4
Mr A J Webbe	19	474	74	4	31.9
Mr K J Key	26	688	110*	4	31.8
Mr P F Warner	27	782	178	1	30.2
Mr F H B Champain	25	721	97	1	30.1
Chatterton	23	680	120	0	29.13
Brockwell	27	784	131	0	29.1
Storer	30	841	160*	1	29
Mr F L Fane	22	604	67	1	28.16
Diver	22	632	111	0	28.16
Bagshaw	20	544	114*	1	28.12
Mr W L Murdoch	27	734	105	1	28.6
Nichols	18	476	74*	1	28
Carpenter	24	607	141	2	27.13
Mr A E Stoddart	20	541	91	0	27.1
W Quaife	23	586	101	1	26.14
Mr H H Marriott	19	472	73	1	26.4
Mr R C N Palairot	20	513	66	0	25.13
Mr A C S Glover	20	487	115	1	25.12
Mr W Newham	25	611	107	1	25.11
Mr A Eccles	16	356	102	2	25.1
Trott	12	276	62	1	25
Mr F W Milligan	20	475	64	1	25
Davidson	29	650	97	3	25.0
Mr C J Kortright	17	373	66*	2	24.13
Mr C M'Gahey	25	590	94	1	24.14
Dr G Thornton	15	323	56	2	24.11
Mr H B Chinnery	25	582	149	1	24.6
Mr W W Read	16	291	86*	4	24.3
Mr H B Hayman	22	505	62	1	24.1
Denton	31	734	112	0	23.21
Mr A O Jones	18	428	75	0	23.14
Mr C P Foley	12	232	47	2	23.2

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr F W Stocks	197.1	75	387	32	12.3
Mr C E M Wilson	233	82	380	29	13.3
Trott	257.4	75	673	48	14.1

Richardson	1039.2	303	2627	165	15.152
Hallam	710.3	306	1244	74	16.60
Mr H W de Zoete	229	69	595	35	17
Mold	731.3	257	1495	87	17.14
Mr G L Jessop	513.2	151	1097	63	17.26
J T Hearne	1150.3	439	2293	128	18.7
Hayward	625.4	184	1511	82	18.35
Mr F H E Cunliffe	503.3	165	1165	62	18.49
Peel	688.1	258	1233	65	18.63
Roberts	417	148	939	49	19.8
Mead	700.2	258	1329	69	19.18
Cuttell	614	235	1109	57	19.26
Mr E B Shine	375	103	975	49	19.44
Woodcock	435.1	111	1100	55	20
Bland	813.4	253	1991	96	20.71
Mr E C Wright	313.2	117	632	30	21.2
Davidson	681.4	280	1194	56	21.8
Hirst	788.2	289	1622	78	21.26
Haigh	626.1	211	1317	61	21.36
Attewell	775.4	340	1362	63	21.39
Briggs	789.4	242	1603	73	21.70
Mr F G Bull	671.1	163	1799	81	22.17
Lees	319.2	130	900	40	22.20
Mr C J Kortright	343.4	83	933	41	22.31
Mr F S Jackson	368.4	120	790	34	23.8
Tyler	524.4	124	1405	60	23.25
Tate	869.4	291	1792	76	23.44
Dr W G Grace	320	91	737	31	23.24
Brockwell	376.1	150	737	31	23.24
Wainwright	723.1	235	1540	64	24.4
Mr J R Mason	342.1	117	765	31	24.21
Mr C L Townsend	480.3	72	1530	62	24.42
Rawlin	514.1	183	1029	41	25.4
Alec Hearne	361	124	761	30	25.11
Santall	669	231	1464	56	26.8
Guttridge	383	101	1031	39	26.17

26 July: DERBYSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4846.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 July, page 11)

The return match between these counties began yesterday at Derby, and an interesting day's cricket yielded the following score . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 July, page 10)

Following something of an ordinary start to their innings yesterday at Derby, Surrey scored heavily, and for the credit of their splendid total of 377 they were mostly indebted to the fine, vigorous game of their captain, Mr Key, and Holland.

These batsmen became partners when six wickets were down for 128, and in a couple of hours they put on 179 runs. Holland, with every prospect of running into three figures, was then bowled. His 93, if not completely faultless, was a great innings, marked especially by powerful driving on both sides of the wicket. He hit 17 fours. Mr Key took out his bat for 130, his best score this season. The old Oxford batsman showed a fine capacity for forcing the game alike in the cut, the drive and the leg-hit, and his figures included 16 fours, five threes and 12 twos.

Derbyshire started their uphill task in good style and for the loss of two men they hit off 134 of their 234 arrears.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 July, page 6)

Yesterday, at Derby, the batting of the Derbyshire eleven broke down very badly, and by half-past 1 in the afternoon Surrey had gained a brilliant and decisive victory by ten wickets. At the drawing of stumps on Tuesday Derbyshire had scored 134 in their second innings and were still 100 runs behind.

Bagshaw and Davidson, the not-outs, played in capital style at the outset, putting on 44 runs in half an hour, so that there seemed a likelihood of a good fight being made. However, on Lees taking the ball from Hayward, so extraordinary was the change in the game that, though 180 had been up on the board with only two men out, there were nine wickets down for 204. Davidson, who had batted finely from the first, found a useful partner in Cross, and 31 runs being added for the partnership Derbyshire just managed to escape being beaten in one innings. The side was all out for 235, and Davidson was left to carry his bat for an admirable and practically faultless 72, which occupied him a little more than two hours, and included 11 fours, four threes and five twos. Lees yesterday bowled 12 overs for 15 runs and four wickets, and during the same time Richardson dismissed four batsmen for 39 runs.

Surrey had to go in to make two runs, and Richardson quickly settled matters by sending the ball to the boundary in the first over.

26 July: KENT v GENTLEMEN OF PHILADELPHIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4847.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 July, page 11)

In the three hours that cricket was practicable at Maidstone yesterday, Kent scored freely, making 314 runs for the loss of only half their wickets. The Philadelphians fielded very well; but the weakness of their bowling was exposed on the true pitch.

Mr Mason and Mr Tufton put on 70 for the first wicket, Mr Mason and Mr Marchant 86 for the second, and Mr Weigall and Easby had added another 86 for the sixth when rain stopped the game. Mr Mason's 92 was a particularly dashing innings; he drove very hard and there were 14 fours among his figures. Mr Weigall adopted a much slower method of play and was occasionally in trouble with the ball; but both Mr Marchant and Easby hit hard.

Kent had by no means their best side; but the Philadelphians were generous opponents, for after Mr Tonge had been hurt in the first over of the day they allowed the county to bring into the eleven Mr F M Atkins.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 July, page 10)

At one time yesterday it seemed likely that cricket at Mote-park, Maidstone, would be seriously interfered with by rain, a heavy thunderstorm about noon stopping the game for three-quarters of an hour. After that, however, the weather became very bright and pleasant, and play went on without further interruption.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 July, page 6)

Though they gave a highly creditable display of batting yesterday at Maidstone, the Philadelphians could never recover from their bad start, and Kent were left with a well-earned and decisive victory in a single innings with nine runs to spare. The position of the game at the drawing of stumps on Tuesday left the Americans with a thankless task, as they had nothing better than a draw to hope for. The weather was delightfully fine, but with the match in such a one-sided condition there was only a small attendance at the Mote-park ground to see the finish.

Having scored 157 for six wickets against Kent's total of 454, the Philadelphians required 178 to avoid a follow-on. Their batting yesterday morning was very disappointing, the last four wickets going down for the addition of 11 runs and the side being all out for 168.

This necessitated a follow-on against a majority of 286, and at the second attempt a desperate struggle was made to atone for the early failures. Only three members of the team missed getting double figures, and after some very consistent batting the total reached 277. King, Biddle, Baily and a few of the others showed to considerable advantage, but far and away the best batting on the side was that of Lester, who, following up his previous success, scored 69 in faultless fashion. He made his runs in rather less than an hour and three-quarters, and hit 12 fours, three threes and two twos. In the whole game he made 135 runs, and is to be congratulated on a capital performance . . .

26 July: LANCASHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4848.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 July, page 11)

Yesterday's play at Aigburth, Liverpool, was curtailed by the weather, but Lancashire made a splendid beginning to their innings.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 July, page 10)

Lancashire established a great advantage at Liverpool yesterday, and to-day their opponents will have to follow on against odds of 174. The balance of the home innings in which two wickets had fallen overnight for 153 extended another three hours, and in this time 159 were added. Albert Ward played with extreme care for his runs.

Dr Grace and Mr Rice made a splendid beginning to Gloucestershire's innings, putting on 95; but then came a collapse, and Lancashire, fielding and bowling brilliantly, got the whole side out for an additional 43 runs. There were 5,000 spectators of a keen day's cricket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 July, page 6)

Gloucestershire were left in a hopeless position at Liverpool on Tuesday, having completed an innings on a queer wicket for 138 against Lancashire's fine score of 312, and having, therefore, to follow on yesterday against a majority of 174.

Any hope they might have had of saving the game was lost by some more showers which, following in the night, kept the pitch difficult, and so the only real point of interest was as to whether the single innings defeat would be averted. In accomplishing this the visitors did a distinctly fine performance. Dr Grace and Mr Rice again started well for them, and the former made 37 out of 59 in about an hour. There were three wickets down for 63; but Mr Jessop infused a good deal of life into the game by hitting up 49 out of 59 in 25 minutes. He drove with tremendous power and made his runs in 17 strokes, nine of them being boundary hits.

Another useful stand was that by Mr Townsend and Mr Goodwin, the former batting carefully for an hour and assisting to add 89 runs. Still, Gloucester only succeeded in putting their opponents in to get 13, and these were made without loss by Mr Maclaren and Ward, Lancashire winning by ten wickets. Briggs again bowled finely on a pitch that helped him, although Mr Jessop rather spoiled his analysis while he was in.

26 July: YORKSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4849.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 July, page 11)

J T Brown's brilliant batting marked yesterday's cricket at Leeds, when Yorkshire secured a big advantage on the day.

MR F S JACKSON'S BATTING.- With his innings of 44 at Leeds yesterday for Yorkshire against Somerset Mr F S Jackson completed his 1,000 runs in first-class matches this season. He is the eighth batsman who has so far accomplished the feat, the others being Abel, K S Ranjitsinhji, J T Brown, Wainwright, Baker, Mr George Brann and Hayward.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 July, page 10)

The Yorkshiremen followed up the advantage gained on the Headingley ground, Leeds, on Monday, in fine style yesterday, and in the end won with great ease by an innings with 22 runs to spare. When play ceased the home side had made 356 and Somerset had lost three wickets in scoring 88, of which number Mr Woods had obtained 61 not out.

On resuming, the old Cambridge captain, after escaping from a chance in the slips, again hit in brilliant fashion, and when at length he was sixth out at 166, after a two hours' stay, his score amounted to 111. He hit 16 fours, four threes and eight twos. No one else did much against Wainwright's bowling, and the innings terminated before 1 o'clock for 188. Wainwright took six of the last seven wickets for 40 runs.

In a minority of 168, the western county had, of course, to follow on, and, although seven of the batsmen reached double figures, no one met with marked success, and Yorkshire were left victorious by a single innings, as stated above.

The following is the position of the counties as the result of yesterday's play:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Lancashire	17	10	1	6	9	.81
Essex	11	5	1	5	4	.6
Yorkshire	18	10	2	6	8	.6
Surrey	18	11	3	4	8	.57
Nottinghamshire	11	2	1	8	1	.3
Gloucestershire	10	4	4	2	0	
Warwickshire	13	3	3	7	0	
Sussex	11	3	4	4	-1	
Kent	10	2	4	4	-2	
Hampshire	9	1	5	3	-4	
Middlesex	9	0	4	5	-4	
Leicestershire	8	1	6	1	-5	
Somerset	10	1	8	1	-7	
Derbyshire	11	0	7	4	-7	

MR STODDART'S AUSTRALIAN TEAM.- Board, of Gloucestershire, has accepted the invitation to join Mr Stoddart's team for the colonies. Lilley, of Warwickshire, was asked, but could not go; and the position of the wicket-keeper will therefore be shared by Storer and Board.

29 July: LANCASHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4850.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 July, page 10)

On a difficult wicket at Manchester, yesterday, the bowlers nearly always held the upper hand on the batsmen in the opening day's play of this match. Hampshire went in first and owing to the irresistible bowling of Briggs and Cuttell were all dismissed in about an hour and a half for 55.

Lancashire then went in and lost six wickets for 55. From that point, however, some commendable hitting by Briggs helped them to gain the very useful lead at the end of the innings of 61 runs. Hampshire then went in again and when stumps were drawn had seven men out for 75 runs, and so to-day with three wickets to fall they are only 14 ahead.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 July, page 13)

Hampshire were badly beaten at Manchester yesterday, forty minutes' cricket giving Lancashire a victory by ten wickets. Some such result was probable after Thursday's play, when the completion of an innings of each side had left Lancashire with a lead of 61 runs, and Hampshire on going in for the second time had lost seven batsmen for 75.

Mold and Briggs finished off the visitors' innings in fifteen minutes for the addition of 13 runs, and so Lancashire had only 28 to get to win - a task which Mr Maclaren and Ward accomplished without being separated. Mold bowled with great effect in the second innings of Hampshire, but the best performance in the match was that of Briggs, who took 12 wickets for 80 runs. In the two matches this week against Gloucestershire and Hampshire, Briggs, with the ground to help him, of course, has obtained 23 wickets for eight runs apiece.

29 July: SURREY v GENTLEMEN OF PHILADELPHIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4851.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 July, page 10)

The Philadelphians paid their second visit to the Oval yesterday and had considerably the worst of the opening day's play against Surrey.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 July, page 13)

At the Oval yesterday, Surrey fully maintained the advantage which they had gained over the Philadelphians on Thursday, and the visitors now will have to struggle very hard to avoid defeat.

The Philadelphians, who had lost five wickets for 119, increased their score to 233. There was nothing of special note in their batting, with the exception of Mr Thayer, whose 59 is the highest score he has made during the tour. From the first he played with plenty of confidence, showing good defence, while he did not fail to punish the loose balls. During this stay at the wickets, which lasted an hour and three-quarters, he hit nine fours, five threes and two twos.

Surrey went in a second time at a quarter past 1, having a balance of 40. Abel's bad luck again pursued him, as he played on when he had made six. In his last six innings he had only scored 27 runs - namely, 0, 0, 5, 4, 12 and 6. Hayward played in his usual attractive style, making some very pretty cuts and off-drives; at the same time perhaps he did not score so quickly as usual, for his 85 took him two hours. He hit 11 fours, one three and six twos.

After his dismissal the game lacked interest for a time, although runs were put on at a very fair pace. However, when Mr Key and Lees became partners, the spectators were aroused from the apathy into which they had fallen, and from this point until the close of play the tired bowlers were considerably punished. At the drawing stumps Surrey were 363 runs to the good with three wickets still to fall, although it is very improbable that Mr Norman Druce will be able to bat.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 August, page 5)

The Philadelphians brought their tour to a close on Saturday at the Oval, when they were beaten by the home team by 154 runs, a result fully expected, for, at the drawing of stumps on Friday, Surrey found themselves in practically a safe position. They had made 323 for seven wickets, which, on the game being resumed, was increased to 372. So that the visitors had to make the big score of 413 to win. This, however, proved far beyond their capabilities and they were all dismissed for 258.

Mr Key and Wood continued their innings at 20 minutes to 12, but Wood only added 16 to his over-night score. Mr Key continued to hit out until the total had reached 372, when he was caught by Mr Bohlen at mid-on. He had been batting two hours for 82, during which he had played his usual vigorous game and hit 11 fours, two threes and five twos. Mr Norman Druce, owing to an injured hand, did not go in again.

The Philadelphians started their uphill task at 20 minutes to 1, their only hope being a drawn game. Such a result, however, at no time seemed probable. Both Mr Cregar and Mr Bohlen showed good form for 41 and 46 respectively; the former, with Mr Lester, put on 71 for the second wicket, which was the longest partnership during the innings. Mr Bohlen was batting two hours, but undoubtedly played the right game, for the state of the match justified his caution. Mr Ralston, towards the end of the innings, hit out to some effect, his 40 including eight fours.

Several other members of the team batted well, but Surrey won at 25 minutes past 5. In the visitors' two innings Nice took eight wickets for 88, while in their second Baldwin kept wicket instead of Wood, who was given a rest.

THE PHILADELPHIAN TEAM

Last night the Philadelphian Eleven were entertained to dinner at the Oval by the Surrey Club, whose president, Sir Richard Webster, was in the chair. There was a large company present, including the Philadelphian Eleven and the amateur and professional members of Surrey, and among others who attended were General Sir Frederick Marshall, Viscount Oxenbridge and the members of the Surrey committee, including Mr K J Key, Mr John Shuter and Mr C W Alcock, the secretary.

Sir Richard Webster, in proposing the toast of "The Gentlemen of Philadelphia," said Philadelphian cricketers had been here before; but this last tour had not only developed the friendly feeling existent between the two brotherhoods, but had cemented the cricket friendship. If the Philadelphians had not won many matches, they had gained an experience that would improve cricket in America. Mr Patterson, the captain, responded.

29 July: SUSSEX v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4852.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 July, page 10)

At Brighton, yesterday, in the return match between Essex and Sussex, the visitors remained at the wickets the whole day and scored 330 runs for the loss of only six wickets. The first three Essex wickets fell for 86 runs, when Turner joined Mr M'Gahey, and these two batsmen put on 172 runs for the fourth wicket. Mr M'Gahey, who was not dismissed until the total reached 308, made 140, the highest innings he has played this year.

Cyril Bland, the Sussex bowler, dismissed four Essex batsmen at Brighton yesterday, and thus earned the distinction of taking 100 wickets for the season. So far this year the only other bowlers who have done this are T Richardson and J T Hearne.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 July, page 13)

Having given a fine display of batting at Brighton on Thursday, the Essex cricketers were again seen to advantage yesterday, and in the course of the day's play they obtained such a big lead over Sussex that at the drawing of stumps the home team, with only three wickets to fall, were 273 runs in arrear, thus wanting 154 more runs to escape a follow-on. The conditions which prevailed were again of the most delightful description, the sun shining brightly all day and the wicket being still in good order, while there was an even better attendance than on Thursday.

Nearly two hours at the start were occupied in bringing to a conclusion the Essex innings, in which on Thursday 330 runs had been obtained for the loss of six batsmen, the total meanwhile being increased to 475. A brilliant display of hitting was given by Mr Kortright, who in an hour and ten minutes scored 74 out of 91 added for the seventh wicket. Although he made his runs at such a pace the Essex amateur made no mistake except a chance in the long field at 64, and his innings included 13 fours. While very cautious in comparison with his partner, Mr Owen batted exceedingly well for 76, and was unlucky in being run out when so well set.

Sussex made a most disappointing commencement, faring so badly, despite an admirable and careful innings by Mr Murdoch, who stayed at the wickets two hours, that there were actually seven men out for 121. Then, however, came a fine and, to the crowd, a welcome stand by Mr Hartley and Butt, who stayed together during the last 70 minutes of the day and added 81 runs without being separated. Butt batted in fine resolute style and Mr Hartley, after an indifferent start, settled down and played well.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 August, page 5)

In saving the game against Essex at Brighton on Saturday the Sussex team generally, and Ranjitsinhji particularly, accomplished a performance reflecting immense credit on the side. They had gone in against the eastern county's big innings of 475 on Friday, and after starting badly had lost seven wickets for 202, so that they still wanted 154 to avert the follow-on. As the last wicket only earned another 17 runs, on Saturday Sussex had to face a majority of 256, and no one would have been surprised if they had been badly beaten.

But following an admirable start by Mr Brann and Marlow, who scored 65 for the first partnership, Ranjitsinhji gave one of his finest exhibitions of batting. In an hour and a half he and Mr Brann contributed 103 together, while, after Mr Murdoch had been dismissed at 218, the Indian Prince, with Mr Newham, hit off the arrears with seven wickets in hand. While there was the slightest danger of a reverse Ranjitsinhji took few risks; but as the game progressed he batted magnificently, and it was not until the total stood at 338 and his own score at 170 that he was bowled. The famous batsman only gave two chances - curiously

enough both to Turner, when 136 and 162 - in batting for three hours, and the character of his cricket will be best judged from the fact that he hit 26 fours, a three and nine twos.

Subsequently there was some dashing batting by Bean, and when the game was ultimately drawn Sussex, with five wickets in hand, were 124 runs ahead and had very little the worst of the position. There was a large company on the ground.

29 July: YORKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4853.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 July, page 10)

The return match between these counties opened yesterday at Harrogate. Gloucester went in first and made a total of 370, towards which Mr Jessop and Mr Townsend, both hitting with great vigour, contributed 101 and 109 respectively. Mr Champain also gave promise of an exceptionally fine innings until his career was cut short by a catch by Tunnickliffe off Mr Jackson. The Gloucester innings occupied the whole of the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 31 July, page 13)

At one time yesterday Yorkshire appeared to be in a disastrous position at Harrogate, and few of the 5,000 crowd would have been surprised if they had had to follow on against a majority of 150 or 200, when about 1 o'clock in the afternoon they had half their wickets down for 63 runs. Then, however, Hirst escaped from a fairly easy chance to Wrathall in the deep field and, profiting by his good fortune, the popular Huddersfield man assisted Brown to add 103 more runs in the course of the next hour before luncheon.

Immediately after the interval, Hirst was caught and bowled for a brilliant 55, in which were ten fours. Even then Yorkshire were in a bad way, and when at length Brown's stylish and faultless 80 was closed by a catch at short leg at 202, there were eight men out and 49 were still required to avert the follow-on. Lord Hawke and Mr Collinson, however, avoided this in fine style by contributing 68 in 50 minutes, and in the end the innings realized 276, or 94 behind.

Gloucestershire left off with eight wickets in hand and a lead of 180 runs, so that Yorkshire may yet have to work hard to save themselves from defeat. Dr Grace, who was out from the last ball of the day, had the satisfaction of completed his 1,000 runs for the season.

DR W G GRACE'S BATTING.- With his innings of 33 at Harrogate last evening for Gloucestershire against Yorkshire, Dr W G Grace completed his 1,000 runs this season in first-class matches.

Day 3 (report from Monday 2 August, page 5)

After an extremely interesting and well-contested match Gloucestershire on Saturday defeated Yorkshire at Harrogate by 140 runs, and so destroyed all likelihood of the northern team retaining the county championship. The west country men entered upon the concluding stage of the encounter with a good deal the better of the game, as, after gaining a lead of 94 runs on the first innings, they had, on going in for the second time, scored 86 for the loss of only two batsmen.

On Saturday morning only four runs had been added when Wainwright with following balls disposed of Mr Champain and Mr Jessop, but Wrathall and Mr Hemingway hit away at such a tremendous pace that they added 55 runs in 22 minutes, and, after seven wickets had fallen for 168, Board batted in splendid form. The Gloucestershire wicket-keeper received useful support from Mr Goodwin and Mr Brown, the former helping him to put on 62 and the latter 41. Board hit up 69 in 70 minutes, amongst his strokes being 13 fours, and on his dismissal Mr Grace declared the Gloucestershire innings closed with the total at 271 for nine wickets.

Yorkshire, with four hours and ten minutes left for cricket, had 366 runs to get to win. Mr Jackson soon played on, and Tunnickliffe, after making 25 out of 38, was caught at the wicket. Then came a capital stand by Brown and Denton, the former batting an hour and a half for 49; but there were four men out for 113. Mr Wilson next stayed an hour with Denton, and after his departure Hirst and Denton looked sure to save the game, there being

five wickets to fall with little more than an hour left for play. Mr Brown, however, went on to bowl at 190, and in the course of a few overs succeeded in getting four batsmen caught in the slips.

So complete was the breakdown at the finish that Yorkshire were all out at 6 o'clock for 225, and Gloucestershire were left with a well-earned victory. Denton gave two hard chances, but otherwise played well for two hours and a half. It should be stated that the wicket had worn a good deal, and that Yorkshire accomplished a fine performance in so nearly saving the game.

Friday 30 July, page 10

MR STODDART'S AUSTRALIAN TEAM.- It is understood that Richardson, of Surrey, has accepted Mr Stoddart's invitation to join his side for Australia. Hirst, the Yorkshire cricketer, has also accepted Mr Stoddart's invitation.

Saturday 31 July, page 13

MR STODDART'S TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA.- It is now officially announced the Richardson has agreed to go to Australia with Mr Stoddart's team, and that an invitation has been sent to Wainwright, the Yorkshire player.

The positions are now as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Lancashire	18	11	1	6	10	.83
Essex	12	5	1	6	4	.6
Surrey	18	11	3	4	8	.57
Yorkshire	19	10	3	6	7	.53
Nottinghamshire	11	2	1	8	1	.3
Gloucestershire	11	5	4	2	1	.1
Warwickshire	13	3	3	7	0	
Sussex	12	3	4	5	-1	
Kent	10	2	4	4	-2	
Middlesex	9	0	4	5	-4	
Hampshire	10	1	5	3	-5	
Leicestershire	8	1	6	1	-5	
Somerset	10	1	8	1	-7	
Derbyshire	11	0	7	4	-7	

THE AVERAGES

The following are the first-class averages brought up to date:-

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Innings	Times not out	Average
Mr N F Druce	13	777	227*	2	70.7
Mr J A Dixon	18	962	268*	1	56.10
K S Ranjitsinhji	32	1599	260	3	55.4
Mr F G J Ford	18	805	150	3	53.10
Mr A J Turner	10	435	111	1	46.2
W G Quaife	21	749	136*	4	44.1
Abel	34	1355	250	2	42.11
W Gunn	22	845	152	2	42.5
J T Brown	35	1390	311	2	42.4
Mr G Brann	28	1098	126	1	40.18
Shrewsbury	20	731	125	2	40.11
Hayward	30	1155	130	1	39.24
Mr F Mitchell	12	475	133	0	39.7
Dr W G Grace	28	1025	128	2	39.11
Wainwright	34	1254	171	2	39.6
Lord Hawke	17	461	91*	5	38.5
Mr J R Mason	25	960	183	0	38.10
Tyldesley	27	954	174	2	38.4
Dench	19	569	65*	4	37.14
Albert Ward	30	981	162	4	37.19
Baker	32	1092	153	3	37.19
Mr K J Key	29	903	130*	5	37.15
Mr P Perrin	21	712	153	2	37.9
Mr C J Burnup	18	597	108	2	37.5
Mr J F Byrne	13	472	100	0	36.4
Mr G L Jessop	28	980	140	1	36.8
Mr H W Bainbridge	19	635	101	1	35.5
Mr A P Lucas	14	386	89	3	35.1
Mr H C Stewart	17	585	142	0	34.7
Lilley	24	688	79*	4	34.8
Hirst	35	1030	134	5	34.10
Mr G E Bromley-Martin	12	409	137	0	34.1
Mr F S Jackson	33	1019	124	3	33.29

Baldwin (Surrey)	30	984	234	1	33.27
Tunncliffe	34	978	147	3	31.17
Mr A J Webbe	19	474	74	4	31.9
Captain E G Wynyard	12	377	80	0	31.5
Mr P F Warner	27	782	178	1	30.2
V Barton	23	632	125	2	30.1
Chatterton	23	680	120	0	29.13
Mr C M'Gahey	26	730	140	1	29.5
Mr F L Fane	23	636	67	1	29.20
Mr W L Murdoch	29	805	105	1	28.21
Diver	22	632	111	0	28.16
Mr F H B Champain	29	800	97	1	28.16
Bagshaw	22	599	114*	1	28.11
Brockwell	30	853	131	0	28.13
Storer	32	862	160*	1	27.25
Mr C J Kortright	18	447	74	2	27.15
Davidson	31	731	97	4	27.2
Mr A E Stoddart	20	541	91	0	27.1
Carpenter	25	620	141	2	26.22
W Quaife	23	586	101	1	26.14
Mr G J Weigall	19	449	138*	2	26.7
Mr S M J Woods	24	630	111	0	26.6
Mr H H Marriott	19	472	73	1	26.4
Nichols	20	493	74*	1	25.18
Mr H B Chinnery	28	692	149	1	25.17
Mr H G Owen	19	440	76	2	25.15
Mr S H Evershed	18	463	112	0	25.13
Mr A C S Glover	20	487	115	1	25.12
Mr A Eccles	16	356	102	2	25.6
Mr R C N Palairot	22	556	66	0	25.6
Trott	12	276	62	1	25.1
Mr W Newham	27	647	107	1	24.23
Denton	34	837	112	0	24.21
Mr F W Milligan	23	543	64	1	24.12
Dr G Thornton	15	323	56	2	24.11
Board	25	582	126	1	24.6
Mr W W Read	16	291	86*	4	24.3
Mr H B Hayman	22	505	62	1	24.1
Bean	30	639	77	3	23.18
Mr A O Jones	18	428	75	0	23.14
Mr C P Foley	12	232	47	2	23.2

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr F W Stocks	197.1	75	387	32	12.3
Trott	267.4	75	673	48	14.1
Mr C E M Wilson	267	94	450	32	14.2
Richardson	1097	320	2773	175	15.148
Mold	760	261	1567	93	16.79
Mr H W de Zoete	229	59	595	35	17
Mr G L Jessop	629.1	193	1296	76	17.4
Hallam	724.3	310	1283	74	17.28
Mr D A Steele	188.2	39	476	27	17.17
J T Hearne	1150.3	439	2293	127	18.7
Cuttell	704.4	273	1262	63	18.38
Briggs	883.4	272	1791	96	18.63
Mr F H E Cunliffe	503.3	165	1165	62	18.49
Mr E B Shine	420.4	116	1077	57	18.51
Peel	688.1	258	1233	65	18.63
Hayward	675.4	200	1646	85	19.31
Woodcock	435.1	111	1100	55	20

Mead	765.2	277	1489	71	20.69
Bland	871.3	272	2122	101	21.1
Roberts	510.3	176	1198	57	21.1
Mr E C Wright	313.2	117	632	30	21.2
Attewell	775.4	340	1362	63	21.39
Hancock	335.1	96	832	38	21.34
Lees	492.2	163	1141	52	21.49
Davidson	727.4	295	1295	59	21.56
Haigh	631.1	211	1342	61	22.0
Mr C J Kortright	377.2	90	1042	47	22.8
Mr F S Jackson	446.4	146	981	44	22.13
Hirst	852.1	310	1801	81	22.19
Mr F G Bull	744.1	181	1979	87	22.65
Brockwell	414.1	158	845	36	23.17
Wainwright	806.3	264	1768	74	23.66
Mr J R Mason	364	122	829	34	24.13
Tyler	567.4	129	1558	64	24.22
Rawlin	514.1	183	1029	41	25.4
Alec Hearne	361	124	761	30	25.11
Dr W G Grace	367	109	837	33	25.12
Mr F W Milligan	265.1	58	815	32	25.15
Tate	910.4	304	1966	77	25.41
Mr C L Townsend	530.3	83	1672	65	25.47
Santall	669	231	1464	56	26.8
Guttridge	383	101	1031	39	26.17
Pickett	217.4	57	565	20	28.5
Martin	720.4	242	1430	49	29.9
Mr S M J Woods	328.1	62	884	33	29.27

THE PHILADELPHIAN TEAM

The side who have furnished the foreign element to English cricket this season have been the strictly amateur Philadelphians, whose comparatively brief tour came to an end on Saturday with their match and loss on the Oval.

The Philadelphians have by the honourable conduct of their cricket and by their good fellowship strengthened that kindred sporting feeling which had been perhaps a little disturbed by events in some other pastimes. If their programme was rather ambitious they have gained an experience that may help them to develop the game in the United States. They were beaten nine times and were successful twice (against Sussex and Warwickshire), while four matches were drawn.

Fate was doubly unkind to them, for not only could they rarely win the toss, but they suffered much in the matter of injuries. Mr Lester, Mr Patterson and Mr Wood were all much skilled in batting; but the side had only one real good bowler - and Mr King worked extremely hard right through the tour - and their fielding was weak. The team have thoroughly appreciated the reception everywhere given them, and the sincerity of the welcome was emphasized by Sir Richard Webster at the Surrey Club dinner. We give below the batting and bowling averages:-

BATTING AVERAGES

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Innings	Times not out	Average
Mr J A Lester	26	891	92	2	37.3
Mr G S Patterson	17	540	162	1	33.12
Mr A M Wood	26	702	100	1	28.2
Mr F H Bohlen	21	408	61	2	21.9
Mr J B King	25	441	58	3	20.1
Mr H C Thayer	18	293	59	0	16.5
Mr C Coates	15	243	84	0	16.3

Mr E M Cregar	22	320	57	2	16
Mr P H Clark	22	191	29	10	15.11
Mr L Biddle	14	149	30*	3	13.6
Mr H L Clark	9	91	22	0	10.1
Mr F W Ralston	16	123	40	3	9.6
Mr H P Baily	20	177	40	1	9.6
Mr F H Bates	11	91	22	0	8.3
Mr J H Scattergood	6	31	13	2	7.3

BOWLING AVERAGES

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr J B King	655.4	153	1730	72	24.2
Mr E M Cregar	185	32	624	23	27.8
Mr J A Lester	133.1	31	408	15	27.3
Mr H P Baily	361.3	91	1028	35	29.13
Mr F H Bates	64	10	221	7	31.4
Mr P H Clark	348.4	72	1051	33	31.23
Mr G S Patterson	129.2	32	322	8	40.2
Mr C Coates	12	3	25	0	--
Mr A M Wood	9	0	43	0	--
The following bowled in one innings only:-					
Mr F H Bohlen	2	0	6	0	--
Mr L Biddle	2	0	7	0	--

MR STODDART'S TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

We understand that Mr Norman Druce, the captain at Cambridge this year and one of the most brilliant batsmen of the day, has accepted an invitation to join Mr Stoddart's team for the colonies. Mr Druce is in great form this year and, considering his experience of Fenner's in May and June, where his great batting feats have been many, he should find the Australian wickets very suitable to his game.

Mr Stoddart is to be congratulated on securing Mr Druce, and this announcement, following so closely on the acceptance of Richardson, the Surrey bowler, will be very gratifying to those who, for the sake of English cricket, hope to see Mr Stoddart get together a thoroughly representative team.

Sundry names have appeared from time to time in these columns, but the names of the cricketers now going for certain may be repeated. They are:- Mr A E Stoddart, Mr N F Druce, Mr A C Maclaren, K S Ranjitsinhji, Tom Richardson, J T Hearne, Hayward, Hirst, Storer and Board. Wainwright, of Yorkshire, is among others to whom the invitation to go has been extended.

2 August: DERBYSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4854.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 August, page 8)

A good day's cricket at Derby yesterday left things in a fairly even position, seeing that Derby with seven wickets in hand are 117 runs behind Hampshire's total. Webb and Mr Heseltine played very well for the visitors, and while they were together put on 105 runs. Mr L G Wright and Bagshaw were in good form for Derbyshire.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 August, page 10)

Hampshire at Derby yesterday got down the last seven home wickets for an addition of 88 and finished up with an unexpected lead on the innings of 29, a result that was largely the work of Captain Quinton, whose lobs were responsible for four wickets for 13 runs.

When Hampshire went in a second time there were two fine partnerships - Captains Quinton and Wynyard added 98 for the fourth wicket, and Mr Lacey and Webb put on 81 for the fifth. Hampshire are now 314 ahead with three wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 August, page 11)

Yesterday, at Derby, the home county lost to Hampshire by 186 runs. Chatterton and Sugg played very well for Derbyshire; but at no time did Derbyshire look like winning the match.

2 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4855.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 August, page 8)

At Bristol yesterday the hours of cricket were absorbed by the batting of Sussex, who made 278 for the loss of six wickets. Brann and Marlow scored 96 in an hour and three-quarters for the first partnership, but subsequently the failure of Ranjitsinhji, who lost his wicket going for an almost impossible single, and the dismissal of several other batsmen promised a very moderate score.

However, Mr Murdoch played with something of the skill of his other great days and, aided by Bean, put on 81 in an hour and a quarter. Gloucestershire fielded and bowled well, and a sum of £17 was collected on the ground for their professionals. There were well over 12,000 spectators and their encroachment on the ground more than once delayed the game.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 August, page 10)

Yesterday was certainly Dr Grace's day at Bristol, for in addition to taking six of the visitors' wickets, he batted with much of his old precision and scored 116, this being his third 100 this year - he made three figures against the Philadelphians and at Trent Bridge v Notts. It is always gratifying to record the successes of the champion; and had Dr Grace not gone in so much for hitting in the early periods of the summer it might have been much more than the third century which is now credited to him.

Gloucestershire in the end got out Sussex for 367, and the chief feature of this long score was Mr Murdoch's 130. He played with his characteristic care and was about four and a half hours getting his runs. Dr Grace got his runs in about three hours. Gloucestershire at present are 129 behind with four wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 August, page 11)

In this match at Bristol when once the home side had saved the follow-on there was never any chance of the game being finished, so that little interest was aroused by the third day's play. In the end the game was drawn . . .

Monday 2 August, page 5: THE CANTERBURY WEEK

The Kent executive have provided a splendid cricket producing for the Week at Canterbury. To-day the Lancashire eleven appear against Kent, and on Thursday (Ladies' Day) the other great Northern eleven, Yorkshire, will play.

Visitors to the St Lawrence ground will find many improvements in the matter of stands and other facilities for watching the cricket, for now that the club have purchased the ground they have been able to make improvements that were inadvisable under their yearly tenancy. The Old Stagers, who are inseparable from the Week, will give their performances to-day, to-morrow and on Thursday and Friday, and the plays chosen for the occasion are The Idler and A Pair of Spectacles.

2 August: KENT v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4856.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 August, page 8)

In the holiday week of August the old Cathedral city discards its usually sombre garb for one of gaiety, and it has never seemed brighter than yesterday, when the most famous of cricket festivals began. The splendid summer weather of yesterday augurs well for a great success.

The people gathered in their thousands on the old St Lawrence ground, now the property of the Kent Club, who have been able to make improvements for the public that hitherto were not possible. But these new facilities for watching the game have not in any way interfered with the picturesque scene furnished by the crescent of tents belonging to the various important personages closely connected with Kent and also the social clubs and such others as I Zingari and the Band of Brothers who go in for cricket.

But amid all the celebrations Kent had a bad time in the cricket field; and the batsman who wrought their discomfiture was that splendid Harrow cricketer, Mr A C Maclaren. Going in first yesterday, he was ninth and last man out before the drawing of stumps. In his five hours at the wickets he scarcely made an ill-timed stroke; he was particularly strong in the cut and the on-drive, while his leg-placing was also very good. He hit 38 fours, six threes and 16 twos. In three weeks of county cricket Mr Maclaren has made 596 runs. Mr Maclaren's brilliant 244 overshadowed everything else.

But Albert Ward, who ran to his 1,000 aggregate for the season, helped to make 144 for the first wicket, and useful assistance was subsequently rendered by Tyldesley and Briggs. The quickest scoring of the day occurred near the close, when Mr Hornby and Mr Maclaren put on 78 in 35 minutes. Kent fielded and bowled well, and Mr Mordaunt in the former department was especially good. Lancashire are in a splendid winning position.

Two or three good names are absent from the Kent list, notably Lord Harris, who is in pretty good form this summer, Mr W H Patterson, Mr Burnup and the Rev W Rashleigh. The Old Stagers had a good house to see their performance at the theatre last evening.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 August, page 10)

The Kent eleven were fighting an uphill game throughout yesterday and, after following on, they finished up with arrears of 147 and their whole ten wickets intact in the second innings.

Yesterday's cricket possessed no such brilliant feature as that of the first day, when Mr Maclaren played his great innings; but Mr Mason and Alec Hearne did so well in the first Kent partnership that the subsequent batting must have been especially disappointing to the friends of the home county. After they had made 83 in 90 minutes before being separated, there came something of a collapse, and the whole side was out for 199. Martin and Mr Mordaunt met with some success, but the batting after Mr Mason had gone was only bright while Mr Mordaunt remained. The old Oxford captain got his 37 out of 45 in less than half an hour, and hit six fours.

In the follow-on against 200, Mr Mason and Hearne again began well, and at the drawing of stumps had scored 53 without being separated. Kent, of course, have a stern struggle before them to avoid defeat, especially as the wickets at Canterbury have no particular reputation for lasting three days.

Among the features of the game yesterday were the bowling of Briggs, whose analysis speaks for itself, the completion by Mr Mason on his 1,000 aggregate, and the running of Briggs into three figures in the matter of wickets captured during the season.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 August, page 11)

After the way the game had gone on Tuesday it was not surprising that Lancashire easily won the match by an innings and 19 runs. Kent had followed on against odds of 200, and yesterday, apart from Mr Mason, there was nothing of note in the batting.

Mr Mason played in quite his best style for 86 and hit 13 fours; but subsequently the bowling of Briggs was all too much for the home team. Briggs took seven wickets for 80, and his full record for the match was 13 wickets for 135 runs. Lancashire played a winning game from the start and thoroughly merited their success.

2 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4857.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 August, page 8)

Pougher, who injured his foot early in the year and whom the county had sadly missed during May, June and July, made his first appearance for Leicestershire yesterday at Leicester; but even then his ankle was not sufficiently strong to permit of his bowling. The cricket was watched with a keen interest by a large company.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 August, page 10)

The Essex eleven established a big advantage at Leicester yesterday, and to-day they have every prospect of a victory, for with only two men left in the second innings Leicestershire are only 28 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 August, page 11)

As the position of the game overnight foreshadowed, Essex gained an easy victory at Leicester yesterday. Their actual success was by six wickets. They went in to get 56 to win, and Mr Turner and Carpenter batted very well.

2 August: SOMERSET v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4858.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 August, page 8)

The great thing yesterday at Taunton was Mr Stoddart's fine innings of 109, which was his first three-figure score of the season. He went in first wicket down at 41 and was fourth out at 211, after batting two and a quarter hours. Among his figures were a square-leg hit out of the ground for 6, 13 fours, three threes and seven twos.

To begin with Middlesex lost three men for 88; but Mr Douglas and Mr Stoddart put on 135 for the fourth partnership. Mr Douglas played very well and hit a dozen fours. For the last wicket there was another stand, Mr Wells and Hearne adding 54 very rapidly. Middlesex are without the services of Sir Timothy O'Brien and Mr Ford.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 August, page 10)

Under splendid cricket conditions the Somerset eleven at Taunton, yesterday, played Middlesex a fine game, and at present there seems little else than the prospect of a draw. The Somerset innings occupied nearly the whole of the hours, and their batting against much good fielding and bowling was extremely good.

The foundation of the score of the home side was laid by Mr Lionel Palairet, whose 72 runs were made in his best style. Captain Hedley and Mr Roe were his chief partners, but there was nothing to equal his own excellence. He hit seven fours, four threes and seven twos. Mr F A Phillips subsequently batted well. Middlesex in the end were 88 ahead in the second innings with eight wickets left.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 August, page 11)

After an exciting finish at Taunton last evening this match was drawn; but Middlesex had all the better of the position, and it was sheer luck that saved the home side from defeat. Mr Stoddart, who had strained his knee, gave up any idea of further participation in the game and left for London by the midday train. Middlesex were in danger of defeat when their seventh wicket went for 113; but Mr Bromley-Davenport, assisted by Mr Cunliffe and Hearne, materially improved the visitors' chances, and Somerset were left with 237 to get in two and three-quarter hours.

Middlesex bowled and fielded keenly and Somerset lost eight men for 72. Then there were two partnerships in which Mr Fowler had a share. Finally the game was drawn, Somerset with only a wicket left wanting 114 to win.

2 August: SURREY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4859.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 August, page 8)

The day has long since passed when the Notts eleven came up with persistent regularity and scored heavily against Surrey at the Oval in the August Bank Holiday match. The tables are turned and the public has learned to look to Surrey for the highest cricket excellence. While Notts have gone back Surrey have ascended, and although the famous Midlanders have shown signs of resuscitating their fallen fortunes yesterday's experiences on the Oval rather demonstrated the need for more bowling, and this in a county side so noted in other days for its bowlers.

Surrey remained at the wickets throughout the whole of the day yesterday and scored 414 for the loss of seven wickets. The man who had most to do with this fine score was Robert Abel, who broke his fortnight's spell of ill-fortune with a remarkable and unfinished innings of 211. The secret of Abel's splendid batting has often been widely discussed. With no advantage in stature he comes down on the ball with wonderful strength, and a keen eye and an easy wrist and forearm action are the other things which must be set down as the primary strong points of his game.

In the cricket day of yesterday, which extended over an actual five and a half hours, Abel, beyond an easy catch to Mason at third man when he had scored 37, scarcely made an ill-timed stroke. This great innings eclipsed anything else that was done. But Brockwell and Mr Jephson both did well. Every one, however, was too engrossed with Abel to take much note of other things, and for Abel £62 was collected on the ground as a public appreciation of his cricket.

Nottinghamshire took their long day in the field very well and the ball was gathered and returned with excellence to the end. There was an immense crowd at the Oval, but it behaved itself very well on the whole. The numbers were between 25,000 and 30,000.

It was a great advantage to get choice of innings on such a pitch as that furnished for this match; it was one of the Oval's best, and the bowlers had the greatest trouble to make the ball turn in the slightest; in fact, the bowlers to keep the runs down had to maintain a perfect length. Abel made a brilliant start with Brockwell for Surrey. Both men practised a fine variety of strokes and runs came pretty freely from each end. Guttridge, who bowled from the top end, at a great pace, had four men in the slips, with the wicket-keeper also standing back. He bowled at times rather short, and there were several balls the batsmen touched that went whizzing away dangerously close to the slips. Dixon seemed rather reluctant to change his bowling. Seventy had been made in 50 minutes, and then Brockwell, in hitting out at Attewell, turned the ball into his wicket. One for 70 was a pretty good start.

When Hayward went in the Notts captain took off Guttridge and gave J Gunn, a nephew of the great William, who was making his first appearance on the Oval, an opportunity. This change at once checked the run-getting, and in Gunn's tenth over he got Hayward leg-before, and then with Baldwin in came the 100 - the score was 99 at Hayward's dismissal. The Notts bowling was very true and the fielding keen, but no further wicket had fallen up to luncheon, when Abel had run beyond his 60 and the record stood at 123 for two wickets.

Dixon, who had had one over before luncheon, gave up the ball after the interval to J Gunn, but he rather erred in keeping on Jones at the pavilion end. Attewell should have been tried again before the men renewed their sight of the ball. As it was Jones was severely hit for three overs, and runs had been coming at the rate of two a minute, when at 148 Baldwin, in trying to get round a ball that was right up to him, missed it and was leg-before. Baldwin had been in just long enough to complete his 1,000 aggregate, and of this fact the crowd, judging by the applause, was fully aware, showing how closely cricket statistics are followed in these days.

With Jephson in the score was carried rapidly from 240 to 260 and the partnership added 112 in 80 minutes. Eventually Dench was given a trial, and very quickly he got Jephson caught in the slips. Leveson-Gower helped to add 20 and was then caught at wicket, while Holland hit vigorously for some time until he was caught at point at 377. With Key in Abel ran to his second hundred, and soon afterwards the 400 was reached. Then came a pretty left-handed catch by Attewell in the slips to get rid of Key, after which Lees kept up his wicket to the finish, Surrey being 414 for seven wickets. Abel had a great reception at the finish and the crowd in front of the pavilion would not disperse until he had answered to their calls.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 August, page 10)

Surrey's heavy scoring on Monday at the Oval had left Notts with an uphill fight of great severity, and in this they were batting throughout yesterday under the severe handicapped of having William Gunn absent through illness. Last night, too, their prospects were not very bright, for they have lost Daft, and their score of 95 for one wicket in the second innings still leaves them with the leeway of 144.

It was only natural that the Notts batsmen should in their losing game exercise much care, for their only hope was a draw, but the cricket for the greater part of yesterday had dullness for its characteristic. Of course there was much admiration for the finished manner of Shrewsbury's batting; but no doubt the thing of most pleasure to the immense crowd - the attendance ran well over 20,000 - was the 40 minutes' big hitting by Guttridge, who made 60 out of the last 83 runs, and hit 14 fours.

The interest in the balance of Surrey's innings, in which 414 had been scored for seven wickets, was wrapped up in the prospects of Abel and to what figure he would carry his not-out score of 211. The end came quickly yesterday morning, for at 215 he was caught in the slips. This was his second best innings of the year - he made 250 against Warwickshire; it was marked by consistent all-round excellence, and beyond the easy catch to Mason when only 37 he rarely mis-timed the ball. His best hits were 28 fours, ten threes and seven twos, while one of his fours was increased to eight by an overthrow, and he was batting altogether about five hours and a half.

The Nottinghamshire men when they went in shortly before half-past 12 set themselves sedulously to a purely defensive game. But even this paid only ill, for the bowling and fielding were very true and keen. Shrewsbury displayed great watchfulness and skill, and after getting some aid from Daft he was fifth to leave, caught at slip, a declaration with which he seemed most dissatisfied. He was batting a couple of hours and his best hits were five fours and six threes.

When dullness had become the feature of the cricket the spectators were suddenly awakened by a dashing stand for the ninth and last wicket. J Gunn and Guttridge put on 83 in three-quarters of an hour, and as the latter repeatedly got the ball away to the boundary, the cheering gained in intensity. During this stand there were a couple of easy catches dropped; but the Surrey ground fielding was most remarkably good.

In the hour and a half that remained for play when Notts followed on there was again much steadiness by Shrewsbury, but the best thing towards the close was the fine cutting of Mr Jones, who, with Shrewsbury, has so far added 56 for the second partnership.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 August, page 11)

The Nottinghamshire eleven had been left too far behind in the first innings to afford much hope of their saving the game. William Gunn made an effort to bat and had his captain to run for him; but, while he and Shrewsbury and several others did fairly well, it must be set down that Notts have not the fine batting side that they possessed in other days.

In an up-hill game their score of 297 was in no degree poor. Shrewsbury played for a long while with all his finished skill; Mr Jones made a few more good hits to increase the credit of his overnight figures; and Attewell, Dench and the remaining Notts batsmen did their

best. But the game, as a whole, was dull, and the 2,000 or 3,000 people had little to arouse their enthusiasm.

Mr Jones and Shrewsbury added in all 73 for the second Notts wicket. Attewell hit six fours in his 34; but Shrewsbury batted with extreme care to the end and was actually in three and a half hours for his 69. In the position of his side it was an extremely fine performance. After Shrewsbury had gone - he was fifth out - there was little of interest in the innings and Surrey had only 59 to make to win. These runs took them just inside the hour, and soon after 5 o'clock the match was over.

2 August: WARWICKSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4860.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 August, page 8)

There was some very good cricket at Birmingham yesterday; but Yorkshire may be said to have established an advantage seeing that they are now only 30 runs behind the home score and have seven wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 August, page 10)

The advantage gained by Yorkshire at Birmingham on Monday was completely maintained yesterday, and at present Warwick's only chance of saving the game seems to lie in a draw. Yorkshire increased their overnight score of 142 for three wickets to 374, and thus led on the first innings by 202.

Denton, who is a graceful batsman with plenty of power all round the wicket, was chiefly responsible for the fine position of his side; he took out his bat for 141, and perhaps the strongest thing in his game was his play on the leg side. Among his figures were 14 fours, 12 threes and 11 twos. When Warwickshire went in a second time, Mr Bainbridge batted well . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 August, page 11)

Yorkshire beat Warwickshire at Birmingham yesterday by nine wickets.

The positions in the competition are now as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Lancashire	19	12	1	6	11	.84
Essex	13	6	1	6	5	.71
Surrey	19	12	3	4	9	.6
Yorkshire	20	11	3	6	8	.57
Gloucestershire	12	5	4	3	1	.1
Nottinghamshire	12	2	2	8	0	
Sussex	13	3	4	6	-1	
Warwickshire	14	3	4	7	-1	
Kent	11	2	5	4	-3	
Middlesex	10	0	4	6	-4	
Hampshire	11	2	6	3	-4	
Leicestershire	9	1	7	1	-6	
Somerset	11	1	8	2	-7	
Derbyshire	12	0	8	4	-8	

5 August: ESSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4861.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 August, page 9)

At one time yesterday at Leyton, it looked as if the home team, who had gone in to bat on a perfect wicket, might keep Lancashire in the field all day; but, owing to some good bowling by Briggs, who kept an excellent length throughout the innings, Essex were all dismissed by half-past 5 for 290.

The chief feature of the innings was the batting of Mr Perrin and Mr M'Gahey. When they became partners two wickets had been lost for 38; from this point, however, the game took a decided turn, and the bowling, which had been very difficult to get away, was quite mastered. During a partnership extending over two and a half hours the score was increased by 129 runs. The Lancashire fielding generally was very good, Briggs, as usual, covering a lot of ground at cover-point, while Mr Hornby brought off three catches in the slips. The visitors had three-quarters of an hour's batting.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 August, page 7)

When play was resumed at Leyton yesterday the game took a remarkable turn, for, with the pitch playing as well as ever, Lancashire collapsed, owing, mainly, to their inability to play the slows of Mr Bull, who took seven wickets at a cost of exactly nine runs each. But his figures do not adequately represent his sterling performance, as the wicket gave him no assistance. From the first he was very difficult to play and, with the exception of Mr Maclaren, who was out overnight, and Sugg, no one showed any confidence against him, the remainder of the team only making 37 between them.

But for Sugg's fine innings Lancashire would have been in a sorry plight. He was missed by Pickett at point when he had only increased his overnight score by one, and this proved a very expensive mistake, for he continued to bat in excellent fashion. During his stay of two hours at the wicket he played with plenty of power, making some good drives on the off side, and in all hitting ten fours and 14 twos.

At the drawing of stumps on Thursday the visitors had lost two wickets for 66, Sugg and Baker being not out with 18 and 5 respectively. On resuming the innings yesterday Baker was caught in the slips without any addition to the score, while in Mr Kortright's first over Sugg gave the chance referred to. The total was then taken to 92, when Smith was caught by Mr Turner from a very poor stroke, while with five more added both Ellis and Briggs were bowled. Wickets still continued to fall fast, and when Mold came in 39 were required to save the follow-on.

The score was raised to 164, when Mr Bull sent down a fast ball wide on the leg side to try and prevent Lancashire from going in a second time; this went to the boundary, but Mold, striking at the next ball, intentionally hit his own wicket. The incident was to be deplored, as both Mr Bull and Mold were acting on their own responsibility. Mr Hornby, the Lancashire captain, and the Essex committee expressed their regret at the occurrence.

The visitors began their second innings just after half-past 1, being 122 behind, but after losing Mr Maclaren they have a very different exhibition. This was brought about by the fine batting of Ward and Sugg, who, during a partnership extending over an hour and 50 minutes, increased the score by 130, thus hitting off the arrears. Sugg again gave a very fine display for 81, and Lancashire in a great measure owe their present position to his magnificent scores, as in both innings he was batting at a very critical period. He hit one five, six fours, three threes and 14 twos.

After his dismissal the cricket was very slow, but the position of the game justified the caution exhibited. Ward and Baker added only 40 runs in an hour. At 195 Ward's invaluable innings came to a close. He had been batting three hours and a half for his 68, which included three fours, four threes and ten twos. When stumps were drawn for the day

Lancashire were 84 runs to the good with six wickets still in hand, so that there ought to be an interesting finish. There were about 10,000 spectators.

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 August, page 5)

The victory of Essex by six wickets on the county ground, Leyton, on Saturday, was completely merited. It increases the honours that have, after many years of struggling existence by the club, come to Essex with a rapidity unequalled in the history of the game. Essex have risen from mediocrity to greatness in little more than a mere season, and their success has been almost wholly the work of native talent developed under the guardianship of that splendid Cambridge and Uppingham bat of other days, Mr C E Green.

And now the side, with only two home matches left, find themselves at the head of the championship. Their advantage over Lancashire is only fractional, but it is yet a lead, and one that may be improved if successes are scored against Surrey and Hampshire. Essex cricket is the thing chiefly talked of on the grounds just now, and it was small wonder to find for the third day a crowd quite 15,000 strong, orderly and keenly intent in the severe game between the counties highest in the list of results.

Since the stand for the third wicket on Thursday Essex were playing more or less a winning game until late on Friday, when, after the follow-on incident, the visitors got on even terms with only one wicket gone. But the good work done by Ward, Frank Sugg and Baker was much discounted by the subsequent disasters, and Lancashire, falling before Mr Bull's slows and Mr Kortright's fasts, were got out before 1 o'clock on Saturday for 251.

Then for three-quarters of an hour before luncheon and subsequently for another hour Essex were fighting bravely for the 130 runs necessary for a victory. Lancashire fought very hard to save the game; their fielding was close and their bowling splendidly true. Briggs kept an accurate length and, finding a spot on which to pitch, constantly had the batsmen, with one exception, quite beaten. The exception was young Robert Carpenter, who probably inherits the art of back play from his father, the contemporary of the late Tom Hayward, who was prominent in the great days of Cambridgeshire as a cricket county.

Carpenter played a splendid game, whereas most of his companions were never "at home," and the final honours of the victory certainly belonged to the young Essex professional. He had partnerships of 45 and 39 with Mr Perrin and Mr M'Gahey; but had he himself gone pretty early Essex must have been in a very tight corner. Carpenter hit six fours in his 57, an innings that was played on a great occasion after a long spell of bad luck.

With the exception of a brief rest on Friday afternoon Mr Bull bowled right through the two innings, and with his 14 wickets for 176 runs he easily passed into his three-figure aggregate for the season. He always kept his pitch and, although occasionally hit, he generally took a great deal of playing. There was an enthusiastic scene in front of the pavilion at the close of the match. Before the game was quite over the spectators subscribed £43 as a present to Carpenter for his fine batting.

5 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4862.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 August, page 9)

F G Roberts, the fast bowler, for whose benefit the match which began yesterday is being played, has been a regular member of the Gloucestershire eleven since 1887. The attendance at Bristol yesterday was, unfortunately, not by any means so large as had been expected, and it is probable that a mistake was made in raising the charge for admission to a shilling.

Middlesex laboured under a great disadvantage, Mr Stoddart being kept away by the injury to his knee. The cricket all through the afternoon was in strong contrast to much that has been seen lately, the batsmen, with two or three exceptions, doing very little.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 August, page 7)

So bad was the weather yesterday at Bristol that practically nothing could be done in the Gloucestershire and Middlesex match. The cricketers twice turned out to play, but on both occasions they were so quickly driven back to the pavilion that in all only ten balls were bowled. No runs were obtained, Gloucestershire's score being thus left at 102 for four wickets.

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 August, page 5)

At no time on Saturday at Bristol did there seem the least chance of arriving at a definite conclusion in the Gloucestershire and Middlesex match, and the interest in the cricket naturally suffered. The attendance was rather small and it is to be feared that as a benefit for Roberts the match was far from satisfactory. It was most unfortunate that the rain should have set in on Friday, as the game promised to be very even and exciting.

With four wickets down for 102 Gloucestershire went on with the innings on Saturday morning, and for an hour Dr W G Grace and Mr Townsend - despite the dead ground - withstood the Middlesex bowlers. However they only managed to put on 32 runs, and after they were separated Mr Hemingway alone gave much trouble, the last wicket falling at 178. Dr Grace was batting two hours and three-quarters for his 51.

Middlesex, on going in for the second time, stayed at the wickets for the rest of the afternoon, their total when stumps were pulled up at 6 o'clock and the match left drawn being 218 with nine men out. Mr Hayward and Mr Warner started the innings in splendid style, scoring 121 together for the first wicket. By a curious coincidence Mr Hayward, who played even better than in his first innings, again made 84. He hit ten fours and was seen at his best.

5 August: KENT v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4863.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 August, page 9)

The great day of the cricket festival at Canterbury is the Thursday, or the ladies' day, as it is commonly termed, and yesterday the social function was carried through under all the favourable conditions coming from brilliant weather and a fast and true wicket. The spectacle was one that equalled any that has preceded it.

The new public stand has destroyed something of the picturesque, for it shuts out some of that splendid background formerly furnished by the hop gardens; but this is a small matter. The ground on its canvas side is still possessed of all its old charm and the various tents were yesterday well patronized. The Band of Brothers and I Zingari showed at a glance the close association of these clubs with Kent cricket, while not the least of the many pleasant functions during the afternoon was the reception in the tent of the Mayor (Mr Collard). In every respect this ladies' day was a great success.

Lord Harris since his return from India has generally managed to devote a little time to this most famous of all cricket festivals, but his attendance on the King of Siam has robbed Canterbury of his presence this year. The spectators yesterday included Mr Akers-Douglas, whose son was 12th man for Eton this summer and who played in the school racquets at the Queen's Club, the Marquis Camden, the president of the Kent Club, Mr R A H Mitchell, of Eton and Oxford fame, Mr George Marsham, Lord Hothfield, Mr Henniker Heaton, M.P., and the Bishop of Dover.

There were some 10,000 spectators of the day's cricket, the best features of which were the two steady innings of Mr C E M Wilson and Denton, to whom Yorkshire were chiefly indebted for their fine score. The long partnership of the day was that between Denton and Wainwright, who put on 103 for the fourth wicket. Kent fielded well, and the catches that got out Hirst and Mr Ernest Smith were remarkably good.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 August, page 7)

The Kent eleven are finishing the Canterbury week no better than they started it, and it is as certain as anything can be at cricket that another severe beating awaits them. As the score stands now, in their match with Yorkshire they have just avoided a single innings defeat, but with two wickets to fall they are not a single run ahead.

Their form this season held out little hope of success against sides so strong as Lancashire and Yorkshire, but it was hoped that in one match or the other they would do something worthy of their traditions. The interest in the week always reaches a climax on the Ladies' Day, the company after that showing a marked falling-off. Still there was a very satisfactory attendance yesterday, more than 4,000 people visiting the ground.

Moorhouse, who had been badly hurt on Thursday, was unable to go in yesterday morning, and Yorkshire's innings, in which eight wickets had fallen for 348, for finished for 366, Mr C E M Wilson taking out his bat for 91. He had played with extreme steadiness and great skill for nearly three hours and a half. Defence rather than hitting power characterized his innings, but there was, at times, no lack of vigour in his methods, among his figures being 11 fours, six threes and nine twos.

In face of their opponents' big total Kent gave, up to a certain point, a truly wretched display. With a strong wind blowing right across the ground to help him, Mr Jackson bowled with wonderful success and, in little more than an hour and a half, there were nine wickets down for 75. Only Mr Bradley was left to come in and every one thought the innings would soon be over. However, Mr Bradley had the luck to be missed when he had made five, and after that he hit so freely that he and Walter Wright put on 95 runs together in three-quarters of an hour.

Though he had some luck in making strokes that fell out of harm's way, Mr Bradley played with a spirit that had been sadly lacking in the efforts of the regular batsmen on the side. Twice he scored 12 runs in an over and once ten. His 67 not out included 11 fours, two threes and eight twos. Mr Jackson had at one time taken six wickets for 34 runs, and in the end he came out with seven for 78.

Kent had to follow on against a majority of 196 runs, but though most of the batsmen did much better than before no real mastery was obtained over the bowling, and at the finish eight wickets were down for exactly the number required to save the single innings defeat. Mr Mason played well, but was out third at 66, and the best stands were made by Mr Mordaunt and Martin and Mr Stewart and Walter Wright. Late in the afternoon Yorkshire had three substitutes in the field. Moorhouse was, of course, away, Brown split his hand in making a catch and had to retire, and Mr Wilson left the field unwell.

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 August, page 5)

On Saturday at Canterbury Yorkshire gained a brilliant and decisive victory over Kent by ten wickets, outplaying their opponents at every point. Scarcely any interest remained in the game, and about 20 minutes of actual cricket proved sufficient to bring about a definite conclusion.

With eight of their best men out in the second innings Kent had only just cleared off the arrears of 196, and in a quarter of an hour the last two wickets went down for the addition of six runs, the total consequently reaching 202. Both Mr Shine and Huish were clean bowled by Mr Jackson, who thus gained the splendid record for the match of 11 wickets for 122 runs. Yorkshire had only seven runs set them to win, and Tunnicliffe quickly settled matters by hitting the first two balls to the boundary.

In the matter of weather the Canterbury Week has never been more successful and the attendances were fully up to the average, but one could not help regretting the poor performances of Kent against both Lancashire and Yorkshire.

5 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4864.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 August, page 9)

The cricket at Leicester yesterday was made brief by a couple of severe thunderstorms.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 August, page 7)

Leicestershire failed badly on their own county ground yesterday and were beaten by an innings and 195 runs. The wicket had been affected by the bad weather; but the Leicestershire batsmen ought to have done something better. Captain Quinton and Mr Lacey batted extremely well for Hampshire.

5 August: SOMERSET v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4865.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 August, page 9)

In entering at Taunton yesterday upon their return match with Sussex, the Somerset eleven were placed at a very serious disadvantage by the enforced absence of their captain Mr S M J Woods. That brilliant cricketer had the misfortune last week, when playing against Yorkshire at Leeds, to get a joint of his thumb put out, and two or three knocks on the same place on Wednesday affected him so much that he felt it would be useless for him to attempt to play.

The day's cricket was full of incident, but from Somerset's point of view it proved very disappointing, Sussex at the drawing of stumps being only 15 runs behind with five wickets to go down. With his finely played 53, not out, Mr [Murdoch] completed his thousand runs this season in first-class matches.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 August, page 7)

Cricket at Taunton yesterday was only practicable for about three-quarters of an hour, during which time Sussex carried their previous score of 150 for five wickets to 207. After that the ground was drenched by heavy showers, so much water standing on the wicket that it was clear nothing could be done for some hours. Between 2 o'clock and 4, however, the sun came out and the ground was quickly drying when another downpour - at about half-past 4 - put further play out of the question. It was quickly agreed to draw stumps and to start to-day at 11 o'clock.

In the latter part of the Sussex innings Bean hit very brilliantly, making 33 in 25 minutes, but Mr Murdoch did not add to his previous score of 53.

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 August, page 5)

When rain brought Friday's cricket at Taunton to an early conclusion an innings had been completed on each side, the scores being Somerset 165, Sussex 207. A lead of 42 runs would not have amounted to much under normal circumstances, but with the wicket ruined it was sufficient to destroy any chance Somerset might have had.

Play began just after 11 o'clock on Saturday morning, and in an hour and a half Somerset's second innings was finished off for a paltry score of 77. Bland and Tate bowled finely on the treacherous pitch, and only Mr L C H Palairt could do much against them. Bland, with six wickets for 43 runs, secured a record for the whole game of ten wickets for 106.

Sussex had only 36 to get and, without much difficulty, they won the match by nine wickets, Mr Fry and Ranjitsinhji hitting off the remaining runs after Marlow had been got rid of with the score at five.

Saturday 7 August, page 7: MR STODDART'S TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

The five test matches between Mr Stoddart's team and all Australia have been fixed for the following dates:- December 10, at Sydney; December 31, at Melbourne; January 14, at Adelaide; January 29, at Melbourne; February 25, at Sydney. - Reuter.

Monday 9 August, page 5: MR STODDART'S AUSTRALIAN TEAM

It is understood that Mr J R Mason, the old Winchester boy, has accepted an invited to join Mr Stoddart's team for Australia. The following are the 11 cricketers who are so far going for certain:- Mr Stoddart, Mr N F Druce, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr Maclaren, Richardson, J T Hearne, Hirst, Hayward, Wainwright, Storer and Board.

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below:-

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Times		Average
			Innings	not out	
Mr A C Maclaren	10	632	244	2	79
Mr N F Druce	13	777	227*	2	70.7
Mr F G J Ford	18	805	150	3	53.10
Mr J A Dixon	20	996	268*	1	52.8
K S Ranjitsinhji	36	1644	260	4	51.12
Abel	36	1597	250	3	46.13
Mr A J Turner	14	528	111	2	44
J T Brown	38	1499	311	3	42.29
Shrewsbury	22	855	125	2	42.15
Dr W G Grace	30	1192	128	2	42.16
W Gunn	23	886	152	2	41.5
W G Quaife	23	761	136*	4	40.1
Mr F Mitchell	12	475	133	0	39.7
Hayward	32	1187	130	2	39.17
Wainwright	35	1280	171	2	39.13
Mr J R Mason	29	1140	183	0	39.9
Mr G Brann	31	1154	126	1	38.14
Albert Ward	33	1107	162	4	38.5
Tyldesley	28	976	174	2	37.14
Mr H W Bainbridge	21	749	101	1	37.9
Mr C J Burnup	18	597	108	2	37.5
Mr K J Key	30	917	130*	5	36.17
Mr G L Jessop	30	1049	140	1	36.5
Lord Hawke	19	498	91*	6	35.81
Mr P Perrin	25	816	153	2	35.1
Dench	21	599	65*	4	35.4
Mr A P Lucas	14	386	89	3	35.1
Baker	35	1121	153	3	35.1
Mr L C H Palairt	14	489	92	0	34.13
Hirst	37	1099	134	5	34.11
Mr C E M Wilson	13	336	91*	3	33.6
Mr W L Murdoch	32	1041	130	1	33.18
Baldwin (Surrey)	31	1004	234	1	33.10
Captain E G Wynyard	15	503	80	0	33.8
Mr C M'Gahey	30	957	140	1	33
Mr J F Byrne	15	491	100	0	32.11
Lilley	26	712	79*	4	32.2
Mr F S Jackson	36	1063	124	3	32.7
Tunncliffe	38	1082	147	5	32.6
Mr A E Stoddart	21	650	109	0	30.20

Denton	36	1062	141*	1	30.12
Mr H C Stewart	21	630	142	0	30
Chatterton	25	750	120	0	30
Bagshaw	24	680	114*	1	29.13
Barton	26	702	125	2	29.6
Diver	24	698	111	0	29.3
Mr P F Warner	31	861	176	1	28.21
Mr H B Hayman	26	713	84	1	28.13
Carpenter	28	736	141	3	28.8
Brockwell	32	905	131	0	28.9
Mr A C S Glover	22	584	115	1	27.17
Mr A J Webbe	23	523	71	4	27.15
Mr C J Kortright	20	491	74	2	27.5
Mr F H B Champain	31	801	97	1	26.21
Mr G J Weigall	19	449	138*	2	26.7
F Sugg	31	788	93	1	26.8
Storer	34	864	160*	1	26.6
Davidson	33	757	97	4	26.3
Mr H B Chinnery	28	692	149	1	25.17
Mr L G Wright	24	615	93	0	25.15
Mr F L Fane	27	663	67	1	25.13
Mr A Eccles	16	356	102	2	25.6
Mr R C N Palairet	22	556	66	0	25.6
W Quaife	25	605	101	1	25.5
Mr S M J Woods	26	653	111	0	25.3
Trott	12	276	62	1	25.1
Mr A O Jones	20	488	75	0	24.18
Mr F W Milligan	24	570	64	1	24.18
Dr G Thornton	15	323	58	2	24.11
Bean	33	734	77	3	24.14
Mr W Newham	30	703	107	1	24.7
Mr H G Owen	21	456	76	2	24
Mr H H Marriott	23	527	73	1	23.21
Mr S H Evershed	20	473	112	0	23.13
Board	27	612	126	1	23.14
Nichols	24	541	74*	1	23.12
Mr C J B Wood	21	488	102	0	23.5
Mr C P Foley	12	232	47	2	23.2

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr C E M Wilson	270	94	458	33	13.29
Trott	267.4	75	673	48	14.1
Mr F W Stocks	291.4	111	597	39	15.12
Richardson	1176	352	2948	183	16.20
Mr H W de Zoete	229	59	595	35	17
Mr C Heseltine	238.1	54	564	33	17.3
Briggs	1022.2	318	2046	117	17.57
Mr G L Jessop	681.1	211	1404	80	17.44
Mold	812.4	276	1707	96	17.75
Hallam	798.3	335	1433	77	18.47
J T Hearne	1243.3	480	2487	133	18.93
Peel	688.1	258	1233	65	18.63
Mr F H E Cunliffe	567.3	101	1284	67	19.11
Cuttell	796.1	302	1445	75	19.20
Hayward	702.4	208	1704	86	19.70
Mr E B Shine	457.4	125	1175	58	20.15
Woodcock	519.1	125	1319	65	20.19
Bland	941.2	291	2276	111	20.56
Mr F S Jackson	528	163	1192	58	20.32
Mr C J Kortright	469.4	111	1310	63	20.50

Mr E C Wright	313.2	117	632	30	21.2
Mr F G Bull	853.1	215	3377	106	21.51
Mead	817.2	292	1633	75	21.53
Davidson	793.4	322	1419	65	21.54
Attewell	842	365	1490	68	21.62
Roberts	657.3	226	1525	69	22.7
Lees	549.2	181	1285	58	22.9
Haigh	646.1	218	1374	62	22.10
Rawlin	564	202	1117	50	22.17
Hancock	388.1	112	982	42	23.16
Mr J R Mason	387	128	911	38	23.17
Wainwright	831.3	270	1837	76	24.13
Brockwell	439.1	166	921	38	24.9
Hirst	944.1	344	2000	90	24.40
Tate	967.4	327	2096	83	25.21
Tyler	656.4	158	1788	70	25.30
Dr W G Grace	466.2	136	1021	40	25.21
Mr F W Milligan	297.1	70	874	33	26.16
Baldwin (Hants)	552	203	1087	41	26.21
Martin	798.3	268	1563	57	27.24
Mr C L Townsend	578.3	87	1838	67	27.29
Santall	708	239	1561	56	27.49
Guttridge	414.4	107	1148	40	28.28
Alec Hearne	408	136	873	30	29.3
Mr S M J Woods	360.1	70	1086	38	29.22

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The Essex eleven have now run into first place in the competition under the official conditions laid down by the M.C.C. and approved of by the counties. But they are only better than Lancashire by a very small fraction and the fight for chief honours remains very keen. Everything depends on the fortunes of Essex in their last two matches. They play Surrey next Thursday at Leyton and Hampshire on the 23rd inst. The positions are at present as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Essex	14	7	1	6	6	.75
Lancashire	20	12	2	6	10	.71
Surrey	19	13	3	4	9	.6
Yorkshire	21	12	3	6	9	.6
Gloucestershire	13	5	4	4	1	.1
Nottinghamshire	12	2	2	8	0	
Sussex	14	4	4	6	0	
Warwickshire	14	3	4	7	-1	
Hampshire	12	3	6	3	-3	
Kent	12	2	6	4	-4	
Middlesex	11	0	4	7	-4	
Leicestershire	10	1	8	1	-7	
Somerset	12	1	9	2	-8	
Derbyshire	12	0	8	4	-8	

9 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4866.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 August, page 8)

Gloucestershire certainly had the better of the day's cricket at Cheltenham yesterday. For their score in the first innings they were largely dependent on the efforts of Mr Rice and Mr Richardson. Mr Rice had some luck, but his cricket generally was good and he hit eight fours in his 57.

When Kent went in Mr Jessop and Mr Brown bowled with much success. Mr S H Day, who is still at Malvern, made his first appearance for Kent under the residential qualification.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 11 August, page 5)

There was a continuance of fine weather yesterday and the College ground at Cheltenham was very largely attended. Those present had certainly no reason to complain of the cricket, which from first to last was of a most interesting character. At the drawing of stumps on Monday Kent were in rather a bad position, as in the presence of a total of 205 they had lost four of their best wickets for 47 runs.

On play being resumed yesterday morning Easby was got rid of without a run having been added, but Walter Wright and Mr H C Stewart by steady and excellent batting put quite a different appearance on the game. Under the circumstances they were almost bound to be cautious and they made no attempt to force the pace. Still in an hour and a half they put on 78 runs, the total standing at 125 when Wright played a ball on to his wicket. Mr Stewart stayed for some time longer, but was finely caught and bowled at 161 by Mr Townsend, who had previously missed him. In his 64, the result of two hours' cricket, Mr Stewart hit five fours, two threes and ten twos. Mr Marchant made some good strokes but was out just before 2 o'clock, Kent's innings closing at luncheon time for 190, or 15 runs behind. Gloucestershire's bowling was very good, Mr Brown having a capital analysis.

After the interval, when Gloucestershire went in for the second time, such a capital start was made by Dr W G Grace and Mr Rice that 66 runs were scored in an hour and a quarter for the first wicket. At this point the younger batsman was bowled, but Dr Grace stayed until the total was 119, his innings of 58 being quite faultless. Wrathall, who had hit freely, left at 121 and Mr Jessop was stumped at 135, Walter Wright for the second time in the match getting rid of the great hitter. Mr Champain was out at 159 and Board, who made all the runs while he was in, at 181. Then Mr Richardson helped Mr Townsend to play out time, Gloucestershire's score at the close standing at 190 for six wickets.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 August, page 5)

In a match made remarkable by Mr Day's not-out innings of 101 for Kent the Gloucestershire eleven were yesterday successful by 63 runs. The feat of scoring 100 in the first game for a county is one quite uncommon in important cricket; Mr A C Maclaren, when fresh from the Harrow captaincy, did it in 1890 against Sussex, and other instances in modern cricket have been those of Marlow and K S Ranjitsinhji.

Mr Day is still at Malvern College; he is in his 19th year and plays for Kent under the residential qualification. He got his runs yesterday in an easy and correct style and scarcely ill-timed a single ball. Going in first wicket down at three, when Kent had a losing game to fight, Mr Day was batting about three hours, during which he hit 11 fours, two threes and 13 twos.

Kent went in to make 265 to win, and with six men out for 89 the finish seemed near at hand. But Mr Marchant and Mr Day in the course of an hour put on 87. Then when the last man arrived Mr Day still wanted three for his 100. A boundary hit from an easy ball on the leg side enabled him to run to three figures, just after which Mr Shine was bowled. It was a

very good win for Gloucestershire, whose runs in the second innings were well distributed among the side.

Mr Day's play yesterday makes him quite worthy of the school that has given to cricket such fine batsmen as H K Foster, H H Marriott, R E Foster, C J Burnup and P H Latham.

9 August: LANCASHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4867.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 August, page 8)

On a wicket considerably affected by rain, yesterday, at Manchester, the Lancashire eleven rendered a highly creditable account of themselves and gained a commanding lead over Leicestershire. Runs were so hard to obtain all through the afternoon that, though the game was in progress for about five hours, only 288 were scored and 20 wickets went down.

It seemed no great advantage to win the toss, but Lancashire on going in first remained at the wickets for three hours and a quarter and scored a total of 200. This, under the circumstances, was a capital performance, but the number must have been reduced had Leicestershire accepted all the chances offered them. The batting was very consistent as, while the best individual score was 35, only two members of the side failed to get into double figures. Woodcock, though he did not bowl with good luck, came out with a record of six wickets for 96 runs.

The Leicestershire batsmen found run-getting a matter of far greater difficulty than their opponents had done, and in an hour and a half the whole side were dismissed for 79. Mr Marriott played exceedingly well for 35, but the others could do next to nothing against the admirable bowling of Briggs and Hallam. The former, it will be seen, took six wickets for 43 runs, while Hallam got rid of three batsmen and had only 11 runs hit from him.

Leicestershire followed on against a majority of 121 and scored nine runs without losing a wicket. At the finish, therefore, they were still 112 behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 11 August, page 5)

At Old Trafford, on Monday, Lancashire had gained so great an advantage that it was felt yesterday the match could only end in one way. In face of a total of 200 Leicestershire had only made 79, and on following on they had scored nine runs without the loss of a wicket.

In fine weather yesterday they went on with their second innings and scored 172. They were lucky in having three or four chances missed, but on the other hand two of their wickets were simply thrown away by bad judgment in running. By far the best cricket was shown by Mr Stocks, who in playing an excellent innings was at the wickets an hour and forty minutes. He and Whiteside scored in all 38 together for the first wicket, and Mr Wood afterwards helped him to put on 45 for the fourth. Mr Wood - one of the two batsmen who was run out - was batting 70 minutes for his 25. The arrears of 121 on the first innings were cleared off with five wickets to fall, but with eight men out the total was only 129. A speedy termination to the innings then seemed probable, but Mr German played steadily and Geeson and Woodcock hit so well that the last two wickets added 43 runs.

All these efforts, however, only resulted in setting Lancashire 52 to get. This trifling task was accomplished in 35 minutes, but the runs were not hit off without losing Mr Maclaren, who was bowled at 28. Lancashire won by nine wickets.

9 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4868.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 August, page 8)

With the wicket rather slow after the rain of Sunday runs could only be scored slowly at Trent Bridge yesterday. The five and a quarter hours of play were wholly absorbed by Notts, who made 289 for six wickets.

The feature of the day's play was the great innings of William Gunn, who, going in first wicket down, was not out 152 at the drawing of stumps. Gunn had the satisfaction of completing his 1,000 runs for the season. He had several useful partners. Shrewsbury, who was run out through a fine piece of fielding by Walter Sugg, batted well; Dench helped to add 101 in an hour and a half; and Attewell assisted Gunn to put on 77.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 11 August, page 5)

Yesterday was a day of heavy scoring at Trent-bridge, 401 runs being obtained and only seven wickets going down. With six men out for 289 Notts went on batting in the morning and in rather less than two hours put on 126 runs, their long innings, which extended over seven hours and a quarter, coming to an end for 415.

William Gunn increased his overnight score of 152 to 230, and was out ninth at 415, playing a ball from Chatterton on to his wicket. His magnificent innings, in which, so far as could be seen, there was not the least fault of any kind, lasted as nearly as possible six hours and three-quarters and comprised 28 fours, 13 threes, 23 twos and 33 singles. This 230 is Gunn's highest score in first-class cricket, beating by two his memorable innings of 228 for the Players of England against the Australians at Lord's in 1890. Mason, who had made four runs on Monday, stayed in yesterday until the total had reached 383, his share of the 113 put on in an hour and three-quarters for the seventh wicket being 41.

Derbyshire had rather a thankless task in facing such a big total, but with the wicket so firm and true it was fully expected that they would get plenty of runs. A brilliant start was made by Messrs Evershed and L G Wright, who scored 160 for the first partnership. They took some little time to play themselves in, but after that both of them hit in splendid style. Mr Evershed was out first - smartly caught and bowled - for an admirable 90. He gave no chance and among his hits were ten fours, five threes and eight twos.

Bagshaw was bowled after helping to put on 57 in an hour for the second wicket, and in the last over of the day Mr Wright was stumped for 133. When he had made 72 he was missed at cover-slip by Attewell, but this was the only blemish in a wonderfully good innings, in which were 13 fours. When he left stumps were pulled up, Derbyshire, with seven wickets to fall, being only 140 runs behind. Indisposition prevented Storer from keeping wicket yesterday morning.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 August, page 5)

Derbyshire accomplished a fine batting performance on the Trent-bridge ground, Nottingham, yesterday. Their score of 570 was all the more creditable seeing that they had fielded for an opponents' score of 415. With all this run-getting at scarcely a normal rate it was only natural that the game should be drawn.

If there is any satisfaction, however, in having the better position in a draw Derbyshire may think themselves fortunate. They had made 275 overnight for three wickets, and it was just upon 5 o'clock when Notts got out the last Derbyshire batsman. Mr L G Wright and Davidson each ran well into three figures, and the visiting county narrowly missed the distinction of having three "centuries" in their innings, for Mr Maynard-Ashcroft obtained 99. Davidson was batting over four hours and his 121 included ten fours and eight threes. He and Mr Maynard-Ashcroft made the great stand of the innings by putting on 178 for the

seventh wicket, the latter playing very good cricket and hitting 11 fours and four threes. Notts, who were 155 behind, went in for half an hour, and the score was 23 for one wicket when stumps were drawn.

Neither Shrewsbury nor Gunn will be able to play at Cheltenham to-day for Notts against Gloucestershire. Shrewsbury is unwell and Gunn is prevented from making the journey owing to business.

9 August: SURREY v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4869.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 August, page 8)

Yesterday on the Oval, Abel and Brockwell, putting on for the third time this season over 200 for the first wicket in their partnership, scored 379 in the course of five hours and beat the stand of Brown and Tunnicliffe by a single; and then Abel from the very next ball was easily stumped. This was the end of a wonderful stand, as remarkable for the easy precision of the batsmen as it was for the fresh record established. Here and there were a few weak strokes by the batsmen; but the fortune of cricket enabled them to escape, and taken altogether it was a wonderful piece of cricket.

The Hampshire team, deprived as they were of several of their best county players, did their utmost on a pitch that, if a little untrue at the start through Sunday's rain, recovered itself more and more as the day wore on. Abel and Brockwell went in just after midday, and it had turned 6 o'clock when Abel was out for his 173, in which he had hit 19 fours. He was thoroughly tired out with his long day at the wicket; and it was probably this fact that saved the record partnership for any wicket (398 by Gunn and Shrewsbury against Sussex at Nottingham for the second wicket in 1890) from being beaten. Brockwell at the close of the day was not out 207, his best score ever recorded for Surrey.

After Hayward had been run out by a fine piece of fielding on the part of Barton, the day's cricket was wound up by a choice piece of cricket by Mr Norman Druce, who made two or three wonderful strokes on the leg side and whose driving in its great strength still kept the ball all along the ground. There was a crowd of 7,000 people on the Oval. A collection of £36 was made on the ground for Abel and Brockwell; but in the pavilion there were sundry murmurs against this collecting business being rather overdone. Hampshire, in their disappointment of Mr F E Lacey's appearance, have not completed their side.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 11 August, page 5)

The Hampshire eleven fared ill in their losing fight on the Oval yesterday. They followed on and, with five men out, are still 350 runs behind. Their cricket in this match is inferior to the good game they gave Surrey in their first fixture at Southampton and their recent successes.

The game, however, was, to all intents and purposes, lost to Hampshire on Monday when Brockwell and Abel made the record stand for the first wicket. Yesterday in the early hours of play the Surrey batsmen forsook their usual methods and took to slogging. To this was due the comparatively rapid dismissal of the last eight Surrey batsmen for an addition to the score of 168, made in rather less than a couple of hours. With the wicket so true and no bowling of importance to meet Surrey could, of course, have attempted to beat Yorkshire's record of 887 made last summer at Birmingham, but they went for the higher honour of a victory and were perhaps careless of their wickets.

Brockwell yesterday added only 18 to his overnight score, bringing his figures to 225, which is far and away the best thing he has ever done for Surrey. In his six hours at the wicket he hit a five, 28 fours, 11 threes and 19 twos; and he was fourth out at 448, bowled by a ball that broke in a remarkable manner.

Hampshire gave a very poor show. Perhaps the moral effect of the long spell in the field and the hopelessness of their position had something to do with this; but part of the cause could be at least traced to the fine bowling and the even more brilliant fielding. In this department two men especially distinguished themselves - Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr Druce; each made a wonderful catch and the former's ground fielding was perfection. In the last hour and a half of the day Barton batted very well, some of his drives being particularly good. There were 8,000 spectators of yesterday's cricket and the weather was again very fine.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 August, page 5)

Surrey beat Hampshire at the Oval yesterday by an innings and 303 runs. So hopeless was Hampshire's position yesterday morning that with only five wickets left in the second innings there was a deficit of 350 runs. These five wickets fell in three-quarters of an hour for 47, and by 20 minutes past 12 the match was all over.

Soar made some very good drives, but the best features of yesterday's brief cricket were the fine bowling of Richardson and Lees, and the clever catch in the slips by Mr Druce that got out Mr Steele. The game will be best remembered for the record first-wicket partnership of Abel and Brockwell.

9 August: SUSSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4870.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 August, page 8)

Throughout the whole of yesterday afternoon at Brighton run-getting was a matter of considerable difficulty, the ground having suffered from the heavy rain of the previous afternoon. However, the cricket was always of a highly interesting character, and at the finish there was scarcely anything to choose between the teams.

Going in first, Yorkshire, thanks largely to the excellent batting of Denton and Tunnicliffe, scored 82 for three wickets; but after the interval, when the sun had made the ground rather more treacherous, the batsmen failed before the bowling of Mr Hartley and Bland, and the side were all out by half-past 4 for 175. The best cricket for Yorkshire was shown by Tunnicliffe, who, going in first and being the seventh man out at 133, made 44 during a stay of two hours and a half. Mr Hartley came out with the excellent record of six wickets for 85, and ought really to have done better as he had two chances missed off him.

Sussex had nearly an hour and three-quarters' batting and scored 86 for the loss of four batsmen, so that they are now 89 behind with six wickets to go down. Mr Brann played with great judgment and Ranjitsinhji hit brilliantly, making 33 out of 41 in half an hour.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 11 August, page 5)

The Sussex eleven were seen to very great advantage yesterday at Brighton, and they left off with an excellent chance of defeating Yorkshire, the northern county at the close of play having lost five of the best wickets in their second innings and being still 23 runs behind. Delightful summer weather favoured the game and the day's cricket was followed with very keen enjoyment by some 5,000 spectators.

At the drawing of stumps on Monday there seemed little to choose between the teams, Sussex having lost four wickets for 86, against Yorkshire's total of 175; but the ground had thoroughly recovered itself when play was resumed yesterday, and of this fact the Sussex batsmen were not slow to avail themselves. A bad start was made, two wickets going down for the addition of ten runs, and the sixth batsman being consequently out for 96.

However, a remarkable change came over the game on Bean joining Newham, the two men giving a splendid display of batting and remaining together for two hours and a quarter, during which time they put on no fewer than 182 runs. Bean was the seventh man out at 278 for a most brilliant innings of 115 - by far the best thing he has done this season. Apart from two hard chances, one at 70 and the other at 106, scarcely a mistake could be urged against him, and among his hits were 21 fours, one three and three twos. A collection raised on his behalf resulted in £36 10s being subscribed by the public.

Sussex were all out just before 4 o'clock for 327, Newham being left to carry out his bat for 96. He came in when matters were going badly with his side, but successfully resisted the Yorkshire bowlers for just over three hours, showing a strong defence and often scoring most cleverly on the leg side. His only mistake was a chance at the wicket when 20, and among his hits were 11 fours, three threes and two twos.

Yorkshire went in at 20 minutes past 5 with a balance of 152 against them and, despite some admirable cricket by Denton, Moorhouse and Hirst, five good wickets had fallen before the drawing of stumps for 129 runs. Once again the slow bowling of Mr J C Hartley met with considerable success.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 August, page 5)

The cricket at Brighton yesterday afternoon was of a highly interesting description, and Yorkshire struggled hard to make up the ground they had lost on the previous afternoon.

Well as they played, however, they were unable to stave off disaster, and just before 6 o'clock in the evening Sussex gained a thoroughly well-merited victory by six wickets.

A good deal of rain fell in the morning, delaying the start until 20 minutes past 12. The position at the drawing of stumps on Tuesday was Yorkshire 129 for the loss of five wickets, so they were still 23 behind their opponents. Though Mr Milligan was speedily dismissed, a great effort was made by Mr Ernest Smith and Hirst, and it seemed quite likely at luncheon time that Yorkshire would save the game.

On resuming play, however, a great chance was brought about. Hirst, after being badly hurt, was caught out at the wicket and, the other batsmen doing very little, the innings was all over just before 4 o'clock for 269. Hirst played a splendid game for his side, going in fourth wicket down at 78 and being the eighth man out at 271. He made his 88 in two hours and a half in faultless style, and among his hits were 16 fours, two threes and four twos. Mr Hartley again bowled with great effect, dismissing five batsmen for 96 runs. This gave him a record for the whole match of 11 wickets for 181.

Sussex were left with 118 to get to win. The start was not very promising, Marlow and Ranjitsinhji being out when 42 runs had been scored, but the fine batting of Mr Fry practically settled matters in favour of Sussex. Murdoch stayed until 73, and with Messrs Fry and Brann together it seemed quite likely that the runs would be hit off without further loss. However, when only seven runs were needed Mr Fry was well caught low down at mid-off for a brilliant 55. On Mr Newham coming in the runs were soon obtained, and Sussex won the match by six wickets. This was the fourth defeat suffered by Yorkshire in the county championship during the present season.

Tuesday 10 August, page 8: TESTIMONIAL TO K S RANITSINHJI

In view of the departure from England of K S Ranjitsinhji with Mr Stoddart's team for the colonies, a testimonial fund has been started by the Sussex Daily News on the shilling subscription principle. The fund, although started in Sussex, is open to cricketers in every part of the kingdom, and donations should be forwarded to the Sussex Daily News, Brighton.

THE SURREY CLUB.- Mr W E Wright, the chief clerk to the Surrey committee, has been appointed secretary and manager to the new corporation grounds at Dover, for which it is hoped to get some of the Kent county fixtures next season.

The defeat of Yorkshire by Sussex at Brighton yesterday has greatly diminished the chances of the retention by Yorkshire of the championship. It now seems that the fight for the first position is to be keenly contested by Surrey, Essex and Lancashire. The positions up to the present are as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Essex	14	7	1	6	6	.75
Lancashire	21	13	2	6	11	.73
Surrey	20	13	3	4	10	.625
Yorkshire	22	12	4	6	8	.5
Gloucestershire	14	6	4	4	2	.2
Sussex	15	5	4	6	1	.1
Nottinghamshire	13	2	2	9	0	
Warwickshire	14	3	4	7	-1	
Hampshire	13	3	7	3	-4	
Middlesex	11	0	4	7	-4	
Kent	13	2	7	4	-5	
Leicestershire	11	1	9	1	-8	
Somerset	12	1	9	2	-8	
Derbyshire	13	0	8	5	-8	

The other fixtures of the four leading teams are set out below:

AUGUST

- 12. Leyton.- Essex v Surrey.
- 12. Manchester.- Lancashire v Yorkshire.
- 16. Beckenham.- Surrey v Kent.
- 16. Brighton.- Sussex v Lancashire.
- 16. Sheffield.- Yorkshire v Middlesex.
- 19. Oval.- Surrey v Lancashire.
- 19. Bradford.- Yorkshire v Derbyshire.
- 23. Leyton.- Essex v Hampshire.
- 23. Lord's.- Middlesex v Lancashire.
- 23. Clifton.- Gloucestershire v Surrey.
- 23. Leicester.- Leicestershire v Yorkshire.
- 23. Manchester.- Lancashire v Notts.
- 26. Taunton.- Somerset v Surrey.
- 30. Brighton.- Sussex v Surrey.

12 August: ESSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4871.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 August, page 4)

What has been well described as the greatest county match of the London season began at Leyton yesterday. Essex, the leaders among the counties, were meeting Surrey, who have long been rid of the effects of their poor cricket at Leeds, which led them to defeat by Yorkshire in Jubilee week. The rapid rise of Essex has created a new interest and the crowds have grown at Leyton to such an extent that while the side does so well the Essex Executive will have to find other means for providing their immensely increased constituency with opportunities for seeing the cricket. With everything favourable for the game yesterday, there was an attendance that must have numbered 15,000; and a good many who went up to the Lyttelton-ground must have failed to get a continuous view of the play.

Yesterday's cricket was made remarkable by the wonderful phases which at different periods of the day it possessed. Although Essex had the advantage of first innings they were always fighting so hard for runs that a good score by them never appeared probable. The wicket was true enough, but the bowling of Richardson always required a lot of the best defence. Among the chief things that wrought the discomfiture of Essex were the puzzling lobs of Mr Jephson. The batsmen were able to play correctly the stinging bowling of Richardson, Lees and Hayward; but against the good lobs they were always "at sea" until Mr Bull and Mr de Zoete went in and showed how lobs should be played.

With the pitch beautifully true and Essex out so cheaply for 143, Surrey seemed to be in a winning position. Abel did so well and had such good support that 120 went up with only one wicket gone, and the Essex score was passed with eight men in hand. But the scene soon changed. Mr Kortright's pace and pitch told a wonderful tale, and when he went on for a third spell he took five wickets in rapid succession. Indeed, while 150 went up with only two men out six were gone for 162, and in the end eight were dismissed for 193. Surrey, indeed, at one time seemed well on their way for a single-innings victory; but before the day ran out their advantage went down to 62 with two wickets left.

The Essex disasters began with the very first ball of the match, for a full pitch from Richardson grazed Carpenter's flannels and felled the middle stump. Mr Fane played steadily and Mr Perrin made some beautiful drives; but when, with 46 up for the partnership, Essex were doing well, an easy catch at slip disposed of Mr Perrin, and from this point Essex did badly. Mr Jephson's lobs were played very poorly and Richardson, going on at the top end, soon completed the discomfiture of Essex.

Mr Turner, who is at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, once more showed his sterling qualities with the bat, but no one gave him much help. Eight of the side went for 115 and early after luncheon the innings was over for 143. This was a total quite unworthy of such a side as Essex on a good pitch. The only men who had shown any capacity to play the lobs were Mr Bull and Mr de Zoete, the latter of whom was making his first appearance for Essex.

When Surrey went in there was a splendid start to the batting by Brockwell and Abel, who put on 76 before they were separated in just over an hour. Here and there was a false stroke; but the batsmen made some beautiful cuts and drives. The wicket was too true for Mr Bull, who seemed particularly easy to play, and Mr Kortright, with an uncertain length, did not trouble the batsmen very much. Indeed, everything went so well for Surrey that until the last hour and a quarter Essex appeared likely to be left hopelessly behind.

Seventy-six had gone up for the first wicket, and Abel and Hayward were going strongly, when at 133 the dismissal of the latter by a good catch in the long field was the beginning of something like a collapse. Mr Owen had made the most of his bowling; but so far Mr de Zoete had kept the best length and had proved the most difficult to play. With his peculiar delivery he sends the ball along much faster than his action would suggest. It was off him that Hayward was out; but afterwards Mr Kortright was the bowler who reduced the game to at least something approaching evenness.

Thus, while the score was 133 for two wickets, the change was such that eight men were dismissed for 193. Mr Druce was bowled out by a very fine ball and Mr Jephson was out from the first one sent him. Mr Leveson-Gower made several very fine cuts before being caught at slip, and Lees had his wicket thrown down from mid-off by Mead, who had stopped a hard drive. Mr Key did pretty well, but the change in the match was remarkable, and the interest, which threatened to be lost by the uneven condition which the game at one period promised to assume, was completely restored by the successful bowling of Kortright.

The best batting, however, of the day belonged to Abel, who was fourth out at 153, after a stay of more than two hours; he was caught and bowled from a full pitch and he hit 11 fours. In his last three innings for Surrey Abel has made 215, 173 and 82, so that since shaking off his spell of ill luck he has done wonderfully well. Beautiful weather prevailed yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 August, page 8)

The Surrey eleven gained a brilliant ten wickets victory over Essex yesterday, at Leyton, the match, completely disappointing to the friends of Essex, not so much by the severity of the defeat as by the badness of the cricket, being rather abruptly finished off in the hour following the luncheon interval.

Thus Essex have virtually lost the chance that was almost within their grasp of securing the championship. Those who followed with keen attention this game must have been much impressed by the complete superiority of Surrey. In brief, Essex were outclassed in the cricket of this match not in one branch of the game only but alike in batting, bowling and fielding. From the time that the first ball was bowled on Thursday there were few moments that infused any considerable confidence into the minds of the Essex public, for Surrey always seemed to be more or less in a winning position. Essex are undoubtedly capable of better things, and it is, perhaps, only the fortunes of cricket that a side who beat Yorkshire twice and Lancashire once and came near to winning the match in May on the Oval should cut up so badly on a good hard wicket.

The Surrey eleven have for some weeks been playing so brilliantly that if their form is maintained they should make a bold bid to bring the championship to the south. It now looks as if the fight for it will be fought out between Surrey and Lancashire, whose meeting at the Oval next Thursday will be watched with the liveliest interest.

When there was a cessation of play on Thursday there seemed just a chance that Essex might make something of a fight, as Surrey, with but two wickets left, were only 62 runs on. Everything depended on what Mr Key and the other two men would do. But a short half-hour yesterday developed Surrey's strength and gave the team the substantial lead of 121. Mr Key, the Surrey captain, was always a free and powerful bat; and yesterday his driving on the off side was such as to secure him the merit of having played the best cricket of the match. Wood also came out well, and then there were a few good hits by Richardson. Mr Bull secured his only wicket by getting Mr Key well caught in the long field. The Surrey captain was especially severe on Mr Kortright, whose six wickets cost 109 runs.

On going in for the second innings Essex seemed to bat like a beaten side. Richardson bowled from the top end, from which he had taken his wickets on the first day, and Lees with his varying pace and spin required a lot of playing from the other. Carpenter never seemed at home, and a good ball from Lees completely beat him when the score was 16. Then for about three-quarters of an hour there was a little brightness for Essex. Mr Fane played very steadily and got on top of a few loose balls that were sent up, and Mr Perrin in excellent style also seemed in for a good score.

The 50 went up inside the hour; but Mr Jephson's lobs seemed to put the batsmen off their game, and Hayward at the other end was very difficult to play. He bowled Mr Perrin at 53, and then in the course of about half an hour Essex were virtually beaten. Hayward bowled splendidly and was backed up by fine fielding; Brockwell brought off a well-judged catch in the long field, Wood kept wicket unerringly and a quick return by Hayward brought about the

running out of Mr Fane. Mr Owen failed for the second time, and by luncheon time six of the side were out for 76.

Everything pointed to a single innings win for Surrey; but in twenty minutes after lunch, Mr Kortright, by a fine piece of hitting, at least managed to save his side from this discredit. Mr Kortright was especially severe on Richardson, off whom he scored a six on the leg side and also several times drove him to the boundary. Richardson got his men very deep for Mr Kortright, and when the latter had made 35 out of 50 in 20 minutes he was splendidly caught just in front of the pavilion rails by Mr Leveson-Gower. With this wicket Richardson secured his 200 aggregate for the season; he has now taken about 60 more than any one else, J T Hearne, of Middlesex, coming next. By a quarter past 3 the Essex innings was over. Hayward had a remarkable bowling analysis and his six wickets cost only five runs each.

The ten runs necessary for Surrey to win were quickly scored by Richardson. There were some 10,000 spectators of the play and the cricket, although so uneven, aroused a considerable amount of enthusiasm, Mr Kortright's batting seeming to be especially to the crowd's liking.

RICHARDSON'S BOWLING.- Richardson, of Surrey, achieved the feat of taking his 200th wicket in important cricket this season at Leyton yesterday. His aggregate is far in front of that of any other bowler, and the nearest to him is J T Hearne, with whom he shared last season's honours, they being the only two bowlers who took over 200 wickets. Richardson during July and August has bowled as well as he has ever done.

12 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4872.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 August, page 4)

In meeting Gloucestershire yesterday at Cheltenham in the second match of the Week, Notts laboured under great disadvantages, Shrewsbury and William Gunn being both absent from the team. The latter batsman was kept away by a business engagement and Shrewsbury was not well enough to play. To add to the troubles of the county, Pike, owing to an injury, could not appear, and in his place a trial was given to Oates - a young wicket-keeper from Dudley Colliery.

Gloucestershire, far more fortunate than their opponents, were able to put a first-rate side into the field. Only one change was made from the team that beat Kent on Wednesday, Roberts coming in again and Mr Goodwin standing out.

Notts had the advantage of batting first on a good wicket, but their innings, which lasted three hours and 20 minutes, was all over for 198. The early cricket gave promise of something far better than this, Mr Jones in particular playing very finely. He went in first wicket down and in 55 minutes scored 57 out of 72, some of his drives being superb. The chief figures in his innings were a five and eight fours, and, except for one lofty hit which went over Mr Champain's head at long-off, there was no blemish in his play.

Mason, surpassing anything he has hitherto done for Notts, was at the wickets two hours and three-quarters and scored 71. His play was at times open to the charge of tameness, but he is so young in first-class cricket that he must not be judged too severely. His very careful innings included four fours, four threes and ten twos.

When Gloucestershire went in Mr Grace played exceedingly well and in the course of an hour and a quarter before the drawing of stumps 62 runs were scored for one wicket. The weather was rather dull yesterday, but the attendance was even larger than on any day in the Kent match.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 August, page 8)

The conditions at Cheltenham yesterday were anything but favourable, the weather being dull and gloomy, and rain causing a delay in the afternoon of nearly an hour, but still a large number of spectators visited the ground and were rewarded by seeing Dr W G Grace quite at his best, while there was also the satisfaction of Gloucestershire gaining a commanding advantage over their opponents.

On Thursday Notts, who were far from fully represented, were dismissed for a total of 198, and Gloucestershire scored 62 for the loss of one wicket. Yesterday Gloucestershire were batting for the whole time that play was in progress and increased their total to 359, having still a wicket to fall at the finish.

Far and away in front of everything else that happened was the batting of Dr Grace, who scored his fourth innings of over a hundred this season. He had gone in first overnight and was the fifth man out yesterday at 236. His stay extended over four hours and ten minutes, during which time he played with all his masterly skill and judgment, and, in addition to never giving a chance, hardly made a false hit. His success was the more remarkable as in the previous engagement with Notts, on the Trent-bridge ground, he had scored 126. His chief hits were 15 fours, six threes and 12 twos.

Mr Jessop failed completely, but six other members of the side reached double figures, the Notts bowling being treated with scant respect. Next to Dr Grace the best cricket was shown by Mr C L Townsend, who, during a stay of two hours and a quarter, made 66 out of 159 by seven fours, two threes, eight twos and singles. Towards the finish a stubborn resistance was offered for the last wicket, Mr W G Grace, jun., and Roberts putting on 37 runs in the

last 40 minutes. As the game stands at present Gloucestershire with one wicket to fall hold a lead of 161 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 August, page 8)

The Notts batting broke down badly on Saturday at Cheltenham, and before half-past 3 in the afternoon victory rested with Gloucestershire in a single innings with 40 runs to spare. At the drawing of stumps on Friday evening the western county had scored 359 for nine wickets, against the total of 198 obtained by Notts, and Dr Grace on Saturday morning considered the position so secure that he declared his innings closed without proceeding any further.

The subsequent cricket fully justified his action. At the outset the resistance offered to the bowling of Dr W G Grace was so weak that there seemed every prospect of the end being reached before luncheon. When seven wickets had fallen for 59 runs Daft and J Gunn made a plucky attempt to improve the position for their side, remaining together for about an hour and nearly doubling the score; but their efforts came far too late and the innings was all over for 121.

Dr Grace bowled with remarkable success, taking six wickets at a cost of 36 runs, and as in addition he played a superb innings of 131 he had a very large share in the brilliant success of his county.

12 August: HAMPSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4873.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 August, page 4)

Winning the toss and going in first yesterday at Southampton on a beautifully firm and true pitch Warwickshire made such splendid use of their opportunity that they remained at the wickets for the whole of the time that play was in progress, actually scoring 324 for the loss of only one batsman.

A most brilliant start was made by Mr Bainbridge and W G Quaife, who resisted the Hampshire bowlers for rather more than four hours and put on no fewer than 288 runs. During all this time the two batsmen played superb cricket, neither giving the slightest chance and scarcely a bad hit being made. The Warwickshire captain was ultimately stumped for 162, his highest innings in a match of first-class importance. His form throughout was sustained at a very high pitch of excellence, and among his hits were one five, 17 fours, eight threes and 18 twos. He came in for a deservedly hearty reception on his return to the pavilion.

Mr Byrne and Quaife remained together until the call of time, when they had added 36 more runs. Quaife was batting for the four hours and 35 minutes over which play extended, and so far as could be seen there was not a single blot upon his not-out innings of 127. For the second time in a week every member of the Hampshire eleven went on to bowl and, altogether, in the matches against Surrey and Warwickshire they have had anything but pleasant experiences. Once again they lacked the services of Mr C Heseltine, whose fast bowling has been so effective in some of the recent engagements. Yesterday Soar so badly strained his leg that he had to leave the field just after luncheon time.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 August, page 8)

Yesterday's cricket at Southampton suffered in interest from being so one-sided in its character, the Warwickshire eleven following up their brilliantly successful batting by some excellent bowling and fielding, and leaving off with every prospect of gaining a substantial victory.

On Thursday, it will be remembered, Warwickshire remained in for the whole of the time cricket was in progress, scoring 324 for the loss of only one wicket, and yesterday the batsmen wisely played a hitting game with the idea of making their runs as quickly as possible to have plenty of time to try and win. To the majority of the team the forcing methods were not attended with good results, but Mr Byrne and Santall made a number of fine hits. When the long innings came to an end the total had reached 475, the Warwickshire men having been batting for six hours and 55 minutes. Owing to indisposition Lilley did not go in, but happily he was a good deal better later in the afternoon, being able to occupy his usual position as wicket-keeper.

W G Quaife, who had gone in first on Monday morning, had the great distinction of carrying out his bat for 178, adding 51 runs yesterday morning. With the conditions all in his favour his methods were perhaps unduly cautious, but his performance was one of very great merit. During all his long stay he never gave a real chance, his cricket being sound and correct. Among his hits were 24 fours, four threes and 15 twos. He had the honour of making the highest individual score for Warwickshire since the county's doings have been included in the first-class averages.

Hampshire made a very bad start, losing three good wickets for 52 runs, and though afterwards Captain Wynyard and Mr Hill made a desperate effort to improve the position, eight men were out before the drawing of stumps for 137. Captain Wynyard, who went in first and was the fourth man out, played admirable cricket for 67, an innings which occupied him an hour and three-quarters and included five fours, seven threes and five twos.

Hampshire are now 338 behind with two wickets to fall, so that, while there is plenty of time to be defeated, the best result they can hope for is to make the game a draw. Soar,

who had badly injured his leg while bowling on Thursday, was unable to go into the field yesterday, and it is doubtful whether he will be able to take any further part in the game.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 August, page 8)

Considering that they had a very thankless task before them the Hampshire cricketers, on Saturday, at Southampton, accomplished an excellent performance, Messrs W Andrew and A J L Hill playing a splendid uphill game and warding off defeat for their county. The position at the drawing of stumps on Friday was that after Warwickshire's tremendous total of 475 Hampshire had lost eight wickets for 137 runs, while Soar was disabled owing to an injury received in bowling on Thursday.

Their first innings was finished off without the addition of a run and, after following on against a majority of 338, three good wickets fell, despite some capital batting by Captain Wynyard and Mr Lee, for 83 runs. At five minutes past 1 Hampshire were still 255 runs behind, but Messrs Andrew and Hill completely altered the state of affairs, wearing down the Warwickshire bowling and staying together until they had put their side quite out of danger.

Altogether they raised the score to 305 before Mr Andrew was caught and bowled from a false hit. His 106 was by far the best thing he has done in first-class cricket. Mr Hill did not long survive his partner, being caught at mid-on at 311 for a beautifully-played 100. At the finish Hampshire's total stood at 324 for the loss of six wickets.

12 August: LANCASHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4874.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 August, page 4)

The meeting of these two famous Northern counties lost nothing of its attraction with the Manchester public, 16,679 persons paying for admission at the turnstiles and the full attendance being well over 18,000. Yorkshire's defeat at the hands of Sussex had robbed the game of a little of its importance, but still the struggle was fought out with all its old keenness.

There were two brief interruptions in the morning, but the afternoon turned out bright and fine and the huge crowd were able to watch the progress of the match under most enjoyable conditions. A lot of rain had fallen in Manchester and the wicket was very soft and slow. However, it never became quite as difficult as had seemed probable, and in the course of an afternoon 265 runs were scored for the loss of 13 batsmen.

Lord Hawke, on winning the toss for Yorkshire, decided to go in first, but by doing so he gained no advantage, as the ground was a good deal easier during the finish when Lancashire were batting. Yorkshire's innings lasted from a quarter-past 12 until 20 minutes past 4, but so difficult a matter was it to make runs that it took the team nearly three hours and a quarter to put together a total of 160. At one time a much better score looked to be in prospect, as, thanks to the admirable batting of Mr F S Jackson, the hundred went up on the board with only three men out. Mr Jackson gave a very skilful display, going in first and scoring 59 out of 100 by seven fours, a three, six twos and singles.

Denton played well for 21 and Mr Ernest Smith hit in resolute fashion for 24; but the other members of the side were constantly in trouble with the admirable bowling of Lancashire. Hallam, who was exceedingly well supported in the field, had the best record, and for once Briggs met with no success.

An hour and three-quarters remained for play when Lancashire went in to bat, and such use was made of the time that 105 runs were scored for the loss of three wickets. Mr Maclaren played superb cricket for his 43, and it was due in no small measure to his exertions that Lancashire had all the best of the position at the finish, having seven wickets to go down and being within 55 runs of their opponents.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 August, page 8)

Rain at Manchester yesterday prevented any cricket after half-past 3 in the afternoon, but during the three hours that the game between Lancashire and Yorkshire was in progress the home county added very largely to the advantage they had obtained on Thursday, when after dismissing Yorkshire for 160 they scored 105 for the loss of three wickets.

Some rain in the early morning had made the ground rather slow, but in the absence of sunshine the pitch did not become very difficult. Still, it was a capital performance of Lancashire to add 181 runs for their six outstanding wickets. Smith, the wicket-keeper, could not go on with his innings, for he had had the misfortune to break one of the bones of his hand - an accident which will probably prevent that player appearing again this season.

The chief honours of the day rested with Frank Sugg, who for the first time this season played an innings of over 100. Going in first wicket down at 38, he had scored 28 overnight, and yesterday he increased his innings to 122. While between 90 and 100 he played very slowly, his score standing at 97 for nearly half an hour, but otherwise he batted in very refreshing style, scoring cleverly all round the wicket. On two occasions he might have been run out and he made some faulty strokes, but he gave no actual chance, his fine innings extending over four hours and including a five - four for an overthrow - 12 fours, ten threes and seven twos. Sugg's most useful partner was Cuttell, who assisted him to put on 73 runs in 50 minutes.

Rain came on before Yorkshire could go in again, and the visitors will to-day commence their second innings, 126 runs behind. Despite the cold and threatening weather there was a huge gathering, the company after the interval amounting to quite 15,000.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 August, page 8)

Yorkshire on Saturday suffered their fifth defeat in the struggle for the county championship, Lancashire beating them at Old Trafford by an innings and 26 runs. A decisive victory for Lancashire was practically inevitable after the progress made with the game on the two previous days, Lancashire having finished their innings 126 ahead when rain set in on Friday afternoon and prevented any further cricket that day.

With Briggs, Hallam and Cuttell to play on a soft wicket, Yorkshire found themselves in a desperate plight when they commenced their second innings on Saturday morning, and all likelihood of their making a creditable fight was soon at an end, five wickets actually going down in half an hour for 19 runs. Wainwright and Mr Milligan added 29 runs in half an hour, but there were nine men out for 67. Lord Hawke then hit out in fine style and with Hunter put on 33 runs, but, with the innings closing for 100 in less than two hours, Yorkshire had to submit to a decisive reverse.

Cuttell and Briggs took full advantage of the condition of the ground, and the former, who dismissed five batsmen at a cost of only 31 runs, looked extremely difficult. The weather was fine until the conclusion of the match when rain fell heavily. About 3,000 people witnessed the victory of the Lancashire eleven.

12 August: MIDDLESEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4875.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 August, page 4)

In their return match with Middlesex, Sussex yesterday at Lord's gave a disappointing exhibition, for on a fast and true wicket they were dismissed for 216, and out of this total Mr Fry and Mr Brann were responsible for 118.

Mr Fry started rather slowly, taking half an hour to make eight runs; but afterwards he gave a fine display, hitting both sides of the wicket with plenty of power, while his driving was beautifully clean. He was batting an hour and a quarter for his 63 and his innings included 12 fours and two twos. Mr Brann, who this season seems to have given up his old free game, played with considerable caution. He took nearly two hours to make 55, and hit five fours, three threes and five twos.

Of the others, Mr Newham played very careful cricket for 20, while Marlow's 18 included some pretty strokes on the off side. The play varied considerably; perhaps the first hour's cricket, during which 90 runs were obtained, was the brightest. After this, however, the play at times was rather slow, especially after the luncheon interval, when runs seemed very difficult to get.

Sussex started their innings at ten minutes past 12, but soon met with disaster, Marlow being caught at cover-slip at 24, while with only seven added K S Ranjitsinhji was well caught low down at wicket, and with the total at 46 Mr Murdoch was bowled. At this period Mr Fry and Mr Brann became partners and they succeeded in adding 74 runs, which was the longest stand during the innings. Hearne kept an excellent length throughout and at no time seemed easy to play.

Mr Warner and Mr Douglas made a fairly good start for the home team, putting on 76, when Mr Warner was bowled for an attracted 39, Mr Nicholls was soon out, but Mr Douglas and Rawlin then played out time, so that Middlesex are 112 runs behind with eight wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 August, page 8)

Middlesex, on continuing their innings at Lord's yesterday, gave a very fine batting display against the Sussex bowling on a good wicket, when they increased their Thursday's score of 104 for the loss of two batsmen to 432. This big total was due to the excellent cricket of Mr Douglas and Mr M'Gregor who between them put on 251.

Mr Douglas, who overnight had obtained 45, was very strong on the leg side; he also made some beautiful drives and, except for a hard right-hand chance to Mr Fry in the slips at 102, his grand display was free from blemish. Altogether he was batting just over three hours and a half, and hit 12 fours, three threes and 11 twos. Although Mr M'Gregor's innings was not so finished he is to be congratulation on his achievement, this being his first hundred this season. His innings was brought to a close in attempting a second run, the wicket being well thrown down by K S Ranjitsinhji. He was batting two hours and 40 minutes, and hit 16 fours, eight threes and 18 twos.

Mr Lucas rendered his invaluable assistance, for during a partnership of an hour and 25 minutes the score was increased by 141 runs, the bowlers being severely punished, both Mr M'Gregor and Mr Lucas showing a decided liking for Mr Hartley's slows. Mr Lucas's hard hit 45 included seven fours. Of the others, Mr Webbe played steady cricket for 24, while he helped Mr Douglas to add 56 for the fifth wicket, when he was beautifully caught at cover-point by Bean, who took the ball low down with the right hand. Towards the close of the innings K S Ranjitsinhji met with some success, taking two wickets for 15 runs.

Sussex went in a second time just before 5 o'clock, being 216 behind, and soon lost Marlow. K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr Brann then took the score to 54, when rain drove the players to the

pavilion. After one attempt to continue play was abandoned for the day about 6 o'clock, Sussex at the close being 162 runs behind with nine wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 August, page 8)

It is surely one of the eccentricities of cricket that a side so wealthy in strong players as Middlesex are should find themselves at the end of the second week in August securing their first win of the season; victory, too, has come to them when they were without three of the leading amateurs - Sir T O'Brien, Mr A E Stoddart and Mr F G J Ford.

Perhaps the county have had more than their share of bad luck. Even on Saturday their chances at one time of beating Sussex were not very bright, for Sussex had done so well in their efforts to save the game that at a quarter to 4, with only two hours and a half left for play, only four of the ten wickets were down and, what is more, the men who had striven so hard to keep away defeat were still in.

But a few minutes later the game turned. Mr Brann, who had had Mr Newham for a partner for two hours and a half, was brilliantly caught low down at point from a hard cut. He had been in himself over four hours, and from the first he had set himself assiduously to watching the ball with every care and patience. Saturday was an occasion when Mr Brann had every reason for his slow and dull defence; but he admits having completely forsaken his fine forcing methods which in his early connexion with Sussex cricket made him so brilliant to watch.

While he and Mr Newham were together Middlesex did not look so like winning as when they were rid of Ranjitsinhji, Murdoch, Marlow and Fry for 92 runs. The score was 228, or 12 runs on, when Mr Brann left; but afterwards, while Mr Newham did his best, the other batsmen were steadily got out, the last five going in an hour for 54 more runs. This was mainly owing to the skilful bowling of Mr Wells, the old Cambridge blue. Mr Newham took out his bat for a finished and careful innings of 84, and, like Mr Brann, he hit six fours.

Middlesex had to get 67 in 65 minutes, and these they made with more than a quarter of an hour to spare. Three wickets were lost, and but for a couple of dropped catches more might have fallen. There was a large company present and the Middlesex victory of seven wickets seemed thoroughly appreciated.

12 August: SOMERSET v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4876.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 August, page 4)

Kent made a capital start in their return match with Somerset at Taunton yesterday, disposed of Mr Woods, Mr Palairet and Mr Roe - the three best batsmen on the side - for 35 runs, but afterwards they blundered in the field very badly and Somerset, making good use of their luck, stayed at the wickets until after 5 o'clock, putting together a total of 276.

Despite some careful cricket by Nichols, who scored 39 with Robson and 56 with Mr Phillips, there were six men out for 145. Then came quite a series of blunders, Mr Fowler being missed three times, and that gentleman, in company with Mr Dunlop, added 79 runs in an hour, finally carrying out his bat for an invaluable but lucky 61. Kent had to go in for 40 minutes and lost both Hearne and Mr Mason for 37, the amateur being bowled in the last over of the day by a ball he did not attempt to play.

Somerset made one change from the side that lost to Sussex last week, Mr Woods resuming his place and Mr Porch standing down, while Kent had exactly the same eleven that played Gloucestershire. After a dull morning the weather turned bright and the attendance was the best seen on the Taunton ground this summer.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 August, page 8)

There was comparatively little cricket at Taunton yesterday owing to the showery weather. Up to nearly half-past 3 the players had been in the field for only half an hour and, though the game was then in progress for some time, more rain later on caused stumps to be drawn for the day at ten minutes to 6.

Kent, going in overnight against the Somerset total of 276, had lost two of their best batsmen for 37 runs, and yesterday Mr Day quite failed to repeat his success against Gloucestershire. Mr Stewart batted in creditable style but, despite his efforts and some fair work by other members of the team, the ninth wicket fell at 152, five runs being wanted to save the follow-on. Mr Marchant, however, hit finely and the visitors in the end were only 97 behind.

Somerset in their second innings had only ten minutes' batting before the rain set in again, the home side leaving off 113 runs ahead with all ten wickets in hand. Mr Hedley bowled with marked success, taking seven wickets at a cost of only 59 runs. Play to-day will begin at 11 o'clock and stumps be drawn at half-past 5.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 August, page 8)

For the first time since they defeated Surrey at the Oval in the middle of June Somerset obtained a victory on Saturday, the western county beating Kent at Taunton by 80 runs. Taken as a whole, the match presented few features of interest, but the finish proved rather exciting, only a quarter of an hour remaining for cricket when the last Kent wicket went down.

Somerset entered upon the day's cricket with a good deal the better of the position as, after leading Kent by 97 runs, they had in their second innings scored 16 without loss. In rather less than two hours and a half the home team raised their total to 169 for eight wickets, and then Mr Woods declared the innings at an end. Kent, with three hours and a quarter left for cricket, wanted 267 to win, and so could only hope for a draw.

Mr Mason and Hearne put on 51 for the first wicket, but the majority of the Kent batsmen did not play a very good game. Tyler, with seven wickets for 61 runs, had a large share in the success of his side.

Friday 13 August, page 4: MR STODDART'S TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

Mr Stoddart has completed his side for the colonies by the inclusion of captain E G Wynyard, of Hampshire, who was such a fine bat last summer that he was chosen to take part in the third of the test matches on the Oval.

The 13 cricketers who comprise the team are:- Mr A E Stoddart, Middlesex; Mr Norman Druce, Cambridge University and Surrey; K S Ranjitsinhji, Sussex; Mr A C Maclaren, Lancashire; Mr J R Mason, Kent; Captain E G Wynyard, Hampshire; Tom Richardson, Surrey; Hayward, Surrey; Wainwright, Yorkshire; Hirst, Yorkshire; J T Hearne, Middlesex; Storer, Derbyshire; Board, Gloucestershire.

This is a very fine side, but the inability of Mr F S Jackson, of Yorkshire, to go will be a subject of much regret to the cricketing community. Richardson, Maclaren and Stoddart are the only players who have been to Australia before.

James Phillips accompanies the team as umpire. The cricketers leave for Australia on September 17, by the Orient steamship Ormuz. On the voyage out they will stay one day at Colombo, and on reaching Albany, west Australia, they will disembark and play two matches in Perth, afterwards catching the next Orient boat, a fortnight later, for Adelaide, where the serious business of the tour will begin with a match against South Australia, a week being allotted to the fixture. The Englishmen will then play Victoria at Melbourne and New South Wales at Sydney.

The dates for the five test matches against All Australia have been published, but it may be as well to repeat them. December 10, at Sydney; December 31, at Melbourne; January 14, at Adelaide; January 29, at Melbourne; and February 25, at Sydney.

It is intended to play fewer matches against odds than in the previous trip, and to give the players more frequent holidays. It is probable that return matches will be played with South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales, but the tour is to finish before the end of March. The colours of the team will most probably be the same as before.

Although Essex were deprived by their defeat at Leyton yesterday of the first position in the county championship table, the competition is still fraught with sundry possibilities, for Surrey and Lancashire have each five more fixtures, including that between themselves next Thursday; and a run of bad luck for the two sides and the success of Essex in their remaining game with Hampshire might, on the fractional system, still leave Essex at the head. The four leading counties in the competition stand thus:

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Lancashire	21	13	2	6	11	.73
Surrey	21	14	3	4	11	.646
Essex	15	7	2	5	5	.5
Yorkshire	22	12	4	6	8	.5

Below are given the chief first-class averages:-

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Innings	Times not out	Average
Mr A C Maclaren	13	700	244	2	63.7
Mr N F Druce	15	820	227*	2	63.1
Mr F G J Ford	18	805	150	3	53.10
Abel	38	1852	250	3	52.32
W Gunn	25	1104	230	3	50.4
W G Quaife	24	939	178*	5	49.8
Mr J A Dixon	22	1019	268*	1	48.11
K S Ranjitsinhji	40	1725	260	4	47.33
Dr W G Grace	33	1392	131	2	44.28
Mr H W Bainbridge	22	901	152	1	42.19
J T Brown	38	1499	311	3	42.29
Shrewsbury	24	887	125	3	42.5
Mr G Brann	35	1375	126	2	41.22
Mr A J Turner	16	562	111	2	40.2
Mr F Mitchell	12	475	133	0	39.7
Albert Ward	36	1173	162	5	37.26
Hayward	34	1210	130	2	37.26
Mr J R Mason	33	1232	183	0	37.11
Mr C J Burnup	18	597	108	2	37.5
Tyldesley	29	991	174	2	36.19
Mr K J Key	32	988	130*	5	36.16
Wainwright	39	1339	171	2	36.7
Mr A P Lucas	14	386	89	3	35.1
Mr P Perrin	27	863	153	2	34.13
Brockwell	34	1167	225	0	34.11
Baker	37	1166	153	3	34.10
Mr G E Bromley-Martin	12	409	137	0	34.1
Lord Hawke	23	577	91*	6	33.16
Hirst	41	1215	134	5	33.27
Mr C E M Wilson	13	336	91*	3	33.6
Mr G L Jessop	33	1062	140	1	33.6
Mr J F Byrne	16	529	100	0	33.1
Dench	24	661	65*	4	33.1
Lilley	26	712	79*	4	32.8
Captain E G Wynyard	19	614	80	0	32.6
Mr C M'Gahey	32	989	140	1	31.28
Baldwin (Surrey)	34	1020	234	2	31.28

Mr L C H Palairet	16	507	92	0	31.11
Mr A E Stoddart	21	650	109	0	30.20
Mr W L Murdoch	36	1080	130	1	30.30
Mr H C Stewart	25	772	142	0	30.22
Mr F S Jackson	40	1132	124	3	30.22
Tunnicliffe	42	1115	147	5	30.5
Mr W Newham	34	903	107	4	30.3
Denton	40	1170	141*	1	30
Mr L G Wright	25	748	133	0	29.23
Chatterton	26	775	120	0	29.21
Bagshaw	25	707	114*	1	29.11
Davidson	34	878	121	4	29.8
Frank Sugg	34	929	122	2	29.1
Mr A G Richardson	13	374	89	0	28.10
Mr H B Hayman	26	713	84	1	28.13
Mr P F Warner	33	907	176	1	28.11
Barton	30	791	125	2	28.7
Diver	25	699	111	0	27.24
Mr A J Webbe	24	552	74	4	27.12
Mr S H Evershed	21	563	112	0	26.17
Mr F H B Champain	34	879	97	1	26.21
Carpenter	31	746	141	3	26.18
Mr A C S Glover	23	584	115	1	26.12
Mr G J Weigall	19	449	138*	2	26.7
Mr C J Kortright	22	528	74	2	26.8
Mr G MacGregor	17	396	141	2	26.6
Bean	36	864	115	3	26.6
Storer	35	889	160*	1	26.5
Mr R O'H Livesay	11	261	63	1	26.1
Mr F L Fane	29	719	67	1	25.19
Mr H B Chinnery	28	692	149	1	25.17
Mr A Eccles	16	356	102	2	25.6
Mr R C N Palairet	22	556	66	0	25.6
Trott	12	276	62	1	25.1
Mr S M J Woods	28	688	111	0	24.16
Mr G Fowler	25	518	70	4	24.14
W Quaife	26	614	101	1	24.14
Mr A O Jones	23	562	75	0	24.10
Nichols	26	595	74*	1	23.20
Mr F W Milligan	28	634	64	1	23.13
Mr H H Marriott	25	562	73	1	23.10
Mr C P Foley	12	232	47	2	23.2

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr C E M Wilson	270	94	458	33	13.29
Trott	267.4	75	673	48	14.1
Richardson	1257.2	374	3200	200	16
Mr F W Stocks	315.4	120	642	40	16.2
Mr C Heseltine	238.1	54	564	33	17.3
Briggs	1107.1	343	2225	130	17.15
Hallam	891.2	389	1561	89	17.48
Mr G L Jessop	790.2	237	1604	91	17.57
Mold	812.4	276	1707	96	17.75
Mr H W de Zoete	247	64	642	36	17.30
Cuttell	902.3	341	1602	85	18.72
Hayward	736.4	221	1791	95	18.81
J T Hearne	1336.3	519	2623	139	18.121
Peel	688.1	258	1233	65	18.63
Mr F H E Cunliffe	655.4	112	1473	75	19.48
Woodcock	557.2	131	1433	71	20.18

Mr C J Kortright	499.4	117	1428	69	20.48
Mr F S Jackson	602.3	183	1358	63	21.35
Mr E B Shine	568.1	160	1391	64	21.47
Bland	1026.4	307	2526	116	21.95
Mead	831.2	297	1663	76	21.67
Haigh	704.1	232	1511	69	21.62
Mr F G Bull	893.2	220	2354	107	22
Lees	601.2	197	1397	63	22.11
Roberts	676.3	231	1576	71	22.14
Davidson	838.4	346	1484	66	22.32
Dr W G Grace	538.4	165	1116	49	22.38
Hirst	996.1	363	2099	90	23.29
Rawlin	585	206	1171	50	23.21
Mr J R Mason	434.3	146	1011	43	23.22
Attewell	957	408	1691	71	23.58
Mr J C Hartley	355	78	891	37	24.3
Hancock	437.1	134	1080	44	24.24
Brockwell	448.1	170	937	38	24.25
Tyler	700.4	170	1862	77	24.34
Wainwright	903.3	290	1925	81	24.41
Tate	1066.4	373	2271	89	25.45
Baldwin (Hants)	666	254	1260	45	26.30
Mr C L Townsend	648.3	98	2033	77	26.31
Mr F W Milligan	300.1	70	894	33	27.3
Martin	864.3	296	1724	62	27.50
Santall	759.2	249	1702	59	28.50
Alec Hearne	435	143	966	33	29.9
Mr S M J Woods	390.1	76	1134	38	29.32
W Wright	659.1	234	1513	51	29.34

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are set out below; and from these it will be understood how keen is the fight for the chief honours between Lancashire and Surrey, whose match at the Oval next Thursday should be especially interesting:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Lancashire	22	14	2	6	12	.75
Surrey	21	14	3	4	11	.647
Essex	15	7	2	6	5	.5
Yorkshire	23	12	5	6	7	.411
Gloucestershire	15	7	4	4	3	.27
Sussex	16	5	5	6	0	
Nottinghamshire	14	2	3	9	-1	
Warwickshire	15	3	4	8	-1	
Middlesex	12	1	4	7	-3	
Hampshire	14	3	7	4	-4	
Kent	14	2	8	4	-6	
Somerset	13	2	9	2	-7	
Leicestershire	11	1	9	1	-8	
Derbyshire	13	0	8	5	-8	

16 August: DERBYSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4877.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 August, page 8)

Neither of these counties has done well this season; Derbyshire has so far failed to win a match and Leicestershire's only win has been against Derbyshire. Their meeting yesterday at Derby was accordingly of more interest than usual, because of the struggle to avoid the last place in the county championship.

In the return game Leicestershire yesterday secured an advantage. Derbyshire made only 148, and this score was passed by the visitors with only five wickets gone. Storer and Sugg played the best cricket of the day for Derbyshire; but apart from this the batting was poor. Leicestershire, who had Pougher to help them, were indebted chiefly to Knight for their favourable position at the close of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 August, page 4)

As might have been expected from the position of the game on Monday night at Derby the Leicestershire eleven established a substantial advantage yesterday, and the match now promises the visitors a win, for with five men gone in the second innings Derbyshire are only 98 runs ahead.

Knight and Mr Joyce played very well again yesterday morning and put on altogether 87 for their partnership. Storer bowled both men in one over. Knight played very well and was in three hours, during which he hit 12 fours.

Derbyshire, who were 126 behind, fought doggedly in a losing game; but for the excellence of their second score they were mainly indebted to Mr Wright, who, with a fair share of luck, met with much success and hit 12 fours. Bagshaw also played well, and after helping Mr Wright to add 79 in an hour for the fourth wicket, he was still not out.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 August, page 9)

Bagshaw's splendid batting at Derby had most to do with Derbyshire's reaching a position that enabled them to declare their innings closed and eventually to get the better of the match, which was drawn.

The Derbyshire score of 363 for seven wickets against arrears of 126 was an extremely creditable performance. For some years Bagshaw has been regarded as one of the best left-handed batsmen of the day, and his 124 yesterday was made with scarcely a false stroke; he hit 17 fours, five threes and nine twos. Leicestershire were put in to get 238 to win and the match was drawn . . .

16 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4878.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 August, page 8)

There was some interesting cricket at Gloucester yesterday when the home side were particularly keen to avenge their defeat sustained earlier in the season at Birmingham. Going in on a good, hard wicket Warwickshire scarcely did so well as might have been expected; their batting was dull and the brightness of the cricket was furnished chiefly by the fielding team.

Walter Quaife made some good strokes on the leg side; but it was not until late in the innings that the batting assumed any liveliness. Lilley played with every care for his 57 and was seventh out at 156. Subsequently there was a stand for 64 in three-quarters of an hour by Mr Glover and Santall. Mr Jessop finished off the innings abruptly by sending down three overs and three balls for 12 runs and three wickets, while his full average credited him with seven wickets for 92 runs.

Dr W G Grace and Mr Rice batted steadily during the last hour, and Gloucestershire's position is that with all ten wickets in hand they are only 187 behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 August, page 4)

Mr R W Rice for the first time in important cricket yesterday played a three-figure innings. His 106 for Gloucestershire had much to do with the lead which the Western county were able to gain on the first innings at Gloucester. He had gone in first overnight and altogether he had had nearly four hours' actual batting, when he was seventh to leave at 226; a steady and sound game marked his cricket and he rarely mistimed a ball. He hit 13 fours. Board, who had kept wicket so excellently on Monday, came off also in batting yesterday and had a share of 47 in the 77 added for the sixth wicket. Lord bowled extremely well for Warwickshire.

The visitors had nearly an hour and three-quarters' play in the second innings, and at the finish with four men out they were 71 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 August, page 9)

The stormy and wet weather ruined the last day of this match at Gloucester and the game had to be given up. On Tuesday Warwickshire, going in against a lead of 36, had made 107 for four wickets, and at the cost of another batsman their record was increased to 180.

It was at this stage - namely, at a quarter to 1 - that the rain stopped cricket for the day. Mr Byrne played very well and his 63 came creditably after the many good things he has done for the county this year.

16 August: KENT v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4879.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 August, page 8)

The wickets at the Beckenham Cricket Ground have not generally been remarkable for excellence when the counties have come to play, and although a lot of runs are got in local matches it is probably because the bowling in them is not of the nature of a Richardson's.

Yesterday, after the long spell of dry weather, the surface of the turf has parched and loose, so that where the Kent bowlers secured a reasonable degree of success Richardson was often nothing less than unplayable. The balls that got out Mr Mason, Mr Day, Mr Mordaunt and Mr Marchant would have beaten most people. Richardson got the first five wickets at a cost to himself of 20 runs, while his final figures were:-

Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
27.3	11	49	8

This bowling constituted by far the most remarkable piece of cricket of the day. After the ill-fated season this has been for Kent, no one could have expected them to give Surrey a very hard game and, considering the nature of the pitch, the Surrey lead of 55 on the innings is of far more weight than would at first appear. Besides this, Kent have to play the fourth innings, and such a thing is always a handicapped on a bowler's day.

Apart from the absence of Mr Druce, Surrey had their best side; but Alec Hearne was unable to appear for Kent owing to a renewal of a strain. In the fine summer weather the Beckenham Ground, with its charming surroundings, looked at its best, and there was an enthusiastic crowd, some 5,000 or 6,000 in number.

Surrey's innings began soon after midday and extended until three-quarters of an hour beyond the luncheon interval. Hayward and Abel put on 57 for the second wicket at a good rate, but, while the former's cutting was good, Abel made numerous false strokes. Baldwin played steadily; but the batsmen left rapidly and seven were out for 118. Mr Key forced the game fearlessly, and got such good support from Lees that 41 were rapidly put on, and the score was up to 171 before the last wicket went. Kent fielded well, and the catch by Mr Mason in the slips that got out Baldwin was especially good. Mr Bradley and Martin bowled equally well.

The Kent side were batting about two hours and a quarter. After the pitch had been swept and rolled it played for a while easier; but the capital start of Mr Mason and Mr Tufton - 44 were made for the first wicket - only preceded a whole course of disasters. Wicket after wicket went to Richardson, and Martin, who was in over an hour, alone was able to get a few runs. Kent were all out just before the hour for drawing stumps.

MR KEY'S BATTING.- Mr Key, the captain of the Surrey eleven, yesterday completed his 1,000 aggregate for the season. He has been batting remarkably well this summer, and it is perhaps his best year since 1887, when in first-class matches he scored 1,684 runs and was fourth in the amateur averages to Dr Grace, Mr A J Webbe and Mr W W Read. This was the season that Surrey, after a lapse of 23 years, regained the championship, and Mr Key was then still up at Oxford.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 August, page 4)

To those who had followed with attention the cricket of Monday and who had studied the conditions of the wicket the victory of Surrey by 156 runs at Beckenham came in no sense as a surprise. It was almost impossible that such a pitch, which showed the outlines of comparatively new-laid turf, could improve in the course of a few hours, and from first to last yesterday the ball broke and kicked in a manner that made success in batting a lottery. Richardson again had a fine analysis, and his full figures for the match are well worth setting out:-

Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
43.3	16	102	14

Richardson bowled right through each innings. But even the great Surrey bowler admitted that cricket was spoilt by playing on such bad turf, a feeling that was generally shared by both teams. Still, Surrey won brilliantly, and their victory was wholly that of the better side.

With a break of about a quarter of an hour, caused by the rain which drizzled more or less right up to 3 o'clock, the Surrey second innings lasted until 4 o'clock. It had two well-pronounced features - the fine batting of Brockwell and the sturdiness of Mr Key's game. Brockwell made a lot of hard drives and, after being helped by Abel to score 58 for the first wicket, he was fourth to go at 82 to a well-judged catch at cover-point. In his 50 were five fours and five threes.

Baldwin again played steadily, but seven of the side were out for 121. The other three wickets added 92 runs, the Surrey captain in his courageous batting being well backed up by Lees, Wood and Richardson. Kent did their best in a palpably losing fight, and among the best points in the cricket was the fielding of the old Oxford captain, Mr Mordaunt.

Kent were left with 269 to get to win; but their innings was all over in a little over an hour and a half for 112. Mr Day was too unwell to take any part in yesterday's cricket, and so Kent batted one short. Martin, who went in first wicket down at 16 and was last out, played with every steadiness; but the really good thing in the innings was Mr Marchant's 31 out of 41 in about a quarter of an hour. In the Kent captain's batting there was just a flavour of his Eton days' brilliancy; he got right on top of Richardson's bowling and in all he scored seven fours, mainly by drives. But nothing could save Kent, and the 5,000 spectators saw the last of the match just before 6 o'clock.

HAYWARD'S BOWLING.- T Hayward of the Surrey eleven yesterday secured his 100 wickets aggregate in first-class cricket for the season, this giving him the rare distinction of taking 100 wickets and scoring 1,000 runs. Mr Jessop, of Cambridge and Gloucestershire, is close behind him, for the young amateur has made over 1,000 runs and is only one short of 100 in wickets.

The great master of the game, W G Grace, has achieved the double honour a good many times, and sundry other cricketers have accomplished it in other years, but Hayward is the first to perform the feat this summer, and it bears high testimony to his skill as an all-round cricketer.

16 August: SUSSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4880.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 August, page 8)

With the fight for the championship so keen it is quite natural that the fortunes of Lancashire, who at present lead the counties, should be watched with something more than ordinary interest. The crowd yesterday at Hove, Brighton, saw Lancashire batting all day and the fine score of 382 for six wickets realized.

Mr Maclaren and Albert Ward laid the foundation of a big innings by making 122 for the first wicket in an hour and three-quarters; but then things went rather better for Sussex and four men out for 134 seemed no extraordinary score for a side going in first on one of Brighton's best wickets. Mr Maclaren's 76 was a beautiful innings and he hit 11 fours.

The good fortune of Sussex was only transitory, however, for Tindall and Baker treated the bowling mercilessly and in the course of an hour and a quarter added 128, while after Briggs had gone there was a partnership of 111 in 50 minutes by Baker and Cuttell. Tindall has never before played so well for Lancashire, and in his 86 were 13 fours. His best stroke was beyond doubt his driving. Baker, who made his third 100 this season for Lancashire, and who, it may be remembered, was chosen by the M.C.C. for the Players at Lord's, showed a splendid defence and rarely mis-timed a ball.

Bland, the Sussex fast bowler, after sending down three overs had a sudden attack of illness; and Lancashire courteously allowed their opponents to put in Killick to complete their side, for Bland was too unwell to take further part in the match.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 August, page 4)

The Lancashire team at Brighton yesterday established an advantage that promises to bring them victory, for Sussex have had to follow on against odds of 357, and have already lost Mr Fry's wicket for two runs. Sussex certainly had the worst of the luck, for, after an hour's delay, from 3 to 4 o'clock, by rain, the sun came again strongly and made the pitch very false.

Lancashire, who on Monday had been in all day and had lost only six wickets, took an hour and a quarter to complete their innings for 106 additional runs, their full score amounting to 488. The principal feature in their innings was the batting of Baker, who was the last man to leave for 186. Playing a bright and vigorous game, he got his runs in three and three-quarter hours and his chief hits were 22 fours.

When Sussex went in there was about an hour and 20 minutes' cricket before the rain came. Mr Murdoch played very skilfully; but when Cuttell came on at 107 the Sussex batsmen collapsed, and Cuttell had the fine analysis of four wickets for eight runs. Radcliffe kept wicket excellently. In spite of the uncertain weather the crowd numbered about 4,000.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 August, page 9)

With the pitch made false by Tuesday's rain and the position of things as it was when the game was renewed yesterday, it is not surprising that Sussex were yesterday beaten at Hove by an innings and 186 runs. Sussex had followed on the previous evening, and yesterday, with only nine men left, they wanted 355 to avoid the single innings defeat. There never seemed much chance of the home side making much of a fight, and soon after 3 o'clock the game came to an end.

The Lancashire bowlers made the most of any assistance that came from the condition of the turf and K S Ranjitsinhji alone fared well. He was in while 99 were scored, and he hit eight fours, two threes and five twos, while in the end he was run out through slipping down mid wicket. Briggs and Cuttell bowled extremely well. Mold was absent from the field

yesterday owing to an injured leg, and it is doubtful whether he will be able to play to-day at the Oval.

16 August: YORKSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4881.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 August, page 8)

In no way affected by their misfortunes last week the Yorkshire eleven came out in brilliant form yesterday at Sheffield in their return match with Middlesex, staying at the wickets the whole of the afternoon and, as the result of just over five hours' batting, scoring 361 for the loss of eight wickets. Between six and seven thousand people watched the cricket, and it need hardly be said that the fine batting afforded the liveliest satisfaction.

Peel, after an absence of nearly four weeks, reappeared in the Yorkshire eleven, having presumably recovered from the severe injury he received in the Lancashire match at Bradford, but J T Brown's hand was not sufficiently well to admit of his playing. Middlesex were without Mr Stoddart, who, owing to his strained knee, does not expect to play again till next week, and two changes had to be made from the side which on Saturday beat Sussex at Lord's, Mr H B Hayman and James Phillips taking the places of Mr R W Nicholls and Mr Cunliffe.

Except for some fine batting by Denton, the early play yesterday was in no way remarkable - the wicket at first seeming a trifle slow - and with two men out Yorkshire's score had only reached 54. Then, however, some splendid cricket was shown. Tunnicliffe, who had gone in first, was joined by Mr Jackson, and these two batsmen in less than two hours and a half put on 98 runs. They seemed fairly set when at 152 a catch at short-slip ended Tunnicliffe's innings. He had played finely but with none of the freedom which once characterized his batting, his innings of 50 lasting two hours and 25 minutes.

With Mr Jackson and Wainwright together perhaps the finest play of the day was seen, 80 runs being added in an hour and five minutes. Mr Jackson was out at 232 to a brilliant catch at long on, his splendid innings of 101 - the finest he has played for more than a month - including 14 fours, one three and ten twos. He was at the wickets two hours and a half, and his only mistake was a chance of stumping when he had made 84. Wainwright was run out at 257 for an innings of 60, with which no fault could be found. It included seven fours, five threes and two twos.

After this Hirst and Peel put on 47 for the sixth wicket, and Peel and Mr Milligan 45 in 25 minutes for the seventh, the amateur batsman hitting up 27 in vigorous fashion. Peel was the last man out yesterday, a catch at the wicket sending him back after he had been in 70 minutes for his 40. At the finish Lord Hawke and Haigh were together and the score stood at 361.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 August, page 4)

At Sheffield, yesterday, Yorkshire, with eight wickets down for 361, went on batting in the morning, and in the course of 20 minutes the innings was finished off for an addition of only five runs to the previous score. A good deal of the Middlesex bowling was ineffective, Mr C M Wells in particular being severely knocked about, but J T Hearne did some fine work and took six wickets at a cost of less than 20 runs each.

When Middlesex went in a splendid start was made by Messrs Hayman and Warner, who in the course of an hour and a quarter sent up the hundred, but immediately after that Mr Hayman was bowled for a brilliant 56, which included ten fours. Mr Warner left at 104 and, with Rawlin caught at the wicket after getting 14, there were three men out at lunch-time for 126. On play being resumed Peel and Hirst bowled wonderfully well, and with only 39 runs added three other wickets were lost.

After this a capital stand was made by Mr Webbe and Mr R S Lucas, but the latter gentleman was fortunate, when he had made nine, in being let off by Tunnicliffe at slip. Thanks to Mr Lucas's hitting 50 runs were put on in 40 minutes, and then Mr Webbe, who had played a very careful game for the best part of an hour and a quarter, was caught slip. From this point

no one stayed with Mr Lucas, and just after the follow-on had been saved the innings came to an end.

With a lead of 119 Yorkshire went in for the second time at 20 past 5. Mr Jackson scored 19 out of 29, when he was bowled by Hearne. It only wanted five minutes to 6 when his wicket fell, so, without anything further being done, stumps were drawn for the day, Yorkshire, with nine wickets in hand, leaving off 148 runs to the good.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 August, page 9)

When Middlesex saved the follow-on on Tuesday there was little chance left of any definite issue to this match at Sheffield being reached, and yesterday, after a lot of good cricket, the match was drawn, the honours at the finish being fairly equal.

There was Denton's 72 for Yorkshire; but the great thing of the day was the 102 of the old Cambridge blue Mr J Douglas for Middlesex, when the Southerners had been put in to make 302 in impossible time. Hearne and Rawlin bowled extremely well, keeping a fine length and getting some work on the ball, and they were always difficult to hit. Denton's 72 was a bright innings and included nine fours and five threes. Luncheon was taken at 1.30, and Lord Hawke at this point declared his innings at an end, putting in Middlesex to make 302 in two hours and three-quarters.

Mr Warner, who had Mr Wells to run for him, played steadily; but it was the fine batting of Mr Douglas and Rawlin, who in 90 minutes put on 140, the furnished the finest cricket of the day. Mr Douglas played beautifully, and in his 102 were 11 fours, six threes and nine twos. The game was drawn . . .

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The successes of Surrey and Lancashire this week have made their meeting at the Oval to-day more than ordinarily interesting, for on the result of this match, in all probability, the possession of the championship will depend. The results up to the present are as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Lancashire	23	15	2	6	13	.764
Surrey	22	15	3	4	12	.6
Essex	15	7	2	6	5	.5
Yorkshire	24	12	5	7	7	.411
Gloucestershire	16	7	4	5	3	.27
Sussex	17	5	6	6	-1	
Warwickshire	16	3	4	9	-1	
Nottinghamshire	14	2	3	9	-1	
Middlesex	13	1	4	8	-3	
Hampshire	14	3	7	4	-4	
Kent	15	2	9	4	-7	
Somerset	13	2	9	2	-7	
Leicestershire	12	1	9	2	-8	
Derbyshire	14	0	8	6	-8	

19 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4882.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 August, page 9)

With the wicket at Clifton College in first-rate order for batting some exceptionally bright cricket was seen yesterday in the opening stage of the return match between Gloucestershire and Somerset, and no fewer than 424 runs were scored.

Gloucestershire had the advantage of batting first and in rather less than three hours and a half they ran up a total of 283. They started very badly in losing Dr Grace and Mr Rice for 17 runs. Wrathall and Board by some fine hitting improved matters a good deal, putting 84 together in less than three-quarters of an hour; but with four wickets down the score was only 101. At this point, however, Mr Jessop went in and, making ample amends for some recent failures, gave one of his finest displays of hitting. He scored 66 before lunch in 40 minutes, and in the course of a quarter of an hour after the interval carried his score to 90. Though making runs at this tremendous pace he did not give a chance, and so accurate was his timing that in the whole of his innings there were only two bad strokes. Thirty hits comprised his score - one six, 15 fours, two threes, six twos and six singles. From first to last his cricket was an astonishing piece of cricket.

Board played very finely for 67, staying at the wickets for an hour and 20 minutes. He made his first 63 runs in 50 minutes, but after that he had the misfortune to strain his back, and for the rest of his innings he had to be content with purely defensive methods. Gloucestershire had nine wickets down for 229, but by some capital batting Mr Goodwin and Roberts added 54 for the last partnership. Mr Woods, recalling his early triumphs as a bowler, took six wickets at a cost of 80 runs.

When Somerset went in the cricket was as animated as before, 141 runs being scored in just over an hour and a half. The best play was shown by Mr Phillips, who made his 47 not out without a mistake. In the last half-hour he and Mr Woods carried the score from 93 to 141 without being separated.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 August, page 12)

The weather at Clifton yesterday was depressing in the extreme. In the early morning rain fell heavily and there were further showers after 11 o'clock. It was hoped to resume the game after the luncheon interval, but between 2 and 3 several sharp showers came on and, with the wicket thoroughly saturated, play for the day was abandoned at a quarter past 3. It will be remembered that on Thursday Gloucestershire scored a first innings of 283 and Somerset made 141 for the loss of four wickets.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 August, page 9)

In accordance with general expectation the match at Clifton between these counties ended on Saturday in a draw, Somerset, with two wickets down in their second innings, requiring 72 runs to give them a victory. On the opening day Gloucestershire had completed a first innings of 283 and Somerset had scored 141 for the loss of four wickets. So much rain fell on Friday that no play was possible, and on Saturday, owing to some showers in the early morning, the start was delayed until 25 minutes past 1.

The Somerset innings was quickly finished off for the addition of 77 runs, the total in the end reaching 218. The only point of interest about the batting was whether Mr Phillips, who was not out on Thursday with 47, would succeed in reaching his 100, and as it happened he was caught and bowled when within eight of the desired number. He went in at the fall of the third wicket at 55 and was the last man out, scoring 92 of the 163 put on during his stay. Altogether he was batting about two hours, and his innings, which was practically free from fault, included nine fours, four threes and 11 twos. Mr Jessop, in dismissing Mr Woods and Mr Fowler, had the satisfaction of completing his 100 wickets aggregate in first-

class matches this summer, thus sharing with Hayward the distinction of scoring over 1,000 and obtaining 100 wickets during the season.

Only two hours and a quarter remained for play when Gloucestershire went in a second time. Dr Grace altered the order, in the hope of being able to force a win, and this policy was attended with such disastrous results, that five men were out for seven runs. Another failure at this critical point would perhaps have enabled Somerset to snatch a victory, but Mr Goodwin and Mr Townsend and afterwards Mr Townsend and Mr Rice effected two most valuable stands, and the score was carried to 57 for six wickets. The innings was declared closed, and Somerset in 35 minutes scored 51 for the loss of two men.

19 August: HAMPSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4883.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 August, page 9)

After a dull and showery morning at Portsmouth yesterday the weather turned out charmingly fine, and between 4,000 and 5,000 spectators assembled to witness the return match between Hampshire and Sussex. Before luncheon there was a delay of nearly an hour and a quarter and run-getting was never an easy matter, though the ground did not become as difficult as at one time seemed likely.

Hampshire made a bad start, losing six wickets for 86 runs, but some admirable batting on the part of Webb, who was well supported by Steele and Heseltine, atoned to a large extent for the early shortcomings, and the score in the end was carried to 218. Webb, who had gone in first wicket down before a run had been obtained, was the ninth man out at 214. His innings of 111 occupied him just three hours and, considering that the bowlers were always able to get some work on the ball, his performance was immensely creditable. He gave no chance and among his hits were 18 fours. A subscription raised on his behalf resulted in £25 10s being obtained. It should be mentioned that he had never before scored a hundred for his county.

At the close of the afternoon Sussex had nearly half an hour's batting and lost one wicket for 20 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 August, page 12)

Owing to rain, play in this match at Portsmouth yesterday was impossible. The rain fell heavily in the early morning, but the weather cleared up somewhat towards noon and it was thought that a start would be made after luncheon time. However, between 2 and 3 the weather turned wet again and play was then abandoned for the day. On Thursday Hampshire scored 218 and Sussex 20 for the loss of one wicket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 August, page 9)

After Sussex had succeeded in saving the follow-on at Portsmouth on Saturday the match was bound to end in a draw. During the first hour there was some excitement, when Mr Heseltine sent back four Sussex men while 23 runs were scored, but then came a stand by Mr Newham and Parris, which saved the visitors and at the same time robbed the match of all interest. In an hour Parris hit up 57 out of 85, sending the ball 13 times to the boundary, and in the end the total reached 156 - a capital score since six wickets were down for 58. Mr Newham was at the wickets an hour and three-quarters for his 40 not out, a faultless innings.

Going in a second time Hampshire's batting broke down, Bland taking five wickets for 57. But a draw was inevitable, and Mr Robson closed the innings with the score 105 for eight wickets. In the last hour Sussex scored 83 for the loss of Mr Fry. Mr Brann played fine cricket for his 43 not out and K S Ranjitsinhji made 21 not out.

19 August: KENT v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4884.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 August, page 9)

Up to a certain point yesterday at Tonbridge the cricket shown by the Kent eleven was nothing at all out of the common, six wickets going down for 143 runs on a pitch rendered slow and heavy by Wednesday's rain. However, the ground improved rapidly under the influence of a drying wind, and the Kent cricketers so admirably availed themselves of their opportunity that before the drawing of stumps they had carried the total to 393 and there was still one wicket to go down.

The remarkable change in the game was chiefly brought about by the brilliant hitting of Mr Frank Marchant, who has not been seen to so much advantage in any previous match this season. The Warwickshire bowling was punished with such severity that Marchant and Stewart added 55 runs in 25 minutes for the seventh wicket, and this performance was put quite into the shade by Marchant and Shine, who actually added 100 runs in 35 minutes for the ninth partnership. Thus in a few minutes under an hour the total had been increased by 158 runs. Mr Shine in his 49 sent the ball eight times to the boundary. Huish also hit well and remained with his captain until the call of time.

Mr Marchant was left not out 144 - his first innings of three figures in important cricket this summer. He made his runs in just over an hour and three-quarters, scoring his second fifty in 28 minutes. Though he was always forcing the game he never gave a chance and made very few bad hits. His success after a somewhat disappointing season was immensely popular with the large company that assembled.

Kent are giving a trial to Mr J F Reynolds, a local amateur who has been doing well recently in club matches both as batsman and bowler. The start was delayed until 25 minutes to 1 owing to the heavy condition of the ground, but afterwards the game went on without interruption under very pleasant conditions.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 August, page 12)

Undoubtedly for everybody concerned, rain caused an abandonment of play at Tonbridge yesterday. From an early hour in the morning there was a steady fall and, although some hopes were entertained of being able to start after luncheon, no change took place in the weather and at 20 minutes past 3 it was decided to wait until this morning. In all probability the game will end in a draw, as Kent have made 393 and have one wicket to fall in their first wicket, while Warwickshire have not yet been in to bat.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 August, page 9)

The cricket at Tonbridge on Saturday was uneventful and uninteresting, it being apparent that the game must end in a draw. On Thursday Kent had scored 393 for the loss of nine wickets, and after the rain which had prevented a ball from being bowled on Friday, the Warwickshire team could not hope to win. Mr Marchant on Saturday at once declared the innings closed without proceeding any further, and was himself left not out for a very fine 144, which occupied him an hour and 50 minutes and included a five (four for an overthrow), 20 fours, two threes and nine twos.

Warwickshire were batting from 25 minutes to 12, scoring 295, which in the circumstances was a capital performance. At first, when the ground was somewhat treacherous, six wickets went down for 99 runs, but afterwards some capital batting was shown by W G Quaife, Glover, Pallett, Forester and Santall. At the finish Kent were 98 runs ahead on the first innings.

19 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4885.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 August, page 9)

Without presenting any remarkable features, yesterday's cricket at Nottingham was of an interesting character, Middlesex remaining in for the whole of the time that play was in progress and running up a total of 296.

So much rain had fallen on the previous day that it did not seem much of an advantage for a side to get first innings, but Mr Webbe on winning the toss decided to risk going in, and the result fully justified him in the course he adopted. Runs were hard to obtain in the early part of the day, but the ground steadily improved and so consistent was the Middlesex batting that only three members of the side failed to reach double figures.

The first two wickets fell for 37, but then Warner and Rawlin played so finely that they put on 105 runs during their partnership. Both men were let off at the wicket, and for the mistakes Notts had to pay dearly. Warner, who was the first to leave, hit a five (four for an overthrow), five fours, four threes and 12 twos in his 79, and Rawlin, who was the sixth man out at 235, made ten fours, ten threes and two twos in an admirable 84, which extended over three hours.

Afterwards some good cricket was shown by MacGregor, Webbe, Bromley-Davenport and Hearne, but for the most part the play was uneventful, the rate of scoring seldom exceeding 50 runs an hour. Pleasantly fine weather prevailed and nearly 2,000 people visited the Trent-bridge ground. Shrewsbury, Gunn and Pike reappeared in the Notts eleven, but Middlesex were still without Stoddart, O'Brien and Cunliffe. A trial was given to S Webb, a young professional engaged on the ground staff at Manchester, who recently bowled with considerable success against the Harrow Wanderers. He has a birth qualification for Middlesex.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 August, page 12)

Some even and highly interesting cricket was witnessed yesterday at Nottingham, and at the finish there was practically nothing to choose between the teams, Middlesex, with seven wickets to go down, holding a lead of 50 runs. Two exceptionally fine performances were witnessed, Mr A O Jones scoring 162 and beating all his previous records, and Webb, the young bowler, making a sensational first appearance for Middlesex.

On the opening day Middlesex occupied the wickets for the whole of the time that cricket was in progress, completing an innings of 296. Nottingham had apparently escaped the rain which was so prevalent in most parts of the country and the game went on without interruption under very pleasant conditions. However, the attendance was very small, many people being doubtless kept away by the strong counter-attraction of the race meeting at Colwick-park.

Notts made a disastrous start, two wickets falling before a run had been scored; but from this point the batting showed an immense improvement. In the course of an hour and a quarter Jones and Shrewsbury put on 70 runs, out of which number the latter made 24 in characteristic style. The great change in the game occurred during the partnership of Jones and Dixon, the two men obtaining a complete mastery over the bowling and putting on 173 runs in a little under two hours. Jones himself was the sixth man out at 262 for as fine a piece of batting as has been seen on Trent-bridge Ground for a long time. He had some luck, giving four very difficult chances and one palpable one, but his cricket throughout was marked by splendid freedom and judgment, and among his hits were 24 fours.

Up to the time of Dixon's dismissal everything pointed to Notts gaining a big lead on the first innings, but an extraordinary change was brought about when Webb was tried for the second time at 236. He met with such extraordinary success that in the course of 12 overs and a ball he dismissed seven batsmen for 22 runs and hit the stumps on six occasions. It was almost entirely due to him that the Notts innings finished off at 20 minutes to 5 for 298, or only two runs to the good. There can be few instances of a bowler doing so well on

his first appearance, and the fortunes of Webb in the next few matches will be watched with very close attention.

Just over an hour and a half remained for play when Middlesex went in a second time, and run-getting proved such a difficult matter that three good wickets were lost in getting 52.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 August, page 9)

Middlesex beats Notts at Trent-bridge on Saturday by 56 runs, the new bowler, Sidney Webb, having a very considerable share in the victory. At the drawing of stumps on Friday the game was in a very even position, Middlesex, with three wickets down in their second innings, holding a lead of 50 runs.

With one or two light showers keeping the ground comparatively easy on Saturday morning, Mr Douglas and Mr M'Gregor played capital cricket and steadily carried the overnight score of 52 to 111. Mr M'Gregor was then out leg before wicket to Attewell, the partnership for the fourth wicket having added 74 to the score.

Mr Douglas stayed till the total had reached 134, his finely-played 48 having lasted a little over two hours and a half; but of the other batsmen only Mr Bromley-Davenport and Mr Webbe could make much headway against Attewell's bowling. Their play was in strong contrast, Bromley-Davenport being as free in his methods as Webbe was cautious. Attewell, with a broken spot to pitch on, bowled very finely indeed and took eight wickets for 68 runs. This made his record for the whole match 13 wickets for 141.

Notts had 168 to get to win, and might perhaps have accomplished their task if better judgment had been exercised in running. Both Shrewsbury and Mr A O Jones were run out. With the score at 55 for one wicket the prospects of Notts were hopeful, but after that the batting broke down, the last few men being able to do little or nothing against the capital bowling of J T Hearne and Webb. Gunn was out very unluckily, a ball that he played on to his foot jumping into the wicket. The game came to an end at a quarter past 5.

19 August: SURREY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4886.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 August, page 9)

The cricket in Surrey v Lancashire on the Oval yesterday, both by its keenness and its many other excellent points, was quite worthy of a game on which the fortunes of the county championship depended. When a wicket is in friendship with the bowlers and every run has to be fought for the play is generally more interesting than on those occasions when, with the ball "doing" little and rarely rising more than half-stump high, an easy forward method makes run-getting almost simplicity itself.

And so yesterday, with the pitch affected by the rain in the early hours of the morning, the cricket was of a quality that held the enormous crowd, nearly 30,000 strong, in close attention throughout the day. A casual glance at the score might suggest a certain poverty in batting, but those who followed the play could easily appreciate the splendid game of the sides in batting, bowling and fielding.

Surrey, after a severe day's work, managed to establish a considerable advantage, for with six wickets left they are within 40 runs of the Lancashire score. In brief, the Lancashire team made 154 and Surrey 114 for four wickets. Lancashire's excellent start, the collapse after luncheon, Surrey's hard fight for runs, the beautiful batting of Hayward and the fine fielding made up a highly interesting day at the Oval.

Neither county had what might be termed its full strength. Mr Druce, Mr Leveson-Gower (through an injured hand) and Mr Chinnery were absent from Surrey, while Lancashire had to take the field without their great bowler Mold, who is also hors de combat.

The rain which came yesterday morning in the early hours did not penetrate far into the splendid turf at the Oval, and with only the surface soft the ball got up rather badly and the promises were for a regular bowlers' day. The sun shone strongly but there was a nice fresh wind on and, owing to this latter reason more than to anything else, the wicket steadily improved as the day wore on. With choice of innings Lancashire could not well have done other than to have gone in, and such was the excellence of their start amid many difficulties that the side seemed in for a really good score.

Maclaren seemed quite at his best as he came down heavily on Richardson, Hayward and Lees, and his driving and his play on the leg side were splendid to watch. However, at 43 he lost Albert Ward, whom Abel secured at third man, while he himself fell to Richardson, bowled when trying to glance a ball round to leg. Sugg took up the standard so well set by his captain; playing in his own fine, fearless manner, he came out strongly in the cut and the drive. But like all big hitters Frank Sugg mistimed the ball now and again, and in more than one instance he was almost out. However, his excellence quickly made the crowd forget his errors, and if Tyldesley and Baker were soon got out, Sugg had run beyond his 50 at luncheon time.

The score at this point was 140 for four wickets and Lancashire seemed in for a total of good substance. Mr Key had changed his bowling well, but his most happy manoeuvre was when he got Richardson and Lees to change ends. Jephson's lobs had been tried and had failed, Frank Sugg being particularly severe on them. Up to the luncheon interval Lancashire may be said to have done very well; but when the game was resumed there occurred a change the like of which is rarely recorded.

The outstanding Lancashire wickets, six in number, fell in half an hour for an additional 14 runs. Richardson and Lees bowled with deadly precision, the Surrey fielding was keen, Wood kept wicket in masterly manner and the catches were easily made. In playing forward to Lees Sugg completely lost the ball which bowled his middle stump; he was fifth out at 147 and during his stay of 90 minutes he hit five fours and three threes. This rapid end to the Lancashire innings caused a sensation on the ground. Apart from the regular analysis the bowling figures of Lees and Richardson after lunch are worth setting out. They were:-

Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
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Richardson	6	1	10	3
Lees	5	1	4	3

After the application of one of the smaller rollers it was expected that the wicket, which had given every evidence of improving, would play pretty easily, but the skilful bowling of Briggs, with its break and wonderful pitch, and the quicker pace of Cuttell, whose length was also very good, made runs a matter of difficulty from the very beginning of Surrey's innings. Then the bowlers were backed up by a lot of splendid fielding.

Brockwell and Abel began the innings, but in the 20 minutes before 4 o'clock both were out; George Baker at point held a hard cut from Abel and Cuttell brought off a great right-handed catch from a powerful drive by Brockwell. With two men gone for a mere dozen runs Surrey's beginning was bad. Baldwin stayed a long time without doing anything much, and when at the end of three-quarters of an hour he was caught at mid-off the total was only 29.

Hayward, who had gone in first wicket down, had been meanwhile playing very finely and, supported well by Jephson, he wrought a great change in the aspect of the game during the next hour. In vain the Lancashire captain varied his bowling among Cuttell, Hallam, Briggs and I'Anson, and it was only when Baker was given a trial that Hayward was at last caught at wicket. He and Jephson had put on 73 runs, and his share of the 102 at the time he was out was 62, in which were ten fours. Hayward had had the honour of turning the match in Surrey's favour; the cut and the off drive were the strokes chiefly practised by him. Under difficulties and at a critical moment for his county he displayed that splendid skill which long ago made him the most accomplished batsman of the Surrey eleven and a cricketer well worthy of his relationship to the Tom Hayward of the days when Cambridgeshire was almost the strongest of the counties.

After Hayward had gone Jephson and Braund played out time, and Surrey at the finish were only 40 behind with six wickets in hand. It was announced at the end of the day that over 25,000 paid for admission. The wicket had grown almost true by 5 o'clock, and if the weather holds good there are likely to be a great many more runs scored.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 August, page 12)

Luck is always an important element in cricket, and for two days of the great match between Surrey and Lancashire at the Oval the luck has gone almost wholly in favour of Surrey. Everything has been against Lancashire. The winning of the toss on the first day, usually an advantage, was on this occasion an evil in disguise, for the simple reason that the side batting second had the better of the pitch; then, again, yesterday the cricket between the showers was favourable to Surrey, for the rain kept the w easy and handicapped the fielding side by making the ball greasy; while Lancashire's ill-fortunes may be said to have reached a climax when Frank Sugg's splendid innings was ended prematurely by a ball from Richardson "getting up" and fracturing the first finger of Sugg's right hand. Frank Sugg has a reputation for run-getting on false turf, and this reputation he was completely sustaining when this most unfortunate accident happened, which cut short his batting in this match and may prevent his reappearance in cricket again this season.

After this chapter of troubles it might almost be taken for granted that Lancashire had the worst of the cricket on the Oval yesterday, and if the weather allows of a finish to the game Surrey ought to win very easily. Lancashire, in fact, with virtually only three wickets left in the second innings, are a mere 50 runs ahead.

The rain continually threatened yesterday and in four instances it drove the cricketers to shelter. But, in spite of the disagreeable conditions, the public would not forsake the match; nearly 14,000 people alone paid for admission and this crowd, of course, did not include the great gathering on the pavilion and in the enclosures.

The standard of keenness and severity in the fight established on Thursday were completed Maidstone yesterday. But twice Surrey were in danger of losing an advantage which they seemed to have secured on Thursday. After equalling Lancashire's score with only four men out they were only ten runs ahead when the seventh wicket went, while in the second innings

Lancashire hit off the arrears of 62 with only one man out. But fortune, which is usually so fickle in cricket, was consistently in Surrey's favour, and before the drawing of stumps Surrey had the game well in hand.

This day's cricket, in spite of its four interruptions by rain, was full of excellence. The batting of Mr Jephson, the old Cambridge Blue; the choice piece of hitting by young Lees when Surrey were in danger of losing their lead; the bowling of Briggs and Richardson; and the vigour of Frank Sugg, to say nothing of the all-round excellence of the fielding, were the chief of many good things that kept the crowd's attention still riveted on the great match.

There is no need to dwell too long in detail over the balance of the Surrey innings. To the surprise of most people and as a testimony to the excellence of the Surrey ground, cricket was possible, in spite of the rain that fell in South London after 10 o'clock, by a quarter to 12. Surrey had scored 114 for four wickets, and Jephson and Braund, who had become partners overnight at 102, remained together for another hour. In this time 48 more runs were added, or 60 in all for the partnership.

While Braund had practised every art of supremely careful defence, and in doing this had played the right game while his companion was going strongly, Jephson had made many beautiful strokes. Indeed, his manner of finishing a ball and his quick capacity to grasp the right moment for hitting must secure to him a place among the best slow-wicket batsmen - who are not a great many - of the day. He was given out stumped at 166 - the Lancashire score had been then passed by eight runs - but seemed rather reluctant to go; and his 67 was marked by everything that is good in batting. Jephson was something of a disappointment as a cricketer in his Cambridge days, but, although many Cambridge men were convinced of his skill, he never did anything to come up to his recent good play for Surrey. He got his runs when his side was at a pinch at a good steady rate and he hit seven fours.

With five men left and a lead of eight runs Surrey natural seemed to stand well; but Holland and Key absolutely failed, and it was a great change in the game to have seven of a team gone for 164 when the 160 had gone up with only four out. But Surrey recovered their position by the aid of Lees. Of this young batsman Lancashire had a bad half-hour, for he hit powerfully and well, and put together 34 out of 42 in half an hour, and was then only out to a remarkably good catch in the long field.

When he left the end came quickly; Wood lost his wicket through ignoring that rule which gives to the batsman in sight of the ball the right for a "call," and Braund was the last to go. Braund adopted caution as his method of play. He was batting about two hours and a half for his runs. Briggs bowled wonderfully well and the Lancastrians gave nothing away in the matter of fielding.

Sixty-two was a severe handicap for Lancashire, with the wicket so false. But after Mr M'Laren had gone at 14, Frank Sugg did so well that every over while he was in reduced the game more and more to evenness. The style and the fastidious care of Albert Ward furnished a wonderful contrast in batting. Ward actually took an hour to make his first four runs; but Sugg, always a great bat on a slow wicket, cut and drove splendidly, and there was no better cricket in the match than his 37. The Surrey bowling had been several times varied, when at 68 Sugg was badly hit on the hand by a ball from Richardson; he retired, and it was soon learnt that he had a fractured finger.

By this time the effects of the roller on the pitch had gone and Richardson's bowling got up very dangerously. So after Sugg had retired at 68 the game ran very strongly against Lancashire, and in the course of three-quarters of an hour five more of the side went for an addition of 27 runs, and then Briggs - who was twice badly hit by the ball - and I'Anson played out time. Ward was in two hours for his 19. The closing position was that Lancashire, with really only three wickets left, are 50 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 August, page 9)

The expectations at the end of two days' cricket in Surrey v Lancashire on the Oval were completely realized, for on Saturday Surrey won very easily by six wickets. To the end fortune was kinder to Surrey, for the third morning found the wicket much mended and better and faster than it had been at any other time in the match.

The improvement came too late to be of much use to Lancashire, whose best batsmen were all out, while Sugg's injured finger was so bad that neither his captain nor his doctor would hear of his going on with his batting; indeed, he was told that another blow on the same finger might mean in the end amputation. So, in spite of a little vigour by Briggs and I'Anson, the balance of the Lancashire innings lasted little more than half an hour.

Although Surrey's task in the fourth innings of the match was extended to the getting of 90 runs, the improvement in the pitch after an application of the old stone roller would have made a larger score comparatively easy. There never seemed much chance of the home county's being in difficulties; but the side took things with leisurely care, evidently determined not to run the slightest risk. An hour and three-quarters were spent in the scoring of the runs.

So Surrey with all the luck won the county match which has been more closely watched and widely discussed than any other in the season. Regret must have been expressed that the conditions were not more favourable; but even in a game so uncertain as is cricket it might be safely said that on present form Surrey would have had a splendid chance of winning under any conditions. The eleven are playing now as they have not done for many years, and they are incomparably better than they were in the early weeks of the season.

It is easy to distinguish the individual feats that chiefly led to Surrey's great victory. The splendid batting of Tom Hayward and Mr Jephson, and the wonderful beg of Richardson, whose aggregate in the match was 11 wickets for 105 runs, stand out prominently in the records of a remarkable game. Such was the interest in the game that there were fully 10,000 spectators at the finish, and it was extraordinary that such a crowd should assemble when there was never much prospect of more than two or three hours' cricket for the third day.

It was the last match on the Oval this season, and the Surrey ground will soon be invaded by the builders, for under the conditions of the fresh lease secured from the Duchy of Cornwall a new pavilion and tavern are to be erected, and the plans promise the members quite a palatial home for next summer.

There is no necessity to follow in close detail the cricket of Saturday. In Sugg's absence Lancashire had only three men left and were only 50 runs ahead. Briggs and I'Anson by some smart batting put on 39, and then at 151 the innings collapsed. From Jephson's lobbs I'Anson was just caught at mid-on, where Key, after missing the ball, recovered it cleverly with his right hand, and then Richardson bowled out both Briggs and Radcliffe.

Surrey went in to get 90. The early part of the innings was marked by the fine driving and cutting of Brockwell, who, however, when only seven should have been easily caught at short leg, where I'Anson dropped a skier. Subsequently Brockwell, Abel and Baldwin were out; and it was left to Hayward, who played in his best style, to do most of the remaining work. Jephson, however, was an able partner for him, but he left just before the victory was gained, and four men had gone when Braund made the winning hit.

RICHARDSON'S BOWLING.- In Surrey's matches last week with Kent and Lancashire Richardson took 25 wickets for 207 runs.

19 August: YORKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4887.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 August, page 9)

On a wicket seriously affected by rain the bowlers had matters almost entirely their own way yesterday at Bradford, and so much progress was made with the game that an innings was got through on each side, Derbyshire obtaining a very useful lead of 45 runs.

In the early part of the day, before the ground had become very difficult, some good cricket was shown by Evershed, Davidson and Storer, but after luncheon the batsmen on both sides were practically powerless. There were several showers in the morning, the start being delayed until 25 minutes past 12, and there being afterwards a stoppage of a quarter of an hour.

Derbyshire made such good use of the opportunity afforded them by winning the toss that they had 120 on the board with only four men out, but at that point Haigh, who had changed ends, bowled with such extraordinary success that he dismissed five batsmen without a run being scored from him, and helped to bring the innings to an abrupt conclusion for 128. He got rid of Ashcroft, Walker and Gould with three successive balls, and for the whole innings had the surprising analysis of six wickets for 18 runs.

It seemed that Derbyshire had done none too well, but the cricket that followed was of quite a sensational character. The Yorkshire batsmen failed so lamentably before the bowling of Davidson and Walker that the whole side were sent back in less than an hour and three-quarters for the paltry total of 83. Even this was a bigger score than at one time seemed probable, the ninth wicket having gone down at 52. Davidson made splendid use of his opportunity, taking six wickets at a cost of only 23 runs.

After the unsettled morning the weather turned beautifully fine and about 3,000 spectators were present. Peel was to have assisted Yorkshire, but Lord Hawke found it necessary to make a report to the committee as to the professional's conduct in the match against Middlesex at Sheffield. The result was that Peel has been suspended for the remainder of the season.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 August, page 12)

The weather was so unfavourable yesterday at Bradford that no play was possible until 1 o'clock, and afterwards there were so many interruptions by showers that the time of actual play was limited to three hours and a half. In that time, however, the match underwent many changes, and the small company that assembled had the gratification of seeing the Yorkshiremen gradually recover their lost ground, and in the end leave off with a very great advantage.

On Thursday, it will be remember, Derbyshire had distinctly the best of the game, scoring 128 and then getting their opponents out for 83. This gave them a lead of 45 runs, but their batting was very disappointing yesterday and the good work of the previous afternoon was quickly neutralized. The ground was kept wet in the morning by innumerable showers but, though the team did fairly well in scoring 84 before luncheon for the loss of four wickets, the resistance offered after the interval to the excellent bowling of Haigh and Wainwright was so feeble that the last six batsmen were disposed of for the addition of 36 runs, and the side were all out for 120. Even this number would have been reduced had all the chances been taken.

Wainwright this time had the best bowling record, his five wickets being obtained at a cost of only 39 runs. Haigh, who was not kindly treated by his field, got rid of five batsmen for 62 runs, making his full record for the match up to 11 wickets for 80.

Yorkshire were left with 166 runs to get to win and, judged in the light of what had gone before, this seemed a severe task. The start was anything but encouraging, three good

wicket going down for 34 runs, but from that point the game slowly veered round in favour of Yorkshire. Wainwright and Hirst by some admirable cricket put on 41 runs in 40 minutes, while, after the former's dismissal at 85, Hirst and Milligan added 39 more in the last half-hour. The excellent play of Hirst, Wainwright and Milligan helped to leave Yorkshire's score at 124 for four wickets, so that with six batsmen to be got rid of, only 42 runs are needed to score a victory.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 August, page 9)

At Bradford on Saturday Yorkshire beat Derbyshire by five wickets, 25 minutes sufficing to finish off the match. Only 42 runs were wanted by the home side, and Mr Milligan was the only additional batsman to be dismissed. His 32 was a vigorous display. Hirst, who took out his bat for 63, was batting for an hour and 40 minutes without giving a chance, and hit eight fours, six threes and a two.

MR STODDART'S TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA. - It is announced that Captain Wynyard has been ordered to rejoin his regiment in India and that, consequently, he will be unable to accompany Mr Stoddart's team to the colonies.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Surrey's victory at the Oval on Saturday places them at the head of the counties; but both Surrey and Lancashire have other fixtures (Surrey three and Lancashire two), and the ultimate result of the championship competition depends on the fortunes of these counties in their coming matches. The positions at present are:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Surrey	23	16	3	4	13	.684
Lancashire	24	15	3	6	12	.6
Essex	15	7	2	6	6	.5
Yorkshire	25	13	5	7	8	.4
Gloucestershire	17	7	4	6	3	.27
Sussex	18	5	6	7	-1	
Warwickshire	17	3	4	10	-1	
Middlesex	14	2	4	8	-2	
Nottinghamshire	15	4	2	9	-2	
Hampshire	15	3	7	5	-4	
Kent	16	2	9	5	-7	
Somerset	14	2	9	3	-7	
Leicestershire	12	1	9	2	-8	
Derbyshire	15	0	9	6	-9	

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages up to the present are:-

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Innings	Times not out	Average
Mr N F Druce	15	820	227*	2	63.1
Mr A C Maclaren	16	825	244	2	58.13
Mr F G J Ford	18	805	150	3	53.10
Abel	42	1915	250	3	49.4
W Gunn	27	1113	230	3	47.5
Mr J A Dixon	24	1082	268*	1	47.1
K S Ranjitsinhji	44	1818	260	5	46.24
W G Quaife	27	977	178*	5	44.9
Dr W G Grace	35	1422	131	2	43.3
Mr H W Bainbridge	25	952	152	2	41.9
J T Brown	40	1523	311	3	41.6
Mr G Brann	39	1486	126	3	40.26
Mr A J Turner	16	562	111	2	40.2
Shrewsbury	26	914	125	3	39.17
Mr D L A Jephson	13	437	102	2	39.8
Mr F Mitchell	12	475	133	0	39.7
Hayward	38	1330	130	3	38
Mr C J Burnup	18	597	108	2	37.5
Albert Ward	39	1260	162	5	37.2
Baker	40	1370	186	3	37.1
Mr J R Mason	36	1310	183	0	36.14
Wainwright	43	1441	171	2	35.6
Mr A P Lucas	14	386	89	3	35.1
Mr J F Byrne	19	631	100	1	35.1
Mr K J Key	35	1049	130*	5	34.29
Mr P Perrin	27	863	153	2	34.13
Mr G E Bromley-Martin	12	409	137	0	34.1
Hirst	45	1318	134	6	33.11
Tyldesley	32	1001	174	2	33.11
Mr C E M Wilson	13	336	91*	3	33.6
Brockwell	38	1251	225	0	32.35

Mr G L Jessop	36	1154	140	1	32.34
Captain E G Wynyard	19	614	80	0	32.6
Mr F S Jackson	42	1252	124	3	32.4
Lord Hawke	26	609	91*	7	32.1
Mr C M'Gahey	32	989	140	1	31.28
Lilley	29	784	79*	4	31.9
Mr L C H Palairet	18	563	92	0	31.5
Mr A E Stoddart	21	650	109	0	30.20
Bagshaw	29	857	124	1	30.17
Dench	26	673	65*	4	30.13
Mr L G Wright	29	881	133	0	30.11
Denton	44	1298	141*	1	30.8
Frank Sugg	37	1023	122	3	30.3
Baldwin (Surrey)	38	1081	234	2	30.1
Mr W L Murdoch	39	1141	130	1	30.1
Mr H C Stewart	28	840	142	0	30
Mr W Newham	37	960	107	5	30
Mr P F Warner	37	1071	176	1	29.27
Mr A O Jones	25	735	162	0	29.10
Tunncliffe	46	1197	147	5	29.8
Chatterton	30	854	120	0	28.14
Mr A C S Glover	25	681	115	1	28.9
Mr H B Hayman	30	807	84	1	27.24
Storer	39	1019	160*	2	27.20
Davidson	38	932	121	4	27.14
Diver	27	734	111	0	27.6
Mr F H B Champain	34	879	97	1	26.21
Carpenter	31	746	141	3	26.18
Mr G MacGregor	20	481	141	2	26.13
Mr A J Webbe	27	609	71	4	26.11
Mr C J Kortright	22	528	74	2	26.8
Mr G J V Weigall	19	448	138*	2	26.7
Mr S H Evershed	25	647	112	0	25.22
Mr F L Fane	29	719	67	1	25.19
Mr H S Goodwin	14	232	44*	5	25.7
Mr A Eccles	16	356	102	2	25.6
Mr R C N Palairet	22	556	66	0	25.6
Trott	12	276	62	1	25.1
Mr S M J Woods	29	722	111	0	24.26
Bean	39	884	115	3	24.20
W Quaife	29	686	101	1	24.14
Mr F Marchant	32	725	144*	2	24.5
Barton	32	723	125	2	24.3
Board	33	769	126	1	24.1
Mr H B Chinnery	30	695	149	1	23.28
Mr G Fowler	26	527	70	4	23.21
Mr G J Mordaunt	17	360	81*	1	23.12
Mr A G Richardson	16	377	89	0	23.9
Peel	27	560	115	3	23.8
Rawlin	33	721	84	2	23.8
Holland	12	260	93	1	23.7
Mr C P Foley	12	232	47	2	23.2

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr C E M Wilson	270	94	458	33	13.29
Trott	267.4	75	673	48	14.1
Richardson	1388	403	3407	225	15.32
Mr C Heseltine	258.1	63	605	38	15.35
Briggs	1230	383	2447	145	16.127
Mr G L Jessop	879	261	1799	101	17.82

Hallam	962	427	1640	92	17.76
Mr H W de Zoete	247	64	642	36	17.30
Mold	838.4	283	1769	98	18.6
Mr F W Stocks	370.4	144	784	43	18.10
Cuttell	1000.1	482	1802	96	18.74
Peel	729	269	1319	70	18.59
Hayward	795.3	231	1983	104	19.7
J T Hearne	1495	595	2901	152	19.13
Mr F H E Cunliffe	655.4	112	1473	75	19.48
Haigh	743.1	242	1626	80	20.26
Capt W C Hedley	240	78	557	27	20.17
Mr C J Kortright	499.4	117	1428	69	20.48
Mr D A Steele	237.3	54	605	29	20.25
Woodcock	605.2	140	1570	75	20.70
Mr E C Wright	313.2	117	632	30	21.2
Mr E B Shine	647.3	164	1563	73	21.30
Bland	1082.4	323	2663	123	21.80
Davidson	936	395	1653	76	21.57
Attewell	1061.4	464	1832	84	21.68
Mead	831.2	297	1663	76	21.67
Dr W G Grace	578.1	179	1195	55	21.40
Mr F G Bull	893.2	220	2354	107	22
Mr F S Jackson	638.3	193	1447	65	22.17
Lees	640.2	212	1479	66	22.27
Roberts	692.3	235	1614	72	22.30
Mr A E Fernie	217	61	503	22	22.19
Chatterton	308.2	106	611	26	23.13
Hancock	471.1	144	1162	49	23.35
Mr J R Mason	458.3	154	1075	45	23.40
Wainwright	977.4	313	2158	90	23.88
Mr W M Bradley	224.4	53	699	29	24.3
Hirst	1048.1	382	2227	91	24.43
Mr J C Hartley	408	86	1055	43	24.23
Brockwell	448.1	170	937	38	24.25
Tyler	721.4	172	1952	78	25.2
Rawlin	699	248	1406	56	25.6
Forester	360.1	124	847	33	25.22
Tate	1156	404	2454	96	25.54
Mr A J L Hill	325.2	90	779	30	25.29
Mr C L Townsend	719.3	103	2301	86	26.65
Mr F W Milligan	335.1	75	984	36	27.12
Martin	953.3	330	1885	69	27.22
Mr S M J Woods	409.2	81	1214	44	27.26
Dench	276.3	80	640	23	27.19
Baldwin (Hants)	699.1	263	1353	48	28.9
Alec Hearne	435	143	966	33	29.9
Santall	822.2	268	1857	62	29.69

AN EARLY INDIAN WRITER ON CRICKET

K S Ranjitsinhji is not the only nor the earliest Oriental sage who has made cricket the theme of his meditations. Mohammud Abdullah Khan was the first in the field with his "Cricket Guide" (Lucknow, 1891). The example before us is marked "First Edition." "I mean," says our Eastern author, "to entertain my readers with these few pages, that will decidedly be of great use and benefit to them."

Mohammud is entirely successful in his project of entertaining us. He inculcates a cautious style of play from the beginning. "Even those who are very good and noble, say next door to angels, turn so rash and inconsiderate at certain moments." This is very well said; many a wicket falls, from inconsiderate rashness, and a desire to hit out of the ground. We have known Mr Jessop himself to fail in caution.

Temper, we learn, must be kept. It does not do "to seem in field as if treading on a volcano and even look daggers at their nearest friends and darlings." Thus, if the wicket-keeper is one's darling, one must not frown when he fails to take a catch."

The young Indian cricketer is a soaring human boy, who "aspires every breath of National Congress." But politics must here be excluded. The stumps, if properly pitched, "evidently prevent the ball from passing through," and, adds our author with Oriental subtlety, "give every possible sensation to the least touch or stroke felt by any consequence of the game." Here the delicate distinction between animate and inanimate nature appears to lose itself in a higher unity. As the poet makes Brahma say -

I am the batsman, and the bat,
I am the bowler, and the ball,
The umpire, the pavilion cat,
The pitch, the roller, stumps and all.

So regarded, the stumps may be spoken of as feeling "every possible sensation." With a mild wisdom our author now warns the young reader never, on any account, to umpire when two elevens of his friends are engaged. But where "an out-station team" is playing, your side, at any rate, will stand up for your decisions. Avoid "ordering a batsman out, unless you are appealed to by the opposite party."

"Each and every one of the umpires must avoid using insulting terms, or playing on bets, with any one of the fielders, or persons in general, in his capacity of being an umpire." As a man, he may do as he pleases; as an umpire, not so. To be objected to, and dismissed, is "very disgraceful and a cause of shame to the players, as well as to the umpire himself."

There appear to be three creases at each wicket, the bowling crease, the return crease and the popping crease. This is unusual. "Follow on" is also difficult. A scores 100, B only 20. "Under these circumstances A may not intentionally take the bat, but," says our mentor mystically, "nurse the idea of giving a dam and over defeat to B by allowing him to play the second innings as well, in order to make up and realize his score to the best of his exertions and endeavours." The technical term, "to nurse the idea of a dam and over defeat" seems peculiar to Oriental cricket, but probably contains no profane significance.

"Two trial balls are only allowed in every match to each party." This, also, is an innovation, which, long ago, would have been very useful to Mr G B Studd, when Mr Evans's first ball nearly sent his bails into the nursery.

"Behave like gentlemen when the game is over; avoid clapping and laughing in the faces of the persons tourist have defeated." This is excellent advice.

Next observe the Oriental care for documentary evidence. "If you have any book to be signed by the captain of the opposite side, confessing his defeat by so many runs, please do it like men." The precaution is not usually taken in this country.

As to no-ball, the umpire must call it "when not absolutely satisfied with the bowler's style of aiming at the stumps," which apparently are used as missiles. "It is no-ball when the bowler finding the striker out of his ground aims at the wickets to have him 'run out,'" and the cause ends in any run or so, then the run is taken down as "no-ball." The "case" is obscure and the circumstance rarely occurs. But the batsman is out if the bowler hits the wicket with the throw, for you can be run out [off] a no-ball. Byes, we learn, only occur off no-balls and wides. What follows trenches on metaphysics.

"After the striker has made six runs, and you call 'Lost,' then there are only six runs in his favour; but if the striker has scored only two or three runs, and you say 'Lost ball,' surely he will receive 2+6, or 3+6, as the case may be." But who would call "Lost ball" in the circumstances? Not easier is this:- "If one of the strikers is made 'run out,' then the remaining one must not leave his wicket, unless next player comes in, and even then both parties must agree to the proposal of the striker leaving his position in order to complete his innings." This rule is calculated to puzzle the M.C.C.

The number of balls in an over "differ in different climates. In some parts of England they count only four balls to an over, while at others they take six," in accordance, obviously, with climatic variations in various parts of our island. But, in India, they "avoid extremes," and bowl five balls to the over. This sagacity deserves our imitation. "Devout lovers of the duty of umpiring call 'last but one' at the fourth ball, a very common practice, although by mistake prevailing."

The next aphorism is delightful. "During one and the same over the bowler is allowed to change his ends as often as he may desire, but he cannot possibly bowl two overs in succession." Thus Jack Hearne bowls his first ball from the pavilion, the next from the nursery end, the third from the pavilion, and so on, the whole field changing with each ball. The batsman's first duty is to collect his senses.

"You are not going to face a cannon ball, but, on the other hand, you are going to examine your own ability and capacity as a striker." If applauded, "raise your nightcap a little;" they always play in nightcaps. "You must hit when needed and block when possible." "Block some dangerous balls as they may come across your bat." You are l-b-w "if the ball would, in the umpire's opinion, have hit the wicket;" a good rule for bowlers.

As to wicket-keeper, "I would like this man to be of a grave mind and humble demeanour," though why he should be humble does not appear. Wicket-keeper faces long-stop "with the stumps under his arms." Point must be "of slender form," like Dr W G Grace. "He must take special care to protect his own person when fast bowling is raging through the field." "The fielders must never sting the player with [taunts?], if they turn him out, for this often results in something disagreeable to human mind."

Our author concludes thus, "Now, fare you well, my young readers. I am going to take leave of you, in order to finish this interesting petty work of mine on cricket game." Our mentor adds his date on the back of the cover; it is 1891. Probably he could, by 1897, make some changes in a work truly original and, to cricketers, instructive.

23 August: ESSEX v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4889.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 August, page 9)

In the keenness of the fight for the championship between Surrey and Lancashire the Essex eleven were momentarily forgotten; but to judge from their game at the Lyttelton ground, Leyton, yesterday, they seem to have risen above the bad cricket which brought about their discomfiture in the Surrey match.

With the pitch at first just damp enough on the surface for the ball to bite, Walter Mead and Mr Bull bowled so well that eight of the Hampshire men were got out for 69 runs, and then Mr Kortright, after dropping a catch, was put on and quickly bowled out the last two men. It was a piece of vigorous play by Baldwin that enabled Hampshire to get so far towards a respectable total as 115. The innings was all over in a couple of hours; and the batting as a whole was far from being worthy of Hampshire, who last year twice beat Essex. The eastern county at present seem bent on reversing this order of things during the present season, for they have already won the out match with Hampshire, and 75 on with seven wickets to go may certainly be taken as a winning position in this game.

After much good bowling and fielding yesterday the Essex batsmen came out strongly. Mr Fane and Carpenter played well; but it was when the first two men had gone at 64 that the batting of the day occurred. Then in the course of an hour and 40 minutes' partnership Mr M'Gahey and Mr Perrin put on 108 runs. Both batsmen played with great excellence; but for a long time Mr M'Gahey, presumably anxious to reach his 1,000 aggregate for the season, adopted the most careful defence. However, once rid of any anxiety on this subject, he hit out vigorously and scored the last 55 of his 61 in about half an hour. Mr Perrin was still not out at the close of the day with 69.

The profits of the match are to be devoted to the benefit fund of H Pickett, who has for some 16 years done a lot of good fast bowling for his county, and who once distinguished himself by taking the whole ten Leicestershire wickets in an innings at Leyton. Since Essex cricket has risen to its present high position, Pickett has lost his regular place in the side; but his work as a servant, both to the M.C.C. at Lord's and to Essex, has been such as certainly to deserve a successful benefit for him. Yesterday the crowd numbered about 5,000; there was a collection on the ground for him that ran to some £19, and it is understood that the subscription lists promise him a substantial sum.

As regards the Hampshire side it may be pointed out that they were without the services of Captain Wynyard, Captain Quinton, Mr A J L Hill and Mr F E Lacey.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 August, page 5)

Some three-quarters of an hour before 6 o'clock was all the time allowed by the weather for cricket at Leyton yesterday, and it is doubtful whether even for this brief period it was wise to play, for neither the batsmen nor the fielding side could get anything like a foothold. The rainstorm in the morning had been particularly severe.

But, as might have been expected, this little spell of play served Essex well, for the ball came straight through the saturated turf and Hampshire were really fortunate to get one more wicket down. The overnight score of 190 for three was raised to 239 for four. It was Mr Bull who was out. He had helped Mr Perrin to make 62 for the fourth partnership, and he cut and drove with considerable power. In the end Essex were 124 ahead with six wickets left. Mr Perrin played steadily and is now within 54 of his 1,000 aggregate for the season.

Pickett, the Essex professional, has been unfortunate in the bad weather, which must have greatly reduced the sum that would otherwise have been secured for his benefit.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 August, page 8)

The last match of the Essex season was ruined by the weather, and a succession of rainstorms made yesterday's cricket almost farcical, for the batsmen alone were able to get anything like a foothold, and this gave them an immense advantage over the fielding side. It was almost unwise to play at all under the conditions existent yesterday; however, rather more than two hours' cricket was got through before the game ended in a draw.

The cricket day was, owing to the weather, divided into two periods - 35 minutes before a quarter past 12 and an hour and a half after 25 minutes past 4. This second spell was only secured by the captains exercising their right under Rule VI of the game to agree to change the pitch after the umpires had decided that the original wicket was unfit for play. Mr Robson acted the chivalrous part in suggesting this change, although he was captain of the side in a losing position, and his action is thoroughly in keeping with the best traditions of the game, the spirit of which often suffers in these days by the competition for the county championship.

In the morning Essex increased their overnight advantage of 124 to 200, when they put the closure rule into force. The weather prevented further play until after 4 o'clock, and Hampshire, before the match was drawn, hit off 125 of the arrears at the cost of four wickets.

The features of yesterday were the completion of a very good innings of 101 by Mr Perrin, who has batted consistently well for Essex this season, and the strong game of Barton for Hampshire. Mr Perrin took three and a half hours to get his runs and, as usual, he got most of them by the drive. The actual position at the abandonment of the match was that Hampshire wanted 75 to save the innings defeat and had lost four good men. The benefit has not been very successful for Pickett, who will have to rely mainly on subscriptions for a substantial sum.

23 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4890.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 August, page 9)

At Clifton, yesterday, the Surrey team completely maintained the form they have been showing of late. On a slow wicket, which the absence of sunshine prevented from getting particularly false, Surrey played a splendid innings of 304, and then in the last hour of the day they got out four of their opponents for a mere 26 runs.

For their fine score Surrey were almost wholly indebted to two partnerships - Hayward and Mr Druce, and Baldwin and Mr Jephson. The start of the Surrey innings was in no sense prophetic of a score that would have been respectable on a good, hard wicket, Abel and Brockwell being got rid of for 11 runs. There was then laid the foundation of Surrey's strong position by Mr Druce and Hayward; the former played with all that brilliancy which marked his performances this season on Fenner's, at Cambridge; but Hayward relied more on a defensive game for his runs. Mr Druce was particularly strong on the leg side and he got the majority of his runs in front of the wicket. Mr Druce's 46 was the contribution to 67 for the third wicket.

Even when Hayward was the fourth to go at 112 there seemed little prospect of anything but a comparatively moderate score. Then came the partnership of Mr Jephson and Baldwin, which lasted an hour and three-quarters and yielded 155 runs. Both men played strongly all round the wicket, and Mr Jephson's method of getting his runs was particularly admired. Coming after his success in the Lancashire match on the Oval last week, Mr Jephson may well be congratulated, and Baldwin, too, has been a pretty consistent bat for his side this year. Baldwin hit 11 fours and Mr Jephson seven fours. When once this long partnership was severed the Surrey innings rapidly ended. In fact, the last 55 went for 38 runs.

Sensational is the best word to describe the opening of Gloucestershire's batting - Dr Grace, Mr Rice and Wrathall were bowled out before the scoring of even a single. Then, after Mr Goodwin had run himself out, Board and Mr Townsend kept up their ends to the close, when Gloucestershire, with six men left, wanted 159 to save the follow-on. There was a big company on the Clifton College ground to see the cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 August, page 5)

The bad weather prevented any play on the Clifton College Ground yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 August, page 8)

Though no cricket was possible yesterday at Clifton until a few minutes before luncheon, the Surrey eleven managed to finish off their match against Gloucestershire, gaining a brilliant victory in a single innings with 134 runs to spare. The game at the close became intensely exciting, the end only being reached within ten minutes of time.

On the opening day Surrey had gained a decisive advantage, completing an innings of 304 and getting four of their opponents out for 26; but it looked at one time as though the rain, which had prevented a ball being bowled on Tuesday, might cause the game to be left drawn. Though the sun shone out for several hours yesterday morning the ground took a long time to dry, and it was ten minutes to 2 when the players entered the field. Five more runs were added before the interval, but afterwards, despite some vigorous hitting on the part of Mr Jessop, the last four wickets went down for the addition of 22 runs, and Gloucestershire were all out for 53.

Two hours and a quarter remained for play when Gloucestershire followed on against a majority of 251, and with the ground becoming terribly difficult it was generally thought that Surrey would win the match. The early play suggested that Gloucestershire would go down almost without a struggle, as four of the best wickets on the side - those of Dr Grace,

Mr Rice, Wrathall and Mr Goodwin - went down for 12 runs. However the batting from that point underwent a tremendous improvement, and Mr C L Townsend, playing with sound judgment and exhibiting remarkable defence, made a desperate effort for his side.

Mr Jessop hit brilliantly, scoring 23 out of 33 in a quarter of an hour. But the others adopted cautious methods, and half an hour from the finish there were two wickets to fall. Mr A G Richardson and Mr Townsend batted very patiently for more than a quarter of an hour, but just when there seemed a prospect of danger being averted Mr Richardson and Roberts were dismissed by successive balls and the innings was all over for 117. Mr Townsend carried out his bat for a thoroughly sound and correct 36, and he overcame the difficulties of the ground in surprising fashion.

Richardson in the whole match took 12 wickets for 54 runs, bowling superbly and taking full advantage of the opportunity afforded him by the condition of the ground. Hayward also did some capital work.

23 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4891.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 August, page 9)

In opposing Leicestershire on the Aylestone Ground, at Leicester, yesterday, the Yorkshire eleven entered on their last engagement in connexion with the county championship. Neither Mr Jackson nor Mr Milligan was available, so the Yorkshire team was completed by the inclusion of Mounsey and Shaw (the Wakefield professional).

Yorkshire went in first, and after about four and three-quarter hours of cricket ran up a score of 323 for the loss of only six wickets. Tunnicliffe was out when only two runs had been made. Then Brown and Denton added 95. After the third wicket had fallen at 110 Wainwright and Hirst obtained such a complete mastery over the Leicestershire bowling that in less than two hours they increased the score by 137. Wainwright made no mistake in his admirable innings of 50, whilst Hirst made 88 and played a fine game for his side.

After the sixth wicket had fallen Moorhouse and Mounsey came together and put on 47 runs without being separated before the call of time. The weather was cold and cheerless and there were very few spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 August, page 5)

At Leicester yesterday the rain made cricket impossible and it was early decided to abandon play . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 August, page 8)

There was another heavy storm shortly after noon yesterday at Leicester, and at 1 o'clock the Leicestershire and Yorkshire match, in which not a ball had been bowled since Monday, was abandoned as a draw.

Yorkshire did extremely well on Monday, scoring 323 for the loss of only six wickets, and the bad weather afterwards was decidedly unlucky for them. This was Yorkshire's last county match of the season.

23 August: MIDDLESEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4892.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 August, page 9)

Notwithstanding Lancashire's defeat by Surrey, great interest was taken in this match, which began at Lord's yesterday. Although Surrey at present hold a slight advantage in the County Championship, there is very little to choose in the positions of the two counties. However, a reverse to Lancashire would seriously jeopardize their chance of ultimate success. Neither team was able to command full strength, Lancashire being without Mold, Smith and Sugg. Middlesex were without Mr Stoddart, Mr Cunliffe and Mr M'Gregor.

When Lancashire started their innings the pitch had entirely recovered from the rain of the past few days, and although at the commencement Hearne made the ball get up occasionally this had very little effect on the batting. There was not of special note in the visitors' innings. At no time did runs come really freely, owing to some fine bowling by Mr Wells and Hearne, who kept an excellent length throughout.

Lancashire made a disastrous start, from which they never really recovered. Mr Maclaren was caught at the wicket from a rising ball at 6, while at 35 and 39 Baker and Ward were dismissed. At this period Briggs and Tyldesley became partners and succeeded in adding 59 runs in 55 minutes, which proved the longest partnership. Although Briggs ran some risks, he played very good cricket, but was eventually run out. After his dismissal Mr Crosfield and Cuttell showed fair form, while Mr Hornby as usual enlivened the play with some short runs. He was at the wicket 40 minutes for his eight, which was entirely made by singles.

Middlesex started batting at 25 minutes to 5, Mr Hayman and Mr Warner showing excellent form. Runs were put on at a fair pace until near the close, when the light became very bad. When stumps were drawn the home team were 97 behind, with nine wickets in hand, so that they are in a very favourable position. There were 7,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 August, page 5)

Wet weather interfered with this match at Lord's yesterday, for the game had only been in progress about half an hour when rain stopped play. Although the rain ceased shortly before one o'clock, the umpires, after examining the wicket, decided to postpone cricket until after lunch. Then just after five o'clock there was another downpour and the game was abandoned for the day. Altogether there was about two and a half hours' actual play, during which 13 wickets fell for 87 runs.

This sudden change in the weather was most unfortunate for Middlesex. They had dismissed Lancashire on a good wicket for the comparatively small score of 176, and had themselves made 79 for the loss of one batsman, which left them in a very favourable position. But they had to continue their innings under very adverse circumstances. Both Briggs and Cuttell bowled splendidly on a pitch which rendered them every assistance; and they were able to get a considerable amount of break on the ball. Cuttell by taking four wickets has brought his aggregate up to 100 for the season. Yesterday he took three wickets for 16 runs, while Briggs, who had bowled unsuccessfully overnight, dismissed six batsmen for 25.

When play was resumed Mr Warner was dismissed, without any addition to his score, from a very poor stroke to mid-on. He had played excellent cricket for 48, making some good drives on both sides of the wicket. The total had only been raised to 95 when the rain stopped further play until after the luncheon interval. Afterwards, however, Briggs and Cuttell carried everything before them and the innings was finished off for 132, so that Middlesex, instead of being able to claim an advantage, found themselves 44 behind. This lead ought to prove of great service to Lancashire provided the pitch still remains difficult.

Mr Douglas and Mr Lucas alone were able to get into double figures. Mr Lucas tried to force the game, but was easily stumped by Radcliffe, who throughout kept wicket exceedingly well. The Lancashire fielding was very smart. Cuttell made three catches at

cover-point, while that by which he disposed of Mr Webbe was particularly skilful, as he took the ball high up with the right hand.

When the visitors went in a second time just before a quarter past 4 they made a most disastrous start. Mr Maclaren, Baker and Tyldesley were all out for 12, eight of which were byes. Mr Maclaren was bad by Hearne in trying to force the game, while Baker and Tyldesley were dismissed from consecutive balls. Runs were very hard to make, as Hearne was bowling exceedingly well and the batsmen could do very little with him. Briggs was beautifully taken in the slips by Mr Douglas at 18. Mr Crosfield and Ward, however, kept together until the rain came on again soon after 5, which made further play impossible.

Ward was batting nearly 45 minutes before he opened his score, but should have previously been caught by Hearne in the slips off Rawlin. Lancashire are now 78 runs ahead with six wickets in hand, so that there should be a very interesting finish to-day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 August, page 8)

The weather at Lord's yesterday was so bad that only one over could be bowled. Mr Crosfield and ward, who were not out overnight with eight and seven respectively, went to the wickets at 25 minutes to 12, but after Rawlin had sent down a maiden over rain drove the players to the pavilion.

Then a thunderstorm broke over the ground, accompanied by a downpour, and, although the rain ceased for a short period, the wicket had no chance whatever of recovering, and the match was abandoned at about a quarter-past 2 . . .

23 August: SUSSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4893.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 August, page 9)

The great feature of yesterday's cricket at Brighton in the return match between Sussex and Kent was the admirable batting of Mr C B Fry, who met with more success than in any previous engagement of his this season. Going in first for Sussex on a hard wicket, he was batting for about three hours, playing in most commanding style throughout and showing a complete mastery over the Kent bowling.

He adopted cautious methods at starting, but when once set he hit out with brilliant effect and made his last 52 runs in an hour. He was the third man out at 218, and his only mistake was a chance in the long field when he had scored 113. Among his hits were 15 fours, four threes and 11 twos. Brann helped in giving Sussex a splendid start, remaining with Fry while 125 runs were scored for the first wicket.

Afterwards such good form was exhibited by Ranjitsinhji and Newham that the third hundred went up on the board with only five men out. At that point everything indicated a total of about 400, but a great change was brought about by the bowling of Mr J R Mason, who took four of the five wickets at a cost of only 17 runs and brought the innings to an abrupt conclusion for 320.

Kent had rather less than a quarter of an hour's batting at the close of the day, and lost Alec Hearne's wicket in getting 16 runs. Though the weather was always dull, a crowd of between 3,000 and 4,000 people visited the ground, and the successful start made by Sussex afforded evident satisfaction.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 August, page 5)

Owing to rain, yesterday's cricket at Brighton was limited to a little more than three hours. There was, however, some highly attractive batting shown by Kent, the honours of the day being carried off by Mr H C Stewart, and as at times the sun shone out brightly a large number of spectators came up to the Hove Ground in the afternoon.

On Monday Sussex completed an innings of 320 and Kent lost one wicket for 16 runs, so that the visiting team had the worst of the position, but yesterday by their fine batting they practically got on terms with their opponents, for at the finish they were only 59 behind and had still three batsmen left.

Up to a certain point there was nothing remarkable in the cricket, and when four wickets had fallen for 101 Kent had the worst of the match. Subsequently the batting showed a great improvement, and before the call of time the total had been carried to 261 for the loss of seven wickets. The turning point of the game was the partnership between Mr Stewart and Mr Rashleigh, who, giving a most brilliant display, put on 115 runs in an hour and a quarter. Mr Stewart made his 114 in two hours and no one could have wished for more perfect batting. He hit well all round the wicket and amongst his figures were 18 fours, four threes and nine twos.

Mr Rashleigh showed a welcome return to form, playing in his usual finished style for 36. Towards the close there was some attractive batting by Messrs Marchant and Weigall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 August, page 8)

Yesterday's cricket at Brighton to some extent suffered in attained from the fact that scarcely at any time did it seem likely that a definite result would be arrived at. When stumps were drawn on Thursday Kent had scored 261 for seven wickets against their opponents' total for 320, being consequently 59 runs behind with three batsmen still to be got rid of.

As it turned out the remainder of Kent's innings lasted an hour and a quarter, during which time 79 runs were added, the total being carried to 340. Mr Weigall played fine cricket for his 50, an innings which included five fours, two threes and six twos. Huish helped Mr Weigall to add 53 for the last wicket in three-quarters of an hour.

On going in a second time Sussex lost three of their best wickets before luncheon for 40 runs, and they had a few moments of anxiety. After the interval there were three interruptions altogether amounting to an hour, and though after Mr Murdoch's dismissal at 89 the last five wickets fell for 27 a draw was always inevitable. Mr Newham was enabled to complete his 1,000 runs for the season. With the close of the innings for 116, just before half-past 5, stumps were pulled up and the match abandoned.

Martin bowled wonderfully well. Kent had a good deal the best of the position at the finish, having an innings to play and wanting 97 runs to win.

Tuesday 24 August, page 9

MR STODDART'S AUSTRALIAN TEAM.- Briggs, of Lancashire, has been asked and has accepted the invitation to go to Australia in the place of Captain Wynyard, of Hampshire, who has to join his regiment in India.

Wednesday 25 August, page 5

AN ENGLISH TEAM FOR AMERICA.- Mr P F Warner will captain an English team during a brief visit to America in the autumn. The cricketers are Messrs P F Warner, R A Bennett, A D Whatman, F G Bull, F W Stocks, H D G Leveson-Gower, H B Chinnery, G L Jessop, W M'G Hemingway, A O Jones, J R Head and J N Tonge.

The cricketers leave on September 4 in the St Paul, and expect to reach New York on September 10 or 11. The tour is to consist of six matches, the first against New York, at Staten Island, on September 13 and 14, limited to two days. Then follow three games against the Gentlemen of Philadelphia, the dates being September 17, 18 and 20, September 24, 25 and 27, and October 1, 2 and 4. In these matches play will be extended, if necessary, so as to bring about a definite result.

There will afterwards be an engagement against a team of colts, at Philadelphia, and a two days' match at Baltimore, but the dates are not yet fixed. The team leave America on the return journey on October 6.

Thursday 26 August, page 8

ROBERT PEEL.- Yesterday Robert Peel, the Yorkshire cricketer, who was recently suspended by the Yorkshire committee, was waited upon by the chairman of the Accrington Cricket Club, and Peel signed an agreement to play for Accrington next season.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

In no other season, perhaps, has the competition for the county championship been followed with so much interest as the present. Although neither of the sides between whom the first position rests has yet finished, yesterday saw the completion of three programmes - namely, those of Yorkshire, Essex and Gloucestershire.

Surrey and Lancashire, however, are the counties upon which all attention is concentrated, for, in spite of the danger in cricket of conjecture, it may be safely assumed that either Surrey or Lancashire will secure the championship. Surrey gave two matches left and Lancashire only one. Below are given some details of the counties finishing yesterday:-

ESSEX

Although they have not carried off the championship, as at one time appeared possible, Essex can look back upon a remarkably successful season, in which they have won seven of their 16 engagements and lost only two. Two years ago they were eighth on the list; last summer they were fifth and now they are third, so that their progress has been steady and consistent.

They were quite outplayed by Surrey at Leyton less than a fortnight ago and lost by ten wickets, but that was the only occasion in the course of the summer when they were guilty of a really bad performance. Taken all round the side was certainly one of the best in the country. To Essex people the season will be primarily memorable for the double victory over Yorkshire.

Amongst other fine performances was the one against Lancashire at Leyton early in the present month and, in addition to victories over Hampshire, Warwickshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire, Essex, it will be remembered, very nearly beat Surrey in the first engagement on their programme. Essex were beaten not only by Surrey, but by Lancashire at Old Trafford, losing the latter match, after a capital fight, by 66 runs, and they played drawn games with Sussex (two) and Hampshire, Warwickshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire, and, as already mentioned, Surrey.

Much of the success of Essex has been due to their exceptionally good batting, both Mr Perrin and Mr M'Gahey having made nearly 1,000 runs and materially improved their averages. Mr Perrin's great triumph was his innings of 153 against Warwickshire, and he also scored 101 in the match which ended yesterday, while Mr M'Gahey highest scores were 140 against Sussex at Brighton and 123 against Leicestershire and Leicester. Undoubtedly these two gentlemen have each greatly developed their play during the summer.

Not only have nearly all their players of last season improved but an exceedingly promising addition to the ranks of the county has been discovered in Mr A J Turner, who, coming into the team towards the end of June, has made nearly 600 runs, and in this his first season has the honour of heading the batting averages.

While these three gentlemen have been most successful in batting, the honours in bowling have been carried off by Mr Kortright and Mr Bull. The former has almost regained his form of two years ago and the latter, by taking over 100 wickets in the 16 matches, has accomplished one of the bowling performances of the season.

[Note: county championship batting and bowling averages for all county teams can be found via http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/ENG/1897_ENG_County_Championship_1897.html]

YORKSHIRE

The Yorkshiremen, meeting the other 13 counties in out and home engagements, have, out of 26 matches, won 13, lost five and left eight unfinished. This is a very good record, but it falls far short of what at one time seemed probable.

Up to the 22nd of last month the Yorkshiremen had only lost one county match, and their prospects of retaining the championship which they won last year were very good indeed. Then, however, there came a series of reverses which destroyed all hope of the team's again standing first, defeats in the space of less than four weeks being sustained at the hands of Essex, Gloucestershire, Sussex and Lancashire.

Accidents to two or three of the players handicapped the eleven in their later engagements and, in consequence perhaps of too much cricket, the form all round showed a slight falling-off as time went on. The eleven when at their best were a brilliant side, with only one weak point. In run-getting power, as the averages will show, they were exceptionally strong, six men scoring over 1,000 runs each, and their fielding and wicket-keeping left little to be desired.

The weakness was the lack of sting in the bowling on the hard wickets on which so large a proportion of the matches were played. Proof of this is afforded by the bowling averages, no one except Mr Wilson, who only delivered 37 overs, taking wickets at a cost of less than 20 runs each. No one bowler met with any exceptional success. With one really fine bowler on fast grounds the team would have been capable of anything.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

An excellent season for Gloucestershire came to an end at Clifton yesterday, the team in 18 county matches having a record of seven victories, five defeats and six drawn games. They had the great distinction of beating Surrey at the Oval and Yorkshire at Harrogate, and they also beat Somerset at Taunton and gained two victories each over Kent and Notts. Their five

defeats comprised two at the hands of Lancashire and one each from Yorkshire, Warwickshire and Surrey.

Mr W G Grace, as will be seen below, scored 1,079 runs and is easily first in the batting among those who played regularly. Small scores in the last three matches have pulled him down a little, but with another run yesterday at Clifton he would have had an average of 40. Next to him the most valuable member of the eleven was unquestionably Mr Jessop. That wonderful young cricketer had some failures in batting, but he can show an average of 28, and as a bowler he was better than any one else on the side.

Mr C L Townsend, who like Mr Grace took part in every match, got through an immense amount of work, but would perhaps have bowled better if he had had less to do. His average of nearly 25 runs a wicket is disappointing in the case of a bowler from whom so much was once expected. As a batsman he had a very notable share in the victories over Notts at Trent Bridge and Yorkshire at Harrogate. One of the best features of Gloucestershire cricket was the extremely brilliant wicket-keeping of Board.

The positions of the counties are:

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Surrey	24	17	3	4	14	.7
Lancashire	25	15	3	7	12	.6
Essex	16	7	2	7	5	.5
Yorkshire	26	13	5	8	8	.4
Gloucestershire	18	7	5	6	2	.15
Sussex	19	5	6	3	-1	
Warwickshire	17	3	4	10	-1	
Middlesex	15	2	4	9	-2	
Nottinghamshire	15	2	4	9	-2	
Hampshire	16	3	7	6	-4	
Kent	17	2	9	6	-7	
Somerset	14	2	9	3	-7	
Leicestershire	13	1	9	3	-8	
Derbyshire	15	0	9	6	-9	

26 August: HAMPSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4894.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 August, page 8)

At Leicestershire at Southampton yesterday, Hampshire placed in the field a very different side to that which played Essex at the beginning of the week, Mr Robson, Mr Andrew, Mr Ward, Captain Luard and Kitchener giving way to Captain Wynyard, Mr Bennett, Mr Hill, Mr Lacey and Mr Broadhurst.

Unfortunately very little progress could be made with the game, a shower delaying the start until 20 minutes past 12, and rain driving the players to shelter at a quarter to 1. So steady was the downpour that at half-past 3 all idea of further cricket had been abandoned and an agreement came to that the match should be continued at 11 o'clock this morning.

During the 25 minutes play lasted Leicestershire scored 36 for the loss of one wicket, Knight playing on in the first over, and Mr Wood and Pougher afterwards batting freely on the wet ground. Leicestershire, who lost to Hampshire in a single innings at Leicester, have the same team that met Yorkshire on Monday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 August, page 5)

Although good progress was made at Southampton yesterday after Thursday's delay through the weather, the cricket, apart from its keenness, possessed scarcely any prominent feature. The wicket was always more or less difficult, and on the first innings Leicestershire established an advantage of 55. They went in a second time, and now, with nine men left, they are 69 ahead. The fielding and bowling were equally good on both sides.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 August, page 5)

Showing excellent form at all points of the game on Saturday, at Southampton, Hampshire gained a brilliant and well-earned victory over Leicestershire. The position at the drawing of stumps left the home county with much the worst of the match, Leicestershire, with nine wickets to fall in their second innings, being 69 ahead.

However, on a pitch rendered soft by a heavy shower, Leicestershire's overnight score of 14 for one wicket was only increased to 77, and then after another downfall the requisite 133 were hit off by Hampshire in the course of an hour and three-quarters. The resistance offered in the early part of the day to the admirable bowling of Hill and Baldwin was particularly feeble, only Coe doing himself justice.

The great change in the state of affairs was mainly brought about by Hill, who, bowling unchanged throughout, dismissed seven batsmen and had only 36 runs hit from him. None of the Leicestershire team played with any degree of confidence. Baldwin also did wonderfully well, taking three wickets for 20 runs.

Hampshire went in after a heavy shower of rain had made the wicket a little easier and the result was never in doubt. Captain Wynyard played splendid cricket, making 43 out of 88 in an hour and a quarter, and Mr Lee batted very finely for his 42 not out, an innings which occupied him an hour and 20 minutes. Not a single mistake could be urged against him.

26 August: LANCASHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4895.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 August, page 8)

Lancashire met Notts at Old Trafford yesterday in their last match this season, and put into the field exactly the same side that appeared against Middlesex at Lord's in the game left drawn on Wednesday. Mold, Smith and Frank Sugg were still unable to play. Notts, with all their best batsmen available, gave a trial to a young fast bowler named Wass, who is understood to be qualifying for Lancashire.

Yesterday's cricket was cut short by rain at 20 minutes to 5. The wicket was in capital condition. Lancashire had the advantage of batting first, but after Mr Maclaren and Albert Ward had started the innings in first-rate style by scoring 65 runs together in 50 minutes there was a temporary breakdown in the batting, and with five men out the total was only 112. Albert Ward left at 109, after being in for an hour and 35 minutes. Briggs was wonderfully caught by Shrewsbury at point, who stopped and held with his left hand a hard cut that would easily have gone to the boundary.

Admirable cricket was now displayed by Mr Crosfield and I'Anson, who put on 69 runs together in a little over an hour. Mr Hornby hit up 25 out of 28 while he was in, and between 4 o'clock and 20 minutes to 5 Mr Crosfield and Cuttell carried the score from 209 to 259. After play had been stopped the weather soon cleared, and there seemed a prospect of further cricket, but another heavy shower fell, and at a quarter-past 5 stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 August, page 5)

When the rain came on Thursday after Lancashire's good score it was generally expected that Notts would be beaten, for the wicket was sure to get very false. These expectations were yesterday fully realized. After Lancashire had finished their innings Cuttell and Briggs bowled with great effect, and Notts were twice got out, with the result that Lancashire won in the end by an innings and 40 runs. Lancashire's last three men yesterday carried the score from 259 to 284.

Under the influence of the sun the pitch grew very treacherous, and to time the ball accurately was an impossibility. Forsaking their usual caution, the Notts men by hitting out strove very hard to put a better appearance on the game; but everything was against them. Cuttell bowled splendidly, and in the double innings he took a dozen wickets for 81 runs. Lancashire played a brilliant game, their fielding being particularly good. A word should be said for the capital bowling of Attewell, who during the Lancashire innings took eight wickets for 102 runs.

Lancashire thus won their last match of the season, and they are now pressing Surrey keenly for the championship. During the luncheon interval Mr A N Hornby, on behalf of the Lancashire eleven, presented Mr A C Maclaren with a handsome present in view of his forthcoming marriage in Australia. Mr Maclaren sails for the colonies next Friday.

26 August: MIDDLESEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4896.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 August, page 8)

Cricket in the weather and under the bad conditions existing at Lord's yesterday was scarcely worth the playing, for the humid and rain-threatening atmosphere and the soft turf robbed the game of most of its enjoyment. With the weather so unsettled the risk of putting the other side in was too much of a speculation, so Mr Webbe decided to bat first.

The pitch proved quite as helpful to the Kent bowlers as he had expected, and with the sunshine absent the turf improved, if anything, as the day wore on. The Middlesex batsmen did badly before the bowling of Alec Hearn, who found an excellent pitch and had most to do with getting the metropolitan county out in less than two hours and a half for 112. The first four batsmen went for 26 runs, and then Mr Lucas and Mr Webbe met with a certain measure of success. Mr Webbe, since his Harrow School days, has always been a skilful bat on a dead wicket, and yesterday his 19, which included many good strokes, was a fine innings on such a pitch. Mr Lucas took a long time to play himself in, but in the later stages of his innings he made a lot of fine drives.

There were several brilliant pieces of work in the field; but those which stood out with the greatest prominence were the catch at mid-on by Mr Rashleigh and that on the leg side at the wicket which got out Mr Douglas. As for Hearn's bowling figures, they are well worthy of attention.

Before the bad light put a stop to the cricket Kent were in for an hour and three-quarters, and lost five wickets for 94 runs. Mr Rashleigh was mainly responsible for this score. He made his 49 out of 68 in brilliant style, his driving on the off side being particularly good. Mr L J Le Fleming, who was making his first appearance for Kent, impressed the spectators with his game. Middlesex again had the services of their medium-pace, right-hand bowler Webb, who created such a stir by his play at Trent-bridge last week.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 August, page 5)

The October weather of Thursday gave way to something more worthy of August yesterday at Lord's, and a splendid day's cricket was followed with keen interest by a pretty good company. Both in batting and bowling there were several feats of great skill; but the honours rested almost wholly with four men, Mr Douglas and Mr Warner in batting and Jack Hearn and Walter Wright in bowling. The result was that Kent, with the wicket approaching to something like a normal state, finished up in a position that, if the weather holds fine, gives them a great chance of victory.

They had begun the day with a prospective advantage, seeing that with five men left they were only 18 runs behind the Middlesex score. But these five wickets were not so fruitful of runs as was expected. Mr Le Fleming continued his good play for a few more overs, and made an excellent first appearance both for his county and as a cricketer at Lord's. Still, all his excellence did not prevent the innings of his side for collapsing for an addition of 29 runs to the overnight figures. Jack Hearn, in taking seven wickets for 49 runs, followed close in the wake of his cousin, Alec, who had the wonderful analysis of eight for 36 on the previous day.

Middlesex were thus only 11 runs behind when they went in the second time. The second innings was marked by the beautiful batting of Mr Warner and Mr Douglas, who got their runs when the pitch was still very kind to the bowlers. Both had some luck, but the catches they gave and which were dropped were quickly forgotten amid their fine cricket. Mr Warner, who made his 51 out of 103, drove and cut very finely; but the best thing of all, perhaps, in the day was Mr Douglas's play on the leg side. His 70 yesterday will rank among the best things he has ever done in the game. He hit 12 fours and made his runs in a couple of hours. Mr Marchant seemed to commit an error of judgment in withholding Walter Wright, one

of the best bowlers on the side, from going on; but when at last at 178 he was tried he took five wickets for 11 runs.

Kent were left with 203 to make in the fourth innings, and 37 of these had been got by Mr Mason and Mr Rashleigh when stumps were pulled up. Mr Mason in the last over might have been caught at short slip by Rawlin.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 August, page 5)

The batting of Mr Mason and Mr Rashleigh, the bowling of J T Hearne and a very wonderful one-handed catch in the long-field by Mr Douglas made Saturday's cricket at Lord's excellent, in spite of its comparative brevity. It was within a minute of 5 o'clock when Middlesex won by 53 runs; but there had been a interruption of two hours by rain, which prevented any cricket after the luncheon interval until half-past 4, and at one time the weather outlook was so bad that it seemed quite probable that the game might have to be given up as a draw.

Kent up to a certain point did so well that the spectators began to look for Kent's second success over Middlesex this season. However, when once rid of Mr Rashleigh and Mr Mason, the Middlesex bowlers met with no serious resistance except in the case of the partnership of Alec Hearne and Mr Weigall; but even here, though the stand extended over an hour, it yielded only 28 runs. There was quite a collapse when J T Hearne had his second spell of bowling, as may be inferred from the fact that his analysis for the piece of work came out thus:-

Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
10.4	6	7	5

He went on the second time when the score stood at 131 for five wickets, and he got all the other batsmen out, the last four after the rain, and the score reached only 149.

There were several fine catches in the Middlesex field. That by Mr Webbe which got out Mr Le Fleming was very good, the ball being taken at mid-off, low down and sideways; and when Mr Douglas, dashing round from long-on to get in front of a hard drive from Mr Marchant, took the ball close to the boundary in front of the M.C.C. committee room with his left hand extended, great enthusiasm was aroused amongst the spectators.

Wright made two or three hits before being bowled, and then another good catch in the long-field by Mr Douglas got out Mr Shine. J T Hearne had a record for the match of 13 wickets for 104 runs; but Webb, the new bowler, with his excellent action and pitch, occasionally had rather bad luck in missing the stumps after beating the batsmen.

26 August: SOMERSET v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4897.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 August, page 8)

As Somerset defeated Surrey when the two counties met at the Oval in June, the return game, which should have been commenced at Taunton yesterday, was invested with more interest than the respective records of the two elevens would otherwise have suggested. Unfortunately, however, rain fell with scarcely any cessation up to 4 o'clock, when a decision was come to that play should be postponed until to-day.

Surrey have the same side that beat Gloucestershire on Wednesday, and in the Somerset team Mr Dunlop takes the place of Mr Phillips . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 August, page 5)

The attention of the cricket community is at present fixed on Taunton, where Surrey on a bad wicket and handicapped by the injury to their best all-round cricketer, Tom Hayward, are in a critical position, for should they lose the match they will be deprived of the championship.

After Thursday's rain a bowlers' pitch was all that could be expected; but Surrey did not have even average fortune. The losing of the toss, the early injury to Hayward, the sunshine that baked the surface of the pitch - these were the things Surrey had to fight against. And now they find themselves with all the worst of the game, for Somerset, with five men still left in the second innings, are 159 ahead.

When the game began yesterday Surrey did well enough, although their opponents had won the toss. Hayward and Richardson bowled splendidly. The two most dangerous bats of Somerset - Mr Lionel Palairet and Mr Woods - were out before the scoring of a run, and six of the side had gone for 21. Hayward, in trying to stop a hard return, had by this time retired with one of his fingers on the left hand split and the top joint dislocated. Robson, by clever and watchful batting, strove well in the interests of his side and his 48 did much towards getting such a responsible total of 110. Mr Newton was very useful to him as a partner, and while this stand lasted the score was taken from 45 to 92.

Surrey went in after the luncheon interval, when the wicket had become terribly false, and such was the disastrous start that six of the side were dismissed for 19. The care of Baldwin and the vigour of Lees saved the side from utter collapse, while Wood also made some good hits. However, Surrey were out in 90 minutes for 93 runs.

The great thing in Somerset's second innings was the play of Mr Hill, who, after being missed when only eight, forced the game in brilliant style and his 12 fours in his 61. It was his batting that turned the match to a position favourable to Somerset.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 August, page 5)

After a most remarkable match, which underwent many startling changes, the Somerset eleven on Saturday at Taunton gained a brilliant and well-earned victory over Surrey by 65 runs. The result was awaited with widespread interest, as in the event of Surrey being defeated their chance of gaining first place amongst the leading counties was lost.

After some exciting cricket on a soft and treacherous wicket on Friday, Somerset left off with a strong advantage, being 159 runs ahead with five wickets still to go down, and, though the ground was faster and better on Saturday than in had been before, the bowlers were still able to get some work on the ball and run-getting was by no means an easy matter. With the weather bright and pleasant, it was only to be expected that there would be a big attendance, and the progress of the game was followed with keen attention.

In the early part of the day the Surrey men bowled and fielded so well that the last five Somerset wickets were got down in the course of 50 minutes for the addition of 51 runs, the total thus amounting to 193. Mr W N Roe, took out his bat for 31, the result of 70 minutes' steady and correct cricket.

Surrey wanted 211 runs to win, and this, with Hayward unable to bat, was, of course, a very heavy task. Only five runs had been scored when Brockwell was unluckily run out; but Mr N F Druce and Abel batted splendidly, and while they were together Surrey seemed to have a reasonable chance of winning. However, when 57 runs had been added in 50 minutes, Mr Druce was caught at the wicket, and from that point the Somerset bowlers gained the upper hand. Three men were out at luncheon time for 70, and on the resumption things were so disastrously that the score had only reached 73 when the sixth wicket fell.

Unlucky sometimes extraordinary happened the issue was now beyond doubt, and though Mr Key, Lees and Wood played very pluckily, struggling hard to retrieve an almost hopeless position, the innings was all over by ten minutes to 4 for 144. There was a great display of enthusiasm at the finish. Tyler in the whole match took nine wickets for 111 and had a large share in the success of his side. Robson by his capital hitting on Friday and his good bowling in both innings also rendered most valuable assistance.

26 August: YORKSHIRE v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4898.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 August, page 8)

Amongst the players for Marylebone yesterday in the opening match of the Scarborough Festival was the famous Australian, Mr F R Spofforth, who, although he takes little part in first-class cricket nowadays, regularly makes his appearance at the annual gathering at the Yorkshire watering place. In addition to Mr Spofforth the M.C.C. had several well-known players included in their team, while Yorkshire made two changes from the side that met Leicestershire at the beginning of the week, Mounsey and Shaw standing down in favour of Mr Jackson and Mr Milligan.

Batting first, Yorkshire fared badly for a time against the bowling of Mr Spofforth, four of their best wickets falling for 41. Hirst then helped Wainwright to add 30 runs, but later on Mr Jessop proved extremely successful and, despite the skill displayed by Wainwright, eight batsmen had been dismissed for 98 at the luncheon interval. In the end the total reached 350, Wainwright, who went in third wicket down at 21, being ninth man out at 128 for a well-hit innings of 62, which lasted an hour and 35 minutes and included seven fours, a three and nine twos. Mr Jessop and Mr Spofforth divided the wickets between them, but the latter proved far less expensive than the great Australian.

In contrast to Yorkshire Marylebone began well, Carpenter and Mr Chinnery making 38 for the first wicket, but subsequently only a poor resistance was offered, except by Davidson, to the bowling of Haigh and Hirst, and shortly before 6 o'clock the M.C.C. innings closed for 129. Stumps were then drawn for the day, Yorkshire being left with an advantage of 121 runs. Haigh bowled with remarkable effect, dismissing seven batsmen at a cost of only 46 runs, while Hirst took three wickets for seven runs apiece.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 August, page 5)

There were two or three exceptionally good pieces of cricket at Scarborough yesterday, but in the end the day finished with the county on a fair course to victory, for, with only four men left in the fourth innings of the game, Marylebone are still in want of 116 to win.

The best thing yesterday was the partnership of Mr Jackson and Brown, who added 115 runs in an hour and a quarter for the second Yorkshire wicket. Mr Jackson, with the pitch helping the bowlers, played a splendid forcing game, and he hit a six (a drive out of the ground), nine fours, three threes and five twos. When once rid of these men the M.C.C. steadily got out the rest of the side. Walter Read, of Essex, bowled extremely well and his seven wickets averaged nine runs each. The M.C.C. went in to get 227 to win . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 August, page 5)

So much progress had been made with the match between Yorkshire and the Marylebone Club at the drawing of stumps on Friday that very little cricket sufficed to bring the game to a conclusion on Saturday morning. Being set 227 to make in the last innings, the M.C.C. had lost six batsmen for 111, and thus with four wickets to go down they still required 116 to gain a victory.

Davidson and Mr Vernon, batting freely, added 29, but then Haigh and Mr Jackson took up the bowling. Haigh at once dismissed Mr Vernon, and Mr Jackson in four overs and two balls obtained the last three wickets, the innings closing for 157, and Yorkshire thus being left with a victory by 69 runs.

The victory of Lancashire at Old Trafford yesterday and the severe fight between Surrey and Somerset, in which Surrey are in a very critical position - for should they lose the match the championship will go to Lancashire - have renewed the keenness of the interest in the competition, which seemed such a "good thing" for Surrey after last Saturday's result at the Oval.

Two more of the counties finished yesterday - Lancashire and Nottinghamshire; but the positions of these sides are widely different, for Notts have not maintained the form which they showed in their early matches. Nottinghamshire, except for other counties, do not produce the cricketers that they did, and their friends seem to have to look in vain for bowlers of the type of Fred Morley and Alfred Shaw.

Lancashire in their later matches have had much bad luck in the way of having men injured; but they still have a splendid record, and should Surrey lose to-day the championship will once more go to the North.

LANCASHIRE

With a brilliant victory over Nottinghamshire at Old Trafford last evening, Lancashire brought a splendid season's work to a close. They have engaged in the full programme of 26 matches, winning 16, losing three and drawing seven. In the struggle for the championship they cannot be lower than second on the list, and should disaster overtake Surrey at Taunton to-day, as appears quite possible, or at Brighton next week, first honours in the great annual struggle will reward Lancashire for their labours during the past four months.

Their victories have been over Gloucestershire, Somerset, Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Hampshire (two each), and over Yorkshire, Notts, Middlesex, Kent, Essex and Sussex (one each). They drew both games with Warwickshire and also left unfinished the contests with Notts and Nottingham, Middlesex at Lord's, Yorkshire at Bradford and those with Kent and Sussex at Manchester. They were twice beaten by Surrey and once by Essex.

Some excellent batting has been shown by the various members of the team, but Lancashire owe their high position primarily to the strength of their bowling. For many years nearly all the work in this respect had to be done by Briggs and Mold, and while these two men received some useful support from Hallam in 1896, not only has the latter player advanced his reputation this summer, but Cuttell, practically a new man this season, has shown himself a wonderfully useful addition to the side. Mold has suffered a good deal from injuries, but Briggs during the last six weeks has bowled almost as well as at any period of his career, and can claim the splendid record of 140 wickets for 16 runs apiece. Cuttell, too, has obtained over 100 wickets, these two, together with Mold and Hallam, all averaging less than 19 runs each.

In batting, for the third year in succession Mr Maclaren is at the top with an average of over 50. He was not able to play until the middle of July, but nevertheless, with a highest innings of 244 against Kent at Canterbury, he has the fine aggregate of 879. Albert Ward, who has the highest aggregate, has also improved his average, and Baker, who has played three innings of over 100, has materially advanced his reputation. Tyldesley did little in August, but at one period of the season he was batting better than any one on the side, and he achieved the great honour of not only making two separate hundreds in one match, but of playing three consecutive innings of three figures. Sugg was rather a disappointment for a time, but he had run into splendid form when he was disabled in the recent match with Surrey.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The record of Notts cricket forms a very unsatisfactory tale. Out of 16 matches entered into only two (those against Sussex) were won, five were lost, and no fewer than nine had to be left unfinished. The disasters of Notts all took place after the middle of the season,

five of the last six engagements all ending in defeat. Up to the time Gloucestershire beat them at Trent-bridge towards the end of July they had a record unbroken by defeat, but while two matches had been won the other eight had all been left drawn.

The reason of the poor position held by Nottinghamshire is not far to seek, as a glance at the bowling figures will show, for while Attewell took 73 wickets for 20 runs apiece, only one other man took more than 23 wickets, and these averaged nearly 30 runs each. Until Notts can increase their strength in this respect it is hopeless to look for any great improvement.

The batting tables show a far better record, William Gunn having the splendid average of 49. Not only did this famous batsman play an innings of 230, but on three other occasions he exceeded the hundred. Mr Dixon, who batted splendidly during the first two months of the season, has the highest aggregate and the excellent average of 44, and Arthur Shrewsbury, who has now been playing first-class cricket for more than 22 years, can look back upon the season with a great deal of satisfaction. Mr Jones played the highest innings of his career against Middlesex; the colt Dench was a useful acquisition to the side, and Attewell, in addition to his bowling, scored well on several occasions.

Monday 30 August, page 5: THE AVERAGES

The chief averages of the season are given below, the bowling figures being limited to those cricketers who have taken 50 or more wickets:-

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Innings	Times not out	Average
Mr N F Druce	18	901	227*	2	56.5
Mr F G J Ford	18	805	150	3	53.10
Mr A C Maclaren	19	879	244	2	51.12
Abel	45	1951	250	3	46.19
K S Ranjitsinhji	46	1876	260	5	45.31
W G Quaife	27	977	178*	5	44.9
W Gunn	29	1158	230	3	44.4
Mr J A Dixon	26	1100	268*	1	44
Mr A J Turner	17	590	111	3	42.2
Mr H W Bainbridge	25	952	152	2	41.9
J T Brown	43	1631	311	3	40.31
Dr W G Grace	37	1420	131	2	40.20
Mr J Douglas	13	480	110	1	40
Mr G Brann	41	1518	128	3	39.36
Mr F Mitchell	12	475	133	0	39.7
Mr F E Lacey	12	385	121	2	38.5
Hayward	39	1368	130	3	38
Shrewsbury	28	944	125	3	37.19
Mr D L A Jephson	16	526	102	2	37.8
Mr C J Burnup	18	597	108	2	37.5
Mr P Perrin	28	964	153	2	37.2
Albert Ward	42	1321	162	5	36.25
Wainwright	46	1553	171	2	35.23
Mr J R Mason	39	1377	183	0	35.12
Mr A P Lucas	14	386	89	3	35.1
Mr J F Byrne	19	631	100	1	35.1
Baker	43	1399	186	3	34.39
Hirst	48	1434	134	6	34.6
Mr G E Bromley-Martin	12	409	137	0	34.1
Mr C E M Wilson	13	336	91*	3	33.6
Mr F S Jackson	44	1339	124	3	32.27
Mr C M' Gahey	33	1050	140	1	32.26
Mr K J Key	38	1072	130*	5	32.16
Captain E G Wynyard	21	671	80	0	31.20

Lilley	29	784	79*	4	31.9
Mr H C Stewart	31	959	142	0	30.29
Mr A E Stoddart	21	650	109	0	30.20
Mr G L Jessop	40	1205	140	1	30.35
Tyldesley	35	1017	174	2	30.27
Brockwell	41	1261	225	0	30.31
Bagshaw	29	857	124	1	30.17
Mr L G Wright	29	881	133	0	30.11
Baldwin (Surrey)	41	1178	234	2	30.8
Mr P F Warner	40	1177	176	1	30.7
F H Sugg	37	1023	122	3	30.3
Mr W Newham	39	1013	107	5	29.27
Denton	47	1360	141*	1	29.26
Mr W L Murdoch	41	1181	130	1	29.21
Mr C B Fry	14	378	122	1	29.1
Mr L C H Palairet	20	581	92	0	29.1
Davidson	40	982	121	6	28.30
Dench	28	687	75	4	28.15
Carpenter	31	796	141	3	28.12
Mr A C S Glover	25	681	115	1	28.9
Mr A O Jones	27	759	162	0	28.3
Mr C J Kortright	23	560	74	3	28
Chatterton	32	889	120	0	27.25
Barton	36	914	125	3	27.23
Lord Hawke	29	615	91*	7	27.21
Tunnicliffe	49	1208	147	5	27.20
Diver	27	734	111	0	27.5
Storer	41	1051	160*	2	26.37
Mr H B Hayman	33	861	84	1	26.29
Mr F H B Champain	34	879	97	1	26.21
Mr G MacGregor	20	481	141	2	26.13
Mr S H Evershed	25	647	112	0	25.22
Mr G J V Weigall	22	518	133*	2	25.18
Mr F L Fane	30	740	67	1	25.15
Mr A Eccles	16	356	102	2	25.6
Mr R C N Palairet	22	556	66	0	25.6
Trott	12	276	62	1	25.1
Mr A J Webbe	30	642	71	4	24.18
W Quaife	29	686	101	1	24.14
Dr G Thornton	15	323	56	2	24.11
Bean	41	916	115	3	24.4
Mr S M J Woods	31	736	111	0	23.23
Mr H B Chinnery	32	731	149	1	23.18
Peel	27	560	115	3	23.8
Mr C L Townsend	31	652	109	3	23.8
Mr G Fowler	28	565	70	4	23.3
J Gunn	13	209	107	4	23.2
Mr C P Foley	12	232	47	2	23.2

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Richardson	1437.4	439	3570	245	14.140
Briggs	1288	387	2580	155	16.80
Cuttell	1098.1	533	1933	112	17.29
Mr G L Jessop	953.3	287	1991	112	17.87
J T Hearne	1621.3	647	3083	173	17.142
Mr F W Stocks	453.4	168	936	55	17.51
Mold	838.4	283	1769	98	18.5
Hayward	832.3	244	2074	114	18.22
Hallam	1003.4	438	1752	94	18.60
Haigh	786.3	259	1713	91	18.75

Peel	729	269	1319	70	18.59
Mr F H E Cunliffe	655.4	112	1473	75	19.48
Mr C J Kortright	505.1	118	1442	71	20.22
Attewell	1113.4	485	1934	92	21.2
Woodcock	657.2	153	1690	78	21.52
Mr E B Shine	709.3	206	1717	79	21.58
Mr F G Bull	929.2	232	2436	112	21.84
Lees	675.2	223	1575	72	21.63
Bland	1103	326	2727	124	21.123
Dr W G Grace	582.1	179	1211	55	22.1
Davidson	944	398	1676	76	22.4
Mr F S Jackson	659	196	1508	68	22.12
Mr J R Mason	492.4	160	1166	52	22.22
Roberts	712.3	240	1681	72	23.25
Hirst	1078.1	390	2295	98	23.41
Tyler	776	184	2063	87	23.62
Wainwright	988.4	315	2188	90	24.28
Rawlin	772	279	1524	60	25.24
Tate	1183	412	2519	97	25.94
Mr C L Townsend	752.3	103	2400	92	26.8
Martin	1069.3	366	2140	79	27.7
Baldwin (Hants)	773.4	286	1505	55	27.20
W Wright	726.2	266	1622	56	28.54
Santall	822.2	268	1857	62	29.69

THE CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Lancashire	26	16	3	7	13	.68
Surrey	25	17	4	4	13	.61
Essex	16	7	2	7	5	.5
Yorkshire	26	13	5	8	8	.4
Gloucestershire	18	7	5	6	2	.16
Sussex	19	5	6	8	-1	
Warwickshire	17	3	4	10	-1	
Middlesex	16	3	4	9	-1	
Hampshire	17	4	7	6	-3	
Nottinghamshire	16	2	5	9	-3	
Somerset	15	3	9	3	-6	
Kent	18	2	10	6	-8	
Leicestershire	14	1	10	3	-9	
Derbyshire	15	0	9	6	-9	

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The Surrey eleven have met with a disaster in the West-country that has deprived them absolutely of their chance for the championship, which, when they wound up the Oval season with a fine win over Lancashire last Saturday week, seemed so well within their grasp. The championship now goes to Lancashire, and it is a curious irony of fate that Surrey should be second to a side whom they have this season twice well beaten; but until some method more in harmony with the simplicity of cricket itself can be officially devised for deciding the competition, such an anomaly may often recur. Should Surrey win their match with Sussex on the Hove ground, the two first positions will work out thus:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Lancashire	26	16	3	7	13	.68
Surrey	26	18	4	4	14	.63

And under these conditions Lancashire would be first with a better proportion, the difference between the two records being, according to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., less than .05. But as a hard and fast rule exists for the government of the competition, Lancashire are champions.

They have played excellent cricket this season and their new bowlers have done much towards their success; but with Arthur Mold injured it was just as well for them, perhaps, that they had some slow and false pitches on which to get out their opponents in their last few matches. Lancashire have not previously secured the championship since it was officially recognized; but in 1889, when the Press settled the question by simpler methods of reckoning, Notts, Lancashire and Surrey were bracketed together for first place. In those days the then editor of "Wisden" was the ultimate arbiter on questions connected with the championship.

In 1882 it was a moot point whether Lancashire or Notts had the better position; but Lancashire for many years have had many fine records, if they have never held an undisputed title to the championship. Naturally the cricketers of the South were anxious this season to recover the title from Yorkshire; but it has passed to the neighbours of last year's winners.

Three more counties finished on Saturday, one of which was Middlesex, who have not had a year worthy of the brilliant talent to be found in the side. One of the interesting players still to be decided in the competition is whether Derbyshire will, by beating Warwickshire, avoid the last place in the list.

MIDDLESEX

With a victory over Kent by 53 runs on Saturday at Lord's Middlesex brought to an end a season which compared unfavourably with that of the previous year. They had then a record of eight victories against three defeats and five drawn games, while now they have only won three matches against four losses and nine drawn games.

When we consider the number of fine cricketers at their disposal and the fact that they always had a good side, it was a distinct demonstration of the eccentricity of cricket that the eleven should have gone through more than two months of the season without winning a single match, their first victory in the championship competition being gained against Sussex at Lord's in the early part of August. Their batting at times failed; though during the month of June Mr F G J Ford's powerful hitting became one of the finest things of the year.

But the bowling was not strong enough to get opposing sides out so as to win matches, there being no one to render any material assistance to J T Hearne and Rawlin until Mr Cunliffe, of Oxford, came into the team. Many of the unfinished matches were left in a favourable position for Middlesex, and in the contest against Somerset at Taunton they were only robbed of a victory by want of time.

Sir T C O'Brien dropped out of the team half way through the season and Mr A E Stoddart met with an unfortunate accident to his knee which compelled him to stand out of the last six matches. Great advance was made by Mr P F Warner, who was pretty regularly available, and on many occasions Mr H B Hayman played capital cricket, while Mr James Douglas, coming into the team in the month of August, scored two innings of over a hundred and once more showed his brilliant ability as a cricketer. It was not only as a batsman that he distinguished himself, for his fielding was as fine as ever.

Mr A J Webbe captained the team with all his old keenness and judgment, and as a batsman met with much the same amount of success as in 1896, his average being 23.12 as against 24.16, with a trifle better aggregate. In bowling J T Hearne for the seventh year in succession took over a hundred wickets in the county engagements and, as usual, worked untiringly. However his average suffered on the hard wickets at Lord's. Rawlin did good useful work both as batsman and bowler, and at various times Mr F H E Cunliffe and Mr C M Wells were

effective. With Albert Trott qualified next season the county should greatly improve their position.

KENT

The Kent eleven concluded a disastrous season on Saturday. They took part in 18 county matches, but they only managed to win two, they were beaten ten times and the remaining six games were left unfinished. Their victories were gained over Middlesex at Tonbridge and Somerset at Blackheath, while they lost both games with Gloucestershire, Yorkshire and Surrey, and one each with Sussex, Lancashire, Somerset and Middlesex. Both matches with Notts and Warwickshire were drawn, as were also the first game with Lancashire and the return with Sussex.

Several causes contributed to the ill success of the Kent eleven. In the first place, as in previous years, many changes were made in the side, Mr W H Patterson did not make a single appearance, while Mr C J Burnup only played in one match and on that occasion scored 108. After Oxford v Cambridge Mr Burnup went out to South Africa as a member of the Corinthians Football Team, and his absence was a great loss to Kent. Further, Alec Hearne, who for many years has rendered valuable service both as batsman and bowler, was unable to do himself full justice, through a renewal of an old strain.

Among the individual performances, that of Mr J R Mason stands out prominently, the old Winchester boy scoring 1,107 runs with an average of 34, and taking 44 wickets at a cost of 22 runs each. In batting his record is curiously similar to that of 1896, when he obtained 1,117 with an average of 37. All through the season Mr Mason played consistently good cricket and his splendid figures are all the more remarkable as he was so often on the losing side. It may be mentioned that Mr Mason is one of the English team going out to Australia under the captaincy of Mr Stoddart.

Several of the batsmen, notably Mr Stewart, Mr Marchant and Mr G J Mordaunt, played well on occasions; but, apart from Mr Mason's, the batting was not at all to be depended on. As a batsman Martin made a distinct advance, but he took 20 fewer wickets and bowled with a much worse average than last year. Two new batsmen of considerable promise were discovered in Mr S H Day, of Malvern School, and Mr L J Le Fleming, a younger brother of the old hurdle jumper. Mr Day achieved the rare distinction of scoring a hundred runs in his first match, while Mr Le Fleming impressed the critics by his skilful batting of a slow wicket at Lord's.

Outside their counties engagements Kent beat the Philadelphians and lost to the Marylebone Club.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Leicestershire finished up their season at Southampton on Saturday, when, owing to their batting breaking down, they lost to Hampshire by six wickets. It was this batting weakness that was mainly responsible for their general want of success through the season. Only once did they manage to win a match, Derbyshire being their victims; and, against this, defeats at the hands of Surrey, Hampshire, Warwickshire and Lancashire (twice each), Yorkshire and Essex (once each) have to be acknowledged. The remaining three of their 14 engagements were left drawn.

Besides the general falling-off in form of their most famous run-getters, Leicestershire had to deplore the loss for the greater part of the season of their one really great cricketer, A D Pougher. Injuring his ankle at practice, he was kept out of the field until the beginning of this month, and even when at length available his recovery was not sufficient to admit of his bowling. With Pougher away, Leicestershire must have entered upon their various engagements with small hope of victory, and a glance at the averages will prove that no one showed form other than the most ordinary.

Knight, with an average of 20, was the best of the batsmen, and next to him comes Mr C J B Wood. These two played the only three-figure innings for the county - 110 and 102

respectively. Tomlin was most disappointing and Mr C E de Trafford quite failed to maintain his reputation as a hitter. In bowling Woodcock, Geeson and Mr F W Stocks all did good work at times, but the best average is considerably over 22. This was gained by Mr Stocks, whose slow left-arm bowling was perhaps the best feature of Leicestershire's cricket this season.

THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AMERICA.- Mr H H Marriott, of Malvern and Cambridge, has accepted an invitation to go out with Mr Warner's team to America. Mr A O Jones, of Notts, has been obliged to give up his intention of joining the side owing to business.

30 August: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4899.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 August, page 5)

In arranging the Gentlemen and Players' match for the second fixture of the festival the Scarborough executive were possibly a little too ambitious. Anyway, they were quite unsuccessful in their efforts to get together a representative team of amateurs. The side would have been good enough for any ordinary game; but apart from the presence of Mr Maclaren, Mr Jackson, Mr Jessop and Mr Bull, it had little claim to be called the Gentlemen of England. To say this is no injustice to Mr Spofforth, whose appearances in first-class matches for some years past have been restricted to Scarborough cricket.

Altogether different was it with the Players' side. In the absence of Richardson, Hayward, Abel, Gunn, Shrewsbury and Briggs, it was far from being the best possible combination, but for all that there was not much to complain of, every man on the side being a first-rate cricketer.

The Players had the advantage of batting first; and, staying at the wickets till nearly half-past 5, they ran up a capital total of 280. Eight of the batsmen got into double figures, but the honours were with Brown and Baker. Brown, who went in first and was out fourth at 141, scored his 68 in a trifle over two hours, his play being quite free from fault. He hit ten fours, two threes and six twos.

Baker played equally well, and with more freedom scored 53 out of 89 in an hour. He went in at 141 and was out at 230, Mr Chinnery dismissing him by a wonderful catch at long-on. The fieldsman took the ball high above his head and held it while falling backwards against the rails. Wainwright helped Brown to put on 63 for the third wicket, and Carpenter stayed with Baker while 64 were added in 40 minutes for the sixth wicket. There was nothing specially good in the Gentlemen's bowling, but much of the fielding was admirable.

With only ten minutes left for batting at the close of the afternoon the Gentlemen fare very badly, losing Mr Rice and Mr Chinnery for 11 runs. There was one shower before lunch, but otherwise the weather was pleasant and about 4,000 people watched the cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 September, page 5)

Cricket was played under curious conditions at Scarborough yesterday. With the idea of preventing any interference with the game, a tarpaulin had been used to protect the wicket, but by some means this precaution proved only partially successful, for on removing the covering it was found that the heavy rain in the night had seriously affected one side of the pitch, while the other was comparatively dry. The ground presented a most unusual appearance, and necessarily the batsmen were greatly handicapped by the ball coming along at two distinct paces.

However, the pitch never became really treacherous, and the Gentlemen did remarkably well, increasing their overnight score of 11 for two wickets to 231. This left them in a minority of only 49, and as they got rid of six of the Players for 99 runs the game is still in quite an open position, the Players being 148 runs on with four wickets in hand. Except for a rather high wind, the weather was pleasantly fine and a large company took a keen interest in the progress of the game.

Mr F G Bull proved unexpectedly successful as a batsman. Sent in overnight to play out time, he was not disposed of until he had scored 51, for which he was batting an hour and 20 minutes. In that time the young Essex amateur gave no chance and hit five fours, three threes and seven twos. He and Mr Maclaren added 62 in three-quarters of an hour, the old Harrovian playing most brilliantly for his 35; and Mr F S Jackson was also seen to advantage. He helped Mr Bull to put on 55 in 35 minutes, and altogether was batting an hour and 50 minutes. In third wicket down at 73 he was the ninth out at 228 for a faultless 59. Lord Hawke got his 27 by sound batting. By bowling Mr Jackson, Hirst took his 100th wicket,

and now enjoys with Mr G L Jessop and Hayward the distinction of having dismissed 100 batsmen and scored 1,000 runs in the season.

Apart from this there was no special feature in the Players' bowling, and when they went in a second time their batting was none too successful, though favoured by some blunders in the field. Tunnicliffe was particularly lucky, but Mr Jessop eventually caught him splendidly with one hand after he and Mr Chinnery had missed the Yorkshire professional. By good batting Brown scored 25 out of the first 37, and Wainwright and Hirst scored freely during their brief partnership. After they were separated by Mr Jackson bowling Wainwright two more wickets fell rapidly, and when Carpenter was stumped play ceased for the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 September, page 4)

The second match of the Festival was spoilt by the weather, and early yesterday afternoon it was abandoned as a draw. Overnight the Players with six men out were 148 on, and yesterday when the seventh wicket went for the addition of four runs the game seemed to have turned in favour of the Gentlemen. But a brilliant stand by Hirst and Board yielded 85 in three-quarters of an hour. Hirst eventually took out his bat for 73, in which were six fours, six threes and eight twos.

The Gentlemen were left with 276 to get to win. Mr Maclaren played brilliantly, scoring 60 out of 78 in 50 minutes. Eventually the match was abandoned . . .

30 August: SOMERSET v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4900.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 August, page 5)

Rather less than three and a half hours' cricket was possible at Taunton, yesterday, rain, which fell slightly during lunch time, causing the abandonment of play at a quarter to 5. The one feature of the play was the splendid stand by Captain Wynyard and Barton, who opened Hampshire's innings by scoring 73 in 55 minutes. This was a capital performance seeing that the pitch was soft from heavy rain on the previous day, and it was well that such advantage was taken of the conditions while they remained fairly easy.

Barton was the first to leave for a brilliant 41, and before Captain Wynyard was finely caught by Mr Lionel Palairret for an admirably played 42 the 100 was up. Then on the drying turf the batting broke down and the whole side were out for 202. Webb and Mr E C Lee both showed good form for their runs. Tyler had a brief period of success as a bowler, but his four wickets altogether cost 69 runs.

Somerset had only about 30 minutes' batting and, losing Nichols and Mr V T Hill cheaply, left off in the worst position.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 September, page 5)

The wet weather prevented any cricket at Taunton yesterday, and the scores remain as on Monday evening . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 September, page 4)

Early yesterday, at Taunton, it was decided to give up this match as a draw in consequence of the bad weather . . .

30 August: SUSSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4901.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 August, page 5)

The appearance of the county ground at Hove yesterday made it clear that the Brighton public have by no means exhausted their interest in cricket during the present season. The visit of the Surrey eleven proved a great attraction, and with 4,712 people paying for admission it was estimated that there were about 5,500 on the ground.

Surrey made two changes from the team that was defeated in such a sensational way at Taunton on Saturday, Hayward and Mr N F Druce giving place to Mr Leveson-Gower and Keene. Hayward was naturally kept away by the injury to his finger sustained on Friday morning.

A good deal of rain had fallen in Brighton on Sunday and it was shown by subsequent events that Sussex gained nothing by winning the toss and taking first innings. They lost four wickets before lunch for 96 and were all out by 4 o'clock for 154. Though Richardson with a little assistance from the ground in the morning bowled very finely, it was generally thought that a bigger score should have been obtained.

The Sussex eleven were, however, handicapped by the indisposition of Ranjitsinhji, who, owing to an attack of asthma, had for a time to leave the field when he had made four runs. On returning to complete his innings he increased his score to 31 before playing a ball from Lees on to his wicket, but he was evidently not well enough to show his best form. Mr Murdoch, Mr Newham and Bean were all speedy victims to Richardson.

Far and away the best batting was shown by Mr George Brann, than whom few batsmen this season have batted in more consistent form. He went in first and was out seventh at 130, his fine innings of 64 being free from fault of any kind. During a stay of two hours and ten minutes he hit six fours, three threes and six twos. With five wickets for 64 Richardson brought his number of wickets in first-class matches this season up to 250. It should be mentioned that Mr Brann and Mr Fry scored 43 together during the first half-hour's cricket in the morning, this capital start raising hopes of a far better total than was afterwards obtained.

Surrey had about an hour and three-quarters' batting, and did well enough to leave off with the best of the game, 92 runs being scored for the loss of three wickets. Brockwell, who was third out at 509, played in a very attracted style. After he left Mr Jephson and Baldwin batted with such care that it took them 55 minutes to put on 42 runs. Baldwin was lucky in being missed twice off Bland's bowling - first by the wicket-keeper and then by Tate at slip.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 September, page 5)

The Sussex eleven played up splendidly at Brighton yesterday and, with the state of the ground favouring them, they not only recovered the position lost on the previous day but actually left off with excellent prospects of victory. When, at the drawing of stumps on Monday, Surrey had scored 92 for three wickets against their opponents' total of 154 they held a distinct advantage. But this was all lost by the last seven men being dismissed for an additional 67 runs, the total being 159.

There was every excuse for the Surrey men's failing, as the wicket was soft and treacherous from overnight rain, and Tate and Bland bowled very finely, making every use of their opportunity. Bland's five wickets cost only 59 runs, while Tate, who has now taken his 100th wicket, dismissing four men for 43 runs.

Mr C B Fry and K S Ranjitsinhji played brilliant cricket when Sussex went in a second time five runs behind. By adding 74 for the second wicket, after Mr Brann was dismissed at 18, they gave their side a decided lead, but when four men were out for 92 Surrey were in terms again. However, from that point Sussex steadily gained ground. Mr Fry's 52 was a most

dashing display that included seven fours, two threes and seven twos. With the pitch practically recovered under the influence of a strong wind the batting really asserted itself for the first time when Mr Murdoch and Bean became associated.

While the Sussex captain played with much care, only hitting when a fair opportunity presented itself, the professional forced the game most vigorously, scoring 53 in an hour and a quarter. In this time 102 runs were added. Bean's chief figures were six fours, a three and six twos, and the value of his display could not be overestimated. Brockwell eventually got rid of Bean, but Mr Murdoch retained his mastery of the Surrey bowling. He soon lost Parris, but Mr Hartley stayed some little time for his 15, and then Butt stayed with his captain until stumps were drawn for the day with the total 251 for seven wickets.

Mr Murdoch, who was not out 74, played throughout in splendid style. Though running no undue risks, he hit hard and clean, punishing any loose ball with severity. It was largely due to his efforts that the home county came through the day to such success. Nearly 5,000 people must have been present.

Great as the advantage of Sussex is on paper - they lead by 246 runs and have still three wickets to fall - their chances of winning the match are even greater, for after play ceased yesterday rain fell in torrents, so that there is every prospect of the game ending to-day on a treacherous wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 September, page 4)

At the end of two days' cricket on the Hove ground Sussex had established a considerable advantage, seeing that with three wickets left in their second innings they were 247 ahead. Heavy rain fell during Tuesday night; but any anxiety created among the friends of Surrey by the prospects of a false pitch were removed yesterday by the renewal of the bad weather. Not a ball was bowled and the game was left drawn . . .

Tuesday 31 August, page 5

THE TESTIMONIAL TO MR W NEWHAM. - Lord Sheffield has sent a cheque for £30 as his contribution to the testimonial to Mr William Newham, the Sussex cricketer, which is being raised for presentation on the occasion of his approaching marriage.

30 August: WARWICKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4902.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 August, page 5)

A capital batting performance was accomplished yesterday at Birmingham by Warwickshire in the opening of their return match with Derbyshire. Winning the toss and going in first, Warwickshire, between 20 minutes past 12 and 6 o'clock, scored 239 runs and only lost six wickets, the excellence of the achievement being derived from the fact that the wicket was slow after recent rains.

The early play was chiefly notable for the patient defence of Mr Bainbridge, who was at the wickets for two hours and a quarter for 36. A totally different display was given by Lilley, who in two hours and ten minutes hit up 82. Though making some dangerous strokes Lilley did not give an actual chance, and included in his score, which is the highest he has made this season, were four fours, seven threes and 13 twos.

During the last two hours some admirable batting was shown by William Quaife, who scored 50 not out and made his aggregate in first-class cricket this season 1,027. He is the first Warwickshire batsman to achieve that distinction this summer, and he now only needs 17 more to complete his thousand runs for the county alone.

Warwickshire are giving a trial to Lynes, a fast bowler, who has been playing with Lincoln Lindum, while Derbyshire are without Mr S H Evershed, Mr G G Walker, Mr E M Ashcroft and Bagshaw. The last-named was prevented by illness from playing, while Mr Ashcroft, after reaching the ground, was summoned home through the sudden death of his father.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 September, page 5)

There was no play at Birmingham yesterday owing to the rain . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 September, page 4)

Bad weather again prevented any cricket at Birmingham yesterday, and the match was abandoned as a draw, the score being left in its Monday night's position . . .

30 August: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v OXFORDSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/129/129026.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 August, page 5)

The uncommon feat of taking the whole ten wickets in an innings was performed at Lord's yesterday for the M.C.C. by Albert Trott, the Australian, who has done much wonderful work for the club this season both at Lord's and in their out matches. Indeed, it is generally expected that his record for the M.C.C. will work out in figures quite unprecedented.

Yesterday he not only performed the "hat trick," but his ten wickets cost only 49 runs. Helped to some extent by the wicket he got on a great deal of break, while his fine pitch and his varying pace both materially aided him in the securing of such a fine record. When stumps were drawn the M.C.C. held a lead on the first innings of 194.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 September, page 5)

The M.C.C. won their last match of the season at Lord's yesterday by an innings and 106 runs. The game was made remarkable by the bowling of Albert Trott, who took 16 wickets for 93 runs. Trott in all matches for the M.C.C. this season has secured quite 300 wickets, nearly half of which have been taken on Lord's ground.

The season of the counties ended in anything but an appropriate manner after the wonderful summer in which fast wickets and long scores have been so common. Six counties finished yesterday, but the interest in the championship had almost evaporated when, with last Saturday's result at Taunton, the question of first place among the sides was settled in favour of Lancashire by the merest fractional advantage over Surrey.

However, the county which has the best proportion of points to finished matches is, under the hard and fast rule which has been laid down, the champion county, and this county is, in the present instance, Lancashire, whose first indisputable success it is in the history of the competition. There were the controversial seasons of 1882 and 1887 when Lancashire tied for the first place with Notts, and in the second with Notts and Surrey; but on the present occasion they stand alone.

Unquestionably the present involved system of deciding the question of the championship is very unsatisfactory, but the public are apt to forget that it is the work of the counties themselves. This does not, however, rid the system of either its clumsiness or its inequity, for the loss of a match is doubly penalized, while draws, which ought in every possible way to be discouraged, are not penalized at all.

To the ordinary mind the fairest and most simple method of reckoning would seem to be by the proportion of wins to matches played. Dissatisfaction with the present system does certainly exist, and the counties' representatives should come to the winter meeting at Lord's with some simple scheme for amending its complicated method.

The public have been rather led away by Surrey's brilliant form of the days which followed their defeat at Leeds by Yorkshire in Jubilee week right up to their match at Taunton last Saturday; but there is no getting away from the fact that Surrey began badly and have ended badly; and Lancashire, if we take the season as a whole, are well entitled to their honours. Their success has been largely the work of their bowlers.

Surrey, on the other hand, want more bowling talent. Every one knows, of course, that they possess the best bowler of the day in Richardson; but there must occasionally come a check to Richardson's fine length, his pace and his spin, and when all is said and done he cannot bowl at both ends. Surrey are very rich in young players of promise, but until these have developed the great southern county must expect to find their course to the highest position in the championship full of obstacles.

Lancashire right through the season have played particularly well; but Yorkshire were not nearly the good side that they were last summer. It has been a particularly keen competition, one of the best features of it being the fine fight by the young Essex eleven. Middlesex had rather more than the average amount of bad luck, or with their many fine cricketers they would have come out far better; but the sides low down in the list, such as Leicestershire and Derbyshire, owed their position to the weakness of their cricket.

SURREY

Defeat at Taunton last Saturday deprived the Surrey eleven of first place among the counties, but, putting that unexpected disaster on one side, they have had a most brilliant and successful season. Meeting all the other counties in out and home matches they have gained 17 victories, suffered only four defeat and left five games unfinished. They beat Lancashire, Middlesex, Kent, Derbyshire, Warwickshire and Leicestershire twice each, and Essex, Notts, Gloucestershire, Sussex and Hampshire once each; they were beaten twice by Somerset and once each by Gloucestershire and Yorkshire, and they played drawn games with Yorkshire, Essex, Notts, Hampshire and Sussex.

No one expected they would obtain such a fine record when on the Wednesday of Jubilee week they suffered their third defeat with the season less than half over. From that period, however, they went right ahead and met with no further reverse till, with the championship almost in their grasp, they went down before Somerset at Taunton. A splendid team at every

point, in order to show their best form they perhaps needed a fast, true wicket. As their first match with Gloucestershire and their return with Somerset demonstrated, they were not quite so certain when rain had affected the pitch. It must be remembered, however, that in being beaten last week they were greatly handicapped by Hayward's accident.

Their batting, except on two or three occasions, was exceptionally good, but it was Richardson's bowling even more than the run-getting power of the players that made the team so formidable. The great bowler, who is quite without an equal among his contemporaries when the ground is hard, took 238 wickets at a cost of little more than 14 runs each - far and away the best county record of the year. He was always at work, bowling in every innings played against Surrey in the 26 matches, and yet he rarely or never seemed to tire. It has been truly said of him that his stamina is only less remarkable than his skill.

He had two very capable assistants in Hayward and Lees, who obtained respectively 91 and 75 wickets. Hayward's success with the ball caused no surprise; but Lees was quite a new force in the eleven, nothing in his bowling last year having suggested that he could do such fine work. Good as he has already proved himself, it is by no means likely that the best has yet been seen of him.

Of Surrey's batting the figures in the average table speak eloquently enough. Abel was even more emphatically than in 1896 the most successful man on the side, obtaining 1,833 runs with the splendid average of 50. He had one curious period of ill-success, doing literally nothing for a fortnight at the end of July, but after that he played just as well as he had done in the early part of the season.

Hayward, Mr Key, Baldwin and Brockwell are very close together in the general results of their batting, Hayward standing first of the four. It is quite likely that this excellent cricketer would have made an even larger number of runs if he had not had to do so much bowling. A brilliant reappearance in the eleven was made by Mr Jephson, who had been away for three years. He took his place in Henderson's benefit match at the beginning of July, and in nearly all subsequent fixtures was of the utmost value. A very fine bat, an admirable field and a fairly good lob bowler, he would be worth his place in almost any eleven.

Mr Key, in addition to batting better than he has done for several seasons, managed his side with unflinching tact. A great deal was hoped of the young Etonian batsman, Mr H B Chinnery, but, after playing wonderfully well for a couple of months, he fell off and did not retain a regular place in the eleven. All the same he must be regarded as a very distinct addition to Surrey's strength.

The least agreeable feature of the season was the retirement from the eleven of Mr W W Read. This greatest of Surrey batsmen played his first match for the county in 1873. Wood, the wicket-keeper - now quite a veteran - was in surprisingly fine form all through the summer.

SUSSEX

The Sussex eleven have this year made a great advance upon their doings of last season. In county matches they can point to a record of five victories, six defeats and nine drawn games. This in itself is nothing out of the common, but it is a welcome change from the two wins and nine defeats of 1896.

Ranjitsinhji has again been the great attraction of the team, but he would be the first to admit that he has fallen below his extraordinary form of a twelvemonth ago. He played some splendid innings, notably his 170 at Brighton against Essex, but his average has dropped from 58 to 42.

Mr George Brann has been more consistent and is only four behind the great Indian batsman in the aggregate of runs. The adoption of a steady style - quite different from his old brilliancy - has answered well with Mr Brann. He is now a more valuable man on a side than ever he was in his early days in the Sussex eleven. Mr W L Murdoch has this season been a

vastly better batsman than in 1896, playing, indeed, with much of the skill and all of the finish of style that made him famous in the Australian teams.

On the other hand, Mr Newham, despite some fine innings in the last month or so, has declined both in average and number of runs. Mr Fry has done capital work whenever available, but is a little below his figures of last year. As regards the bowling, Cyril Bland, though often expensive, has been a great help to the team, taking no fewer than 95 wickets. Tate has at times bowled very well, but he has a poor average.

Sussex beat Somerset twice and Yorkshire, Kent and Hampshire once each; they were beaten twice by Notts and once each by Surrey, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Middlesex.

WARWICKSHIRE

A record of three wins in 18 matches can hardly be called good, though only four games were lost. This is the summary of Warwickshire's season, their capacity for playing drawn games being most marked, for no fewer than 11 were left in this unsatisfactory state. With quite an exceptional amount of batting they had plenty of ability to avert defeat, but their bowling was correspondingly weak, with the natural result that only on the rarest occasions could a side be got out cheaply.

Leicestershire were twice beaten in a single innings, but their other victory - over Gloucestershire - was only gained after a splendid struggle, the batting of the Midlanders just enabling them to win by two wickets. Warwickshire lost to Surrey twice, and Yorkshire and Essex once each; both fixtures with Hampshire, Derbyshire, Kent and Lancashire, and one with Yorkshire, Essex and Gloucestershire being drawn.

With regard to the individual performances, that of W G Quaife is certainly the most noteworthy. For a long time early in the season he kept at the head of the first-class averages, and though showing some falling off latterly his aggregate for the county is 983, with the excellent average of 46. This is a greatly superior record to that gained by the young professional last year, and Mr H W Bainbridge shows an equal advance. His average of 41 was obtained by consistently good cricket, and the example he set was most worthily followed up by all those who played regularly, the lowest average being 13.

For the first time Mr A C S Glover came to the front as a batsman, his average being 30, and an extremely useful man was found in Mr J F Byrne, who had occasionally been tried before. He began by scoring 100 against Leicestershire and played so consistently well as to finish up with an average of 30. Of the ten hundreds scored for the county it may be mentioned that three were by W G Quaife.

Just as the batting advanced so did the bowling decline. Santall and Pallett, who did most of the work, rarely appeared at all deadly, and the former has the better record with only 54 wickets at a cost of 31½ runs each. Forester showed promising form and has the best result, but his 33 wickets were obtained at a heavy price.

HAMPSHIRE

With a constantly-changing team, Hampshire had many difficulties to contend against and, all things considered, they have come through the season fairly well. Of 18 games played they won four, lost seven and drew seven. This certainly is not a good record, but when fully represented the county gave an excellent account of themselves. Their victories were gained over Leicestershire (twice), Somerset and Derbyshire.

In a great many fixtures they were without their most famous bat, Captain Wynyard, and it was not until the season was nearly half over that they managed to win a match. In August, however, a very different tale had to be told, three out of the last eight matches being won, while only one was lost. This was the return with Surrey and Kennington Oval, where

the home county made ample amends for the fright received at Southampton. In that match the Hampshire bowlers were seen to better advantage than at any other time, and it was in this respect that they were weakest.

Soar constantly suffered from a strain that often kept him from playing and always handicapped him considerably, while the hard wickets usually experienced did not at all suit Baldwin. Still, these professionals had to bear the brunt of the bowling. Baldwin took 52 wickets at a cost of 26 runs each, but Soar's record is very poor. The fast bowling proved most successful, and Mr Heseltine, Mr Hill and Mr Steele all had good days. It was the first-named gentleman who nearly won the first match with Surrey, and Mr Hill had a large share in the brilliant victory over Leicestershire last week. Mr Heseltine is really at the head of the bowlers with an average of nearly 16 for 38 wickets, and it was a pity he was not always available.

Of the batsmen undoubtedly the best form was shown by Barton, one of the few men to play in every match. For 33 wickets he has an average of 26, and his spirited cricket was certainly the most noticeable feature in the county's work.

Mr F E Lacey has the highest average for a dozen innings and, as usual, batted in excellent style. Captain Wynyard, if not so brilliant as in former seasons, played consistently well, and his sound defence and hard hitting on the treacherous wickets recently experienced were invaluable. In Mr Andrew a most capable bat has been found, his style being irreproachable and his determination worthy of high praise. His 106 went a long way towards saving the return match against Warwickshire, and on the same occasion Mr A J L Hill was seen at his best. Webb showed greatly improved form and Mr E C Lee promises to develop into a really capable batsman.

SOMERSET

Only three victories as against nine defeats fell to the share of Somerset, but the western eleven enjoyed the unique distinction of twice beating Surrey, first on a hard wicket at the Oval and again on a treacherous pitch at Taunton. Apart from these two triumphs and a win over Kent at Taunton the Somerset eleven had small cause for congratulation. They came very near gaining a notable victory at Brighton, Sussex only beating them by one wicket, but as against that they only just staved off defeat in the return with Middlesex.

Perhaps the best thing in Somerset cricket was the return of Tyler to the form he displayed some seasons ago. The left-hander bowled his slows very skilfully, and with great effect on several occasions, and his record is very creditable in a run-getting season. The Somerset bowling all round was better than in 1896, but there was a marked falling off in the cricket of several of the leading batsmen, the brothers Palairt, Mr Roe and Mr Woods all having inferior figures.

Mr Fowler, however, made an advance, Mr Vernon Hill played some serviceable innings, while Mr F A Phillips, the old Oxonian, proved a useful acquisition. Mr Newton as wicket-keeper quite maintained his old skill and played more often than in some previous seasons.

DERBYSHIRE

Fifth amongst the counties in 1895 and seventh last year, Derbyshire have now dropped to last place, and their record of nine defeats and seven drawn games is a lamentable one. These bare facts, however, are a little misleading, as on three occasions at least the eleven played splendidly. Against Lancashire at Liverpool and Yorkshire at Leeds they only succumbed by one wicket, their play in those two matches being worthy of great praise, while at Nottingham they accomplished a notable batting performance, going in against a total of 415 and scoring 570.

The play of the Derbyshiremen, however, was very unequal, their batting, despite some good scores, being unreliable, while the bowling can best be described as moderate. Derbyshire had the misfortune to lose entirely through illness the services of Hulme, who in 1896 obtained 77 wickets, and, though Hancock showed fair form, neither he nor any of the other new bowlers made up for the absence of Hulme.

George Davidson, who has the distinction of heading the batting and bowling tables, accomplished a lot of fine work for the side, and Bagshaw, Chatterton and Mr Wright, the last-named of whom made an advance as a batsman, all did extremely well. Storer fell considerably behind his great record of last year, but he kept wicket as well as ever. Of the new batsmen Mr Ashcroft showed most promise.

THE CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points to finished games
Lancashire	26	16	3	7	13	.68
Surrey	26	17	4	5	13	.61
Essex	16	7	2	7	5	.5
Yorkshire	26	13	5	8	8	.4
Gloucestershire	18	7	5	6	2	.16
Sussex	20	5	6	9	-1	
Warwickshire	18	3	4	11	-1	
Middlesex	16	3	4	9	-1	
Hampshire	18	4	7	7	-3	
Nottinghamshire	16	2	5	9	-3	
Somerset	16	3	9	4	-6	
Kent	18	2	10	6	-8	
Leicestershire	14	1	10	3	-9	
Derbyshire	16	0	9	7	-9	

The following is the text of the original resolutions agreed upon for the government of the championship:-

After the close of each cricket season the committee of the M.C.C. shall decide the county championship.

It shall be competed for by first-class counties. 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 the weather or other unavoidable causes, such match shall be reckoned as unfinished.*

One point shall be reckoned for each win; one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned.

The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county.

*In 1896 the number of out and home matches qualifying for the championship was reduced to six, owing to the Australians' tour, and for 1897 the number was fixed at seven.

2 September: NORTH v SOUTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4903.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 September, page 9)

There was no cricket at Scarborough yesterday owing to the heavy rain . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 September, page 9)

Rain, which had rendered cricket at Scarborough impossible on Thursday, continued more or less heavily throughout the night and for some hours yesterday morning. Indeed, until 12 o'clock the outlook was so bad that it was feared the commencement of the third and concluding match of the festival would have to be still further postponed.

It was arranged quite early not to attempt to start till after luncheon, and within a little time of this decision being arranged at the weather cleared up. The actual pitch had been covered, but the outfielding ground, after such a drenching as it had had, was naturally soft. Play was restricted to about two hours and 50 minutes, and during that time considerable progress was made, the wicket, despite the fact of its having been protected from the rain, affording the bowlers a good deal of assistance.

Having won the toss the South went in to bat soon after 3 o'clock and stayed at the wickets till ten minutes past 5, their total amounting to 141. Thanks to a really capital display of batting by Carpenter and a couple of useful little innings by Marlow and Barton, the score was up to 75 for four wickets, but after that the batting suffered a temporary breakdown, there being eight men out for 93. It then seemed as if the innings would soon be over, but Mead hit away in first-rate style and owing to his efforts the last two wickets added 48 runs.

Of this number Mead made no fewer than 39, his runs being obtained in 13 hits. He twice drove Mr Jackson out of the ground for six, and his other figures were four fours, one three, two twos and four singles. Carpenter, it may be mentioned, was batting an hour and ten minutes for his 39 - he and Mead, curiously enough, making exactly the same score - and was out fourth wicket down.

The North on going in for half an hour's batting made a very bad start, Albert Ward and Tunnicliffe being quickly caught at the wicket from Albert Trott's bowling. J T Brown and Denton, however, played good cricket together and carried the score to 31 without being separated.

WAINWRIGHT'S CRICKET. - Yesterday the famous Yorkshire professional secured his three-figure aggregate in bowling, and he now shares the season's distinction of scoring 1,000 runs and taking 100 wickets with Tom Hayward of Surrey, Mr G L Jessop and Hirst.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 September, page 8)

The weather continued so unfavourable at Scarborough on Friday night and Saturday morning that as early as 12 o'clock the captains agreed that the wicket was quite unfit for cricket and the game was abandoned as a draw . . .

The following figures, for the sake of comparison, will be found of some interest, the counties being given in the order in which they finished in the championship:-

BATTING

	Runs Scored	Wickets lost	Average
Lancashire	8623	333	25.298
Surrey	9975	344	28.343
Essex	6057	217	27.193
Yorkshire	10989	362	30.129
Gloucestershire	6445	274	23.133
Sussex	8104	325	21.279
Warwickshire	6857	241	28.109
Middlesex	6495	256	25.95
Hampshire	5874	300	19.174
Notts	6373	231	27.126
Somerset	5481	279	19.180
Kent	6542	310	21.32
Leicestershire	3736	242	15.103
Derbyshire	5768	266	21.182

BOWLING

	Runs Scored	Wickets taken	Average
Lancashire	7973	444	17.425
Surrey	9052	493	18.178
Essex	6152	267	23.11
Yorkshire	9508	419	22.290
Gloucestershire	6974	290	24.14
Sussex	7740	272	28.124
Warwickshire	7421	225	28.121
Middlesex	6242	250	24.242
Hampshire	6018	225	26.168
Notts	6587	221	29.178
Somerset	5012	241	24.128
Kent	6867	258	26.159
Leicestershire	5033	162	31.11
Derbyshire	5840	213	27.89

THE INNINGS

	Highest for	Lowest for	Highest against	Lowest against
Lancashire	488	53	476	54
Surrey	617	75	349	35
Essex	489	139	428	115
Yorkshire	681	86	490	74
Gloucestershire	370	53	494	57
Sussex	476	116	681	75
Warwickshire	475	158	602	122
Middlesex	432	88	459	105
Hampshire	378	55	579	77
Notts	493	111	570	119
Somerset	349	57	385	93
Kent	406	74	617	112
Leicestershire	293	35	560	124
Derbyshire	570	73	420	53

POINTS IN COUNTY CRICKET

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,- The conclusion which your cricket contributor comes to on this matter, when he says that to the ordinary mind the fairest and most simple method of reckoning would seem to be the proportion of wins to matches played, is one with which I entirely agree.

The absurdity of the present M.C.C. plan of counting points is strikingly shown as follows:-

Let county A and county B play three matches with other counties, and (1) let each win their first match. At this stage each scores 100 per cent. (2) Let A win and B draw the second match. The points are then 100 per cent to both, but, surely, by all the laws of common sense, A's performance in winning two matches is the more meritorious. (3) Let A lose and B draw the third match. The points are then 33 1-3 per cent for A and 100 per cent for B.

Now this is clearly absurd. I submit that a win and a loss are equal in merit to two draws and that A's record in the three matches is as good as B's, although, by the M.C.C. system, A would have scored 33 1-3 per cent and B 100 per cent. Under the correct system each county would have scored 33 1-3 per cent.

The following comparison is interesting, showing "the proportion of points to finished games" (M.C.C. way) and "the proportion of points to games played" (the correct way), for counties that have scored points this season.

	Played	Com- pleted	Points	Propn. MCC way	Propn. correct way
Lancashire	26	19	13	.63	.50
Surrey	26	21	13	.61	.50
Essex	16	9	5	.55	.31
Yorkshire	26	18	8	.44	.30
Gloucester	18	12	2	.16	.11

Under the correct system Lancashire and Surrey tie for the championship. The position of the others in unaltered.

September 2

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

STATISTICIAN

Saturday 4 September, page 9

THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AMERICA.- The side under the captaincy of Mr P F Warner leave Waterloo at 9.40 this morning for Southampton to join the steamship St Paul, which is due in New York on the 10th inst. The names of the team have been already given in The Times.

Monday 6 September, page 8: THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below, the bowling figures being limited to those cricketers who have taken at least 50 wickets:-

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Innings	Times not out	Average
Mr N F Druce	18	901	227*	2	56.5
Mr F G J Ford	18	805	150	3	53.10
Mr A C Maclaren	21	974	244	2	51.5
W G Quaife	28	1027	178*	5	46.15
Abel	46	1958	250	3	45.23
K S Ranjitsinhji	48	1940	260	5	45.5
W Gunn	29	1158	230	3	44.4
Mr J A Dixon	26	1100	268*	1	44
Mr A J Turner	17	590	111	3	42.2
J T Brown	46	1739	311	4	41.17

Mr H W Bainbridge	26	988	152	2	41.4
Dr W G Grace	37	1420	131	2	40.20
Mr J Douglas	13	480	110	1	40
Mr G Brann	43	1589	126	3	39.29
Mr F Mitchell	12	475	133	0	39.7
Mr F E Lacey	12	385	121	2	38.5
Hayward	39	1368	130	3	38
Mr D L A Jephson	17	568	102	2	37.13
Shrewsbury	28	944	125	3	37.19
Mr C J Burnup	18	597	108	2	37.5
Mr P Perrin	28	964	153	2	37.2
Baker	42	1424	186	3	36.20
Hirst	50	1535	134	7	35.30
Mr J R Mason	39	1377	183	0	35.12
Mr A P Lucas	14	385	70	3	35.1
Wainwright	48	1612	171	2	35.2
Albert Ward	45	1339	162	6	34.13
Mr G E Bromley-Martin	12	409	137	0	34.1
Mr J F Byrne	20	642	100	1	33.15
Mr C E M Wilson	13	336	91*	3	33.6
Lilley	30	865	82	4	33.8
Mr F S Jackson	46	1421	124	3	33.2
Mr C M'Gahey	33	1050	140	1	32.26
Captain E G Wynyard	22	713	80	0	32.9
Mr K J Key	39	1088	130*	5	31.29
Mr H C Stewart	31	959	142	0	30.29
Mr A E Stoddart	21	650	109	0	30.20
Tyldesley	35	1017	174	2	30.27
Mr W L Murdoch	43	1263	130	2	30.33
Brockwell	42	1295	225	0	30.35
Bagshaw	29	857	124	1	30.17
Mr L G Wright	29	881	133	0	30.11
Baldwin (Surrey)	42	1211	234	2	30.11
Mr P F Warner	40	1177	176	1	30.7
F H Sugg	37	1023	122	3	30.3
Mr C B Fry	16	449	122	1	29.14
Denton	48	1374	141*	2	29.40
Mr G L Jessop	42	1209	140	1	29.20
Mr A C S Glover	26	707	115	2	29.11
Davidson	40	982	121	6	28.30
Dench	28	687	75	4	28.15
Mr L C H Palaiet	21	593	92	0	28.5
Mr W Newham	41	1013	107	5	28.5
Mr A O Jones	27	759	162	0	28.3
Mr C J Kortright	23	560	74	3	28
Carpenter	34	867	141	3	27.30
Chatterton	32	889	120	0	27.25
Barton	38	971	125	3	27.26
Lord Hawke	30	642	91*	7	27.21
Storer	41	1051	160*	2	26.37
Mr H B Hayman	33	861	84	1	26.29
Mr F H B Champain	34	879	97	1	26.21
Diver	28	744	111	0	26.16
Mr G MacGregor	20	481	141	2	26.13
Tunncliffe	52	1235	147	5	26.13
Mr S H Evershed	25	647	112	0	25.22
Mr G J V Weigall	22	518	133*	2	25.18
Mr F L Fane	30	740	67	1	25.15
Mr A Eccles	16	356	102	2	25.6
Mr R C N Palaiet	22	556	66	0	25.6
Mr A J Webbe	30	642	71	4	24.18
Dr G Thornton	15	323	56	2	24.11

Mr W W Read	16	291	86*	4	24.3
Bean	44	980	115	3	23.37
W Quaife	30	693	101	1	23.26
Mr H B Chinnery	34	761	149	2	23.25
Mr S M J Woods	31	736	111	0	23.23
Mr C L Townsend	31	652	109	3	23.8
Mr G Fowler	28	555	70	4	23.3
J Gunn	13	209	107	4	23.2
Mr C P Foley	12	232	47	2	23.2
Trott	13	276	62	1	23

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
A E Trott	273.4	75	692	50	13.42
Richardson	1502.4	457	3731	252	14.203
Briggs	1288	387	2560	155	16.80
Cuttell	1098.1	533	1933	112	17.29
J T Hearne	1619.3	647	3083	173	17.142
Mr G L Jessop	988.3	296	2071	116	17.99
Mr F W Stocks	453	168	986	55	17.51
Mold	838.4	283	1769	98	18.5
Hayward	832.3	244	2074	114	18.22
Hallam	1003.4	438	1752	94	18.60
Haigh	786.3	259	1713	91	18.75
Peel	729	269	1319	70	18.59
Mr F H E Cunliffe	655.4	112	1473	75	19.48
Mr C J Kortright	505.1	118	1442	71	20.22
Attewell	1113.4	485	1934	92	21.2
Mead	927.4	322	1905	89	21.36
Woodcock	657.2	153	1690	78	21.52
Bland	1140.3	337	2798	129	21.89
Mr F S Jackson	708.4	209	1628	75	21.53
Mr E B Shine	709.3	206	1717	79	21.58
Lees	722.2	238	1676	77	21.59
Mr F G Bull	1006.2	245	2634	120	21.114
Dr W G Grace	582.1	179	1211	55	22.1
Davidson	990	426	1717	76	22.45
Mr J R Mason	492.4	160	1166	52	22.22
Roberts	712.3	240	1681	72	23.25
Hirst	1108.1	396	2365	101	23.42
Wainwright	1041.4	326	2330	100	23.30
Hancock	491.1	150	1210	51	23.37
Tyler	808	184	2132	91	23.39
Rawlin	772	279	1524	60	25.24
Tate	1207	425	2552	101	25.37
Mr C L Townsend	752.3	103	2400	92	26.8
Martin	1111.4	374	2238	83	26.80
Baldwin (Hants)	780.4	288	1520	56	27.8
W Wright	726.2	266	1622	56	28.54
Santall	822.2	272	1857	62	29.59

THE ENGLISH TEAM FOR AMERICA.— Mr Warner's team left Waterloo on Saturday for Southampton, where they embarked on the St Paul for New York. Particulars of the side and the fixtures have been already given in The Times. Among those at Waterloo to see them off were Mr N F Druce, the Cambridge captain, and Mr O R Borradaile, the secretary of the Essex Club.

Mr A C Maclaren, who is going to Australia as a member of Mr Stoddart's cricket team, was among the passengers by the steamship Oruba, which left Plymouth on Saturday afternoon.

Tuesday 7 September, page 5

THE COUNTY CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,- I have read a letter in your issue of to-day on the subject of the county championship, and I venture to encroach upon your space to ask those supporters of our national game who are endeavouring to allocate the "championship" by virtue of "points" or "percentages," whether they are not, by so doing, merely chasing an *ignis fatuus*?

How can it be possible [accurately and justly to] apportion that honour when a very large proportion of each county's play in the shape of drawn games is totally ignored? To my mind the fact is clear that it is impossible to fix the "championship" by any method of calculation.

If we must have a championship let it be one of merit and not one of units and decimals. It certainly would never be impossible for the followers of the game to decide at the close of each season which team had shown the most consistent form, the best play and the greatest skill; not merely collectively but also individually; not merely in respect of the number of runs obtained or wickets taken, but also in respect of the quality of play displayed in getting them. I venture to think that it would not be difficult, say, for the committee of the M.C.C. so to analyze and set forth the season's play that there should be no manner of doubt in the mind of any one as to which was the premier county for the time being.

No one forming a judgment on such a basis can rightly say that Lancashire is entitled to this season's championship. I have been present at nearly every match in which they have been engaged, and I have no hesitation whatever in saying that, good team as they undoubtedly are, they are, through and through, inferior to Yorkshire, Surrey and Essex, and, if I exclude Mr Maclaren, there is not a batsman on the side comparable to the leading men of the teams I mention. Their position in the so-called "championship tables" is due to the merit of drawn games and not to the merit of play, and I am sure that practical cricketers and competent judges of the game will not attach much value to or feel much respect for a championship so founded.

More's the pity, and I think the sooner we do away with blind mathematics and equations in connexion with the question the better.

September 3.
OLD HAND

AN

Thursday 9 September, page 4: THE COUNTY CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,- A little too much importance is attached, perhaps, by your correspondent "An Old Hand" to what is called "the county championship" of cricket. This year Lancashire has come out at the top of the tree by the present mode of calculation, and as Mr Maclaren only played for his county half the season and Mold, the principal fast bowler, was unable to play the last three or four matches the county has cut a good figure in winning so many matches and losing so few.

Owing to the wet climate of Lancashire fewer runs are made on the Old Trafford Ground than on the Oval or Lord's or Brighton, and I think I am right in saying that Mr W G Grace has never once made 100 runs on the Lancashire County Ground, though he has played there every year almost for more than a quarter of a century. Drawn matches from bad weather of course occur more frequently where matches are interrupted by bad weather than in better climates. This year Lancashire have depended mainly upon five good batsmen and four good bowlers, who are but indifferent batsmen, and a good wicket-keeper, who is a moderately good bat, and

these men have worked hard and played well and need not be grudged their year's success. Cricket is a game of chance to a certain extent and "the race is not always to the swift."

I am yours obediently,
AN OLD MEMBER OF FOUR CRICKET CLUBS IN LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE
September 7.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,- It was with some amusement that I read the letter of "An Old Hand" in your issue of the 7th inst. on the above subject, to which I ask you to permit me to reply.

He states that "the position of Lancashire in the so-called championship table is due to the merit of drawn games and not to the merit of play." The inference to be drawn from this statement is that the unfinished games in which they took part were so far as played in favour of their opponents. Seeing that Yorkshire drew eight, Essex seven out of 16 matches played, Lancashire seven and Surrey five it is, however, somewhat difficult to understand what your correspondent really does mean, especially having regard to the fact that Surrey also lost one more match than Lancashire.

If "An Old Hand" will turn up his Times for the last fortnight he will find records showing the position of the unfinished games (in which Lancashire, Yorkshire and Surrey took part) at the time such games were declared drawn. In not one single instance can it be said that Lancashire were in danger of defeat. This cannot be said of Yorkshire, who in their first match with Lancashire at Leeds only left Lancashire 58 runs to win. Surrey were also in a rather tight corner at the time their match with Sussex had to be abandoned owing to rain. In your report of the match at the end of the second day you say:- "Great as the advantage of Sussex is on paper - they lead by 246 runs and have still three wickets to fall - their chances of winning the match are even greater, for after play ceased yesterday rain fell in torrents, so that there is every prospect of the game ending to-day on a treacherous wicket."

Your correspondent further states that the Lancashire team are, through and through, inferior to Yorkshire, Surrey and Essex, and in support of this extraordinary statement he further states that, excluding Mr Maclaren, there is not a batsman on the side comparable to the leading batsmen of the teams mentioned. To prove how ridiculous this is I need only point out that Surrey and Yorkshire have six men with an average of over 30, Lancashire have five and Essex have four.

"An Old Hand" seems to be of the opinion that batting is the be all and end all of cricket, but I feel sure that "practical cricketers and competent judges of the game" will agree with me in saying that good bowling is equally important. This being so it will not be out of place to compare the figures of the principal bowlers of Lancashire, Yorkshire, Surrey and Essex. The following figures taken from various issues of The Times prove the immense superiority of the Lancashire bowlers as compared with those of any other county:-

Surrey			Lancashire		
Bowler's Name	Wkts	Average	Bowler's Name	Wkts	Average
Richardson	238	14.55	Briggs	140	15.64
Hayward	91	19.28	Mold	88	17.75
Lees	75	20.15	Cuttell	102	17.79
Brockwell	37	24.13	Hallam	90	18.31

Yorkshire			Essex		
Bowler's Name	Wkts	Average	Bowler's Name	Wkts	Average
Peel	56	20.1	Mr Kortright	58	19.57

Haigh	70	20.17
Mr Jackson	62	20.30
Hirst	84	22.72
Wainwright	76	24.33

Mr Bull	109	20.42
Mead	59	24.12

If anyone can, in the face of the above figures, say that "Lancashire is through and through inferior to the teams mentioned" then he must be crassly ignorant of the subject he is talking about.

Lancashire owe their position as champion county to the great strength of their bowling and to the consistency which has been such a prominent feature of their play throughout the season, and all thorough sportsmen will endorse your remarks in your issue of the 2nd inst. that "Lancashire, if we take the season as a whole, are well entitled to their honours."

I am yours faithfully,

September 7.

PALATINE

9 September: SOUTH v NORTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4905.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 September, page 9)

After a heavy and dull morning, which afforded little hope of cricket, the wind freshened from the north-east and cleared the sky, and thus enabled this match at Hastings to proceed yesterday for about two hours in the afternoon. In this time the good company was able to appreciate a choice 70 minutes' batting by Dr W G Grace, some brilliant work by Mr Druce and a little lucky hitting by Mr Murdoch.

But while the spectators enjoyed all the benefits of the improved weather, the cricketers themselves were handicapped by the condition of the ground. In county play the wicket would not have been playable; but in these holiday functions at the fag end of the season the cricket can be taken less seriously and the captains decide to play, whereas in county matches the sides are almost wholly at the mercy of the umpire's judgment. Yesterday, although cricket was considered possible, the fieldsmen had to exercise the utmost wariness in moving from their positions to get to a ball that did not come directly to them. The state of the ground affected more or less everyone concerned, for the batsmen found the ball coming from the pitch at all sorts of paces.

From the first, ten years ago, the Hastings Festival has been a success; but the executive rather erred this season in allowing a break to occur in the continuity of the first-class season. They did this in their wish to avoid clashing with the last stage of the Scarborough Festival, but they were unmindful of the danger this course entailed and the difficulty of renewing interest in a game the season for which is virtually ended. The spell of bad weather made the cricket public rather indifferent, while the committee had to meet the further difficulty caused by sundry refusals to play owing to the early departure of the cricketers for Australia.

Indeed of Mr Stoddart's team the only members who found it convenient to play were Mr Druce and Tom Richardson. Both these cricketers, of course, played for the South, whose side is certainly the more representative of the two. Mr Charles Wright, of Nottingham, and Dr W G Grace had command of the sides.

The South, in taking first innings, may be said to have come out more creditably with their score of 105 for nine wickets - that is, considering the circumstances. These runs were got at the rate of nearly one a minute, which is a pretty fast rate on such a saturated turf. There were some errors in the outfielding, but these were mostly caused by the uncertain foothold, whereas close in there were sundry good catches. Hallam secured Abel low down with his right hand and Brockwell was splendidly caught low down at mid-on. The two Lancastrians, Hallam and Cuttell, bowled extremely well, especially the latter.

Dr Grace, who was fourth out at 73, made some splendid drives, while now and again he waited very cleverly for the ball and made several fine late cuts. Mr Druce's innings was not very long but it contained some fine strokes. It was a wicket on which forcing was the only game, and Mr Druce is seen always at his best when getting runs quickly. Mr Murdoch had a lot of luck in one over from Attewell, but he, too, drove hard and well. And after all is said and done, the spectators no doubt were agreed that they had seen a very bright afternoon's play.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 September, page 5)

At Hastings yesterday the weather was in welcome contrast to that experienced in most parts of the country during the early part of the week, and naturally the cricket festival profited by the change. About 4,000 people visited the ground - the company including Mr G J Goschen, M.P., and his son - and a capital afternoon's play was thoroughly enjoyed.

After the drenching it had had the ground naturally helped the bowlers, who were able to get a lot of work on the ball. This being the case the scoring was quite as good as could have been expected, 237 runs being obtained and 13 wickets going down. Many of the batsmen failed, but Lilley played a wonderfully fine innings and Davidson, Mr Grace and Abel also showed capital form.

Cricket on Thursday had been restricted to an hour and 50 minutes, and in that time the South had scored 105 for the loss of nine wickets. Five minutes' play yesterday morning proved sufficient to finish off the innings, only three runs being added to the overnight total. The two Lancashire bowlers, Hallam and Cuttell, took four wickets each and, curiously enough, at exactly the same cost - 29 runs. Both were hard to play on the slow ground.

It was close upon half-past 12 when the North went in, and up to a certain point they found the task of getting runs against Richardson's splendid bowling so extremely difficult that it seemed quite likely they would fall short of their opponents' moderate score. Albert Ward was out at once and Mr C W Wright was caught at mid-off at ten. Gunn and Davidson then put on 26 runs together, but just as they looked to be getting set Gunn was bowled by Richardson. The fast bowler immediately afterwards dismissed Baker, and Mr Mitchell only made three before being caught at slip.

With five wickets down for 39 the outlook was gloomy indeed, but on Lilley joining Davidson a great change came over the game. Rising superior to the difficulties of the pitch the two batsmen gave a superb display. They were only together for 50 minutes, but they added no fewer than 71 runs, and this placed their side in a very favourable position. At lunch time the score stood at 103, but on starting afresh Davidson was bowled at 110, his innings of 39 having lasted over an hour and a half. Neither Peel nor Attewell gave much trouble, but Cuttell stayed while Lilley hit, the ninth wicket producing 27 runs. Then Cuttell and Hallam were bowled in one over, the innings ending at 20 minutes to 4 for 153, or 45 ahead.

Lilley took out his bat for 76 and, considering the state of the ground and the bowling brought against him, it is safe to say that he has never played a finer innings. His forcing strokes on the on side were brilliant in the extreme. He made his runs, without a chance, in less than an hour and a half, his hits containing a dozen fours, four threes and three twos. His innings was quite an object lesson in the way to play and hit Richardson on a slow wicket. Richardson bowled very finely, taking 77 at a cost of only 47 runs.

On going in for the second time the South made a capital start. Dr Grace and Abel, who opened the innings, scored 53 together, and at the close the total was 71 for two wickets. Thus, with eight wickets to fall, the South hold a lead of 36 runs. A shower of rain lengthened the interval between the innings in the morning, but otherwise the weather was delightful. Richardson now only wants nine more wickets to make up a thousand in four successive seasons in first-class matches.

DAVIDSON'S BATTING.- With his innings of 39 at Hastings yesterday Davidson completed his 1,000 runs in first-class matches this season.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 September, page 9)

The cricket at Hastings in the final stage of the first match of the festival on Saturday scarcely fulfilled the promise held out by the position at which stumps were drawn on the previous evening. Then the South, having gone in against a majority of 45, had scored 71 for the loss of two wickets in their second innings, and thus with eight wickets standing held a lead of 26 runs.

As the pitch, in spite of the fine weather, still assisted the bowlers, high scoring was not expected, but, at the same time, the South ought to have made many more than 129, which was the meagre total when the side were all out. As it was, none of the batsmen did themselves full justice, and only Mr Brann, Brockwell and Hearne of those who had to go in reached

double figures. Cuttell, Attewell and Hallam used their opportunities in fine style, and the last-named just managed to secure the necessary two wickets to bring his aggregate wickets for the season up to 100.

Left with only 85 to get, the North made rather light work of their task, but had Brockwell held the catch which Gunn offered him in the long field before the latter had scored they might possibly have experienced more difficulty. As it was the Notts man played a fine game after his escape, and with Mr Wright raised the figures from 13 to 80 before he was dismissed. Ultimately the North won with considerable ease by eight wickets. There was an attendance of about 3,000 present, so that financially the opening fixture of the festival was decidedly successful.

THE AVERAGES

Below are the chief averages up to date, the figures in the bowling being limited to cricketers who have taken 50 or more wickets:-

BATTING

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Times		Average
			Innings	not out	
Mr F G J Ford	18	805	150	3	53.10
Mr N F Druce	20	928	227*	2	51.10
Mr A C Maclaren	21	974	244	2	51.5
W G Quaife	28	1027	178*	5	46.15
K S Ranjitsinhji	48	1940	260	5	45.5
Abel	48	1980	250	3	44
Mr J A Dixon	26	1100	268*	1	44
W Gunn	31	1206	230	3	43.2
Mr A J Turner	17	590	111	3	42.2
Mr H W Bainbridge	26	996	152	2	41.14
J T Brown	46	1739	311	4	41.17
Dr W G Grace	39	1486	131	2	40.5
Mr J Douglas	13	480	110	1	40
Mr F E Lacey	12	385	121	2	38.5
Mr G Brann	45	1613	126	3	38.17
Hayward	39	1368	130	3	38
Mr D L A Jephson	17	568	102	2	37.13
Shrewsbury	28	944	125	3	37.19
Mr C J Burnup	18	597	108	2	37.5
Mr P Perrin	28	964	153	2	37.2
Mr F Mitchell	13	478	133	0	36.10
Lilley	31	942	82	5	36.6
Wainwright	48	1612	171	3	35.37
Hirst	50	1535	134	7	35.30
Mr J R Mason	39	1377	183	0	35.12
Mr A P Lucas	14	386	70	3	35.1
Mr G E Bromley-Martin	12	409	137	0	34.1
Mr J F Byrne	20	642	100	1	33.15
Mr C E M Wilson	13	336	91*	3	33.6
Baker	46	1443	186	3	33.24
Mr F S Jackson	46	1421	124	3	33.2
Mr C M'Gahey	33	1050	140	1	32.26
Albert Ward	47	1343	162	6	32.31
Captain E G Wynyard	22	713	80	0	32.9
Mr K J Key	39	1088	130*	5	31.29
Mr A E Stoddart	21	650	109	0	30.20
Tyldesley	35	1017	174	2	30.27
Baldwin (Surrey)	42	1211	234	2	30.11
F H Sugg	37	1023	122	3	30.3
Mr C B Fry	16	449	122	1	29.14
Denton	48	1374	141*	2	29.40
Brockwell	44	1314	225	0	29.38
Mr W L Murdoch	45	1282	130	2	29.35
Mr G L Jessop	42	1219	140	1	29.30
Bagshaw	30	861	124	1	29.20
Mr L C H Palairet	21	593	92	1	29.13
Mr L G Wright	30	888	133	0	19.18
Mr A C S Glover	26	707	115	2	29.11
Davidson	42	1023	121	7	29.8
Mr P F Warner	40	1137	176	1	29.6
Dench	28	687	75	4	28.15
Mr A O Jones	27	759	162	0	28.3
Mr C J Kortright	23	560	74	3	28
Lord Hawke	30	642	91*	7	27.21

Mr W Newham	41	1003	107	5	27.31
Barton	38	971	125	3	27.26
Mr H C Stewart	31	859	142	0	27.22
Storer	42	1073	160*	3	27.20
Chatterton	33	897	120	0	27.6
Mr H B Hayman	33	861	84	1	26.22
Mr G MacGregor	20	481	141	2	26.13
Mr F H B Champain	34	879	97	1	26.21
Diver	28	744	111	0	26.16
Tunnicliffe	52	1235	147	5	26.13
Mr S H Evershed	25	647	112	0	25.22
Mr G J V Weigall	22	519	133*	2	25.19
Mr F L Fane	30	740	67	1	25.15
Carpenter	37	867	141	3	25.17
Mr A Eccles	16	358	102	2	25.6
Mr R C N Palairret	22	556	66	0	25.6
Dr G Thornton	15	323	56	2	24.11
Mr A J Webbe	30	642	71	4	24.18
Mr W W Read	16	291	86*	4	24.3
Bean	44	980	115	3	23.37
W Quaife	30	693	101	1	23.26
Mr H B Chinnery	34	761	149	2	23.25
Mr G J Mordaunt	17	360	81*	1	23.12
Mr S M J Woods	31	736	111	0	23.23
Holland	12	260	83	1	23.7
Mr R W Rice	16	353	106	1	23.8
J Gunn	13	209	107	4	23.2
Mr C P Foley	12	232	47	2	23.2
Mr G Fowler	28	555	70	4	23.3
Trott	13	276	62	1	23

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
A E Trott	273.4	75	692	50	13.42
Richardson	1542.2	474	3804	260	14.164
Cuttell	1121.4	442	1974	120	16.54
Briggs	1288	387	2560	155	16.80
J T Hearne	1619.3	647	3066	173	17.125
Mr G L Jessop	988.3	296	2071	116	17.99
Mr F W Stocks	453	168	986	55	17.51
Mold	838.4	283	1769	98	18.5
Hayward	832.3	244	2074	114	18.22
Hallam	1042	449	1820	100	18.20
Haigh	786.3	259	1713	91	18.75
Mr F H E Cunliffe	655.4	212	1473	75	19.48
Peel	748	272	1376	70	18.45
Attewell	1150	498	1952	97	20.22
Mr C J Kortright	505.1	118	1442	71	20.22
Mead	927.4	322	1905	89	21.36
Woodcock	657.2	153	1690	78	21.52
Bland	1140.3	337	2798	129	21.89
Mr F S Jackson	708.4	209	1628	75	21.53
Mr E B Shine	710.3	206	1717	79	21.58
Lees	722.2	238	1676	77	21.59
Mr F G Bull	1007	243	2634	120	21.114
Dr W G Grace	584.1	180	1213	55	22.3
Davidson	990	426	1717	76	22.45
Mr J R Mason	492.4	160	1166	51	22.44
Wainwright	1041.4	326	2330	100	23.7
Roberts	712.4	240	1681	72	23.25
Hirst	1108.1	396	2365	101	23.42

Tyler	797	184	2132	91	23.39
Chatterton	308.2	106	611	26	23.18
Hancock	483.1	150	1210	51	23.37
Tate	1207	425	2562	101	25.37
Rawlin	772	279	1524	59	25.49
Martin	1134.2	381	2287	86	26.51
Mr C L Townsend	769.3	104	2452	92	26.60
Baldwin (Hants)	780.4	288	1520	56	27.8
W Wright	724.2	266	1527	56	27.15
Santall	822.2	272	1857	62	29.59

13 September: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4906.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 September, page 5)

The closing match of the Hastings Festival - and also of the season - was favoured yesterday with delightful weather. As might have been expected under such circumstances the match attracted a large number of people, especially after the luncheon interval.

In selecting the Players' team the Hastings authorities were very fortunate, the side, despite the absence of some famous names, being strong at every point, but as regards the Gentlemen many disappointments had to be put up with. As finally constituted, the amateur eleven had an obvious weakness in bowling, and when the game began some one-sided cricket was expected. Up to a certain point things fell out exactly as had been anticipated, but a sudden change came over the match at about 4 o'clock, and at the call of time the position held out excellent promise for the two remaining days.

Winning the toss, the Players stayed in from ten minutes past 12 till over half-past 4, their total reaching 212. This comparatively modest score fell short by a hundred runs of what at one time seemed probable, 190 going up with only four men out. Abel and Albert Ward opened the innings, and by excellent cricket made 52 together before Ward, in playing back at young Mr Grace, hit his wicket. The partnership lasted just over 35 minutes, and while it was in progress Abel had the satisfaction of completing his 2,000 runs in first-class matches - a feat that no other batsman has performed this season.

Brown went in first wicket down, and the play was maintained at the same high standard as before for three-quarters of an hour. Then at 107, just as he seemed fairly set, Brown was smartly caught at the wicket. Abel stayed some little time longer, but at 120 his admirable innings was closed by a simple catch at cover point. He was batting an hour and 35 minutes for his 59, among his hits being seven fours, four threes and four twos.

At lunch time the total was 129 for three wickets, but before a run had been added after resuming Brockwell was brilliantly caught at mid-off, low down with the right hand. At this point Gunn was joined by Davidson, and so long as these two batsmen stayed together the Players seemed likely to get a big score. Gunn was in a hitting vein, making some splendid drives and to a large extent departing from his usual cautious methods. Davidson, on the other hand, was more than ordinarily careful. The total reached 198, and then Davidson was caught at the wicket.

Quite startling was the cricket after his departure, the batting suffering a complete breakdown. With the score still at 198 Gunn was well caught at deep square leg, and then Mr Milligan bowled with such effect that the last four wickets fell for 14 runs. Mr Milligan took five of the last six wickets and in the whole innings only 62 runs were hit from him. Gunn's brilliant 58 comprised 13 fours and three twos. Mr Wickham kept wicket finely and the fielding all round was very good.

At the close of the afternoon the Gentlemen had 20 minutes' batting and lost Mr Crawford's wicket for four runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 September, page 5)

Favoured by a continuance of the delightful weather which has prevailed at Hastings since Friday last, the second stage of the concerning fixture of the festival attracted an even larger attendance of spectators than on Monday. It may be said at once that the cricket was extremely interesting from the outset and, curiously enough, that on the first innings the result was a tie, each side making 214. The Players' innings on Monday had been given as 212; but it was discovered that a hit of Gunn's, for which four had been put down, was really a six and, with the consent of the captains, this was altered and the two runs added.

The Gentlemen's innings, in which four runs had been scored overnight for the loss of one wicket, proceeded in capital style. Mr Frank Mitchell batted freely, while Mr Townsend, his partner, exercised every caution. In the course of about an hour and 20 minutes the score was increased to 87, and although Mr Townsend made only 19 of these he was heartily cheered. On Dr Grace coming in Mr Mitchell hit harder than ever, and when at length he was caught at cover-point the aggregate stood at 127, and his share, obtained in rather less than two hours, was 84. It was a brilliant piece of work, and his figures included 12 fours, four threes and six twos.

Dr Grace found a useful partner in Mr Stewart and there was no further loss before luncheon. Immediately after the interval the batting broke down before some superb bowling by Richardson. In a few minutes instead of a total of 158 for three wickets there were nine men out for 189. Dr Grace himself left at 185 for a fine innings of 46; but none of the others did much, and it was only the stand by young Mr Grace and Mr Wickham for the final partnership that enabled the side to tie their opponents' score. Richardson after the interval took five of the last seven wickets for 38 runs.

In the last three-quarters of an hour Abel and Ward made 52 without being parted in the professionals' second attempt.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 September, page 8)

The Hastings Festival, and with it the first-class cricket season, came to an end yesterday, when the Players gained a remarkable victory by 175 runs. This result was mainly due to Richardson, the Surrey bowler, whose great pace and fine length, assisted by the bad light, brought about a collapse of the Gentlemen in the fourth innings. Richardson, in fact, secured in the match 13 wickets for 141 runs, and with this record he easily reached the unprecedented aggregate in four successive English seasons of 1,000 wickets in first-class cricket.

The play at Hastings yesterday did not arouse the interest that might have been expected, considering the position of the game on Tuesday night; but those who stayed away missed some fine cricket. Abel and Albert Ward put on 129 for the first wicket. Abel, who was the first to go, played particularly well, while Ward, who was second out at 235, made his 108 in about three hours by steady and skilful batting. He hit 14 fours.

Gunn rather delayed closing the innings; but, as it turned out, the time he left to get the Gentlemen out was more than sufficient. Such was the breakdown in the batting that the Gentlemen were dismissed in 80 minutes for 67. Attewell just managed to run to his 100 wickets aggregate for the season.

Tuesday 14 September, page 5: TESTIMONIAL TO MR A N HORNBY. - The Lancashire County Cricket Committee have unanimously resolved to present a testimonial to Mr A N Hornby in recognition of his valuable services to Lancashire county cricket. A provisional committee has been appointed to carry out the details of the scheme. Part of the testimonial will take the shape of a portrait of Mr Hornby, which will be hung in the pavilion at Old Trafford.

Thursday 16 September, page 8: THE CLOSE OF THE SEASON

The season, in which a lingering interest had been preserved by the holiday functions at Scarborough and Hastings, came to a definite end yesterday, the county matches having been finished a fortnight ago. There have been many suggestions made to Lord's that the season proper should be prolonged, but even in a fine autumn the turf in September is unfitted for cricket much before 1 o'clock, and the dew and the wormcasts and, late in the afternoon, the shadows leave little more than three good hours for actual play.

The season now ended has been remarkable in many ways, but chiefly for its splendid weather. In such an erratic climate May, June and July were abnormal months for batsmen; the wickets were hard and true, and a game finished in two days became something of a novelty. But in August there was a break-up in the weather; the bowlers had their turn, and many a "sticky" wicket enabled Richardson, Jack Hearne and Briggs to get back their own after the many bad bowling times on the true, hard turf.

Cricketers of the old school sometimes complain of the importance that is now attached by the public to averages; but it is pleasant to reflect that there are still few men playing in big cricket who think first of their average and next of their side.

It was probably the wet and treacherous August wickets that explain the fact that only one man - Abel - reached the 2,000 aggregate during the season, and Abel himself with this fine record is only sixth on the list according to the common working out of averages. Mr Ford, who is at the head of the list, stopped his cricket in July, and has not only scored less than 1,000 runs but played 32 innings less than Abel. Mr Ford's splendid game, however, almost entitles him to his place, for one cannot fail to remember his wonderful drive from all kinds of bowling and his remarkable wrist action.

Mr N Druce, one of the most brilliant bats on the day, did not play so much as could have been wished. K S Ranjitsinhji, in seven innings less than last year, fell short of his aggregate of 1896 by over 800 runs. Mr Maclaren played considerably more than in 1896, and his average of 51 gives him the third place on the list - Ranjitsinhji's 57 was the only record of 50 or more last season. Dr W G Grace, with 13 innings less than in 1896, does not come out with a record of much less merit, but Mr Jackson's figures have dropped from 42 to 33, while Mr Stoddart, who delayed even his appearance in first-class cricket until the season was nearly a month old, has scored 1,000 less than last year, and naturally falls far away from his former position. Mr Stoddart never really found his game during the season, and an injured knee deprived him of any part in the later matches of the year.

Four cricketers have secured the great distinction of taking 100 wickets and scoring 1,000 runs - namely, Hayward, of Surrey, Mr Jessop, of Cambridge and Gloucestershire, and Wainwright and Hirst, of Yorkshire.

Of course, the bowler of the year is Richardson. At the beginning of the season he did not do very well; but just when people were beginning to talk of his loss of spin and break he ran into form, and during June, July and August he bowled as he had never bowled before, while yesterday his last few wickets at Hastings secured to him the unprecedented record of 1,000 wickets in four consecutive English seasons.

The tables given below are compiled from the first-class cricket of the year, which embraces the play in the University matches, the M.C.C. chief matches, the Philadelphians, and such games as Gentlemen v Players and North v South. In the bowling tables only those cricketers who have taken 50 or more wickets are mentioned.

[Note: these first-class averages for 1897 can be found on Cricket Archive from http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/1897_ENG.html]

It is interesting to record the figures in the general averages of the season of the cricketers who are going out with Mr Stoddart's team by the Orient liner Ormuz for Australia. They are as follows:-

BATTING

	No. of Innings	Runs	Most in an Times		Average
			Innings	not out	
Mr N F Druce	20	928	227*	2	51.10
Mr A C Maclaren	21	974	244	2	51.5
K S Ranjitsinhji	48	1940	260	5	45.5
Hayward	39	1368	130	3	38
Wainwright	48	1612	171	3	35.37
Hirst	50	1535	134	7	35.30
Mr J R Mason	39	1377	183	0	35.12
Mr A E Stoddart	21	650	109	0	30.20
Storer	42	1073	160*	3	27.20
Board	40	870	126	1	22.12
Briggs	38	636	74	2	17.24
J T Hearne	42	349	36	17	13.24
Richardson	41	325	32	13	11.17

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Richardson	1603.4	495	3945	273	14.123
Briggs	1288	387	2560	155	16.80
J T Hearne	1819.3	647	3066	173	17.125
Hayward	862.3	244	2074	114	18.21
Mr J R Mason	492.4	160	1168	51	22.44
Wainwright	1041.4	326	2330	101	23.7
Hirst	1111.1	396	2346	101	23.28
Mr A E Stoddart	176.2	58	416	15	27.11
Storer	215.4	30	706	23	30.16

Saturday 18 September, page 7: DEPARTURE OF MR STODDART'S AUSTRALIAN TEAM

An enthusiastic crowd filled St Pancras Stat yesterday morning and gave the members of Mr Stoddart's side for Australia many cheers on their departure for the colonies. Several cricketers of prominence were present, including Mr C E Green, Mr M'Gregor, the Hon Ivo Bligh, Mr G F Vernon, Mr C I Thornton, Mr F Mitchell, Mr W G Druce, Mr Weigall, Brockwell, Robert Thoms and William Hearn, while many of those attached to the staff at Lord's and the Oval also put in an appearance. A large party journeyed to Tilbury by the special train to say good-bye.

The cricketers and their friends were received on board the Ormuz by the head of the Orient line, Mr Fred Green. Mr Maclaren left England a fortnight ago, and yesterday K S Ranjitsinhji went down to see the side off. He intends to travel overland and catch the Orient liner at Naples. The eleven players who sailed yesterday were Mr Stoddart, Mr N F Druce, Mr J R Mason, Richardson, Hayward, J T Hearne, Hirst, Board, Storer, Wainwright and Briggs.

Friday 1 October, page 8

DEATH OF W MARTINGELL. - All Eton cricketers will learn with sincere regret of the death on Wednesday last, at Eton Wick, of the veteran player William Martingell, who on and off had been professionally engaged at Eton for the last 30 years. It has generally been stated

that Martingell was born in 1819, but in "Scores and Biographies" the date is given as the 20th of August, 1818.

During his long career as a public player Martingell appeared for both Kent and Surrey, the latter being the county for which he was qualified by birth. In the early days of Surrey cricket on the Oval he shared the bowling honours with Tom Shearman, of Mitcham, who survives him. Martingell is described as having been in his day an extremely good round-arm bowler, rather fast, and the scores of the many matches in which he took part bear convincing testimonial to his excellence.

He retained to the last his interest in cricket, particularly that of Eton. He was a thoroughly good judge of the game, and reckoned to Hon Alfred Lyttelton among the best bats Eton ever produced.

Thursday 7 October

YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB.- A largely-attended committee meeting of this club was held yesterday at Sheffield under the presidency of Mr Ellison. The principal business was the allotment of the home county matches for next season, these being distributed as follows:-

Lancashire, Kent and Gloucestershire, at Sheffield; Surrey, Essex and Sussex, at Bradford; Notts, Middlesex and Warwickshire, at Leeds; Leicestershire, at Dewsbury; Derbyshire, at Harrogate; Hampshire, at Huddersfield; and Somerset, at Scarborough.

The Parsees, if they visit England, will play Yorkshire at Sheffield, and it is probable that a match will be arranged with Worcestershire to be played at Halifax. The county professionals will receive winter pay in the same manner as last year.

Friday 15 October

The Committee of the M.C.C. have received an intimation from Mr Henry Perkins that he wishes to resign the secretaryship as soon as arrangements for next year's matches and the year's accounts have been completed. The intimation was received with great regret, and the president gave notice that he should, at the next meeting, move a resolute on the subject.

Friday 22 October; ENGLISH CRICKETERS IN AUSTRALIA

Albany, Oct. 21.

Mr Stoddart's team of English cricketers arranged this morning on board the Orient liner Ormuz after a pleasant voyage. Prince Ranjitsinhji is suffered somewhat from the effects of seasickness, but the other members of the team are well.- Reuter.

Adelaide, Oct. 21.

The following is the team selected to represent South Australia in the first match against Mr Stoddart's eleven:- George Giffen, Walter Giffen, Lyons, Darling, Jones, Clement Hill, Reedman, Frederick Jarvis, Green, Evans and M'Kenzie.

Since the above selection was made, however, George Giffen has intimated that he declines to play, it being his intention to retire for an indefinite period, as he is tired of cricket. On the other hand, it is understood that he has been unable to make financial arrangements with the Melbourne Club satisfactory to himself. Jones, Darling, Lyons and Hill have accepted the same terms that were offered to Giffen, and which aggregate about £150 for each

man for the season, in addition to expenses and compensations for loss of time during their absence from business.

The general feeling is one of strong dissatisfaction with George Giffen's action. Giffen, in reply to an interviewer, has stated that his retirement is only for this season, and he hopes at a later date to revisit England.- Reuter's Special Service.

Melbourne, Oct. 21.

George Giffen's retirement is being much debated here. He admits that he is dissatisfied with the terms offered. He promises, however, to visit England in 1899 if chosen.- Our Correspondent.

Thursday 28 October: THE ENGLISH CRICKETERS IN AUSTRALIA

Adelaide, Wednesday

Mr Druce is not very well, and he and Board will stand out of the match here.

Mr Stoddart states that, owing in part to indifferent practice and partly from the fact that several of the Englishmen are suffering from severe colds, the team is only in moderate form.

The English visitors dines last evening at Government House.- Reuter's Special Service.

28 October: SOUTH AUSTRALIA v A E STODDART'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4911.html)

Day 1 (report from Wednesday 29 October)

Mr Stoddart's team commenced their first match at Adelaide yesterday, meeting South Australia. The weather was cool and the wicket in excellent condition. Great interest was taken in the game, the attendance numbering 8,000.

Lyons won the toss for South Australia and went in with Darling, the English bowling being shared by Richardson and Briggs. The commencement was startling, as from the second ball Darling was caught and bowled by Richardson. However, on Clement Hill going in some admirable batting was seen. Runs came freely, and when the score reached 73 Briggs, who had been expensive, gave way to Hirst. The change proved effective at once, as from the second ball sent down by the new bowler Lyons was caught at point. He had made 36 out of 74.

Before anything further had been done a drizzling rain stopped the game, but play was continued after a brief delay. The rain made the turf rather slippery for a time, but the wicket was not in any way damaged. Reedman became Hill's partner, and with the total at 89 Briggs and Hearne were put on. Again a change met with success, but not so quickly as before, Reedman, after getting 22, being caught at mid-off. Walter Giffen was next in, and at lunch time the total stood at 131 for three wickets, Hill being not out 70.

The sun was shining when the game was proceeded with and the ground had become thoroughly dry. Richardson and Hirst were the bowlers, and after a time the former dismissed Walter Giffen. With Evans as his next partner, Hill completed his 100, having then been at the wickets for two hours and ten minutes. The total having been increased to 190, Wainwright was tried for the first time. Hearne checked the run-getting and then bowled Evans. So far the Englishmen had done as well as they could have expected, but from this point their bowling was mastered. F Jarvis joined Hill and stayed in with him for the rest of the afternoon.

At the adjournment for tea the score was 255, Hill having made 138 and Jarvis 24. On starting afresh Briggs and Hearne bowled, but Briggs was so freely punished by Hill that at 298 Hirst took the ball again. The batsmen easily held their own and, though Hayward went on and Richardson was tried once more, the total at the drawing stumps had reached 361 for five wickets, Hill being not out 200 and Jarvis not out 66.

Hill's innings was faultless. He had a great reception on returning to the pavilion, the Englishmen joining cordially in the applause. So far he has been batting for four hours and a half and has hit 21 fours. His timing could not have been better. Jarvis played dashing cricket. The English fielding was fairly good and no chances were missed. Storer kept wicket well, and Briggs, Ranjitsinhji and Hirst did smart work. The bowlers, however, doubtless from want of practice, lacked accuracy.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 October)

The Englishmen entered on the second day of the match under a great disadvantage, Mr Stoddart, owing to an attack of influenza, having been ordered to bed. His temperature was up to 101. In his absence Mr Maclaren acted as captain. The weather to-day was beautiful, the attendance even larger than before and the wicket still in excellent condition.

With five men out for 361 South Australia went on batting, Hill, not out 200, and F Jarvis, not out 66, continuing the innings. Without getting another run Hill played a ball from Hayward on to his wicket. Notwithstanding this success, Hayward gave way to Richardson, who soon bowled Green, the seventh wicket falling at 370. Then at 381 Jarvis was caught at slip. He was batting two hours for his brilliant 79. His innings included 13 fours and he gave no chance. Since going on for Hayward Richardson had taken two wickets without a run being hit from him.

At 396 another wicket fell, Jones being very finely caught at point by Ranjitsinhji. Just previously Board, fielding as substitute for Mr Stoddart, missed Jones at cover-point. The chance was difficult and no other mistake was made during the innings. A catch at slip got rid of M'Kenzie and the innings closed for 408 . . . The fielding to-day was good and Storer kept wicket splendidly.

The English innings was opened by Maclaren and Mason to the bowling of Jones and Evans. With his sixth ball the latter bowled Maclaren off his pads for 0, the first wicket falling with the score at 10. A burst of cheering greeted Ranjitsinhji as he left the pavilion. At lunch time the total, without further loss, had reached 22. Ranjitsinhji, however, after making one run, was missed by the wicket-keeper off Jones's bowling.

On starting afresh Mason hit so freely that when the innings had lasted half an hour he had scored 35 out of 50. Ranjitsinhji was steady for a while, but he, too, soon began to hit. With the total at 75 he had made 25 to Mason's 45. Mason completed his 50 in 50 minutes and the 100 went up after just an hour's batting. The hitting continued for half an hour longer and then, with the total at 137, Mason was out leg-before-wicket. In his vigorous 78 he hit nine fours. His style was much admired, but he gave two chances - one to Hill at slip at 38 and one to the wicket-keeper at 44.

With Hayward in Ranjitsinhji played in his finest form, his off-drives and cuts being superb. He did nearly all the hitting, Hayward playing very carefully. With the last ball before the adjournment for tea Reedman hit Ranjitsinhji's wicket, but though the bail turned over it did not fall - a piece of wretched luck for the South Australians. When the total had been carried to 193 Hayward was caught at mid-on. He had been in half an hour for six runs. So far Ranjitsinhji had scored 97.

Wainwright came in next, and Ranjitsinhji completed his 100 after batting two hours and ten minutes. He was now scoring on the leg side, which up to a certain point he had not attempted to do. Luck again favoured him. When he had made 113 he was let off at slip, and from the next ball he was missed by Darling at mid-off. At the drawing of stumps he was not out 137 and Wainwright not out 28, the score standing at 263 for three wickets. So far Ranjitsinhji has hit 16 fours. Wainwright's play was steady and quite free from chances.

The Australian fielding was faulty, several blunders being committed. Jones bowling splendidly but with dreadful luck. Mr Druce is better but is still in bed.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 November)

The Saturday half-holiday helped materially to swell the crowd to-day, the company numbering 14,000, which is a record for the Adelaide ground. Mr Druce has recovered. In face of South Australia's total of 409, Mr Stoddart's team had overnight scored 263 for three wickets, Ranjitsinhji being not out 137 and Wainwright not out 28.

The weather was warm and fine when play was resumed this morning, and the wicket seemed to be wearing well. Ranjitsinhji had only added 15 runs when he was badly missed at slip off Jones. Just afterwards Wainwright, whose innings was faultless, played a ball on to his wicket, the total being 291. Hirst, who came next, hit four fours, but was bowled by a yorker from Jones at 311. Storer began very carefully and was at the wickets half an hour for his first five runs. Richardson in the meantime made some beautiful cuts, his strokes being cleaner than on Friday. At luncheon the total was 368, Ranjitsinhji being 175 and Storer 18. Before the interval Jones was no-ball by Phillips for throwing. It appears that Phillips had cautioned the fast bowler several times on Friday.

After lunch, Green went on to bowl again. His first ball was sent for four, but with his second - a full pitch - he got Ranjitsinhji's wicket. The batsman hit it with tremendous force and Drew, standing square at short-leg, only six yards away, brought off a wonderful catch low down with the right hand. In his innings of 189 Ranjitsinhji hit 22 fours. He had a great reception as he returned to the pavilion. He took four hours and 50 minutes to get his runs, and said that the extreme pace of the wicket bothered him. The total when he left was 372.

With one run added, Briggs was bowled, but Hearne stayed with Storer and a fine stand was made. Storer was far more vigorous than when he started. He was missed at long-on by Darling - a difficult chance - when he had made 41, and then put on 27 runs in 15 minutes, hitting very finely. Hearne began freely, but was afterwards content to keep up his wicket while Storer scored. After a rest of over two hours, Jones was tried again, and at 475 he bowled Storer, who had shown the soundest batting in the innings. Storer's 84 included 16 fours and his watchful defence was as good as his hitting. The eighth wicket had added 102 runs.

Richardson did nothing, and the innings closed for 475, or 66 ahead, Stoddart being unable to go in. Altogether, the Englishmen were batting for six hours and ten minutes . . . The fielding to-day showed a marked improvement. All the chances missed in the innings except one were given off Jones's bowling.

Darling and Lyons opened South Australia's second innings to the bowling of Richardson and Hirst. In Hirst's third over Darling was bowled leg stump, the first wicket falling with the score at four. With Hill in, however, the batting was capital. Fifty runs came in half an hour, Hill scoring rather the faster of the two. As Hirst was punished for 27 runs in three overs, Hearne went on at 57. Richardson had suffered at Hill's hands in the first innings when bowling at the leg stump, and he now tried bowling a little wide on the off-side to the left-handed batsman. Hill was hitting splendidly. Lyons, on the other hand, was, for him, unusually steady, taking an hour to make 30. When he had scored 29, he was badly missed at mid-on by Richardson off Hearne's bowling. The arrears on the first innings were hit off, but at 89 Hill was caught by the wicket-keeper.

With Reedman in, the score rose to 124. Then, from the last ball of the day, Lyons was bowled. The English fielding was smart. So far, Richardson has taken two wickets for 63 runs and Hirst one wicket for 28.

Mr Stoddart has recovered from his indisposition. He ridicules the suggestion that J T Brown should be cabled for. The health of the team generally has improved and there is nothing serious the matter.- Reuter's Special Service.

Day 4 (report from Tuesday 2 November)

Little interest remained in the match to-day, it having been arranged to draw stumps early, in order that the Englishmen might catch the afternoon train to Melbourne to see the race for the Melbourne Cup to-morrow. To make things worse such play as there was suffered frequent interruptions from rain. Showers had fallen in the night, but the ground dried under the influence of the wind and the pitch this morning was in good condition.

With three wickets down for 124 in their second innings, South Australia went on batting, Reedman, not out 15, being joined by Walter Giffen. Prior to lunch, play was stopped four times, but the rain was light and did not damage the wicket. Reedman batted with some freedom, and at the luncheon interval the score had without further loss been carried to 156. Reedman was then 31 and Giffen 16.

On starting again, Reedman was easily caught at long-on. Evans came next, but at 184 he was cleverly caught at mid-off. Jarvis was in with Giffen at the drawing of stumps, the final score being 187 for five wickets . . .

So much has been heard about the unlimited time given to important fixtures in Australia that almost everybody here fully expected that the match would be played out; but apparently the Melbourne Cup Race was a thing not to be missed, and the cricketers forsook their match by arrangement early on the fourth day in order to get on to Melbourne. In the position of the game on Saturday it is a pity that the elevens did not abandon the match then and there, for there was no probability of an issue being reached in two or three additional hours.

As regards the cricket the Englishmen, who were severely handicapped by the illness of their captain and of Mr Norman Druce, have no reason to be dissatisfied with their performance. It must, however, be confessed that Mr Stoddart's men were very leniently treated by the South Australian fieldsmen who dropped an extraordinary number of catches. K S Ranjitsinhji was exceptionally fortunate in this respect; indeed, if the telegrams are to be taken literally, the Indian Prince seems to have borne a charmed life. In addition to dropped catches Reuter describes how that "Reedman hit Ranjitsinhji's wicket; but though the bail turned over, it did not fall."

The notorious incident in the match was the no-balling of Jones for the breaking of rule 10. Those who take an interest in cricket will remember Jones's pace and action, and the doubt cast upon the fairness of the latter. Phillips, the Middlesex and M.C.C. professional, seems to have cautioned Jones on the second day, and on the third to have no-balled him. Phillips is one of our best umpires and his reputation stands as high in Australia as in this country. His notion may perhaps bring about a reform in cricket, for the evil of unfair bowling has spread alarmingly since Lord Harris, many years ago, strove to check it by a policy that culminated in the dropping of the Kent and Lancashire matches. The Marylebone instructions to umpires on this subject were ignored by the umpires, who were consistent in their lenient treatment of both amateurs and professionals in cases of doubtful delivery.

Those who were in the pavilion at Lord's on the occasion of Jones's first appearance in 1896 will remember the consternation that was felt when Jones sent down his first ball to Mr W G Grace. Stress was laid on the subject in The Times account of the match. Now that James Phillips has broken through the policy of stolid indifference so long observed with regard to this point we may hope to see the example followed by umpires in this country, and that by their action these cases of unfair bowling will in the near future become impossible.

4 November: STODDART'S DIPLOMACY

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,- Those who criticize the action of Stoddart's team in throwing up their magnificent of match in order to see a horse race know little of Australian life.

We hear much on this side of Australian prosperity, its cattle, its climate and its cricket. Australians themselves complain of bad times; its cattle stations are in sorry plight, its climate is not always a subject for congratulation and, above all, cricket is not the popular game with Australians that we fondly imagine it to be, football being a greater favourite with them. In short, Stoddart's popularity in Australia owes much to the fact that he won his laurels on the football field.

All this I discovered during my recent visit, when, the fact having leaked out among my newly-acquired friends that I was about to leave their country without witnessing the race for the Melbourne Cup, I was seriously regarded by them as being *non compos mentis*. Had Stoddart's team not expressed their worship at the shine of racing at Flemington by throwing up their almost certain victory in order to witness the greatest annual event in Australia (to Australians the greatest event in the world) they would have run a great risk of being unpopular throughout their entire stay.

It was diplomatic in the extreme, and it will doubtless occur that Mr Stoddart's team have scored greatly over this, and by it have made the biggest "hit" of their tour.

I am, dear Sir, yours obediently,
Garrick Club, Nov. 3. HARRY FURNISS

5 November: AUSTRALIAN CRICKET

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,- It is highly amusing to Australians in London to read the letter of Mr Harry Furniss in The Times of to-day. I should be sorry to think that a team of great English cricketers would be so base as [practically to] sell their chances of success in their first game in Australia merely for the bubble popularity. Were this the case the diplomacy of the act would be very questionable, for, in addition to such tactics being the ruin of genuine sport, the distances of Australia are so great that the diplomacy of giving away a match in one colony would hardly curry favour in the cricketing circles of the far-off other colonies.

It is much more probable that Mr Stoddart arranged for his men to see the Melbourne Cup before the match was even commenced, as visiting teams do not undertake such long journeys upon the spur of the moment; and, consequently, he could not have known what the state of the game would be, or what side would be at the wickets, at the time the Adelaide express left for Melbourne.

It would be charitable to think that the writer of the letter did not comprehend what such "diplomacy" should really be termed; and that he was in ignorance when stating that Australians consider the Melbourne Cup "the greatest event in the world"; and that in witnessing a certain brief phase of their life (admittedly very much in evidence at the time of his visit) he drew the conclusion that they talked, sang and drank Cup the whole year through.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HAMILTON C MOTT

75, Southampton-row, Nov. 4.

6 November: VICTORIA v A E STODDART'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4912.html)

Saturday 6 November: Melbourne, Nov. 5

The match between Mr Stoddart's team and Victoria, in accordance with the arrangements telegraphed on the 26th ult., will begin to-morrow. There is every prospect of fine weather, and the greatest interest is taken in the contest. Briggs and Storer will probably be left out of the English team, their places being taken by Mr Druce and Board.- Reuter's Special Service.

Day 1 (report from Monday 8 November)

Mr Stoddart's team commenced here to-day the second match of their tour, meeting a representative eleven of Victoria. The weather was gloriously fine and the wicket in perfect condition. Large at the start, the attendance increased in the course of the afternoon to 17,000. Briggs and Board stood out of the English team.

As at Adelaide Stoddart lost the toss and Trott, of course, took first innings for Victoria. Worrall and Charles M'Leod went in, the bowling being shared by Richardson and Hirst. Both batsmen began cautiously, but Worrall had only made nine when Ranjitsinhji missed him at point - a difficult chance. Runs came slowly, but Worrall scored more freely than his partner, obtaining 22 out of the first 32. At 43 the bowling was changed at both ends, Hearne and Wainwright going on. M'Leod then made nearly all the runs. Wainwright was unlucky, as off his bowling M'Leod, when 25, was badly missed by Richardson at mid-on. This proved an expensive blunder. With the total at 50 Worrall was out to an easy catch. At lunch-time the score was 64 for one wicket, M'Leod having made 33 and Trott five.

Fine cricket was seen after the interval, the fielding, especially that of Ranjitsinhji, being superb. The 100 went up, but at 106 M'Leod was beautifully caught by Stoddart in the slips. Then, at 118, Trott was taken low down at mid-off by Hirst - a marvellous catch. With Brice and Graham together a good stand was made, and at the adjournment for tea the total had reached 170, each batsman having scored 28.

The fourth wicket fell at 177, Graham being caught at mid-off. His innings was marred by a palpable chance of stumping when 28 off Wainwright's bowling, Storer making a bad mistake. Giller came next, and Bruce scored very fast, getting most of his runs by late cuts and off drives. Wainwright, after bowling for a long time, gave way at 225 to Richardson. The change was successful, as at 243 Bruce was caught in the slips. His 88 was a most brilliant innings, but was not faultless. After Bruce left the batting was slow and cautious. At 263 Giller was smartly caught in the slips, but M'Michael stayed with Harry, the total at the close of play being 273 for six wickets.

Day 2 (report from Tuesday 9 November)

Nothing could have been better than the weather here to-day, when the match between Mr Stoddart's team and Victoria entered on its second stage. The wicket, as on Saturday, was in perfect order and the attendance, not very large at the start of play, increased greatly as the day advanced.

With six wickets down for 273, Victoria went on batting, but did very little against Richardson and Hearne. From the fourth ball bowled by Richardson McMichael was out l-b-w, the seventh wicket falling at 277. With the total unchanged, Harry was bowled, and at 285 Johns was caught at mid-off. Trumble, however, received some help from Roche, the last wicket adding 21 runs. Trumble, whose late cutting was very neat, was caught in the slips and the innings ended for 306. the time occupied was five hours . . .

Maclaren and Mason opened the English innings to the bowling of Trumble and Roche. From Trumble's first ball, amid yells from the crowd, Maclaren was badly missed by Trott at

point. After this the batting was free in character and perfect in style, Mason's off-drives being especially admired. At lunch time the score was 23. When the total reached 50 25 runs had been hit from each bowler. The first wicket fell at 57, Maclaren being bowled. Then, at 62, Mason was beautifully caught in the slips.

Ranjitsinhji, on joining Hayward, had an enthusiastic reception. He began with great care, being at the wickets 20 minutes before he had scored. Hayward was even more cautious, and had been batting for 40 minutes when he made his first run. The score having been slowly raised to 79, Hayward was out to a brilliant catch in the long field. Stoddart came in, and at 82 Trott bowled in place of Roche. The change had a startling result, as off Trott's second ball Ranjitsinhji was caught in the slips. Ranjitsinhji had taken an hour to get 13 and there was a great demonstration at his downfall.

Stoddart and Druce made things look a little better, but Druce was missed at the wicket by Johns off Trumble before he had scored. At the adjournment in the afternoon for tea the total was 89, and this number had been increased to 116, when Stoddart was caught at slip. At 124 Druce was caught at the wicket. Wainwright and Storer then stayed together till, at 161, Wainwright was cleverly run out.

The position of the English team was now very bad indeed, for with only three wickets to fall they were 145 runs behind. However, Storer found a capital partner in Hirst, and without further loss the total had been carried to 213 when stumps were drawn. When Storer had made 31 he skied a ball from Giller to mid-on, but Roche failed to secure an awkward catch. It was a brilliant piece of fielding by Bruce that ran out Wainwright, the wicket being very smartly thrown down from cover-point. There were 12,000 people on the ground. The wicket is wearing splendidly.

Day 3 (report from Wednesday 10 November)

The weather to-day was again gloriously fine and the wicket still in perfect condition. Play began an hour earlier than usual. Even at the start the attendance was large and it became enormous during the afternoon. With seven wickets down for 213 the Englishmen went on batting, Storer, not out, 47, and Hirst, not out, 30, facing McLeod and Trumble.

From the third ball of Trumble's second over Hirst was easily caught at mid-off. His innings was an attractive one, and he and Storer ran very smartly between the wickets. With the total at 240 Hearne was bowled, and with ten runs added Richardson was also bowled, both wickets falling to Trumble. In this way the innings ended for 250. Storer, who took out his bat for 71, had a lucky half-hour this morning. His hits included six fours. The English innings lasted four hours and 25 minutes . . . Stoddart batted well yesterday, giving no chance and making four boundary hits.

With a lead of 56 Victoria went in for the second time, McLeod and Trott opening the innings to the bowling of Richardson and Hearne. McLeod ought to have been caught and bowled when he had made two, but Richardson failed to hold the ball. However, after getting 14, McLeod was caught at the wicket. With Worrall in Storer appealed twice - from successive balls - against Trott for catches at the wicket, but the umpire decided in the batsman's favour. Very slow play followed, an hour and a half having elapsed when the score reached 50. About this time Hirst and Hayward shared the bowling. At 52 Trott was caught at the wicket and the game was adjourned for luncheon. Worrall was not out 22.

On starting again Bruce was soon caught in the slips, but Graham stayed with Worrall and some capital cricket was seen. Worrall played in a free attracted style and Graham batted very correctly. When he had scored 27 Worrall was missed off Hirst's bowling by Stoddart in the slips, but the chance was a hard one. Graham was bowled for 25 and Giller for two - both wickets being taken by Hayward - and with five men out the total was only 95. After this, however, Worrall and Harry collared the English bowling and hit away in such vigorous fashion that 60 runs were added in 40 minutes. Richardson and Hearne took up the bowling at 114, but before very long Hayward was on again. At the adjournment for tea the total was 136, Worrall having made 56 and Harry 16.

On the game being resumed, the two batsmen held their own till, at 199, Worrall was bowled, the [sixth] wicket having added 104 runs. Worrall was batting four hours and a quarter for his 83, and among his hits were seven fours. Harry did not stay much longer, being out at 200. In making his 50 he gave no chance. Trumble was foolishly run out at 203 and Roche did nothing, but McMichael and Johns batted well and stayed together till the close, the final score being 243 for nine wickets. Thus, with a wicket to fall, Victoria hold a lead of 299 runs. The pitch remains in good condition. Twenty thousand people were on the ground.

Day 4 (report from Thursday 11 November)

After a splendid match, Mr Stoddart's team beat Victoria this afternoon by two wickets.

At the start of play in the morning the weather was warm but the attendance only moderate. With a wicket to fall, Victoria went on batting, McMichael and Johns, the not-outs, facing Richardson and Hearne. In Richardson's third over Johns was out l-b-w to a full pitch, the innings, which had lasted five hours, coming to an end for 247. Hayward took five wickets for 66 runs . . .

Mr Stoddart's team required 304 to win, and on this heavy task they entered with great anxiety, their difficulties being increased by the fact that the pitch was broken at one end. Maclaren and Mason opened the innings to the bowling of Trumble and Trott. Trumble was given the advantage of the damaged wicket.

Fifteen runs having been scored, Maclaren was bowled. However, with Ranjitsinhji in, a splendid stand was made. Ranjitsinhji scored rapidly, getting most of his runs by cuts and his characteristic strokes on the leg side. The bowling underwent frequent changes, but without success. When Ranjitsinhji had made 22, an appeal for a catch at the wicket was answered in his favour, and when his score stood at 49 he was missed in the slips by Trumble off McLeod's bowling - a sharp chance. The crowd showed signs of disappointment at this mistake. Generally speaking, the fielding was very good. The total reached 116, and then Ranjitsinhji was out leg-before-wicket. He was batting an hour and a quarter for his 64 and hit five fours. At lunch time the score was 122 for two wickets, Mason not out 44, Hayward not out 3.

On the game being continued, Hayward, at 124, was stumped off Trott's bowling. Druce proved a good partner to Mason, and at 157 the bowling was changed at both ends, Giller and McLeod going on for Trumble and Trott. The pace of the run-getting slackened, and at 163 Druce was caught at the wicket. Another disaster for the English team quickly followed, as at 165 Stoddart was brilliantly caught low down at point. Wainwright only stayed while 13 runs were added and was then caught at the wicket.

The position was now almost desperate, 126 runs being wanted with only four wickets to fall. The turning point of the match was the partnership of Mason and Storer. Mason's play was at once sound and brilliant, his driving being especially fine. The second 100 runs in the innings took just an hour and a half to obtain, and Mason's individual score reached 100 when he had been batting three hours and a half. Storer, like Mason, played a good, attractive game and the bowling was mastered. At the adjournment for tea the total was 250 for six wickets, Mason having scored 101 and Storer 34. Before the stoppage Trott and Harry were sharing the bowling.

On starting again the two batsmen seemed likely to finish the match, but at 288 Storer was foolishly run out. The seventh wicket had added 110 runs. Hirst now joined Mason, but when 12 runs more had been scored he was caught off Roche. Finally, however, the total required was made up without further mishap, and the Englishmen thus won by two wickets. Mason was not out 128 and Hearne not out 4. Mason, who had thus carried out his bat after a splendid display of hitting and defence, was heartily cheered. The Australian fielding was very keen throughout.

Friday 12 November (Delayed in transmission)

The match closed amid much excitement, to which various circumstances contributed. When play was resumed after the tea adjournment Mason gave his only chance, putting up Trott's second ball to square leg, but the catch was missed by Mitchell, who was fielding as substitute for McMichael.

Then not long after came the dismissal of Storer, who simply ran himself out. He tapped a ball from Trott towards point, quite close in, and started for an impossible run. Harry dashed in and returned the ball very smartly to Johns, who had Storer's wicket down before he had gone a few yards - a poor ending to a fine innings.

The fall of Hirst's wicket when the Englishmen had still four to get revived colonial hopes, but Hearne quickly made the required number. The Englishmen were batting for 270 minutes, during which they made 305 runs . . . - Reuter's Special Service.

Monday 8 November

Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane was re-elected president of the Somerset County Club on Saturday, with Mr S M J Woods as captain, Mr Murray Anderson as hon. secretary and Mr Gerald Fowler as hon. treasurer. The general meeting was held at the Castle Hotel, Taunton.

Tuesday 9 November: THE KENT COUNTY CLUB

An important meeting of the Kent County Club was held yesterday at the Golden Cross Hotel, S.W., under the presidency of General Sir J Bevan Edwards, M.P. those present included Mr Akers-Douglas, M.P., Lord Harris, Earl Sondes, Marquis Camden, the Hon Ivo Bligh, the Hon J S Tufton, Major-General Denne, Colonel H W Isacke, Mr F S W Cornwallis, Mr George Marsham, Mr F A Mackinnon, Mr Frank Marchant, Mr W H Patterson, Captain Austin, Mr J N Tonge, the Rev C Randolph, Major Spens, Mr W B Pattisson, Mr P B Neame, Mr K M'Alpine, Mr M J R Tomson, the Rev C E Nepean, Mr C S Hardy, Mr A J Lancaster and Mr F W Furley.

The report for the year was drafted. In this the committee regretted that Mr Frank Marchant has expressed a wish to resign the captaincy. For ten years he had spared no effort to promote the success of the county eleven, and the committee felt that the county members would be very grateful to Mr Marchant for his ungrudging devotion, under most disappointing circumstances, to the county club. Mr Marchant, although giving up the captaincy, would be available for most of the county matches. His successor is Mr J R Mason, who is at present in Australia.

The committee will also report to the general meeting that in connection with the young players the subject of winter payment has had to be considered; and, justified by the action already taken in other counties, the committee have resolved to assist to the extent of not more than £1 a week from the middle of September to the middle of April such of their professionals as the committee consider deserving of help.

Financially, the past year has been more prosperous than any previous one, £700, part of the balance brought forward, having been invested in Consols, the general account practically commences with the sum of £297 17s 6d in hand, and it closes with a balance of £499 19s 2d after the extraordinary expenditure has been charged - namely, £583 8s - on the improvements to the Canterbury Ground and £163 16s 3d on the nursery for young players at Tonbridge. The debt to the bankers on account of the loan advanced to complete the purchase money for the St Lawrence Ground has been reduced by £150, and the sum of £550, still owing, will be met by the realization of Consols.

In addition to last year's fixtures which are to be renewed there will be out and home matches with Essex. Three games will be played at Tonbridge, two each at Canterbury and Catford, and one at Gravesend, Maidstone and Blackheath. There will be a match with the Parsees; but a ground for this has not been appointed.

Two of the young bowlers found in practice last summer at Tonbridge - Wilson and Church - will probably be given a trial next season. Mr F Marchant and Mr W H Patterson were nominated to represent Kent at the secretaries' meeting at Lord's next month. Alec Hearne will be given his benefit at Canterbury during 1898.

SUSSEX COUNTY CLUB

The committee of the Sussex County Cricket Club have decided to pull down the old stand at the south of the county ground, Hove, and to replace it by a new and commodious one at a cost of about £600. The committee have also arranged to drain the pavilion and ground into the main sewer in Eaton-road and [thoroughly to] improve the means of ingress to the ground by the addition of more turnstiles for paying visitors, a new entrance for subscribers and new gates at the carriage entrance.

The committee are very anxious to reconstruct and enlarge the professionals' dressing rooms but, though one gentleman has offered £100 towards the expense, the committee, realizing that £300 more will be required for the undertaking, have deferred the alteration until another season.

Friday 12 November

SUSSEX COUNTY CLUB. - A generous supporter of Sussex cricket has made an offer of £100 towards the rebuilding of the players' rooms on the county ground, Brighton. This is the second promise of a similar sum made during the past few days, and as other smaller amts have been promised it is hoped that the executive will be enabled to enter upon the work when the other contemplated improvements are commenced.

12 November: NEW SOUTH WALES v A E STODDART'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4913.html)

Day 1 (report from Saturday 13 November)

Mr Stoddart's team commenced here to-day the third match of their tour, a thoroughly representative eleven of New South Wales opposing them. As at Melbourne against Victoria, Briggs and Board were left out. The weather this morning was very hot, there was a fine attendance and the wicket was in perfect condition.

For the third time in succession Stoddart lost the toss, and Garrett, the New South Wales captain, of course took first innings. Donnan and Trumper went in, the English bowling being intrusted to Richardson and Hirst. Eight runs had been scored when, from Hirst's second ball, Trumper was beautifully caught by Ranjitsinhji at point. Gregory came in, and with some quick running between wickets the total was carried to 22. Gregory was then foolishly run out, the ball being smartly returned by Druce at slip. Noble, the next man in, could not play Richardson, whose great break surprise both batsmen and spectators. Having made four runs, Noble was bowled, the third wicket falling at 26.

This was a deplorable start, but during the rest of the day New South Wales did great things. The change in the game began when Iredale became Donnan's partner. At the end of 40 minutes' cricket the score was 50. Iredale played very brilliantly, eight successive hits that he made being fours - chiefly off Richardson. At 66 Hearne bowled at Richardson's end, and at lunch time the total was 83 for three wickets, Donnan being not out 21 and Iredale not out 39.

During the interval the attendance increased and the weather became windy. When play was started again, Richardson resumed bowling in place of Hearne. Iredale kept well ahead of Donnan and, with the total at 111, had scored 52 to his partner's 36. Iredale was playing a splendid game, his on-driving being very clean and his cutting brilliant in the extreme. Amid great excitement he hit Hirst for five fours in one over. The total reached 150 after two hours and ten minutes' play, but at 157 Iredale was out leg-before-wicket. He had an immense reception on returning to the pavilion. His innings occupied two hours and 25 minutes and included 19 fours. The wicket fell to Hayward, who, in company with Hearne, had taken up the bowling. There was a unanimous appeal for a catch at the wicket off Hirst's bowling against Iredale when his score was 35, but the umpire disallowed it. On the other hand, Iredale says that he played the ball from which he was given out.

McKenzie came in next and Ranjitsinhji was much cheered for good fielding. The score rose steadily, Donnan continuing to play a patient game but making some capital off-drives. He ought, however, to have been caught on the on side. Some light rain fell, but it did no harm. The two batsmen mastered the bowling and made a very long stand. At 224 Storer was tried for the first time in the innings, and went on at Hayward's end, Ranjitsinhji keeping wicket. Neither this nor other changes had any effect, but at last, with the total at 274, Donnan was run out, Hayward returning the ball splendidly from mid-off and knocking down the wicket. Donnan was batting four hours and 35 minutes for his 104, and hit 17 fours. Though far less brilliant than Iredale, he played a very fine innings.

After he left, Kelly stayed in with McKenzie till the close of play, the final score being 303 for five wickets. McKenzie, in making his 81 not out, gave no chance of any kind. There were 8,000 people on the ground. A storm seemed to be brewing when stumps were drawn.

Day 2 (report from Monday 15 November)

Some wonderful cricket was seen here to-day in the match between Mr Stoddart's team and New South Wales. Not often have the fortunes of the game undergone a more startling change. New South Wales made a splendid start yesterday, scoring 304 for five wickets, but at the drawing of stumps to-day they had rather the worst of the position. Extreme interest was shown by the public in the match. The attendance, indeed, was only moderate in the morning, but became enormous as the day advanced, 31,000 people being present.

At starting the pitch, though in fairly good condition, favoured Richardson and the bowler made the most of his chance. The five outstanding wickets of New South Wales actually went down for seven runs, the innings being thus finished off for 311. Hearne shared the bowling with Richardson. At 304, from Richardson's first ball, Kelly was caught by the wicket-keeper and, with the overnight total still unchanged, Coningham was caught and bowled. With four runs added McKenzie was bowled by Richardson and Garrett brilliantly caught at point with the left hand by Ranjitsinhji. Then, at 311, Howell was neatly caught at mid-off and the innings ended. Richardson, who took the first three wickets this morning, secured in all four wickets for 105 runs . . .

Stoddart's team began with Mason and Maclaren to the bowling of McKibbin and Coningham. At first the batting was very cautious, and with three balls in succession McKibbin obviously puzzled Maclaren. Only five runs had been scored when the same bowler dismissed Mason. Ranjitsinhji was loudly cheered as he went in to bat. He began carefully, but by slow degrees the score reached 32. Noble then displaced Coningham, and off the last ball of the new bowler's first over Ranjitsinhji was smartly caught at the wicket. Luncheon was then taken, the total being 32 for two wickets. Opinions varied as to whether Ranjitsinhji touched the ball from which he was out, but Maclaren agreed with the umpire, Thompson.

The pitch after lunch was in better order for run-getting than before. Maclaren (not out 19) was joined by Hayward, McKibbin and Noble sharing the bowling. Thanks chiefly to Maclaren, the score by steady cricket was exactly doubled, and then Hayward was out to a marvellous catch by Trumper at long-off. With Druce in the 100 went up when the innings had lasted about an hour and a half, some of Maclaren's drives about this time being brilliant. At 104 the fourth wicket fell, Druce being caught at point. So far Maclaren had made 62.

The turning point of the innings was the partnership of Maclaren and Storer, which produced 146 runs. Storer played a steady game at first, but soon quickened and scored even faster than Maclaren. Runs were coming at a tremendous pace when the game was adjourned for tea. The total reached 188, Maclaren being not out 104 and Storer not out 46.

After the fresh start 200 went up, the last 62 runs having actually been made in 13 minutes. The two batsmen stayed together until just upon 5 o'clock, when, at 250, Maclaren was caught in the long-field. His magnificent innings of 142 included 21 fours and was not marred by a single chance. He played a masterly game all the time he was at the wickets, his driving being most brilliant. When Maclaren left - loudly cheered by the crowd - Storer had scored 70.

Wainwright was next in, and the game pursued an uneventful course, Storer becoming very slow. After having scored seven Wainwright was badly missed by Garrett, a blunder for which the fieldsman was rather harshly treated by the spectators. Wainwright profited to some extent by his luck, but at 277 he was caught at long-on.

Six wickets were now down, and Stoddart on going in had a tremendous reception. He had scored two when he hit a ball from Noble to Garrett at mid-off and, thinking he was caught, left the wicket. Storer, however, appealed to the umpire and, the decision being not out, Stoddart resumed his innings. In a failing light runs came slowly, till at 292 Storer was caught at the wicket. In his finely-played 81 there were 13 fours. During the closing part of his innings he took three-quarters of an hour to get four runs, and with his score at 77 he was missed being caught and bowled by McKibbin.

Stoddart and Hirst were together at the close of play, the total being then 324 for seven wickets. The weather was pleasantly fine all day. The pitch is wearing well.

Day 3 (report from Tuesday 16 November)

The weather was gloriously fine to-day and the wicket remained in good condition. Though far less startling in character than on Saturday, the cricket was full of interest.

With seven wickets down for 324, Mr Stoddart's team went on batting at about a quarter-past 12. No stand was made against McKibbin and Noble, and in 20 minutes the innings was finished off for 335, or only 24 ahead of the New South Wales total. Stoddart was bowled at 333, Hirst, with the score unchanged, was out leg before wicket, and at 335 Richardson was bowled. Noble took five wickets for 111 runs and McKibbin five for 139 . . .

Donnan and Gregory opened the second innings of New South Wales, the bowling being shared by Richardson and Hirst. So fast was the scoring that 50 went up after 35 minutes' batting. At 57 the first change was tried, Hayward going on for Hirst. When lunch time came the total was 63 for no wicket, Gregory 40 and Donnan 22.

When the game was resumed the first wicket fell at 71, Donnan being bowled. This was a capital start, but for some time afterwards the game went all against New South Wales. At 80 Gregory was smartly caught by the wicket-keeper off Richardson's bowling, and at 84 Trumper was bowled. Iredale and Noble sent up the hundred in rather less than 20 minutes, but at 101 Iredale was brilliantly caught at mid-on. With McKenzie in 14 runs were slowly added, and then another catch by the wicket-keeper got rid of Noble. McKibbin - put in much earlier than usual - stayed some time, but just before 4 o'clock, with the total at 131, he was bowled.

The position was now critical, New South Wales, with six wickets down, being only 107 runs ahead. McKenzie and Garrett, however, made a splendid stand and put quite a different appearance on the game. The score at the adjourned for tea was 140, and on beginning again the two batsmen carried it to 248. Then at last Garrett, who had made 71 out of 117, was caught at the wicket. Not much time now remained for cricket, but in the last ten minutes two other wickets fell, McKenzie being caught and bowled at 251 and Coningham at 259. Stumps were then drawn, New South Wales, with nine men out, holding a lead of 235.

The attendance, which had been fairly good in the morning, increased very much as the day wore on and reached 10,000 before half-past 4. Gregory hit eight fours in his innings and was only batting an hour and four minutes. Trumper was beaten by Richardson's tremendous pace, the ball that bowled him smashing the leg stump. After lunch Richardson took three wickets for 17 runs. The English fielding in the first half of the innings was fine, Maclaren in the long field being especially smart. The wicket remained good all the afternoon.

The second hundred runs in the New South Wales innings were obtained in an hour and 36 minutes, and at one point the scoring was very fast, 82 being made in 43 minutes. During the long partnership of McKenzie and Garrett Storer was put on to bowl, Ranjitsinhji keeping wicket. With his score at 3 McKenzie gave a difficult chance to Richardson at mid-on off Storer's bowling. Garrett hit up his 71 in 83 minutes, among his figures being ten fours. Despite the pace at which he scored, however, he gave no chance. Towards the close Storer missed the easiest chance of running out Kelly. At the finish the attendance numbered 14,000. The weather was fine all day and the wicket is lasting well.

Day 4 (report from Wednesday 17 November)

Mr Stoddart's team gained a most brilliant victory here this afternoon, beating New South Wales by eight wickets. The match came to an end at about ten minutes to 4, 9,000 people being on the ground. The weather was hot.

With nine wickets down for 259 New South Wales continued their second innings, Howell, the last man, joining Kelly. Only one run, an extra, had been added when Howell was bowled, off stump, by Richardson. The innings thus closed before a quarter past 12 for 260. Richardson took five wickets for 80 runs . . .

Stoddart's team wanted 237 to win, and in due course the task was begun by Mason and Maclaren, to the bowling of Noble and McKibbin. The start was not promising, as when 12 runs had been obtained Mason was bowled. Ranjitsinhji then joined Maclaren, and the stand was made which won the match. From the first both batsmen were busy, but Maclaren played a more vigorous game than his partner and got the larger share of runs. Three times in one

over he hit McKibbin to the boundary, and even before lunch his innings included ten fours. Ranjitsinhji batted in beautiful style and was quite himself. Howell and Coningham took up the bowling, but without success, and at the luncheon interval 97 had been scored in 65 minutes, Maclaren being not out 56 and Ranjitsinhji not out 34.

There was a marked increase in the attendance when the game was resumed. Noble and McKibbin shared the bowling, but neither of them could keep down the run-getting. The batting was just as good as before and, indeed, free from fault of any kind. When the total reached 150 the innings had lasted barely an hour and three-quarters. Maclaren kept a little ahead of Ranjitsinhji, and with the score at 156 had made 80 to the latter's 69. The two batsmen stayed together until just upon half-past 3, and then Maclaren was bowled, the total when he left being 192. The partnership had added 180 runs.

Maclaren had the distinction for the second time in the match of getting a hundred. Indeed, it is worthy of note that, previous to Mr Maclaren's innings yesterday, no batsman had in Australia made two separate hundreds in a match of the first importance. C J Eady, who came to England with the Australian team last year, once scored two hundreds for Tasmania against Victoria, but the Victorian eleven was in no way representative. Mr Maclaren's brilliant innings lasted only two hours and a quarter, and included 14 fours. When he had made 93 he gave a difficult chance at slip to McKibbin off Trumper's bowling, but this was a small blemish in a splendid performance. He had a great reception from the crowd.

With 45 runs wanted to win Hayward went in, and at such a pace did he and Ranjitsinhji score that the match was finished off in less than 20 minutes. Ranjitsinhji in his 112 not out hit 20 fours. His play could scarcely have been better and he was also much cheered. Noble took the two wickets that fell and had 02 runs hit from him . . .

The following are the probable dates of the eleven a side matches to be played by Mr Stoddart's team:-

November 26, at Brisbane, v Queensland
December 10, at Sydney, v Australia
December 31, at Melbourne, v Australia
January 14, at Adelaide, v Australia
January 28, at Melbourne, v Australia
February 11, at Sydney, v New South Wales (return)
February 25, at Sydney, v Australia
March 5, at Melbourne, v Victoria (return)
March 10, at Adelaide, v South Australia (return)

Between the above dates the team will play up-country matches against district eighteens. After the last match, on March 10, at Adelaide, a short tour will be undertaken in Western Australia, and the team will leave Albany on April 3 for England.

Saturday 13 November: OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Mr F H E Cunliffe, Eton and New College, has been elected captain of the Oxford University eleven for 1898, and Mr F H B Champain, Cheltenham and Hertford, hon. secretary.

Friday 26 November, page 7: MIDDLESEX COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

The annual general meeting was held yesterday at Charing-cross Hotel. Mr V E Walker presided, and those present included Mr A J Webbe, Mr F G J Ford, Mr P M Thornton, M.P., Mr C M Tebbutt, Mr J G Walker and Mr H V L Stanton.

The balance-sheet account showed income £2,869 and expenditure £1,187, and the latter item included £100 as a donation to the M.C.C. for the use of Lord's Ground, and sundry sums voted to the professionals connected with the County Club.

Next year's programme will be carried out on much the same lines as that of last summer. The Parsees will be given a match. Lord George Hamilton and Mr V E Walker are the vice-presidents, with Mr A J Webbe as captain and Mr A E Stoddart as vice-captain, while Mr J A Murdoch will continue to fill the post of assistant secretary.

Saturday 27 November: THE SUSSEX COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

Sussex have arranged out and home matches for next season with Lancashire, Yorkshire, Notts, Gloucestershire, Surrey, Essex, Middlesex, Somerset, Hampshire and Kent. The match with Cambridge University has been abandoned, but Sussex will meet the Light Blues and also Oxford University at Brighton.

Of the home matches that with Somerset will be played at Eastbourne and that with Kent at Hastings. With the exception of the Whit Monday match with Gloucestershire, George Bean will have his choice of the home fixtures for his benefit.

Thursday 2 December: ESSEX COUNTY CLUB

Essex will next season play out and home matches with Lancashire, Surrey, Yorkshire, Sussex, Gloucestershire, Kent, Warwickshire, Derbyshire, Hampshire and Leicestershire. The new opponents are Kent and Gloucestershire. There will also be matches with the M.C.C. and Ground at Lord's and Oxford University at Oxford.

Lawn tennis is to be banished from Leyton and the old tennis courts will be made into a practice ground, available for members from 2 o'clock till dusk except when a county match is in progress. Several important improvements are in contemplation at Leyton, and there will be greatly increased accommodation for the public.

Mr H G Owen will again captain the eleven and all the old players will be able to assist him.

Friday 3 December: INDISPOSITION OF K S RANJITSINHJI.

Toowoomba (Queensland), Dec. 2.

K S Ranjitsinhji is indisposed. Quinsy is threatened, and he will be unable to play in the next match, at Armidale, N.S.W. It is hoped, however, that he will be sufficiently recovered to take part in the first test match at Sydney on the 10th inst. - Reuter.

Monday 6 December: THE ILLNESS OF RANJITSINHJI

Sydney, Dec. 4.

Rain is falling heavily and it has been found impossible to resume the match at Armidale, which has accidentally been abandoned. The Englishmen will play in an exhibition game on Monday.

Ranjitsinhji, who is suffering from quinsy, is better to-day and his temperature is normal but it is doubtful whether he will be well enough to play in the test match on Friday.

The following is the team selected to represent All Australia in the first test match with Mr Stoddart's eleven, which is to begin here on the 10th inst.:- Giffen, Darling, Hill, Jones, Lyons, Trott, Trumble, Gregory, McKibbin, Kelly and Iredale, with McLeod and Donnan as emergency men.

George Giffen, though chosen by the committee of selection, adheres to his resolution not to play, and his place in the team will consequently be taken by McLeod. - Reuter's Special Service.

Tuesday 7 December: THE MEETING OF THE COUNTY SECRETARIES

In addition to the meeting of the secretaries of the first-class clubs to-day at Lord's, there will be a conference of the representatives of some of the smaller shires to discuss the report of a sub-committee appointed to inquire into the advisability of grouping the minor counties for championship purposes.

THE HASTINGS FESTIVAL

Owing to the disadvantages under which the committee laboured this year through the lateness of the festival, it has been decided to begin the week in 1898 on Thursday, September 1, so as [immediately to] follow the termination of the Sussex county season at Brighton.

The following dates have therefore been sent for inclusion in the list of fixtures to be arranged at the meeting of county secretaries at Lord's to-day: - Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 1, 2, 3, first match of the Hastings Festival; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, September 5, 6, 7, second match of the Hastings Festival. The actual matches will be announced later on, but there is a suggestion of making one of the fixtures Surrey and Sussex v England if the necessary arrangements can be made.

THE ENGLISH CRICKETERS IN AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Dec. 6

Prince Ranjitsinhji's condition has improved, the quinsy having broken. It will, however, be impossible for him to play for a fortnight.

6.15 P.M.

Prince Ranjitsinhji is rapidly recovering. He will, however, remain behind at Armidale when the rest of the team travel here to-night. - Reuter.

The Tuesday in Cattle Show week has become the tradition day for the discussion of cricket fixtures at Lord's, where the counties' representatives are hospitably entertained by the Marylebone Club. Yesterday the secretaries had nothing foreign in cricket to trouble them, for even the Parsees' proposed tour dropped out of the programme at the last moment, in spite of the fact that the M.C.C. and many of the counties had granted certain amounts towards the expenses of such a visit.

So county cricket was the great thing at Lord's yesterday and the county programme pursues the even tenour of its way. Middlesex have given Leicestershire a couple of matches, and Essex have secured fixtures with Gloucestershire and Kent, while they also have a match with Oxford University at Oxford. Otherwise the cricket programme has not departed from the lines of last summer.

Oxford v Cambridge, on June 30, at Lord's, will be begun on a Thursday, and Eton v Harrow follows on the Friday of the succeeding week, and two days are only allowed for the match by the decision of Dr Warre, of Eton. Gentlemen v Players, at Lord's, on July 18, will be something of a celebration for Dr W G Grace's 50th birthday.

Mr Henry Perkins, the secretary of the Marylebone Club, presided, and there were also present Lord Harris, Mr W E Denison and Mr C I Thornton, and the following representatives of counties:- Mr A J Webbe and Mr I D Walker, Middlesex; Mr C W Alcock and Mr K J Key, Surrey; Mr F Marchant, Mr W H Patterson and Mr A J Lancaster, Kent; Mr C E Green, Mr O R Borradaile and Mr C M Tebbutt, Essex; Mr F H E Cunliffe, Oxford University; Mr C E M Wilson and Mr J H Stogdon, Cambridge University; Mr H Turner and Mr William Wright, Nottinghamshire; Mr W G Grace, Gloucestershire; Mr H W Bainbridge and Mr W Ansell, Warwickshire; Mr W Barclay Delacombe and Mr Walter Boden, Derbyshire; Mr Murray Anderson, Somerset; Mr G Brann, Mr W L Murdoch, Mr H F de Paravicini, Mr W Newham and Mr E A Smithers, Sussex; Lord Hawke, Mr M J Ellison and Mr J B Wostinholm, Yorkshire; Mr C C Stone, Mr T Burdett and Mr C E de Trafford, Leicestershire; Dr Russell-Bencraft and Captain E G Wynyard, Hampshire; Mr J Maclaren and Mr S H Swire, Lancashire; Mr W Carless, Hastings; and Mr E Rowley, Liverpool; and the representatives of the minor shires who attended the earlier meeting.

Before the adjournment for luncheon Mr S H Swire, on behalf of Lancashire and the Northern counties generally, moved a vote of thanks to Mr Henry Perkins for his many years' service to the county secretaries, who were all regretful of his retirement from the Marylebone Club secretaryship. Mr Swire had known Mr Perkins from the earliest years of his office, and he referred to the many changes that had occurred in cricket since the 20 years ago that Mr Perkins became the secretary of the great institution at Lord's which governed the cricket of the universe. He could safely say that in the hands of Mr Perkins the prestige of the M.C.C. had not only not suffered, but had increased in its influence with that wonderful body, which might be described as the Marylebone Club's cricket constituency, which embraced everybody who played the game.

Mr Alcock, on behalf of Surrey, seconded the resolution. Next to Mr Swire, he said that he had officially been brought into contact with the secretary of the M.C.C. more than any other member of the counties' representatives. A neighbourly kindness had always been shown to Surrey by Mr Perkins, and this has been completely appreciated by the Surrey Club. Mr Foley, for the minor counties, whose representatives had met in the morning, also spoke in much the same spirit.

Mr Perkins said that he was very grateful for the kind way in which the various speakers had spoken of him. This was the 21st time that he had presided at the secretaries' annual meeting. It was a labour of love; but he looked upon the meeting as the most important of the year. Not only did it afford the opportunity of personal communication with the whole of the cricket secretaries of the kingdom, but as county cricket had developed such gigantic proportions he was convinced that it would be impossible to arrange the programme by the old method of correspondence. He thanked the meeting for that extreme courtesy always shown him; and he felt sure that to his successor in office at Lord's they would extend the same feeling and thoughtfulness.

The fixtures . . .

[The full first-class fixture list for English cricket in 1898 can be found at:
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/Seasonal_Averages/ENG/1898_f_Match_List.html]

THE MINOR COUNTIES

Mr J H Brain (Gloucestershire) presided over the meeting of the representatives of the minor counties held yesterday at Lord's, before the secretaries of the first-class counties assembled.

Mr P H Foley, who was re-elected hon. secretary of the Minor Counties' Association, stated that the special committee appointed last year reported that they had failed to arrive at any scheme for grouping the counties, which must rely on their own good will to help each other.

As the representative of Berkshire, Mr O Nares then raised the question of the necessity of appointing impartial umpires. He pointed out that the integrity of the umpires was often impugned and, whether justly or not, the fact of their position being objectionable and assailable, called for an immediate remedy which would undoubtedly have the effect of improving the cricket. The great difficulty was that of expense, and he suggested that could be got over by pooling the costs incurred so that all counties involved should bear an equal share. His formal motion was that for the decision of matches between minor counties which rank in the minor counties' championship neutral umpires should be appointed.

Mr P H Foley seconded the motion, which was supported by Mr J H Brain, who said that umpires' mistakes occurred in all matches, and thought it would be difficult to get umpires to do better than those now employed, their faults being due rather to incompetency than otherwise.

Mr A J Darnell (Northamptonshire) considered the umpires were unfairly placed because it was known they were not impartial and, until the exact expense to be incurred was arrived at, poor counties could not support the motion.

Mr Nares acquiescing, it was ultimately resolved, on the motion of the Rev P E Mainwaring (Staffordshire), seconded by Mr O Papworth (Cambridgeshire), that the question of umpires be referred to a committee composed of the representatives of Glamorganshire, Berkshire, Northamptonshire, Durham, Staffordshire, Cornwall and Worcester, who should come to a definite decision during the coming year and report to the next meeting.

It was agreed, on the motion of Mr R H Mallett (Durham), that in the event of any expression of appreciation of the services of Mr Perkins being made at the meeting to be held subsequently the Minor Counties' Association should, through Mr Foley, identify themselves with the action, as they had always experienced much courtesy at the hands of Mr Perkins.

The names of those present were:- Mr R Mallett (Durham), Messrs G R Ward, C E Cobb and P J de Paravicini (Bucks), Mr A M Miller (Wiltshire), Rev P E Mainwaring (Staffordshire), Mr F G H Clayton (Northumberland), Mr E G Buxton (Norfolk), Hon W Grimston and Mr J Earl Norman (Hertfordshire), Messrs A J Darnell, T H Vials and Percy W Dale (Northamptonshire), Mr H M Turner (Oxfordshire), Mr F Phillips (Monmouthshire), Mr D Howell (Cornwall), Mr Oliver Papworth (Cambridgeshire), Mr P H Foley (Worcestershire) and Mr W O Nares (Berkshire).

Friday 10 December: POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF THE TEST MATCH

Sydney, Dec. 9

Mr Stoddart has received a telegram announcing the death of his mother. He is receiving expressions of sympathy from all quarters. In consequence of the sad event, the English captain will not play in the forthcoming test match.

There is a question of the postponement of the match. It poured with rain on Tuesday and showers fell yesterday. The wicket is in a soaked condition. If the match is postponed, it will be until Saturday. The matter is under consideration.- Reuter's Special Service.

Saturday 11 December: THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN TEST MATCH

Sydney, Dec. 9

Rain is falling, and the test match between Mr Stoddart's eleven and Australia has been postponed until Saturday.- Reuter.

Sydney, Dec. 10

Mr Stoddart was not consulted regarding the postponement of the first test match. He has lodged a protest against the judgment of amateurs and the hasty decision of the Sydney trustees as to the probability of the wicket being in a fit condition for play to start to-morrow. Mr Stoddart contends that their action in the matter is injurious to international cricket.

There is a good deal of indignation among members of the New South Wales Cricket Association at the action of the trustees in postponing the match, and they have called a meeting to consider the situation. The umpires examined the wicket at noon to-day and pronounced it fit for play.

Prince Ranjitsinhji is still weak and he has been dissuaded from attempting to play. Mr Maclaren will captain the English team. He says that Mr McGahey, the Essex amateur, who is now here, will probably be included in the eleven. The weather to-day is cloudy.

A deputation of the New South Wales Cricket Association this afternoon waited upon the Minister of Lands and complained that the trustees of the Sydney ground had ignored the association in the management of the test match by postponing the game. The Minister replied that the deed of grant distinctly established the right of the association to control the cricket matches played on it. The afternoon has been showery.

Midnight

It has been definitely settled that Mr Stoddart and K S Ranjitsinhji will not take part in to-morrow's match. The weather continues gloomy and threatening.- Reuter's Special Service.

Monday 13 December: THE TEST MATCH

Melbourne, Dec. 11

There is great excitement in Sydney about the postponed match.

At noon on Friday both umpires examined the wicket and pronounced it playable, but light rain continues to fall.

In the afternoon the New South Wales Cricket Association met and severely censured the trustees of the cricket ground, declaring that they had exceeded their powers in postponing the match.

The trustees are accused of being influenced by fears of smaller gate-money in consequence of Prince Ranjitsinhji and Mr Stoddart not being able to play.- Our Correspondent.

Sydney, Dec. 11

Owing to continued heavy rain the wicket is under water. The umpires have consequently postponed the match until Monday. - Reuter.

December 10

A large meeting of the New South Wales Cricket Association was held to-day and a resolution was adopted expressing condolence with Mr Stoddart in his bereavement. The trustees of the Sydney cricket ground were censured for their action in the matter of the postponement, which was described as scandalous.

December 11, 1 p.m.

The trustees of the cricket ground, who, in conjunction with the Melbourne Cricket Club, promoted the present tour, met on Thursday afternoon without inspecting the wicket and unanimously decided to postpone the match owing to the weather outlook, the meteorological department having predicted a storm. They consulted neither Mr Stoddart nor Mr Trott. Mr Wardle, the representative of the Melbourne Club, was present at the meeting and expressed disapproval of the postponement.

When Mr Stoddart learned late on Thursday night that the match had been put off, he forthwith wrote to the trustees protesting against their action as being extraordinary and irregular. Mr Smith, president of the Melbourne Club, also telegraphed to Mr Wardell, expressing disapproval of the postponement, which, he said, was calculated to injure the prospects of the tour, if it should be thought by the public that the gate money was a primary consideration in arranging these contests.

December 12

The trustees state that in postponing the match they were chiefly influenced by the state of the weather. They desired that the match should be played under the fairest possible conditions, and they also wished to avoid disappointing the large crowd which would, no doubt, have assembled on Friday. They hoped, moreover, that by Saturday Ranjitsinhji would be well enough to play, and they declare that they were in no way influenced by the question of gate money.

In consequence of Mr Stoddart's bereavement they had abstained from consulting him, but in any case they would not necessarily be guided by his opinion, the matter being entirely within their own control. Since the visitors seemed to feel aggrieved, the trustees expressed a hope that the Australians would give them the choice of innings.

Ranjitsinhji's health this evening shows a remarkable improvement and he says that he is determined to play. - Reuter's Special Service.

13 December: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4915.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 December)

After being postponed for two days, the first of the five test matches between England and Australia was begun at the Association Ground here this morning. Until virtually the last moment, it was uncertain whether K S Ranjitsinhji would be able to play, but the matter was placed beyond a doubt when he appeared at practice, after breakfast. He was cordially cheered by the crowd, with whom he is very popular.

General regret was caused by the absence of Mr Stoddart from the English team, owing to the death of his mother, and in token of their sympathy the Australian eleven wore mourning bands round their arms. Board also stood out. Maclaren filled Stoddart's place as captain, and was fortunate enough to win the toss with Trott, the Australian captain. Mason and Maclaren went in first.

The match opened in glorious weather and there was a large attendance of spectators at the ground. The wicket was in good condition. McKibbin and Jones shared the Australian attack, the latter bowling from the end where Bannerman was umpiring. Maclaren did nearly all the scoring in his partnership with Mason, making 20 runs out of 26 for the first wicket, Mason being bowled by Jones for six.

Hayward came in and a good stand was made. Almost immediately after beginning his innings Hayward had the bad luck to play a ball from Jones on to his knee. He fell to the ground and was disabled for about five minutes. Afterwards Mason ran for him. Maclaren and Hayward scored at an equal rate and were together at the time of the luncheon interval, having made 56 and 34 respectively.

On the resumption of play Maclaren and Hayward increased the English total to 162 before the Surrey professional was dismissed for 72. He was brilliantly caught by Trott at point off Trumble. Maclaren was not out 80 at the fall of the second wicket. He had given a masterly exhibition of all-round cricket. Hayward's graceful strokes were much admired. He gave only one appreciable chance during his innings, being missed by Kelly at the wicket off a ball from Trott. The Australian fielding was excellent.

Several changes of bowling were tried in the endeavour to separate Maclaren and Hayward. At 58 McLeod relieved Jones, and at 67 Trumble took McKibbin's place. Trott went on for Trumble when the score stood at 94. Phillips watches Jones's delivery critically from the opposite end of the wicket, and at lunch time he stated that he had seen nothing to which he could take exception. Mason's services on behalf of Hayward were only required for a short time. Maclaren passed his 100, and the 200 went up after Storer had joined his captain. An adjournment was made for tea at 4 o'clock. At this stage Maclaren was not out 105 and Storer not out 25, the English total being 212 runs for two wickets.

On facing the bowling for the third time Maclaren added only four runs to his previous score when he was caught at the wicket by Kelly off McLeod. His 109 was a splendid display of batting. He hit 15 fours, and in his stay of just under three hours and ten minutes he gave no chance. His reception was enthusiastic.

Storer, with his score at 31, was badly missed by McKibbin at point off Trott's bowling - an easy chance. Druce hit up 20, but at 256 he was caught at mid-off, and at 258 Storer was caught and bowled. With five wickets down for 258, the English team had done nothing wonderful, but between ten minutes past 5 and the drawing of stumps at 6 o'clock Hirst and Ranjitsinhji put a far better appearance on the game. Getting runs at a rapid rate, they carried the score to 337 and were still together at the close, Hirst having then made 37 and Ranjitsinhji 39.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 December)

The first test match between England and Australia was resumed this morning, in lovely weather, before a large crowd of spectators. The wicket could not have been in better condition. Ranjitsinhji and Hirst, not out 39 and 37 respectively, continued the England innings, and by half-past 12 they had increased their responsible scores to 59 and 60. The visitors' total then stood at 380 runs for five wickets. Trott and McKibbin shared the Australian bowling.

Hirst was bowled by Jones when he had made 62 and six wickets were down for 382, Ranjitsinhji not out 59. Hirst had played a forcible game and his 62 included eighteen fours and one five. His partnership with Ranjitsinhji lasted 100 minutes and produced 124 runs. He was loudly cheered on his return to the pavilion.

When the English total had reached 370 a double change of bowling was tried, Trumble relieving McKibbin and Jones going on for Trott. The wicket proved considerably faster than yesterday. Wainwright, who joined Ranjitsinhji after Hirst's dismissal, began with a very lucky escape, being badly missed at point by Trott off Trumble's bowling. Ranjitsinhji continued to score rapidly, and when Wainwright had made 10 he had 80 runs to his credit. The 400 went up while these two were together. Ranjitsinhji had scored 89 when he lost Wainwright, who was bowled by Jones for 10. With seven wickets down for 422, Hearne joined Ranjitsinhji, and at lunch time the latter was within six runs of the 100. Hearne was not out six and the English total was 433 for seven wickets.

On the resumption of play Ranjitsinhji passed his 100. At 471 Hearne was brilliantly caught and bowled by McLeod for 17, Ranjitsinhji at this point of the game being not out 121. Briggs was run out for one (477 for nine), and Richardson joined Ranjitsinhji. Briggs was run out in a peculiar way. He played a ball on to the wicket-keeper's pads, and while he was out of his ground it rebounded on to the wicket.

With Richardson, the last man, in, Ranjitsinhji played in marvellous form and was very severe on all the bowlers. He drove one ball back to McLeod so hard that after bursting the bowler's finger it went to the boundary. McLeod was so much hurt that he had to retire. Richardson, though quite outpaced by his partner, also did well, and so terrific was the hitting that the last wicket added 74 runs in half an hour. In the end Ranjitsinhji was caught at mid-off, the innings closing for 551. This is the highest total ever obtained by England in a test match.

Ranjitsinhji had a tremendous reception, the applause lasting several minutes. In making his 177 he was batting three hours and 35 minutes. He hit 24 fours and gave no chance. Altogether the English innings lasted nearly seven hours and a quarter. The fielding of the Australians was excellent. McLeod took three wickets for 80 runs . . . At the end of the innings the attendance was estimated at 16,000.

The Australians opened their innings with Darling and Lyons to the bowling of Richardson and Hirst. Board fielded as substitute for Hayward, whose knee, from the effects of the blow received on Monday, was painful. Only eight runs had been caught when Darling was smartly caught at slip. Iredale went in first wicket down and made most of the runs, but the total had only reached 24 when Lyons was bowled.

Hill, the next batsman, was missed in the slips by Druce, off Richardson, after making eight. The batting was slow and cautious, the total at the end of an hours' cricket being 47. A change was then tried, Hearne going on for Richardson. This proved highly successful, Hearne quickly getting a couple of wickets. At 56 Iredale was caught in the slips, and with one run added Hill was bowled. Gregory and Trott stayed together and put on 30 runs. Iredale, who had played an attracted game, was batting for an hour, his innings including five fours. When Hill was dismissed Hearne's average was two wickets for one run.

The out-fielding was very awkward, as round the ground was a banked cycle track, and Maclaren, who was very useful in saving fours there, had a fall in consequence. Gregory escaped being run out when he had made 10, owing to a bad return from Druce at slip. At 74 Briggs relieved Hirst and at 84 Richardson went on for Hearne. The run-getting was remarkably slow, as two hours were occupied in scoring 85. Trott played on from the last

ball of the day . . . The attendance numbered 19,000 at the close. The wicket is still in good condition.

A portion of Ranjitsinhji's tonsil was removed by a surgeon previous to the resumption of the innings after lunch to-day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 December)

The immense advantage obtained by Mr Stoddart's team told to-day upon the interest taken in the great match here, the attendance at the start of play being only moderate. The weather was warm and the wicket still in perfect condition. Having, in face of England's total of 551, lost five wickets for 86 runs, the Australians had a gloomy prospect this morning, but they played up in capital style, carrying their first innings' score to 237 and making 126 for one wicket when they followed on.

The Australians continued their first innings, Gregory not out 18 being joined by Kelly, and Richardson and Briggs shared the bowling. Hayward was able to field, his injured knee being better. With one run added to the overnight score Kelly played Richardson's fourth ball on to his wicket. However, with Trumble in matters improved, some excellent batting being shown. When he had made 26 Gregory was missed at the wicket by Storer off Briggs's bowling. At the time the 100 went up the innings had lasted nearly two hours and a half.

The play after this was rather more lively, 30 runs being added in 35 minutes. Trumble hit cleanly all round the wicket, five successive strokes that he made being fours. With the total at 134 Hearne displaced Richardson and the change quickly proved successful, Gregory at 138 being well caught at slip. In getting his 46 Gregory was at the wickets just over an hour and a half, playing all the time in a very taking and confident style.

The stand of the innings was made by Trumble and McLeod, who put on 90 runs together. McLeod's damaged finger was painful and caused him considerable inconvenience. He was a trifle lucky, but inequalities in his play were excusable. Hirst bowled for Briggs at 148, and at 164 a double change was tried, Hayward going on for Hearne and Briggs taking the ball again. At lunch time the total was 170 for seven wickets, Trumble not out 39 and McLeod not out 16.

When play was resumed after lunch Hirst bowled in pace of Briggs. When Trumble had made 48 Storer missed him at the wicket off Hayward. The score having reached 181, Richardson went on at Hayward's end. It may be mentioned that after lunch Mr Stoddart was on the ground for the first time during the match. The attendance on the ground had increased to 7,000. The second 100 runs in the innings were obtained in two hours and five minutes.

A double change of bowling was made, Hearne for Richardson and Mason for Hirst. Trumble hit two fours in Mason's first over, but off the fourth ball he was caught at the wicket. The total with eight men out was 228. Trumble's 70 was a splendid innings. He played in a free, elegant style, and among his hits were 14 fours. His cutting was especially fine. He was batting for rather more than two hours and a quarter, and was much applauded when he went back to the pavilion.

After he left nothing was done, McKibbin being bowled and Jones caught at mid-off without either of them getting a run. The last two wickets both fell at 237. McLeod took out his bat for 50. He was in for close upon two hours and hit six fours, capital off-driving being the feature of his innings. In scoring 237 the Australians were batting for four hours and 40 minutes. Hearne took five wickets for 42 runs, Richardson three for 71 . . .

Having to follow-on against a majority of 314, the Australians began their second innings with Iredale and Darling to the bowling of Richardson and Hearne. The batsmen began with such extreme caution that in the first half-hour only 11 runs were made. With the score at 26 Briggs displaced Richardson, and at 37 the change got rid of Iredale, who had been batting 53 minutes for his 18. The fielding was excellent.

McLeod went in first wicket down, and at 56 Hayward was tried at Hearne's end. Still the score slowly rose, and at 71 Hirst took the ball from Briggs. After this Darling brightened up considerably and enlivened the game by some splendid drives. Most of the runs came from his bat. At 98 Richardson bowled again for Hayward, and at 114 Mason was tried in place of Hirst, but neither change had any effect.

At the drawing of stumps the score was 126 for one wicket, the Australians being thus 188 runs behind with nine wickets in hand. In his 80 not out Darling hit 16 fours. The weather was beautiful all day and before the close the attendance numbered 10,000.

The trustees of the Sydney ground will not deal with Mr Stoddart's protest against the postponement of the match . . .

Day 4 (report from Friday 17 December)

The test match entered on its fourth stage here to-day, the weather being warmer than before and the pitch still in perfect condition. At the start of play the attendance was small. With one wicket down in their second innings for 126, the Australians went on batting, Darling, not out 80, and McLeod, not out 20, facing Richardson and Hearne.

From the fifth ball bowled by Richardson, McLeod, with his score at 24, was missed by Storer at the wicket. Soon after this Storer received a very painful blow on the right thumb. The total having reached 184, McLeod was run out in a sensational manner. A ball of Richardson's was called "no-ball" and hit the wicket. McLeod had stepped over his crease in hitting at it and, Storer quickly pulling up a stump, the batsman was run out. Some dissatisfaction was expressed at Phillips's decision, it being argued that, as McLeod had not touched the ball, he could not properly be given run out.

Hill became Darling's partner, and at 159 Hirst bowled in place of Hearne, who went on at Richardson's end. Darling was playing with such extreme patience that in the course of half an hour he only made nine runs. Meanwhile, however, Hill was scoring rapidly. At 164 there was another change, Briggs relieving Hirst. Darling completed his 100* after having been at the wickets just under three hours and ten minutes, but with the total at 101 he was caught at long-off from Briggs's bowling. His splendid innings included 19 fours and was not marred by a single chance. He had a great reception as he went back to the pavilion.

Gregory came next, and Richardson, at 194, bowled again for Hearne. In his first over there were two wides. When 200 went up the innings had been in progress just over three hours and a quarter. At the luncheon interval the score was 214 for three wickets, Hill not out 50 and Gregory not out 2.

During the interval there was much discussion as to Phillips's decision in the case of McLeod's run-out. Phillips stated that he ignored the criticism and was firm in his conviction that he acted rightly.

When the game was resumed the attendance had increased. Hill's play on the leg side was rather defective. The batsmen indulged in some sharp running. The fielding was fairly good. At 252 Hearne went on again for Briggs. At 269 the batsmen were parted, Gregory being foolishly run out. He cut a ball from Richardson, but hesitated to run. Hill ran, however, and Gregory, starting when it was too late, had his wicket smartly thrown down by Hearne. The partnership had lasted 58 minutes and produced 78 runs. Gregory's innings was quite free from fault.

Trumble was caught in the slips after making two, the fifth wicket falling at 271. With Hill and Lyons together runs came rapidly, 300 going up when the innings had lasted less than four hours and a half. The play was sound as well as brilliant, the driving of both batsmen being especially good. Amid great cheering the balance of runs on the first innings was hit off, but at 318 Lyons was caught in the slips. He had played an attractive game for his 25 and given no chance. About this time Richardson got over the crease a good deal and was "no-balled" eight times.

Trott came in and Hirst bowled in place of Richardson, off whom 100 runs had been scored. Thanks to Hill's play the score was carried to 331, and then, having made 96, Hill was bowled by Hearne. He played a breaking ball on to his wicket. His very attractive innings included 11 fours and lasted nearly two hours and 25 minutes. Kelly became Trott's partner, and when the game was adjourned for tea the total stood at 342, Trott having scored 12 and Kelly 9.

When play was continued the attendance was estimated at 6,000. Hirst and Briggs shared the bowling, but when the score had been raised to 373 Richardson and Hearne were put on again. Nine runs were added, and then Trott was bowled by Richardson. During this stand of 51 runs the batting was exceedingly good, Trott's cutting being very pretty and Kelly's driving vigorous. Jones was out leg-before-wicket at 390 and McKibbin, after getting 6, was bowled, the innings coming to an end for 408.

The English eleven were left with 95 to get to win, and of this number Maclaren and Mason had at the drawing of stumps scored 30 without the loss of a wicket.

Trott, like Hill, played a ball on to his wicket. When he had made 26 he gave a difficult chance to Ranjitsinhji at point off Hearne's bowling. While he and Kelly were together runs came at the rate of one a minute. Kelly in his 46 not out hit eight fours and gave no chance. Altogether the Australians were batting for exactly six hours. Hearne took four wickets for 99 runs . . . Richardson bowled four wides and seven no-balls. He states that he lost his spikes and could not help slipping.

Maclaren and Mason, on starting England's second innings, were opposed by Jones and Trumble. Mason, when he had scored four, was missed in the slips by Iredale off Jones. With the total at 25 Jones gave way to McKibbin. The attendance at the close of the afternoon numbered 11,000.

There is every probability that George Giffen will play in the next test match.

The match between the Englishmen and Sydney University has been postponed indefinitely.

The trustees of the Sydney ground express regret at having postponed the test match without having referred the matter to the captains. They are replying to this effect to Mr Stoddart's protest. - Reuter's Special Service.

Day 5 (report from Saturday 18 December)

The great match here soon came to an end to-day, Mr Stoddart's team winning by nine wickets. Only a few people were present. The weather was warm and the wicket still in good condition. With 65 runs wanted to win and all ten wickets to fall the second innings of the Englishmen was continued by Maclaren and Mason, the not outs. Jones and Trumble shared the bowling.

Runs came quickly, and when the overnight score of 30 had been increased to 57 McKibbin went on in place of Jones. After a time this change was successful, McKibbin at 80 beating Mason with a leg break. In getting his 32 Mason gave no chance. With Ranjitsinhji in the remaining runs were obtained without further loss.

Maclaren played splendidly for his 50 not out. When he had made five there was a unanimous appeal against him for a catch at the wicket by Kelly off Trumble's bowling. Maclaren admits he was out, but says he hit the ball and the ground simultaneously. Phillips, the umpire, says he did not hear the ball touch the bat. The 95 runs wanted by England were scored in 72 minutes . . .

Wednesday 29 December: "WISDEN"

As the standard record of the year's cricket "Wisden" long ago established itself, and the 35th annual edition is possessed of all that excellence with which of late cricketers have grown familiar. They have been taught to look for something more than a mere bald narrative of the previous season's work, for the editor, with the assistance of some of the best authorities, has generally dealt with any great question of the cricket hour. This year he has something to say briefly about "throwing."

He takes his cue from the recent no-balling of Jones in Australia. When Jones and McKibbin were in England in 1896 Mr F R Spofforth formed a strong opinion as to the latter's fairness of delivery; and every one will agree with the concluding sentences of the editor's note on the subject:-

"It is certain that Mr Spofforth would not, unless he had felt strongly indeed on the matter, have gone to the length of denouncing a brother Australian as an unfair bowler . . . From what Phillips has done nothing but good can come . . . As regards both McKibbin and Jones, the point to bear in mind is that the fault lies primarily with English bowlers and English umpires. Australian bowlers never threw in England till we had shown them over and over again that Law X could be broken with impunity."

"S.H.P." is very happy on the subject of "The Oldest Living Cricketer" - Mr Herbert Jenner-Fust, who "is still alive and well and bearing lightly the burden of 91 years." As Herbert Jenner (the Fust was a subsequent addition) he appeared at Lord's for Eton against Harrow in 1822, 15 years before the Queen came to the throne, and five years later played for Cambridge against Oxford. He was contemporary with the great William Ward, who did so much for the Marylebone Club and whose son, the late Rev A R Ward, had for so long a big voice in Cambridge University cricket.

Mr Jenner-Fust was president at Lord's in 1883. As in the Eton and Harrow matches in 1822 and 1823, Mr Jenner, who captained the Light Blues in the first University game ever played, found himself on the opposite side to the late Charles Wordsworth, afterwards Bishop of St Andrews.

Public school cricket in 1897 is again dealt with by Mr W J Ford, who has something to say on the Eton and Harrow match controversy which was carried on in the columns of The Times last summer, and which ended in Dr Warre's refusal of a third day for the fixture. Mr Ford has gone into averages, and has found that in Eton v Harrow the proportion of drawn games is not so high as that in several other public school fixtures. Eton and Winchester, however, since its institution has been left unfinished only four times.

"Five cricketers of the year" whose portraits are given are, not unworthily, J R Mason, N F Druce, G L Jessop, F G Bull and Cuttell. There is an article on cricket in the West Indies and America by the old Oxford blue Mr P F Warner, and it is needless to say that the year's matches in England are exhaustively dealt with. Mr Sydney H Pardon, the editor, is to be congratulated on the production of a really good cricket book, which is published, as usual, by John Wisden and Co., Cranbourn-street, Leicester-square.