

Thursday 25 January, page 11: THE NOTTS COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Notts County Cricket Club was held at Nottingham yesterday, under the presidency of Mr W Hollins. The report and balance-sheet, which showed very gratifying results of last season's working, have already been given in The Times.

Mr William Wright read a letter from Mr W E Denison expressing regret at his inability to attend and stating that he had wished to be present in order to speak as to the proposal to alter the law of leg-before-wicket. The suggested alteration was, in his opinion, bad in principle. It would spoil all the play on the off-side as well as on the on-side, cramp the game and make it slower, in addition to which it would render it impossible for umpires to give satisfaction. There was, he thought, no necessity for the alteration.

Mr Wright, in moving the adoption of the report, referred with satisfaction to the large sum which had been expended in effecting improvements upon the Trent-bridge ground. But for that expenditure the first test match between England and Australia would never have been played there. During the past two years the committee had paid off something like £2,200 of the amount expended, and they hoped to be free from debt very soon.

The membership of the club was now 2,200. He thought the county would fully endorse the compliment which the committee proposed to pay at Whitsuntide to their great player, Arthur Shrewsbury, by according him a benefit. It was saying a great deal for any cricketer, whether amateur or professional, that after his participating for 26 years in first-class cricket it was almost impossible to pick the best eleven in England and leave him out.

The president, Mr W Hollins, nominated the Duke of Portland as his successor for the ensuing year, and the Mayor of Nottingham, Alderman Pyatt, was elected vice-president.

Mr Dixon, for whom there were loud calls, said that with regard to the young players he hardly thought they got justice in the reports of the season's work. He could not see that any cricket reform would be satisfactory that did not provide for the whole of the team completing its innings in a proper way. He thought from a spectator's as well as a player's point of view it would be more satisfactory if some reform were effected to make it more difficult to score big innings and keep continually breaking records as was the case now every season.

The customary votes of thanks brought the proceedings to a close.

Wednesday 7 March, page 11: THE LONDON COUNTY CLUB

The Marylebone Club committee has confirmed the following resolution passed by a sub-committee: -

"That matches played between the London County Cricket Club and first-class elevens shall be regarded as first-class so long as the London County Club can arranged six out and home three-day matches against clubs recognized as first-class."

Among the sides appearing at the Crystal Palace next summer are Surrey, Worcestershire, Derbyshire, Cambridge University, Warwickshire and the M.C.C.

THE MINOR COUNTIES CRICKET ASSOCIATION

The following communication has been addressed to the secretaries of the various counties by Mr R H Mallitt (Durham), the hon. secretary of the Minor Counties Association: -

"At the annual meeting of this association, held in December last at Lord's, it was resolved: -

(1) That an attempt be made to obtain official recognition by the M.C.C. Committee and the first-class counties of the minor counties competition as the second divided of the county championship competition.

(2) That an attempt be made to obtain a recognized method of promotion by merit from second division to first.

(3) That a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs Nares (Berks), Paravicini (Bucks), Darnell (Northamptonshire), Miller (Wiltshire) and the hon. secretary, Mr R H Mallitt (Durham), be now appointed to consider what alterations in the existing rules governing the classification of counties and the county championship are required, and to take the necessary steps to bring the subject before the M.C.C. Committee and first-class counties."

The sub-committee have since December given careful consideration to the subject, and have submitted to the various counties the proposed alterations as follows: -

CLASSIFICATION OF COUNTIES

RULES AND PROPOSED ALTERATIONS

No. 1. - Cricketing counties shall be considered as belonging to first-class or not. There is no necessity for further sub-division.

Proposed alteration. - The rule to be altered and read: - Cricketing counties shall be considered as belonging to first-class or second-class.

No. 2. - First-class counties are those whose matches - with one another, with M.C.C. and Ground, with the Universities, with the Australians and such other elevens as shall be adjourned "first-class matches" by the M.C.C. Committee - are used in compilation of first-class batting and bowling averages.

Proposed addition. - Second-class counties are those not included in first-class, and the second elevens of first-class counties.

No. 3. - There shall be no limit to the number of first-class counties. The M.C.C. Committee may bring new counties into the list, may remove existing ones from it, or may do both.

Proposed alteration. - The first sentence to read: - There shall be no limit to the number of first or second-class counties.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The proposal is to add the following rule to those governing the competition for the county championship: -

County Championship Second Division. - Second-class counties and the second elevens of first-class counties shall be entitled to compete in this division. No county or second eleven shall be eligible for the championship unless it shall have played at least four out-and-home matches with other second-class counties, themselves being fully qualified competitors.

NEW RULE

Promotion from Second Class to First Class. - The county - not being a second eleven of a first-class county - at the top of the second division table at the end of a season shall be entitled in the following season to play three days' home-and-home matches with the two bottom counties in the same season in the first division table. Such matches shall be regarded as trial matches, and the M.C.C. Committee shall at the end of the season in which such matches are played declare that the second-class county may be promoted to first-class or otherwise.

ALTERNATIVE RULE

The county at the top of the second division table may at the end of a season, and on the application of the second division competing clubs to the M.C.C. Committee, be recommended by the M.C.C. Committee to the first-class counties for inclusion in the first division in the following season (see rule 3, Classification of Counties).

Tuesday 20 March, page 12: KENT COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Kent County Club was held yesterday afternoon at the Golden Cross Hotel, S.W. Among those present were Mr Lawrence Hardy (the retiring president), Lord Harris, the Marquis

Camden, Lord Falmouth, the Rev C E B Nepean, Mr J R Mason, Mr F A Mackinnon, Mr Stanley Christopherson, Major Spens, Mr F Marchant, Mr T Pawley, Mr F W Furley (hon. treasurer) and Mr G J V Weigall.

The report of the committee on the season of 1899 was the balance-sheet were unanimously passed. On the joint guarantee of two members of the club it was agreed at the committee meeting to borrow £2,500 at 3½ per cent to defray the cost of the new pavilion on the St Lawrence ground at Canterbury.

In regard to the resolution passed at a meeting of county representatives at Lord's in December, "that counties should reserve direct control over the investment and disposal of all benefit moneys," the committee only went so far as to say that professionals should be assisted in the investment of benefit money. The committee approved of a proposal that, with regard to future benefit matches, the average net gate of a certain class of match should be taken for a certain number of years - the committee fixing the number at five - and the *beneficiaire* given the average of the amounts received.

A proposal for Kent to exchange Bank Holiday matches with Essex for three years from 1901 was confirmed. Mr William Hoare, of Sevenoaks, was elected president of the club in succession to Mr Hardy.

Saturday 7 April, page 14: THE ESSEX COUNTY CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Extras County Cricket Club will be held in the dining-room at Leyton Ground on Thursday evening, April 26, at 5.30. After the meeting a presentation will be made to Mr P Perrin in recognition of his excellent play for the eleven last season. In consequence of the war there will this year be no dinner.

In their report the committee state that all the members of last year's team, with the exception of Mr A J Turner, who is in South Africa with his regiment, will be able to play this season. It is also hoped that Mr C J Kortright, who owing to a severe strain was prevented from playing cricket last season, will be able to take his place again in the field.

Mr H G Owen will again captain the side, and in mentioning this fact the committee take the opportunity of tendering him the thanks of the club for his energy and loyal support. Walter Mead is to be given a benefit during the season, the match allotted to him being the one with Middlesex at Leyton on August 23.

The roll of members of December 31 stood at 2,274 gentlemen and 169 ladies.

THE SURREY COUNTY CLUB

We are officially informed that Mr D L A Jephson has been elected captain of the Surrey Eleven in succession to Mr K J Key, who a few weeks ago resigned the position.

Friday 13 April, page 10: THE CRICKET SEASON

The nation is so occupied with the war that there is little time to think of cricket or of any sport. But there is a first-class match on Easter Monday, which is an event that has not occurred for many years. The last instance was many seasons ago, when Mr Frank Townsend, in Gloucestershire v Surrey, at the Oval, made many runs, and then Easter Monday fell much later.

A new county team has arisen, and the London County Club at the Crystal Palace has been taken under the wing of the M.C.C. committee, and has been declared "first-class" under certain reservations. This year we have no Australian tours to mar the county season. The tour of the [South] Africans, which was abandoned, was of no consequence, and the trip of the West Indians is of small importance.

In The Times last autumn a controversy arose on the question of cricket reforms as the result of articles by "An Old Blue" on long scores and drawn matches. This controversy has apparently made itself felt in the suggested reforms of the laws drawn up by the Marylebone Cricket Club.

In the annual report the cricket community is told in regard to leg-before (Law 24 of the game) that:

"After prolonged deliberation, it has been deemed expedient to suggest an alteration in Law 24 of the Laws of Cricket to have the effect that a batsman who is in front of his wicket, between wicket and wicket, and thereby intercepts a ball which would hit his wicket, shall be given out l-b-w. Before submitting any such alteration to a special general meeting it will be necessary to obtain the opinions of the representative clubs which are usually consulted."

And then, at the end of the ordinary business of the anniversary meeting, the following rules will be proposed: -

(1) To confirm the following alterations in the laws of cricket: (a) Six balls to constitute an over; (b) declaration permissible on or after the luncheon interval on the second day; (c) the side which leads by 150 runs in a three days' match, by 100 runs in a two days' match, and by 75 runs in a one day's match shall have the option of calling on the other side to follow its innings."

These reforms should be beneficial. The subject is revived in the new issue of "Wisden" by the essays of Lord Harris and Mr A G Steel. The opinions of these authorities will be read with interest. The Marylebone Club Committee is somewhat slow in its reform movements, and the suggestions as to the increased number of balls to the over, the option of the follow-on and the increased number of runs for a follow-on are not a little startling.

"Wisden" is an excellent book this year. The work, however, has its weaknesses. We find no record of Dulwich College - a very profitable side to Surrey - in the book, but Mr Ford's article on the other public schools is well worthy of perusal. The "L.B.W." article is good, but Mr Sydney Pardon, the editor of "Wisden," might have given his readers something more about the inner working of county clubs.

There are some additional fixtures in county cricket this season, but in the absence of outside matches there is nothing to arrest the attention of the ordinary public. Middlesex v Essex probably furnishes the best new feature in the programme; but all the home counties have splendid lists. For the London County Club Dr W G Grace has secured a fine side for the match with Surrey on Monday. The Palace ground is in good condition, and both at Lord's and the Oval the turf is reported to be in first-rate condition.

Some changes are sure to be made in the constitution of the sides of the counties. Mr F S Jackson and Mr Frank Mitchell will be absent from Yorkshire, both having gone out to South Africa with the Yeomanry. Hampshire, which is a great military side, suffers more than any county, for Mr E I M Barrett, Captain Wynyard, Captain Quinton, Major Poore and Colonel Spens are all at the front.

Among the changes in the captaincy of sides there is no change more noticeable than the case of Surrey. Mr Jephson has succeeded Mr K J Key. Mr Jephson is a fine all-round cricketer, and he has much improved since he left Cambridge. He has to follow in the footsteps of a fine Oxford cricketer and of a captain who has earned great popularity. Both in his school days at Clifton and at Oxford Mr K J Key won the esteem of his contemporaries, and his captaincy of Surrey earned the praise of everybody in the difficult task he had to perform.

In spite of the war, however, there should be much fine cricket this season. With Briggs recovered and with Mr A C MacLaren available Lancashire should do very well. Mr Kortright is expected to play regularly for Essex, and Mr MacGregor hopes to captain Middlesex in all their matches. Below is a list of the best fixtures for the year . . .

[Note: the full first-class fixture list for 1900 can be found at:
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/Seasonal_Averages/ENG/1900_f_Match_List.html]

Saturday 14 April, page 8: BOUNDARY HITS

The Marylebone Club Committee, in their report to members next month, will state that: - "It has been decided to enclose the ground with netting during club matches, as an experiment, and to dispense, as far as possible, with boundary hits. If the ball hit the net, two runs shall be added to the

batsman' score in addition to those actually run. Hits over the net are to be regarded as boundaries, and boundaries are to count three."

Lord Harris, Mr A J Webbe, Mr H Philipson and Mr H D G Leveson-Gower retire by rotation from the M.C.C. Committee this year. The candidates to fill the vacancies include Sir A L Smith, the retiring president, Mr E L Bateman and Mr Gregor MacGregor.

16 April: SURREY v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5378.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 April, page 9)

In repeating the experiment, which was so successful 14 years ago, of playing an important match at Kennington Oval on Easter Monday and following days, the Surrey executive were not as fortunate yesterday in the matter of weather as on the previous occasion. It was a day of alternate sunshine and showers. There were one or two downpours before 12 o'clock, and just on noon the rain was mingled with hail. As a consequence, the start of the game was delayed until a quarter-past 1, and in the afternoon there were three further interruptions, one lasting an hour. The delays were very irritating and served to destroy a good deal of interest in the play. The unsettled weather naturally affected the attendance, but for all that 6,320 persons paid for admission.

Of the 12 Surrey players selected Holland and Nice were left out, the eleven being completed by Lees. Dr W G Grace had got together a capital side to represent the London County, but Ranjitsinhji did not turn out, his place being taken by Albert Trott. In accordance with the ruling of the M.C.C. the match ranks as first-class.

The time actually occupied by cricket amounted to a little over two hours, Surrey going in first and scoring 131 runs for the loss of three wickets. In the three-quarters of an hour before lunch Abel and Brockwell scored 45 runs without being separated, but the latter was dismissed after the interval before another run had been added. Brockwell was in some difficulty with Trott's bowling and, when at 15, was missed by Mr Fry in the long field.

Afterwards for some time the game proceeded in a quiet way, but brightened up considerably when Hayward, with three wickets down for 76, joined Abel. With the bowlers handicapped with a wet ball the batsmen put on runs at a quicker pace than at any previous period, added 55 runs in three-quarters of an hour without being separated.

Abel, who was at the wickets the whole of the time that cricket was practicable, played extremely well. He allowed several balls that ordinarily he would have scored from to escape him, but allowance must be made for the lack of practice. Without actually giving a chance he had a little luck, but he made his runs in a style that augurs well for the season. He displayed all his old patience and steady defence. Hayward also exhibited good form and scored with some approach to freedom. All three wickets fell to Trott, who bowled unchanged at the pavilion wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 April, page 5)

The few hundred spectators who visited Kennington Oval yesterday were no more fortunate than the Bank Holiday crowd. On Monday the play was limited to a little over two hours, while yesterday the game was in progress for rather less than an hour and a half. In the morning drizzling rain fell for close upon two hours and, with the ground recovering very slowly, the game could not be resumed until half-past 4.

In the time at their disposal the Surrey men did very well indeed, raising their overnight score of 131 for three wickets to 255 and losing only four more batsmen. This addition to the total was chiefly the work of Hayward, who had the satisfaction of playing an innings exceeding the hundred. Overnight he had made 35, and when stumps were drawn last evening he was still in with 116 to his credit. On a slow but fairly easy wicket he played a fine forcing game, several times jumping in and driving with great power. He also made some fine cuts and leg hits, but he relied very largely on the drive. When 71 he might have been caught in the long field, but with both Mr Fry and young Mr

Grace going for the catch the ball fell harmlessly. This, however, was the only chance that Hayward gave the fieldsmen.

Though he was missed by Dr Grace at point, Abel added only 11 more runs to his previous score. He did not look like settling down, and at 166 he sent a ball straight into the hands of Trott at short mid-on. Abel was altogether at the wickets for two hours and a half, and hit six fours, four threes and five twos. While together Abel and Hayward put on 90 runs in 70 minutes.

Messrs Knox and Crawford did nothing, the former being bowled first ball and Mr Crawford being smartly caught at wicket. The sixth wicket fell at 191, and then with Hayward and Mr Jephson together some spirited hitting was witnessed. It looked as though the pair would play out time, but a minute or two before 6 o'clock the new Surrey captain was out to a good catch. He put up a ball on the leg side and Mr Townsend, running from slip, just secured it. Mr Jephson was batting for about three-quarters of an hour and assisted Hayward to put on 64 runs. With the dismissal of Mr Jephson stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 April, page 9)

There was an exciting finish to the match at Kennington Oval yesterday, Surrey winning five minutes before time by an innings and 34 runs. This result was mainly brought about by a startling piece of bowling by Lockwood, who, going on in the London County's second innings, obtained the last five wickets for eight runs. He had the advantage of bowling in an indifferent light and with the ground helping him, but it was nevertheless a remarkable performance.

The story of the day's play may be briefly related. Surrey, who had scored 255 for seven wickets, finished off their first innings for 294. Hayward only added four runs to his overnight score, obviously playing for the not out. In making his 120 he was altogether at the wickets for two hours and 50 minutes, and hit one five, 16 fours, five threes and seven twos.

Having regard to the constitution of their side, it hardly seemed likely that the London County would be twice dismissed between half-past 12 and 6 o'clock, and doubtless had the men been in full practice they would easily have saved the game. It was, however, very clear that several of them were not in form, and thus the task of the Surrey bowlers was lightened. In two hours and 20 minutes the London County were first dismissed for 128 and following on 166 behind they were put out a second time for 132 in less than two hours.

At half-past 5 the chances were all in favour of a draw, the London County then having five wickets in hand, but shortly afterwards Lockwood carried all before him. While most of the batsmen failed Mr Fry achieved a double triumph, playing two fine innings of 58 and 51. On the first occasion he was batting for two hours and a quarter, being eighth out at 108, while in his second innings he gave a more brilliant display, scoring his 51 out of 66 in 50 minutes. He was occasionally beaten by the ball, but he did not give an actual chance, while he made a number of fine drives. In his second innings he was seen quite at his best, and many a good score may be expected from him during the season.

On his second visit to the wickets Mr Townsend showed some approach to his usual form, offering a steady defence for an hour, and while he remained in the odds were in favour of a draw. After he left, however, sixth out, only a feeble resistance was offered. In the first innings Brockwell bowled extremely well, but his analysis of five wickets for 35 runs was quite put in the shade by Lockwood's great feat. The Surrey eleven had the luck in the matter of the wicket, but they displayed good cricket at all points.

16 April: THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COLTS MATCH

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

Potted scores: THE COLTS 78 (E W Saxton 17; J R Gunn 7/17, P Mason 5/18, T Wass 6/9) and 76 (J Gunn 6/19, B Gregory 4/9, T Wass 8/11). THE ELEVEN 116 (A O Jones 28). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 April, page 9)

Apart from the successful bowling of John Gunn, Wass and Mason there was nothing remarkable in the cricket yesterday at Nottingham, the majority of the Colts being obviously short of practice. Poor as the batting was as a whole, however, it had a redeeming feature, E W Saxton, of Hucknall-Torkard, playing with confidence and skill for an hour. He is a left-handed bat.

Rain restricted the play before luncheon to ten minutes, but the rest of the afternoon was fine.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 April, page 5)

The annual colts' match at Trent-bridge was yesterday left drawn - entirely in favour of the eleven, who, at the finish, wanted only 39 runs to win. The colts were short of practice and the majority of them could do nothing against the bowling of J Gunn and Wass on a wicket damaged by rain.

Arthur Shrewsbury did not appear for the eleven. The weather was cold and dull yesterday, and so much rain had fallen in the night that the game could not be resumed until three-quarters of an hour later than the time that had been fixed.

Wednesday 25 April, page 11: CRICKET

In the Trinity College Freshmen's match begun yesterday, at Cambridge, between sides captained by E B Noel and P R Johnson, the feature was the brilliant batting of E M Dowson, last year's Harrow captain, who scored 107 out of 284 obtained by Mr Johnson's team.

He received valuable support from A ? Tompson, an old Carthusian, their partnership for the second wicket realizing 103. Dowson played confidently, scoring freely all round the wicket, his hits including 13 fours, four threes and ten twos.

Thursday 26 April, page 12: CRICKET

The Trinity College freshmen's match at Cambridge ended yesterday in an easy victory for Mr Johnson's side by an innings and 31 runs. The old Harrovian, Dowson, followed up his fine batting of Tuesday by securing five wickets for 25 runs.

Friday 27 April, page 10: THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

At the annual meeting, held at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, yesterday, Mr H W Beloe presided over a large company.

The statement of accounts for the last year showed that, with a balance of £2,726 from the previous year, £3,206 received in gate money and the share of the test matches, and £979 members' subscriptions, the total receipts were £6,984. The expenditure, including £300 contribution to the special fund, left a balance of £2,469 to the good.

The chairman said that the club's finances were in a very satisfactory condition. The takings at the gates had been the largest he had known since the club had existed. The gates for the two matches at Cheltenham yielded £1,100. Another bright feature was the increase of members' subscriptions.

Mr Beloe expressed the thanks of the meeting to Mr Troup for taking the captaincy at a critical time and discharging the duties to their entire satisfaction. The accounts were adopted and the committee re-elected.

THE ESSEX COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Essex County Club was held last evening in the pavilion at Leyton. Mr C E Green presided and there was a large attendance of members. The chairman commented on the report, which he thought must be regarded as satisfactory.

The prospects for the coming season were very hopeful. Mr Kortright would be able to play again, but they would miss Mr A J Turner, who was with his regiment in South Africa. He hoped the benefit to Walter Mead would be worthy of his sterling service.

Mr Gerald Buxton explained a scheme for taking over the ground from the Messrs Green, and said that under the scheme it would eventually become the property of the club and free from debt.

The report was unanimously adopted, as was also the balance-sheet, which showed a profit of over £350 on the past year's working. Mr Green, on behalf of the club, then presented a silver inkstand to Mr Percy Perrin, in recognition of his having made six individual hundreds for Essex last season. Mr Perrin briefly acknowledged the gift, and a vote of thanks to the chairman closed the meeting.

30 April: THE SENIORS' MATCH AT CAMBRIDGE

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

Potted score: MR BLAKER'S SIDE 261 (R N R Blaker 37, N O Tagart 57, C A S Sewell 50, E A Anthorp 30; H R Palmer 6/109, C W Alexander 3/56) and 291 (R N R Blaker 49, G G Heslop 49, C A S Sewell 32, W K P French 30; L J Clayton 4/?). MR J STANNING'S SIDE 172 (O J T Robertson 25, W P Robertson 62; F W H Weaver 4/60) and 374/6 (J Stanning 129, R D Anstead 54, C J T Robertson 44, W P Robertson 34, P R Johnson 89*). Match drawn.

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

Thee cricket at Cambridge yesterday in the Seniors' match was conducted under pleasant conditions until luncheon, but subsequently the weather became so bad that play was only possible for 70 minutes. The match, as usual, is restricted to players who have failed to get into the Eleven.

All the time available was occupied by Mr Blaker's side in scoring 225 for nine wickets. The cricket generally was commonplace.

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

Cricket at Cambridge yesterday was played under favourable conditions. Mr Blaker's side, which had scored 225 for nine wickets, finished their innings for 261.

When Mr Stanning's side went in the early batting was not promising, but a capital innings was played by Mr W P Robertson, who kept up his wicket for an hour and a half and hit in his 62 one five, six fours and eight twos.

Mr Blaker's side started their second innings with a lead of 89 runs, and did well, Mr Blaker himself and Mr Heslop hitting in such vigorous fashion that 89 runs were obtained in 45 minutes. Mr Sewell again gave a creditable display . . .

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

Mr Stanning's side at Cambridge, yesterday, played a fine uphill game and, after being set 381 to win, were only prevented by time from gaining a victory.

For this result the chief credit belonged to Mr Stanning himself, who stayed at the wickets nearly three hours and scored 129, hitting a five and fourteen fours; he was well supported by Mr Anstead, who helped to score 109 for the first wicket, and by the old Etonian, Mr Johnson, who carried out his bat for 89. When the match was left drawn Mr Stanning's side wanted only seven runs to win with five wickets to fall.

30 April: SURREY COUNTY TRIAL MATCH

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

Potted score: SURREY 210 (Lockwood 29, Hayward 66, Wood 22*, Richardson 21; Smith 5/64, Nice 3/?) and 208 (Hayward 27, Holland 71, Lees 58; Smith 4/?, Nice 3/?). NEXT XV 144 (Goatley 60, W J Baker 25; Richardson 5/?) and 154/7 (K E M Barker 80, Stoner 39*). Match drawn.

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

There was some interesting cricket on the Oval yesterday in the match between the eleven and the next fifteen. Smith, who took five wickets for 64 runs, furnished the best piece of bowling of the day, and his length and spin were suggestive of his brilliant but brief Surrey career of a few years ago, and Hayward batted with all his old skill. The game will be finished to-day.

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

The batting of Holland, Lees and Mr K E M Barker furnished the best cricket on the Oval yesterday in the trial match, which was drawn as follows . . .

Wednesday 2 May, page 11: THE M.C.C. ANNUAL MEETING

Lord Justice A L Smith, the president of the M.C.C., took the chair at the annual meeting of the M.C.C. at Lord's yesterday. There was a large gathering of cricketers, including the Earl of Jersey, Lord Belper, the Earl of Lichfield, Mr V E Walker, the Hon Ivo Bligh, Mr H B Chinnery, Mr K J Key, Mr A J Webbe, Mr J R Mason, Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, Mr H D G Leveson-Gower, Mr A E Stoddart, Mr G MacGregor and Mr H Perkins.

The report of the committee, which was adopted, stated that in 1899 the club consisted of 4,622 members, an increase of 227 over the previous year, of whom 4,028 paid, 392 were life members and 202 were abroad. Two hundred life members were elected last year.

Mr H D G Leveson-Gower, Lord Harris, Mr H Philipson and Mr A J Webbe retire by rotation from the committee; to fill these vacancies the successful candidates were: - Lord Justice A L Smith (the retiring president), Mr E L Bateman, C.B., Mr G MacGregor and Mr F Marchant.

It was decided to enclose the ground with netting during club matches as an experiment, and to dispense as far as possible with boundary hits. If the ball hit the net two runs shall be added to the batsman's score in addition to those actually run. Hits over the net are to be regarded as boundaries and boundaries are to count three.

It was also deemed expedient to suggest an alteration in law 24 of the laws of cricket to have the effect that a batsman who is in front of his wicket, between wicket and wicket, and thereby intercepts a ball which would hit his wicket, shall be given out l-b-w. Before submitting any such alteration to a special general meeting it will be necessary to obtain the opinions of the representative clubs which are usually consulted.

A sub-committee was appointed to consider whether any alterations are desirable in Rule IX of the club with special regard to the number of cricketers and other candidates annually elected, and also whether any limit in the number of members in the club should be recommended; a report on these questions will be presented at the annual meeting in 1901.

At the conclusion of the ordinary business the meeting was made special, and members were asked to confirm the following alterations in the laws of cricket: - (a) six balls to constitute an over; (b) declaration permissible on or after the luncheon interval on the second day; (c) the side which leads by 150 runs in a three-days' match, by 100 runs in a two-days' match and by 75 runs in a one-day's match shall have the option of calling on the other side to follow its innings. This was carried.

In the evening at the annual dinner held at Lord's, Lord Justice A L Smith nominated the Hon Ivo Bligh as his successor in the presidency.

2 May: M.C.C. AND GROUND v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5379.html)

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

The season opened at Lord's yesterday in real May weather and the ground was easy. There were good cricket and plenty of excitement, but the interest of the large company of the general public lay rather in the trial of the new net scheme in regard to boundaries than in any great trial of strength between the county and a moderate M.C.C. side.

This M.C.C. scheme of netting the boundaries has been tried and failed. To begin with, the poor English of the M.C.C. resolution misled every one. As mentioned in The Times of the Saturday before Easter week, the committee were going to report that: -

"It has been decided to enclose the ground with netting during club matches, as an experiment, and to dispense as far as possible with boundary hits. If the ball hit the net two runs shall be added to the batsman's score, in addition to those actually run. Hits over the net are to be regarded as boundaries, which are to count three."

The inequity of the M.C.C. rule was soon seen yesterday. To begin with, everything had to be run out, and then two runs added if the ball had hit the net; but if the ball bounded or was hit over, three was to be the whole score from the stroke. Consequently, as often happened during the Nottinghamshire innings, a snick or a fluke behind the wicket on the leg side often produced five or six runs, while a well-measured drive or cut that carried the ball over the boundary meant only three. The new system yesterday was thoroughly exposed. The batsmen were fatigued, but the weight told more against the fieldsmen. With everything run out, there was no lack of liveliness about the cricket.

Notts had all the better of the cricket and they are 138 runs ahead. One of the best things in yesterday's cricket was the all-round play of J Gunn, who is a worthy nephew of his uncle, William Gunn.

Day 2 (report from Friday 4 May, page 7)

Yesterday there was a mere handful of spectators of the finish of the match at Lord's. The strong westerly wind brought with it several severe showers; but the ground was always easy and bad cricket as much as anything led to the utter discomfiture of the club team. By an extension of time until nearly 7 o'clock the match was finished last night, Notts County winning by eight wickets.

To judge from the indifference of the public the net scheme of the M.C.C. committee was only a one-day wonder. The general feeling was that to preserve the traditional simplicity of cricket rules the M.C.C. might have left everything to be run out, with no advantage to be gained by hitting the net, a boundary over the net to count as four and a hit out of the ground as six.

The M.C.C. fought a fairly good uphill fight yesterday. In the second innings Trott forced the game well, and while he was in between the fall of the third and seventh wickets he made 53 out of 97. he was out to a fine piece of stumping by Carlin, who kept wicket uncommonly well in this match. Another batsman who came out well was Relf, a Norfolk man.

Gunn's left-hand medium bowling was the best feature of the Nottinghamshire cricket. Gunn, who is yet early in the twenties, is one of the best cricketers Notts have produced for a long time. Another feature of the match was the excellent batting for Nottinghamshire of Mr George Groves, who, although Nottinghamshire born, has hitherto done most of his club work in Yorkshire and Middlesex. Mr Groves is quite young. His graceful play on both sides of the wicket marked him as a cricketer of talent.

3 May: LONDON COUNTY v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5380.html)

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

Rain interfered greatly with the progress of this match, which was begun yesterday at the Crystal Palace, the actual time of play not greatly exceeding two hours.

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

The wicket at the Crystal Palace had rather suffered yesterday from the showers and, though easy at first, became false for a time after the interval. With three wickets to fall, London County are 65 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 May, page 13)

At no time on Saturday at the Crystal Palace did there appear any likelihood of a definite conclusion being arrived at in this match, for so well did the wicket wear that run-getting was a matter of ease. There was a capital attendance and the visit of Sir George White in the afternoon was the occasion of a remarkable scene, the game being stopped for some ten minutes while the crowd assembled in front of the pavilion and cheered Sir George, who was welcomed by Dr Grace.

Some of the best cricket of the match was seen when Lockwood and Hayward were together. Though Surrey held a great advantage at the fall of Mr Crawford's wicket, Mr Jephson, recognizing the impossibility of anything but a drawn game being the result, determined to give Hayward a chance of reaching three figures. This he managed to do and had the satisfaction of scoring a second "century" against the London County thus early in the season.

The features of the game were the three long partnerships - the first and third by Lockwood and Hayward, and the second by Mr Fry and Braund, which resulted in the addition of 146 to the London County score. It was when this pair were together on Friday that the brightest cricket was seen, Mr Fry playing a splendid game. He showed much skill in placing the ball and, though he put one or two up in the slips, did not actually give a chance. The vigour of Braund's hitting may be judged from the fact that his score of 69 contained only seven singles. It must not be inferred that his hitting was by any means reckless, for, like Mr Fry, he too played capital cricket.

Mr Townsend did not share in any particularly extended partnership, for Mr Beldam was the only one to stay for any length of time, 79 runs being added while he was in. Another prominent feature was the excellence of the wicket-keeping, both Board and Wood doing very good work. The latter has been standing up to the Surrey bowling for a number of seasons, while Board had to deal with bowlers the majority of whom were strangers to him. He must on this account be accorded more credit, and out of 717 runs he only gave away seven byes and had a hand in capturing six wickets.

It was a match full of splendid cricket and the play itself was a tribute to the excellence of the Crystal Palace ground.

3 May: THE CAMBRIDGE FRESHMEN'S MATCH

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

Potted scores: MR A E HIND'S SIDE 207 (J T Turner 75, F Young 23, H Bird 27; E M Dowson 5/71) and 287 (J T Turner 50, G W Harris 30, L T Driffield 27, M B Tasker 31*, V N Lockett 38, A E Hind 70; E M Dowson 5/?, W D Black 3/?). MR T L TAYLOR'S SIDE 193 (W H Edmunds 50, C H Bodington 34, E M Dowson 41; L T Driffield 4/?, V N Lockett 4/?) and 303/8 (E M Dowson 38, A H Tompson 123*, J W Horne 25, W D Black 46; L T Driffield 5/?). Mr Taylor's Side won by three wickets.

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

By far the most interesting young cricketer taking part in the Freshmen's match at Cambridge yesterday was E M Dowson, who had been in the Harrow eleven for five years. He had no opportunity of displaying his abilities as a batsman, but with his medium-pace, left-hand bowling he not only took five wickets, but kept an excellent length throughout.

T L Taylor captained the one side, and in the absence of S H Day A E Hind led the other. Boisterous weather prevented, and rain, after delaying the start, caused an interruption, but for all that fair

progress was made with the game. Mr Hind's side included Young, of Westminster, Tasker, of Merchant Taylors', Willey, of Uppingham, and Lockett, of Wellington, but the batting honours were carried off by J T Turner, of Fettes, a brother of A J Turner, the Essex amateur. At the wickets for two hours, Turner showed capital form and exhibited plenty of variety in his strokes.

Going in against a total of 207, Mr Taylor's side made a fine start, leaving off only 126 behind with all their wickets in hand. In accordance with the rule passed by the Marylebone Club on Wednesday six balls were bowled to the over.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Saturday 5 May, page 13)

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 May, page 13)

On Saturday Mr Taylor's side accomplished a creditable performance, winning the match by three wickets, after having been set the task of getting 302 runs. When they entered upon their innings in the morning they did badly for a time, but the fine batting of Tompson, the old Carthusian, and the support given to that player by Dowson, Horne and Black turned the game.

For his 123 not out Tompson was at the wickets for two hours and a half and hit in vigorous style, his chief strokes being 13 fours. His most useful partner was Black, who helped him to put on 140 runs for the eighth wicket. Driffield's good bowling in the first innings caused him to be chosen to play against Mr Webbe's eleven to-day.

Friday 4 May, page 7: THE SURREY CLUB

Sir Richard Webster, the president, took the chair yesterday at the annual meeting of the Surrey Club, in the pavilion at Kennington Oval. The report of the committee was unanimously adopted without any question being asked or any point coming up for discussion.

In the course of his remarks Sir Richard congratulated Surrey on having last year carried off the county championship, and also on the fact that the great expense involved in building the new pavilion and tavern had been entirely cleared off. When the new pavilion was first decided upon the committee were warned that they were running too great a financial risk, but everything had turned out well, the club being now in a better position than even he had expected. Over and above the invested capital the club was entitled to the benefit of a policy of assurance for £2,500 on a life that had already reached the age of 82.

Si Richard expressed the thanks of the club to Mr K J Key, who, after acting as captain for six seasons, had resigned the position. The committee had voted the sum of £100 for the purchase of a suitable testimonial.

Sir Richard Webster was re-elected president, General Marshall vice-president and Mr Wildman Cattley treasurer. In acknowledging a vote of thanks Mr Key said that he had played more or less regularly for Surrey for 18 years, and he would always look back upon those years as the happiest of his life. During his term of captaincy he had been very fortunate in the support given him by the professionals - in his opinion the best professionals that could be found anywhere. In his successor, Mr Jephson, he felt sure the eleven would have an excellent captain.

Monday 7 May, page 4: LONG SCORES AND THE RULES OF CRICKET

(By an Old Blue.)

Early as are the days of the cricket season, there is even now promise of a renewal of the long scores and unfinished matches which characterized the summer of 1899. After three days' play the match between London County, whom I venture to congratulate on their prospects in first-class cricket, and Surrey was left drawn, when eleven hundred and odd runs had been compiled in three innings, Hayward and Lockwood each scoring 163 runs in two innings and Mr Townsend 141 in one.

There are few things more uncertain than cricket; one of them is English weather. But there is no uncertainty whatever that, if during the summer months of 1900 we have the same continuance of sunny days and dry grounds which delighted the hearts of cricketers in 1899, the preponderance of batting over bowling will be maintained, the huge scores will become huger, more matches will be left unfinished and cricket will grow more dreary to watch and more wearisome to play, except for the men at the wickets for the time - a very long time - being.

With the conservatism which rules our national games I find no fault. On the whole it has operated for the true advantage of sport, for the pleasure of those who take part in it and for the gratification of those who can look on. Of cricket, one of the most wholesome, if not the most wholesome, of our games, I am an ardent admirer; but in the interests of cricketers and of cricket nothing could be more unfortunate than that the game should tend to become unpopular through what The Times has tersely and wisely called the exaggeration of its own merits. And this is, in my view, a risk which must be run if the bloated scores of last season are allowed to continue, and spectators have to watch for hour after hour straight and good bowling contending hopelessly against more excellent batting, with no episode more exciting than the compilation of a century or the beating of some Brobdingnagian record.

The Marylebone Club, whose wise and cautious rule has done much to maintain the purity and the popularity of cricket, to keep uniform the conditions under which it is played and to prevent the divisions and dissensions which have not been without effect in other spheres of sport, have evidently been impressed with the desirability of making some attempt to restore the equality between attack and defence formerly existing, but now materially impaired by the improvement of grounds and the necessity of boundaries.

At the annual meeting, held, as usual, on the first Wednesday in May, certain alterations were made in the rules which I have no doubt will commend themselves to players and spectators alike. The over was increased from five to six balls, permission was given to a side to declare its innings closed on or after the luncheon interval on the second day, and the rule of "follow-on" was altered by giving to the side which leads by 150 runs in a three-days match, by 100 runs in a two-days match and by 75 runs on a one-day match the option of calling on the other side to follow its innings. These are undoubted improvements, especially the last, which does away with the danger that the side which has played the best may find itself damnified by its own success.

Equally prudent was the decision that it is "expedient to suggest" an alteration in the law of leg-before-wicket and make a batsman out who is in front of his wicket between wicket and wicket and intercepts a ball which would have hit the wicket; but that before actually proposing such change it is necessary to obtain the opinions of representative clubs.

I regret to be unable to think that the committee of the club have taken an equally wise course in the experiment they have determined to try in the matter of boundaries. They have decided to enclose the ground with netting during club matches. So far so good. But they have attached the extraordinary conditions that if the ball hits the net two runs shall be added to the striker's score in addition to those actually run at the moment of impact, and that hits over the net are to count three.

This seems to me to be a compromise between two opposing policies which has the disadvantages of both and the merits of neither. A hard cut will probably reach the net in a considerable number of cases before the batsmen have time to cross each other in the first run. This hit will count two. On the other hand, a ball which, all but beating the batsman, is snicked past slip or to sharp leg will trickle to the boundary so slowly that the batsmen will have time to run three or even in some cases four runs before it outstrips the fieldsman, who, **ex necessitate rei**, must run after it, and touches the net. This inferior stroke will count five or six. A powerful hit forced clean over the net will count three. It is impossible to hold that there is equity in this, which gives a greater reward to a bad bit of play than to a clean, strong and brilliant hit.

Nor is this my only objection. The mischief of the old plan of allowing four for every ball hit past the boundary was that in every case of a fast-travelling ball the batsmen stood still and watched its progress in the certainty that it would reach the limit, and that consequently fours were piled up with the **minimum** of exertion to strikers. This mischief will in no whit be removed. On the other hand, the fieldsman in whose vicinity a doubtful ball passes will have to strain every nerve to avoid the addition of two runs consequent on the ball hitting the net.

If this is so, and I see no possible ground for the opposite belief, not only will the proposed experiment result in a premium on snicks and pats as compared with hard hits, but it will also impose

a *maximum* exertion on the part of fieldsmen and no compensating exertion whatever on the part of those who enjoy the already overwhelming advantage of batting. In a word, the circumstances will be made more difficult for the out-side and be left just as easy as now for the in-side, a result the exact reverse of the object to be gained.

It was said at the general meeting by the president of the club, an eminent and excellent judge of cricket as of other things, that the experiment was only an experiment and that it was not necessary to discuss it at length. I venture to express the strong hope, which I have reason to believe that critics and players more competent to express an opinion than I am share, that the experiment will be modified and that the committee will not hastily abandon the netting but will try the effect of running out all hits which do not pass clean over the boundary. It would be a great pity if, should the present venture prove, as there is every probability that it will prove, a failure, the committee were to return to the old state of things. The alternative of running everything out should be tried, at any rate for a time sufficient for the formation of sound opinion as to its effect.

I am well aware that there is a difference of opinion as to what that effect would be. But on the whole it would appear as if it would operate more to the advantage of the bowler than of the batsman. In whatever state of training he may be, a man who has run 10 or 12 runs in an unfinished over is in an inferior condition for receiving the last ball or balls. He must be to some extent out of breath, his nerves are in a greater state of tension, his vision less clear. These disadvantages would outweigh the disadvantages which the fieldsmen would have to undergo by having to devote more attention to saving runs than making catches, and they would tend, though I admit that they would not greatly tend, to the reduction of huge scores.

There can be no doubt that the Marylebone Club are wise in proceeding cautiously and tentatively. But the action which they have as yet seen their way to take and the changes they have actually adopted can only be considered as palliations of an evil, the existence of which they admit by making changes at all. No one supposes that anything which has been done as yet will make it more impossible that on some occasion a side will score 1,000 runs or a batsman half that number in one innings. A few more matches may be finished under the new rules than would have been finished under the old. But the predominance of batting is little, if at all, affected. And if the weather be fine and the ground hard, first-class cricket will continue to mean hour after hour of almost hopeless attack, and monotonous because too easy defence.

I strongly believe that if a few matches could be arranged on Saturdays or other off-days with either large wickets or, preferably, smaller bats, those matches would be interesting to play and exciting to watch. Cricket should be a game within the reach of all, and a game full of episodes and swiftly recurring moments of keen and critical interest, rather than a business in which only those who have unlimited leisure are able to shine. No true sportsman likes the conditions of his sport to be too easy. No good judge of any game can derive true pleasure from watching a long series of simple operations. True zest is found in overcoming difficulties or watching how they are overcome by others.

The spot stroke was barred at billiards because to those who knew how to play it had become too easy. No shooter likes to massacre a number of low pheasants or lolling hares. The new croquet is more popular than the old because it is more difficult. Golf without bunkers and hazards would be so deadly dreary that no one would play it. So with cricket. The superiority of batting, if nothing be done to check it, must inevitably grow; and there will be less and less pleasure in watching or in playing a game at which success in one department presents little difficulty and may be continued for almost unlimited time.

THE NEW M.C.C. BOUNDARY

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - The new boundary rule at Lord's seems to give great dissatisfaction, and no wonder. All that is wanted to make it work well is to abandon the extra two runs for hitting the net and allow more for hitting over. The existing rule was evidently designed to satisfy some pedantic cricketer who thought high hitting immoral and wanted to penalize it.

If everything not hit over the net is run out, and every hit that pitches over the net counts five, the result will be quite satisfactory. Batsmen will have to run a great deal more to make huge scores, and a brave man who runs the risk of being caught and successfully makes a hit which pleases the spectators will be rewarded as he ought to be.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, H.S.

7 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v MR A J WEBBE'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5381.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 May, page 8)

Mr A J Webbe got together a very strong team of amateurs to oppose the University yesterday at Cambridge, the captaincy of the side being undertaken by Ranjitsinhji. Heavy rain fell in Cambridge on Sunday night, and the ground suffered so much that, as the day's cricket abundantly proved, the University gained nothing by batting first.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 May, page 14)

Those who were on the ground at Cambridge yesterday had the pleasure of seeing some exceptionally brilliant play by K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr J R Mason and Mr Leveson-Gower. Just before 6 o'clock, rain stopped play.

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

The heavy rains of yesterday were general and the three matches which were unfinished on Tuesday had to be abandoned without more play. They were: -

. . . Cambridge University v Mr Webbe's Eleven, at Cambridge . . .

7 May: LANCASHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5382.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 May, page 8)

At Manchester yesterday Lancashire left off with a big advantage, being 154 runs on with nine men to be dismissed.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 May, page 14)

A win by 265 runs for Lancashire was the result of the match at Manchester yesterday. A heavy dew during the night had again made the pitch treacherous.

Ward raised his overnight score of 44 to 80, but he did not play well. He was twice missed and made other bad strokes. Cuttell and Eccles by bright hitting put on 41 runs in half an hour and Briggs and [Sharp?] added 52 in 50 minutes.

7 May: M.C.C. AND GROUND v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5383.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 May, page 8)

The cricket at Lord's yesterday was made brilliant by the batting of Mr Key and Mr A P Lucas, and this placed the M.C.C. in a very strong position by the time for the drawing of stumps, for with five wickets in hand they were 74 runs ahead.

During the Leicestershire innings Mr L H Gay at point brought off two good catches. When the M.C.C. went in they started badly by losing four wickets for 47 runs, but at this point Mr Lucas and Mr Key completely altered the aspect of the game, and during a partnership of less than two hours put on 199 for the fifth wicket. The boundary nets are again being used.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 May, page 14)

The Marylebone Club beat Leicestershire at Lord's yesterday by nine wickets.

7 May: SURREY v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5384.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 May, page 8)

After a bad beginning at the Oval yesterday, Warwickshire finished the first stage of their match with Surrey very strongly, for last evening they held a lead of 165 and had got four Surrey wickets down.

It was a slow wicket and the Surrey bowlers, with their length and spin, met with so much success that up the luncheon time five Warwickshire men were out for 113. Then, after the interval, Lilley and Santall made a great stand for the seventh wicket, adding 78 runs in three-quarters of an hour. Lilley, who went in third wicket down at 30, was seventh out at 206. He forced the game splendidly and got most of his runs in front of the wicket; there were 13 fours among his figures. Surrey fielded very well, but during the afternoon their bowling seemed to lack sting.

When Surrey went in Brockwell, Holland and Hayes were all out for 27. Lockwood hit hard for a while, but had Warwickshire held all the catches that were offered them their position would have been much better, for both Hayward and Mr Crawford were missed. Abel's injured hand still keeps him out of the Surrey eleven.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 May, page 14)

There was some good batting on the Oval yesterday. In the morning the Surrey eleven, after the loss of two more wickets for an additional four runs - this meant six men out for 106 - were rescued from their bad position by the play of Hayward and Lees. In less than an hour these men put on 98 runs by hard hitting.

Hayward went in third wicket down at 27 and was not out for 131, this being his third century in big cricket this season - he scored 100 against London County both at the Oval and the Crystal Palace. Warwickshire's ground fielding was very good.

Surrey held a lead on the innings of four runs, and when they got two of their opponents out in the second for 44 they seemed in a fair way to success. But in the next three hours William Quaife and Kinneir changed the whole complexion of the game and so far have put on 199 runs for the third wicket. The Surrey bowling seemed very plain on the easy wicket.

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

The heavy rains of yesterday were general and the three matches which were unfinished on Tuesday had to be abandoned without more play. They were: -

Surrey v Warwickshire, at the Oval . . .

7 May: YORKSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5385.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 May, page 8)

Very poorly represented, Worcestershire had to play Rhodes and Haigh on a thoroughly treacherous wicket at Bradford yesterday, and fared so badly in their attempt to make runs that between 20 minutes past 12 and 6 o'clock the match was commenced and finished, Worcestershire being beaten by an innings and five runs.

7 May: THE SENIORS MATCH AT OXFORD

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

Potted scores: MR C D FISHER'S SIDE 374 (F H Hollins 44, C D Fisher 24, R Joyce 37, T G C Sandford 103, J L Stow 44, F H Mitchell 68; H White 6/77). MR E C LEE'S SIDE 122 (E C Lee 35, G Kelly 24; R A Williams 6/44, J W Crawford 3/30) and (following on) 37/0 (P S Rostron 20*). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 May, page 8)

Cricket at Oxford this season opened formally yesterday with the annual match in the Parks between two sides of Seniors. Mr E C Lee, who is captain of one team, played against Cambridge at Lord's in 1898 and bowled with considerable success, but he did not keep his place in the eleven last year.

Mr Fisher's side went in first, the feature of the innings being the vigorous hitting of Messrs Sandford and Stow who put on 98 runs while they were together.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 May, page 14)

The annual trial match at Oxford between teams of Seniors, captained by Mr E C Lee and Mr C D Fisher, was continued yesterday.

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

The heavy rains of yesterday were general and the three matches which were unfinished on Tuesday had to be abandoned without more play. They were: -

Oxford University Seniors' Match.

The scores were given in The Times of yesterday.

Wednesday 9 May, page 14: THE BOUNDARY EXPERIMENT AT LORD'S

The M.C.C. executive yesterday communicated the following modification of their net scheme for the boundaries: -

For hits bounding over, going through or under the net four runs shall be scored; for hits over the net, five; and for hits out of the ground, six.

The M.C.C. have left untouched that part of their original scheme providing that while everything is run out two are additionally given because the ball hits the net.

10 May: KENT v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5387.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 May, page 12)

Rain limited cricket at Catford yesterday to about two hours. Hirst and Haigh had a partnership of about three-quarters of an hour for 62, which runs were welcome to Yorkshire at the time, as the

first four batsmen had been dismissed for 32. The wicket was naturally in favour of the bowlers, and Bradley proved very effective at the start, but, when he had to be taken off during the Hirst and Haigh partnership, Hearne became almost equally deadly.

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

In this match, at Catford, Yorkshire are 303 runs on with half their wickets still to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 14 May, page 13)

The match on the Catford ground lasted well into Saturday afternoon, and Kent were beaten by 131 runs. The brilliant partnership between Mr Ernest Smith and Wainwright, which turned the game in Yorkshire's favour, was completed early on Saturday morning for 166, the amateur being bowled for a fine score of 61, made without fault. Wainwright did not survive his partner long, as he had only increased his overnight record by seven when he was caught, after having batted two hours and a quarter, during which time 208 runs had been scored. The Yorkshire innings was then finished for 260, Lord Hawke not going in owing to an injured hand.

Kent lost seven wickets for 102 runs in an hour and forty minutes before lunch, Mr Knowles being the only batsman who scored with any freedom, but subsequently Humphreys and Huish, the Kent wicket-keeper, improved matters with a three-quarters of an hour's partnership for 61.

10 May: LANCASHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5388.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 May, page 12)

So completely did the bowlers hold the upper hand at Manchester yesterday on a slow and difficult pitch that between five minutes past 12 and half-past 6 no fewer than 25 wickets went down for an aggregate of 254 runs. Hulme bowled well, but the greatest success belonged to O'Connor, a medium-pace, right-handed bowler, with an off-break, who has hitherto played for Cambridgeshire under the residential qualification.

Their performance, however, was exceeded by Webb and Briggs, who got rid of Derbyshire in an hour and 20 minutes for 68. Briggs, who bowled for the first time in important cricket since his illness, was heartily congratulated.

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

At Manchester, yesterday, Lancashire were left with an unexpectedly easy victory soon after 4 o'clock by 96 runs. Mold towards the finish did a remarkable piece of work, taking four wickets in the last five overs, all of which were maidens.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5389.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 May, page 12)

The bad weather yesterday reduced the cricket day at Lord's to three hours - namely, from half-past 3 until half-past 6.

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

Yesterday at Lord's the M.C.C. eleven played very poor cricket and Sussex won by seven wickets.

10 May: SURREY v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarhive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5390.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 May, page 12)

On account of the bad weather a start could not be made at the Oval yesterday until a quarter to 3. Surrey, on going in, made a consistent display. Holland played beautifully free cricket for 28; but the best innings was Hayward's.

Mr Jephson helped Hayward to put on 75 runs for the sixth wicket, and Lees stayed while 59 were added for the seventh. Mr Jephson was batting over two hours for his 44 not out.

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

The Surrey eleven yesterday at the Oval were again seen to great advantage, and only the weather can now save Hampshire from defeat. Brockwell, going on after lunch when the score was 70 for three wickets, carried everything before him and dismissed six batsmen for 27 runs. He took the last three wickets in five balls. Hayes made two good catches in the slips.

Day 3 (report from Monday 14 May, page 13)

Surrey beat Hampshire at the Oval on Saturday by an innings and 78 runs. Overnight Hampshire, with three wickets in hand, still required 79 to save the innings defeat. But a few minutes' play sufficed to bring the match to a definite result, as Lees dismissed the three remaining batsmen for one run.

Lees, with his splendid length and spin, proved even more difficult to play than Brockwell in their first innings. Altogether he took eight wickets for less than four runs apiece, six of which were bowled.

10 May: WARWICKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarhive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5391.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 May, page 12)

The Warwickshire eleven were seen to great advantage in the opening of their match with Leicestershire at Birmingham yesterday. The ground had by no means recovered from the effects of the previous rain and was in a treacherous condition before lunch.

Mr de Trafford, the Leicestershire captain, took first innings after winning the toss, but as events turned out he would have done better if he had put Warwickshire in to bat. As the afternoon advanced the wicket improved.

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

At Birmingham, yesterday, Warwickshire gained a victory by eight wickets.

10 May: THE OXFORD FRESHMEN'S MATCH

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

Potted score: MR F P KNOX'S SIDE 52 (J S Munn 6/22, E Fawcett 3/22) and 280 (H J Wyld 74, M Bonham-Carter 96, H Gibson 31; G S Browne 3/?, C E G Parton 3/?, J C Stevens 3/?). MR R E FOSTER'S SIDE 113 (C E G Parton 22, W Findlay 30, R E Foster 21*; C W Wordsworth 3/22, H E Cooke 3/25) and 184 (G R

Garnier 31, F G Robinson 20, C E G Parton 60; G G Bruce 3/?, M Bonham-Carter 3/?). Mr Knox's Side won by 29 runs.

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 May, page 12)

Batsmen had little opportunity of distinguishing themselves at Oxford yesterday, the wicket being very treacherous after heavy rain. Mr J S Munn did the hat trick in his first over, and his left-handed bowling was the feature of the day's cricket.

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

Some capital batting was shown at Oxford yesterday by Bonham-Carter and Wyld, and thanks to their efforts Knox's side to a large extent made up for the bad failure on Thursday. In his 96, Bonham-Carter hit 15 fours.

Wyld, whose fine play for Harrow last year will be remembered, was scarcely less vigorous in his methods, his 74 including 11 fours. Foster's side were set to get 220, and had started uncommonly well when stumps were drawn.

Day 3 (report from Monday 14 May, page 13)

At Oxford, on Saturday, Mr Foster's side, who had gone in on Friday requiring 220 to win and scored 73 for the loss of two wickets, was dismissed for 184, and so were beaten by 35 runs. The only noteworthy feature of the last strife was the batting of C G Parton, an old Rugby boy, who increased a not-out 22 to 60.

14 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5392.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 May, page 7)

At Bristol yesterday Gloucestershire gave a trial for the first time to Mr N O Tagart, who was captain of the Clifton College eleven in 1898 and is now a senior at Cambridge.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 May, page 14)

The cricket at Bristol yesterday was from the first ball to the last full of interest, the game undergoing many changes of fortune. Gloucestershire started in the morning from a very good position, being only 65 runs behind with eight wickets in hand, but early in the day they lost all their advantage and at one time had much the worst of the match. Towards the end of the afternoon, however, they recovered in a surprising way, and as with nine wickets to fall they want only 184 runs to win the finish ought to be exciting.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 May, page 12)

The fine bowling of J Gunn at Bristol yesterday led to the victory of Nottinghamshire to 90 runs.

14 May: LEICESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5393.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 May, page 7)

With the weather showery and bitterly cold at Leicester yesterday, the fielding side had a thankless task. Hayward, who is taking a big lead from all his rivals in the matter of aggregate, put together his fourth hundred of the present season, scoring 167 not out in three hours and ten minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 May, page 14)

Surrey quite outplayed Leicestershire at Leicester yesterday and left off with every prospect of gaining an absurdly easy victory.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 May, page 12)

Surrey beat Leicestershire in the easiest manner yesterday at Leicester by an innings and 149 runs.

14 May: M.C.C. AND GROUND v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5394.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 May, page 7)

Although the conditions were unfavourable for cricket excellent play was seen at Lord's yesterday. For the M.C.C. Carpenter and Mr Warner scored 208 between them. The former was batting nearly three hours for his 125, and his chief hits were three sixes, five fives and seven fours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 May, page 14)

The feature of yesterday's cricket at Lord's was the bowling of J T Hearne. His performance was considerably better than his figures - nine wickets for 71 - would indicate, as he received no assistance from the pitch, which was all in favour of run-getting. There was little in the Yorkshire batting worthy of note, with the exception of Brown's 67 and Hirst's 48. The former was only in an hour for his runs, and he hit one seven, four fives and six fours.

Having a lead of 159 Mr Warner availed himself of the new follow-on rule, and decided to take the third innings. This is the first occasion on which the leading side have determined to go in. Results proved that he was quite justified in his decision, as the M.C.C. put on runs with comparative freedom. Mr Warner again played splendid cricket for 69, and Mr C L "Lewes" [Note: C O H Sewell] was also seen to great advantage. Mr "Lewes" was batting two hours, and his innings included two sixes, five fives and six fours.

Yorkshire, who were 471 batting average, had a few minutes' batting, and at the close they still required 454 to avoid defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 May, page 12)

After a heavy scoring match the Marylebone Club beat Yorkshire at Lord's yesterday by 182 runs. Some such result was expected from the position of the game overnight, as Yorkshire still required 454 to save themselves from defeat.

Up to a certain point they batted extremely well. Brown, sen., and Tunnicliffe put on 71 for the first wicket, while Denton and Hirst added 106 in 65 minutes for the fourth. Denton played very attractive cricket for his 71, which included one six, two fives and four fours.

With only four of the side out for 201 there appeared every prospect of Yorkshire's making a large score, but so well did Young and Mead bowl that they were all out for another 88 runs. Considering the excellence of the pitch Young's figures - six wickets for 77 - were extremely good. During the match 1,134 runs were made.

14 May: WORCESTERSHIRE v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5395.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 May, page 7)

Worcestershire had decidedly the best of an interesting day's cricket at Worcester yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 May, page 14)

The Worcestershire team at Worcester yesterday were quite outplayed, and were beaten by three wickets.

14 May: THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY TRIAL MATCH

Mr FOSTER'S SIDE v MR KNOX'S SIDE

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

Potted scores: MR FOSTER'S SIDE 292 (R E Foster 39, R Joyce 25, R A Williams 94, B J T Bosanquet 41, M Bonham-Carter 23*; H White 3/62, F H Humphrys 6/84, G W F Kelly 3/40) and 154/2 dec (A M Hollins 41*, R E Foster 55, C D Fisher 52). MR KNOX'S SIDE 155 (H C Pilkington 26, C H B Marsham 49, E C Lee 28; J W Crawford 4/40, C D Fisher 3/18) and 224 (H C Pilkington 48, F H Humphrys 42, M Bonham-Carter 41*; J S Munn 5/?, C D Fisher 3/?). Mr Foster's Side won by 67 runs.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 May, page 7)

The weather was quite wintry at Oxford yesterday, when the last of the trial matches was begun.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 May, page 14)

The cricket at Oxford, yesterday, in the last of the trial matches went greatly in favour of Mr Foster's side. Mr F H Hollins retired hurt, and in the first innings of Mr Knox's side Mr Crawford, in holding a hard return from Mr Martyn, received a severe blow in the chest and had to leave the field.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 May, page 12)

At Oxford yesterday Mr Foster's side beat Mr Knox's side by 67 runs. The rules of cricket were loosely interpreted seeing that Mr Bonham Carter was allowed to play for both teams.

Tuesday 15 May, page 7: A new ground at Littlehampton, which has been given to the town by the Duke of Norfolk, was formally opened on the Duke's behalf yesterday by Lady Mary Howard. The ground, which is about 12 acres in extent, has been very carefully laid out.

The opening match, between Gentlemen and Players of Sussex, suffered in attraction through the absence of K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr C B Fry. The Players completed a first innings of 282, Relf being the chief scorer with 63. At the drawing of stumps the Gentlemen had obtained 52 without the loss of a wicket. The match will be concluded to-day.

Wednesday 16 May, page 14: The funeral of the late Tom Hearne, the Middlesex cricketer, for many years chief of the ground staff at Lord's, will take place to-morrow at St George's Cemetery at 3 o'clock.

17 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5396.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 May, page 12)

Yorkshire sent down to Cambridge, yesterday, a team composed exclusively of professionals, while the University made one change from the side that drew with Mr Webbe's team, Scott, a fast bowler, being tried in the place of Driffield.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 May, page 9)

Yorkshire completely outplayed the University at Cambridge yesterday, and at the drawing of stumps the home team, with only three wickets to go down, wanted 67 runs to escape a single innings defeat. Brown, of Driffield, batted admirably, scoring over 100 for the second year in succession at Cambridge.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 May, page 9)

When play was resumed at Cambridge on Saturday, the University had seven wickets down in their second innings and were still 67 runs behind. In less than an hour Yorkshire won by an innings and 15 runs.

17 May: DERBYSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5397.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 May, page 12)

The Derbyshire men made a fine stand against the Surrey bowlers at Derby yesterday, being at the wickets for nearly the whole time that cricket lasted.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 May, page 9)

At Derby yesterday the Surrey men carried their overnight score of four for no wicket to 453 for the loss of nine batsmen.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 May, page 9)

It did not cost the Surrey eleven any great amount of trouble to beat Derbyshire by ten wickets at Derby on Saturday, the match coming to an end at a quarter past 4. Surrey closed their first innings in the morning without troubling to add to the overnight score.

Going in against a balance of 124, Derbyshire started well and seemed at lunch time to have a good chance of avoiding defeat. After the interval, however, no stand could be made against Lee's splendid bowling. Bagshaw played a fine innings that included a six and eight fours and was not marred by a single chance. The 40 runs wanted by Surrey were hit off by Mr Jephson and Brockwell in 25 minutes.

17 May: ESSEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5398.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 May, page 12)

At the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday, in favourable weather, Essex, with the advantage of first innings on a nice easy wicket, did so well at first that 200 went up with only three men out, but

following the dismissal of Mr Perrin at 212 there came something of a collapse. At 194 Roberts was put on a second time, and in 11 overs dismissed five men for 33 runs.

It is interesting to note the reappearance, after the lapse of a season, of Mr Kortright. Last evening he bowled with rather less than his former great pace.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 May, page 9)

The Essex eleven played a fine winning game at Leyton yesterday and by the time that stumps were drawn they were 388 ahead, with three wickets left in the second innings. The weather was very disagreeable. Gloucestershire were nearly 100 behind on the first innings. Mr Kortright bowled well, and in his last four overs he took four wickets at a cost of four runs.

Essex, in their second innings, were again very successful, and Carpenter and Mr Perrin were once more the heroes in batting. Carpenter gave a couple of difficult chances; but he showed a fine variety of strokes and was loudly cheered for his second 100 of the week in big cricket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 May, page 9)

Essex beat Gloucestershire on the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, on Saturday, by 261 runs. They held such a strong lead overnight that the result was quite expected. After increasing their score from 289 to 312 they closed the innings.

Requiring 411 to avoid defeat, Gloucestershire again gave an indifferent display. Mr Hodgkins was batting over two hours for his 44, but with the exception of Mr Jessop and Board the rest of the side could do little against the bowling of Mr Kortright and Mead, and the game was over at a quarter to 4. Mr Kortright in the match took ten wickets for less than ten runs apiece. There was a good attendance.

17 May: LANCASHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5399.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 May, page 12)

As the result of good all-round cricket the Lancashire eleven gained a considerable advantage over their opponents at Liverpool yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 May, page 9)

At Liverpool yesterday the Lancashire eleven won this match by ten wickets.

17 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v MR A J WEBBE'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5400.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 May, page 12)

In the match which began at Oxford yesterday the University team comprised seven old Blues - six of whom played against Cambridge last year - and four Seniors, no place being found for any of this year's Freshmen.

Mr A J Webbe got together a fairly strong side to oppose the University. They went in first and stayed at the wickets till 5 o'clock for a total of 230. Mr P F Warner followed up his success at Lord's on Monday and Tuesday by another admirable innings, his cricket during an hour and a half being faultless. Free hitting was shown by Mr Burnup and Mr Leveson-Gower, while, in contrast to their vigorous methods, Mr Beldam was two hours and a half in obtaining his 44.

When Oxford went in Mr Pilkington and Mr Marsham made an excellent start.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 May, page 9)

A brilliant innings of 128 by Mr R E Foster, the University captain, dwarfed everything else in yesterday's cricket at Oxford. He was at the wickets two hours and 50 minutes, and hit in great style, his innings including a drive over the ropes for six, 21 fours, two threes and two twos.

The game was adjourned for the day at 20 minutes to 6 owing to the bad light, Mr Webbe's side being then 77 runs ahead with six wickets to go down in their second innings.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 May, page 9)

A splendid innings of 100 not out by Mr R E Foster, at Oxford on Saturday, gained for the University a victory by five wickets. The Oxford captain played with admirable judgment for a little over two hours and a half on a pitch that had never been perfect and hit a dozen fours.

As he scored 128 on Friday he took all the hours of the game. This is the second time in his career that he has made two hundreds in one match, as last year he scored for Worcestershire against Hampshire at Worcester 134 and not out 101. On that occasion his brother W L Foster - now with his regiment in South Africa - scored 140 and not out 172.

17 May: SUSSEX v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5401.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 May, page 12)

First-class cricket at Brighton began yesterday. A cold kept Mr C B Fry out of the match. Worcestershire's innings lasted three hours and a quarter, the total of 238 being moderate for a Brighton wicket in fine weather. Bowley took all the honours in batting.

Relf and Collins started the Sussex innings very well, scoring 86 in an hour and a half.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 May, page 9)

The Sussex eleven had everything their own way at Brighton yesterday, thanks to their fine hitting and to the kindness of the fieldsmen.

Day 3 (report from Monday 21 May, page 9)

With half an hour to spare at Brighton on Saturday Sussex beat Worcestershire by seven wickets, the cricket that led up to this result being fairly interesting in character. Sussex would have gained a much easier victory if they had held the catches, the blunders being, indeed, so bad as to imperil their chance of actually winning.

Mr H K Foster played very fine cricket when once he had become set, but he was missed twice while getting his first ten runs. Arnold helped his captain to put on 73 runs for the fourth wicket, but he ought to have been run out quite early in his innings. With two hours and ten minutes in which to get the runs, Sussex had no difficulty in hitting off the 93 they required.

17 May: M.C.C. AND GROUND v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/251/251306.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 May, page 12)

In this match at Lord's, yesterday, the cricket was remarkable for the long innings of Northamptonshire, who made 429, to which Thompson contributed 186 and Mr L T Driffield 109. Woodcock, Geeson and Pougher did nearly all the M.C.C. bowling, but were severely punished, more than 100 runs being hit from each.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 May, page 9)

At Lord's yesterday the M.C.C. were beaten by 10 wickets. Pougher made 85 not out for the M.C.C. in the first innings. Scores. - Northants, 429 and 29 (no wicket); M.C.C., 246 and 210.

21 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v M.C.C. AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5402.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 May, page 14)

At Cambridge yesterday the University gained a considerable advantage over a moderate team sent down by the M.C.C.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 May, page 12)

There was very little play at Cambridge yesterday. The game, owing to rain, was in progress for less than an hour. In that time the University obtained 59 runs for one wicket, advancing their score to 190 for four wickets. Stanning, the Oldfield Rugby captain, raised his figures from 71 to 112 and was still not out when play was suspended.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 May, page 14)

Shortly after 5 o'clock yesterday at Cambridge the University were left with a ten wickets' victory over M.C.C. and Ground, the end being brought about quite suddenly by a fine piece of bowling by Mr L T Driffield, a Freshman from St John's School, Leatherhead, who bowls medium-pace left-hand.

21 May: KENT v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5403.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 May, page 14)

Gloucestershire were much indebted to their captain, Mr G L Jessop, for the fair position in which they found themselves at the close of the day's play at Catford yesterday. Mr Jessop, with Board, added 74 for the sixth wicket, and when Kent were in Mr Jessop bowled with much success. Gloucestershire batted one short.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 May, page 12)

The wet weather from the south-west prevented any cricket yesterday in the following matches, the scores of which have been already given in The Times: -

. . . Kent v Gloucestershire, at Catford.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 May, page 14)

Little cricket was possible in this match at Catford yesterday, and early in the afternoon rain set in so heavily that at half 4 it was decided to abandon the game as a draw.

21 May: LEICESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5404.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 May, page 14)

The effective bowling of Mr J A Dixon and a brilliant not-out score of 142 by Mr A O Jones gave Nottinghamshire a great advantage over Leicestershire at Leicester yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 May, page 12)

Yesterday, at Leicester, Notts added two runs to their overnight score of 239 for six wickets, and then rain set in so steadily that further play was out of the question . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 May, page 14)

At Leicester yesterday Notts gained a single innings victory with 20 runs to spare, this being their third success since the season began. The Notts innings, in which the score on Tuesday stood at 241 for six wickets, was finished off for 259, and then Leicestershire, with a balance of 93 against them, went in to try to save the game.

They never looked like doing this, however, three wickets being down for two runs and five for 42. Whitehead afterwards batted uncommonly well, but to no purpose, the whole team - with Whiteside kept away by a damaged thumb - being out for 73.

21 May: MIDDLESEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5405.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 May, page 14)

Middlesex opened their season at Lord's yesterday against Sussex with a brilliant batting performance. Although the honours of their fine score were well distributed, the chief belonged to Mr Warner. He gave a chance at the wicket at 41, but otherwise his innings was free from fault.

Although he is not a stranger to first-class cricket, this is Mr Beldam's first appearance for Middlesex and, judging by his form yesterday, he should prove of considerable assistance to the county. Mr Griffin, who has had less experience, showed excellent form. He took some time to play himself in, but afterwards he showed much freedom, for during the last hour and a quarter, when he and Trott were together, 133 runs were added.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 May, page 12)

The wet weather from the south-west prevented any cricket yesterday in the following matches, the scores of which have been already given in The Times: -

. . . Middlesex v Sussex, at Lord's . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 May, page 14)

Rain again interfered with the cricket at Lord's yesterday, and Middlesex were unable to secure a definite issue to their match with Sussex. Mr Fry was out in rather a peculiar way; he gave a hard return to Hearne, high up, and the ball, bounding off his hand, was held by Mr Beldam at mid-on.

Afterwards the pitch, in the absence of sun, appeared to improve a little, but the bowlers experienced bad luck, as the ball was frequently in the air just out of the reach of the fieldsmen. Mr Stoddart made two good catches; he caught K S Ranjitsinhji in the slips with his right hand low

down and rather wide, and Bland above his head, deep on the on-side. Sussex were all out at half-past 3, and rain again coming on, no further play was possible.

21 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5406.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 May, page 14)

The cricket at Oxford yesterday was of an extremely vigorous and interesting character, the University in the time available for play completing an innings of 539.

The chief success fell to Mr R E Foster, who scored his third successive hundred. His 169 were got in two hours and a half, and included half a dozen hits for six each and 20 fours. The run-getting was so rapid at one period that 117 were put on in an hour and five minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 May, page 12)

The rain yesterday prevented the game at Oxford from being resumed until nearly 4 o'clock in the afternoon, but in the time that remained the bowlers had matters so much their own way on the damaged wicket that the match was very nearly brought to an end.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 May, page 14)

At Oxford yesterday the University defeated London County by an innings and 330 runs.

21 May: SURREY v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5407.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 May, page 14)

Yesterday Abel, whose severe injury to the left hand in net practice had kept him out of the side since the Easter Monday fixture, reappeared in the eleven with such distinction that in the course of five hours' actual batting he made 221 out of 469. It was a well-finished innings, in which there was scarcely an ill-timed stroke.

Hayes, who helped Abel to put on 272 for the second wicket, also played excellent cricket. Lockwood punished the weary Worcester bowlers with relentless vigour and played one of his best three figure innings. For once Hayward failed, and in the end Worcestershire were not so badly off as they had seemed likely to be when 450 went up with only two men out. It was a perfectly true pitch; and the visitors made the most of their bowling, and also fielded well.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 May, page 12)

The wet weather from the south-west prevented any cricket yesterday in the following matches, the scores of which have been already given in The Times: -

Surrey v Worcestershire, at the Oval . . .

It may be mentioned that Mr Jephson declared the Surrey innings closed yesterday, so that to-day at the Oval Worcestershire will have a severe uphill fight on a soft pitch. Surrey's score was 495 for five wickets.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 May, page 14)

Yesterday the players managed between the showers to get an hour for play, and then stumps were pulled up and the game left drawn. Worcestershire's batting monopolized this hour yesterday.

17 May: WARWICKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5408.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 May, page 14)

The Warwickshire eleven did fairly well against Essex at Birmingham yesterday. Kinneir and William Quaife showed the best batting for them and put on 121 during their partnership for the third wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 May, page 12)

Cricket at Birmingham yesterday was, owing to the rain, limited to two hours and a quarter. In this time Essex increased their overnight score of 31 for one wicket to 126 for three, and at the close they were 130 runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 May, page 14)

At Birmingham yesterday the cricket was seriously curtailed, and with only about two hours available in consequence of the heavy rainfall the match between Warwickshire and Essex was abandoned as a draw.

21 May: YORKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5409.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 May, page 14)

At Sheffield, yesterday, Yorkshire were seen to advantage, dismissing Derbyshire in three hours for 175, and then scoring in the last hour and fifty minutes 113 runs for the loss of one wicket.

The Derbyshire batting was relieved from failure only by the skilful defence and hitting of Storer, who in two hours and a quarter made 73. He gave no chance and hit ten fours. Chatterton assisted Storer to put on 68 runs, this being the best stand. Rhodes bowled very well on a wicket that gave him some assistance.

Tunnicliffe was out in trying to hit to leg when apparently well set, and then Brown and Denton carried the score from 32 to 113, adding 81 runs in 65 minutes without being separated. Both men played finely, neither giving any chance.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 May, page 12)

Cricket at Sheffield yesterday was restricted by the weather to 75 minutes. In the time at their disposal the Yorkshiremen did fairly well, increasing their overnight score of 113 for one wicket to 181 for four. It has been arranged to start play this morning at 11 o'clock and draw stumps at half-past 5.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 May, page 14)

The weather at Sheffield yesterday was very unsettled, and the match between Yorkshire and Derbyshire had to be given up as a draw.

24 May: LANCASHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5410.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 May, page 12)

John Briggs accomplished in Manchester yesterday the rare feat of taking all ten wickets in an innings. Doubtless the conditions were all in his favour, sunshine following upon a series of heavy showers, but nevertheless the performance was a notable one, especially for a man who has had over 20 years of first-class cricket. Briggs obtained the ten wickets in 28 overs and five balls for 55 runs. Lancashire made several blunders in the field, but succeeded, notwithstanding, thanks to Briggs, in disposing of Worcestershire for 106.

Going in to bat, the home side lost four good men for 53 runs. Briggs then hit up 33 out of 44 in less than half an hour, and towards the close of the day Sharp assisted in adding 65 for the seventh wicket. The best cricket, however, was that of Tyldesley, who withstood the Worcestershire bowling for more than two hours and only gave two chances in his 79. As the game was left last evening Lancashire, with three wickets in hand, possessed a lead of 85 runs.

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

At Manchester yesterday Lancashire had much the better of the play.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 May, page 13)

The match at Manchester was finished off in half an hour on Saturday morning, Lancashire winning by five wickets.

24 May: M.C.C. AND GROUND v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5411.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 May, page 12)

In spite of the bad weather there was plenty of good cricket at Lord's yesterday. The batting of Storer, Mr Lawton and Mr Hayman, and the bowling of Jack Hearne and Alec Hearne, with plenty of good fielding afforded a variety of the best points of the game.

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

Storer's fine not out innings of 156 was the feature of yesterday's cricket at Lord's, and it turned the game for Derbyshire. He went in first wicket down at 66 and got his runs in three hours. His batting was marked by splendid robustness and a great variety of strokes.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 May, page 13)

Derbyshire beat M.C.C. and Ground at Lord's on Saturday by 107 runs. Some such result was expected, the splendid batting of Storer overnight have left Derbyshire in practically a safe position, as they were 369 ahead with four wickets in hand. Storer was batting three hours and 20 minutes for his 175 not out, and his chief hits were two sevens, five sixes, five fives and seven fours.

Requiring 402 to win, the M.C.C. on the easy pitch played with great resolution, and at the luncheon interval there seemed just a possibility that they might get the runs, as they had scored 127 for one wicket. After four of the side had been dismissed for 214 the game again went in favour of Derbyshire, and the last six wickets added only 80 runs. The match was over at a quarter to 6.

24 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5412.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 May, page 12)

The match which began at Oxford yesterday between the University and Sussex is being played on the Christ Church ground. No start could be attained till 20 minutes to 1, and after 2 o'clock cricket was found to be impracticable.

In the 80 minutes the game was in progress Oxford fared very badly indeed, losing eight wickets for 57 runs. At one time they looked likely to do far worse even than this, three wickets being down for six runs and five for 18. The condition of the ground helped Tate, who made the most of his opportunities and actually took the first five wickets in nine overs at a cost of eight runs. Pilkington played very finely, and with Bosanquet's assistance retrieved the innings to some extent, 28 runs being added in as many minutes for the sixth wicket. With Mr Fry, Mr Brann and Butt standing out of the match, Sussex have by no means their best eleven.

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

In the course of four hours and three-quarters' cricket at Oxford yesterday 21 wickets fell for an aggregate of 230 runs, and at the finish Oxford with nine men out for 124 in their second innings found themselves with a lead of 95 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 May, page 13)

After some very exciting cricket at Oxford on Saturday the University gained a victory over Sussex by 11 runs. Their success was largely due to the splendid bowling of Mr Bosanquet. He took nine wickets for 31 runs, and in the whole match he had the remarkable record of 15 wickets for 65 runs.

24 May: SOMERSET v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5413.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 May, page 12)

The wet weather prevented the beginning of this match at Bath yesterday.

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

The rain which made a start impossible at Bath on Thursday ruined the wicket for yesterday's batting.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 May, page 13)

Captain Wynyard tried very hard at Bath on Saturday to save Hampshire from defeat, but he could not get much help, and Somerset won the match by seven wickets. For about two hours he successfully resisted the Somerset bowlers, scoring in that time 107 runs out of 176. He played in first-rate form, but inasmuch as he was twice missed when he had made 31, his innings was not free from fault.

24 May: SURREY v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5414.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 May, page 12)

After an unpromising morning yesterday the weather improved and there were three hours' cricket on the Oval. The pitch was slow but the ball cut through, and it was only the superb bowling of Lockwood that made the game for Surrey. Lockwood bowled without a change and his eight wickets cost only 72 runs. There were a couple of catches dropped, but the Surrey fielding was generally good.

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

Yesterday was a bowler's day on the Oval, when the pitch was made false by the rain of Thursday. With more than half the side out for 89 Surrey were in a bad plight; but the batting of Abel saved them from disaster. Abel played superb cricket in a variety of strokes. There was much fine bowling by Mead, whose length and break were admirable, while in fielding nothing could have been better than the catch at short-slip when Mr Kortright got out Lockwood.

The collapse of Essex yesterday afternoon, when the whole side were out in an hour and a quarter for 68, was chiefly wrought by Brockwell, who went on at 37 and got five of the then nine outstanding wickets for 13 runs. Surrey, who want only 84 to win, lost three men for 19 runs, so that to-day they have another 65 to get. The light in the last two hours was very bad.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 May, page 13)

Surrey were beaten after a very close finish on the Oval on Saturday by five runs. The cricket was exciting and the comparatively small company followed the play - which lasted rather less than an hour and a half - with keen interest.

Surrey had been left overnight, in want of 65 more runs, with seven of their best batsmen, and no one was prepared for the failure which occurred. But the wicket was not free from the effects of the rain, and Mead and Mr Kortright made the ball break at a great pace. It will be seen that the wicket was hit seven times during the last innings.

The only period when Surrey looked like winning was when Brockwell and Lees put on 27 for the ninth partnership; but then Mead bowled out Lees and Wood with successive balls. Mead's bowling was wonderfully good and his record for the match was 12 wickets for 98 runs.

24 May: YORKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5415.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 May, page 12)

Going in first on an excellent wicket at Huddersfield, yesterday, Leicestershire were batting from 12 o'clock until ten minutes past 5 for a total of 262. They would, however, in all likelihood, have been dismissed for a much smaller score if the Yorkshire bowlers had been properly supported in the field. As it was, some half-dozen catches were dropped, nearly all the men who made good scores having one or more escapes.

Mr Wood was let off when he had made 14, Whitehead was twice missed, and King might have been caught when he had scored only eight. The best stand of the innings was that of Whitehead and King, who came together at the fall of the fourth wicket, at 134, and carried the total to 215.

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

Yesterday's cricket at Huddersfield had for its feature the innings of J T Brown, sen., who increased his overnight score of 20 to 128 before being sixth out, after a stay of two hours and 50 minutes. Owing to rain the day's cricket was limited to two hours and a quarter, but in that time Yorkshire car their score to 231 for six wickets and are now only 31 runs behind their opponents.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 May, page 13)

By dint of capital all-round cricket Yorkshire beat Leicestershire at Huddersfield on Saturday afternoon by ten wickets. From the state of the game when play was stopped by rain on Friday a draw seemed the only probable termination, but the Yorkshiremen, carrying their previous score of 231 for six wickets to 302, gained a useful lead of 41 on the first innings, and Rhodes and Haigh's fine bowling did the rest.

In the end Yorkshire had only 61 to get to win, and of this task J T Brown and Tunnickliffe made very light, hitting off the runs in 35 minutes without being parted. Yorkshire have played six matches in the last three weeks, winning four, losing one (against the M.C.C. at Lord's) and leaving one unfinished. In these six matches J T Brown has scored 512 runs and Rhodes has taken 50 wickets.

Monday 18 May, page 13: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Lancashire	4	4	-	-	4
Notts	2	2	-	-	2
Somerset	1	1	-	-	1
Yorkshire	4	3	-	1	3
Essex	3	2	-	1	2
Sussex	2	1	-	1	1
Surrey	6	4	1	1	3
Middlesex	1	-	-	1	-
Warwickshire	4	1	1	2	-
Kent	2	-	1	1	-1
Gloucestershire	3	-	2	1	-2
Derbyshire	3	-	2	1	-2
Hampshire	3	-	3	-	-3
Worcestershire	4	-	4	-	-4
Leicestershire	4	-	4	-	-4

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 champion county."

28 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5416.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 May, page 12)

The batting of Mr Bernard and Mr Newton saved the Somerset innings from failure at Bristol yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 May, page 9)

Aided by the fine batting of Board, who played the highest innings of his career, and some capital bowling by Roberts and Paish, Gloucestershire at Bristol yesterday gained a victory over Somerset by an innings and 38 runs.

Although Board gave three chances - the first at 36 - his hitting was for the most part particularly brilliant. His 214 was made out of 297 runs put on while he was in.

28 May: KENT v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5417.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 May, page 12)

Essex gained nothing by batting first at Maidstone yesterday. The wicket played much better after lunch than it had done in the morning, and the game went so much against them that there is a strong likelihood of their victory over Surrey at the Oval being discounted.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 May, page 9)

Following up in brilliant style the advantage they had gained on Monday, Kent beat Essex at Maidstone yesterday by an innings and four runs.

Mr J R Mason's fine innings was the feature of the match. He scored his 117 not out without giving a chance and hit 17 fours - most of them hard drives. In the second innings of Essex Mr Bradley bowled finely, the slope of the ground making the pitch more than usually difficult.

28 May: MIDDLESEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5418.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 May, page 12)

The splendid bowling of Trott and Hearne at Lord's yesterday was followed by much skilful batting by Mr Warner, and the result was that Middlesex had much the better of the day's play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 May, page 9)

The features of yesterday's cricket at Lord's were a fine innings of 146 by Mr Warner and the bowling of Briggs. Mr Warner was batting nearly four hours and three-quarters, and his chief hits were 20 fours, seven threes and ten twos. His cricket throughout was marked by that precision which is always a characteristic of his play, and his driving on both sides of the wicket was especially good. His display was all the more meritorious as he was suffering from sciatica.

Briggs, by taking seven wickets for 87 on a run-getting pitch, did an excellent performance and appears to bowling better than ever. With his splendid length and spin he always proved very difficult to get away, and it was due to him that Middlesex were not able to command a much better lead than 96.

Mr MacLaren was beaten several times by Hearne, and was lucky in being missed in the slips before he had scored, but apart from that he made some splendid drives, and his 46 included no less than ten fours. With the close of Lancashire's second innings play ceased for the day. Middlesex require 168 to win. There were some 3,000 spectators of the day's cricket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 May, page 11)

Lancashire beat Middlesex, at Lord's, yesterday, by 64 runs. The result came rather as a surprise, as at the drawing of stumps overnight Middlesex required only 168 runs to win, with an innings to play.

There was little in the pitch to account for this poor display of the home team. During the last two hours on Tuesday there were signs of a "spot" at the nursery end, but this had scarcely any appreciable bearing on the result, as Mold's bowling got up very little, while he hit the wickets four times out of six.

It was a piece of extremely bad luck for Middlesex that they lost the valuable services of Mr Warner, who was too indisposed to bat. Apart from suffering from sciatica, he received a blow from Mold on Tuesday and in all probability he will not be able to play against Yorkshire to-day.

28 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5419.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 May, page 12)

After scoring 115 for two wickets at Nottingham, yesterday, before lunch, Derbyshire did badly, and the home team, thanks mainly to the free hitting of Mr J A Dixon, are only 68 runs behind with six wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 May, page 9)

The wicket on which this match is being played at Nottingham is not up to the Trent-bridge standard, and, as a natural consequence, run-getting has proved to be rather a difficult matter. Yesterday's cricket was interesting, and at the close Notts, with nine wickets in hand, were left with 119 to get to win. Mr J A Dixon played a very fine innings and Wass's bowling was obviously difficult.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 May, page 11)

Mainly by the batting of Dench, Notts gained a well-deserved victory at Trent Bridge, yesterday, by five wickets. Overnight they had obtained 48 of the 167 necessary to win and had lost only one man, so that, provided the pitch remained in good order, their success could hardly be doubted.

The conditions remained fairly favourable and the necessary runs were obtained in a couple of hours. Dench, who took out his bat for 84, was at the wickets for three hours and a quarter - the duration of the innings - without giving a chance.

28 May: SURREY v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5420.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 May, page 12)

The Surrey eleven scored heavily at the Oval yesterday and their innings was still unfinished when stumps were drawn.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 May, page 9)

Yesterday was another batsman's day on Kennington Oval. The Surrey innings had been really spent on Monday with their score of 435 for seven wickets, but sufficient interest remained in it to see what Abel would do. He was eighth out at 457 after a stay of rather less than six hours, during which he hit two fives and 22 fours.

On such a perfectly true pitch as was provided for this match Abel's batting was spoilt by over-caution. His execution was, of course, good, but he never once attempted to force the game, although his opportunities were many. The Sussex men bowled and fielded well, but the great thing in the fielding side was the play of Vine, who made three splendid catches, threatened Mr Leveson-Gower's wicket down from the boundary and saved a great many runs by his splendid covering and return in a wide area.

Sussex were batting from half-past 12 until the close of the day. The great feature of their play was the batting of Mr C B Fry, who made 145 out of 218 in three hours and a half, being fourth out, bowled by a break back from Lockwood. Mr Fry's batting was dull and slow at first, but after luncheon he played beautiful cricket and was very skilful in turning the ball on the leg side. K S Ranjitsinhji was suffering from lameness and had a man to run for him, but before being "leg before" he made some splendid strokes on the leg side. Richardson and Lockwood bowled with very bad luck on a perfect pitch.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 May, page 11)

Yesterday, on the Oval, a draw seemed always the inevitable result and the match was drawn. In the morning the fine, free hitting of Bland and the good cricket of Vine brought the Sussex score to within 46 of the home total, but during the rest of the day the Surrey men easily held their own.

Hayes and Mr Leveson-Gower both hit vigorously, but the great thing was the batting of Hayward, who failed by only about 20 to reach his 1,000 aggregate. As usual, he played superb cricket, particularly in the cut and the drive. The fielding on both sides was very good.

28 May: WORCESTERSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5421.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 May, page 12)

Although at Worcester yesterday Hampshire, who batted first, had 190 on the board with only four wickets down, the whole side were out for 235, Bannister bowling towards the end of the innings with extraordinary success. Worcestershire, on going in, lost Wilkes before a run had been scored, but they subsequently did better.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 May, page 9)

At Worcester yesterday the young Worcestershire professional, Bowley, increased his overnight score of 56 not out to 118, this being the first hundred he has made in county cricket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 May, page 11)

The Hampshire team had to go in against a balance of 67 runs on the first innings on Tuesday afternoon at Worcester, but so successful was their batting that at the luncheon interval yesterday the captain was able to declare their second innings closed with the score at 341 for eight wickets, leaving Worcestershire with 275 to get to win.

Worcestershire naturally made no attempt to obtain such a number, and as matters turned out they were able by careful defensive play to draw the game, though they had much the worst of the position at the finish. With only four wickets in hand they were 130 runs in arrear.

28 May: YORKSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5422.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 May, page 12)

Warwickshire, who went in first at Leeds yesterday, completed their innings in just under four hours for a total of 228. Lilley batted very carefully for 63 - the highest score on the side. When Yorkshire went in Brown was caught at the wicket after hitting up 22 out of 25, and Wainwright was out at 42, but Denton and Hirst stayed together and carried the score to 81 without further loss.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 May, page 9)

Mainly owing to the batting of Mr T S Fishwick and Kinneir, at Leeds, yesterday, Warwickshire finished up in a much more favourable position than had seemed probable when they went in a second time 131 runs behind. Lees Whitehead showed the best form for Yorkshire, his 62 being faultless. Denton, in scoring his 85, gave an easy chance when 38.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 May, page 11)

Warwickshire drew their match with Yorkshire very creditably at Leeds yesterday. They began the day from a fairly favourable position, being only 12 runs behind with nine wickets in hand, but three men were dismissed in scoring 31, and later on they had seven men out when only 84 runs on. Thanks, however, to Walter Quaipe and Mr Bainbridge, who put on 60 runs in an hour and a quarter, and to Lilley and Santall, who added 61 in 70 minutes, these critical times were safely passed, and before the innings closed 175 runs had been added in three hours and 40 minutes.

Thus Yorkshire were set the impossible task of getting 164 runs in an hour and 40 minutes. They made no attempt to force a victory, but were within 78 runs of victory and had seven wickets to fall when Lilley was so badly cut in the face by a ball from Field that it was decided to abandon the game 20 minutes before time.

31 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5423.html)

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

Almost the whole of yesterday was occupied at Cambridge by Dr W G Grace's team completing an innings for 311. From the start the weather had been dull, and just after the University went in the game had to be stopped owing to bad light.

Dr W G Grace, who was batting two hours and three-quarters for 86, should have been caught quite early, but afterwards he showed much of his old skill. He hit eight fours, five threes and ten twos. Braund scored 47 in capital style out of 74 added by the second wicket; and W G Quaife helped his captain to put on 73. Another good innings was that of Mr W L Murdoch, who made 71 in two hours, hitting three fours, eight threes and nine twos. Messrs J M Campbell and Murdoch made the longest stand of the day, the seventh wicket realizing 78.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Saturday 2 June, page 13)

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 June, page 10)

The great feature of the match at Cambridge was the all-round cricket of Dr W G Grace. On Thursday he scored 86, on Friday he dismissed five batsmen for 99 runs, and on Saturday he made 62 in the second innings.

The rain which interfered with the progress of the game on the second day left the pitch so soft on Saturday that it was impossible to start until nearly 1 o'clock, and as the wicket was never very difficult it was obvious that the result would be a draw, as up to the previous evening only an innings each had been decided.

Dr Grace was in for two hours and ten minutes, and when he was caught at point shortly before 4 o'clock he declared the innings closed at 128 for three wickets, leaving the University 187 to make in less than two and a half hours. They lost four wickets for 45, but afterwards Mr Taylor and Mr Dowson doubled the score without being parted, and at 6 o'clock the match was abandoned.

31 May: ESSEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5424.html)

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

Essex did well at Leyton yesterday against Sussex, when they scored 421 runs for the loss of seven wickets. The feature of the innings was the fine stand for the third wicket by Carpenter and Mr McGahey. They came together when two wickets had fallen for 37 runs, and for three hours they so completely mastered the Sussex bowling that they added 235 runs.

Mr McGahey, who has not been in his best form this season, played a good innings for 107, but Carpenter, who credited himself with his third three-figured innings of the season, ought to have been caught in the slips when he had made 68, and 20 runs later he gave a very hard chance to Mr Fry, also in the slips. Carpenter was out at 272 and seven runs later Mr McGahey was dismissed, but they had taken the sting out of the Sussex bowling, and as a result most of the other batsmen made runs.#

Mr Kortright hit up 35 in half an hour, while Mr Lucas and Mr Owen added 26 for the sixth wicket, though the Essex captain was responsible for only nine of the number, and when Young was sent back without scoring seven wickets were down for 353. Mr Lucas played a dashing innings and with Reeves for a partner carried the total to 421 without further loss. When stumps were drawn Essex had still three wickets left.

Owing to an injury K S Ranjitsinhji was unable to play for Sussex, and his place was taken by Marlow, while Essex were without Mr F G Bull.

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

Only an hour and a quarter's cricket was possible at Leyton yesterday, and it was decided to abandon the game for the day shortly before 5 o'clock.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 June, page 10)

After being seriously interrupted by rain this match was drawn on Saturday at Leyton. The pitch was soft in the morning but never really difficult. Mr Fry and Mr Collins put on 89 for the first wicket, when the latter was out to a good catch low down in the slips, but then matters went badly with Sussex and they had to follow on against 289 runs.

In the two hours left for play Mr Fry and Mr Collins did so well that when Mr Fry had completed his hundred and stumps were drawn Sussex had not lost a wicket.

31 May: HAMPSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5425.html)

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

At Southampton, yesterday, Lancashire had first innings, and they quite overpowered the moderate bowling of Hampshire - rendered even weaker than usual by the absence of Gravett and Tate, who had given place to Mr L H Gay and Mr F A G Leveson-Gower.

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

At Southampton, yesterday morning, the Hampshire team had to go in against a big total of 411, and though up to a certain point they did well, having more than a hundred on the board at lunch time with only two wickets down, their innings was finished off for 251. This total would not have been reached but for the capital batting of Mr Steele, who hit with such vigour that 50 runs were put on in 20 minutes for the last wicket. Mold, it will be seen, bowled with great success.

Hampshire were 160 batting average, but Mr MacLaren, instead of making them follow on, preferred that Lancashire should go in again, and this course was accordingly adopted. At the close of play Lancashire in their second innings had scored 96 for the loss of four batsmen, and were thus 256 runs ahead with six wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 June, page 10)

Lancashire gained their sixth victory on Saturday, beating Hampshire at Southampton by 176 runs. By the aid of Mr MacLaren's brilliant hitting Lancashire were in a position to declare their innings closed and put Hampshire in with more than four and a half hours remaining for play.

Although Mr A J L Hill and Mr E M Sprot scored 104 for the second wicket in an hour and a quarter the Hampshire batting for the most part was poor and the game ended at 20 minutes to 5. Mr Sprot played well for a couple of hours and hit eight fours, four threes and nine twos in his 80.

In scoring his first hundred of the season Mr MacLaren showed quite his best form. Hitting with great power to the on and square leg he scored his 102 in an hour and a quarter. About the middle of

his innings he showed some uncertainty, and perhaps might have been out twice, but any faults were trivial when compared to the wonderful way he forced the game. He hit 17 fours, a three and nine twos. Cuttell finished off the match with a smart piece of bowling, taking four wickets at a cost of a dozen runs after being freely hit earlier in the day. The weather was fine but the attendance small.

31 May: MIDDLESEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5426.html)

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

Most of the honours of yesterday's cricket at Lord's were carried off by Yorkshire. First of all, through some splendid bowling by Mr Smith and Rhodes, they dismissed Middlesex for a small score, considering the excellence of the pitch. This they followed up by some good batting, and at the close they had passed the Middlesex total for the loss of only one wicket.

Middlesex made an excellent start, for, after Mr Beldam left at six, Mr Nicholls and Mr Hayman put on 100 for the second wicket in 50 minutes by fine, free cricket. The driving of both was the feature of their play. The 44 of Mr Nicholls included no fewer than nine fours. At luncheon the score was 159 for three wickets.

When the game was resumed no one was prepared for the collapse which followed, for during some three-quarters of an hour the rest of the side were dismissed for another 43 runs. Mr Hayman was fourth out at 171 for a splendid innings of 87, for which he was batting two hours. His chief hits were one five and 13 fours. After he left Mr Smith and Rhodes carried everything before them and both had splendid analyses. Their figures after lunch were Mr Smith four wickets for 14 and Rhodes three for 27. Already this season Rhodes has taken over 60 wickets, which shows that he is in grand form.

Yesterday Mr Warner's absence was greatly felt, as Middlesex have several on their side who can make runs after the bowling has been worn down, but they lack the ability to take the edge off themselves.

Yorkshire had two and a half hours' batting and they made excellent use of their time, as runs came with great freedom. Brown and Tunnicliffe by splendid cricket put on 132 for the first wicket in an hour and 40 minutes, when Tunnicliffe was caught at third man. Lately Tunnicliffe has experienced bad luck, but yesterday he was seen at his best, and the only mistake during his innings was a chance to Mr Beldam at mid-off at 59.

Afterwards Denton helped Brown to add another 79 runs without loss, and at the drawing of stumps Yorkshire were nine ahead with nine wickets in hand. Brown, although not scoring so fast as Tunnicliffe, made some magnificent strokes on the off side. The weather was cold and the attendance was poor.

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

The weather greatly interfered with the weather at Lord's yesterday, and only some two and a half hours' actual cricket was possible. Overnight Yorkshire had scored 211 for one wicket, but yesterday they continued batting under very different conditions. With the pitch made difficult by rain the remaining nine wickets fell for another 96 runs.

Denton was out to a good catch in the slips at 213 by Trott, who fell over in taking the ball. When Brown and Denton were together 81 runs were added in just over 50 minutes. Brown was third out at 218. He was batting two hours and 40 minutes, and his invaluable innings included 14 fours, five threes and six twos. As usual, he gave a splendid illustration of the cut, a stroke at which he has not a superior.

After he left wickets fell fast, and the only stand of any consequence was for the ninth wicket, when Lord Hawke and Haigh put on 29 in 12 minutes by some hard hitting. A feature of the innings was the fielding of Trott in the slips. The return catch by which he dismissed Wainwright was particularly good; he took the ball very low down with his right hand.

When Middlesex went in a second time, 105 behind, directly the effect of the roller had worn off the pitch still proved difficult. Just as it showed signs of improvement under a good drying wind rain came on, which made further play impossible. When cricket was abandoned for the day Middlesex were still five runs behind with seven wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 June, page 10)

Yorkshire beat Middlesex at Lord's on Saturday by six wickets. Although Yorkshire had the better of the game throughout, the match was keenly contested and the finish was much more interesting than the result would indicate. Middlesex in a great measure owed their defeat to their poor batting on the first day, for, had they taken full advantage of the pitch and made a large score, which they ought to have done, Yorkshire, under the altered conditions of the wicket on Saturday, would have found some difficulty in getting the runs necessary for victory.

When Middlesex continued their second innings on Saturday they were still five runs behind with seven wickets in hand. Rawlin was caught at point without any addition to the score. Then Trott, who was badly missed in the long field at four by Wainwright, helped Mr "Tindal" [Bosanquet] to put on 74 in an hour by resolute batting. Just when their prospects were improving Middlesex again fared badly, and the rest of the side were dismissed for another 28 runs. The batsmen appeared quite helpless against the fine bowling of Haigh, who took five wickets in his last seven overs for 15 runs.

Mr "Tindal" was seventh out at 181. Altogether he was in an hour and a half and his innings included nine fours, three threes and three twos. Under favourable conditions he played fine cricket. Hearne was out to a splendid catch at slip. Hunter knocked the ball up and Wainwright threw himself forward and just managed to hold the ball when on the ground.

Requiring 98 to win, Yorkshire made a bad start, as Tunnicliffe was out at five; but then before luncheon the score was taken to 30. After the interval the pitch, owing to a good drying wind, showed some improvement, and afterwards the result was never in doubt. Denton began badly, but subsequently made some splendid strokes. Brown, instead of trying to force the game at the beginning of his innings, played defensive cricket and was frequently beaten. When Brown and Denton were together 51 were put on for the second wicket. Denton left at 60 and Wainwright at 79. Mr Smith and Hirst then hit off the runs, and the match was over at ten minutes to 4.

A feature of the innings was the splendid work down by Hearne in the field, as he brought off two great catches. When he caught Tunnicliffe he threw himself at full length on the ground and held the ball with his right hand extended. The other catch was when he dismissed Wainwright at cover, holding a hard drive with his right hand above his head. Trott also put in some good work at slip.

31 May: SURREY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5427.html)

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

The record of scoring 1,000 runs before the end of May, which was established by Dr W G Grace in 1895, was equalled by Thomas Hayward, the Surrey professional, yesterday, when Dr Grace's old county were playing Surrey. Hayward had only 18 runs to make when the game started at the Oval yesterday, but with Gloucestershire batting first there was a possibility of the western county's staying at the wickets all day. The innings came to a close, however, shortly after 4 o'clock.

Gloucestershire would have fared badly but for Mr Jessop, who hit with great power and was particularly severe on Richardson. His driving was hard and he repeatedly hit the ball over the ring. Wrathall also played well.

Hayward and Abel put on 201 for the first Surrey wicket. Both played splendidly, and Hayward, after getting to his four-figure aggregate, hit freely. Surrey are now only 11 runs behind the Gloucestershire innings.

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

So bad was the weather yesterday that the cricket at the Oval was not possible for more than two and a quarter hours, and then only between the showers.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 June, page 10)

The Surrey eleven easily won their match on the Oval with Gloucestershire, whom they beat by eight wickets. On Saturday morning Mr Jephson at once declared the Surrey first innings closed, and Gloucestershire were left with an uphill game to fight on a pitch ruined by the weather.

They did their best; but not all the steadiness of Mr De Winton nor the free play of Mr Townsend and Board could save them. Surrey fielded and bowled splendidly and the two one-handed catches in the slips by Holland were among the best things in the match. Lockwood bowled with much of his old sting and his record for the double innings was ten wickets for 144 runs.

Surrey had only 15 to make in their second innings. It was a beautiful afternoon but the company was small.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The counties' positions are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Lancashire	6	6	0	0	6
Notts	3	3	0	0	3
Yorkshire	6	4	0	2	4
Sussex	4	1	0	3	1
Surrey	8	4	1	3	3
Essex	5	2	1	2	1
Somerset	2	1	1	0	0
Kent	3	1	1	1	0
Warwickshire	5	1	1	3	0
Gloucestershire	5	1	3	1	-2
Middlesex	3	0	2	1	-2
Derbyshire	4	0	3	1	-3
Worcestershire	5	0	3	2	-3
Hampshire	5	0	4	1	-4
Leicestershire	4	0	4	0	-4

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 champion county."

4 June: ESSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5428.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 June, page 8)

After a keen day's cricket at Leyton yesterday the match was left in an even position, for at the drawing of stumps Essex were 139 runs behind with eight wickets in hand.

The features of the Leicestershire innings were the batting of Whitehead and King and the bowling of Young. Whitehead played excellent cricket for his 108, which is far in excess of anything he has previously done for his county - his best score before yesterday was 67 against Yorkshire this season. Altogether he was batting nearly two hours and three-quarters without giving a chance, and his chief hits were 13 fours, six threes and nine twos. He went in second wicket down at 18 and was fourth out at 202 to a catch in the slips.

Whitehead found a very useful partner in King, when things were going none too well for his side, and between them they put on 127 for the fourth wicket. Apart from Mr Wood, who played very steadily for his runs, the remainder gave a very poor display and scored only 35 between them. With Mr Bull away and Mr Kortright unable to bowl, the majority of the work fell on Young and Mead. Young bowled splendidly, as his figures - six wickets for 76 - show, while Carpenter gave him some support. Mr Kortright at slip brought off three catches, and the last, which dismissed Coe, was especially worthy of note as he held the ball low down with the right hand.

When Essex went in they lost two good wickets for 30, but Carpenter and Mr McGahey carried the score to 98 without further loss. Carpenter was seen at his best and some of his strokes on the off-side were very fine. Leicestershire are giving a trial to Mr H Burgess, a fast bowler and batsman. He failed to come off yesterday in either department, but his bowling required watching. There were some 10,000 spectators of the day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 June, page 9)

By some splendid batting yesterday at Leyton Essex took such a strong lead that at the drawing of stumps they were left in a winning position. Essex increased their overnight score of 98 for two wickets to 453 for eight, and then Mr Owen declared their innings closed. Leicestershire, who were 216 behind, batted indifferently, and to-day they still require 151 to save an innings defeat with six wickets to go down.

For their large total Essex were chiefly indebted to Mr McGahey, whose magnificent 184 was made without giving a chance. He went in second wicket down at 30 and was sixth out at 395 to a left-hand return catch to the bowler. He was batting four hours and 50 minutes, and his chief hits were 20 fours, eight threes and 20 twos. Mr McGahey has accomplished some splendid performances for his county, but nothing to equal his achievement of yesterday. His highest score previously was 147 against Somerset at Taunton in 1895.

He received splendid support from Carpenter, Mr Lucas and Mr Owen, who helped him to put on 108, 96 and 134 for the third, fourth and sixth wickets. Carpenter played grand cricket for his 66, which included 11 fours, while Mr A P Lucas was also seen to great advantage. But one of the most gratifying features of the innings was the form shown by Mr Owen, who was batting some two hours without giving a chance. During their long outing the Leicestershire fielding never got loose and they made the most of their opportunities.

Leicestershire had about an hour's batting before the close, but fared badly against the bowling of Mr Kortright, and, provided the weather keeps fine, they will have to fight hard in order to save an innings defeat. There was again a good attendance.

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

Essex beat Leicestershire at Leyton yesterday by an innings and 58 runs. Some such result was expected from the position of the game overnight, when Leicestershire, with six wickets to fall, still required 151 to save the innings defeat.

An hour and a half's cricket yesterday sufficed to bring the match to a conclusion. With the exception of the batting of Coe, who received some support from Whitehead, and the bowling of Mr Kortright, the closing stage of the match was without incident. Coe, who was making his first appearance for his county this season, played with much freedom and hit 12 fours. He went in fifth wicket down at 65 and made his 61 out of 93. Coe and Whitehead put on 54 for the sixth wicket, but when the partnership was broken up wickets fell rapidly, and the match was over at 1 o'clock. Mr Kortright bowled splendidly and he hit the stumps five times out of seven.#

4 June: HAMPSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5429.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 June, page 8)

At Southampton, yesterday, Derbyshire, who went in first, remained at the wickets until nearly half past six, their total reaching 338.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Wednesday 6 June, page 9)

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

Derbyshire beat Hampshire at Southampton by 177 runs.

4 June: LANCASHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5430.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 June, page 8)

Some remarkable cricket was seen at Manchester yesterday. Kent started the game by losing three men for 13 runs, and when stumps were drawn at night they had scored 401 for six wickets.

The chief honours of this fine performance rested with Mr Burnup, who scored 200 out of 390. For five hours and 20 minutes he played with superb skill, his only fault being a chance in the slips when 174. The chief hits of his innings were 28 fours, nine threes and ten twos. Mr Mason assisted Mr Burnup to put on 110 runs for the fourth partnership in an hour and three-quarters, while Mr Perkins helped to add 221 in two hours and a half. Seventeen thousand spectators watched the cricket, which was played in fine weather.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 June, page 9)

The Lancashire eleven were engaged at Manchester yesterday in a serious uphill struggle and, though they came through the ordeal with considerable credit, their position at the close was by no means so favourable as at one time appeared likely.

Half an hour's cricket in the morning proved sufficient to bring to a close the Kent innings, in which overnight 401 runs had been scored for the loss of only six wickets. Against the bowling of Cuttell the remaining four batsmen could do little, and the innings was finished off for an addition of only 19 runs. Cuttell's record yesterday morning was three wickets for 11 runs.

Going in against the formidable total of 420, Lancashire for a time did so well that with half the side out the score stood at 244. After Ward left, however, the game took a sudden change in favour of Kent, the last five wickets only producing 65 runs. For the splendid start they made Lancashire were mainly indebted to Albert Ward, who played in very patient style for his [91]. He was batting three hours and 20 minutes and hit 11 fours, three threes and eight twos. He owed something to fortune, giving an easy chance when he had only made six, while he might possibly have been out on two other occasions, but, nevertheless, his cricket was sound and good.

The best batting for Lancashire was shown by Briggs, who scored his 54 in 53 minutes. His innings was quite free from blemish, and included in his hits were five fours and two threes. His partnership with Ward realized 93 runs.

Holding a lead of 111 runs, Kent had a few minutes' batting at the close of the day and lost Hearne's wicket for seven runs. Thus at the drawing of stumps Kent, with nine wickets in hand, were 118 runs ahead.

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

Yesterday at Manchester there was scarcely any chance of bringing this match to a definite issue. The result was a draw.

4 June: MIDDLESEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5431.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 June, page 8)

In a hard day's cricket at Lord's yesterday there was not much left between the sides, but the play was bright and interesting, and when stumps were drawn last night the state of the game remained very even.

Middlesex did badly until the very bright innings of Mr MacGregor, and even then they were out for the small score of 172, on an easy pitch. When Somerset went in the great feature was the batting of Mr V T Hill, who made 72 out of 75 in 35 minutes; his driving was powerful and he hit 16 fours. Afterwards Mr Woods and Braund made a lot of good strokes, and at the close of the day with one wicket to fall Somerset were 42 runs ahead.

Tyler bowled extremely well; he kept a splendid length and was constantly beating the batsmen. His record of seven wickets for 60 runs was the best feature of the day's cricket apart from the batting of Mr Hill. The play was thoroughly appreciated by the huge holiday crowd, and the fact that it was J T Hearne's benefit was not forgotten. Hearne has done such splendid work for Middlesex for many years that it is quite easy to appreciate the enthusiasm of the spectators. For once the new mound stand was almost completely filled and, apart from this, there was little chance of seeing the cricket for late visitors to Lord's.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 June, page 9)

Mr A E Stoddart's rejuvenescence in big cricket was marked yesterday at Lord's by one of the finest innings he has ever played. During the four and a half hours of his stay he forced the game at a great pace and it was physical exhaustion at last that got him out.

Such a hard forcing game in front of the wicket has rarely been seen at Lord's. Driving and cutting were his great strokes, but now and again his method of drawing himself back to play the short ball was almost inimitable. Mr Stoddart had the average luck of the cricketer and was missed twice; but his errors were slight compared with his excellence. Since his ill-fortuned tour in Australia, Mr Stoddart has almost refrained from big cricket in England, and he only consented to play at Lord's in this match for the sake of Jack Hearne, for whose benefit it is intended.

With the ball coming along at a nice easy pace on one of the best of wickets Mr Stoddart had every chance of a fine demonstration of hard hitting. Mr Hayman was an able partner and helped in the addition of 151 for the first wicket, while the third partnership - Stoddart and Nicholls - yielded 152 in 95 minutes. Eventually was dwarfed by the splendour of Mr Stoddart, who in the end was fifth out, stumped at 419 for 221, one of the best innings of his life. He hit 36 fours. Somerset's fielding was much below the standard of county cricket, and with Mr Woods incapacitated by lameness, the Somerset bowling also lacked sting.

It was another splendid day at Lord's and there were 10,000 spectators of the cricket. With a lead of 380 and four wickets left Middlesex are in a safe position.

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

Middlesex won their match quite easily at Lord's yesterday by 209 runs. The cricket hours were mostly occupied by the second innings of Somerset. Mr L C H Palairt played extremely well, particularly in the drive and the cut, and later Lewis kept up his end and made the most of some loose bowling.

Middlesex always had the match so much in hand that little enthusiasm was aroused. Splendid weather prevailed to the end, but the last day's company was smaller than might have been expected. Jack Hearne may be congratulated on having had a most successful benefit match.

4 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5432.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 June, page 8)

Fortunately for Arthur Shrewsbury, who is to receive a portion of the receipts from the match for his benefit, the annual Whit Monday fixture between Notts and Surrey was favoured with charming weather, and the first day proved a decided success. Further, the great Notts batsman was lucky in the fact that as the day's play went there was little to choose between the two teams, and the position of the game at the close of the day was as interesting as it well could be.

Shrewsbury, it may be recalled, was given a benefit at Trent Bridge in 1893, when a strong England eleven met and defeated the Australians, but that match, from various reasons, did not realize much money. Of Shrewsbury's career as a batsman it need only be said that he first joined the Notts eleven 25 years ago, though he did not reach the height of his fame until after his first visit to Australia in the winter of 1881-82, the warm climate of the colonies vastly improving his health. The best season he ever had was in 1887, when he came out with an average of nearly 78 runs an innings.

For yesterday's match Notts put into the field the strongest team they can at present command, William Gunn having recovered from a touch of rheumatism and being able to play. Notts, who went in first, started badly, Mr A O Jones being out when only nine runs had been scored. Gunn and Shrewsbury offered a good resistance, taking the score to 66, but when they seemed firmly set a double change of bowling got rid of them both. By lunch time four wickets had fallen for 93 and the fifth went down at 113. Groves then played very bright cricket for 39, and his partnership with Iremonger greatly improved matters for Notts, while with Wass and John Gunn making a capital stand for the last wicket the total in the end reached 208.

Just before 5 o'clock Abel and Hayward opened the Surrey innings, but they had only made 17 when Hayward was out to a catch by the wicket-keeper, standing back. Abel, however, played so well that up to a certain point Surrey seemed likely to leave off with much the best of the game, but towards the close there came a series of disasters, and when play ceased half the side were out for 114.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 June, page 9)

Yesterday's cricket at Trent-bridge was again full of interest and variety, the batsmen as before having to work hard for their runs against excellent bowling. Despite some skilful batting by Mr Jephson, Surrey, who had lost five wickets for 114, had nine men out for 212, but thanks to the vigorous hitting of Richardson they secured a lead of 38 runs on the first innings.

Notts began their second innings very well, Mr Jones and Shrewsbury putting on 69 for the first wicket. Mr Jones played very bright cricket, scoring 56 out of 79 in 70 minutes. Afterwards William Gunn and Dench put on 52 runs for the third wicket, and then came a partial breakdown in the batting. Mr Dixon strove hard to improve the position, but after playing very finely for an hour and 50 minutes he was dismissed just on time with the score on 209. Stumps were then drawn for the day, Notts with four wickets left being 171 runs on.

Yesterday 7,095 people paid for admission as against 8,543 on Monday, the gate receipts now amounting to £560.

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

After three full days' cricket a splendid match between Notts and Surrey ended at Trent-bridge last evening in a victory for the Southern county by four wickets. Right up to the end the interest was fully maintained, and there was one point yesterday when Notts had good reason to anticipate a win.

The home side started the final stage of the contest 171 ahead with four wickets in hand. In an hour and 40 minutes they increased their own score of 209 to 298. John Gunn, carrying out his bat for the second time, played in irreproachable fashion and received fine support from Mr Goodacre and Wass. Lockwood had strained his leg and could not bowl. Richardson, however, rose to the occasion, and in the course of the innings dismissed seven batsmen for 90 runs.

Surrey had 261 to get to win, but with Wass's bowling Hayward was speedily caught and Abel was clean bowled at 34. The third wicket took the total to 68, but it was not until Mr Jephson joined Lockwood that the game veered round in favour of Surrey. These two batsmen added 71 runs, but when Brockwell joined Lockwood 122 were required in an hour and 40 minutes. Luckily for Surrey, Brockwell was badly missed when 14, and then he hit away in such excellent style that very soon the success of Surrey was assured. Lockwood played admirably for nearly two hours, and in his 74 were 11 fours. Holland afterwards hit well, and Surrey were within nine of victory when Brockwell's innings came to an end.

4 June: SUSSEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5433.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 June, page 8)

In the opening of their match with Gloucestershire, at Brighton, yesterday, Sussex gave an admirable batting display, staying in the whole of the day and scoring 366 for seven wickets. The chief honours rested with Killick, K S Ranjitsinhji and Marlow.

The first-named scored 94 out of 139 without a fault. He obtained his runs in two hours and a half and hit ten fours. Despite Killick's innings the sixth wicket fell at 182, and then K S Ranjitsinhji and Marlow added 152 runs in less than two hours. K S Ranjitsinhji, who was out to a brilliant catch, played faultless cricket during the two and a half hours he was at the wickets and hit 12 fours in his 97. Marlow, who was not out 73, also batted very finely.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 June, page 9)

Mr G L Jessop surpassed himself at Brighton yesterday, hitting up 179 runs out of 257 in an hour and three-quarters. He gave no chance until he had made over a hundred, and though afterwards he might twice have been caught, his innings will rank as one of the features of the season. Included in his great innings were 32 fours, four threes and five twos.

Mr Jessop's batting dwarfed everything else in the day's cricket, but there was some capital batting by several other members of the Gloucestershire team. Wrathall and Board, who were lucky, added 96 for the third wicket, and afterwards Mr Brown batted brilliantly, his 89 being obtained in 95 minutes. It included 15 fours. The Sussex fielding was much at fault, and a big price had to be paid for mistakes.

Early in the day Mr Fry was no-balled for throwing. No less than 547 runs were obtained during the day. As the game was left last evening, Sussex with all ten wickets to fall were 79 runs behind.

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

The batting again obtained the upper hand at Brighton yesterday, and after the luncheon interval there was never the least chance of a decisive result. The score of the drawn match is given below .

. .

4 June: WORCESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5434.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 June, page 8)

There was a fairly interesting day's cricket yesterday at Worcester. Warwickshire went in first and put together 312. For this score they were very largely indebted to W G Quaife, who, going in second wicket down, carried out his bat for 83. For three hours and 40 minutes he batted with great skill and steadiness and hit nine fours and 15 twos. Diver, who played with some of his old brilliancy, hit up 44 out of 66, and Santall, Field and Dickens also rendered useful service.

In the half an hour left for play Worcestershire lost three wickets and are now 275 behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 June, page 9)

Worcestershire at Worcester yesterday were beaten by ten wickets.

Thursday 7 June, page 11

The team of West Indian cricketers who are this season making a tour in England arrived in Southampton yesterday morning after a splendid passage in the Royal Mail steamer Trent. They were met by Lord Hawke, and will, for the remainder of the week, stay at Southampton for practice, the Hampshire County committee having given them the use of the cricket ground.

7 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5435.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 June, page 11)

After a good deal of rain at Cambridge yesterday, stumps were drawn at 20 minutes past 5.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 June, page 13)

Rain, which restricted play in this match at Cambridge on Thursday to two hours and 40 minutes, again interfered with the game yesterday, no cricket being possible between a quarter past 12 and 25 minutes to 4. When stumps were drawn on Thursday evening the University had scored 132 for the loss of two wickets, and it was not until the total had reached 296 that the last Cambridge wicket fell.

The features of the innings were the displays given by Mr Dowson and Mr Wilson, who while they were together gave as pretty an exhibition of batting as has been seen at Fenner's this season. Mr Wilson, who ran himself out when there seemed every likelihood of his reaching his hundred, was at the wickets two hours and ten minutes. Mr Dowson gave a chance to Brockwell at slip at 42, but otherwise his innings was faultless. Among his figures were 11 fours and five threes.

Surrey had 50 minutes' batting at the close of the day, and in that time scored 45 runs for the loss of one wicket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 June, page 13)

The match at Cambridge ended on Saturday in a draw, the University at the finish having much the better of the position. In spite of a capital stand on Saturday morning by Mr Crawford and Abel, who put on 73 runs in a little over an hour for the fourth wicket, the Surrey innings was finished off just after luncheon for 203, Mr Dowson, as will be seen, bowling with great success.

When Cambridge went in again with a lead of 93 runs, the great feature of the play was the batting of the Somerset cricketer, Mr J Daniell, who was splendidly supported by Mr A M Sullivan. Mr Daniell obtained his 101 not out in two hours and a quarter without making the least mistake, his chief strokes being 11 fours, while Mr Sullivan hit nine fours.

7 June: LANCASHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5436.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 June, page 11)

Rain caused two or three interruptions at Manchester, yesterday, but the game was in progress for more than four and a half hours. Essex fared so well that at the drawing of stumps they had scored 267 runs for the loss of four batsmen.

A capital start was made by Mr Owen and Carpenter, who for the first wicket put on 94 runs. Mr Perrin and Carpenter then increased the total to 168. Carpenter, who is in exceptionally fine form this season, missed his 100 by only seven runs. He hit 14 fours, three threes and four twos. Towards the close of the day Mr Lucas and Mr Kortright added 77 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 June, page 13)

Cricket at Old Trafford - despite the counter attraction of the Manchester Cup - was watched by a huge crowd, the number present being estimated at about 17,000. As heavy rain in the night was followed by a bright morning, no one could tell how the wicket would play, but happily for the Lancashire eleven it recovered surprisingly well and never gave the bowlers the assistance expected.

During the time available for play on Thursday Essex had scored 267 for four wickets, but this number they only increased yesterday by 102 runs, the innings being finished off in less than two hours. They would have been out even sooner than this if the Lancashire bowlers had been well supported in the field. Reeves, who helped Mr Lucas to put on 43 in less than three-quarters of an hour for the sixth wicket, was missed before he had scored, and Russell was so extremely lucky as to have three escapes. Mr Lucas was out sixth at [321?], his innings having lasted two hours and a quarter. He and Mr Kortright played fine cricket for their runs, and Buckingham maintained a strong defence for 55 minutes.

Lancashire lost Mr MacLaren and Tyldesley for 33 runs, but Albert Ward and Briggs saved the situation, putting on 97 runs in 70 minutes. Briggs played very well, but Albert Ward's 81 was the innings of the day. He showed perfect defence for two hours and 40 minutes, being at last bowled by a yorker with the total at 189. Then, with six wickets down, Mr Hartley and Holland made a capital stand, Mr Hartley having the misfortune to be out in the last over of the day. As the game stands now, Lancashire are 113 runs behind, with three wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 June, page 13)

Bad weather prevented any play at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Saturday, and the match was abandoned . . .

7 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5437.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 June, page 11)

Pougher, the well-known Leicestershire bowler, was unfortunate in his benefit match at Leicester yesterday, as the weather was so unsettled that only two hours and forty minutes' play was possible. Leicestershire scored 152 for the loss of eight batsmen.

On going in, Mr Wood's wicket was lost with the score at four, but Whitehead and Knight made a useful stand and, after Whitehead left, Knight continued to play a steady and careful game with great success. At the close he was not out 69, his splendid defence having practically saved the Leicestershire batting from a complete breakdown. He gave a hard chance with his score at 29, but otherwise made no mistake. For the most part the Yorkshire fielding was very good, Tunnicliffe at slip bringing off four catches.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 June, page 13)

Yesterday's cricket at Leicester was made remarkable by a brilliant batting performance by Hirst and Wainwright, who, on a wicket ruined by rain, saved their side from a collapse. Owing to heavy showers it was found impossible to proceed with the game until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and then in 20 minutes the Leicestershire innings was finished for an additional ten runs. Knight, who went in first, was the last man out; his sound defence for over three hours was admirable.

Three wickets went for 26. Then Hirst and Wainwright came together and by brilliant hitting added 103 runs in 65 minutes. Yorkshire, with six wickets in hand, are only 36 runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 June, page 13)

The Yorkshire eleven had the satisfaction at Leicester on Saturday afternoon of gaining a ten wickets' victory, the match coming to an end at a few minutes after 5 o'clock. They showed capital cricket at every point and richly deserved their success; but at one point fortune favoured them, a dropped catch in the morning involving serious consequences for Leicestershire.

Lord Hawke was missed at slip when he had scored six, and made the most of his luck, staying in for an hour and a quarter. Thanks to his batting, with useful help from Haigh, Rhodes and Bairstow, the Yorkshire total of 136 for four wickets was carried to 241. This gave the side a lead of 79 runs, and as the wicket had been considerably affected by rain every one felt that Leicestershire would be beaten.

Eleven runs were scored without loss before lunch, but on the game being resumed the batsmen found Haigh's bowling so difficult that seven wickets fell for 41. Thanks chiefly to Geeson's free hitting the single innings' defeat was saved, but Yorkshire had only 15 to get to win, and this trifling number Brown and Tunnicliffe obtained from ten balls.

7 June: LONDON COUNTY v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5438.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 June, page 11)

Owing chiefly to the splendid batting of Dr Grace and the bowling of Braund, London County had considerably the better of the opening day's cricket at the Crystal Palace yesterday, for at the drawing of stumps they were only 36 runs behind with nine wickets in hand. Dr Grace was only batting for a little over an hour for his 60 not out, and he once more demonstrated that he still possesses some of that skill which has made his name a household word in the annals of cricket. Not once did he make a bad stroke and his placing was as accurate as ever.

The Derbyshire batting broke down badly against the bowling and fielding of Braund and Trott, and the only one to meet with any degree of success was Mr Wright, but he was favoured by fortune, as he was missed at 10 and again in the thirties. Braund bowled splendidly and took seven wickets for 52, while Trott's three cost 68 runs. All the catches off Braund's bowling were brought off in the slips. The weather curtailed the day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 June, page 13)

Derbyshire, at the Crystal Palace, yesterday, recovered some of the ground they had lost on Thursday. First of all they dismissed the London County for a smaller score than was expected from the position of the game overnight, when the London County had made 103 for one wicket. This feat they followed

up by some consistent batting, and on sending London County in again with 154 to get to win, they captured Trott's wicket without a run being scored, so that there is every probability of an interesting finish to-day.

Dr Grace again batted in splendid form and it was to every one's regret that he failed to get his hundred. The brilliancy of his display was not marred by a single bad stroke, and his cutting was marked by all his well-known accuracy. He was only batting a little over an hour and a half, and his 87 included 14 fours. Dr Grace and Board put on 106 for the second wicket in an hour. After Board, who was third out at 160, left, the batting broke down and the last five wickets added only ten runs. Young carried off the bowling honours with five wickets for 65, while Hulme took three for 48.

When Derbyshire went in again, 71 runs behind, Mr Evershed and Mr Wright soon knocked off the deficit. Mr Evershed played a grand forcing game and was only batting three-quarters of an hour for his 58, which included 11 fours. He was the first out at 81. Afterwards Mr Lawton batted well and the innings closed just before 6 o'clock. Trott took six wickets for 68 runs. When stumps were drawn London County required 154 to win with nine wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 June, page 13)

London County beat Derbyshire at the Crystal Palace on Saturday by five wickets. The closing stage was chiefly noticeable for the batting of Dr Grace and Braund, who, coming together at 25, put on 75 runs in less than an hour for the third wicket, and this practically put the result beyond doubt. Dr Grace again played extremely well, and Braund, who possesses a variety of strokes, also made his runs in excellent style.

London County, with nine wickets in hand, required 154 to win, and some two hours' cricket proved sufficient to bring the match to a definite issue.

7 June: SUSSEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5439.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 June, page 11)

Mr S M J Woods was in great batting form at Brighton yesterday, and played an innings of 148. Going in when four Somerset wickets were down for 106, he stayed for two hours and 40 minutes and was the ninth man out, at 339. He hit 20 fours, four threes and 17 twos, and his only mistake was a sharp chance in the slips when he had made 111.

The Brighton ground is a very favourite one with Mr Woods, as indeed it is with most hitters, but he has, perhaps, only once given a finer display on it. He found an excellent partner in Gill, who stayed in with him for an hour and 20 minutes, during which time the score was carried from 127 to 247. Early in the innings some very attractive play was shown by Mr L C H Palairret and Robson, who in an hour put on 86 for the second wicket.

The weather was fine, but too boisterous to be quite agreeable. Braund is standing out of the Somerset eleven, as some doubt as to his qualification had been raised by Surrey. When the stumps were drawn the score was as under . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 June, page 13)

The Sussex batting is very strong this season and of this fact the Somerset eleven received convincing evidence yesterday at Brighton. In face of a total of 377, Sussex had, at the close of play on Thursday, scored 15 runs without the loss of a wicket.

Going in with their innings yesterday, they gave such a brilliant display that when the afternoon's cricket came to an end they were 118 ahead with four wickets in hand. Up to a certain point there was no hint of anything sensational, for, despite some very good play by Collins and Vine, three wickets were down for 120.

The turning point came with the partnership of Killick and Ranjitsinhji, these two batsmen staying together for an hour and three-quarters, and in that time putting on 194 runs. On the perfect wicket the Somerset bowling did not tax them much, but as to the high quality of their play there could not be two opinions. Killick, who hit a five and 21 fours in his 127, did not, so far as was noticed, make a mistake of any kind. After he left good help for Ranjitsinhji was forthcoming, Mr Newham reviving memories of old successes for Sussex by remaining in while 90 runs were added in 50 minutes for the fifth wicket.

Ranjitsinhji, whose splendid innings was only marred by a chance when he had made 71, completed his 200 in the last over of the day. He had then been batting for three hours and 40 minutes. The weather was boisterous and rain caused a stoppage of play for 25 minutes.

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 June, page 13)

A week of heavy scoring at Brighton ended on Saturday with a success for the bowlers. The wicket had crumbled a little and the play was in the strongest contrast to that seen on the five previous days.

With six men out for 495, Sussex went on batting in the morning, but they only added 31 runs, the innings being finished off in 40 minutes. Ranjitsinhji increased to 222 his overnight score of 206, and thus had the satisfaction of playing, so far, the highest innings of the season. He beats Mr Stoddart and Abel by a single run. He hit 35 fours, and only one chance - given when he had made 71 - marred his superb display.

When Somerset started their second innings against a balance of 149 the result of the match was soon determined, six wickets falling in an hour and 20 minutes before lunch for 79 runs. Some good hitting by Messrs Woods and Fowler followed, and the last two men on the side averted a single innings defeat, but that was all, Sussex winning in the easiest fashion by ten wickets. Only in modern cricket has such a result been seen, Somerset being easily beaten after playing on the first day an innings of 377.

7 June: WARWICKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5440.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 June, page 11)

Very little progress could be made with this match at Birmingham yesterday, owing to the rain.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 June, page 13)

This match was continued yesterday at Birmingham, and the score was left as follows . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 June, page 13)

At Birmingham on Saturday two Hampshire batsmen made over a hundred, Mr C Robson scoring 101 and Mr Sprot 103 not out. Neither had before, in county cricket, played an innings of three figures. Their success made it possible for Hampshire to close their innings with a lead of 268 runs, but only an hour and a quarter remained for play when Warwickshire were put in and the game was drawn . . .

7 June: WORCESTERSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5441.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 June, page 11)

Rain prevented a start being made in this match at Worcester yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 June, page 13)

Although the whole of Thursday was lost, owing to heavy rain, so much progress was made with the match at Worcester yesterday that there is every prospect of the game being brought to a definite issue. The ground naturally gave the bowlers some assistance, and the policy of going in first on winning the toss may cost Worcestershire the match. In an hour and 35 minutes the home side were all dismissed for the small total of 90, Mr Bromley-Martin, Arnold and Mr Wilkes alone showing any ability to cope with the bowling of Mr Mason and Blythe.

Owing chiefly to the skilful batting of Mr Burnup early in the innings and Mr Baker towards the close, the Kent total reached 158, giving them a lead of 68 runs. At the end of the day Worcestershire had ten minutes' batting, and in that time lost Bird's wicket for six runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 June, page 13)

So much progress was made with the Worcestershire and Kent match at Worcester on Friday, after Thursday had been rendered blank through rain, that little doubt could be felt as to the game being finished off. As matters turned out the end was reached on Saturday more rapidly than could have been anticipated, Kent gaining an easy victory at 2 o'clock in the afternoon by ten wickets.

Worcestershire started in the morning from a very unfavourable position, being 62 runs in arrear with one wicket down in their second innings; and, with the pitch suffering from fresh showers of rain, their chance of averting defeat was small indeed. So feeble was their resistance to the Kent bowlers that half the side were out for 21, and though Mr Foster and Wheldon put on 36 runs together during their partnership for the sixth wicket, the innings was all over for 69, Kent having thus only a couple of runs to get to win.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The position of the counties is now as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Lancashire	8	6	0	2	6
Yorkshire	7	5	0	2	5
Sussex	6	2	0	4	2
Surrey	9	5	1	3	4
Notts	4	3	1	0	2
Essex	7	3	1	3	2
Kent	5	2	1	2	1
Warwickshire	7	2	1	4	1
Middlesex	4	1	2	1	-1
Somerset	4	1	3	0	-2
Derbyshire	5	1	3	1	-2
Gloucestershire	6	1	3	2	-2
Worcestershire	7	0	5	2	-5
Hampshire	7	0	5	2	-5
Leicestershire	6	0	6	0	-6

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 champion county."

INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

Philadelphia, June 9.

The Associated Cricket Clubs have appointed a committee to communicate with Mr Jackson with a view to international cricket matches here in September. - Reuter.

11 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5442.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 June, page 11)

After the fine performance of the Cambridge team against Surrey last week, the display they made at Cambridge yesterday in the Sussex match - the last of their trial games at home - was very disappointing.

Going in first on a good wicket, they were all got rid of for 144, and this moderate score took three hours and 40 minutes to obtain. Mr Taylor, however, was seen to advantage in an innings of 53, in playing which he showed excellent defence for an hour and 50 minutes. His partnership with Mr Johnson produced 46 runs at a time when matters were going badly with the side; and Mr Fernie afterwards helped him to add 38.

Sussex, on beginning their innings, did well for some time, Marlow and Vine steadily putting on 44 runs. Then a trial was given to the new bowler, Mr Squire (right hand, medium to fast), and he at once met with success, dismissing Vine and Killick in successive overs. Marlow and Butt, however, stayed together and carried the score to 79 without further loss before stumps were drawn. Sussex are without Mr C B Fry and Mr A Collins, whose places are taken by J Bean and Cox.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 June, page 11)

At Cambridge yesterday K S Ranjitsinhji gave further proof of the fine form that he is in by scoring 215 not out, and by his success Sussex were able to close their first innings with the total at 451 for nine wickets, Cambridge being left to face a balance of 307 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 June, page 11)

Mr Stanning and Mr Wilson made a great effort to save the University from defeat at Cambridge yesterday, but they were unsuccessful. Sussex won by an innings and 89 runs.

11 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5443.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 June, page 11)

The Warwickshire Eleven gave an excellent display of batting at Bristol yesterday. They stayed at the wickets the greater part of the time that cricket was in progress, and ran up a total of 375. In the last 40 minutes of play Gloucestershire lost one wicket for 27 runs.

At luncheon time it appeared probable that Warwickshire would score an even larger total than they actually made, for 159 runs were on the board with only one man out; but afterwards there was something of a collapse. The batting of Mr Fishwick and Lilley was the great feature of the innings, and the cricket of both men was free from fault. The greater praise was perhaps due to Mr Fishwick, who had to face the bowling while it was fresh and before the fieldsman had begun to feel the effects of the great heat.

He was at the wickets two hours and a quarter, while Lilley occupied an hour and 50 minutes in making his 111. Mr Fishwick obtained a large proportion of his runs on the leg side, but his driving was admirable, and Lilley, who played well all round the wicket, hit with such vigour towards the close that he made his last 61 runs in 50 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 June, page 11)

At the close of play at Bristol yesterday Gloucestershire were left with the formidable task of getting 365 to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 June, page 11)

Rain at Bristol yesterday brought the match to an abrupt conclusion shortly after 1 o'clock, the game being drawn as follows . . .

11 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5444.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 June, page 11)

There was little cricket at Leicester yesterday, owing to a severe thunderstorm in the afternoon.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 June, page 11)

When rain put a stop to Monday's cricket at Leicester the Leicestershire eleven had scored 118 for one wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 June, page 11)

At Leicester, yesterday, bad weather robbed the Leicestershire eleven of a victory, rain coming on when the game was in their hands. The ground was too wet in the morning to allow of play being started at the ordinary time, and as some more rain fell very little could be done till after lunch.

With one wicket down for 17 runs Leicestershire went on with their second innings, and succeeded in carrying the score to 84 for three wickets, the innings being then declared closed. Wood, who is in first-rate form this season, played excellent cricket, runs coming at a very fair pace while he and Coe were together.

Worcestershire had 179 to get in two hours and 20 minutes, but the wicket was too treacherous to give them any hope of accomplishing such a task. As it turned out they fared much worse than any one could have expected, two wickets falling for two runs, five being down for 11 and eight for 38. The match appeared to be practically over, when, aided by a little luck, Romney and Burrows put on some much-needed runs, and they were still together when, at ten minutes to 6, a sudden downpour of rain stopped the cricket. Unfortunately for Leicestershire the weather did not clear up, and so the match had to be abandoned.

11 June: MIDDLESEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5445.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 June, page 11)

The Notts eleven were seen to great advantage at Lord's yesterday and kept in during the whole of the cricket hours. Their performance was the more meritorious as they made a bad start by losing two of their best batsmen - Mr Jones and Shrewsbury - for only 26 runs.

Afterwards W Gunn and Dench took the edge off the bowling and put on 105 for the third wicket. From this point Notts never looked back and, with the one exception of Carlin, the rest of the side added materially to the total. As can be judged from the score their batting was marked more by its evenness than by any innings of special merit.

W Gunn took some time to play himself in, but then made many good strokes, and his 53 included ten fours. Judging by his form yesterday Dench appears to have improved as a batsman. He was always an extremely careful player, but he put more power behind his strokes. J Gunn, the highest scorer for

the side, varied in his methods, at times playing with undue caution and occasionally hitting out with power. He went in with the third wicket down at 131 and was eighth out at 303 to a brilliant catch at cover-point by Mr Beldam, who jumped and held a hard drive with his right hand. J Gunn was batting two hours and 40 minutes, and his chief hits were ten fours.

The fastest piece of scoring during the day was for the last wicket, when Mason and Wass put on 56 in 23 minutes. Mason batted extremely well, but Wass hit out at nearly everything. Pepper is making his first appearance for Notts. He is receiving a trial on his form shown against the Yorkshire colts early in the season. The weather was beautifully fine and there was a good attendance.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 June, page 11)

Middlesex found themselves at a great disadvantage at Lord's yesterday, as they had to go in on a pitch damaged by rain. A start was not made until 25 minutes to 2 o'clock.

Mr Littlejohn who plays for Ealing was making his first appearance for his county. He batted extremely well for his 29 not out, and was at the wickets 70 minutes. When stumps were drawn Middlesex were 167 runs behind with seven wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 June, page 11)

Nottinghamshire beat Middlesex at Lord's yesterday by six wickets. Two performances stood out prominently in the day's cricket - those of Mr Hayman and Albert Trott. Mr Hayman, who was fifth out at 162 in attempting to hit to leg, played extremely well all round the wicket. His 78, which took him two hours and a quarter to make, included 11 fours.

Trott, on the other hand, played a forcing game to great advantage, for he was only in as many minutes for his 65, which he got out of 91. He hit J Gunn to the on out of the ground between the tavern and the members' dining room. Rawlin was unable to bat owing to an injured hand.

11 June: SURREY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5446.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 June, page 11)

Yesterday's cricket at the Oval, in the Surrey and Somerset match, was favourable to the visitors. Their batting was materially strengthened by the presence of Mr J Daniell, and they were fortunate in winning the toss and securing the first use of an excellent wicket. Surrey, on the other hand, were deprived of the services of Abel, who is ill, and Wood, who is suffering from an injured hand; and they were further handicapped by being unable to avail themselves of Lockwood for the attack, that player being prevented from bowling by an injury to one of his legs.

Nevertheless, they got rid of Somerset for 271. Lewis's innings was terminated in a somewhat unusual manner. A confident appeal was made for a catch at the wicket and, believing he was out, Lewis walked away from his crease. The umpire's verdict, however, was in his favour, but before he could regain his crease Stedman had whipped off the bails. A remarkable catch was made by Mr Jephson, who at mid-off stopped a hard drive high up with one hand and then secured the ball as it was falling. This disposed of Mr Newton.

Some vigorous batting was shown by Mr Daniell and Mr Hill. While they were together 86 runs were scored for the sixth wicket in 55 minutes. Mr Hill was responsible for 60 of the number, and when he was at last dismissed he had been in just over an hour for 63, in which he hit one five and nine fours. Mr Daniell was batting two hours and 20 minutes for 64.

When Surrey went in an hour remained for play, and in that time they fared disastrously. Mr Crawford was bowled by the first ball of the innings, Hayes was out when the total stood at three, and a good catch by Daniell, low down at mid-off, got rid of Hayward at 41. Lockwood was caught at the wicket directly afterwards; and when stumps were drawn Surrey had lost four wickets for 55 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 June, page 11)

The Surrey and Somerset match had resulted in a distinctly interesting situation when stumps were drawn at the Oval last night. Yesterday morning's thunderstorm rendered it impossible to renew the match until a quarter to 1; but the pitch recovered in a remarkable manner.

Somerset had a lead of 42 on the first innings, and on going in a second time they fared badly. Their first 48 runs were scored at the cost of the wickets of Lewis, Mr Newton and Mr Daniell. But then came a remarkable stand by Robson and Mr Woods. The latter ought to have been caught in the slips by Hayes when he had made a single, but, surviving this, he played with a steadiness that is rarely associated with his batting. Of the 113 runs which the fourth wicket produced he made only 29. Robson, on the other hand, played a dashing game. At the close of the day Somerset had eight men out for 192, and with two wickets to fall they are this 234 runs on.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 June, page 11)

At Kennington Oval yesterday Somerset gained a brilliant victory by 171 runs. Surrey had the worst of the wicket, but their cricket was rather unworthy of a great eleven. The chief credit for Somerset's victory was undoubtedly due to Robson, who, in addition to scoring 113 runs, took five Surrey wickets in the second innings for 26 runs.

11 June: YORKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5447.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 June, page 11)

At Bradford, yesterday, the Lancashire eleven were placed at a disadvantage, both Briggs and Mold being kept out of the match - Briggs by a badly bruised hand and Mold by a strained thigh. It was extremely unfortunate that on an occasion of such importance the two best bowlers of the Lancashire side should be disabled.

The day's cricket was full of interest, so far as it went, but a thunderstorm cut it short soon after half-past 4. The Yorkshire eleven have a happy faculty for recovering from an unfavourable position, and in this respect yesterday's match showed them at their best. At ten minutes past 3 five of their wickets were down for 88, only Tunnicliffe and Wainwright having up to that point shown any capacity to deal with the bowling, but when, after an adjournment for bad light, the storm put an end to the game for the day, the score was 207, with six men out.

The turning point of the innings came with the partnership of Hirst and Mr Ernest Smith. The previous batting had been far too cautious, and these two players seemed to have made up their minds to adopt an entirely different method. Any way, they put on 64 runs in 35 minutes, their brilliant hitting saving a very awkward situation. After Hirst had been dismissed by a catch at point Lord Hawke gave valuable help to Mr Ernest Smith, and without further loss 55 runs were added in 50 minutes. The attendance was estimated at from 8,000 to 10,000.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 June, page 11)

Cricket at Bradford yesterday was restricted to an hour and three-quarters before luncheon, a series of thunderstorms preventing anything from being done afterwards. It was found possible to begin yesterday morning at ten minutes past 11, and between that time and a few minutes before 12 the Yorkshire innings, in which six wickets had gone down on Monday for 207, was finished off for 230.

The opening of Lancashire's innings was sensational, MacLaren and Albert Ward being got rid of for a single run. If two catches had come off, Tyldesley and Paul would also have failed, but profiting by a little good luck, these batsmen made a capital stand of 36 runs. The third, fourth and fifth wickets, however, fell at 37, and when at 20 minutes past 1 the light became so bad as to cause a stoppage of the game there were seven men out for 48.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 June, page 11)

Owing to the rain the match at Bradford was left drawn yesterday, the weather breaking up just before 3 o'clock and preventing any further play. In more favourable circumstances the finish would have been extremely interesting, as Lancashire, with about two hours and 40 minutes before them, wanted 199 runs to win.

Their position would have been desperate of in the morning they had not succeeded in getting within 150 runs of Yorkshire's total of 230, and so avoided being put in a second time. In carrying their previous score of 48 for seven wickets to 96, they were largely indebted to Sharp, who hit out most pluckily. It was only after he had been joined by the last man that the desired figure was reached, but after that he went on scoring for some little time. Rhodes again bowled exceedingly well and his analysis for the innings was a very fine one.

When Yorkshire, having a lead of 134, went in for the second time, Lancashire were placed at a great disadvantage, Cuttell - perhaps the best bowler on their side with Mold and Briggs away - being kept out of the field by an injury to the arm. However, Sharp and Hallam bowled in capital style, and when at half-past 1 an adjournment was made for luncheon Yorkshire had four wickets down for 31.

On a fresh start being made, Denton batted splendidly, and when his, the sixth, wicket fell at 64 Lord Hawke declared the innings closed. Just as Lancashire were going in for their second innings rain came on and there was no more play.

11 June: LONDON COUNTY v WEST INDIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105731.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 June, page 11)

The West Indian cricketers, consisting of white colonists and coloured players, opened their tour in this country yesterday at the Crystal Palace. They were kept in the field the whole day, and at the close had not dismissed all their opponents.

Burton and Woods are both good bowlers, with an excellent knowledge of Pitch, spin and pace; and the fact that they had to make their debut on a perfectly true pitch and against a splendid batting side was a piece of ill-fortune. The visitors fielded well and the catches of Mr Constantine and Mr Cox in the long field were beautifully judged.

It must have been a little disheartening to the visitors that Dr Grace and Mr J Gilman made 136 for the first wicket. Dr Grace played beautiful cricket for his runs; on such a hard wicket he may not have come forward quite so much as he did in his more youthful days, but his game was perfect. Mr J R Mason, the Kent captain, however, played the great innings of the day by making 126 in a couple of hours. His off-driving was superb, and any leg ball was easily dealt with. He hit 20 fours and was eighth out at 381. There was other good batting by Mr Lawton, Mr Murdoch and Mr Parkes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 June, page 11)

There was plenty of attractive cricket at the Crystal Palace yesterday, and it was witnessed by a large attendance of spectators. When the visitors have become more used to the conditions of English weather and wickets, they should give an excellent account of themselves in every respect.

Nothing could very well have been better in batting than the work yesterday of Mr Goodman and Mr Cox, who, at a critical point of the innings, added 113 runs in 80 minutes for the fifth wicket, which fell at 142. Then, in the last half an hour of the day, Woods surprise every one by the enterprise of his forward and back play. Mr Goodman's innings was marked by variety of strokes, and he got his runs at an average pace.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 June, page 11)

The West Indians were beaten at the Crystal Palace yesterday by an innings and 198 runs. In less than a couple of hours Dr Grace and Mr Mason got the side out a second time. The wicket helped the bowlers. The West Indians did their best within a week of their arrival in this country, and no

doubt they will play much better cricket as they get used to English weather and the condition of the grounds.

At luncheon yesterday in the Crystal Palace pavilion Dr Grace took the opportunity of publicly welcoming the West Indian team. Mr A Warner thanked the Englishmen for their reception, and said that they had come to learn cricket and he felt sure that whatever were their match results the trip would be beneficial to West Indian cricket.

Mr W L Murdoch pointed out in a very good speech that the same spirit of humility existed among the Australians when they first visited England in 1878. He was sure that the West Indians would as years went on develop their talent as Australia had done.

Wednesday 13 June, page 11: YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

A meeting of the Yorkshire committee was held at Bradford yesterday during the progress of the Yorkshire and Lancashire match. It was announced that arrangements had been come to with Lancashire to make the home and home matches between the two counties permanent fixtures for the future on the Whitsuntide and August Bank Holidays. Next year the Whitsuntide match will be at Old Trafford and the August one in Yorkshire.

The Yorkshire committee resolved to subscribe £5 each to all the benefits taken by professional cricketers in other counties during the present season.

14 June: DERBYSHIRE v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5448.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 June, page 12)

Cricket at Derby yesterday in the return match between these teams was restricted to less than two hours and three-quarters owing to bad light and rain.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 June, page 9)

There was no play yesterday in . . . Derbyshire v London County in consequence of the rain . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 June, page 9)

At one point on Saturday afternoon at Derby there seemed every probability of the match being finished, although nearly a day and a half had been lost owing to rain. Derbyshire, who in face of a total of 97, had scored 40 for the loss of one wicket, completed their innings just before luncheon for 173, and when London County went in a second time, against a balance of 76 runs, five of their wickets fell for 46.

Then Mr Wood, who had been playing excellent cricket, was joined by Mr Walker and a stand was made which quite altered the appearance of the match, the two batsmen putting on 58 runs together before Mr Walker was out to a catch at cover-point. Mr Wood afterwards received useful support from Hulme and Seymour, and when the match was left drawn the score had reached 170 for seven wickets.

14 June: ESSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5449.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 June, page 12)

It was a bowler's wicket at Leyton yesterday and the 7,000 spectators saw much exciting cricket. Buckingham's good batting saved Essex from absolute disaster. When Yorkshire were in several catches in the slips were dropped by Mr Kortright.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 June, page 9)

The Yorkshire eleven won their match at Leyton yesterday by six wickets. The alternations of fortune made the last day's cricket quite exciting.

Essex, with two men left in their second innings, were no more than 23 runs on; then came some reckless and successful hitting by Mead, and Yorkshire were left with 101 to make to win. A slight rainfall improved the pitch, and Yorkshire, after losing three men for 24 runs, were successful owing to the finished cricket of Denton and the courageous batting of Hirst.

14 June: LANCASHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5450.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 June, page 12)

Yesterday was essentially a bowler's day in Manchester, no fewer than 24 wickets going down in the course of the afternoon's cricket for an aggregate of 252 runs. Owing to their poor batting, rather than to any marked brilliancy in the Lancashire bowling, the Surrey eleven had considerably the worse of the proceedings, and when play ceased they were 30 runs to the bad with four men out in their second innings.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 June, page 9)

Any hope that the Surrey Eleven might have entertained of making up at Old Trafford yesterday for the disasters of the previous day was completely destroyed by the weather. Rain fell heavily all the morning and continued till beyond 12 o'clock.

At five minutes to 4 Surrey started on what was felt to be a hopeless task. With four wickets down in their second innings for 37 - Mr Crawford, Hayes, Abel and Stedman being out - they still wanted 30 runs to avert a single innings defeat. The six outstanding wickets only added 60 runs, and by ten minutes past 5 the innings was all over.

Wanting only 31 to win, Lancashire had the match in their hands. In less than half an hour they hit off the runs, winning before 6 o'clock by eight wickets.

14 June: MIDDLESEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5451.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 June, page 12)

Yesterday's cricket at Lord's was full of interest. At the close Gloucestershire were 173 runs behind with nine wickets in hand. Owing to rain no play was possible after 6 o'clock.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 June, page 9)

Everything else yesterday at Lord's was put into insignificance by the wonderful hitting of Mr Jessop. He has previously accomplished many fine feats in the way of fast scoring, but his performance yesterday will rank as one of, if not his best.

He scored 51 out of 57 in half an hour, while he made his 109 out of 120 in 67 minutes. The strength of his batting can be judged from his figures, in which were one five, 21 fours, two threes, three twos and only eight singles. Naturally, scoring at such a fast rate, he ran some risks, but he had

more than his share of luck and was badly missed at 79. Mr Sewell and Wrathall were also seen to great advantage. The Middlesex fielding was loose and had they made the most of their opportunities the Gloucestershire total would have been considerably less.

Inconsistency, which has marked the Middlesex batting this season, was again visible in their second innings, for Mr Beldam and Mr Moon between them scored all except 57 of the runs from the bat. Mr Beldam's 88, for which he was at the wickets some three hours, included 11 fours. Mr Fergus again bowled very well, for, going on at 160, he took six wickets for 21 runs. In the match he had the excellent figures of 12 wickets for 87 - a splendid performance on his first appearance for his county. He bowls fast right hand.

At the close of the Middlesex innings stumps were drawn for the day, and Gloucestershire now require 224 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 June, page 9)

Gloucestershire gained a brilliant victory over Middlesex at Lord's on Saturday by seven wickets. They owed their success largely to the batting of Mr Jessop and the bowling of Mr Fergus, while they were considerably helped by the loose fielding of their opponents. Mr Jessop, in the match, made 167 runs for once out, while Mr Fergus took 12 wickets for 87.

The closing stage was marked by much bright batting by Mr Jessop, Mr Townsend and Board, and Gloucestershire got the 224 runs required to win in two hours and a quarter. After losing two wickets for 63, Mr Townsend and Board put on 71 in 40 minutes for the third. When Mr Jessop joined Mr Townsend runs came with greater freedom, and the remaining 90 were hit off in 37 minutes.

14 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5452.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 June, page 12)

At Oxford, yesterday, when play ceased between these teams, the score stood as under . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 June, page 9)

The weather interfered with this game at Oxford yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 June, page 9)

With a draw as the only probable result, very little interest was taken in the concerning stage of the match at Oxford on Saturday. There was, however, some capital cricket, notably by Mr Knox, Mr Bosanquet and Mr Trask.

14 June: SUSSEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5453.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 June, page 12)

An interesting afternoon's cricket at Brighton yesterday was cut short at 5 o'clock, rain setting in at that time and rendering further play impossible.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 June, page 9)

There was no play yesterday in . . . Sussex v Notts . . . in consequence of the rain . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 June, page 9)

The time lost at Brighton through Friday's rain could not be made up and on Saturday the match had to be left drawn.

14 June: WORCESTERSHIRE v WEST INDIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105732.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 June, page 12)

The West Indian team began their match against Worcestershire at Worcester yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 June, page 9)

The Worcestershire Eleven outplayed the West Indians at Worcester yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 June, page 9)

At Worcester on Saturday the West Indians were beaten by Worcestershire by 215 runs.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties were as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Lancashire	10	7	0	3	7
Yorkshire	9	6	0	3	6
Sussex	7	2	0	5	1
Notts	6	4	1	1	3
Kent	5	2	1	2	1
Warwickshire	8	2	1	5	1
Surrey	11	5	3	3	2
Essex	8	3	2	3	1
Somerset	5	2	3	0	-1
Gloucestershire	8	2	3	3	-1
Derbyshire	5	1	3	1	-2
Middlesex	6	1	4	1	-3
Hampshire	7	0	5	2	-5
Worcestershire	8	0	5	3	-5
Leicestershire	7	0	6	1	-6

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 champion county."

AMERICAN CRICKETERS FOR ENGLAND

Philadelphia, June 16

The Pennland, which sailed to-day, had on board the Haverford College cricket team, which is to make a tour in England. - Reuter.

18 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5454.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 June, page 12)

The brilliant batting of Mr MacLaren and the steady play of Albert Ward gave Lancashire a strong lead at Bristol yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 June, page 13)

Last evening the score at Bristol was left as follows . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 June, page 7)

After some very exciting cricket the match at Bristol ended yesterday in a draw, Gloucestershire just succeeding in avoiding defeat.

18 June: KENT v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5455.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 June, page 12)

The Sussex eleven batted splendidly at Tonbridge yesterday, the great feature of their innings being the batting of Mr Charles Fry, who got his runs at a quick rate and made 18 fours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 June, page 13)

The brilliant batting of K S Ranjitsinhji absorbed the interest of the big company at the second day of the Tonbridge Cricket Festival.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 June, page 7)

K S Ranjitsinhji and Marlow continued batting at Tonbridge yesterday, but neither of them played well, the wicket helping the bowlers. K S Ranjitsinhji increased his score to 192 and Marlow reached 42, but shortly after noon a thunderstorm swept over the ground and no more play was possible . . .

18 June: LONDON COUNTY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5456.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 June, page 12)

London County gave an excellent batting display at the Crystal Palace yesterday in their return match with Cambridge University. They kept in the whole of the cricket hours and at the close had scored 342 for six wickets.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 June, page 13)

London County established a strong lead at the Crystal Palace yesterday. After increasing their score of 342 for six wickets to 574, they dismissed Cambridge for a small total.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 June, page 7)

Owing to rain only some two hours' cricket was possible at the Crystal Palace yesterday, and the match was left drawn . . .

18 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5457.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 June, page 12)

In this match at Oxford yesterday the score was left as follows . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 June, page 13)

Oxford won the match at Oxford yesterday by four wickets.

18 June: YORKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5458.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 June, page 12)

The Surrey cricketers had a far from agreeable experience at Sheffield yesterday in the opening stage of their match with Yorkshire. So defective was the light that three times in the course of the day the players had to leave the field for half an hour.

The crowd of about 14,000 people, irritated at the interruptions, behaved disgracefully, hooting Mr Jephson not only when he came out to resume his innings after lunch but when he was actually batting. The Surrey captain, however, took a handsome revenge by putting together a splendid innings of 109 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 June, page 13)

Surrey missed a great chance of placing themselves safe from defeat at Sheffield yesterday. To begin with Brockwell, who had got a wicket with the last ball sent down on Monday, got rid of Brown of Driffield and Tunnicliffe with the first two balls he bowled yesterday, thus performing the "hat trick." Then Denton hit out freely, but he was let off four times before he had made 30.

Six wickets fell for 46. Washington rendered Denton useful help, and after his dismissal at 91 Mr Ernest Smith helped to put on 71 for the eighth wicket in 35 minutes. At the drawing of stumps the northern county had nine wickets to go down and still required 163 to gain a victory.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 June, page 7)

The rain prevented any cricket at Sheffield yesterday and the match at a most interesting point had to be abandoned as drawn.

18 June: WARWICKSHIRE v WEST INDIANS (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105733.html)

Note: scorecard given but no report.

Tuesday 19 June, page 12: THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN

Mr T L Taylor, the Cambridge captain, has given Mr E M Dowson his blue.

Wednesday 20 June, page 13: M.C.C. v WEST INDIANS

The M.C.C. team to oppose the West Indians at Lord's to-morrow will be Lord Harris (captain), Dr W G Grace, Mr A E Stoddart, Mr M Merton Barker, Mr W Williams, Mr A B Reynolds, Mr E R de Little, Mr A Page, Mr A F Somerset, Mr A M Miller and Mr J Gilman.

21 June: DERBYSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5459.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 June, page 10)

There was only a little play at Glossop yesterday owing to the weather.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 June, page 14)

The bowlers again had the better of the cricket at Glossop yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 June, page 13)

The pitch was unfit for cricket at Glossop on Saturday and the match was abandoned . . .

21 June: KENT v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5460.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 June, page 10)

Rain prevented play in the following matches, which were fixed for yesterday: -
. . . Tonbridge. - Kent v Middlesex. . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 June, page 14)

At Tonbridge, yesterday, Messrs Mason and H C Stewart were the only batsmen to show to advantage on a wicket made difficult by the heavy rain which stopped cricket on Thursday. Hitting brilliantly, Mason made one drive out of the ground and another over the pavilion, his chief hits being a six and 11 fours. Stewart, seventh out at 170, was batting an hour and three-quarters.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 June, page 13)

The second match of the Tonbridge festival resulted in a victory for Kent. So much rain fell in the district on Tuesday and subsequent days that the wicket was soft and the Kent men did well by going in for hard hitting.

When the game was resumed on Saturday morning Kent had all ten wickets in hand and an advantage of 82 runs, and their first five men did so well that the lead was increased to 272. While Mr Mason and Mr Rashleigh were together the scoring was very fast, 82 runs been added in 35 minutes. The innings was "declared" at 2 o'clock, and Middlesex were set 273 runs to win with three hours and 40 minutes to bat.

Mr Mason, however, bowled so well that the chance of the runs being obtained was early extinguished. When the sixth man was out he had an analysis of five wickets for 15 runs, and shortly before five o'clock the last Middlesex wicket fell, leaving Kent the winners by 152 runs.

21 June: SOMERSET v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5461.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 June, page 10)

Rain prevented play in the following matches, which were fixed for yesterday: -
. . . Taunton. - Somerset v Lancashire.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 June, page 14)

Yesterday's cricket at Taunton was marked by a brilliant innings of 100 by Mr A C MacLaren, whose off-driving possessed all its old strength. Tyldesley and Cuttell also did well and Mold bowled with great effect on the spoiled wicket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 June, page 13)

Lancashire won their match at Taunton on Saturday by an innings and 17 runs. A heavy rainstorm during the night had so thoroughly saturated the pitch that it was feared at one time that there would be no play, but the sun baked the wicket, which became so false that the Lancashire bowlers carried all before them.

21 June: SURREY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5462.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 June, page 10)

Rain prevented play in the following matches, which were fixed for yesterday: -
. . . Oval. - Surrey v Cambridge University. . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 June, page 14)

The return match between Surrey and the University eleven was begun yesterday at the Oval, rain having prevented any play on the opening day. Cambridge had made a couple of changes in the team which fared so badly in the early part of the week at the Crystal Palace. A trial was given to Mr Fergus, who has been bowling well for Gloucestershire this season, and, though meeting with no success yesterday, he is not at all unlikely to appear at Lord's in the University match. Mr Sullivan, who has made so many runs in college cricket, was given another trial, and kept wicket in order that his captain might give his hands a rest.

The pitch was suffering from the previous day's rain and played very queerly at first, but improved as the game went on. There seemed to be little sting about the Cambridge attack, for the 300 runs should not have been scored on what was emphatically a bowler's wicket. The University fielding was good, but Mr Sullivan made a very insufficient substitute for Mr Taylor at the wicket. Mr Daniell made a magnificent cover-point, saving boundary after boundary, and Mr Moon also did very good work.

When Cambridge went in the wicket appeared easier, but only a dozen runs were put on before Mr Stanning was bowled by a bailer from Lees. Mr Moon showed good form and seemed well set before the same bowler sent his middle stump out of the ground. The Cambridge captain, who is a very stylish bat, made 14 before he obstructed a ball from Lees, though he appeared to play it on to his pad.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 June, page 13)

The Light Blues had a hard fight against time on Saturday, and in the end, thanks to a capital innings by their captain and the indulgence of the Surrey fieldsmen, they managed to draw the game.

When play was resumed in the morning Cambridge were in a minority of 261, and it was at once seen that to play for a draw was the only game; for the wicket was so affected by the rain and the hot sun that only 37 runs were added by the remaining batsmen. Following on, however, they did much better, and eventually set Surrey the task of making 48 runs in 13 minutes.

Mr Moon for the second time in the match played good cricket, and Mr Daniell made a useful stand with his captain before he was caught at the wicket. Then followed two long partnerships between Mr Day and Mr Taylor and Mr Wilson and Mr Taylor. So cautiously did Mr Wilson play - he was batting over an hour for ten runs - that the Surrey crowd did not disguise their displeasure; but this careful cricket no doubt saved the day.

Mr Taylor continued to play a capital game until his score was 120. He ought to have been caught and bowled by Mr Leveson-Gower from the first ball delivered by the old Oxford Blue; but, apart from this and a couple of chances of a similar nature, little fault could be found with his batting. The Cambridge captain was over three hours at the wicket, and obtained his runs chiefly by cutting, though he has a very good wrist drive. When victory seemed well within the grasp of the Surrey men an unlooked-for stand took place between Mr Fergus and Mr Hind. The fast bowler hit out well and the partnership made Cambridge safe from defeat.

Mr Crawford and Lees tried to obtain the necessary runs in the short time; but the task was beyond their powers. Of the Surrey bowlers Smith with seven wickets at the cost of 90 runs had the best analysis in the match.

21 June: SUSSEX v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5463.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 June, page 10)

Rain prevented play in the following matches, which were fixed for yesterday: -
. . . Eastbourne. - Sussex v Essex. . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 June, page 14)

The wet weather of Thursday at Eastbourne was followed by a change to bright sunshine yesterday, and a start was made with the Sussex and Essex match under the most pleasant conditions. On winning the toss Mr Lucas, as the wicket was likely to improve, decided to send Sussex in, and his policy was fully justified by the subsequent play.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 June, page 13)

After being in serious danger of defeat Sussex effected a very creditable draw at Eastbourne on Saturday. Indeed, it may be said they had none the worse of the position when the game was abandoned, for Essex, with half their wickets down, still required 38 runs to win.

No play was possible until 20 minutes to 1, owing to the soft state of the pitch, some showers hindering its recovery from the effects of heavy rain during the night, and Essex took an hour to add 47 runs. Finding how difficult runs were to obtain, Mr Lucas then applied the closure; but by not waiting until lunch time he lost his side 15 minutes, for only one over was bowled before the interval and no wicket fell.

It seemed, however, that this would not matter, Mead being practically unplayable when the game was resumed. In five overs and four balls he took five wickets for eight runs, and half the side were out for 14. Essex, therefore, seemed to have the match in hand, but Mr Fry played a great game and, with Marlow for a partner, added 60 runs in 50 minutes before being brilliantly caught at short slip by Mr Kortright with one hand close to the ground. Mr Brann then stopped with Marlow for half an

hour and all the others helped a little. Consequently Essex were left with 69 runs to get to win in 55 minutes.

Their chances of doing this rapidly disappeared, three wickets falling in 20 minutes for 13 runs, and the other batsmen made no effort to force a victory. The afternoon turned pleasantly fine and some 3,000 spectators thoroughly enjoyed the spirited cricket.

21 June: WORCESTERSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5464.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 June, page 10)

Some progress was made at Worcester yesterday with the match, but the wicket was slow and rain shortened the playing hours.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 June, page 14)

An interesting day's cricket at Worcester yesterday left the score thus . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 June, page 13)

There was an exciting finish to this match at Worcester on Saturday, when Worcestershire won by 10 runs.

21 June: YORKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5465.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 June, page 10)

The cricket at Hull yesterday was frequently interrupted by rain, and play was finally stopped for the day by a heavy shower which came on at ten minutes to 6.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 June, page 14)

At Hull, yesterday, the Yorkshire eleven severely punished the weak bowling of Hampshire, staying in all day and carrying their overnight score of 16 for no wicket to 460. There were three long partnerships, Brown and Tunnickliffe scoring 148 for the first wicket, Hirst and Washington putting [on] 139 in an hour and 40 minutes for the fifth, and Lees Whitehead and Hunter adding 76 for the last.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 June, page 13)

Yorkshire gained a brilliant victory over Hampshire at Hull on Saturday by an innings and 271 runs. Rhodes had a wicket that suited him and bowled with irresistible effect.

Hampshire, when play was continued, had the hopeless task of facing a balance of 332 runs on the first innings, and they were all dismissed in an hour and 10 minutes for 61, the end being reached at half-past 4.

21 June: GENTLEMEN OF M.C.C. v WEST INDIANS (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105734.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 June, page 10)

Rain prevented play in the following matches, which were fixed for yesterday: -
Lord's. - M.C.C. v The West Indians.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 June, page 14)

The Marylebone Club established a strong advantage in the first day's play in their match with the West Indians at Lord's yesterday. From the first runs came freely, for they averaged over 80 an hour for the innings, against moderate bowling and fielding by the visitors. Mr A F Somerset's 118 was the chief feature. He went in fifth wicket down at 123, and was the last to leave. His chief hits were 12 fours, four threes and 13 twos.

Mr Learmond and Mr Ollivierre made a good start for the West Indians by putting on 75 for the first wicket in half an hour. But their good beginning was not sustained, and at the drawing of stumps they were 237 behind, with four wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 June, page 13)

The Marylebone Club beat the West Indians at Lord's on Saturday by five wickets. The closing stage was marked by the improved form shown by the visitors, who played a losing game with great resolution, for after following on 189 runs behind, they lost eight wickets for 132, but just when a single innings defeat seemed probable, Mr Constantine and Burton put on 162 runs in 65 minutes. Mr Constantine, who has the distinction of scoring the first hundred of their tour, made the majority of his runs in front of the wicket. He was only batting an hour and a half, and his chief hits were one five and 17 fours.

The M.C.C. hit off the 107 necessary for victory for the loss of half their wickets. The visitors' fielding was good. For the Club Dr Grace took five wickets for 56 in the first innings and Mr Stoddart seven for 92 in the second.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Lancashire	12	8	0	4	8
Yorkshire	11	7	0	4	7
Sussex	9	2	0	7	2
Notts	6	4	1	1	3
Kent	7	3	1	3	2
Warwickshire	9	2	1	6	1
Surrey	12	5	3	4	2
Essex	9	3	2	4	1
Gloucestershire	9	2	3	4	-1
Somerset	8	2	4	0	-2
Derbyshire	6	1	3	2	-2
Middlesex	7	1	5	1	-4
Worcestershire	9	1	5	3	-4
Hampshire	8	0	6	2	-6
Leicestershire	8	0	7	1	-7

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 champion county."

25 June: DERBYSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5466.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 June, page 12)

On a pitch made false by the weather, at Derby, yesterday, Yorkshire had the better of the cricket. They got Derbyshire out in an hour and three-quarters, for 69, and before the end of the day they secured a lead of 32 with three wickets left. Tunnickliffe's batting was marked by extreme patience.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 June, page 14)

Yesterday, as on Monday, at Derby, the Yorkshiremen outplayed the home side at all points, and by 4 o'clock in the afternoon had won by an innings and 24 runs.

25 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5467.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 June, page 12)

The time for cricket at Leicester yesterday was made brief by the weather.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 June, page 14)

Bowlers had matters much their own way at Leicester yesterday and, thanks to their previous day's score of 164 for six wickets, the home county finished up in a fairly strong position.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 June, page 9)

Yesterday, at Leicester, the Middlesex eleven were beaten by 199 runs.

25 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5468.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 June, page 12)

The heavy rainstorms of yesterday prevented any play in the following matches: -
. . . Lord's. - M.C.C. v London County.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 June, page 14)

A feature of yesterday's cricket at Lord's was the splendid form shown by Alec Hearne. He played with greater freedom than usual, for he was only batting about three hours for his 142, which included three fives and 14 fours. The batting of London County broke down against Young and A Hearne, and at the drawing stumps they were 298 behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 June, page 9)

M.C.C. and Ground beat London County, at Lord's, yesterday, by an innings and 175 runs.

25 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5469.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 June, page 12)

At the opening of yesterday's match at Nottingham Mold was put on to bowl when the Notts score had reached 84, and in his first over he was twice no-balled by Phillips for throwing. At the end of the over Mr MacLaren took him off and he was not tried again during the innings.

Phillips was standing at the batsman's end at the time and acted under the power conferred by Law X, which in its present form allows either umpire to no-ball for throwing. Some surprise will, no doubt, be felt at Mold's having been called to account for unfair bowling at this advanced period of his career, but it is no injustice to him to say that during all the time he has played for Lancashire - he first appeared for the county in 1889 - his delivery has been the subject of discussion among all classes of cricketers.

Yesterday's match commenced on a very slow wicket, a lot of rain having fallen at Nottingham on Sunday and during the night. Mr Jones won the toss, but did not venture to put Lancashire in. As events proved, Notts gained nothing by batting first. Six wickets fell before luncheon for 60 runs, and only the good batting of Carlin and Iremonger saved the side from a very bad breakdown. The score in the end reached 135.

Lancashire did much better than this, but they owed a good deal to blunders in the field, four catches being missed. The turning point of the game was the partnership of Ward and Tyldesley, who put on 51 runs in just under an hour.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 June, page 14)

Yesterday at Trent Bridge was a day of laboriously careful batting under difficult conditions, only 248 runs being scored in five hours and three-quarters and eighteen wickets going down. Lancashire fully maintained the advantage they had secured on Monday, and when the time came to draw stumps they were in a happy position, wanting only 73 to win with an innings to play.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 June, page 9)

Lancashire easily won this match at Trent Bridge yesterday by six wickets.

25 June: SURREY v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5470.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 June, page 12)

The heavy rainstorms of yesterday prevented any play in the following matches: -
Oval. - Surrey v Oxford University. . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 June, page 14)

It was anything but a cricketer's day on the Oval yesterday. The wind came strongly from the north-west and the wicket was soft. In the afternoon the weather improved; but it was never cricket weather. On the slow and easy pitch yesterday the Oxford bowling lacked both length and sting. The Oxford fielding was slovenly, but the side had the excuse for this in the soft ground and the cold wind.

When Oxford went in Mr Pilkington and Mr Champain played beautiful cricket and put on 75 for the first wicket. A curious incident occurred during the partnership. Mr Champain, playing forward to Richardson's slow ball, hit it back to the bowler, who threw it up, signifying that the striker was out; but although neither umpire gave him out - the umpire at the bowler's end said that he could not see, which was tantamount to "not out" - Mr Champain retired. He was followed into the pavilion by the Surrey captain, Mr Jephson, who persuaded him to return and finish his innings.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 June, page 14)

Mr R E Foster's brilliant batting yesterday morning on the Oval quickly rid his side of any danger of defeat, and late in the afternoon the match was given up as a draw.

25 June: SUSSEX v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5471.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 June, page 12)

Owing to bad weather cricket at Brighton yesterday was restricted to two hours. It was not until half-past 4 that a start was found possible, but from that hour play went on under very pleasant conditions.

On going in first Sussex began badly, Relf being run out with the score at seven, while at 23 Mr Howell, after batting 40 minutes, was bowled. Killick and Marlow then came together and in 80 minutes added 99 runs. Killick scored well all round the wicket and hit with sound judgment.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 June, page 14)

The Cambridge eleven were outplayed at Brighton yesterday and their chances of avoiding defeat to-day are small.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 June, page 9)

The Cambridge eleven did well yesterday at Brighton and managed to draw their match with Sussex.

25 June: WARWICKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5472.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 June, page 12)

The heavy rainstorms of yesterday prevented any play in the following matches: -
. . . Birmingham. - Warwickshire v Gloucestershire.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 June, page 14)

After a blank day on Monday, through rain, the match at Birmingham was started yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 June, page 9)

Gloucestershire gained a brilliant victory over Warwickshire at Birmingham yesterday by seven wickets.

25 June: MINOR COUNTIES v WEST INDIANS (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/05735.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 June, page 12)

In a match at Northampton, yesterday, the West Indians made 194 for seven wickets. Play was much delayed by the weather.

Day 2 and Day 3 (scorecards but no reports).

Thursday 28 June, page 9: THE OXFORD XI

Mr R E Foster has given Mr J W Crawford and Mr H White their Blues for the match with Cambridge next week.

28 June: ESSEX v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5473.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 June, page 10)

On winning the loss at Leyton yesterday Mr A P Lucas decided to put Derbyshire in. Rain had fallen during the early hours and the sun was shining brightly at noon, so that it was expected that the wicket would help the bowlers. However, the pitch, though soft, was never difficult.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 June, page 9)

Yesterday's cricket at Leyton was at no period very interesting, and the position of the game when stumps were drawn left little hope of any definite result being arrived at.

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

The match between Essex and Derbyshire, which was remarkable for heavy scoring, ended on Saturday at Leyton in a draw.

28 June: HAMPSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5474.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 June, page 10)

Yesterday at Portsmouth the cricket was slow and uninteresting.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 June, page 9)

This match was continued yesterday at Portsmouth.

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

There was a capital finish at Portsmouth on Saturday, only three minutes remaining for play when Warwickshire dismissed the last home batsman and won the match by 143 runs.

28 June: KENT v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5475.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 June, page 10)

The batting at the Rectory Field, Blackheath, yesterday was mostly dull and disappointing.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 June, page 9)

The wicket at Blackheath was so deluged by the thunderstorm of Thursday evening that it was impossible to resume proceedings yesterday till an hour and a half after the usual time, and the pitch naturally played very slowly the whole of the day.

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

The rain storms of Thursday and Friday had so ruined the pitch at Blackheath that play was impossible on Saturday, and the match was abandoned as a draw . . .

28 June: LANCASHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5476.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 June, page 10)

Up to a certain point yesterday the cricket at Manchester was rather dull and without particular point, but after Lancashire went in some startling play was seen and the northern county at the finish found themselves in an anxious position.

The wicket was soft from the effect of overnight rain, but until the Middlesex innings, which lasted three hours and 40 minutes, was nearly ended to sky remained overcast and the ball never did its work quickly. When Lancashire went in the effect of the sunshine was at once apparent, the ball coming off the ground with a lot of spin on and completely beating the bat.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 June, page 9)

Cricket at Manchester yesterday was curtailed by rain, which prevented any progress being made with the match after half-past 3.

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

Rain spoilt the cricket at Manchester on Saturday and the game was drawn . . .

28 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5477.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 June, page 10)

Although Cambridge had the better of the opening day's cricket at Lord's yesterday, their batting was never bright; but this can be accounted for to a great extent by over-anxiety, as several of the side are still fighting for their places against Oxford next Thursday. The best form was shown by Mr Stanning.

When the M.C.C. went in the Cambridge fielding was very close, and at the drawing of stumps the club was 173 behind with six wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 June, page 9)

The cricket at Lord's yesterday was generally dull and uninteresting, for, although the pitch favoured the batsmen, runs never came with much freedom. M.C.C. took their overnight score from 50 for four wickets to 187, but apart from Martin and Mr Doll there was little worthy of note in their batting. The Cambridge fielding, which this season is decidedly above the average, was very close.

The feature of the University's second innings was the partnership of Mr T L Taylor and Mr J Daniell, who put on 97 in an hour and a quarter for the fifth wicket. When stumps were drawn the M.C.C. required 233 to win, so there is every prospect of an interesting finish to-day.

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

After an interesting day's cricket at Lord's on Saturday Cambridge University, in the last of their trial games, beat M.C.C. and Ground by 34 runs.

Owing to the softness of the wicket a start could not be made until 1 o'clock, and then for a time the bowlers had a difficulty in getting a foothold. The M.C.C., who required 233 to win, gave an uneven display and seven of the side only scored 15 runs between them. On the other hand, there was some excellent batting by Dr Grace, Thompson and King. Dr Grace and Thompson put on 97 for the second wicket, while later King and Geeson added 55 for the eighth. Mr Wilson bowled extremely well for Cambridge and took in the match 11 wickets for 114 runs.

28 June: SUSSEX v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5478.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 June, page 10)

In meeting Oxford at Brighton yesterday Sussex put far from a representative team into the field, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr C B Fry, Mr A Collins, Vine, Butt and Bland standing down. In these circumstances, of course, the match, as a test of what Oxford can do, lost nearly all its significance.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 June, page 9)

Oxford University defeated Sussex at Brighton yesterday by an innings and 75.

28 June: WORCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5479.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 June, page 10)

Appearing for the first time at Worcester yesterday, the Surrey eleven were seen to much advantage. With the exception of Arnold, who played sound cricket for two hours, none of the Worcestershire batsmen could do much against the bowling of Lockwood, and the side were all out for 169.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 June, page 9)

Surrey beat Worcestershire at Worcester yesterday by ten wickets, the match being all over at a quarter-past 5.

28 June: YORKSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5480.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 June, page 10)

An even day's cricket, with nearly all the honours remaining with the bowlers, took place at Dewsbury yesterday, each county completing an innings and Yorkshire losing two wickets in their second for 37.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 June, page 9)

At Dewsbury, yesterday, Yorkshire defeated Somerset by 140 runs.

28 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v WEST INDIANS (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105736.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 June, page 10)

Yesterday, at Bristol, the West Indians were kept fielding the whole day and their bowlers were hopelessly mastered.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 June, page 9)

When yesterday's cricket at Bristol came to an end the West Indians were in a hopeless position, as with five wickets down in their second innings they still required 342 runs to avoid being beaten in a single innings.

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

At Bristol, on Saturday, Gloucestershire easily won this match by an innings and 216 runs.

Friday 29 June, page 10

THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN. - Mr J Stanning was given his blue at Lord's yesterday.

Monday 2 July, page 13

THE CRICKETERS' FUND FRIENDLY SOCIETY. - Mr W E Denison will preside at the annual meeting at Lord's on the evening of Monday, the 16th inst., the first day of Gentlemen v Players.

OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE

Mr T L Taylor, the Cambridge captain, completed his side for next Thursday's match at Lord's. It will be as follows: -

Mr T L Taylor, Mr S H Day, Mr L J Moon, Mr E R Wilson, Mr J Daniell, Mr A E Hind, Mr A E Fernie, Mr E M Dowson, Mr J Stanning, Mr R N R Blaker and Mr A F C Fergus.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	13	9	0	4	9
Lancashire	14	9	0	5	9
Sussex	9	2	0	7	2
Kent	8	3	1	4	2
Notts	8	4	2	2	2
Surrey	13	6	3	4	3
Essex	10	3	2	5	1
Warwickshire	11	3	2	6	1
Gloucestershire	10	3	3	4	0
Somerset	7	2	5	0	-3
Derbyshire	8	1	4	3	-3

Middlesex	9	1	6	2	-5
Worcestershire	10	1	6	3	-5
Leicestershire	9	1	7	1	-6
Hampshire	9	0	7	2	-7

2 July: DERBYSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5481.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 July, page 7)

Only 70 minutes' cricket was possible at Chesterfield yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 July, page 13)

In this match at Chesterfield yesterday the score was left as follows . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 July, page 11)

Derbyshire won this match at Chesterfield yesterday by 57 runs.

2 July: HAMPSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5482.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 July, page 7)

Rain prevented any play at Southampton yesterday in this match, which had been set apart for the benefit of Soar, the Hampshire fast bowler.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 July, page 13)

After the complete loss of Monday owing to rain, a start was made with Soar's benefit match at Southampton yesterday in pleasant weather, but, unfortunately for Soar, the attendance was small.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 July, page 11)

The weather again interfered with the cricket at Southampton yesterday and the match was drawn . . .

2 July: LANCASHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5483.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 July, page 7)

Yesterday's cricket at Liverpool was considerably interfered with by rain, play being in progress for only two hours and 20 minutes. During that time Somerset fared so badly against the bowling of Mold and Cuttell they lost eight wickets for 85 runs.

The start was disastrous, the first four wickets falling for 19 runs - all of them to Mold at a cost of 15 runs. Mr Bernard and Lewis then made a great effort to improve matters for their side, and the score had been advanced to 49 when the rain came on. Afterwards Cuttell bowled with marked success and in the last 50 minutes Somerset lost four more wickets for an addition of 36 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 July, page 13)

The Somerset eleven suffered a severe defeat at Liverpool yesterday. The visitors, who had made 85 for eight wickets on Monday, finished off their innings for 104.

After that Mr MacLaren, helped by an escape from a chance of stumping, and Ward contributed 159 before they were separated. Lancashire declared their innings closed at 276 for five wickets, and then the fine bowling of Sharp enabled them to win by an innings and 132 runs.

2 July: M.C.C. AND GROUND v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5484.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 July, page 7)

The weather spoilt the day's cricket at Lord's yesterday in the last of the University trial games, for play was only possible for an hour and a half before lunch. Oxford allowed Mr B J T Bosanquet, Mr H Martyn and Mr F H B Champain to stand down in order to give a further trial to some of the claimants for places in the eleven.

On a soft pitch, however, the bowlers were able to get considerable spin on the ball, and Mr H C Pilkington, who received some assistance from Mr J W Crawford, was the only batsman to meet with much success. Mr Pilkington played very attractive cricket for his 43 not out, which were made by a fine variety of strokes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 July, page 13)

Rain completely spoilt the cricket at Lord's yesterday. Less than half an hour's play was possible, and as the match was confined to two days the result was a draw.

Overnight Oxford had made 98 for six wickets, but their innings was quickly finished off for another eight runs. Hearne took three of the last four wickets for two runs. Directly the M.C.C. went in a heavy storm broke over the ground, and after waiting until 3 o'clock the game was abandoned. Dr Grace, owing to a family bereavement, was unable to play and his place was taken by Martyn.

2 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5485.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 July, page 7)

The weather allowed but little cricket at Trent Bridge yesterday. Sussex had first innings, but J Gunn and Wass bowled so well that on the slow wicket seven men were dismissed.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 July, page 13)

A fine innings of 80 by Mr A O Jones was the best feature of some very interesting cricket yesterday at Trent Bridge. Going in when his side had lost two wickets for 54, the Notts captain was the eighth man out, the total when he left being 183. About half way through his innings he made some hits in the slips that were lucky to fall just out of reach, but otherwise his play was up to his best standard. He was at the wickets two hours and 20 minutes, and hit seven fours, chiefly hard drives. Shrewsbury batted with his customary skill for an hour and three-quarters.

There seemed to be a broken place on the pitch, 11 of the 14 wickets that went down yesterday falling to the bowlers who were on at the pavilion end. J Gunn wound up the Sussex innings in the morning with a fine piece of bowling, and took in all seven wickets for little more than five runs each. As the game stands now Sussex, with nine wickets to fall in their second innings, are 83 runs behind. Cox's bowling seemed very difficult to play.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 July, page 11)

A truly superb innings of 158 by Ranjitsinhji saved Sussex from defeat at Trent-bridge and lent special attraction to the concerning part of the match. Sussex had started their second innings on

Turner afternoon against a balance of 111 runs, and when Ranjitsinhji went in yesterday at half-past 12 the score was 80 for three wickets. When he left it had reached 305, and all fear of a beating had long passed away.

When he had made 28 Ranjitsinhji might have been caught and bowled by John Gunn from a hard and rather high return, but this was really the only fault in his innings. He hit 19 fours, seven threes and 15 twos, his driving and pulling being marked by great power. In Butt he found an invaluable helper, the partnership for the seventh wicket putting on 146 runs and rendering defeat impossible.

At a quarter to 5 Ranjitsinhji declared the Sussex innings closed, there being no chance of getting Notts out in the time that remained. The match was given up at 6 o'clock. The Notts bowling was seriously weakened during the latter half of the Sussex innings, Wass straining his leg so badly that he had to retire from the field.

2 July: WARWICKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5486.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 July, page 7)

The score in this match at Birmingham yesterday was left as follows . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 July, page 13)

At Birmingham yesterday the Warwickshire first innings, in which 142 had been scored for two wickets on Monday, was finished for 404, Kinneir and W G Quaife, the overnight not outs, making a splendid stand. Kinneir went to 95 before being caught at short leg at 214, and Quaife had increased his overnight figures of 13 to 94 when he was run out.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 July, page 11)

The match between Warwickshire and Surrey at Birmingham yesterday had to be left drawn, a result which the position of the game overnight had foreshadowed. Surrey remained at the wickets the whole of yesterday, and when stumps were pulled up they had scored 411 and had still four wickets to fall.

The batting honours were carried off by Abel and Hayward, both of whom played excellent cricket. Abel, who was in for five hours, made his 112 out of 294 put on while he was at the wickets, and included in his hits were ten fours and twelve threes. Hayward, who gave a chance of stumping at 15, was missed in the slips when 50, but apart from these mistakes his display was free from blemish. Among his figures were 13 fours and seven threes. His innings extended over three hours and a half.

2 July: YORKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5487.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 July, page 7)

Some fine batting by Mr P C Baker, Hearne and Mr J R Mason marked the first innings of Kent at Leeds yesterday. The two first-named put on 75 in 65 minutes for the second wicket, and Mr Baker and his captain added 61 in 40 minutes for the fourth.

Kent had 200 up with only four men out, but there had been a stoppage for an hour owing to rain, and as the surface dried Haigh bowled with great effect, and dismissed five of the last six batsmen for 29 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 July, page 13)

The bad weather prevented any play in this match at Leeds yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 July, page 11)

There was more rain at Leeds yesterday, and the delay at starting destroyed every chance of the match being brought to a definite issue. Hirst hit hard in the Yorkshire innings and made 11 fours in his 52. Blythe and Hearne bowled very well for Kent . . .

2 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v WEST INDIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105737.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 July, page 7)

The West Indies at Leicester yesterday had the assistance of the Middlesex batsman Mr P F Warner. Mr Warner was born in the West Indies, and it was stated some time ago that he would assist the colonial team whenever he could. His first appearance for them was marked by a wonderfully good performance, he and C A Ollivierre scoring 138 together for the first wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 July, page 13)

When the match at Leicester was proceeded with yesterday morning Mr Ollivierre, who had been left not out 159, was dismissed without adding to his score. The vigour of his batting can be judged from the fact that his hits included a five and 26 fours.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 July, page 11)

The West Indians easily won the match at Leicester yesterday by an innings and 87 runs.

Tuesday 3 July, page 7

THE OXFORD ELEVEN. - Mr C D Fisher has been given his blue.

Wednesday 4 July, page 13: OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE

Mr R E Foster completed his eleven at Lord's yesterday by giving blues to Mr C H B Marsham and Mr R E More, and the following will play against Cambridge tomorrow: -

Mr R E Foster, Mr F H B Champain, Mr B J T Bosanquet, Mr H Martyn, Mr H C Pilkington, Mr F P Knox, Mr H White, Mr J W F Crawford, Mr C D Fisher, Mr C H B Marsham and Mr R E More.

The Cambridge eleven was given in The Times of Monday.

THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

A meeting of the committee of the Toronto County Club was held yesterday afternoon at the Headingley Ground, Leeds, under the presidency of Lord Hawke. It was decided to inaugurate a memorial to the late Mr F W Milligan, who lost his life in the South African campaign, and to appeal to cricketers in Yorkshire for subscriptions for this purpose; the County Club head the list with 100 guineas. Lord Hawke will act as hon. treasurer and Mr J B Wostinholm as hon. secretary. The Yorkshire county players decided to erect by themselves a tablet to Mr Milligan's memory.

It was decided to allow the Yorkshire players talent money by marks to be given at the end of the season.

Thursday 5 July, page 11

OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE

At Lord's to-day the players in the University match will be as follows: -

Oxford. - Mr F H B Champain, Mr B J T Bosanquet, Mr H Martyn, Mr H C Pilkington, Mr F P Knox, Mr H White, Mr J W F Crawford, Mr C D Fisher, Mr C H B Marsham and Mr R E More.

Cambridge. - Mr T L Taylor, Mr S H Day, Mr L J Moon, Mr E R Wilson, Mr J Daniell, Mr A E Hind, Mr A E Fernie, Mr E M Dowson, Mr J Stanning, Mr R N R Blaker and Mr A H C Fergus.

Play begins at 12 o'clock.

GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS. 0 At the Oval next Monday the Players will be: - Abel, Hayward, Lockwood, Carpenter, Mead, William Quaife, Storer, Albert Trott, J T Hearne, J Gunn and Board.

5 July: LANCASHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5488.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 July, page 12)

On a wicket which gave the bowlers assistance at Manchester yesterday, Lancashire had much the better of the day's play against Sussex.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 July, page 9)

The weather prevented any cricket at Manchester yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 July, page 11)

In the rain, which prevented any cricket at Manchester on Friday, had been followed by sunshine on Saturday morning Sussex might have found it difficult to avoid defeat. But the sun scarcely showed itself till late in the day, and the ground, drying gradually under the influence of a strong wind, never became difficult.

Sussex, whose overnight score was 75, lost two more wickets for 11 runs, but Marlow and Butt stayed together an hour and 20 minutes and put on 52 runs. It was close upon 2 o'clock when Lancashire, holding a lead of 85 runs, went in a second time.

Hallows and Mr Eccles, the first two batsmen, began by scoring slowly, but by-and-by Mr Eccles hit out boldly and a total of 110 was made for the first wicket in an hour and a half. With the total at 160 for three wickets the innings was declared closed. Only an hour and 40 minutes remained for play, and Sussex had no difficulty whatever in drawing the game.

5 July: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5489.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 July, page 12)

The University match was begun yesterday at Lord's under conditions in every degree favourable. The wicket was perhaps a little slow in the morning, but the ball came along at a nice easy pace and after the luncheon interval the pitch steadily improved for batting. Cricket, like other sports, has suffered in its interest this season by the effects of the war, but yesterday the attendance in the

later hours of the match must have exceeded 10,000. The weather was generally bright; but the promenade lacked some of its usual brilliancy.

With regard to the cricket, we are able to give only a few general observations. The Marylebone Club executive have recently shown much hostility to the Press at Lord's; and yesterday the cricket reporters were exiled from the grand stand to a position in the north-east corner of the ground, from which it was impossible to secure an accurate idea of the play. Our representative's application to the secretary of the club for a place where the game could be followed was met with a curt refusal.

The Oxford eleven were seen (by the more fortunate) to splendid advantage, for they not only made the highest score recorded in the annals of the University match, but Mr R E Foster had the distinction of establishing an individual record. His 171 beat Mr K J Key's 143, made in the Key and Rashleigh year of 1886. Yesterday was a great day for Oxford, for, following the superlative batting skill of Mr Pilkington and Mr Foster, the worn-out Cambridge bowling was severely treated by Mr Martyn. The Cambridge men fielded excellently, but the fortune of war was unkind to them.

The Oxford men were quick to appreciate their position. To begin with, they for a while did badly, and the catching of Mr Champain at mid-off and of Mr Knox in the slips made two wickets down for 22. Thereafter everything was for Oxford. Mr H C Pilkington, who possesses a thoroughly Etonian style, never played better cricket; his cutting and off-driving must have pleased the most exacting followers of the R A H Mitchell school. He and Mr R E Foster made 168 for the second wicket, and Mr Pilkington's hits included 13 fours.

Mr Foster was fourth out at 281 to a catch in the long field; he made 171 out of 259 in three hours, and hit 24 fours. He played a fine forward game and his stroke in front of cover-point was tremendously strong.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 July, page 9)

The protests of the Press failed to make any impression on the august Marylebone Committee, and the reporters at Lord's yesterday were again left to gain the best impression they could of the play. It was impossible to get an accurate idea of the cricket from the new Press stand. The action of the Marylebone Cricket Club needs explanation, seeing how much benefit the club has derived from the Press.

With only small opportunity of following the play, we again confine ourselves to a few general remarks on the game. The Oxford innings was yesterday quickly over. Mr Martyn was vigorous to the end, and his 94, made in less than three-quarters of an hour, included 16 fours.

Cambridge were batting from just after midday until the drawing of stumps at half-past six. Mr Moon hit hard and well; but the cricket of Mr Wilson and Mr Taylor was that most admired. Both played very soundly, and later in the Cambridge innings there was splendid work by Mr Day and Mr Dowson. These players prevented any danger of the follow-on. Mr Day hit hard, and Mr Dowson gave a fine illustration of forward and back play on a hard pitch.

The follow-on was easily saved, and in the present position of the game a draw seems inevitable. The Oxford fielding was fairly good, but the bowling apparently lacked sting. It was a brilliant day for the game, and there was an attendance of over 10,000 people.

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 July, page 11)

The University match was on Saturday at Lord's left drawn. This result was expected on the second day, when Cambridge in a heavy scoring game had saved the follow-on, particularly as the sides were the weakest in bowling which have played in this match for many years and as the wicket was one of the easiest ever furnished by a Lord's ground man. The ball came along at a nice easy pace and never rose more than half-stump high. With a draw always in view the play on Saturday lost much of its interest; but there was again a very large company, and the scene in the intervals was perhaps prettier than on either of the preceding days.

With the Marylebone Club still obdurate in its attitude towards the Press, whose representatives were again confined to the poor place in the north-east corner of the ground, the remarks on the play must be again very brief. The Cambridge batsmen did so well that there was only a difficult of 111 between the two innings. Oxford were in their second spell very successful. The batting of Mr

Champaign, Mr Pilkington and Mr Foster could not have been better; and at half-past 3 the Oxford captain closed his innings. Mr Dowson and Mr Hind had bowled very well and the fielding had been good.

The Oxford bowling was not sufficiently skilful to get Cambridge out cheaply on a beautifully true pitch, and the draw seemed always inevitable. Mr Moon, Mr Stanning and Mr Taylor all batted well, and the end of a batsman's match was a draw . . .

Below are the batting and bowling averages of the Oxford and Cambridge teams: -

[Note: qualifications here are 300 runs and 20 wickets.]

OXFORD BATTING AVERAGES

	Innings	Runs	Most in an Inns.	Not out	Average
Mr R E Foster	13	930	171	1	77.50
Mr B J T Bosanquet	12	351	125	1	31.90
Mr H C Pilkington	13	325	67	0	25.00

OXFORD BOWLING AVERAGES

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr B J T Bosanquet	253.4	60	655	36	18.19
Mr H White	214.1	55	497	27	18.40
Mr F P Knox	182.6?	34	516	24	21.50

CAMBRIDGE BATTING AVERAGES

	Innings	Runs	Most in an Inns.	Not out	Average
Mr T L Taylor	19	623	120	3	38.93
Mr J Daniell	15	396	101*	2	30.46
Mr E R Wilson	20	569	82	1	29.92
Mr J Stanning	22	554	120	2	27.70
Mr E M Dowson	18	332	84*	2	25.53

CAMBRIDGE BOWLING AVERAGES

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr E R Wilson	217	50	562	21	26.76
Mr A E Fernie	182	20	664	23	28.86
Mr E M Dowson	431.4	84	1255	37	33.91

5 July: SURREY v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5490.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 July, page 12)

The Leicestershire eleven were seen to great advantage at the Oval yesterday in their return match with Surrey, for they were batting the whole of the cricket hours and at the close still had a wicket to fall. Their display was very consistent and only two of the side failed to get double figures.

The feature of the innings was the form shown by King, who, although rather slow at times, played excellent cricket. Mr De Trafford's 91 would appeal most to the average spectator as he played a free forcing game, but he had more than his share of luck and was twice badly missed in the long-field in the sixties. He was batting some two hours and his chief hits were 13 fours. Mr De Trafford and Mr Wood put on 95 for the first wicket, and King and Geeson 74 for the seventh. The Surrey fielding was at times loose.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 July, page 9)

When play was resumed at the Oval yesterday the Leicestershire innings was completed for another 17 runs. Subsequently Surrey, by some splendid batting, kept in for the rest of the day, and at the close were 31 runs ahead with four wickets to fall.

For their favourable position they were largely indebted to Lockwood and Abel, who laid the foundation for their large score by putting on 157 for the second wicket. Abel's 94 included 15 fours. he was caught in the slips in attempting to hit a short-pitched ball to leg. Lockwood played with more care than usual, and he made some splendid drives on both sides of the wicket. Up to the present he has been batting just over four hours and a half without making a bad stroke. Mr Jephson also played good cricket and with Lockwood added 74 for the third wicket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 July, page 11)

Surrey drew with Leicestershire at the Oval on Saturday. At one period of the afternoon there was just a chance of Surrey's winning, but the skilful batting of King and Geeson at a critical time made the draw inevitable. Lockwood failed to add to his overnight score. The feature of the day was the batting of Hayes, who, when it was necessary to make runs quickly, played a forcing game to great advantage.

Being 159 behind Leicestershire started very badly, losing three wickets for eight runs, but a timely partnership between Mr Wood and Knight improved their prospects, and Surrey were ultimately left with 112 to get to win. As the Leicestershire innings did not close until 6 o'clock there was no possible chance of bringing the match to a definite result.

5 July: YORKSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5491.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 July, page 12)

Notts entered upon their first match with Yorkshire at Scarborough yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 7 July, page 9)

Little more than half an hour's cricket was possible at Scarborough yesterday owing to the weather .
. .

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 July, page 11)

Play at Scarborough on Friday having lasted only half an hour owing to the rain there was no time to bring the match to a conclusion on Saturday. Notts, however, had some very anxious moments. Going in 32 runs in arrear, they lost four good batsmen for 22. More than two hours then remained for cricket, and Yorkshire would probably have snatched a victory had not William Gunn batted with extreme care. With an innings of 31, not out, the famous Notts cricketer saved his side from defeat.

Earlier in the day, Hirst, who is just now the most consistent run-getter in the Yorkshire team, gave a splendid display of batting. His innings included a hit out of the ground for six, 18 fours, nine threes and nine twos, and he gave no chance. When the match was abandoned at half-past 5 Notts, with four wickets in hand, were 40 runs ahead.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties in the championship are as follows:

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Lancashire	16	10	0	6	10
Yorkshire	15	9	0	6	9

Sussex	11	2	0	9	2
Kent	9	3	1	5	2
Notts	10	4	2	4	2
Surrey	15	6	3	6	3
Essex	11	3	2	6	1
Warwickshire	12	3	2	7	1
Gloucestershire	10	3	3	4	0
Derbyshire	9	2	4	3	-2
Somerset	8	2	6	0	-4
Middlesex	9	1	6	2	-5
Worcestershire	11	1	7	3	-6
Leicestershire	10	1	7	2	-6
Hampshire	10	0	7	3	-7

GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS. - At the Oval to-day the sides will be as follows: - Gentlemen. - Dr W G Grace, Mr A O Jones, Mr C McGahey, Mr C L Townsend, Mr W M Bradley, Mr D L A Jephson, Mr L G Wright, Mr C J Burnup, Mr G L Jessop, Mr A B Reynolds and Mr C J B Wood.

Players. - Abel, Hayward, Carpenter, Mead, Lockwood, William Quaife, J T Hearne, Board, J Gunn, Storer and Trott.

9 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5492.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 July, page 12)

For some years past the Surrey executive have experienced great difficulty in getting representative elevens together for the Gentlemen v Players match at the Oval, and yesterday proved no exception. The Gentlemen were the chief sufferers, for among the names that were missing were those of Mr A C MacLaren, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr C B Fry, Mr R E Foster, Mr J R Mason and Mr C J Kortright. On the other hand, no Players' eleven would be complete this season without W Rhodes, but, with several of the counties engaged in matches, the absence of some of the most prominent cricketers was unavoidable.

As far as the cricket was concerned, everything else was overshadowed by the splendid display of Abel, who carried his bat through the innings for 153. At first he was none too steady; he failed properly to time the fast bowling of Mr Jessop and made a couple of bad strokes in the slips before getting double figures. Afterwards, however, he played skilful cricket, both in dealing with a short-pitched ball and in his driving. He was rather cautious in getting his first 50, but subsequently played with greater freedom. Altogether he was at the wickets some four hours and a quarter. His chief hits were 17 fours, eight threes and ten twos.

Considering their batting strength it was strange that the rest of the Players should have comparatively failed. Hayward made some beautiful strokes on the leg side, but just when he appeared to be set he was out to a good catch in the slips. Mr Jephson, with his lobs, was the only bowler who had any considerable degree of success. His four wickets cost just over 14 runs each. Mr Bradley is not bowling up to his usual form this year, and yesterday he again failed to keep a respectable length.

The fielding of the Gentlemen was good in the later stages of the innings, and Mr A O Jones in sundry positions quite distinguished himself. Mr A B Reynolds, the old Wykehamist, injured his hand in keeping wicket, and after luncheon took no further part in the play. The Gentlemen had an hour's batting and did very badly.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 11 July, page 14)

The game at the Oval yesterday went in favour of the Players, who followed up the advantage they had gained on Monday and at the drawing of stumps were 340 runs ahead with a wicket to fall.

At one period yesterday it seemed probable that the Gentlemen would retrieve their bad start, for Dr Grace and Mr Wood found little difficulty in timing the bowling. When they were parted, however, things again resumed their former course. Dr Grace played with great skill for his 58, and some of his cutting and driving was worthy of his best days. While he and Mr Wood were together 80 runs were put on for the fifth wicket. For a man of his age - he is just on 52 - it is wonderful how Dr Grace keeps his form. Naturally, he does not play with quite the same freedom as of old, but there is still much to be learned from his method of dealing with the ball.

Mr Wood showed strong defence and when the opportunity offered he did not fail to hit. J Gunn, who was making his first appearance in the Gentlemen v Players match, bowled exceedingly well, and by taking five wickets for just over 14 runs apiece on a hard pitch he accomplished a performance of much merit.

With a lead of 97 the Players in their second innings gave an uneven display, for Hayward, Storer and Lockwood scored all but 44 of the runs from the bat. Hayward, who went in the first wicket down, was quite in his best form. He was fifth out at 186, and his cricket, which was marked by a good variety of strokes, was made especially notable by his play on the leg side. He was batting some two hours and a half, and his chief hits were 11 fours.

When Storer joined Hayward three wickets were down for 24, but by some splendid cricket they added 103 in an hour and a quarter. Subsequently Lockwood played in his robust style and made some good on-drives. The fielding of the Gentlemen was good, especially Mr Jephson, Mr Jones and Mr Jessop. The injury received by Mr A B Reynolds on Monday prevented him from taking any part in the day's cricket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 July, page 12)

After an exciting finish the Players beat the Gentlemen at the Oval yesterday by 37 runs. The match was full of good cricket from start to finish; but the splendid batting of Mr C J Burnup and the bowling of J Gunn lent special attraction to the closing stage, while the prospects of a close finish in the later hours provided plenty of interest for the spectators.

Mr Burnup, apart from one large innings, has not been playing in his usual form this season, so that his success yesterday was all the more conspicuous. Going in first, he made 51 out of 81, and was the fourth to leave at 181 to a good catch in the long-field. He was batting some two hours and three-quarters, and with the exception of a hard and high return to Trott at 71 his innings was free from fault. He played splendid cricket and made a larger proportion of his runs than usual in front of the wicket, and his on-drive was a feature of his game. His chief hits were 16 fours, seven threes and six twos.

J Gunn again bowled exceptionally well, and by taking six wickets for 64 runs on a batsman's pitch he achieved a performance of which he may justly feel proud. In the match he had the splendid analysis of 11 wickets for 137, a distinguished feat for a first performance in Gentlemen v Players. Gunn is undoubtedly the most improved player of the day; and Nottinghamshire, who were once so prolific in their output of bowlers, are at last to be congratulated of developing a player worthy of the great days of Alfred Shaw and Fred Morley. Mr A O Jones did some good bowling for the Gentlemen, and his five wickets averaged some 13 runs each.

The Gentlemen, who required 351 to win, lost three wickets for 81; but a good stand by Mr Burnup and Mr McGahey yielded 100 runs in an hour and a quarter, while later Mr Jephson helped Mr McGahey considerably to improve the Gentlemen's prospects. When they resumed after the interval for tea, the Gentlemen wanted 100 to win with five wickets to fall. The game then took a turn in favour of the fielding side, and Mr Jephson and Mr McGahey left at 253 and 263 respectively. Mr McGahey was batting over two hours and a half for his 68, and his principal hits were 10 fours. He played with unusual caution and was fairly fortunate.

Subsequently Mr A O Jones, by some brilliant hitting, scored 46 out of 50 added while he was in. His strokes were nine fours, three threes and a single. When Mr Jones and Dr Grace were together there seemed just a chance of the Gentlemen winning the match. But directly they were parted the result was never in doubt, and the game was over at a quarter to 6. Towards the close the fielding of the Players was very loose. The weather was again exceptionally hot.

9 July: WORCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5493.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 July, page 12)

At Worcester yesterday the Lancashire eleven gave a fine display of batting, staying at the wickets the whole of the day and scoring 425 runs for the loss of seven wickets. For their score they were very largely indebted to two men, Tyldesley and Mr Eccles, who between them made 228 runs.

The former contributed his first innings of over 100 this season, and his driving in front of cover-point was splendid. Ward gave a display of sound, steady cricket, being in while 116 runs were scored, and late in the afternoon the worn-out bowling was severely punished. Mr Eccles, who was 86 not out at the close, gave a fine exhibition of forcing play, without making a mistake.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 11 July, page 14)

At Worcester, yesterday, the home county were completely outplayed, and at night were in a hopeless position, wanting, with five wickets down in their second innings, 204 runs to avoid being beaten in a single innings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 July, page 12)

Half an hour's cricket sufficed to finish the match at Worcester yesterday, Lancashire winning by an innings and 167 runs.

9 July: YORKSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5494.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 July, page 12)

With Mr C B Fry resuming his place in the team after a fortnight's absence, Sussex had practically their full strength for the match with Yorkshire at Sheffield yesterday. Special interest attached to the game from the fact that neither county had suffered defeat in the championship, and with Ranjitsinhji making his first appearance at Bramall-lane, a company of 15,000 people assembled to witness the day's cricket.

Fry speedily played on, but Killick, Relf and Ranjitsinhji batted finely and at lunch time Sussex had made 165 runs for the loss of three wickets. On the resumption of play, however, Hirst bowled so effectively that seven men were dismissed in 70 minutes for 67 runs. Hirst sent down 12 overs and four balls for 19 runs and four wickets.

Yorkshire lost Brown with the score at two, but then, with Denton enjoying a good deal of luck, 111 runs were added for the second wicket. As the game was left last evening, Yorkshire, with seven wickets in hand, were only 91 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 11 July, page 14)

The presence of K S Ranjitsinhji at Bramall-lane yesterday again proved an immense attraction, the attendance, as on Monday, being estimated at about 15,000.

The Yorkshire eleven played brilliantly. Between 10 minutes past 11 and 25 minutes past 5 they increased their overnight score of 143 for three wickets to 489 for nine, the innings being then declared closed, and afterwards Rhodes bowled with such effect that in three-quarters of an hour at the end of the afternoon Sussex lost five wickets for 25 runs. As the result of this remarkable cricket, Yorkshire left off with an almost assured victory in prospect, Sussex still requiring 232 runs to avoid a single innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 July, page 12)

Sussex suffered defeat at Sheffield yesterday by an innings and 93 runs, this being the first reverse they have sustained in the County Championship. That they would be beaten was almost inevitable after Tuesday's cricket, Sussex leaving off 232 runs behind with five wickets to fall.

The only batting of note yesterday was that of K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr C B Fry, who put on 104 runs for the fourth wicket. Mr Fry made his 42 without a mistake. Included in K S Ranjitsinhji's 87 were 13 fours, two threes and five twos. After his dismissal the remaining three Sussex wickets fell for 13 runs, and the innings was finished for 164. Yorkshire were largely indebted for their success to Wilfred Rhodes, who dismissed seven batsmen for 59 runs. Not often on a hard wicket had the young Yorkshireman bowled with more effect.

9 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v WEST INDIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105738.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 July, page 12)

In meeting the West Indians at Trent Bridge yesterday Notts dispensed with the services of most of their regular players, but Shrewsbury and William Gunn appeared in the eleven, which also included Mr A E Hind, of Cambridge University.

Gunn and Iremonger became partners at the fall of the second wicket at 87, and stayed together for two hours, carrying the total to 274 before Gunn was caught by the wicket-keeper.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 11 July, page 14)

At Nottingham, yesterday, the Notts innings, in which 343 had been obtained for the loss of four wickets, was finished for 501.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 July, page 12)

At Nottingham, yesterday, the West Indians had to follow on against 292 runs, and though they played well in their second innings they were unable to avert defeat. Mr Sproston and Mr Ollivierre made a good stand for the third wicket, scoring 92 in an hour. Notts won by an innings and 27 runs.

9 July: M.C.C. AND GROUND v MINOR COUNTIES

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/115/115782.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 July, page 12)

The Marylebone Club team batted extremely well against the Minor Counties eleven at Lord's yesterday. An incident of some note during the day was the no-balling of Tomlin by Titchmarsh four times for throwing. Titchmarsh gave his decisions from the bowler's end.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 11 July, page 14)

The brilliant batting of Mr Stoddart was the feature of the cricket at Lord's yesterday; but there was a mere handful of spectators to appreciate it. Although holding a lead of 196, the M.C.C. preferred the third innings to the allowance of the follow-on, and the Minor Counties have to make 520 to win the match - a task extremely unlikely of accomplishment.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 July, page 12)

Yesterday, at Lord's, the good batting of Thompson, of Northampton, failed to save the Minor Counties. The match was all over before luncheon, the M.C.C. winning by 325 runs. Geeson took ten wickets in the two innings for 179 runs.

Tuesday 10 July, page 12: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS, AT LORD'S

The committee of the M.C.C. completed their sides for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's next Monday. Mr A C MacLaren and K S Ranjitsinhji were unable to accept the invitation to play for the Gentlemen. The following are the sides: -

Gentlemen. - Mr R E Foster, Mr C J Kortright, Mr D L A Jephson, Mr J R Mason, Mr C B Fry, Mr G L Jessop, Mr A O Jones, Mr Ernest Smith, Mr S M J Woods, Mr H Martyn and Mr C L Townsend.

Players. - Brown, sen., Rhodes, William Quaife, Lockwood, Hayward, Trott, Mead, Abel, Carpenter, Albert Ward and Lilley.

THE M.C.C. AND THE PRESS

The following statement has been issued by the M.C.C. Committee with a request for publication: -

Complaints having been made by the Press as to the accommodation provided for their representatives in the grand stand, and the number of such representatives having now reached upwards of 40, the committee of the M.C.C. provided the present stand with seats to accommodate that number.

A portion of the building has during the 'Varsity match been occupied and warmly approved by old cricketers of high standing. No other stand to accommodate so large a number of representatives of the Press is in the existing conditions possible. Further consideration to the matter, however, will be given by the committee with the object of giving the Press, if possible, even better accommodation in the future.

12 July: ESSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5495.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 July, page 12)

The return match between these counties, who played a close game at the Oval in May, when Essex won after an exciting finish by five runs, began yesterday at Leyton. Essex were without the services of Mr Perrin, and Lockwood, who was suffering from rheumatism, was not put on to bowl for Surrey. At the drawing of stumps Essex were 161 runs behind with six wickets to fall.

Two performances stood out with great prominence - the batting of Hayward and Carpenter. Hayward went in with third wicket down when things were going badly; towards the close of his innings he gave a sharp chance in the slips, but apart from that his cricket was marked by all his well-known precision. Except for the excellent form of Carpenter there was little worthy of note in the Essex batting.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 July, page 14)

Yesterday's cricket at Leyton was all in favour of Surrey. Chiefly owing to Richardson, who bowled with some of his old effectiveness, the Essex innings was finished for a comparatively small score. Then Surrey, by consistent batting, practically made defeat impossible.

The feature of the day's cricket was the splendid for shown by Abel, who made his 137 out of 248 in a little under three hours. He was the fifth out, to a catch at the wicket, and his chief hits were one five, 14 fours, six threes and 11 twos. At the drawing of stumps Surrey were 403 runs ahead with three wickets in hand, so that Essex to-day will have a hard task to avoid defeat.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 July, page 13)

In their return match Surrey gained a brilliant victory over Essex, at Leyton, on Saturday by 261 runs. Overnight Surrey had such a strong lead that after the addition of another 30 runs Mr Jephson declared their innings closed.

Essex went in requiring 433 to save the game, with some five and a half hours still left for play. This task proved beyond their capacity. Up to a certain point they fought well against the great odds, but after the luncheon interval they collapsed before the splendid bowling of Richardson, who took five wickets for 30 runs and the match was over at a quarter to 4.

Richardson's return to form was a pleasing feature of the day's cricket, and it is only to be hoped that his improvement is not temporary. This season he has lost some of his pace, but on Saturday he bowled with much of his old sting, and his taking 14 wickets in the match for 185 was a fine performance. The ball with which he bowled Mr Kortright sent the bail $42\frac{1}{2}$ paces, while that which dismissed Reeves sent it almost the same distance.

12 July: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5496.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 July, page 12)

For the match at Gloucester yesterday Gloucestershire put into the field as good a team as they are likely to command this season; but on going in first on a wicket that was somewhat bare and rough they were all got rid of by Wilson and Arnold in a little over two hours for 164. Wrathall scored 41 out of the first 58 in excellent style, and Board played steady and careful cricket for his 44. Mr Jessop showed far more patience than is usual for him, taking half an hour to make 26.

When Worcestershire went in their batting for a time was so successful that they seemed likely to obtain a very big advantage on the first innings. With only three wickets down their score reached 151, but at that point Paish went on, and by dismissing Mr H K Foster, Mr Romney and Wheldon in quick succession put a very different appearance on the game. Mr Jessop afterwards bowled with such effect that nine men were out for 182. Bird and Straw then made an unexpected stand, carrying the score to 213.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 July, page 14)

A small scoring match at Gloucester ended yesterday in a capital victory for the Worcestershire eleven by five wickets. Overnight, with a wicket in hand, Worcestershire led by 49 runs, and this advantage was increased by Bird and Straw to 74.

As the pitch had become rough and helped the bowlers, this was a serious difference, and Gloucestershire lost six wickets before the arrears were cleared off. Afterwards Board, Mr Brown and Mr Fergus hit with some resolution, but they were unable to recover the lost ground.

Worcestershire were only set 68 runs to get to win and, thanks to some capital batting by Arnold and Mr R E Foster, the latter of whom completed his thousand runs for the season, the task was accomplished for the loss of five wickets. For their victory Worcestershire were greatly indebted to Wilson, who bowled with marked success in both innings and had the fine record of 12 wickets for 144 runs.

12 July: HAMPSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5497.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 July, page 12)

Having no fear as to the result of an encounter with Hampshire this season, Yorkshire left out Mr Ernest Smith, Rhodes and Wainwright at Portsmouth yesterday. With the Cambridge men - Mr T L Taylor

and Mr E R Wilson - as well as Lord Hawke available, Washington and Whitehead were also dropped, the northern county team thus differing largely from that which beat Sussex so decisively on Wednesday. In the absence of Rhodes a trial was given to a medium pace bowler named Oyston.

Hampshire placed on the field quite as strong a side as they are likely to have this season, but it cannot be said that they greatly distinguished themselves against the skilful bowling of the Yorkshiremen.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 July, page 14)

Through their mistakes in the field at Portsmouth yesterday, the Hampshire eleven were much behind on the first innings; but they played so courageously through the last two hours of the afternoon that they recovered some of their lost ground.

Between 25 minutes to 12 and 4 o'clock Yorkshire increased their overnight score of 116 for one wicket to 372. Tunnicliffe - seventh to leave at 317 - made his first hundred since the season of 1898 and, though thrice let off, he batted admirably for nearly three hours and a half. There was some free hitting at the close by Haigh, and in the end Yorkshire led by 170 runs.

Going in a second time, Mr Hill played a fine innings. Mr Robson helped him to score 63 for the first wicket, and for the third, Mr Hill and Mr Raikes put on 76 runs. Hampshire, at the drawing of stumps, were only ten runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 July, page 13)

In the match which ended at Portsmouth on Saturday the Yorkshiremen, by repeated blunders in the field, seriously jeopardized their chances of success, but they won easily enough at the finish by six wickets.

12 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5498.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 July, page 12)

The wicket at Leicester yesterday was so good that Leicestershire in the course of five hours made 423 runs for the loss of only three batsmen.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 July, page 14)

Up to the present 857 runs have been made for the loss of ten wickets in this match at Leicester - 428 on Thursday and 429 yesterday.

Leicestershire, who had lost only three wickets on the opening day, went on batting until lunch time yesterday, adding 181 for the loss of five more batsmen, and then declared. The partnership of Knight and Whitehead soon came to an end yesterday, but it produced no fewer than 256 runs. Whitehead played excellent cricket except for a chance at 102, and hit two sixes and 13 fours. Knight was not dismissed until 510, by which time he had raised his score to 182 - by far the highest innings he has ever played for his county.

Sussex played up in highly creditable style, with the result that at the drawing of stumps they had lost only two batsmen and had scored 248 runs. For this satisfactory position they were mainly indebted to their two great batsmen, Mr Fry withstanding the Leicestershire bowling for more than three hours, and K S Ranjitsinhji, by most delightful cricket, assisting him to put on 123 during the last 80 minutes of the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 July, page 13)

After three days' heavy scoring the match at Leicester had, on Saturday, to be given up as a draw, play coming to an end upon the fall of the eighth Sussex wicket at 686.

The feature of the afternoon's cricket was the innings of 275 by K S Ranjitsinhji, who beat, by 15 runs, his previous highest score in first-class matches - 260, made in 1897 at Lord's against the M.C.C. In obtaining his runs K S Ranjitsinhji was at the wickets just over five hours. His driving and cutting were beautifully timed, and he hit 29 fours, 11 threes and 27 twos. Mr Fry helped him to put on 194 for the third wicket, and Mr Collins stayed while 138 were added for the sixth.

Mr Fry's innings was, for him, of an unusually patient character, but he played excellent cricket. In the match 1,295 runs were scored and only 16 wickets went down - an average of 80 runs a wicket.

12 July; NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5499.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 July, page 12)

In meeting Notts for the second time this season, Kent yesterday put rather a strong team into the field at Trent-bridge. They could not, it is true, command the services of Mr Rashleigh and Mr H C Stewart, but Mr S H Day - free from Cambridge cricket - was able to assist, and a trial was given to the young Oxford batsman, Mr C H B Marsham. Apart from the absence of Mr J A Dixon, Notts had nearly their best eleven, Wass, who strained his leg last week, having sufficiently recovered to play again. Late in the afternoon the light was bad and a violent wind raised such clouds of dust as to stop play just after 6 o'clock.

Notts won the toss and stayed in for three hours and ten minutes, but only scored 198. The brightest cricket of the day took place when John Gunn joined Mr A O Jones. Notts seemed likely to make a score of well over 200, but Mr Bradley on going on for the third time proved irresistible, bowling ten overs for 44 runs and five wickets. Owing to the dust Kent batted under difficulties.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 July, page 14)

William Gunn, who has been doing very little this season, came out in his finest form against Kent at Trent Bridge yesterday. He went in first wicket down and was fourth man out at 208, putting together during a stay of three hours and 20 minutes a score of 137. From the time he went in until he was caught in the long-field he made no mistake of any kind. He hit all round the wicket in delightful style, but his cutting and off-driving were the finest features of his play. Included in his splendid innings were 17 fours, seven threes and eight twos.

Notts, on a wicket which steadily improved as the day advanced, lost Shrewsbury and Mason for 29, but then Mr Goodacre assisted Gunn to put on 77, and with Dench in the fourth wicket added 102. At the close Notts were 299 ahead with five wickets in hand.

At the start of the day the ground gave the bowlers considerable assistance, and Wass, making the most of his opportunity, [?] the Kent innings, in which four wickets had fallen overnight for 54 runs, was finished off in an hour and a half for 150. Mr Blaker batted in capital form and the last two wickets put on 52 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 July, page 13)

Mr A O Jones adopted a bold policy at Trent-bridge on Saturday when he declared the Notts innings closed, leaving Kent nearly five hours in which to get 359 runs. As it happened, the visitors just failed in their efforts, Notts winning after an intensely exciting finish by a dozen runs.

Half an hour earlier Kent apparently seemed almost assured of success. Indeed, from the time the hundred went up with only two met out it became evident that Mr Jones had run a great risk, and gradually a victory for Kent looked absolutely certain. With only three men out they wanted but 78 runs, and with five wickets in hand they were within 29 runs of a great triumph.

But then the fortune changed. Wass, who owing to a strain had been off the field for a couple of hours and had met with no success, suddenly found his length when given another chance, and in four overs he took three wickets for nine runs. This piece of bowling determined the result. With three men to be dismissed Kent required only 14 runs, but they scored only one of them. Mr Bannon and Blythe were out to successive balls, and then for a last sensation Huish ran himself out.

Mr P C Baker played almost perfect cricket for his 130. He scored chiefly by hard driving, hitting 11 fours, seven fives and 17 twos. Mr Day helped to add 128 in an hour and a half, and Mr Mason scored his first 50 in as many minutes out of 96.

Early in the day Dench and Mr Groves hit up 59 in half an hour before Mr Jones applied the closure. Some 2,000 people watched the cricket in delightful weather after a couple of early showers.

12 July: WARWICKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5500.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 July, page 12)

A thunderstorm at Birmingham, yesterday, put a stop to cricket in this return match at half-past 4 in the afternoon. In the absence of Mr MacLaren, who met with an injury at Worcester earlier in the week, Lancashire gave a trial to Hibbert, of Leyland, a left-handed batsman.

The new addition to the Lancashire ranks assisted Albert Ward to make a successful start for Lancashire, but with the ground in splendid order and the Warwickshire bowling - in the absence of Santall - only of moderate quality, the batsmen should certainly not have taken nearly two hours to make 86 before lunch. The score was at 212 when the storm burst over the ground. Rain continuing afterwards, there is every prospect of the subsequent stages of the game being fought out on a soft pitch.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 14 July, page 14)

This match was continued yesterday at Birmingham . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 July, page 13)

Though there was a full day's play at Birmingham on Saturday it was not found possible to bring the game to a definite issue. Warwickshire had the best of the day's cricket, and had the game been finished would probably have won.

Thanks to some further fine batting by Kinneir and Diver, who put on 139 runs, the home county, who overnight had lost seven wickets for 235, secured the lead of 14 runs. Diver played in a style worthy of his best days, while Kinneir during a stay at the wickets of four hours and a quarter did not make a mistake.

When Lancashire went in a second time Hibbert was again seen to advantage, playing fine cricket for two hours. After securing a good start the Lancashire batting broke down badly before the fast bowling of Field, who sent down his last seven overs for 26 runs and seven wickets. When the game was abandoned as a draw Warwickshire, with nine wickets in hand, wanted 137 to win.

Saturday 14 July, page 14: PRESENTATION TO MR A J WEBBE

In the pavilion at Lord's yesterday afternoon, Mr A J Webbe was presented with a silver tea tray, subscribed for by all the cricketers who played for Middlesex during the time he was captain. On the surface of the tray the autographs of the players are engraved according to length of service for the county, those like Mr Stoddart, who played under Mr Webbe for practically all the years he captained the eleven, having their names near the centre and those who only gave occasional assistance being on the outskirts. Mr Stoddart made the presentation and Mr Webbe, in acknowledging it, spoke very feelingly of the kindness that had been shown him.

Monday 16 July, page 13: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	17	11	0	6	11
Lancashire	18	11	0	7	11
Notts	11	5	2	4	3
Surrey	16	7	3	6	4
Sussex	13	2	1	10	1
Kent	10	3	2	5	1
Warwickshire	13	3	2	8	1
Essex	12	3	3	6	0
Gloucestershire	11	3	4	4	-1
Derbyshire	9	2	4	3	-2
Somerset	8	2	6	0	-4
Worcestershire	13	2	8	3	-6
Middlesex	9	1	6	2	-5
Leicestershire	11	1	7	3	-6
Hampshire	11	0	8	3	-8

GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS, AT LORD'S

The sides for to-day's match are as follows: -

Gentlemen. - Mr R E Foster, Mr C J Kortright, Mr D L A Jephson, Mr J R Mason, Mr C B Fry, Mr G L Jessop, Mr A O Jones, Mr Ernest Smith, Mr S M J Woods, Mr H Martyn and Mr C L Townsend.

Players. - Brown, sen., Rhodes, William Quaife, Hayward, Trott, Mead, Abel, Carpenter, Albert Ward, Lilley and Lockwood or J Gunn.

16 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5501.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 July, page 12)

Gentlemen v Players at Lord's is still the cricketers' match of the year and, although there was a falling off in the attendance, there must have been nearly 10,000 people on the ground. The sides yesterday were very strong, but not quite representative, for the Gentlemen were without K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr A C MacLaren. As Lockwood has been suffering from rheumatism during the last week it was doubtful if he would be able to stand the strain of bowling on the hard pitch, and at the last moment he stood down for J Gunn, whose excellent left-hand bowling has been one of the best things in cricket this season.

Habitues of Lord's must have missed the form of Dr W G Grace, who for some 35 years has played such a prominent part in Gentlemen v Players. With so many good men to pick from there is always a difficulty in choosing the Players' side, and such sterling cricketers as Hirst, Tyldesley, Board, Haigh and Killick were left out - in fact, it would be possible to pick two elevens of almost equal strength.

It was a keen day's cricket in which the interest was fully maintained up to the close. The feature of the play was the splendid form shown by Mr R E Foster, this year's Oxford captain. To make 100 in his first Gentlemen v Players at Lord's was a feat of great merit. Going in second wicket down at 99 he took some time to play himself in, for he was batting 25 minutes before he opened his score, but when once he had settled down he played fine cricket. He possesses a good variety of strokes, and his best were his off-drive and his placing to leg.

When Mr Martyn, the last man, came in he still required 15 runs to complete his 100, and in his endeavour to force the game he ran some risk, but that is the only thing that could be urged against him. He was at the wickets just over two hours and a half, and his chief hits were 15 fours, three threes and nine twos. Although not possessing the same brilliancy as his brother H K, he has a lovely stroke on the off side. Mr Fry showed nothing like his usual freedom and was often troubled by the superb bowling of Rhodes, who has proved himself such a worthy successor in the Yorkshire eleven to Peel and the late E Peate.

Mr Woods had to good fortune to beat Abel in the spin of the coin, but the Gentlemen began their innings none too well, as Mr Jones was out at 26 to a good right-hand catch at slip - the ball coming very low to Albert Ward. Mr Fry and Mr Townsend then considerably improved matters, but just when a long partnership seemed probable Mr Townsend was run out, the ball being returned by William Quaife at cover to the wicket-keeper. Their stand, which produced 73 runs, was the most prolific during the innings. Mr Fry was out at 127, at which total the players retired for lunch. Mr Fry played with unusual caution for him, and his cricket was not up to that standard of excellence which is associated with his game.

After the interval Mr Jephson, although making few runs, assisted Mr Foster to put on 45 runs for the fifth wicket. Mr Jessop started at his usual pace, but after making 18 out of 24 he got under one of Rhodes's and was easily caught by the wicket-keeper running in front of the wicket. Directly afterwards Mr Foster completed his 50. The next partnership of any note was for the eighth wicket, when Mr Foster and Mr Smith put on 57 in 40 minutes. Mr Smith was out to a magnificent left-hand catch by Rhodes at mid-off.

With Mr Kortright playing on at 277 there was a doubt if Mr Foster would have time to complete his 100, but he hit out in resolute style, and after lifting a ball in the long field just out of Hayward's reach he accomplished the feat at 295. Mr Martyn was then out to a good running catch at long-on by Brown.

The Players' fielding was very smart, both in gathering the ball and in the return, and their only mistake during a trying day was when Mr Fry at 37 gave Trott a catch in the slips off Gunn's bowling. Lilley at the wicket was not quite up to his usual excellence. The bowling generally was much better than the analysis would indicate.

The Players went in for an hour and a quarter's batting, but after Albert Ward had assisted Abel to put on 48 he was out to a catch in the slips. Hayward left at 61; then Abel and Quaife, although being hit by Mr Jessop's fast bowling, kept up their ends until the drawing of stumps. At the close the Players were 231 behind with eight wickets to fall. The weather was very hot and oppressive.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 July, page 14)

Yesterday's cricket at Lord's was made memorable by the brilliant batting of Mr R E Foster, who accomplished the feat of scoring a hundred in each innings, a performance which has never previously been recorded in the annals of Gentlemen v Players. On two previous occasions he has made two separate hundreds in one match, and only last season, for Worcestershire against Hampshire, Mr Foster and his brother W L established a record by both making a couple of hundreds each in the same match. Brilliant as were these innings, they were quite overshadowed by his unprecedented feat of yesterday, which must always hold a distinguished place in the history of the game.

His cricket was all the more remarkable seeing that it was his first appearance in Gentlemen v Players at Lord's. Going in second wicket down at 43, Mr Foster made his 100 out of 152, while he scored 136 out of 195 put on for the third wicket in an hour and 40 minutes. But the brilliancy of his play can best be judged when it is stated that, after Mr Fry had completed his 50, his own score then being 44, he hit up his last 92 while Mr Fry only added 18.

Towards the close of his innings he scored at a tremendous pace, and from the only over bowled by William Quaife, he hit four fours and a single out of the 18 runs made from him. His chief hits were 24 fours, two threes and four twos. When he left at 238 to a catch at long-on he received a splendid ovation, which was a fitting tribute to a wonderful display.

Although his first innings was marked by sound judgment, it could not be compared with his 136 for brilliancy. It is true that the same strokes were visible, but the cricket generally was much brighter, while his game possessed more power. He was fortunate in being missed by Gunn at mid-off at 40, while at 62 he gave a very sharp return chance to Trott, but apart from that his play was

marked by that precision which has gained him such a prominent place in the cricket world. After passing his 100, he hit out at nearly everything, but considering the pace at which he scored he ran few risks.

On account of the collapse of the Players earlier in the day Mr Foster's batting came as a great surprise. There is no doubt that the wicket gave the Gentlemen some assistance when they were in the field, and none of the Players seemed to relish their fast bowling, for their eight outstanding wickets went down for another 70 runs. Mr Mason met with the most success with the ball, and his four wickets cost just 10 runs apiece; but Mr Jessop and Mr Kortright also had good analyses. The fielding of the Gentlemen was very close and Mr Foster at slip brought off three catches.

When the Gentlemen went in with a lead of 161, it soon became apparent that the Players were in need of a fast bowler, for their medium pace deliveries lacked sting. From the first runs came with great freedom, and the only batsman to play a cautious game was Mr Fry, who was batting two hours and a half for his 72, made out of 260. He was unfortunate to lose his wicket, as he trod on the stumps in his endeavour to play one of Albert Ward's leg-breaks.

Mr Jessop had a merry innings, for he only received six balls for his 18 runs. Acting apparently under instructions, the later batsmen forced the game with the object of putting on runs as quickly as possible so that they might send the Players in again in the hopes of getting a wicket or so before the close of play. The last 139 runs were put on in an hour, but the whole innings was characterized by bright and attractive cricket, for the Gentlemen were only batting a little over three hours for their runs.

The fielding of the Players was not up to the standard of the Gentlemen, and towards the close got rather loose. Trott yesterday brought his aggregate number of wickets to over a 100 for the season. During the afternoon Hayward was slightly affected by the sun and Lockwood fielded for him. The Players, who were 500 runs behind, had three-quarters of an hour's batting . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 July, page 12)

The Gentlemen were beaten by the Players at Lord's yesterday by two wickets after a fourth innings almost unique in cricket of any great standing. To go in having to make over 500 to win and to win easily is a record for Gentlemen v Players and most other big cricket, but the Cambridge eleven did something similar against an M.C.C. side at Lord's a few years ago when Mr Frank Mitchell was captain at Cambridge.

Few cricketers expected the occurrences of yesterday. The Players were left to make 501 in the last innings against plenty of quick bowlers who had got them out in the first innings for a mere 136. But cricket is inexplicable. The perfect wicket and the tropical weather contained the secret of the result; and the rest of the narrative is easily told. J T Brown, of Driffield, made up for much want of success this season by playing one of the finest innings of his cricket life, and Abel, who is now something of a veteran, never batted better at Lord's. These were the men who killed the sting of the Gentlemen's fast bowlers - there were five of them, Messrs Jessop, Ernest Smith, Woods, Mason and Kortright - who had wrought the havoc in the first innings.

The Players had gone in overnight to begin their task of making 501 - generally regarded as an impossible task - and with Albert Ward out they had scored 44 runs. Yesterday when William Quaife was leg-before at 81 everybody was prepared for a comfortable win for the Gentlemen. But for many hours afterwards it was the Players' turn. Abel batted as he has scarcely ever played before at Lord's; he scored quickly and, with the Gentlemen's bowling getting short, he came out tremendously strong on the leg side.

Brown found this season at last a wicket suited to him. His cutting was brilliant - and there is scarcely a better cut in England just now - while he was quick to get back and punish the short bowling, of which there was plenty. He and Abel carried the score from 81 to 246 for the third wicket, and then Abel in trying to hit a short one from Mr Jessop was easily taken at leg. The two hours' partnership had yielded 165 runs, and Abel's share was 98, in which were 16 fours. Lord's has never been much of a ground for Abel, and his splendid success in his year of captaincy of the Players will secure to him every congratulation.

Abel's dismissal occurred directly after luncheon, and then Hayward joined J T Brown. Both batsmen played excellently; and if the forcing of the pace was not very good runs came at a more than average rate. The Gentlemen fielded well, but their bowlers were tiring. The wicket was as true as steel

and it was an easy thing to time the ball. Brown was caught in the slips at 348 - 102 for the fourth wicket. He played beautiful cricket for his 163, made in rather less than five hours, and he hit 29 fours. Nothing could have beaten his superb cutting.

Hayward had meanwhile been playing well; but Carpenter was of little use to him. Lilley strove to force the game and made many fine drives, but he cut the ball into his wicket at 448, when six men were out. Hayward, who only missed his 2,000 aggregate by three runs, was caught low down at wicket at 469, when he was seventh out, and his chief hits in a very fine innings of 111 were 15 fours.

The bowling of J Gunn left the Players with only two men and still requiring 16 runs to win. Trott and Rhodes then won the match amidst a scene of much excitement. It was a wonderful day's cricket that ended just after the stroke of 6.30 - it had been arranged to go on until 7 - and no one could grudge the Players their fine victory. It may be mentioned that the cricket reporters for this match at Lord's were reinstated in their old quarters on the grand stand.

16 July: SUSSEX v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5502.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 July, page 12)

Yesterday's play at Brighton in the opening of the match between Sussex and Hampshire was marked by some singularly slow cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 July, page 14)

Yesterday's play at Brighton left the score as follows . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 July, page 12)

Until late in the afternoon at Brighton yesterday, the match seemed certain to end in a draw, for, although Ranjitsinhji and his colleagues hit very hard and declared their innings at a quarter to 4, scarcely anyone expected that Hampshire could be got out in the two hours and a half remaining for play.

As a matter of fact, however, the visitors' batting completely broke down against Bland's effective bowling, and they were all dismissed in an hour and 40 minutes for 73, which gave Sussex a brilliant victory by 232 runs. Barton's 205 is the best innings he has ever made.

16 July: WORCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5503.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 July, page 12)

No cricket was possible at Worcester yesterday owing to rain until 20 minutes to 3. Mr E R Wilson received a rather severe blow in the face and had to give up batting, but it is thought that the injury is not more serious than a bad bruise.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 July, page 14)

The cricket at Worcester, yesterday, left the game in the following interesting position . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 July, page 12)

The match at Worcester yesterday was drawn. Tunnicliffe and Hunter's stand of 160 for the seventh wicket was the feature of the day's play. Yorkshire closed their innings in good time, but the game was saved to Worcestershire by the splendid batting of Mr H K Foster.

16 July: LANCASHIRE v WEST INDIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105740.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 July, page 12)

Lancashire put a fairly strong eleven into the field against the West Indians at Old Trafford yesterday.

No scorecards or reports for Days 2 and 3.

Thursday 19 July, page 9: OBITUARY

MR RICHARD DAFT

All cricketers will learn with regret of the death yesterday morning at his home, Radcliffe-on-Trent, of the famous Notts cricketer Richard Daft. Born on November 2, 1835, he was in his 65th year.

His career in public matches, which began in 1858, came to an end in 1881, but ten years later he reappeared for Notts in one match, playing against Surrey at the Oval on the August Bank Holiday. He began and finished as an amateur, but from 1859 to 1880 inclusive he played as a professional.

In his young days he divided honours as a batsman with the late Tom Hayward and Robert Carpenter, and at the beginning of the 70s he had no superior except Dr W G Grace. In his own opinion the best innings he ever played was 118 for North against South at Lord's in 1862 in James Grundy's benefit match, but this was only one of many fine displays that he gave. It was probably no better than his 111 not out against George Freeman's bowling at Manchester for the All England against the United All England Eleven in 1867. His biggest score he ever made in first-class cricket was 161 for Notts against Yorkshire at Trent Bridge in 1873.

Daft was always a master of style in batting, standing up to his full height, and was equally good to look at whether he scored fast or slowly. Like Carpenter. He was a back player, but the methods of the two men were in strong contrast, Carpenter playing so much lower. Whether or not Daft at his best was as fine a bat as his successors in the Notts eleven Shrewsbury and Gunn is quite a matter of opinion, but in making comparisons it must always be borne in mind that the wickets in Daft's day were by no means so true and easy as they are now and that as a natural consequence scores all round were much smaller.

19 July: ESSEX v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5504.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 July, page 11)

With a side much below their average strength Hampshire had a bad time at Leyton yesterday, and were fielding during the whole of cricketing hours.

The day's play was marked by the innings of Mr H G Owen, the Essex captain, who had only once before made a century for the county. He showed a variety of good strokes, but steadiness rather than brilliancy was the merit of his play. He went in first and was third out at 235. His innings occupied rather less than four hours. He had partnerships of 92 with Carpenter and 111 with Mr McGahey. The Hampshire fieldsmen dropped some catches near the close of the day off Mr Robson's lobbs, but their new right-hand slow bowler, Mr T H Page, of Southampton, met with much deserved success.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 July, page 14)

In their uphill fight against Essex at Leyton, yesterday, Hampshire did fairly well; but they were much helped by the errors of the Essex fieldsmen. Hampshire batted one short. Reeves played the brightest cricket of the Essex side with his innings of 89, which he finished yesterday, while Barton and Mr Page batted well for Hampshire.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 July, page 13)

There was not much cricket of interest in the third day's play at Leyton, and well on in the afternoon Essex won by 206 runs. Hampshire, with only a weak side, were overmatched from the start, and had the Essex fielding been of equal merit with their batting and bowling the game might not have extended beyond the second day.

19 July: KENT v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5505.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 July, page 11)

Yesterday at Blackheath Somerset, by their poor display in the field, did not benefit by the advantage they secured early in the day. When Kent's first three wickets had fallen for 18 runs Mr Mason joined Mr Burnup, and the Kent captain ought to have been caught at the wicket before he had scored.

The mistake proved very expensive, for the two batsmen by perfect cricket added 132 runs for the fourth wicket in an hour and a half. Mr Burnup's 74 included many beautiful strokes all round the wicket, while Mr Mason's 72 was a fine display of hard driving and clean cutting. Mr Knowles and Mr Blaker scored 132 runs for the seventh wicket, but Mr Knowles was largely indebted for his runs to the mistakes the Somerset men made in the field.

A little more than half an hour remained for play when Somerset went in, and when stumps were drawn they had lost two wickets for 30 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 July, page 14)

Yesterday's cricket in this match at Blackheath was in no way remarkable. Somerset, who, as a result of their poor fielding, had to field out Kent's innings of 377 on Thursday, had lost two wickets when they resumed their innings yesterday morning with the total at 30, and although Robson, after being missed by Mr Day at mid-on when 14 and again by the same player at mid-on when 59, made 77, and Mr Woods played a steady innings for 40, eight of the Somerset batsmen were out for 157. It appeared highly probable then that Somerset would have had to follow on, but Gill and Tyler and then Gill and Mr Grant scored 83 runs for the last two wickets, and Somerset's innings finally realized 240.

Kent, who led by 137 runs on the first innings, had made 175 for the loss of six of their wickets in the second, when stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 July, page 13)

Rarely have the Somerset eleven been seen to less advantage than in their match against Kent at Blackheath, where on Saturday they were beaten by 221 runs. As the result of numerous catches missed, rather than by any particular brilliance in their batting, Kent ran up the big total of 377 for their first innings.

Somerset went in, with four hours and three-quarters remaining for play, requiring 388 runs to win. Mr Bradley did the hat trick. In the match he took nine wickets for 155 runs.

19 July: LANCASHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5506.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 July, page 11)

The return match between Lancashire and Yorkshire at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, was particularly interesting to cricketers, for, not only had it been set apart as a benefit for Arthur Mold, the Lancashire fast bowler, but both counties had been unbeaten in the county championship this year. As a matter of fact, their records were identical, each having won 11 games and drawn seven.

Mold has done good service for his county since 1889. Unfortunately he was not able to play yesterday, owing to an injury to his leg. There was a great attendance, 20,011 persons paying for admission.

The comparatively low scoring may be attributed to the fact that the fielding on both sides was extremely good and that there was plenty of life in the bowling. Yorkshire had half their wickets down for 133; but at the critical point Hirst played with such resolution that he made 59 in an hour and a quarter. Lancashire began badly, but afterwards Ward and Mr MacLaren succeeded in slightly improving matters.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 July, page 14)

Very little progress could be made with the great game at Manchester yesterday. Cricket was only possible for two hours and a quarter, rain setting in shortly before 2 o'clock and preventing any further play.

In the time at their disposal Lancashire succeeded in making up a good deal of the ground they had lost on the opening day, raising their score of 63 for four wickets to 185, and only losing three more batsmen. For the success which attended their efforts Lancashire were indebted in no small degree to the mistakes of their opponents, two catches being dropped and a fine chance of a run out being missed. As the game at present stands Lancashire, with three wickets in hand, are 50 runs batting average.

Despite the unfavourable weather 12,332 persons paid for admission, and it is expected with a good gate to-day (Saturday) that Mold's benefit will exceed £2,000.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 July, page 13)

Though in the end the great game at Manchester, on Saturday, was left drawn, the cricket until late in the afternoon was of a singularly exciting description, Yorkshire being engaged in a desperate struggle to avoid defeat.

When an innings on each side had been completed there was only a difference of seven runs, and as Yorkshire had 40 on the board in their second innings before the second wicket fell, a quiet termination to the game seemed certain. However, Cuttell and Sharp bowled so well and were so ably

supported by the field that when the seventh wicket fell Yorkshire were only 73 runs on. Moreover, it was then barely a quarter past 3, so that there was ample time for Yorkshire to be beaten.

At that critical point, however, Wainwright went in and gave an invaluable display of sound, watchful cricket. Brown, who was far from well, stayed in with him for nearly half an hour, and later Haigh kept up his wicket for an hour and 20 minutes, this stubborn stand putting defeat out of the question. Yorkshire were not disposed of until half-past 5, and they set Lancashire 154 runs to get to win. Wainwright's invaluable innings came after a long spell of bad luck. For more than two hours he withstood the Lancashire bowlers, and it is not too much to say that he saved his side from defeat.

In the morning the last three Lancashire wickets added 43 runs, and Cuttell had the satisfaction of making the highest individual score in the match. Lancashire only had 20 minutes' batting in their second innings, and as stumps were drawn at 6 o'clock no importance attached to that part of the game. With 11,838 paying for admission on Saturday, the number of persons passing through the turnstiles in the three days amounted to over 40,000, and it is expected that Mold's benefit will realize close upon £2,500.

19 July: MIDDLESEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5507.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 July, page 11)

Considerable progress was made at Lord's yesterday in the return match between Middlesex and Leicestershire, 19 wickets falling during the afternoon. Middlesex, with Mr MacGregor, Mr L J Moon and Mr Beldam away, had only a moderate team, and were considerably handicapped by the fact that Mr H B Hayman strained his leg after fielding about an hour and could take no further part in the day's cricket.

Leicestershire started so badly that five of their wickets were down for 58 runs. Matters improved afterwards, however, and in three-quarters of an hour the score was taken to 136 for seven. Then Knight, after batting nearly two hours, played a ball on to his wicket. Good hitting as well as strong defence marked his innings.

Middlesex, as the result of two and a half hours' batting, secured a lead of 25 runs, and still had a wicket in hand when stumps were drawn. Mr Bosanquet, who hit with great brilliancy and scored in an hour and 50 minutes 136 out of 173, gave three chances of being stumped, the first before he had made a run. The vigorous character of his play may be judged from the fact that he hit a five, 22 fours, three threes and 11 twos.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 July, page 14)

The Leicestershire eleven, at Lord's, yesterday, started their second innings at some disadvantage, being 40 runs behind, and when three of their wickets had fallen at 51 the outlook for them was anything but hopeful. After this, however, they did better, Whitehead and King putting on 54 runs in three-quarters of an hour for the fourth wicket, and Whitehead and Coe carrying the score from 105 to 138.

Then came the turning point of the innings, Coe and Brown playing first-rate cricket together and adding 108 runs in 80 minutes. Coe was at last stumped in going out to hit a ball from Mr Bosanquet, the sixth wicket thus falling at 246. In his fine innings of 98, which lasted an hour and three-quarters, Coe hit 15 fours, one three and three twos. The keen edge having been taken off The Middlesex bowling, Leicestershire continued to score freely and in the end the total reached 342. Trott was the most effective of the bowlers, but, as has frequently been the case this season, his bowling cost a good many runs.

Middlesex were left with 303 to get to win, and before the drawing of stumps they had scored 16 runs for the loss of one wicket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 July, page 13)

The Middlesex eleven have met with very little success this season; but at Lord's on Saturday they gained a well-earned victory over Leicestershire by five wickets. Set to make 303 in the fourth innings, they had at the drawing of stumps on Friday lost one wicket for 16 runs.

On Saturday their second wicket fell at 50; but after that they always looked to be winning. The result was clearly due to Mr Bosanquet, who followed up his 136 on Thursday by playing a much finer innings of 139, and thus earned a place among the batsmen who have made a hundred in each innings in a first-class match. Going in with the score at 50, he was out - fifth wicket down - at 276, the match being as good as over when he left. His driving was splendid, and he made a number of runs by skilful strokes on the leg side. Among his figures were 18 fours, five threes and nine twos. The turning point of the match was his partnership with Rawlin, 145 runs being added for the fourth wicket in an hour and a half.

Mr P F Warner, who went in on Friday and was out third - at 128 - played a capital innings of 61, but of necessity he was overshadowed. From first to last in was Mr Bosanquet's match.

19 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5508.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 July, page 11)

At one time yesterday at Nottingham the Notts eleven seemed likely to run up a very good score, their total reaching 170 before the fourth wicket fell. This success was mainly due to the batting of William Gunn. His innings extended over two hours and 20 minutes, and was without blemish of any kind.

Mr Townsend and Wrathall started for Gloucestershire, scoring 70 in 50 minutes. Gloucestershire left off with a good deal the best of the position.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 July, page 14)

In the two hours and a half that cricket was in progress at Nottingham yesterday - there was only ten minutes' play after luncheon owing to several thunderstorms - Gloucestershire managed to secure an immense advantage. Overnight they had made 134 for two wickets against the Notts total of 211, and they succeeded in increasing their aggregate to 325 for nine wickets.

Mr Townsend and Mr Champain, the not-outs, were separated at 195, when their stand had produced 97, while Mr Champain and Mr Jessop subsequently contributed 100 runs in an hour for the fourth wicket. Mr Townsend, who batted two hours 20 minutes for his 79, Mr Champain, who was ten minutes less making six more, and Mr Jessop, who scored 71 in a little over an hour, never gave a chance. Mr Townsend hit seven fours and three threes, Mr Champain 11 fours, and Mr Jessop a five and seven fours. Gloucestershire are 114 runs ahead with a wicket to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 July, page 13)

Nottinghamshire were engaged the whole of Saturday afternoon in a courageous and, as it proved, a successful endeavour to avert defeat at Trent-bridge. They had to face a majority of 116 runs, and they started so badly that three wickets fell for 21.

Then William Gunn, first with Mr Groves - who helped to put on 71 in as many minutes - and later with Mr Dixon and John Gunn, played splendidly, and was at the wickets for nearly three hours and a half for his 94. In a perfect innings he hit 15 fours. After he left at 190 Carlin played well, and ultimately Gloucestershire were left to make 122 in less than an hour.

Impossible as the task looked, they tried to win, but by the call of time had six men out for 83, and so an interesting match was drawn.

19 July: SUSSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5509.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 July, page 11)

The great feature of yesterday's cricket at Brighton was the batting of Mr C B Fry, who going in first made 125 out of 220 in two hours and 50 minutes, without giving a chance. When 200 went up with only three men out Sussex looked like making a big score. But then came a collapse and there were seven wickets down for 220. Butt and Bland pulled the game round, however, and in the end the innings realized 300.

Against that Abel and Brockwell scored 94 without loss in the last hour of the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 July, page 14)

Surrey were batting the whole of yesterday at Brighton, and increased an overnight score of 94 to 493, losing seven wickets. Everything favoured them, the pitch being in perfect condition, while Relf, owing to an injured knee, had to retire, and Bland was so affected by the extreme heat that he had to leave the field.

Of the men dismissed only Lees failed to score 50, and for the most part the Surrey men played brilliantly. Abel, however, had some luck in scoring his 110, being three times dismissed. Abel was batting three hours and a half, and hit 13 fours. He and Brockwell scored 143 in an hour and three-quarters, and the subsequent partnerships were all productive of good additions. Hayward, who carried his season's aggregate to 2,049, showed beautiful form.

When the bowlers were tired Mr Crawford and Lockwood forced the game so successfully as to put on 108 in 80 minutes, their cricket being as faultless as it was dashing. Lockwood hit 12 and Mr Crawford 14 fours. One of the best things of the day was the fielding of Vine.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 July, page 13)

Many brilliant performances has Mr C B Fry accomplished in the course of his career, but on Saturday, at Brighton, in putting together an innings of 229 against Surrey, he surpassed all his previous achievements. Not only did he make the highest score of his life, but obtained his runs without giving anything like a chance.

Having scored 125 in the first innings of Sussex, he enjoyed the further triumph of two separate hundreds in a match. He earned a similar distinction when playing for Sussex against Middlesex two years ago, the only other batsmen who have performed the feat more than once being Dr W G Grace and Mr R E Foster, and each of these has accomplished it three times.

Mr Fry went in first on Saturday and was fifth out at 408, his stay at the wickets extending over four hours and twenty minutes. Included in his superb display were 28 fours, 11 threes and 16 twos. Mr Collins assisted him to put on 133 runs for the first wicket, and with Ranjitsinhji and Mr Fry together 196 runs were added in a hundred minutes. Ranjitsinhji had the satisfaction of completing his 2,000 runs for the present season. His batting throughout was most brilliant, amongst his hits being 17 fours.

With their two great batsmen acquitting themselves so finely, Sussex emerged from the contest with much credit. They entered on their second innings 239 behind, and when the match was left drawn they were 178 ahead with four wickets in hand. Altogether, 1,256 runs were obtained during the three days for the loss of 26 wickets. Richardson took all the Sussex wickets which fell on Saturday, and for the whole match had the excellent record of 11 wickets for just over 17 runs apiece.

19 July: WARWICKSHIRE v LONDON COUNTY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5510.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 July, page 11)

Warwickshire gained a big advantage at Birmingham yesterday. The visitors started well, Dr W G Grace and Arnold scoring 122 before lunch; but afterwards the whole side were out for an additional 76 runs, Field on a perfect pitch taking six wickets for 21 runs.

Dr W G Grace was batting nearly two hours and 20 minutes, and hit 11 fours. Fishwick and Devey hit brilliantly, putting on 88, and Warwickshire finished the day only 28 runs behind with eight wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 July, page 14)

The players had only just entered the field at Birmingham yesterday morning when a heavy storm came on and, in consequence, it was not until after 3 o'clock that any cricket took place.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 July, page 13)

Dr W G Grace and Arnold again batted well for the London County at Birmingham on Saturday, but when they were separated there came a complete collapse. Walker hit hard enough to put the home team in again, but with only 25 to get to win, and Warwickshire won by nine wickets. Field and Hargreave bowled with great effect. Dr Grace scored his 48 out of 74.

19 July: DERBYSHIRE v WEST INDIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105741.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 July, page 11)

The cricket at Derby yesterday was for the most part of a slow character. The county, who had the advantage of batting first, took four hours to make 234. The brightest part of the play was the hitting of Hulme towards the close of the innings.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 July, page 14)

The cricket at Derby yesterday was interrupted at a quarter to 2 by bad light, and soon after the players had left the field a heavy storm burst over the ground. This was followed by further downpours, and about a quarter to 5 stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 July, page 13)

At Derby on Saturday the batting of Storer, Lawton and Humphries saved the side, and Derbyshire were able to close their innings at half-past 5 with a lead of 116 runs. The match was left drawn at half-past 6 . . .

Friday 20 July, page 11: THE LATE MR DAVID BUCHANAN

Dr Bernard Relton, hon. secretary to the Rugby Cricket Club, writes: - "The death of the late Mr David Buchanan, the well-known slow bowler, who so frequently played for the Gentlemen of England, will be fresh in the memory of your readers, of whom many may have been associated with him in cricket and other sports in the past.

"It is proposed to erect a memorial to his memory on the cricket ground of Rugby, with which town he was so intimately connected throughout the whole of his life. It has been suggested that many of his old friends, who must be numbered amongst your readers, would be glad of an opportunity of subscribing towards such a memorial, which is to take the form of a new pavilion on the Rugby Cricket Club ground, which is much needed, and the expense of which will be considerable. Subscriptions may be paid to Lloyds Bank, Rugby, or will be gladly received and acknowledged by the hon. secretary."

Monday 23 July, page 13: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	19	11	0	8	11
Lancashire	19	11	0	8	11
Sussex	15	3	1	11	2
Notts	12	5	2	5	3
Surrey	17	7	3	7	4
Kent	11	4	2	5	2
Warwickshire	13	3	2	8	1
Essex	13	4	3	6	1
Gloucestershire	12	3	4	5	-1
Derbyshire	9	2	4	3	-2
Middlesex	10	2	6	2	-4
Somerset	9	2	7	0	-5
Worcestershire	14	2	8	4	-6
Leicestershire	12	1	8	3	-7
Hampshire	13	0	10	3	-10

The funeral of the late Mr Richard Daft took place on Saturday at Radcliffe-on-Trent, in the same churchyard where lie the remains of his great predecessor in Notts batting - George Parr. Among many contemporaries of the late famous cricketer attending the funeral were Alfred Shaw and William Oscroft.

23 July: HAMPSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5511.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 July, page 8)

For Somerset, at Southampton yesterday, Mr Lionel Palairet played a great innings, and with Mr Bernard made 262 for the third wicket. Mr Palairet scored his 161 in three hours and a half and hit 24 fours. Mr Bernard's figures included a six and 18 fours. Subsequently Mr Woods and Mr Daniell added 146 for the fifth wicket in 80 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 July, page 9)

Had the fielding of Somerset at Southampton yesterday been reasonably good they would very likely have beaten Hampshire before the time for drawing stumps.

The home county had to face the huge score of 503, and though in their first innings they scored only 218, even this number ought not to have been obtained. Barton, who made 61 out of 107 put on for two wickets before luncheon, was badly missed when six, and several other dropped catches helped the batting side. Mr Robson and Mr Sprot in the second innings were both let off. In spite of all this, however, Hampshire, as the game stands now, have hardly any chance of escaping defeat, being 156 in arrears with six wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 July, page 8)

As was only to be expected, the game at Southampton ended yesterday in an easy victory for Somerset. The Hampshire eleven were in quite a hopeless position, having four wickets down in their second innings and being 156 runs behind.

Two hours' play yesterday sufficed to finish off the match. The remaining Hampshire wickets added only 150 runs, Somerset thus winning in a single innings with six runs to spare.

23 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5512.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 July, page 8)

Much of the cricket at Leicester yesterday was slow and uninteresting. Only 271 were scored in five hours and five minutes, although the conditions were in favour of the batsmen.

A splendid innings of 110 by Knight relieved the day's play from dullness. During the four hours he was batting he made no mistake, and among his hits were a five and 11 fours. Lancashire had five minutes' batting.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 July, page 9)

By the brilliant batting of Mr Hartley and the patient defence of Albert Ward the Lancashire eleven, at Leicester, yesterday, escaped from what was at one time a very critical situation. With seven men out the total was only 133.

At this point Ward and Mr Hartley became partners, and in an hour and 50 minutes 150 runs were added. Mr Hartley was at the wickets just under two hours. He made most of his runs on the off-side and among his figures were 16 fours. Ward played faultless cricket for his 90 not out, and was batting for nearly four hours.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 July, page 8)

At Leicester yesterday the Leicestershire team at the start were 45 runs in arrear with two wickets down in their second innings, and without any addition to the score Brown was dismissed. On Knight joining King, however, the game underwent a great change, and just after 6 o'clock stumps were pulled up and the match left drawn.

23 July: MIDDLESEX v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5513.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 July, page 8)

After the lapse of a few seasons these counties met again yesterday at Lord's. The home team was far from being representative of the county's strength, but, notwithstanding their apparent weakness, they kept their visitors in the field all day, and at the close of play had scored 383 for the loss of six wickets.

The honours of the day rested with Mr Warner, who played the highest and possibly the best innings of his life. His batting was brilliant from first to last. Mr Warner received useful assistance from Mr K W Kaye, who appeared in the Middlesex team for the first time, and helped his captain in increase the score by 170 runs. Mr Warner hit one six, all run out, and 25 fours, while in Mr Kaye's 76 there were 11 boundary hits.

Of the other batsmen Rawlin stayed in for nearly an hour, and was out to a great catch by Mead low down with the right hand off his own bowling. Trott was just getting set when he was beautifully taken by the Essex wicket-keeper. Mr Wyld and Mr Robertson were both batting confidently when play ceased for the day. The Essex men took their long outing very well and there was no slackness in the field. Mr Kortright went lame before lunch and did not appear after the interval.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 July, page 9)

The last few Middlesex batsmen hit so well at Lord's yesterday morning that nearly 100 runs were added before the completion of the long innings for 479.

Essex began badly, but after losing three men for 58 Carpenter was joined by Mr Lucas and a fine stand was made. Seventy-eight were added before Mr Wyld brought off a brilliant catch from his own bowling that dismissed Carpenter, who has batted consistently well this year. Mr Lucas played with much of his old power and his timing of the ball was as perfect as ever. In the end Essex finished 232 behind. Trott and Hearne bowled very well on the hard and true pitch. Essex followed on . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 July, page 8)

Essex were easily beaten by Middlesex at Lord's yesterday by an innings and 71 runs. Their batsmen cut a very poor figure against the excellent bowling of Trott, Hearne and Mr Bevington. The last-named, a slow left-hander, has a nice easy action and gets a good deal of work on the ball. The Middlesex fielding was very smart, the catch by which Mr Wyld got rid of Mr Kortright being particularly good.

23 July: SURREY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5514.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 July, page 8)

At the Oval, yesterday, Kent ran up a score of 300, and for this they were very largely indebted to their captain. Three good wickets had fallen for 25 runs when Mr Mason and Mr Day came together; but not only did the two stem the tide of disaster, but, steadily wearing down the Surrey attack, they carried the total to 170 before they were parted.

Mr Mason was the sixth to leave at 220. While things were going badly with his side he played a fine defensive game, and as Kent's fortunes mended he hit with all his characteristic power. He was finally caught in the slips when he had made 98. Afterwards Murrell hit up 47 very quickly, principally off Mr Jephson's lobbs.

Surrey quickly lost Abel and Brockwell, but before the close of the day Hayes and Lockwood did fairly well.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 July, page 9)

In spite of a bad start, Surrey succeeded in passing the Kent score of 300 at the Oval yesterday by 15 runs. Six wickets were down for 112, but Hayward and Mr Dowson made a stand for the seventh wicket, and during the hour and 50 minutes they were together 147 runs were scored. Mr Dowson played very fine cricket for his 70, and Hayward's 124, for which he was batting three hours and ten minutes, was obtained by brilliant play. Hayward now shares with Dr W G Grace and K S Ranjitsinhji the distinction of having played ten three-figure innings in one season.

Kent, in their second innings, scored 144 for the loss of three wickets. Mr Burnup, Mr Baker and Mr Mason all batted well. There were six or seven thousand spectators.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 July, page 8)

The match at the Oval yesterday, after much heavy scoring, was left drawn, the closing hours of the game being remarkable for a great partnership for the first Surrey wicket in the last innings by Brockwell and Abel.

On Tuesday when stumps were drawn Kent were 129 runs on with seven wickets to fall, and yesterday they completed their second innings for 360, which placed them beyond the danger of defeat. For this position they were indebted to Mr Mason and Mr Knowles, who carried the score from 85 to 333 for the fourth wicket. This stand of 248 occupied two hours and 40 minutes. Mr Knowles, who made 124, was nearly caught by Lockwood at mid-on when he was 52; but Mr Mason's 147 was the result of very fine batting.

Surrey went in for the last time with some three hours remaining for play, and requiring 346 runs to win. Abel and Brockwell so completely mastered the Kent bowling that, when stumps were pulled up and the match abandoned as a draw, they had scored 270 in just under three hours. Abel hit 17 fours, four threes and eight twos; while in his 130 Brockwell made 14 fours, four threes and 12 twos.

23 July: WARWICKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5515.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 July, page 8)

Yesterday's cricket at Birmingham produced some scoring that was remarkable even in this heavy run-getting season. Warwickshire, against whom a complaint of tedious methods has often, and justly, been levelled, came out in quite a new character, making runs at the rate of a hundred an hour nearly all day, and as the drawing of stumps being able to claim a total of 522 for the loss of only three batsmen.

Devey, who at one period obtained 100 out of 144 in an hour, was batting altogether for four hours and ten minutes, and during that period gave only two chances - both of them hard returns to Storer. W [G] Quaife late in the day had the satisfaction of completing his thousand runs in first-class matches.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 July, page 9)

Yesterday's cricket at Birmingham was necessarily in marked contrast to that seen in the opening stage of the match between Warwickshire and Derbyshire. The seven outstanding wickets went down in an hour and a half for the addition of only 113 runs, the innings eventually closing for 635.

Derbyshire made a determined effort to save the game, and during the remainder of the day lost only five wickets. Chatterton played a great game for his side, keeping up his wicket for more than two hours.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 July, page 8)

By dint of careful, steady cricket at Birmingham yesterday Derbyshire succeeded in saving their match against Warwickshire. They had to follow on shortly before luncheon against a balance of 291 runs, but such an effective resistance did they offer that when stumps were pulled up they had lost only four wickets.

23 July: YORKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5516.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 July, page 8)

Yorkshire took the field at Bradford yesterday without Brown of Driffield and Mr Ernest Smith. In rather less than five hours they put together a total of 409. The scoring must have been appreciably heavier but for the splendid fielding of Mr Champain, Mr Jessop and Mr Sewell.

Denton played brilliant cricket, hitting up 85 in an hour and a half without giving a chance. His innings included 14 fours. Hirst, who went in third wicket down at 172, put together 111 in a hundred minutes. He made no mistake until dismissed by a one-handed catch by Mr Jessop at long-off, and amongst his hits were 21 fours, two threes and five twos. Taylor also played very well.

Gloucestershire had less than 20 minutes' batting, and Rhodes, tempting the batsmen to hit, obtained three wickets for nine runs. About 10,000 people witnessed the day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 July, page 9)

Gloucestershire played a fine uphill game at Bradford yesterday and, although the task which they found before them in commencing their second innings last evening was a very formidable one, they had good reason to be satisfied with the manner in which they had acquitted themselves.

Having lost three wickets for nine runs overnight, they went on batting shortly after 11 o'clock yesterday morning. Mr Townsend and Mr Tagart batted steadily for an hour, adding 68 runs, but the feature of the innings was a characteristic piece of hitting by Mr Jessop, who, going in fifth wicket down at 77, put together 104 out of 153 in 65 minutes. The Gloucestershire captain enjoyed plenty of luck, for Mr Taylor should have caught him at long-off for 22, and he was badly missed by Denton when 67 and by Hunter when 79. These escapes notwithstanding, Mr Jessop's innings was remarkable, including a six, 15 fours, three threes and four twos. Wrathall helped to put on 130 in 55 minutes, and the total reached 269.

Gloucestershire then followed up their creditable batting by some capital bowling and some brilliant fielding. They dismissed three of the Yorkshiremen for 25 and, though Hirst again played resolute cricket with marked success, the home team were all out in two hours and 40 minutes for 187. Mr Taylor helped Hirst to make 100 in an hour, the latter, who only narrowly missed the distinction of two separate hundreds, giving no chance, although he hit up 92 in 85 minutes by 15 fours, two threes, eight twos and singles.

Gloucestershire had 328 to get to win, and lost one wicket for 13, to to-day with nine wickets to go down they require 315. Rhodes, it should have been mentioned, bowled splendidly for Yorkshire. He had three chances missed off him and yet took eight wickets for 72 runs. About 11,000 people witnessed the very interesting day's cricket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 July, page 8)

Mr Gilbert Jessop gave a superb display of hitting at Bradford yesterday, making 139 in less than an hour and a half. He had scored 104 in the first innings of Gloucestershire, and thus earned what a few years ago was the very rare distinction of obtaining two separate hundreds in the same match. During the splendid effort he made the Gloucestershire captain did not succeed in gaining a victory for his side, Yorkshire winning by 40 runs.

No fewer than seven times did Mr Jessop hit Rhodes out of the ground for six, his score also including 14 fours, two threes and 11 twos. Although so severely knocked about by Mr Jessop, Rhodes never lost his head but succeeded eventually in disposing of the Gloucestershire captain in an over in which the latter has hit two sixes and two fours. Altogether Rhodes took 14 wickets for 192 runs.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	20	12	0	8	12
Lancashire	20	11	0	9	11
Sussex	15	3	1	11	2
Notts	12	5	2	5	3
Surrey	18	7	3	8	4
Kent	12	4	2	6	2
Warwickshire	14	3	2	9	1
Essex	14	4	4	6	0
Gloucestershire	13	3	5	5	-2
Derbyshire	10	2	4	4	-2
Middlesex	11	3	6	2	-3
Somerset	10	3	7	0	-4
Worcestershire	14	2	8	4	-6
Leicestershire	13	1	8	4	-7
Hampshire	14	0	11	3	-11

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 champion county."

26 July: DERBYSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5517.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 July, page 12)

The best feature of the cricket at Derby yesterday was the batting of Mr A E Lawton, a young amateur from Chomford. When he was in Derbyshire had lost four wickets for 101, while Mr Wood had been obliged to retire owing to a severe blow on the elbow.

By his hard hitting Mr Lawton put a very different appearance on the game. He scored 124 in an hour and three-quarters, and the attractive character of his batting may be judged by the fact that among his strokes were four sixes and 16 fours.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 July, page 13)

Leicestershire did so well yesterday at Derby that when play ceased their score of 22 for two wickets had been raised to 361 for eight.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 July, page 7)

The heavy scoring on Thursday and Friday at Derby clearly pointed to a draw, and this was the result.

26 July: ESSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5518.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 July, page 12)

Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey made an exceptionally long stand at Leyton yesterday. When at lunch time Mr H G Owen and Carpenter had been dismissed for 116 runs Essex had done nothing out of the ordinary, but before the drawing of stumps 264 runs had been added and not another wicket fell. The Kent fielding was always good and Mr Blaker's catches at cover-slip quite brilliant.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 July, page 13)

At 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon the storm reached Leyton and prevented any cricket from that hour. Before lunch the Essex innings was finished off, all the batsmen forcing the game after Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey had been separated. Mr Perrin was caught in the long field with the score 439, when the partnership had produced 323 runs in four hours and a quarter. The Essex innings lasted seven hours and a half.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 July, page 7)

Although there was no definite issue to the match at Leyton on Saturday, the cricket proved very interesting. Kent for a long time were in danger of defeat, but they saved the game in fine style. The wicket had been so saturated by Friday's rain that play was impracticable before a quarter to 1, and up to luncheon Kent did so well that a draw seemed certain. But, with the sun shining strongly, there came a sudden collapse, six wickets falling for 24 runs and the whole side being out for 161. Thus Kent had to follow on 390 runs behind, with two hours and ten minutes remaining for play.

Mr Burnup and Mr Day, who had played Mead and Young much better than any of their colleagues, by sound defence steadily put their side in a safe position when sent in to start the second innings. For an hour and a half the two Old Malvernians held their own on a pitch perfectly suited to Mead

and, of course, favourable to the other Essex bowlers. Never at a loss what to do, the young amateurs mastered the difficulties with superb skill.

In one over Mead dismissed three men, and his analysis after lunch was five wickets for 30 runs, his effort to win the match for Essex being worthy of much praise. The game was drawn . . .

26 July: LANCASHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5519.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 July, page 12)

On a good wicket at Old Trafford, yesterday, Lancashire took over five hours to score 338, a very ordinary performance seeing that Roberts had to retire from the game after bowling a couple of overs owing to an injury to his side. Ward was batting four hours and three-quarters for his 107, being the ninth out with the score 314.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 July, page 13)

Although Roberts's injury prevented his batting and Board could not keep wicket owing to severely bruised hands, Gloucestershire had the better of the play at Old Trafford, yesterday, and it was not until the last hour that Lancashire pulled the game round to an even position. There were 8,000 spectators.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 July, page 7)

At Old Trafford on Saturday Lancashire were beaten in a great game by three wickets, this being their first defeat of the season. It was a memorable victory for Gloucestershire, the luck always going against them, until they forced success by adopting a bold policy.

A storm on Friday night had so soaked the pitch that cricket was impossible until 20 minutes to 2, and then Lancashire seemed to have a strong position, for with six wickets in hand they held a lead of 130 runs. But so well did Mr Jessop bowl that the six men were dismissed for 34 runs. Before lunch the Gloucestershire captain got rid of four men for four runs.

Wanting 165 to win with two hours and 50 minutes left for play, there was no need to hurry matters, but Mr Jessop realized that the best chance of winning the match was to get the runs quickly. So he sent in Mr Sewell and Wrathall, and after they had scored 35 in 20 minutes he himself went in, and with Wrathall hit up 52 in a similar period. When Mr Jessop left at 106 - the third out, having made 47 in 35 minutes - his side's success was practically assured; but the finish was desperately close, for with Roberts disabled there only remained Paish to go in when the winning hit was made.

It is interesting to recall the fact that the last occasion when Gloucestershire beat Lancashire was in 1889, at Liverpool, Dr E M Grace being mainly instrumental in gaining a three-wickets' victory.

26 July: M.C.C. AND GROUND v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5520.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 July, page 12)

In running up a score of 313 against Worcestershire at Lord's yesterday, the Marylebone Club did well. They were largely indebted to Gunn and Pougher for this fine score, as the two effected a stand for the fourth wicket of 132 runs.

Gunn played a faultless innings of 110, but Pougher ought to have been caught by Arnold at third man before he had scored. There was little sting in the Worcestershire bowling at any time, and towards the close of the innings its weakness was very apparent.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 July, page 13)

Only two and a half hours' cricket was possible at Lord's yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 July, page 7)

Although having the worst of the pitch, Worcestershire succeeded in heading the Marylebone Club's total of 313 for the first innings by 23 runs at Lord's on Saturday. A very fine partnership between Bowley and Wheldon, who scored 162 runs for the fourth wicket in two hours and 35 minutes, was largely responsible for the position. The game was drawn.

26 July: SURREY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5521.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 July, page 12)

If their bowlers this season lack some of their old sting, Surrey are as strong as ever in batting, and of this fact they gave splendid demonstration on the Oval yesterday, when in a cricket day of about five and a half hours they ran up a score of 338 at the cost of seven wickets. This feat, too, was achieved against some of the finest fielding seen in big cricket this year; and the Yorkshire bowlers, though naturally tiring towards the close of a long day under a hot sun, kept a fine length and got plenty of spin on the ball. But it was one of the truest of pitches; the ball rarely rose more than half-stump high, and the wonder was that Yorkshire did so well as to get seven men out. And the Yorkshire fielding in its excellence alone kept the score within normal proportions.

To begin with Abel and Brockwell, in their very different styles, made 85 for the first wicket. Brockwell's driving was very good, while Abel, as ever, executed his variety of strokes and was particularly effective in taking the ball off his leg stump. But in spite of this fine stand of 85 Surrey had a bad time, and with the score at 125 they had lost four wickets.

The match had become intensely interesting. Yorkshire were fielding and bowling with great skill, and for the moment it seemed that they were getting the upper hand. Hayward's run-out was wholly his own fault, for he called Lockwood for an impossible run and Lockwood refused to go. The catches that got out Abel, Brockwell and Hayes were all quite easy. But for two hours and three-quarters no other wicket fell.

Mr Jephson started slowly, but he soon caught up Lockwood, and the pair played superbly. Driving was the chief feature in their cricket. Mr Jephson, having played himself in, went forward in great style and hit the bowling all over the field. When 38 he gave a possible chance to Hunter, standing back to Haigh; but there were few ill-judged strokes in his great innings. He and Lockwood in their long partnership added 208 runs. Lockwood was only two less than the hundred when in hitting at a good length ball from Hirst he played inside it and was clean bowled. Lockwood's strength all round the wicket makes him an attractive batsman to watch; and he never played better than he did yesterday.

Mr Jephson was easily run out from the next ball. The Surrey captain's driving and the precision with which he timed the ball were remarkable; he got his 121 out of 208 in two hours and three-quarters and hit a five and 17 fours. It was one of the best innings he has ever played for the county and, curiously, it is the second century this season made by him against Yorkshire. The quick dismissal of three batsmen in ten minutes gave a different aspect to the game, although Surrey, if the wicket holds good, can not very well lose.

The proceeds of the match are being devoted to the benefit of Brockwell, one of the most popular of Surrey's professionals. Brockwell for the last 15 years has been closely identified with Surrey, whom he has served well with bat and ball and in the field. There were 12,000 spectators of yesterday's cricket, and in the afternoon a collection for Brockwell realized £104.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 July, page 13)

The cricket at the Oval yesterday was ruined by the weather. There was little play after luncheon; the weather broke up and a prolonged thunderstorm, with rain in its later stages, made cricket impossible after 3 o'clock. If the weather mends, Yorkshire may have a hard fight to avoid defeat if they do not save the follow-on.

Over 7,000 people paid for admission to the Oval yesterday, and Brockwell seems assured of a substantial benefit.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 July, page 7)

The collapse of Surrey, which was quite startling in its nature and nearly led to their defeat, at the Oval on Saturday was one more instance of the uncertainty which shrouds cricket. In the morning the game began with Surrey presumably in a position that presaged either a win for them or a drawn game. The wicket was soft and Yorkshire had a severe uphill fight, for they wanted 98 to save the follow-on with eight batsmen left. The draw did certainly occur, but it was Yorkshire who nearly won after a sensational finish, and it was a dropped catch at wicket when Hayward was given an extra life of 35 minutes that enabled Surrey to "muddle through" and draw the match.

A good percentage of the 15,000 people who went to the Oval for the third day of the game probably went prepared to see a humdrum period of play with the draw always at hand. But it was an intensely interesting day's cricket. The Cambridge captain, T L Taylor, played with that refreshing brilliancy which is so much missing from the staid professional methods common in county cricket; his off-drive and his cut were full of power and precision, and were in marked contrast to the more rigid style of Tunnicliffe, who was mostly content to wait for the loose ball from which to score. Mr Taylor was fearless, and many a ball turning a little and on the wicket was scored from by him.

This partnership of 201 for the third wicket brought Yorkshire almost on terms with Surrey, and Hirst's 59, which followed, certainly did. After Tunnicliffe had been bowled by a lob at 214, Mr Taylor and Hirst added 87 in 40 minutes. Hirst hit with great power and got most of his runs by the drive and the pull, in the latter of which strokes he is an adept.

Mr Taylor's brilliant innings ended at 329, when he was sixth out after an actual stay at the wickets of four hours. He is one of the finest bats sent out from Uppingham School in recent years; he was a brilliant school bat and a good wicket-keeper; he has been very successful at Cambridge University and he has thoroughly established a reputation in county cricket. With the wicket every moment getting difficult through the effects of the sun on the slow turf, the Yorkshire tail was soon disposed of. Lord Hawke hit hard until well caught in the long field, and by half-past 4 Yorkshire had finished their innings 20 in front of Surrey.

Just before 5 o'clock Surrey went in, and such was the collapse that four wickets (those of Brockwell, Abel, Hayes and Lockwood) fell in three overs for five runs. Haigh and Rhodes were almost unplayable and Surrey's fate seemed sealed. But Hunter missed Hayward off Haigh at the wicket when the score was only six, and nearly 40 minutes elapsed before another wicket fell. Hayward and Mr Jephson were together and no risk was run. The ball was often beating them, but 25 runs were added before Hayward left. This meant five for 30.

In less than a quarter of an hour Mr Crawford, Mr Dowson, Lees and Richardson were all out, and Surrey just beyond five minutes past 6 found themselves with their last man in and only 17 runs ahead. Stedman, however, made some good strokes and Mr Jephson remained until 20 minutes past 6, when he was bowled. Surrey were thus out for 52; but they had saved the game, thanks mostly to the coolness and judgment of their captain, Mr Jephson. As the analysis will show, Haigh and Rhodes had bowled wonderfully.

The interval between the innings would have absorbed the last ten minutes of the cricket day, so that stumps were pulled up when the tenth Surrey wicket fell and the game was left drawn. Yorkshire would have had to make only 33 in the fourth innings to win.

26 July: SUSSEX v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5522.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 July, page 12)

Winning the toss and going in first at Brighton yesterday, the Middlesex eleven accomplished a very fine batting performance, staying at the wickets until close upon half-past 6 and scoring 401. In making such a number of runs, however, they were favoured by a good deal of fortune, the fielding of the Sussex cricketers being so faulty that five of six catches were dropped during the course of the day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 July, page 13)

Cricket at Brighton yesterday was limited to less than three hours, a heavy thunderstorm during the luncheon interval preventing any progress being made afterwards until 6 o'clock. During the time that play was possible Sussex did uncommonly well, the feature of the cricket being another splendid innings by Mr C B Fry.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 July, page 7)

Some batting of an exceptionally brilliant character was seen at Brighton on Saturday, and thanks to K S Ranjitsinhji, to whom all the honours of the day fell, Sussex not only drew their match with Middlesex, but at the finish had all the better of the position.

The rain which came on Friday did not tend to improve the prospects of Sussex, for though they had made 199 for two wickets, they were yet a long way behind, and with the wicket in a damaged state they might easily have been beaten. Fortunately the sun never came out strongly enough to render the pitch treacherous, but, as Mr Fry was dismissed before another run had been scored it was a fine performance for Sussex to make 400.

This was mainly the work of K S Ranjitsinhji, who in three hours scored 202 out of 272 runs added while he was in before being eighth to leave at 394. He gave only one chance - at 148 - and with hard driving as the chief feature of his innings he hit 35 fours. While he and Bland were together 70 runs were added in 40 minutes, only two of which were made by Bland.

Middlesex fared very badly upon going in a second time, but as it had been arranged to draw stumps at 6 o'clock there was little chance of a definite result being arrived at.

26 July: HAMPSHIRE v WEST INDIANS (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105743.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 July, page 12)

Against moderate bowling, at Southampton, yesterday, the West Indians did exceedingly well, scoring 366 for nine wickets. Cox took more than two hours to make 50, but later in the day Sproston and Bowring hit in vigorous style.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 July, page 13)

Rain caused the loss of about three hours' cricket at Southampton yesterday, but for all that a good deal of progress was made, and the close of play found the West Indians in a position to hold out some prospect of victory.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 July, page 7)

Although the West Indians did badly in their second innings at Southampton on Saturday against the fine bowling of Mr Llewellyn, they beat Hampshire by 88 runs. The county were set 234 to win, but their chance of success soon disappeared, half the side being out for 38.

THE AVERAGES

The following are the chief averages: -

BATTING

	Innings	Total Runs	Most in an Inns	Not out	Average
K S Ranjitsinhji	29	2256	275	4	90.24
Mr C B Fry	28	1730	229	3	69.20
Mr R E Foster	22	1354	171	2	67.70
Hayward	38	2193	193	4	64.50
Abel	31	1833	221	2	63.20
Mr J R Mason	22	1248	147	2	62.40
Mr G L Jessop	33	1507	179	2	48.61
W Gunn	19	772	137	3	48.25
Kinneir	22	814	156	5	47.83
Devey	16	665	246	2	47.50
Mr P F Warner	18	848	170	0	47.11
W G Quaife	28	1010	124*	8	45.90
Hirst	35	1407	155	4	45.38
Mr B J T Bosanquet	20	808	139	1	42.52
Mr C McGahey	26	1012	184	2	42.18
Mr T L Taylor	28	999	147	4	41.62
Carpenter	33	1367	140	0	41.42
Mr C J B Wood	35	1299	116*	3	40.59
A Ward	35	1246	111*	4	40.19
Mr A P Lucas	15	535	95	1	38.21
Mr D L A Jephson	37	1096	121	8	37.79
Mr P Perrin	22	786	205	1	37.42
Killick	35	1194	127	3	37.31
Lockwood	31	1079	165	2	37.20
Storer	29	933	176	2	36.40
Tunncliffe	36	1186	158	3	35.93
Mr G MacGregor	14	287	52*	6	35.87
Mr A C MacLaren	32	1072	108	2	35.73
Dr W G Grace	20	700	93	0	35.00
Mr L G Wright	25	833	170	1	34.70
Mr C L Townsend	35	1074	141	4	34.64
Tyldesley	34	1039	142	4	34.63
J T Brown, sen.	35	1087	163	3	33.96
Mr H B Hayman	22	729	87	0	33.13
Mr C J Burnup	29	936	200	0	32.27
Brockwell	35	953	132*	5	31.75
Mr J Daniell	22	590	101*	3	31.05
Mr E Smith	22	524	116*	5	30.82

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	1001.3	298	2264	173	13.08
Haigh	683.2	193	1715	115	14.91
Mold	477	129	1153	75	15.37
Wass	514.3	120	1378	78	17.66
C J Kortright	327	66	1060	58	18.27
J Gunn	632.4	164	1757	96	18.30
Mead	749.5	252	1647	89	18.50
Cuttell	784.2	270	1658	89	18.62
Mr J R Mason	402.1	127	1078	57	18.91
Briggs	783	277	1561	80	19.51
J T Hearne	761.3	222	2049	101	20.28
Lockwood	610.3	139	1862	90	20.68
G A Wilson	569	106	1691	81	20.87
H Young	610.3	124	1344	60	22.40
Hulme	530	150	1240	55	22.54
Lees	483	106	1334	59	22.61

Mr G L Jessop	425.4	116	1169	51	22.72
A E Trott	946.2	234	3056	131	23.32
Bland	728.1	168	2125	91	23.25
F W Tate	826	240	2152	91	23.64
Richardson	748	174	2227	94	23.69

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties given below will show that the defeat of Lancashire at Old Trafford on Saturday leaves Yorkshire well at the head of the championship: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	21	12	0	9	12
Lancashire	21	11	1	9	10
Sussex	16	3	1	12	2
Notts	12	5	2	5	3
Surrey	19	7	3	9	4
Kent	13	4	2	7	2
Warwickshire	14	3	2	9	1
Essex	15	4	4	7	0
Gloucestershire	14	4	5	5	-1
Derbyshire	11	2	4	5	-2
Middlesex	12	3	6	3	-3
Somerset	10	3	7	0	-4
Worcestershire	14	2	8	4	-6
Leicestershire	14	1	8	5	-7
Hampshire	14	0	11	3	-11

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 champion county."

30 July: DERBYSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5523.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 July, page 11)

By means of some excellent bowling on the part of Bestwick and Berwick, backed up by a lot of good fielding, the Derbyshire eleven yesterday at Glossop gained a great advantage over Lancashire, and when play ceased for the day they were within 20 runs of Lancashire's total, and still had seven wickets to fall.

The pitch was considerably affected by the wet, but with no sun prevailing it was never really treacherous. The Lancashire men, however, finding it useless to play the steady game, tried to force matters, but met with such ill-success that seven wickets were down for 90 runs. Cuttell played the highest and by far the best innings on the side, while the most productive partnership was that between Pennington and Webb for the last wicket, 47 runs being added in less than half an hour.

Wright and Bagshaw made a good start for Derbyshire, but it was to Storer and Chatterton that the batting honours fell, for they came together when two wickets were down for 56, and added, by superb cricket, another 84 runs in a little over an hour.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 August, page 12)

When the game was continued at Glossop, yesterday, Derbyshire's batting broke down, and their innings, in which 148 had been scored for the loss of three wickets, was finished off for 181.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 August, page 10)

Whatever chance Derbyshire might have had of saving the game at Glossop yesterday was spoiled by the heavy rain in the night, for, after waiting for the ground to recover until 25 minutes to 2, they had to face Briggs's and Cuttell's bowling on a slow and difficult wicket. Directly the umpires decided the game might proceed Mr MacLaren declared the Lancashire second innings at the overnight total of 362 for nine wickets. This left Derbyshire with 350 to make to win in about four hours.

For a little while the pitch was simply soft and Mr Wright and Bagshaw remained together for the opening partnership for over an hour and a half. Once they were parted, however, wickets fell rapidly, and by 12 minutes past 6 the innings was finished off for 125, and Lancashire had won by 224 runs. Bagshaw's 54 was a skilful display occupying two hours and 40 minutes.

30 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5524.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 July, page 11)

In this match at Leicester yesterday the score was left as follows . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 August, page 12)

Going on, at Leicester, yesterday, with Warwickshire's first innings, in which 105 had been scored for two wickets, the not-outs - Kinneir and W G Quaife - raised the total to 188, their partnership altogether producing 129 runs.

Leicestershire had two hours and ten minutes' batting in their second innings, and did so badly that, at the close, they were still 128 in arrear with five wickets down.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 August, page 10)

Bad weather at Leicester yesterday saved the home county from almost certain defeat, the match having to be given up as a draw.

30 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5525.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 July, page 11)

Though in no way eventful, the opening day's cricket at Trent-bridge in the return match between these counties was of an interesting description. Going in first, Yorkshire stayed at the wickets until nearly ten minutes past 5, putting together a total of 270, and in the last hour Shrewsbury and Dench, by excellent cricket, scored 51 runs for Notts without loss.

In taking first innings, Yorkshire gained no advantage, as the ground, not having recovered from rain on Sunday, was a little slow for the first hour or so. Their total was bigger than at one point seemed likely, the seventh wicket falling at 185. At that juncture a stand was made by Mr Wilson and Haigh, the pair staying together for 70 minutes and adding 76 runs.

Yorkshire owed a good deal to Denton, who in an hour and 20 minutes hit up 67 out of 98. He made some fine strokes on the off side and brought off several powerful pulls. Later excellent work was done by Mr Taylor and Mr Elam, who together raised the score from 109 to 160. Mr Elam, who is a batsman from Leeds, was making his first appearance for the county. At first erratic in length, Wass subsequently bowled very well, meeting with marked success.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 August, page 12)

Mainly by a finely-played innings by Shrewsbury, Notts, at Trent-bridge, yesterday, succeeded in heading Yorkshire's total by 65. The famous professional, who had 29 overnight, increased his score to 128 and was sixth out at 278. During the four hours and 40 minutes he was at the wickets Shrewsbury batted with exemplary patience and skill, waiting quietly for his chances and rarely failing to take advantage of them. He made one or two faulty hits that went near the fieldsmen but did not give an actual chance.

Shrewsbury and Dench gave their side a fine start, raising the overnight score of 51 to 127. By his steady batting Dench helped materially to wear down the excellent bowling. A brilliant display was given by Mr Groves, who, in about as many minutes, hit up 44 out of 59 put on for the fifth wicket, while later Mr Dixon and John Gunn rendered useful service. The Yorkshiremen saved a good many runs by their fine fielding, Denton, Hirst and Rhodes doing particularly good work.

In the last hour of the day Yorkshire lost two wickets in their second innings and were still eight runs behind. The company numbered about 3,000.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 August, page 10)

The close of play at Nottingham on Tuesday had held out the promise of a fine finish to the return match between Notts and Yorkshire, but unfortunately yesterday cricket was only possible for an hour and a half, as the game had accordingly to be abandoned as a draw.

Sixty-five runs behind on the first innings, Yorkshire at their second attempt had lost two wickets for 57, and thus found themselves with much the worse of the struggle. A heavy downpour during the early hours of yesterday morning not only prevented any play until half-past 1, but rendered the wicket so soft that even at that hour bowlers found themselves at a considerable disadvantage. Mr Wilson was out at 67 and Tunnicliffe had not added to his overnight score of 30 when he should have been taken at slip, but afterwards the batting, except for one lofty drive by Tunnicliffe, who had a narrow escape from being caught by Groves, was excellent.

Hirst, who had come in, played, like Tunnicliffe, a bold punishing game, hitting in fine style and making a lot of big pulls. In the course of 80 minutes the two batsmen added 130 runs, and then rain put a stop to any further cricket at ten minutes to 4. Tunnicliffe, who was not out 100 when the interruption came, batted for two hours and a half, and hit 15 fours, two threes and nine twos. He has made four separate hundreds in less than three weeks - 138 against Hampshire, 158 against Worcestershire, 101 against Surrey and 100 not out against Notts.

30 July: WORCESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5526.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 July, page 11)

For the first time since their promotion to a place among the leading counties Worcestershire yesterday met Middlesex at Worcester. The wicket had thoroughly recovered from the effects of the recent rains, and Worcestershire, who won the toss, stayed in until close upon half-past 5, putting together a score of 335.

For this they were almost entirely indebted to the brothers Mr R E and Mr H K Foster. Both played in vigorous style, the former making 70 in as many minutes, while Mr H K Foster scored his 111 in two hours and 20 minutes. Mr R E Foster hit ten and Mr H K Foster 20 fours. Middlesex had an hour's batting at the end of the day, and by free and attractive cricket 66 runs were scored for the loss of Mr Warner's wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 August, page 12)

The Worcestershire eleven had the better of the cricket at Worcester yesterday, and at the close possessed great chance of success.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 August, page 10)

At Worcester yesterday Middlesex succeeded in drawing their match with Worcestershire, but at one period during the afternoon they were in a very critical position. Going in to get 343 to win, their batting broke down so badly, on a wicket considerably affected by rain, that with only 75 runs scored six men had been dismissed.

At this point two hours and a half still remained for play, but with Mr A J Webbe and Mr Robertson together a remarkable change came over the game. Always a fine batsman on a slow wicket, Mr Webbe played with all his old skill and soundness of judgment. He withstood all the efforts of the Worcestershire bowlers for a little over three hours, and during that time made no mistake of any kind.

In striking contrast to his steady, defensive methods was the brilliant hitting of Mr Robertson, who scored his 118 in two hours and ten minutes. The merit of his innings, however, was to some extent discounted by the fact that he was missed before he had made a run. After this his cricket was faultless. Included in his figures were a five and 18 fours. When at 6 o'clock stumps were pulled up and the match left drawn Middlesex still required 94 runs and had three wickets to fall.

30 July: ELEVEN OF SURREY v WEST INDIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105774.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 July, page 11)

The West Indians had the better of the cricket on the Oval yesterday. For the first partnership 208 runs were made, but the bowling of Mr Walker with his medium pace was quickly very effective. Woods was a successful bowler for the West Indians. There were 5,000 spectators of the game.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 August, page 12)

The weak team put in the field by Surrey were no match for the West Indians, who won yesterday, at the Oval, by an innings and 84 runs. Burton and Woods bowled extremely well for the West Indians, and were supported by much good fielding.

30 July: MIDDLESEX SECOND XI v SUSSEX SECOND XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/129/129093.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 July, page 11)

A two-days' match between the second elevens of these counties was begun at Lord's yesterday, but the fixture failed to attract any great amount of interest. The visiting team batted first and scored 167 runs. Towards this total Mr K O Goldie, who has been tried occasionally for the county, contributed 116.

Against this total Middlesex replied with 121, Mr J C Bevington (47) alone playing with any confidence. On going in a second time Sussex scored 40 for the loss of one wicket. The visitors are thus 86 runs on with nine wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 August, page 12)

The concerning day's play in this match provided quite an interesting finish. The remaining Sussex batsmen increased the overnight total to 183, which, with the advantage held on the first innings, set the home team the task of making 230. Mr Crump played a capital innings of 83; but at the fall of the sixth wicket Sussex had a good chance of winning. However, Mr C A Beldam came in and the runs were hit off without further loss, Middlesex winning by four wickets.

Tuesday 31 July, page 11: THE WEST INDIANS CRICKETERS

The West Indian cricketers were entertained at dinner by the Surrey Club, at Kennington Oval last evening. Lord Alverstone, Master of the Rolls and president of the Surrey County Cricket Club, occupied the chair, and there were also present Mr John Shuter, the old Surrey captain, Mr W L Murdoch, Mr C W Alcock, Mr Wildman Cattley, Mr H D G Leveson-Gower and several members of the present Surrey team.

After the loyal toasts, in proposing which he made feeling reference to the assassination of the King of Italy, Lord Alverstone proposed the health of the West Indian cricketers. He read the following letter from Lord Ampthill in response to an invitation to Mr Chamberlain: -

"Mr Chamberlain desires me to convey his thanks to the committee of the Surrey County Cricket Club for their kind invitation to dinner on Monday next and to say that he greatly regrets that his Parliamentary duties make it impossible for him to accept. Mr Chamberlain desires me to add that he is particularly sorry not to be able to avail himself of this opportunity of meeting the West Indian cricketers and personally offering them his good wishes and congratulations on the fine cricket they have shown against some of the best elevens in England. The very great pressure of public affairs has made it impossible for Mr Chamberlain to find time to go and see them, but I need hardly say that he notes with satisfaction this and every occasion which brings together in friendly rivalry the subjects of Her Majesty from different parts of the world."

Mr Warner and Mr Sproston responded, and the name of Mr W L Murdoch was coupled with the toast of "The Visitors."

2 August: HAMPSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5527.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 August, page 6)

Considerable progress was made with this match at Southampton yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 August, page 11)

The weather was so bad at Southampton in the early parts of yesterday that only 20 minutes' cricket was possible before lunch, but afterwards, except for a brief shower, the game went on without interruption.

The not-outs, Hearne and Mr Baker, raised the Kent score to 117 before they were separated, their partnership for the second wicket producing 76 runs. Mr Baker, who was the first to leave, showed fine cricket, hitting with plenty of power on the on side. Hearne was out fifth at 174, his innings of 69 having lasted two hours and three-quarters. He played a sound, careful game and made no mistakes. His score is the highest he has obtained for Kent this season.

For an hour and a half after Hearne's departure the batting asserted itself to such purpose that the total was carried to 321 for the loss of one more wicket, the innings being then declared closed. Mr Stewart hit up 47 out of 69 in 45 minutes, his innings, which was marked by vigorous driving, being free from fault of any kind; Mr Perkins and Mr Blaker added 78 together in something over 40 minutes without being parted.

Hampshire were put in for 40 minutes' batting and lost one wicket for 37 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 August, page 9)

At Southampton on Saturday the Hampshire men quite failed to retrieve their position, and were beaten by an innings and 30 runs. With a wicket down in their second innings they still required 126 runs to avoid an innings defeat, and they failed to escape such a disaster.

Mr Hill batted steadily and Mr Sprot offered a stout resistance, but the rest of the eleven did little. In less than two hours the nine outstanding Hampshire wickets fell for the addition of 96 runs, the whole side being out for 133. Alec Hearne secured a personal triumph, as in addition to scoring 69, the highest individual score in the match, he obtained seven wickets for 52 runs.

2 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5528.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 August, page 6)

Thanks mainly to a fine display of batting on the part of Mr J A Dixon, who succeeded in putting together his first hundred this season, Notts occupied the wickets during the whole of the time cricket was in progress at Trent-bridge yesterday, scoring 310 runs for the loss of eight batsmen.

Mr Jones and Shrewsbury opened the match by putting on 49 runs for the first wicket, but William Gunn failed. Shrewsbury followed up his success against Yorkshire with a creditable piece of batting, which extended over rather more than two hours. When four wickets had fallen Mr Dixon joined Dench, and the two by excellent cricket added 119 runs in an hour and 40 minutes. After Dench's dismissal three wickets fell in quick succession, but Carlin rendered Mr Dixon such valuable assistance that in three-quarters of an hour the score was increased by 70 without further loss. Mr Dixon gave a chance to Mr Marriott at point when 76, but otherwise he made no mistake during the three hours he was batting.

Notts made two changes in the side that met Yorkshire at the beginning of the week, Mr Groves and Mr Goodacre being unable to play, and their places were taken by Mr P W Oscroft and Anthony, the latter

being a professional engaged at Skegness. The weather proved dull and threatening at the start, but only once during the day did rain interrupt the progress of the game.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 August, page 11)

Yesterday was almost a blank day at Trent Bridge, play being in progress for only 55 minutes. The heavy showers during the morning so affected the pitch that it was not until 5 o'clock that a ball could be bowled, and the bad light necessitated the drawing of stumps at 20 minutes past 6.

As the result of 20 minutes' batting, Notts added 19 runs to their overnight score of 310 for eight wickets, Mr J A Dixon carried out his bat for 126. His innings was in every respect an admirable one and included 12 fours. In the little time available before the light became bad, Leicestershire lost one wicket for 23 runs, so that they are now 305 behind with nine wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 August, page 9)

Notts accomplished a fine performance on Saturday in their match against Leicestershire, taking no fewer than 19 wickets in the course of the day and winning, shortly after half-past 5, by an innings and 71 runs. Mr Dixon had a great share in the success of his side, playing an innings of 126 not out and securing nine wickets.

2 August: SOMERSET v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5529.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 August, page 6)

The only batsmen who showed to special advantage in the opening of this engagement at Bath yesterday were Mr Lionel Palairet and Wrathall. Somerset made a fairly good start by scoring 109 for four wickets before luncheon, but subsequently no one was able to give Mr Palairet much assistance. The old Oxonian, however, rose superior to the difficulties of the slow wicket and was batting over an hour and a half for a practically faultless 66.

After the home county were out for 186 Gloucestershire had an hour and a half to play, and in the time lost six wickets for 105, so that they are still 81 behind with four wickets standing.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 August, page 11)

Although the weather delayed the start at Bath yesterday until after luncheon fair progress was made with this match.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 August, page 9)

Gloucestershire beat Somerset at Bath on Saturday after one of the most exciting finishes of the season, winning within eight minutes of time by the narrow margin of one wicket.

Somerset, after gaining a lead of 61 in the first innings, had lost seven batsmen for 101 overnight, but on Saturday, thanks to a stand for the last wicket, which realized 35 runs, the total reached 149. Gloucestershire were left with 211 to make, and the pitch having improved it was generally expected that the runs would be obtained.

A capital start was made, for although Wrathall's wicket was thrown away at 39 Mr Townsend assisted Mr Rice to bring the score up to 85. Mr Rice continued to bat steadily, but a little while later half the side were out for 101. Board helped to improve the prospects of Gloucestershire, but when Paish, the last man, joined Mr Rice no fewer than 32 runs were still required. Very slowly the score was increased, until by ten minutes to 6 the match was a tie. At this moment Mr Rice gave a chance to slip, and the catch not being made the ball travelled to the boundary, with the result that Gloucestershire were left with a victory by one wicket. For their success the winners had mainly to thank Mr Rice, who batted with exemplary patience and judgment.

2 August: SURREY v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5530.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 August, page 6)

There was an extremely interesting day's cricket at the Oval yesterday in the first match of the season between Surrey and Middlesex. With first innings Surrey did very badly on the pitch which the weather had made quite false. Trott and Hearne took every advantage of the condition of the pitch and in less than two hours got Surrey out for 86. The collapse occurred after the fall of the third batsman at 55, four wickets going down with the total at 74. Trott met with his great success when he changed from bowling over to round the wicket.

When Middlesex went in the ball appeared to come along easily, and some splendid batting by Mr Warner, and in the later stages by Mr MacGregor, placed the visitors in a commanding position. At the end of an innings each stumps were drawn, and to-day Surrey will have to face arrears of 123. The weather was fine and there were about 3,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 August, page 11)

Despite the rain and the boisterous weather, which were much more suggestive of late autumn than of summer, a great deal of progress was made with this match at the Oval yesterday. Thursday's play had gone all in favour of Middlesex, for, after getting Surrey out for the small total of 86, the visitors had completed their innings for 209, and yesterday Surrey went in for the second time with a balance of 123 runs against them.

At no period during the day did the wicket appear really difficult, but it was easier during the morning than later in the day, and when, thanks to a vigorous innings by Hayes, who took many risks, the arrears were cleared off for the loss of only two wickets, it appears probable that Surrey would have reached a bigger total than was eventually the case.

Hayes's innings, which ought to have ended early, for he was missed by Mr R N Douglas in the long-field when 17, while he might have been stumped a little later, and was again missed in the deep field when 79, was of great value to his side, but Lockwood and Hayward played exceedingly well for their runs. When Lockwood was beaten by a beautiful ball from Hearne, which, pitching outside the wicket, took his middle and leg stumps, Surrey were 202 and had still six wickets in hand. When Mr Jephson was out to a good catch by Hearne off his own bowling, the score was 258 for five wickets. After this, however, Surrey fared badly, for the innings was finished off for the addition of 31 runs, and at ten minutes to 6 Middlesex went in for the last time, requiring 167 runs to win.

Mr Warner and Mr J Douglas had scored seven of the number by very careful cricket when, owing to the bad light, the game had to be abandoned for the day, a few minutes after 6. With all their wickets in hand Middlesex now require 160 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 August, page 9)

An exciting finish was witnessed at the Oval on Saturday when Middlesex beat Surrey by one wicket. From start to finish the game was full of interest, for the wicket always gave the bowlers much aid. After being dismissed for 86 in their first innings, and having a balance of 123 runs against them when they succeeded in getting rid of Middlesex, Surrey, thanks largely to Hayes, Lockwood and Hayward, succeeded in retrieving much of their lost ground, for Middlesex entered upon their second innings with 167 runs to get to win.

In view of the unsettled state of the weather and the extent to which the pitch had been affected, there was always the possibility that Middlesex would find the task too great for them. On Friday Middlesex had scored seven of their 167 without loss, but the wicket was so wet on Saturday morning that the game could not be resumed until noon.

Mr Warner was out at 17, but then Mr J Douglas and Mr R N Douglas made a stand for the second wicket which promised to win the match easily for their side. They were both frequently beaten by the ball,

Lockwood more than once being very unlucky in missing the wicket. But the batsmen played fine cricket in the circumstances, and when they were at last separated they had between them added 83 runs to the score. Mr J Douglas, who was the first to leave, as easily caught by Lockwood off the latter's own bowling, and from that point the game was full of anxiety for Middlesex. Although their total was 131 when half their wickets were down, they still required 18 runs to win when their ninth wicket fell.

On Mr Williams and Hearne rested the visitors' hopes, and they eventually won Middlesex the match. Mr Williams played exceedingly well, and the success of Middlesex at 20 minutes to 4 by one wicket was a fitting finish to a singularly interesting game.

2 August: WORCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5531.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 August, page 6)

K S Ranjitsinhji did not accompany the Sussex team to Worcester yesterday, the absence of the great batsman causing much disappointment among the people who had assembled to witness the opening stage of the match between Worcestershire and Sussex.

Going in to bat, the home side had two wickets down for four runs, and lost Mr R E Foster at 21, and, in spite of some good cricket by Bowley, half the side had been dismissed by the time the score reached 69. Then came a stand by Arnold and Mr Lowe which completely changed the aspect of the game, these two batsmen obtaining such a complete mastery over the Sussex bowling that in two hours they hit up 184 runs.

The total stood at 253 when Arnold was dismissed. At the wickets for rather less than two hours and a half, the Worcestershire professional made 112 by brilliant and practically faultless cricket. His innings, the first hundred he has obtained this season, included 13 fours, four threes and ten twos. Mr Lowe, when he had once settled down, played an almost equally fine game for his 74, in which were ten fours.

Sussex, going in against a total of 292, soon lost Goldie, but then Mr Fry and Killick played out time. The visitors at the finish were 231 behind with nine wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 August, page 11)

Cricket at Worcester yesterday was restricted to 45 minutes. Rain fell so heavily in the night that, though a drying wind sprang up, it was not until a quarter past 1 that the game could be resumed, Sussex going on with their innings.

With the overnight score of 61 for one wicket unaltered, Killick was caught at slip, but Mr Fry and Relf stayed together until lunch time and carried the total to 104 without further loss. Mr Fry hit well on the damaged pitch, but he had the good fortune to be missed by Wheldon in the long-field when 35. During the interval there was a further downpour, and just before 4 o'clock stumps were pulled up and play was abandoned for the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 August, page 9)

At Worcester on Saturday Mr C B Fry just failed to make a third consecutive innings of over 100. Starting the final stage of the match with 57 not out, he went on batting superbly until only four short of the century, and then he was caught in the slips. Thanks to him, Butt, Mr Brann and Bland Sussex managed to head the Worcestershire total of 292 by six runs. With Mr R E Foster injured and unable to bat it was, perhaps, as well for his county that the game was not played to a definite issue.

2 August: YORKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5532.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 August, page 6)

With the wicket rendered so soft by heavy rains that no play was possible until after lunch, and a heavy shower putting a stop to cricket at 20 minutes past 5, very little progress could be made with the return match between Yorkshire and Essex at Harrogate yesterday.

Yorkshire won the toss and, forcing the game, fared fairly well at first, Mr Ernest Smith helping Tunnicliffe to put on 36 for the first wicket and Denton and Tunnicliffe adding 29 for the second. Directly the ground began to help him, however, Mead bowled so effectively that half the side were out for 76. At that point Wainwright went in and did his side excellent service, not only withstanding the Essex bowling for an hour and a quarter and scoring 41, but being not out when rain brought the day's cricket to a close. He showed excellent defence and hit remarkably well when he had a favourable opportunity. Haigh and Rhodes giving Wainwright some help, the score was raised to 159 for nine wickets before the interruption of play.

Yorkshire were without Brown, of Drifffield, and Hunter, and Essex did not enjoy the services of Mr Kortright or Mr Lucas. Despite the uncertain weather, between 3,000 and 4,000 people assembled to witness the cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 August, page 11)

There was no play at Harrogate yesterday owing to the heavy rain . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 August, page 9)

At Harrogate, on Saturday, the Yorkshire eleven beat Essex by 96 runs, this brilliant result of their labours being almost entirely brought about by the bowling of Rhodes. So much rain fell on Friday that at one time it was feared cricket would not be possible at all on the last day; but the wicket dried rapidly under a strong wind and always gave to the bowlers a lot of assistance.

Yorkshire, who had overnight made 159 for the loss of nine batsmen, added another 12 runs, and then in an hour and 25 minutes Essex were dismissed for 65, Mr McGahey, who kept in for three-quarters of an hour, being the only batsman to offer any serious resistance.

Going in again, Yorkshire forced the pace for 20 minutes before declaring their innings closed, and then got Essex out again in a little over an hour for a mere 52. Rhodes, to whom all the honours of the day fell, had a wonderful bowling record, 14 wickets falling to him at a cost of only 68 runs.

Saturday 4 August, page 11

THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB. - At a meeting of the Yorkshire county committee at Harrogate yesterday, Lord Hawke presiding, a sum of £200 was voted to the fund for the benefit of the family of the late E Peate, and five guineas were given to George Atkinson's benefit.

Monday 6 August, page 9: THE AVERAGES

Below are the leading averages brought up to Saturday: -

	Innings	Runs	Most in an Inns	Not out	Average
K S Ranjitsinhji	29	2256	275	4	90.24
Mr C B Fry	29	1826	229	3	70.23
Mr R E Foster	25	1516	171	2	65.91
Hayward	40	2255	193	4	62.63
Abel	33	1864	221	2	60.12
Mr J R Mason	23	1258	147	2	59.90
Mr A E Stoddart	6	260	221	1	52.00
Kinneir	23	884	156	5	49.11

W G Quaife	29	1070	124*	6	46.52
Devey	17	691	246	2	46.06
Mr G L Jessop	35	1520	179	2	46.06
Hirst	39	1497	155	6	45.38
Mr P F Warner	22	966	170	0	43.90
W Gunn	21	779	137	3	43.27
Mr B J T Bosanquet	20	808	139	1	42.52
Mr C McGahey	28	1043	184	2	40.11
Mr T L Taylor	30	1039	147	4	39.96
Carpenter	35	1371	140	0	39.17
Mr C J B Wood	39	1379	116*	3	38.30
Mr A P Lucas	15	535	95	1	38.21
Albert Ward	37	1256	111*	4	38.06
Tunncliffe	39	1323	158	4	37.80
Mr G MacGregor	18	415	52*	7	37.72
Lockwood	33	1145	165	2	36.93
Killick	36	1214	127	3	36.78
Mr D L A Jephson	39	1130	121	8	36.45
Tyldesley	38	1162	142	4	36.31
Storer	31	1038	176	2	35.79
Shrewsbury	21	672	128	2	35.36
Dr W G Grace	20	700	93	0	35.00
Mr P Perrin	24	803	205	1	34.91
Mr A C MacLaren	34	1099	108	2	34.34
Mr L G Wright	27	892	170	1	34.30
Mr C L Townsend	37	1123	141	4	34.03
J T Brown, sen.	35	1087	163	3	33.96
Mr H B Hayman	22	729	87	0	33.13
Mr C R Hartley	32	930	139	3	32.06
Mr C J Burnup	39	957	200	0	31.90
Hayes	28	833	150	1	30.85
Brockwell	37	981	132*	5	30.65
Mr H K Foster	36	1068	111	1	30.51
Wrathall	33	937	75	2	30.22
Mr E Smith	24	572	116*	5	30.10
Mr J Daniell	24	632	101*	3	30.09
Barton	29	811	205	2	30.03
Mr L C H Palairret	17	509	161	0	29.94
Mr J A Dixon	16	445	126*	1	29.66
Denton	40	1095	96	3	29.59

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	1071.4	324	2406	188	12.79
Haigh	737.2	211	1841	121	15.19
Mold	477	129	1153	75	15.37
Wass	618.1	151	1646	96	17.32
Mead	785.5	258	1727	96	17.98
Cuttell	857.4	305	1772	98	18.08
Mr C J Kortright	327	66	1060	58	18.27
Briggs	843	306	1647	89	18.50
Mr J R Mason	437	133	1174	62	18.93
J Gunn	698.4	193	1910	100	19.10
A Hearne	417.3	126	1066	55	19.38
Lockwood	659.3	154	1985	101	19.65
J T Hearne	870.3	247	2347	116	20.23
Bestwick	477	145	1173	55	21.32
H Young	518.3	125	1375	61	22.54
Hulme	530	150	1240	55	22.54
Blythe	496.2	128	1263	56	22.55
Mr G L Jessop	459.4	130	1219	54	22.57
Lees	493.2	110	1372	60	22.86
Bland	776	182	2259	98	23.05

A E Trott	1036.1	255	3358	143	23.48
F W Tate	869	255	2268	96	23.62
Richardson	776	180	2305	97	23.76
Mr W M Bradley	571.5	147	1715	64	26.79

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The position of the counties in the championship are given below: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	23	13	0	10	13
Lancashire	22	12	1	9	11
Notts	14	8	2	6	4
Sussex	17	3	1	13	2
Kent	14	5	2	7	3
Surrey	20	7	4	9	3
Warwickshire	15	3	2	10	1
Gloucestershire	15	5	5	5	0
Essex	16	4	5	7	-1
Middlesex	14	4	6	4	-2
Derbyshire	12	2	5	5	-3
Somerset	11	3	8	0	-5
Worcestershire	16	2	8	6	-6
Leicestershire	16	1	8	6	-8
Hampshire	15	0	12	3	-12

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 champion county."

6 August: DERBYSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5533.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 August, page 9)

Other matches in which play was impossible yesterday in consequence of the weather were . . .
Derbyshire v Hampshire, at Derby . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 August, page 5)

The weather at Derby yesterday showed a slight improvement upon that of Monday, but all the same only an hour and 40 minutes' cricket was possible.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 August, page 4)

So little progress had been made with this match that when play was resumed at Derby yesterday a draw was a foregone conclusion. Hampshire closed their innings on the fall of their eighth wicket at 200, and Derbyshire were 117 runs behind their rivals' total with seven wickets in hand, when, at a quarter to 6, stumps were drawn owing to the bad light and the match abandoned.

6 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5534.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 August, page 9)

Other matches in which play was impossible yesterday in consequence of the weather were Gloucestershire v Sussex, at Bristol . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 August, page 5)

Though the weather was far from seasonable at Bristol yesterday, about 7,000 spectators were present on the Ashley-down Ground. There was no play on Monday, but good progress was made with the match yesterday.

Gloucestershire went in first and, after losing half of their wickets for 60, did extremely well to put together a total of 268. For this score they were considerably indebted to Mr Champain, who played a brilliant game when matters were going badly with the side, hitting up 67 in 70 minutes. Mr Brown rendered useful service, and an invaluable stand was made by Langdon and Mr Fergus, who together put on 81 runs in an hour. Langdon, who was making his first appearance for Gloucestershire, played an extremely fine innings, hitting in his 76 not out no fewer than 13 fours.

When Sussex went in Mr Fry and K S Ranjitsinhji were seen to advantage, and mainly to the efforts of these batsmen the side approached within 119 of Gloucestershire's total with the loss of only two wickets.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 August, page 4)

The game at Bristol ended yesterday in a fairly even draw, Gloucestershire at the finish, with five wickets down in their second innings, being 194 runs on.

The chief interest centred in the doings of Mr Fry and K S Ranjitsinhji, both of whom again batted finely and exceeded the hundred. K S Ranjitsinhji played the more brilliant game, scoring 109 out of 169 in an hour and a half, while Mr Fry was at the wickets for two hours and 20 minutes. K S Ranjitsinhji has now made ten scores of 100 this season, thus equalling his own record, and his 109 yesterday was his third successive hundred, this being the second time he has accomplished the feat. Mr Fry's 105 was his fourth hundred in five innings, his 96 against Worcestershire last week breaking an otherwise unique sequence.

At one time Sussex looked like securing a big lead, but, after the two great cricketers were parted, the batting collapsed. Gloucestershire began their second innings in indifferent fashion, but, thanks to Mr Townsend and Mr Brown, who put on 111 while together, emerged from the match with equal honours. Both batsmen played very well, Mr Townsend making his highest score for Gloucestershire this season.

6 August: KENT v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5535.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 August, page 9)

There was an unfavourable commencement to the annual cricket festival at Canterbury yesterday. The game between Kent and Lancashire began at the usual time, but as it happened cricket was only possible for 50 minutes. In that time Kent, who won the toss and went in first, scored 23 runs for the loss of one wicket.

Mr Burnup, who had a narrow escape of being caught from the first ball sent down, stayed in for 25 minutes, but had only scored 11 out of 13 when he was easily taken at extra cover-point in attempting to drive Cuttell. Hearne played with extreme care, and Mr Baker made an ineffectual effort to force the game. When the score had reached 23 rain set in, and the afternoon turned out thoroughly wet. The spectators, of whom there had been over 4,000, gradually left the ground, and at a quarter past 3 stumps were pulled up for the day.

Kent are playing the same eleven that defeated Hampshire on Saturday, while Lancashire left out Mold for Webb. Whether Mold had to stand down owing to the state of the wicket or to the fact that James Phillips was one of the umpires is a point that can only be surmised.

Owing to so many Kent families having relatives at the war, the customary dances have been abandoned, and a gloom has been cast over the city owing to a sad accident to Colonel Frith, the commandant of the Canterbury Depot. There are the customary theatricals, illuminations and concerts, but it is to be feared that this year's festival will not be as successful as those of previous years.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 August, page 5)

There was a pleasant change in the weather at Canterbury yesterday and considerable progress was made with the match. After blowing with some violence in the morning, the wind abated and the afternoon turned out bright. About 6,000 spectators assembled. Only two or three of the tents had withstood Monday's storm, but by lunchtime the majority had been put up again and the ground resumed its normal appearance.

The wicket helped the bowlers and some very lively cricket was witnessed. Kent's first innings, in which 23 runs had been scored for one wicket, was a remarkable one. Their score stood at 138 when the fifth man left, and the whole side were out for the addition of a single run.

While to the majority of the Kent men the state of the pitch and the bowling presented practically insuperable difficulties, Mr Mason batted with singular ease. So completely was he the master of the situation that in an hour and a quarter he hit up 76 out of 97 without making a mistake. His innings was at once masterly and brilliant, and included ten fours. In striking contrast was the display of Alec Hearne, who was at the wickets for nearly three hours for 29. Webb did a fine piece of bowling, sending down his last six overs for eight runs and four wickets.

The Lancashire batsmen almost without exception went in for hitting, and in two hours put together a total of 158. Mr Hartley and Briggs met with the most success, but the former was lucky in being missed when only 11. Quite a triumph was achieved by the left-hander Blythe, who began by taking four wickets for five runs, and altogether dismissed six batsmen.

Going in a second time with 70 minutes left for play, Kent, thanks to Mr Burnup and Hearne, who put on 61, did very well, and with nine wickets in hand are now 62 runs on.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 August, page 4)

Though in the end drawn, the game at Canterbury had an exciting finish yesterday, Kent only just failing to win. Lancashire, who were set the practically impossible task of making 261 runs in less than two hours and a quarter, merely played for a draw, but they were so hard pressed that when the stumps were finally pulled up they had lost eight wickets. How perilously near they came to defeat may be judged from the fact that they had five men out with 50 minutes still left, but a stand of 25 minutes' duration by Ward and Cuttell practically saved the situation. Lancashire would in all probability have lost but for the defence of Ward, who went in first and was not dismissed until within ten minutes of the time for drawing stumps.

Earlier in the day some excellent batting was shown by the Kent eleven, who raised their overnight score of 81 for one wicket to 279. Baker hit with praiseworthy vigour and Hearne gave a second display of careful cricket, being in for nearly three hours. Mr Stewart played attractive cricket and Mr Blaker scored freely, and in the end Kent made themselves fairly secure from defeat.

In so nearly beating their formidable opponents Kent had to thank their young left-hander Blythe, who bowled superbly. Keeping a fine length and repeatedly making the ball turn, he was very hard to play, and had he not had bad luck in several times beating the bat and missing the wicket he must have won the match for his side. If, however, he failed to do that, Blythe scored a great personal triumph, taking in the match 11 wickets for 72 runs.

6 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5536.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 August, page 9)

Other matches in which play was impossible yesterday in consequence of the weather were . . .
Leicestershire v Essex, at Leicester . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 August, page 5)

There were not many points of interest in the cricket at Leicester yesterday. The wicket was very soft after the rain, which had prevented play on Monday; but Leicestershire, staying in three hours and a half, managed to score 211.

They were mainly indebted to Wood, who played very patient and skilful cricket for his 73. Towards the close of the innings, Stocks hit with considerable vigour, once driving Reeves out of the ground for six. Mead bowled with great success and brought his aggregate of wickets for the season up to 104.

Essex, who had an hour and a quarter's batting, lost Carpenter with only two runs scored, but Messrs Owen and Perrin mastered the bowling and raised the total to 80, without being separated, before the drawing of stumps.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 August, page 4)

At Leicester yesterday the game was drawn, a result that was wholly expected after the delays caused by the weather.

6 August: SOMERSET v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5537.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 August, page 9)

Albert Trott distinguished himself at Taunton yesterday by taking all the Somerset wickets at a cost of 45 runs. Such much rain fell up to noon that the game could not be begun until a quarter past 3, and then, with the turf drying fast under a hot sun and strong wind, Trott had an opportunity of which he made the best use.

As usual he varied his pace and, keeping a good length and getting plenty of break on the ball, he always had the batsmen in difficulties. His performance, remarkable in itself, was the more noteworthy as he dismissed nine men single-handed, bowling six, getting two leg-before and catching one from a return. The only batsman to resist him for any length of time was Mr Bernard, who defended strongly for over an hour and was the seventh man out. Mr Hill hit hard, but made several false strokes in scoring 35 out of the last 46 of Somerset's 89.

Winning the toss has not so far benefited the home team, as when stumps were drawn Middlesex with eight wickets in hand were only 54 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 August, page 5)

The home county played very well at Taunton yesterday. While the pitch was yet slow Cranfield bowled with such success that Middlesex lost their last eight wickets for 104 runs. Still the visitors led by 50 runs; but this advantage was soon lost, and at one time Somerset were nearly 200 runs on with only three men out.

Mr Lionel Palairet played in his best form. He did not hit with the brilliancy of Mr Bernard and Robson, but for nearly two hours and three-quarters he played all the bowling with delightful ease. Mr Palairet scored chiefly in front of the wicket by perfectly timed forward strokes. He made his 92 out of 243, being the fourth man out; he hit a six and 13 fours. Mr Bernard hit up 72 out of 126 in an hour and 25 minutes by hard cutting and driving, among his hits being 13 fours.

This first partnership had given Somerset the advantage, and Robson improved their position by a dashing display. In less than 40 minutes he made 50, the second wicket adding 80 runs. Robson's score consisted of 17 hits - 11 fours and six singles. Following this brilliant play came a couple

of failures, but Mr Woods put more vigour into the game and Somerset finished up 207 runs to the good with four wickets to fall. The weather was pleasantly fine and the attendance good.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 August, page 4)

Middlesex won a great game at Taunton yesterday by one wicket. By their excellent all-round work on Tuesday, Somerset had made up for their unsatisfactory start, and as they held a lead of 207 runs and had four wickets to fall there was every promise of a good struggle.

Before the innings closed 70 runs were added and Middlesex had 278 runs to get to win. For some time this task looked like being easily accomplished. Mr Warner and Mr James Douglas scored 55 for the first wicket; Mr Warner and Mr R N Douglas 84 for the second; and with only three men out the 200 went up. But then came a complete change; Mr Bosanquet left at 201 and seven men were out for 221. Somerset had the better chance of success and looked like snatching a wonderful victory.

Once more, however, the fortune of the play took a turn. Rawlin and Trott, playing confidently and well, advanced the score at a good pace until there seemed every prospect of their hitting off the runs. In half an hour they added 46 before Rawlin was bowled, and then with five more scored Mr Williams was out. So with only Trott and Hearne left Middlesex still wanted six runs. And the professionals proved equal to the occasion; Hearne kept his end up and Trott made the runs, the game ending within seven minutes of time.

As a curious coincidence, it may be mentioned that on Saturday last both counties were engaged in similarly close struggles and with the same results, Middlesex beating Surrey at the Oval and Somerset losing to Gloucestershire at Bath.

Mr Warner showed his best form in scoring his 84. Making his runs out of 155 in two hours and a quarter without any fault, he hit ten fours. At the critical time Trott played with much skill, his resolution having a lot to do with the result. The weather was fine and a good company was present. #

6 August: SURREY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5538.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 August, page 9)

The wet and stormy weather which prevented yesterday was responsible for the disappointment of the many thousands who for a long number of years have considered the August Bank Holiday their one annual opportunity for seeing at the Oval first-class cricket. Not a ball was bowled at the Oval yesterday, and although the wickets were pitched and the turf rolled, there was never much chance of cricket.

It was drizzling at half-past 11, and the drizzle had increased to a downpour of rain by midday. Some five or six thousand people paid for admission, and to these checks for to-day were given when it was decided to give up all idea of play. Nottinghamshire cricket has been so worthy of its old traditions this season that the match with Surrey promised to prove an excellent fight. Now there is every prospect of a bowler's game.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 August, page 5)

There was some cricket at the Oval yesterday in spite of the intermittent rain showers which kept the pitch easy and just less than unpleasant. But the going was a severe handicap on fieldsmen and the ball was always wet for the bowlers.

Nottinghamshire were at the wicket in the permissible hours of play yesterday; and their finish at 181 for five leaves scarcely any chance of a definite issue to one of the chief matches of the Surrey season. Mr Jones, Shrewsbury and Mr Dixon all played particularly well on the slow wicket against much good length bowling and steady fielding. But the pitch was never worse than slow; the ball cut through or did its work so slowly that the batting side had always the advantage.

Mr Jones and Shrewsbury made 71 for the first wicket; but the subsequent partnerships were small. In the circumstances the batting was bright. The weather interference was serious after the luncheon interval. The elevens were not completed until yesterday morning and Clode, a slow left-hander, who played against the Australians last year for Surrey, coming in at the last moment, met with much success. He has a nice easy action and is quick to find his length. Surrey badly want a good slow left-hand bowler and Clode with the opportunity should easily develop his skill. There were 12,000 spectators of yesterday's cricket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 August, page 4)

Had the sun shone sufficiently to cake the wicket Notts might have had a chance of beating Surrey at Kennington Oval yesterday, but with the weather dull the turf remained slow and dead, so that batting was not a very difficult matter and a draw was always certain. Consequently no great interest could be taken in the progress of the game, but some individual batting performances, and the general excellence of the fielding, kept the attention of a fairly good crowd closely fixed on the play.

The Notts men batted slowly when the game was resumed at half-past 12, a delay of an hour being caused owing to the soft state of the pitch; but after lunch the cricket was full of incident. Hayes hit up 80 in 50 minutes in most brilliant style. Often jumping in, he drove with certainty and great power, 11 boundary hits being included in his innings, which Mr Jones brought to a close with a remarkable one-handed catch close to the pavilion rails.

No one else poll the forcing game with such success as Hayes, but Abel stayed in all the three hours and a half Surrey were batting and scored 103 not out, his ninth hundred of the season. He took his score to three figures in the last over of the day, after being nearly caught and bowled by Iremonger. This was Abel's only serious mistake, and he hit 17 fours. Mr Groves made three catches, that which dismissed Lees being exceptionally good.

6 August: WARWICKSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5539.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 August, page 9)

Other matches in which play was impossible yesterday in consequence of the weather were . . .
Warwickshire v Worcestershire, at Birmingham.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 August, page 5)

Kinneir played a splendid innings of 102 not out at Birmingham yesterday. He was batting three hours and 40 minutes on a pitch made slow by Monday's rain, and gave no chance until after completing his hundred.

Mr Fishwick helped to put on 75 for the second wicket and Walter Quaife and Kinneir added 78. Bannister bowled well at the end of the home county's innings. Mr R E Foster is kept out of the match owing to a chill.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 August, page 4)

Yesterday, at Birmingham, the match was drawn. Little interest remained in the play because of the inevitable draw, but there was a fine innings by Arnold, who hit 11 fours and eight threes in his century.

6 August: YORKSHIRE v WEST INDIANS (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105746.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 August, page 9)

In consequence of rain cricket at Bradford yesterday was restricted to 25 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 August, page 5)

The weather had made the ground unfit for cricket at Bradford yesterday and the match was abandoned. In the little time for play on Monday Yorkshire scored 23 for no wicket. The game was given up as a draw.

9 August: ESSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5540.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 August, page 5)

The wet weather prevented any play in the following matches yesterday: - . . . Essex v Lancashire, at Leyton.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 August, page 5)

Barely two hours' cricket was possible at Leyton yesterday in the return match between Essex and Lancashire. At one time it appeared scarcely probable that any play would take place, but conditions improved after lunch and about half-past 4 Essex, having won the toss, went in.

They started in a very disastrous fashion, for in the course of the opening 20 minutes they lost Carpenter, Mr Owen and Mr Perrin, who were all clean bowled, and but a solitary run was scored, and that by Carpenter off the first ball of the day. Mr Lucas and Mr McGahey played with extreme caution for three-quarters of an hour, but made only ten runs. Briggs and Webb were very difficult to play, and all the rest of the Lancashire men were exceedingly keen in the field.

Only 26 runs had been scored when Mr McGahey was bowled in playing forward to Webb, but when Mr Fane joined Mr Lucas, the home county's fortunes mended and there came an improvement in the cricket from the spectators' point of view. Both batsmen adopted forcing tactics towards the close of the day, with the result that without further loss the Essex score had been carried to 61 when stumps were drawn.

The Lancashire eleven included a young Burnley amateur, Mr H Cudworth, who has not previously assisted the county in a first-class fixture.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 August, page 5)

As only two hours' cricket had been possible at Leyton on Thursday and Friday, there was small prospect of a definite result on Saturday. With the pitch always lending the bowlers a good deal of assistance the home county's last six wickets were secured in the course of 50 minutes to the overnight total of 61.

Lancashire started very badly, for their first 21 runs were scored at the cost of Ward's, Mr Cudworth's and Tyldesley's wickets, and for the fact that their innings finally realized 148. Lancashire were mainly indebted to their captain, Mr MacLaren, and Mr Eccles. The last-named batsman was in good form, but he was quite overshadowed by his captain, who played a great innings under difficult conditions. In an hour they added 89 runs for the fourth wicket, and the total had been carried to 110 when Mr Eccles played on. Mr MacLaren was the sixth to leave, having scored 60 in an hour and a quarter.

When Essex went in for the second time with a balance of 37 runs against them and lost Mr Owen, Carpenter and Mr Perrin for 13, there was just the chance that Lancashire might win. For the second time in the match, however, Mr Lucas came to the rescue of his side, for his partnership of an hour with Mr McGahey for the fourth wicket, which yielded 52 runs, made a draw inevitable.

When all chance of winning the game had disappeared, Mr MacLaren put Ward on to bowl, and so effective was he with his leg break that he dismissed five of the Essex batsmen for 25 runs, Mr Kortright and Russell both being out leg-before-wicket to balls they made no attempt to play, while Mr Fane was beautifully caught by Mr MacLaren and short leg. At a quarter-past 6 Essex, with only one wicket left, were 68 runs on, and then stumps were pulled up and the match was abandoned as a draw.

9 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5541.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 August, page 5)

The wet weather prevented any play in the following matches yesterday: - . . . Gloucestershire v Middlesex, at Clifton.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 August, page 5)

The pitch that had been prepared on the Clifton College ground was so ruined by Thursday's rain that it was deemed advisable to roll out another. The fresh wicket, however, was found to be so wet yesterday morning that a start could not be made until after half-past 12.

It was an advantage to go in first and Middlesex, to whom that good fortune fell, succeeded in having the best of the day's play. Their innings lasted a little over three hours and was rendered notable by the fine play of Mr James Douglas, who overcame the difficulties of the wicket in masterly fashion. For two hours and 50 minutes he batted with great judgment and skill, his display quite dwarfing everything else in the day's cricket. It would seem that an error of judgment was committed in not making earlier use of Mr Townsend, who has frequently bowled with marked success on the Clifton slow wickets.

Wrathall and Mr Rice started the Gloucestershire innings in promising fashion, but in the last half an hour the batting broke down.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 August, page 5)

A handsome victory by 125 runs rewarded the efforts of the Middlesex eleven at Clifton on Saturday. Their win was mainly brought about by the batting of Mr James Douglas and the bowling of Trott. In Middlesex's second innings Mr Douglas gave another masterly display of sound, skilful cricket on a treacherous pitch, staying in for an hour and three-quarters.

Trott and Mr Bosanquet got down the last five Gloucestershire wickets for the addition of 28 runs; but when Middlesex, who led by 104, in turn had seven men out for 48 most of the advantage had disappeared. Mr Douglas at length found a useful partner in Mr Robertson, the pair adding 50 runs.

In the end Gloucestershire were set 240 runs to get to win; but the task proved quite beyond their powers. With the exception of Board, the batsmen were practically helpless before Trott, who dismissed eight of them, hitting the stumps each time. He varied his pace with great skill, but it was his fast ball that proved the most effective. In the match he had the fine record of 13 wickets for 88 runs, and he and Mr Douglas may fairly be said to have won the game for Middlesex.

9 August: KENT v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5542.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 August, page 5)

Thursday is the great day of the Canterbury festival, and the bad weather of yesterday was, therefore, very disappointing. There are few prettier scenes of their nature than Ladies' Day at Canterbury. The decorations of the city itself and those on the Dane John can scarcely be surpassed;

while to the tented field of the St Lawrence Ground is now added an extremely useful pavilion, which has in no sense destroyed the picturesqueness of the famous old scene of Canterbury Week days.

The ground had recovered from the wrecking storm of Monday, and the crescent of club tents presented as charming a sight as ever. But the weather was very unpleasant. Heavy rain fell after 1 o'clock. There was a big crowd of the general public and the county families; but before 3 o'clock there was a mournful procession of vehicles back to the city.

The cricket was almost unworthy of report. In a quarter of an hour Kent made 17 runs and lost no wicket. The profits of the match are to be given to Martin, a bowler who helped Kent for years and did much fine work. It will be noticed that Mr Leveson-Gower, the old Winchester and Oxford captain, again joins the Surrey eleven.

The Old Stagers have played as usual at the theatre, but there is no disguising the fact that this year the "Week" has fallen flat.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 August, page 5)

The weather at Canterbury yesterday was again very bad, and scarcely any progress could be made in the Kent and Surrey match. It had been intended to start play at 11 o'clock, but the ground was so wet from the effects of Thursday's rain that nothing could be done till an hour later.

Mr Burnup and Hearne then resumed the Kent innings, in which 17 runs had been scored on Thursday without the loss of a wicket. In the course of 25 minutes the total was increased to 33, and then a light shower drove the players from the field. The delay only amounted to ten minutes, and on resuming Hearne was at once caught in the slips. Mr Baker went in first wicket down and had hit a four when more rain fell, and there was no option but [again to] stop play.

The downpour, more or less heavy, lasted for three hours. Further cricket was hopeless, and at half-past 3 stumps were pulled up. The spectators numbered about a couple of thousand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 August, page 5)

The most disappointing week at Canterbury for many years came to an end on Saturday, when Kent and Surrey left their game a draw. The weather ruined the whole festival, although in each of the two matches it allowed of a respectable third day.

Saturday afforded the best time of the week, and about 4,000 spectators witnessed some interesting cricket. Thursday and Friday had given less than an hour's play, and Kent had made 37 for the loss of one wicket. With the sun shining powerfully on the wet pitch the bowlers had the advantage the whole day; but time was too brief to allow of the playing out of the game.

In a couple of hours Kent carried their score to 169 for eight, and then applied the closure rule. Nearly all the Kent batsmen went in for hitting. Mr Burnup and Mr Day made 63 in 35 minutes while they were together. Then came some splendid work with the ball by Brockwell. Mr Burnup was fourth out at 103 for an excellent 49, and Mr Stewart's 38 was the next best innings.

Mr Mason closed his innings, so that Surrey were batting before luncheon; but it was subsequently that Surrey had a bad time. Brockwell and Abel were both out when the score had reached 14, and a misjudged catch by Mr Burnup saved the visitors from having three down for 18. Lockwood and Hayes with 44 for a partnership, and Mr Jephson and Mr Leveson-Gower with another of similar value made the draw inevitable.

The week was a triumph for Blythe, who in the two matches took 17 wickets for 145. It was fortunate for Martin, the Kent professional, that he had accepted to offer of the Kent executive to take as his benefit fund a fifth of the profits of the second match at Canterbury for the last five years.

9 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5543.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 August, page 5)

The wet weather prevented any play in the following matches yesterday: - . . . Leicestershire v Hampshire, at Leicester . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 August, page 5)

In consequence of the bad weather it has not so far been found possible to make any start with the matches between Warwickshire and Yorkshire at Birmingham, and Leicestershire and Hampshire at Leicester, both of which should have begun on Thursday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 August, page 5)

After two days, when the weather made cricket impossible, little interest was shown in the play on the third, and the match at Leicester was drawn . . .

9 August: SOMERSET v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5544.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 August, page 5)

The wet weather prevented any play in the following matches yesterday: - Somerset v Sussex, at Taunton . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 August, page 5)

Bright weather prevented at Taunton yesterday and the afternoon's cricket proved thoroughly interesting. K S Ranjitsinhji's presence was, no doubt, accountable in a large measure for the capital attendance, and as it turned out the famous batsmen played one of his finest innings, affording the crowd a great treat and at the same time securing for Sussex an excellent position.

He was only at the wickets an hour and ten minutes, but in that time he scored 89 runs out of 110, among his hits being 16 fours, one three and seven twos. His driving was superb and he brought off a number of very daring pulls. Some of his hits were dangerously near the fieldsman, but the only chance that went to hand was a very hard return when he had scored 37 to Robson. He found an excellent helper in Butt, 88 runs being added in 50 minutes while the two batsmen were together. Butt's play was in every respect admirable.

In the Somerset innings by far the best batting was shown by Mr Daniell, who kept up his wicket for over an hour and a half, his defence being very strong. As the game stands now Sussex are 51 runs ahead with three wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 August, page 5)

Once on Saturday Somerset were in danger of defeat at Taunton. Going in against a majority of 87 runs, they had at 4 o'clock lost six wickets for 166 and led by only 79 runs, a hour and three-quarters remaining for play. But a stand by Mr Woods and Gill left no result but a draw possible, and at 5 o'clock, when Sussex with an innings to play wanted 161 runs to win, the game was abandoned.

Mr Lionel Palairet showed his best form in scoring his 96. Making his forward strokes as well as ever, he cut more brilliantly than usual and scored more freely behind the wicket than is his custom. Starting by hitting up 50 out of 66 in just over an hour, he was altogether batting two hours and 25 minutes, without a mistake of any kind, and he hit 13 fours, five threes and six twos. Mr Daniell helped Mr Palairet to add 75 for the third wicket.

Mr Woods played admirably at the critical time. Defending soundly until his side were safe, he hit hard afterwards and scored his 58 in less than an hour and a half.

9 August: WARWICKSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarhive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5545.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 August, page 5)

The wet weather prevented any play in the following matches yesterday: - . . . Yorkshire v Warwickshire, at Birmingham . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 August, page 5)

In consequence of the bad weather it has not so far been found possible to make any start with the matches between Warwickshire and Yorkshire at Birmingham, and Leicestershire and Hampshire at Leicester, both of which should have begun on Thursday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 August, page 5)

Two days having been lost through bad weather, there did not seem any likelihood of Saturday's cricket at Birmingham being exciting in character, but a surprise was in store for those who visited the Edgbaston ground.

Nearly always a great side this year on wickets damaged by rain, the Yorkshire Eleven played a splendid game and were seen at their very best. They did not succeed in winning the match, but, having regard to what they did in a limited space of time, the draw was more creditable than many a victory. By admirable bowling and by batting that was in no way inferior, they got so near to success that at the finish Warwickshire, with only three wickets to fall, still wanted 31 runs to avoid a single innings defeat.

The day's cricket began uneventfully enough, Fishwick and Devey, who opened Warwickshire's first innings, staying together for 40 minutes and in that time scoring 25 runs. After that, however, Rhodes and Hirst asserted themselves, and on the drying wicket very little could be done against them. The innings lasted two hours and a half, but the total only amounted to 84. Devey played exceedingly well, keeping up his wicket for 85 minutes and scoring 36 out of 52. Kinneir only made a single, but that one run completed his 1,000 this season in first-class matches.

When Yorkshire went in the method of batting was entirely different from that adopted by Warwickshire, and so brilliant were the results that with two wickets down Lord Hawke was able to declare the innings closed, the score standing at 158 for two wickets. So rapid was the hitting that the runs were obtained in an hour and 40 minutes. Denton and Mr T L Taylor put on 112 in an hour and were still not out at the finish. Mr Taylor gave a chance when he had made nine, but Denton, though he took many liberties, played his brilliant innings without a mistake. He hit ten fours.

With a balance of 74 runs against them Warwickshire went in for the second time, an hour and 20 minutes being left for cricket. W G Quaife was out leg-before-wicket when only one run had been scored, but Kinneir and Walter Quaife stayed together and made their side practically safe. As soon as they were separated the batting broke down completely, but Yorkshire did not have time to win.

9 August: WORCESTERSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarhive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5546.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 August, page 5)

The wet weather prevented any play in the following matches yesterday: - . . . Worcestershire v Derbyshire, at Worcester . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 August, page 5)

Although no rain fell at Worcester yesterday, the wicket was so saturated by Thursday's rain that it was not until half-past 2 that a start could be made.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 August, page 5)

The match at Worcester had on Saturday to be left drawn, there never being at any point during the day the least prospect of arriving at a definite result. Though naturally lacking in interest on this account, the cricket had one or two noteworthy features.

The honours of the day clearly rested with Storer, who played in his very best style for just over three hours and a half. Going in second wicket down at 42, he was not out when the closure rule was put in force, and his innings was without blemish. Though totally dissimilar in method and style, the batting of Bagshaw was almost as full of merit as that of Storer. He gave no actual chance during the two hours and 40 minutes he was at the wickets. The most productive partnership of the day was that between these two players, who put on exactly a hundred runs for the third wicket.

Going in a second time in a minority of 72, Worcestershire scored 87 runs for the loss of two batsmen. Mr H K Foster and Bowley batted extremely well.

10 August: NORFOLK v WEST INDIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/105/105747.html)

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 August, page 5)

The West Indians in the final match of their tour gained a remarkable victory over Norfolk, at Norwich, on Saturday, by an innings and 16 runs. Norfolk in their second innings had six men out for six runs, Burton taking five of the wickets without a run being scored from him.

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages up to date are given below: -

BATTING

	Innings	Total runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
K S Ranjitsinhji	31	2454	275	4	90.88
Mr C B Fry	31	1939	229	3	69.25
Mr R E Foster	26	1563	171	2	65.12
Abel	35	1972	221	3	61.62
Hayward	42	2270	193	4	59.73
Mr J R Mason	26	1337	147	2	55.70
Kinneir	27	1009	156	7	50.45
Hirst	39	1497	155	6	45.36
Mr G L Jessop	39	1564	179	2	42.27
Mr T L Taylor	31	1069	147	5	41.88
Mr P F Warner	26	1086	170	0	41.76
William Quaife	33	1081	124*	7	41.57
W Gunn	22	784	137	3	41.26
Mr C McGahey	31	1125	184	2	38.79
Mr C J B Wood	42	1464	116*	4	38.62
Storer	33	1165	176	3	38.50
Tunnicliffe	40	1344	158	4	37.33
Lockwood	35	1226	165	2	37.15
Mr A P Lucas	17	587	95	1	36.68
Mr D L A Jephson	41	1168	121	9	36.50
Albert Ward	40	1310	111*	4	36.38
Carpenter	38	1378	140	0	36.26
Mr B J T Bosanquet	24	831	139	1	36.13
Shrewsbury	22	718	128	2	35.90

Mr L C H Palairret	20	709	161	0	35.45
Killick	38	1238	127	3	35.37
Mr L G Wright	29	948	170	2	35.11
Dr W G Grace	20	700	93	0	35.00
Tyldesley	39	1210	142	4	34.57
Mr C L Townsend	41	1249	141	4	33.75
Mr A C MacLaren	37	1166	108	2	33.31
Mr P Perrin	27	866	205	1	33.30
Mr H B Hayman	22	729	87	0	33.13
J T Brown, sen.	36	1087	163	3	32.93
Mr G MacGregor	20	416	76*	7	32.00
Denton	41	1180	96	4	31.89
Mr C J Burnup	33	1049	200	0	31.78
Mr J A Dixon	17	494	126*	1	30.87
Mr H K Foster	39	1146	113	1	30.15
Mr E Smith	24	572	116*	5	30.10
Brockwell	39	990	132*	5	29.11
Mr J Daniell	28	718	101*	3	28.72
Mr A O Jones	28	791	155	0	28.25
Mr S M J Woods	25	682	148	0	27.28

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	1113.3	342	2466	197	12.51
Haigh	769.4	224	1878	128	14.67
S Webb	431	128	902	60	15.03
Mold	477	129	1153	75	15.37
Mead	848.5	279	1699	109	17.42
Mr C J Kortright	337	68	1095	62	17.66
Wass	637.1	155	1716	96	17.87
Briggs	947.3	352	1789	98	18.25
Cuttell	916.4	329	1833	102	18.46
Blythe	556.2	153	1408	73	19.28
J Gunn	812.4	200	1937	100	19.37
Mr J R Mason	487.5	142	1248	64	19.50
A Hearne	461.3	143	1195	60	19.91
Lockwood	676.3	160	2030	101	20.09
J T Hearne	924.3	264	2489	120	20.74
G A Wilson	742.3	150	2132	101	21.10
A E Trott	1118.2	273	3604	168	21.45
Mr G L Jessop	510.4	148	1338	61	21.93
F W Tate	952.4	279	2476	111	22.30
Lees	536.2	127	1456	64	22.75
H Young	525.3	127	1394	61	22.85
Mr E R Wilson	227.5	56	574	25	22.96
Cranfield	489.4	77	1195	52	22.98
Field	541.3	96	1638	71	23.07
Bland	848	198	2426	103	23.55
Richardson	776	80	2305	97	23.76
Woodcock	512	106	1539	64	24.04

THE WEST INDIAN TEAM

The West Indians finished their tour on Saturday with the match at Norwich. In a programme of 17 fixtures they secured five wins, suffered eight defeats and left unfinished four games. The averages are given below: -

[Note: not first-class]

BATTING

	Innings	Total runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
Mr C A Ollivierre	29	883	159	2	32.70

Mr L Constantine	22	610	113	2	30.50
Mr P J Cox	25	775	142	0	30.20
Mr P A Goodman	23	563	104*	3	28.15
Mr S W Sproston	27	600	118	0	22.22
Mr F Hinds	23	443	79	1	20.13
Mr L S D'Ade	13	193	68*	2	17.54
Mr A Warner	14	190	53*	2	15.82
Mr W Bowring	23	309	63	2	14.71
Burton	26	291	64*	1	11.64
Mr G C Learmond	19	173	62	0	9.10
Woods	27	145	36	7	7.25
Mr W H Mignon	19	68	17*	8	6.18
Mr M M Kerr	6	29	20	0	4.83
Mr G L Livingstone	4	10	9	1	3.33

Mr P F Warner, of Middlesex, also batted once, scoring 113.

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Woods	547.4	128	1551	72	21.54
Burton	660.5	188	1681	78	21.55
Mr S W Sproston	12	1	54	2	27.00
Mr P J Cox	185	22	673	24	28.04
Mr W Mignon	285.5	65	833	30	29.43
Mr C A Ollivierre	108.5	19	462	13	35.53
Mr P A Goodman	62.2	11	270	5	54.00
Mr F Hinds	76	8	325	6	54.16
Mr G L Livingstone	18	2	65	0	--
Mr L Constantine	18	3	79	0	--

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	24	13	0	11	13
Lancashire	24	12	1	11	11
Notts	15	6	2	7	4
Sussex	19	3	1	15	2
Kent	16	5	2	9	3
Surrey	22	7	4	11	3
Warwickshire	17	3	2	12	1
Middlesex	16	6	6	4	0
Gloucestershire	17	5	6	6	-1
Essex	18	4	5	9	-1
Derbyshire	14	2	5	7	-3
Somerset	13	3	9	1	-6
Worcestershire	18	2	8	8	-6
Leicestershire	18	1	9	8	-8
Hampshire	17	0	12	5	-12

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 champion county."

Tuesday 14 August: DINNER TO THE WEST INDIAN CRICKETERS

The West Indian cricketers, who have been touring in this country during the past few months, were entertained at dinner at the Grant Hotel, Charing-cross, last evening, by the West Indian Club. The chair was occupied by Lord Harris, and among those present were the Earl of Selborne, Lord Stamford,

Sir C Quilter, M.P., Sir Nevile Lubbock, Sir H Thompson, Sir W Robinson, Mr A E Aspinall, the hon. secretary of the West Indian Club, and Mr W C Mock, Mr Sproston, Mr C A Ollivierre, Mr Goodman, Mr F Hinds and other prominent members of the cricket team.

LORD HARRIS proposed the toast of "The West Indian Cricket Team." He said that from the points of view of cricket and the Empire, it was an honour to him to propose the toast. It was very courageous of the West Indian team to beard the lion in his den, or in other words, on his native sward. But they had attempted the task and, whatever the result had been, there was but one opinion in cricket circles, and that was that the team had played the game in a thoroughly sportsmanlike spirit (hear, hear) - in a way which we in England, who held the game in very great respect, wished to see it played.

The team had played 17 matches - some of them with good county combinations - and of these they had won five, drawn four and lost eight. That was as good a trial for a young team as could well be imagined, and the most encouraging fact was that the longer they stayed here the better they became. (Cheers.) He hoped that for the members of the team personally the visit to the mother country had been a pleasant one, and that during their stay in England they had learnt something, not only as to cricket but as to the advantage of Empire. He trusted that before he was bowled out (laughter) he would see matches in England between representative elevens from the different parts of the Empire.

Cricket had a great educational influence. The majority of people in England knew little of Australia until the Australian cricket teams came over here, and just in the same way the present visit of the West Indian team had drawn attention to the West Indies, which would never have been attracted to them. Who could say how much the visits of Australian cricket teams to this country had been responsible for the help Australia had given the mother country in the war in South Africa? He had said that cricket had done more to draw Australia to England than all the treaties and Acts of Parliament of the past. That was, perhaps, rather playing to the gallery; but no one could deny that cricket had largely attracted Australia and England to each other. He trusted that the visit of the West Indian team would have the same result in regard to the West Indies. (Cheers.)

The toast having been drunk,

SIR C QUILTER, M.P., proposed the toast of "The Colonial Office."

LORD SELBORNE, in reply, said that the public conception of the Colonial Office was that it was a very odd mixture. He often saw in a certain kind of the Press allusions to the Colonial Office as if it were a conglomeration of individuals of the most astonishing ignorance and of the most persistent perversity, who were always delighting in flying in the light of common sense and in the doing of the wrong thing. That was not the Colonial Office as it now existed.

The Colonial Office was a collection of permanent civil servants presided over by two birds of passage who were Parliamentary. Those Parliamentary heads, no doubt, had a great influence on the Colonial Office of their day, but the civil servants, through whom alone they could work, were the most loyal and devoted set of public servants the world had ever known. Of course they made mistakes; but their hearts and souls were in the colonies and in the work of the colonies. They had devoted their whole lives to the service of the colonies, and had gradually accumulated in themselves a most astonishing mass of experience and opinion. Their centralized opinions were properly and necessarily checked by local opinion, and that local opinion was as necessary to them as the check of their experience was to local Governments.

Turning to the object of the present gathering, he said that of course it would be possible to exaggerate the importance in our Imperial unity which our Imperial sports might play; but he was sure that it would be a foolish man who denied that cricket, and our taste, as a race, for sport, had had a real influence in harmonizing and in consolidating the different parts of the Empire. (Hear, hear.)

The West Indies might take an example from Australia. There were some people who said that the West Indies had suffered from a want of common interest, that they were too much like the unbound sticks that might have been a bundle of faggots but were not. Not long ago the Australian colonies were like a disunited bundle of sticks. They were now united into a great Commonwealth; and who would say a really important factor in that consolidation was the difficulty there once was in selecting a united Australian cricket team? (Cheers.)

There was a time when Australia found that the telegraphic service was so inadequate to supply the people of this country with a proper report of the cricket matches that they insisted upon having a

Pacific cable. (Laughter.) Again, a squadron of New South Wales Lancers were sent over here to perfect their drill and discipline. He was not quite sure whether one reason why they were sent over was that they might be able to supply any deficiencies that might arise in the Australian cricket team over here at that time. (Laughter.)

Putting cricket aside, all that Australia could offer to the mother country they had offered, all that it had been in their power to do to help in this great national struggle they had done. And just as the mother country would never forget, and never could forget, what Australia and Canada had done, let it not be believed that because what the West Indies had been able to do had been less in quantity, England regard it in the least bit as less in quality. (Cheers.) He hoped that the West Indies would endeavour to copy the example of Australia, according to their comparative means, and promised that any assistance the Colonial Office could give them would be gladly afforded. (Cheers.)

Other toasts followed.

Page 193: DERBYSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5547.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 August, page 9)

The fortunes of the game varied so much at Derby yesterday that from first to last the day's cricket was full of interest. Derbyshire went in on a wicket that seemed fairly easy. Mr Wright hit with considerable freedom, and after the second wicket had fallen at 59 Chatterton and Storer raised the total to 97 before lunch time without being separated. When a fresh start was made, however, Mead and Reeves bowled with such success that the innings was finished off for 151, Mead after luncheon taking five wickets for 21 runs and Reeves three for 26.

Essex made a wretched start, Mr Owen, Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey being all got rid of for 17, but Russell and Carpenter, with a little luck to help them, put a very different appearance on the game, carrying the score to exactly 100. They were still together when stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 August, page 5)

Some remarkable batting for Essex was shown at Derby yesterday by Carpenter and Russell. They had on Monday scored 83 together, and yesterday they were not separated until their partnership for the fourth wicket had produced 268 runs.

Russell was at last caught at point for 139, in obtaining which he was at the wickets for three hours and ten minutes. He had a good deal of luck in the early part of his innings, but he played finely yesterday, giving only one chance - when he had made 106. His principal hits were 12 fours, six threes and 15 twos.

After luncheon the Essex innings was finished off in a very abrupt fashion by Bestwick, who took the last six wickets and had only 26 runs hit from him. Carpenter was sixth out at 335, after batting for four hours and a quarter without making a mistake. In his 151 he hit 20 fours, five threes and nine twos.

Derbyshire, on going in for the second time, had to face a majority of 205 runs. Wright's wicket was lost at 29, but after that Mr Ashcroft and Bagshaw obtained such a mastery over the bowling that when the time came for drawing stumps they had increased the score to 142, and were still together.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 August, page 5)

After being in a minority of 205 on the first innings, Derbyshire yesterday at Derby drew their match with Essex. The credit of saving the game belonged chiefly to Mr Ashcroft and Bagshaw, who came together on Tuesday afternoon when the first wicket had fallen at 29, and were not separated yesterday until the score had reached 218, their partnership thus yielding 189 runs.

Bagshaw, who was the first to leave, was unlucky in just missing his hundred. He was batting for three hours, and his chief hits were ten fours, four threes and 12 twos. Mr Ashcroft remained in

until after luncheon, being fifth out, at 298, for 139. In his big score he hit 13 fours and six threes.

13 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5548.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 August, page 9)

In the opening stage of their return match with Kent at Clifton yesterday the Gloucestershire eleven were seen to advantage. Going in just after 12 o'clock on a pitch rendered slow at starting by a heavy dew, they remained at the wickets until 20 minutes past 5, putting together a score of 308.

Wrathall and Mr Rice gave the side a splendid start by making 101 before the former was bowled. Of this number Wrathall obtained 69, mainly by hard hitting on the off side, and, apart from a chance to Mr Perkins in the long field when 30, little fault could be found with his cricket. With his innings yesterday Wrathall completed his 1,000 runs for the season. Mr Rice left at 141, having batted patiently for over two hours.

For a time after this Gloucestershire did so well that they had 170 runs on the board with eight wickets still in hand. A startling change then came over the game. Alec Hearne performed the "hat trick." With the last ball of an over he got Mr Champain caught at the wicket, and with the first two balls of his next over clean bowled Mr Jessop and Mr Richardson, half the side being then out for 173.

Thanks in a great measure to the batting of Mr Townsend these disasters were retrieved. Going in first wicket down, he obtained a complete mastery over all the bowling for three hours and had the satisfaction of carrying out his bat. He combined sound defence with powerful hitting in front of the wicket. Included in his figures were ten fours, 11 threes and six twos. Before yesterday Mr Townsend had not played a three-figure innings this season. Paish rendered valuable service, staying in for half an hour while 39 runs were added and enabling Mr Townsend to reach his 100.

Kent had 25 minutes' batting at the close of the day and fared badly, losing three wickets for 24 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 August, page 5)

The cricket at Clifton yesterday was in marked contrast to that of the opening day, 23 wickets going down for 332 runs, while on Monday only 13 batsmen were dismissed for the same score. A heavy dew rendered the pitch difficult at starting, but there was really nothing in its condition to account for the many batting failures.

Kent, who overnight had lost three wickets for 24 runs, fared so badly that in less than an hour and a half the innings ended for the addition of 105. That the side were not all out for a smaller score was due to the poor fielding on the Gloucestershire Eleven. Mr Blaker, who went in with the total at 41 for seven, was missed when he had made a single and again at 18 and 20. Paish sent down his first nine overs for 22 runs and five wickets, but afterwards he was freely hit by Mr Blaker.

Going in a second time with a lead of 179, the failure of the Gloucestershire batting was as pronounced as that of Kent. Going in a second time with a lead of 179, the failure of the Gloucestershire batting was as pronounced as that of Kent. Only Mr C L Townsend and Mr Champain succeeded in getting into double figures; but the last-named was twice let off. As in the first innings, Mr Townsend played the best cricket on the side. Blythe and Mr Bradley bowled well, the amateur making his record for the match nine wickets for 105 runs.

Kent were set 292 to get to win, and up to a certain point they did well, 80 being on the board with only two men out. In the last 50 minutes, however, the game went all against them, and at the close they still required 157 runs with only four wickets in hand. Mr Burnup, who went in first and was out third at 81, played well for an hour and a half, and Mr Day during the hour and 40 minutes he was at the wickets batted in skilful fashion.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 August, page 5)

At Clifton, yesterday, this match resulted in Gloucestershire winning in rather less than an hour by 111 runs. With only four wickets to fall Kent required 157 to win, and this task proved to be altogether beyond their powers, the four outstanding wickets only adding 45 to the overnight total.

Mr Day, who had gone in on Tuesday with the score at 31 for two wickets, was out eighth at 154. He played with great skill for two hours and 20 minutes, the only real fault in his admirable innings being a sharp chance at slip yesterday when he had made 55. Among his hits were seven fours, two threes and five twos.

13 August: HAMPSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5549.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 August, page 9)

On a fast wicket, which during the course of the afternoon showed signs of wear, a fair amount of progress was made yesterday with the first match of the week at Bournemouth. Surrey, in three hours and three-quarters, scored 237 runs, and in the last hour Hampshire lost two wickets for 60 runs.

The feature of the cricket was the partnership for the first Surrey wicket between Mr Jephson and Holland, who, in 80 minutes, scored 100 runs. Holland played a fine innings and got most of his runs on the leg side. His chief figures were 12 fours. Mr Jephson was sixth out at 182.

Abel is not playing for Surrey owing to a chill contracted at Canterbury, and a trial is being given to Mr A von Ernsthausen, this season's captain at Uppingham. He bowls fast right hand with a high delivery.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 August, page 5)

Admirable bowling on the part of Lockwood and a brilliant batting display by Hayes were the chief features of an interesting afternoon's cricket at Bournemouth yesterday, and thanks to these men Surrey gained such an advantage that they are now almost certain of victory.

Surrey had nothing the better of Monday's cricket, but in the first hour and a half yesterday the eight outstanding Hampshire wickets fell for 58 runs, and having once secured the upper hand Surrey never afterwards lost it. Going in a second time with a lead of 119 runs, they ultimately set Hampshire 435 to get to win, and before play ceased 69 of these had been made without loss.

Lockwood's bowling yesterday morning was very good. He dismissed five men for 25 runs, and altogether took seven wickets for just over seven runs each. Richardson, too, had a good analysis, and obtained his hundredth wicket this season.

For the big lead they secured after getting rid of their opponents so cheaply, Surrey were indebted to Hayes, who, going in first wicket down at 28, scored a brilliant 175 - his highest innings in first-class cricket. He was at the wickets two hours and a half, hitting 28 fours, six threes and seven twos. Mr Crawford, who made 59 in 65 minutes, rendered Hayes the best assistance, 93 runs being put on for the second wicket while these cricketers were together.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 August, page 5)

Yesterday, at Bournemouth, the Hampshire eleven failed completely in the heavy task set them, and Surrey gained a victory by 247 runs.

Requiring 435 to win, Hampshire had at the drawing of stumps on Tuesday scored 69 without loss, but the batting broke down so badly yesterday that in two hours the innings was finished off for 187. The partnership between Webb and Newton for the first wicket produced 76 runs in an hour, but after Webb was bowled no one with the exception of Briggs showed much capacity to cope with Mr Jephson's lobs, though Steele and Baldwin made a few good hits. Briggs was batting nearly 70 minutes for his 20.

Mr Jephson took six wickets at a cost of just over ten runs each. Newton, who was out second at 98, played very well for his 48.

13 August: LONDON COUNTY v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5550.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 August, page 9)

Worcestershire had a moderately good side to meet the London County at the Crystal Palace yesterday, but of the several they played who have rarely figures in the county team, Taylor, a professional medium to fast right-hand bowler from Kidderminster, was the only stranger to first-class cricket. London batted first, on a wicket that left little to be desired from the batsman's point of view. They started none too well, for their first wicket fell at 29; but afterwards they scored at a normal rate, and at the close of the day they had made 281 runs with still two wickets in hand.

For this result they were mainly indebted to Dr W G Grace, Mr G W Beldam and Mr E W Dillon. Dr Grace, after being very nearly run out at 19, and after surviving a chance of being caught by Arnold off his own bowling when 22, played with much of his old brilliancy. Mr Beldam's 67 was a steady and patient innings. Mr Dillon, the captain of Rugby, who at the close of the day was not out 83, batted very well for his runs, but he was very nearly run out when 41, and at 50 he gave a very hard return to Mr Lowe.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 August, page 5)

A fairly interesting day's cricket at the Crystal Palace yesterday left the London County in possession of a considerable advantage. On Monday they remained in the whole day and scored 281 for the loss of eight wickets.

Yesterday they completed their innings for 345, Mr Dillon, the Rugby captain, who was not out overnight, 83, scoring 108. It was a good innings, the young batsman's hitting all round the wicket being well timed and resolute, as will be gathered from the fact that his figures included 13 fours, seven threes and ten twos.

In dismissing such dangerous bats as Mr R E Foster, Bowley and Arnold before the total had reached 60 the London County did excellently, and more particularly as the eleven was singularly weak in bowling. Dr Grace at one end and Braund at the other, indeed, bowled unchanged throughout the innings. Though Worcestershire succeeded in making 208, Mr Lowe, who carried out his bat for an admirable 75, was the only one who played the bowling with any confidence. From Dr Grace's tempting slow balls, which had proved very puzzling to Mr R E Foster, he scored with much freedom.

When Dr Grace and Mr Wood went in to start the home club's second innings they claimed a balance of 137 runs, and when stumps were drawn for the day they had increased their advantage to 224 and had all their wickets in hand. Owing to an injury which Burrows sustained while fielding on Monday, Worcestershire were compelled to bat a man short.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 August, page 5)

For their decisive victory over Worcestershire at the Crystal Palace yesterday, the London County owed a great deal to their captain, Dr W G Grace, for throughout the match he displayed remarkable form. Unfortunately for Worcester, the accident which happened to Burrows early in the match prevented him from batting in either innings; but for all that, the visitors were outplayed from the start, and rarely have the side fared so badly on a good wicket.

The first innings left them 137 runs behind their rivals' total, and yesterday the home club followed up their advantage by scoring 206 for the loss of four wickets, when they declared their innings closed and sent Worcestershire in to make 343 runs to win. Dr Grace supplemented his fine effort of 72 in the first innings by scoring 110 not out in the second, and it is interesting to note that this is his first three-figure innings since August, 1898. It was a fine performance, for during the

three hours and 25 minutes he was at the wicket he gave no chance, while amongst his hits were 13 fours, eight threes and eight twos.

Worcestershire started on their big task in the most disastrous fashion, for they lost five wickets for a paltry 48 runs, Mr Foster being bowled by Braund before he had scored with a ball he made no attempt to play. Arnold and Wheldon batted well, but the excellent stand which they made for the sixth wicket, which yielded 102 runs in just an hour, failed to save the side from a crushing defeat. After Arnold's dismissal the innings was quickly finished and the London County won by 166 runs.

13 August: SUSSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5551.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 August, page 9)

The return match between Sussex and Lancashire at Hastings, yesterday, was favoured with fine weather and attracted about 3,000 people. Mr MacLaren won the toss but, thinking that the wicket, which had been rather freely watered, would improve as the day advanced, he decided to put Sussex in. As play went, however, he failed to secure any advantage from this policy, Lancashire at the close being 24 runs behind with only one wicket in hand. All the time the game was in progress the state of the ground helped the bowlers considerably, and between noon and 6 o'clock 19 wickets went down for 270 runs.

Sussex started by losing Mr Fry and Killick for seven, but K S Ranjitsinhji and Relf stayed together for an hour and hit to such good purpose that they added 82 runs. At lunch time Sussex had scored 115 for four wickets, K S Ranjitsinhji being not out 63, but after the interval the innings was finished off for 147. K S Ranjitsinhji, who was thrown out from third man by Mr Hartley at 119, played beautiful cricket for an hour and 50 minutes, hitting nine 4s, two 3s and four 2s. Mold, who was not tried until after lunch, carried all before him, taking five wickets for 15 runs.

The most remarkable thing about the cricket in Lancashire's innings was the bowling of Vine. He was put on at 24 and bowled unchanged for the rest of the day, taking seven of the eight wickets that afterwards fell. Despite his fine form, however, Lancashire - thanks to the good batting of Tyldesley, Ward, Mr MacLaren and Mr Hartley - had over 100 on the board with only four men out. It was in the last half-hour that the young Sussex bowler did his most effective work.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 August, page 5)

At Hastings, yesterday, the Lancashire eleven gave a remarkable display of all-round cricket, and beat Sussex in brilliant fashion by ten wickets. The result came as a great surprise, the play on Monday having been very even in character. The wicket was far from perfect, but, whereas the Sussex batsmen failed hopelessly, Mr MacLaren and Ward, when Lancashire went in to win the match, scored 90 in three-quarters of an hour.

There was a difference of 16 runs in favour of Sussex on the first innings, Lancashire, who, in face of a total of 147 had scored 128 for nine wickets, being out in ten minutes yesterday morning for 131. Sussex thus went in for the second time with every prospect of making a good fight, and up to a certain point things went fairly well with them, Mr Fry and Relf scoring 29 together in 40 minutes. Then, however, Mr Fry was stumped, and from this point everything went in favour of Lancashire.

At the start of the innings Mold proved quite ineffective from the end at which he had bowled with such success on Monday, but on being put on for the second time at the opposite wicket at 35 he carried all before him, only K S Ranjitsinhji being able to cope with his speed. This batsman kept up his wicket for 50 minutes before being out to a brilliant catch. Seven wickets were down at lunch time for 64, and just after the interval the innings closed for 73. Mold, after going on for the second time, delivered 12 overs and five balls for 17 runs and seven wickets.

After the failure of Sussex it was expected that Lancashire would have some trouble in getting the 90 runs they wanted, but Ward and Mr MacLaren hit with such vigour that within half an hour the score reached 48. Then the end soon came.

13 August: YORKSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5552.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 August, page 9)

The brilliant form recently shown by the Middlesex eleven invested yesterday's match at Leeds with far more than ordinary interest, and a great crowd gathered at the Headingley ground. Yorkshire, with only four county matches left on their programme, have a splendid chance of carrying off the championship without suffering a single defeat, and for the next fortnight their doings will be eagerly followed.

Their task yesterday threatened to be heavier than any other still left them, but they had all the best of the afternoon's cricket, and left off with an advantage that, uncertain as cricket is, seems to promise an easy win. The weather was delightful, but last week's rain had made the ground soft, and at the start of play very little success for the batsmen was expected.

Yorkshire, however, stayed in till nearly half-past 4 and scored 235. It was a fine performance, but not in reality quite so good as it looks on paper. Two or three catches that might have been held were dropped, hits fell just out of danger and balls that beat the batsmen missed the wickets. In fact, nothing came off for Middlesex, Trott in particular bowling with aggravating luck.

J T Brown, who returned to the Yorkshire team last week after his attack of sunstrokes, played excellent cricket of a patient kind, but the success was due to Mr T L Taylor and Hirst. These two batsmen became partners at 61 for three wickets, and in an hour and 20 minutes they carried the score to 193. All the luck came while they were together; but in putting on 132 runs, with the wicket as it was, they did a very big thing. Their play was, perhaps, not fully appreciated till they had been parted, six wickets afterwards falling for 42 runs.

The rapid change in the game was brought about by Mr C M Wells's bowling. Mr Taylor, who gave a chance at 13 and another - a very hard return to Mr Wells - at 68, was batting two hours and a quarter for his 74. Hirst, playing a more vigorous game, hit up 77 in an hour and a half, and only gave one chance that went to hand. His brilliant innings included 13 fours.

Middlesex were batting for 80 minutes. Thanks to Mr Warner and Mr R N Douglas they had 40 on the board with one man out; but after that Haigh became deadly and at the close there were five wickets down for 66.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 August, page 5)

On few occasions this season has there been a more eventful day's cricket than that seen yesterday at Leeds. The Yorkshiremen had on Monday gained such an advantage that everything pointed to their success, but they by no means held their own, and for a considerable part of the afternoon were quite outplayed. Their bowlers came to the rescue in the last hour and, after many vicissitudes, Yorkshire left off with the best of the position.

Quite early yesterday Middlesex placed themselves on something like even terms with their opponents, carrying, in less than two hours, their overnight score of 66 for five wickets to 192. In doing this they owed nearly everything to Trott and Mr MacGregor. Both batsmen played finely, but nothing could have been in stronger contrast than their cricket. Trott scored 50 in 25 minutes, while Mr MacGregor took two hours to get his 37 not out. Trott was especially severe on Rhodes, driving him six times clean over the boundary, but the slow bowler got him out at last and thereby secured his 200th wicket in first-class matches this season.

Going in for the second time with a lead of 43, Yorkshire scored 22 runs before luncheon without loss, but after the interval their batting broke down completely, no one being able to cope with Mr Wells's fine bowling. The innings was all over soon after half-past 4 for 96, and but for three dropped catches the score would have been even smaller than this. Bowling as well as he ever did, Mr Wells took eight wickets and had only 35 runs hit from him.

Middlesex were left with 140 to get to win - a formidable task against the Yorkshire bowlers on a difficult wicket. No one could get the ball away, and in 65 minutes four of the best men on the side

were out for 28. Thus, with six wickets to fall, Middlesex still want 112 runs. Nine or ten thousand spectators watched the cricket yesterday with the keenest interest.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 August, page 5)

At Leeds, yesterday, Yorkshire beat Middlesex by 63 runs, and so retained their position as the only undefeated side in county cricket this season. The Middlesex eleven had reason yesterday to regard themselves as unlucky. The wicket was fit for play at the ordinary time, but heavy dew and drizzling rain in the early morning had so affected the rest of the ground that the start had to be delayed till 1 o'clock.

The sun shone brightly all the time the players were waiting, and when at last the game was proceeded with the wicket proved very difficult indeed. Middlesex, with six wickets to fall, wanted 112 to win, but it soon became clear that this task would prove far beyond their powers. Haigh bowled with deadly effect, and except that Mr MacGregor and Mr Bosanquet put on 28 for the seventh wicket, no stand was made against him.

At lunch time Middlesex had scored 68 with seven men out, and in ten minutes after the interval the innings was finished off for 76. Haigh took the last three wickets at a cost of three runs, and obtained in the whole innings seven wickets for 33. This gave him a record for the match of 13 wickets for 94 runs, Yorkshire's victory being mainly due to his bowling and the batting on Monday of Hirst and Mr T L Taylor. A large number of people went to Headingley to see the finish.

15 August: M.C.C. AND GROUND v WILTSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/129/129101.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 16 August, page 5)

The feature in the opening day's play at Lord's yesterday was the stand made by Mr Medlicott and Mr Ransome for Wiltshire. No fewer than 310 runs were scored for the first wicket, Mr Medlicott hitting 72 fours [?!!!), whilst Mr Ransome had three fives and 13 fours in his score. Mr Miller, who was last man out, made 80 in very good form. When play closed the club had scored 31 for four wickets, against 460 by Wiltshire.

Day 2 (report from Friday 17 August, page 8)

The club never recovered from the bad start they made in their first innings and were badly beaten by an innings and 154 runs.

16 August: ESSEX v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5553.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 August, page 8)

In their return match with Essex at Leyton yesterday Warwickshire gave a fine display of batting. On winning the toss, they remained in possession of the pitch the whole day, scoring 392 runs for the loss of only four of their wickets.

They started very badly, for Kinneir was out when only a single had been scored, and Lilley was bowled with the total at 35; but then Mr Fishwick and W G Quaife, by excellent cricket, so completely mended their fortunes that 127 runs were on the board when the third wicket fell. The partnership yielded 92 runs in just over an hour, and Mr Fishwick, who was batting an hour and three-quarters for his 71, played a faultless innings, his driving on the off side more particularly being well timed and very severe.

In getting four of the Warwickshire side out by lunch time for 137 Essex did fairly well, but on resuming after the interval W Quaife joined his brother, and then followed a remarkable stand. Both batsmen played very fine cricket, and when they had been together an hour they had established a complete mastery over the bowling. Mr Lucas, in the absence of Mr Owen, who was prevented from playing owing to a family bereavement, employed no fewer than eight of his side in the attack, and then, as a last resource, he went on himself with lobs; but all the bowling appeared to come alike to the batsmen. Early in the innings Mead bowled very well, and Kortright, though not as fast as usual, appeared somewhat difficult to play, but after resigning his end to Carpenter at 47 he took no further part in the bowling. There never appeared to be much sting in the Essex attack and their fielding throughout the day left much to be desired, but both W G Quaife and W Quaife played beautifully for their runs.

W G Quaife gave a faultless display. Indeed it was one of his best efforts; but his brother might have been run out when he had made eight, and when 78 he gave a very hard return to Mr McGahey. W G Quaife was batting three hours for his 100, and W Quaife a quarter of an hour longer for his score. During the three hours and a half that their partnership lasted yesterday they added 255 runs to the total, and Warwickshire at the end of the day had 392 runs standing to their credit, and had still six wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 August, page 6)

Essex were in a desperate position when stumps were drawn at Leyton on Thursday night, for only a remarkable performance could save them from defeat. So far the game has gone all in favour of Warwickshire, and for the advantage which they had secured at the close of the day they were indebted to their superior play in all departments of the game.

On Thursday, after winning the toss, they remained at the wickets the whole of the day, scoring 392 runs for the loss of only four wickets, and yesterday when they completed their innings for 505, as the result of seven and a quarter hours' batting, to the brothers Quaife belonged the chief credit for the performance. Their partnership for the fifth wicket yielded 268 runs, made in three hours and three-quarters. W Quaife, who was eventually run out, made 115 by excellent cricket, the only chance he offered being a very hard return to Mr McGahey when he had made 78.

Mr Bainbridge forced the game very resolutely while he was in, but none of the others did much, and when the innings finally closed W G Quaife carried out his bat for 223. In all respects it was a great innings, and it has the distinction of being the biggest score W G Quaife has ever made in first-class cricket. During his long stay he hardly made a bad stroke.

It was a perfect wicket when Essex went in for 20 minutes' batting before luncheon, but Carpenter was bowled off his pads when only a single had been scored. Mr Lucas had his wicket wrecked by a ball from Field, which he made no effort to play, and when Mr Fane was dismissed three wickets were down for a paltry half-dozen runs.

From that disastrous start they were never able to recover. Their batting was feeble in the extreme; indeed it was without one redeeming feature. Half the side were out for 54 runs, and in two hours and 20 minutes Essex were dismissed for a miserable total of 111 runs. Hargreave and Field bowled exceedingly well, but Essex ought to have made many more runs.

On going in for the second time, 394 runs behind the Warwickshire total, they ran up 91 runs for the loss of Mr Fane's wicket, but the close of the day found them far behind the Warwickshire total.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 August, page 10)

By an interesting finish at Leyton Essex achieved a fine feat in saving the game when a crushing defeat had appeared to be inevitable. On Thursday and Friday Warwickshire had outplayed their opponents, and on Saturday, after having been compelled to follow on 394 behind, Essex returned to the wicket still requiring 303 to save an innings reserve with nine wickets to fall. They had nothing left to hope for but a draw, and to effect that they had to stay in the whole day; but when at lunch time five of the side were out and they were still 159 runs behind, the task appeared impossible.

During the morning Mr Perrin played a dashing game, for in the course of his 125, which he made in two hours and a half, he frequently hit the ball clean over the heads of the spectators. He took many risks, however, and ought to have been caught at mid-off when 76, and in the deep field a run later, but both catches were misjudged. It was a great innings. Mr McGahey and Carpenter played much more steadily; the former was in two hours and a quarter for his 46 and Carpenter two hours and five minutes for his 59.

When the third wicket fell Essex had scored 218; but for the addition of seven runs both Mr Lucas and Mr Kortright were dismissed, and when Essex lost Mr McGahey at 265 there remained small prospect that they would succeed in saving the game. Then it was that Mr Garrett and Russell came together, and for two hours afterwards all the efforts of the Warwickshire bowlers to effect their separation proved in vain. Mr Garrett gave a remarkable display of patient batting, while Russell played extremely well; and when the professional was at last caught in the slips, 108 runs having been scored during the partnership, Essex with still three wickets to fall required 21 runs to avert the innings defeat.

Reeves was bowled for the addition of a single, and with 50 minutes still remaining for play Tomlin went out to join Mr Garrett. The subsequent cricket was keenly interesting, for despite their long and tiring day the Warwickshire fielding never became slack, and towards the end they made a great effort to win the match. They could not get another wicket, however, and when at half-past 6 Essex succeeded in hitting off the arrears the match was abandoned as a draw.

In saving the match Essex credited themselves with a performance of which they may be proud, but for the result they owe a great deal to Mr Garrett. The young amateur, who promises to be of great value to the county, went in at a moment when Essex were practically a beaten side, and only his remarkable innings of three hours and 50 minutes enabled Essex to save the game. During his long stay at the wicket he never allowed himself to be lured into taking any kind of liberty with the bowling, but from the start until the match was saved he displayed remarkable steadiness.

16 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5554.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 August, page 8)

Gloucestershire having at Bradford a few weeks ago lost to Yorkshire by 40 runs, special interest centred in the return match between the two counties at Cheltenham yesterday, the general impression being that Yorkshire, if they succeeded in holding their own against Gloucestershire, could be reasonably confident of completing their county championship programme without having to admit defeat, their only subsequent fixtures being with Somerset and Sussex.

Any anxiety which the northern team might have felt must have been quite dispelled yesterday, for such fine cricket did they play that at the drawing of stumps they were 102 runs ahead with four wickets to fall. In a couple of hours they got Gloucestershire out for 101, and then they scored 203 for the loss of six wickets.

Again they were indebted to Rhodes and Haigh for dismissing their opponents, the only batsmen who showed any real ability to contend against these two bowlers being the old Oxonian, Mr R W Rice, who carried his bat right through the innings.

The feature of the Yorkshire batting was the fine cricket of Lord Hawke, who celebrated his 40th birthday by hitting up 79 out of 130. The Yorkshire captain cut and drove especially well, his hits including 12 fours. Tunnicliffe helped him to put on 54, and then with Brown in 76 were added for the second wicket. Later on Jessop bowled with fine effect.

Fine weather prevented, and about 4,000 spectators visited the college ground. Yorkshire have the same team that beat Middlesex, while Gloucestershire are playing Goodwin instead of Champain.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 August, page 6)

Yorkshire finished off their return match with Gloucestershire in brilliant style at Cheltenham yesterday, winning shortly after half-past 4 by an innings and 44 runs. Their success had been rendered practically certain on Thursday, when, after dismissing the western county for 101, they had scored 203 for the loss of six batsmen, leaving off 102 ahead with four wickets in hand.

Yesterday they went on batting for an hour and 20 minutes longer and, thousand to Hirst, raised their total to 305. Fortunately for the visitors, the weather proved dull at first, for there had been a heavy dew during the night. Hirst gave a brilliant display of batting, increasing his overnight score of 31 to 108. He was at the wickets only two hours and, though hitting so hard, he gave nothing like a chance. He made most of his runs by hard drives, his hits including 18 fours, three threes and eight twos. Rhodes helped to put on 57, and Hunter, after being missed directly he came in, stayed while 41 runs were added for the last wicket. In an innings of 305 Mr Jessop did very well to take five wickets for 67 runs.

Entering upon their second innings, Gloucestershire found themselves 204 runs in arrears and, unluckily for them, the sun beginning to shine, the wicket became rather difficult. Wrathall played with commendable care and Mr [Brown] made his runs in good form; but for all that Rhodes and Haigh got down seven wickets for 95. Richardson and Mr F N Townsend then hit away for three-quarters of an hour and added 55 runs, but, the innings closing for 160, Gloucestershire had to admit their first single innings defeat of the season. Bowling again with great skill, Rhodes made his record for the match 13 wickets for 103 runs.

16 August: HAMPSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5555.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 August, page 8)

Everything favoured the batsmen at Bournemouth yesterday, the weather being splendid and the pitch so good that the ball always came along at a nice easy pace and never got up more than stump high.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 August, page 6)

In all probability the second match of the Bournemouth week will, like the first, end in a defeat for Hampshire. Going in yesterday against the Worcestershire total of 387, they were dismissed in three hours for 166, of which number three batsmen - Webb, Mr Sprot and Mr Steele - scored between them 145.

Webb and Mr Sprot put on 49 runs for the fourth wicket, and when seven men were out for 112 Mr Steele helped Mr Sprot to score 46 for the eighth wicket. Webb, who made 54, took half an hour to obtain his last two runs, being in altogether for nearly two hours. Sprot was batting an hour and three-quarters for his 62 - an excellent innings, which included nine fours.

Worcestershire, who held a lead of 221 runs, preferred to go in again instead of making Hampshire follow on, and in a couple of hours they made 190 for five wickets. At the drawing of stumps they closed their innings, so that Hampshire will have to go in to-day with 412 required to win.

There was some cautious cricket at the start of the Worcestershire second innings, Mr Bromley-Martin and Bowley taking 50 minutes to score 39, but after Mr Bromley-Martin's departure Mr H K Foster set an example of hard hitting, and his vigorous methods were followed for the rest of the afternoon. He and Bowley added 56 runs in 20 minutes, while later on Mr R E Foster and Arnold scored 42 in less than half an hour.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 August, page 10)

Hampshire were beaten at Bournemouth on Saturday by 151 runs. The best feature of the day was the batting of Mr Newton and Mr Hill, who put on 97 for the second wicket.

16 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5556.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 August, page 8)

At Trent-bridge yesterday the Notts bowlers met with such severe punishment from the Middlesex batsmen that runs came at the rate of nearly 88 an hour all day, the metropolitan county at the drawing of stumps having scored 468 runs for the loss of seven wickets.

Mr Warner and Mr James Douglas opened the innings by putting on 99 for the first wicket, and with Mr Warner and Mr Wells together 132 were added in an hour and a half. Batting in free style for three hours, Mr Warner gave only one chance - at 72 - and he hit 12 fours, 13 threes and ten twos. Wells played splendid cricket, and he appeared to be certain of his 100 when dismissed by a brilliant one-handed catch at point.

The hardest hitting of the day, however, was that of Trott, who put together 74 out of 108 in less than an hour. Included in his score were a 6 - the first drive out of Trent-bridge since 1893 - and 11 fours. Mr Robertson made his 62 in nice style, he and his brother Harrovian, Mr Bevington, filling the places of MacGregor and Nicholls in the Middlesex team. Notts were at full strength except for the absence of Mr Goodacre. Charming weather prevented and there was a good company of spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 August, page 6)

At Trent Bridge, yesterday, Middlesex again outplayed Notts, and left off last evening with every prospect of gaining an easy victory, the Midland county with two good wickets down still wanting 294 runs to escape being beaten in a single innings.

On the previous day the Nottingham bowling had been so severely punished that the Middlesex score stood at 468 for the loss of seven wickets. The visitors' innings was finished off in half an hour yesterday for the addition of 30 runs. Both John Gunn and Wass failed badly in bowling, but Dench took the last five wickets at a cost of only 52 runs.

Notts going in to bat collapsed so completely that in two hours and 20 minutes Mr Wells and Trott had dismissed them for 104. A heavy dew overnight had slightly affected the pitch, and Mr Wells certainly bowled with marked skill, but the display of Notts was quite unworthy of a side including so many capable batsmen. William Gunn and Shrewsbury put on 39 for the second wicket, and Mr Groves played carefully for an hour, but no one else did anything of note. Mr Wells took six wickets for 37 runs.

When Notts followed on with 394 runs in arrears, William Gunn and Shrewsbury offered a stubborn opposition to the Middlesex bowling for more than an hour and a half. Runs being of no importance, they ran no risks, but waited most judiciously for their chances of scoring. Not until 20 minutes past 6 were they separated, but then Gunn, abandoning the careful game he had followed for so long, jumped in to drive and lost his wicket. The two batsmen had added 61 runs. Shrewsbury was still not out at the call of time.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 August, page 10)

Nottinghamshire were in such a bad position at Trent Bridge on Friday evening that little interest could be felt in the finish of the match, and only a few people visited the ground on Saturday.

Shrewsbury, who in all was batting for three hours, increased his not-out score of 45 to 55. Iremonger played patient cricket for two hours for 40, and towards the finish Carlin hit vigorously. Middlesex won by an innings and 170 runs. Trott again bowled successfully.

16 August: SOMERSET v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5557.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 August, page 8)

Considerable progress was made with the match, at Taunton, yesterday, 17 wickets going down for an aggregate of 392 runs. Kent secured a great advantage, the home side being all out in an hour and 50 minutes for 109 and Kent scoring 283 for the loss of seven wickets. Blythe kept a fine length and had the record of four for 35.

That there was nothing in the condition of the wicket to account for the breakdown of the Somerset batting was made evident when Kent went in. In 45 minutes Mr Burnup and Mr Stewart scored 67, while Mr Baker, who hit six fours in his 27, helped to add 46 in 25 minutes. The best batting for Kent was that by Mr Mason, whose 66 in just over an hour included 11 fours.

After Mr Blaker left, at 220, Mr Perkins and Huish, each of whom was missed, hit up 63 runs in 40 minutes without being separated. Kent, it will be seen, are giving a trial to Mr E W Dillon, the Rugby captain.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 August, page 6)

At Taunton yesterday Kent defeated Somerset by an innings and three runs, the match coming to an end shortly after half-past 5. The day's cricket was of an interesting character. Some fine batting was seen, while one of the features of the afternoon's play was the effective bowling of Mr Mason.

Kent began the day in a very favourable position, holding a lead of 174 runs with three wickets still to fall. Mr Perkins and Huish, who on Thursday had added 63 runs in 40 minutes, were not separated until the total stood at 360, their partnership for the eighth wicket having put on 140 runs in 85 minutes. Huish, who made his highest score in important cricket, was the first to leave, and though he gave one chance and made several faulty strokes his batting, on the whole, was excellent. He hit one six and 11 fours. Mr Perkins, who was ninth out at 366, was at the wicket an hour and 35 minutes, his play throughout being vigorous. He made most of his runs but cutting and drives on the on side, his figures including a five and eight fours.

Going in against a total of 292, Somerset started badly, losing Robson with the score at nine, but Mr Palaret and Lewis by free cricket sent up 50 in 18 minutes before luncheon. On the game being resumed Mr Palaret was missed before another run had been made, and so costly did this mistake prove that the partnership for the second wicket produced 100 runs. At this point Mr Mason became irresistible, and in 50 minutes six more wickets went down for 39 runs, the eighth batsman being out at 148.

It then looked as though the match would soon be over, but Gill and Tyler offered such a vigorous resistance that in 90 minutes they added 135 runs before Tyler was bowled. Gill, who was batting nearly two hours, was missed by Huish when 24, while Tyler was let off by Alec Hearne at slip with his score at 19. Mr Palaret batted in his best style for an hour and three-quarters, and only gave the chance already referred to. He hit a five and eight fours.

16 August: SURREY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5558.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 August, page 8)

The annual contest between Lancashire and Surrey, begun at Kennington Oval yesterday, furnished, as usual, some extremely interesting cricket. Obtaining the first use of an apparently good wicket, the home side made a most disastrous start, as Mold bowled with such excellent effect that Abel, Brockwell and Hayes were all disposed of for the small total of 34 runs. Lockwood's wicket was also captured by the same bowler at 72, but at that point the tide of luck turned in favour of Surrey and, thanks mainly to careful displays by Hayward and Mr D L A Jephson, and a brilliant exposition of hitting by Mr V F S Crawford, the southern team's total reached 398 for the loss of nine wickets at the close of the day.

Mold seemed to beat the batsmen by his pace as much as anything else. Hayward and Lockwood caused the first changes in the bowling during a partnership that realized 39 runs, but it was not until the arrival of Crawford, at the fall of the fifth wicket, that the attack was punished at all severely. The amateur joined Hayward at 110, and the partnership added 88 runs in 55 minutes, the new-comer scoring at much the quicker rate. Hayward was eventually caught and bowled by Cuttell after batting two and a half hours for 55 runs. It was a very patient innings which might have been terminated when 29, had Mold accepted a simple-looking chance at mid-on.

Mr Crawford with Mr D L A Jephson as a partner continued his brilliant batting until the total reached 243, when Briggs caught him at cover-point off Sharp, a position in which the same fielder had given the batsman a "life" when 91. Mr Crawford was batting an hour and 10 minutes only, and scored 101 runs out of a total of 142 added during the time. He had two sixes to his credit and 15 fours.

Subsequently Mr Jephson and Lees played steadily for an hour and a quarter, augmenting the total by 82 in that period, while with the Surrey captain in association with Stedman another 66 runs were hit up in about 40 minutes, and the batsmen were still together at the close of the day's play. Mr Jephson completed an individual three figures, after being at the wickets two and a half hours, just before the time for drawing stumps. His display was noted for patience rather than brilliancy, and he was let off in the slips by Mr MacLaren off Sharp when 23.

The outfielding of Lancashire was extremely smart, Tyldesley being prominent for smart, clean work. As the match now stands Surrey are in an enviable position, having scored 398 runs and still having a wicket to fall. It was pleasant weather throughout the day, and the attendance of spectators was a large one, 8,334 paying at the turnstiles.

Surrey make only one change from the eleven that beat Hampshire - namely, Abel for Mr A C von Ernsthause - while the Lancashire team contained Smith and Hallows in the places of Pennington and Webb, who appeared against Sussex at Hastings.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 August, page 6)

The fine batting of Mr Crawford and Mr Jephson late in the innings on Thursday had given Surrey such a commanding position that yesterday the whole interest in the match was concentrated in the capacity of Lancashire to play an up-hill game. Although the attention of the public in the Surrey innings had more or less evaporated, interest was shown as to the issue of the partnership between Mr Jephson and Stedman. It was the last Surrey wicket and the batsmen had become associated at 332.

The bowling of the Lancastrians was open to criticism on account of its changes. Mr Jephson and Stedman hit so hard and well that in 75 minutes the score was increased for the tenth wicket by 131 runs. Mr Jephson, the Surrey captain, played a hard game. He drove with admirable power and his strokes just out of reach of cover-point was particularly good. Mr Jephson has distinguished himself in his first year of captaincy of the Surrey eleven by many fine batting performances, and his 138 yesterday will rank among his best. Next to him Mr Crawford, who possesses a natural facility for hitting, was mostly responsible for the commanding position of Surrey. Mr Jephson scored very well all round the wicket and, if at times his cricket was slow, he hit hard and successfully when his chances of assistance were few. Seventeen fours were among his figures.

Lancashire's innings extended from half-past midday until the time for drawing of stumps - that is, excluding a long interval of about an hour for a thunderstorm and rain. Hallows, with his left hand forcing, came off very well on the off-side; but far and away the best cricket of the side was that by Mr A C MacLaren. The Lancashire captain was at his best, although playing an up-hill game; his driving and his play on the leg-side were good, and there must have been a general regret among the

large body of spectators when at last he was deceived in the pace of a ball from Lees and was caught in the slips.

The Surrey men fielded and bowled excellently; but there are yet many who think that Lees, who bowled so well yesterday, is given far too few opportunities of distinguishing himself. Lancashire finished the day with arrears of 246 on the innings.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 August, page 10)

The Surrey eleven beat Lancashire at the Oval, on Saturday, by an innings and 99 runs. Surrey have not played better this season than they did in this match. Lockwood, Lees and Brockwell all bowled excellently, and in fielding on Saturday the Surrey men were quite at the top of their form. Holland and Hayward in the slips, Lockwood at point, Mr Crawford at third man and Abel at cover-point all made fine catches.

Lancashire's second innings was over by half-past 3. the north countrymen never gave the impression that they would save the match, so completely did Surrey seem to have out-played them. The innings of Mr MacLaren was interesting to watch, although he made only [29]. He was caught in the slips from a ball of which he seemed never to get the sight. Before this, however, he made some hard off-drives, and on the leg side his strokes were strong and free. Brockwell's bowling in the last hour was very effective.

THE AVERAGES

We give below the chief averages brought up to date: -

BATTING

	Innings	Total runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
K S Ranjitsinhji	33	2538	275	4	87.51
Mr C B Fry	33	1948	229	3	64.93
Abel	36	1972	221	3	59.75
Hayward	45	2377	193	4	57.97
Mr R E Foster	30	1608	171	2	57.42
Mr J R Mason	29	1435	147	2	53.14
William Quaife	34	1304	223*	8	50.15
Kinneir	28	1009	156	7	48.04
Hirst	42	1696	165	6	47.11
Mr P F Warner	29	1243	170	0	42.86
Dr W G Grace	22	882	110*	1	42.00
Mr T L Taylor	34	1177	147	5	40.58
Mr D L A Jephson	44	1371	138*	10	40.32
W Gunn	24	842	110	3	40.09
Carpenter	42	1618	151	1	39.46
Mr G L Jessop	43	1574	179	2	38.39
Mr C J B Wood	44	1510	116*	4	37.75
Storer	35	1200	176	3	37.50
Mr C McGahey	34	1190	184	2	37.18
Shrewsbury	24	788	128	2	35.81
Albert Ward	44	1383	111*	5	35.46
Mr C L Townsend	45	1417	141	5	35.42
Hayes	33	1129	175	1	35.28
Mr L C H Palairret	23	810	161	0	35.21
Tunnicliffe	43	1368	158	4	35.07
Lockwood	38	1249	165	2	34.69
Mr B J T Bosanquet	27	901	139	1	34.65
Mr P Perrin	30	1004	205	1	34.62
Mr L G Wright	31	995	170	2	34.31
Mr A C MacLaren	41	1296	108	3	34.10
Mr G MacGregor	22	472	76*	8	33.71
Killick	40	1240	127	3	33.51
Tyldesley	42	1268	142	4	33.36

J T Brown, sen.	39	1185	163	3	32.91
Mr A P Lucas	20	616	95	1	32.42
Walter Quaife	20	578	115	2	32.11
Mr C J Burnup	36	1155	200	0	32.06
Mr H K Foster	41	1190	113	1	29.75
Denton	44	1180	96	4	29.50
Mr V F S Crawford	39	1022	122*	4	29.20

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	1224.3	382	2700	216	12.50
Mold	538	149	1298	93	13.95
Haigh	847.5	240	2056	147	13.98
Mead	949.3	310	2121	118	17.97
Mr J R Mason	508.1	154	1364	74	18.43
Briggs	1013.3	371	1929	102	18.91
Mr C J Kortright	384	78	1234	65	18.98
Cuttell	962.4	339	2006	105	19.10
Wass	684.1	168	1855	97	19.12
Lockwood	739.2	174	2219	114	19.46
Blythe	644.5	170	1666	85	19.60
J Gunn	738.4	203	2035	101	20.14
Mr G L Jessop	576.4	167	1468	71	20.67
J T Hearne	970.3	280	2577	122	21.12
A E Trott	1234.5	304	3877	183	21.18
G E Wilson	796.2	158	2274	107	21.25
Lees	591	146	1592	74	21.51
F W Tate	958.4	282	2521	113	22.30
Richardson	833	198	2424	103	23.53
Bland	859	201	2456	104	23.60
Mr W M Bradley	854.1	160	1977	80	24.71

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are now as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	26	15	0	11	15
Lancashire	28	13	2	11	11
Surrey	24	9	4	11	5
Notts	16	6	3	7	3
Kent	18	6	3	9	3
Sussex	20	3	2	15	1
Warwickshire	18	3	2	13	1
Middlesex	18	7	7	4	0
Gloucestershire	19	6	7	6	-1
Essex	20	4	5	11	-1
Derbyshire	15	2	5	8	-3
Worcestershire	19	3	8	8	-6
Somerset	14	3	10	1	-7
Leicestershire	18	1	9	8	-8
Hampshire	19	0	14	5	-14

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 champion county."

WARWICKSHIRE

The Warwickshire eleven finished their county championship season on Saturday. Although the record of the side shows only three wins in 18 matches and there was a great preponderance of drawn games, the cricket of the team generally has been more interesting than in some other years. Thirteen matches were unfinished and two were lost.

[Note: batting and bowling averages follow. All county averages can be found via:
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Events/0/County_Championship_1900/Team_Averages.html]

20 August: DERBYSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5560.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 August, page 10)

Notts started very badly against Derbyshire at Chesterfield yesterday, four wickets going down for 22 runs and the fifth falling at 41; but they managed in the end to put together a score of 249, and when the day's play was over they had all the best of the position.

The change in their fortunes began with the partnership of 73 by Mr Goodacre and Iremonger. After the interval Carlin helped Mr Goodacre to make another stand, the amateur being at last caught at the wicket for a somewhat lucky innings of 67. Carlin, who, like Mr Goodacre, had a couple of escapes, hit vigorously for 63 and carried out his bat, Wass assisting him to score 53 for the last wicket.

When Derbyshire went in Bagshaw and Mr Wright were lost for a single, and though Storer and Chatterton stayed together for an hour and scored 85, the side were 142 behind with only three wickets in hand when stumps were drawn.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 August, page 5)

The second day's cricket in this match at Chesterfield was full of interest, and towards the close there was promise of a good finish, Derbyshire, with eight wickets in hand, requiring 227 to win. The home team might have been in a much better position if they had held the catches offered.

Derbyshire's first innings, in which seven wickets had fallen for 107, was finished off for the addition of 13 runs, and Notts went in a second time with a lead of 129 runs. As on Monday, they started very badly, four wickets being lost for 40 and the fifth falling at 68, but the partnership of John Gunn and Iremonger brought about a great improvement. These batsmen scored 91 together for the sixth wicket, but, though playing pluckily, they were decidedly favoured by fortune, Gunn being let off before he had made a run and Iremonger having two escapes in the middle of his innings. Gunn's chief strokes were six fours, five threes and five twos, whilst Iremonger, who was batting for an hour and three-quarters, hit 11 fours and three twos.

Derbyshire went in again at half-past 4, and Mr Wright and Bagshaw began so well that 59 runs were scored before the amateur was caught at slip. Storer was out first ball, but Chatterton stayed with Bagshaw, and when bad light caused stumps to be drawn at ten minutes past 6, the score was 101 for two wickets.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 August, page 10)

Nottinghamshire easily won their match at Chesterfield yesterday by 165 runs. Derbyshire never had much chance on the soft pitch; but Chatterton played a very good innings.

20 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5561.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 August, page 10)

Essex entered upon their return match with Gloucestershire at Cheltenham yesterday under serious disadvantages, Mr Lucas, Mr Kortright and Mr McGahey being away. The last-named made the journey west, but he became so ill that he had to return to London, and [A] E Russell, who was telegraphed for, did not arrive in time to take part in the day's cricket.

In these circumstances Essex did very well to put together a total of 248. They owed nearly everything to Mr Perrin, who, going in first wicket down with the score at 19, carried his bat through the innings. Though of great value to the side his display was by no means good. When 39 he might have been caught in the long field had not Wrathall lost sight of the ball in the trees. At 56 he was badly missed by Mr Brown at mid-off, and at 139 Mr Goodwin let him off at long-on. In addition, he made several faulty strokes behind the wicket, and at 113 gave a difficult return chance to Mr Fergus.

There were, however, many points of merit about Mr Perrin's batting, his driving being for the most part hard and well timed. He was at the wickets for three hours and a half, and hit 15 fours, six threes and eight twos. He found his most useful partner in Reeves, who stayed for more than an hour and helped to add 74 for the seventh wicket. Gloucestershire, who are playing the same side as they had against Yorkshire, had half an hour's batting and lost Wrathall for 19.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 August, page 5)

Mainly through a fine innings by Mr C L Townsend and some admirable batting late in the afternoon by Mr Jessop, the Gloucestershire eleven at the drawing of stumps last evening were in a very strong position. Overnight the home side had scored 19 runs for the loss of one batsman and yesterday they stayed at the wicket until a quarter-past 4, raising their total to 285.

The chief honours rested with Mr Townsend and Mr Rice, who carried the score to 168 before they were separated. Altogether they put on 154 runs, their partnership lasting just over two hours and a quarter. Mr Rice hit eight fours, two threes and seven twos. Going in first wicket down, with the score at 14, Mr Townsend was out fifth at 230, having been batting three hours and a quarter. He did not give the slightest chance and was only once or twice in any difficulty. The great proportion of his runs were made by clean, hard cuts and off-drives, his strokes on the leg-side being very few. Included in his 123 - his second hundred for the county in nine days - were a five, sixteen fours, three threes and nine twos. With the exception of Mr Brown, all the other batsmen failed, Mead bowling with marked success and having the excellent record of seven wickets for 70 runs.

Going in a second time, Essex fared so badly that four of their best batsmen had been dismissed before the arrears of 37 were cleared off, and half the side were out for 47. Carpenter and Buckingham improved matters somewhat, but at the finish Essex with five wickets down were only 37 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 August, page 10)

There was a good finish to the match at Cheltenham yesterday, Gloucestershire after a hard struggle defeating Essex by only two wickets. The overnight position of the game had pointed to a much easier victory, Essex with five wickets down in their second innings being only 37 runs ahead.

Rain fell during the night and the day turned out showery, and play was several times interrupted. With the exception of Buckingham, the remaining Essex batsmen offered a feeble resistance, and as the result of about 70 minutes' cricket only 44 runs were added. Mr Jessop again bowled with great success and came out with the splendid record of eight wickets for 29 runs.

Gloucestershire were set 82 to win, and with the pitch affected by rain the task proved much more difficult than was expected. The order of going in was changed, and so disastrous were the consequences that four wickets fell for 40 runs, while with seven men out the score had reached only 65. Mr Fergus, however, stayed while 11 runs were put on and, after a period of excitement, Mr C L Townsend made the winning hit shortly after half-past 5. Gloucestershire were much indebted to Mr Townsend, who acted with great judgment when matters had become critical.

20 August: KENT v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5562.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 August, page 10)

There was some curiously uneven batting at Tonbridge yesterday, and in the course of the day the game underwent several astonishing changes. To begin with, Kent looked like making poor use of the advantage of going in on a good pitch. Mr Stewart was out to the first ball of the match and the score when the third wicket fell stood at 12. Then there came an improvement in the fortunes of the batting side and the next three wickets produced 299 runs.

Mr Mason and Mr Burnup scored 133 together in an hour and a quarter, Mr Burnup, who had opened the innings, playing faultless cricket for his 61. After he left, Mr Mason and Mr Dillon added 99 runs, the Kent captain being fifth out at 244, for a grand innings of 137. He was missed off Humphreys when he had made 54, but apart from this he gave no chance. He obtained his big score in two hours and a quarter, hitting 19 fours, six threes and nine twos. Mr Dillon and Mr Blaker put on 67 runs, Mr Dillon showing excellent form for 59 and Mr Blaker hitting up 52 in as many minutes.

Hampshire lost three batsmen for 43 runs, but Webb and Barton in the last 35 minutes added 49 without being separated. The side left off 240 in arrear with seven wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 August, page 5)

The rate of scoring at the Angel ground yesterday was very rapid, 513 runs being obtained in four hours and 50 minutes. Hampshire, who had lost three wickets for 92, finished their innings for 238, Mr Steele and Wootton during their partnership for the eighth wicket scoring 96. Blythe began the day by taking four wickets for 12 runs, and Mr Bradley at the close of the innings secured three wickets for 11.

When Kent went in a second time some brilliant batting was seen, 288 being scored for seven wickets in two hours and 20 minutes before the closure rule was put in force. Mr Burnup and Mr Stewart made 38 in 15 minutes before luncheon, and afterwards Mr Burnup and Mr Baker added 77. Mr Baker hit 12 fours in his 73, and Mr Dillon played a splendid innings of 90, which included 16 fours.

Mr Mason's action in closing the innings when Kent were by no means safe was bold, in view of the pace at which runs had been made, but the light was defective when Hampshire were put in and, if a catch had not been dropped, things would have turned out even better for Kent than they did. As it was, Hampshire, who had 40 minutes' batting, lost two wickets for 79 runs, and now require 304 to win with eight wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 August, page 10)

Hampshire, with eight wickets to fall, want 304 runs to win when play was started at Tonbridge yesterday, and they were soon in a hopeless position, four more wickets being lost in carrying the overnight score of 79 to 105. A good resistance was offered by Webb and Mr Newton, who scored 85 runs for the sixth wicket. Mr Washington afterwards batted well, but the innings was all over at 20 minutes fast three, Kent winning by 111 runs.

20 August: LONDON COUNTY v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5563.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 August, page 10)

At the Crystal Palace yesterday, in the opening day's play, the visiting county were dismissed for a much smaller total than at one time appeared probable, the last five wickets falling very cheaply.

The chief honours rested with Lilley, who made 88 in capital form, while later on Mr Fishwick hit out vigorously. Braund was the best of the home bowlers, and a word of praise is due to Mr Brooks for his excellent wicket-keeping. London had an hour's batting, during which time Dr Grace and Mr Murdoch scored 83 in a manner worthy of their best days.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 August, page 5)

At the Crystal Palace last evening the visitors possessed a lead in the second innings of 75 runs with nine wickets left. The home side increased their overnight score to 301, the chief contributors to the total being Dr Grace and his son, and Mr Murdoch and Mr Walker.

Dr Grace appeared to be in for a big score before he played a ball hard into his wicket. His son had a much less cramped style than formerly and his 76 was one of the best innings he has ever played. Mr Murdoch did not seem so much at home as he was on the first day. Perhaps the best innings was that by Mr Walker, who has been tried, and who merits a further trial, for Surrey. He has a variety of strokes and his hitting is clean and well timed.

When Warwickshire went in for the second time Diver gave a fine exhibition of free hitting before he was caught at the wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 August, page 10)

Time alone deprived the visiting county from a victory over Dr Grace's team. Play at the Crystal Palace yesterday was delayed somewhat by the showers of the morning, and it was after half-past 12 before the game was started in earnest.

Lilley and Kinneir continued to bat in good style, and the former made 68 in spirited fashion. Kinneir, who scored 88, was extremely fortunate, for, though he gave no actual chance, he was time after time beaten by both Braund and Smith. Mr Fishwick, who had batted so well in the first innings, was out before he could settle down to a good catch in the deep field. Having set London County 236 to make in less than two hours Warwickshire closed their innings.

Dr Grace and Mr Murdoch were again the first batsmen, but Field got the former and Braund, who followed him, caught behind the wicket. When the third wicket fell for 42 the visitors looked like winning, but a useful stand by Sewell and Mr Gilman saved London County from defeat, for at the close they still wanted 118 runs with five wickets in hand.

20 August: MIDDLESEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5564.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 August, page 10)

Had the Middlesex men held the catches which were offered them, Surrey must have fared very badly at Lord's yesterday. They won the toss and started batting on an excellent wicket; but Brockwell, who had gone in with Abel, was missed by Mr MacGregor at the wicket, when he had scored a single, and as the result the two made 65 for the first wicket.

Abel was given a life by Trott in the slips when he had scored 24. Hayes remained with Abel until the total reached 95, and then came Lockwood with a very lucky innings, for he was missed by Mr Williams at mid-on before he had scored; again, by Mr Warner at long-off when 22, while when his individual total was 31 Mr Bosanquet let him off at mid-off. These mistakes were very expensive to Middlesex, for when at last Lockwood was bowled by Trott, the score was 156 for three wickets.

Hayward was Abel's next partner, and he ought to have been stumped by Mr MacGregor with his score at six. Profiting by this piece of good fortune he remained in for an hour and 20 minutes, and during that time 80 runs were scored for the wicket. He was caught at cover-point with the total at 236, Abel, who had played a sound and steady innings having just previously completed his 100 after batting for two hours and three-quarters. Abel was eventually out to a good catch low down by Trott at slip, after batting for nearly four hours for his 135, which included 13 fours, five threes and 14 twos.

With 269 runs on the board and half their wickets in hand it appeared probable that Surrey would have run up a very big score, but after Abel's dismissal a change came over the game, for Hearne, going on again at 231, bowled so well that the last five Surrey wickets were captured for the addition of 34 runs. Mr Crawford was missed by Mr R N Douglas soon after his arrival at long-on; but that fieldsman

atoned for the mistake by catching Holland in the same position a few minutes later. Mr Jephson was bowled in hitting out at Hearne; Lees was out leg-before-wicket; Richardson was clean bowled, and then Mr MacGregor caught Stedman at the wicket, and Surrey, despite all their good fortune, were out for 303. For this result Hearne was chiefly responsible, and how effectively he bowled will be apparent from the fact that on going on at the pavilion end for the last time he sent down 16 overs and five balls and captured six wickets for 27 runs.

Only 20 minutes remained for play when Middlesex went in. It may be noted that Abel's innings was his tenth three-figure score this season and that it completed his 2,000 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 August, page 5)

There was some interesting cricket at Lord's yesterday, and the fluctuations of the play were thoroughly appreciated by the large company of spectators. During the first stage of the match the visiting county had scored 303 runs, and Middlesex, through the agency of Messrs MacGregor and Wells, had obtained 12 runs without loss.

Yesterday morning things went well for the batting side, as 118 runs were on the board when the second wicket fell. Subsequently some good batsmen were disposed of very cheaply, but thanks to a fine stand for the eighth wicket by Mr Warner and Rawlin, which realized 62 runs in three-quarters of an hour, Middlesex eventually made 274.

The chief contributor to this score was Mr Warner, who went in first wicket down at 79 and was ninth out at 271 for exactly a hundred. He had a little luck, but deserved credit for the style in which he faced Richardson at a period of the day when the Surrey fast bowler was beating most batsmen. Next to Mr Warner came Mr Wells, who put together 62 in just over two hours. Mr Jephson went on when the other Surrey bowlers were failing, and took the last three wickets in two overs and one ball for nine runs.

With a lead of 29 on the first innings, Surrey went in a second time and played for just under an hour and 25 minutes before the end of the day. A few minutes before the time for drawing stumps Trott and Hearne had dismissed nine batsmen for the small total of 64 runs. Hayward was absent unwell and therefore Surrey's innings was concluded, leaving Middlesex to score 94 runs to win today. Trott took five wickets for 27 runs and Hearne three for 33. Although Trott only scored two runs in the Middlesex innings he completed his 1,000 runs in first-class cricket for this season.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 August, page 10)

At Lord's yesterday, for the second time this season, Middlesex beat Surrey. On Tuesday after Surrey's collapse they were left in a hopeless position, and yesterday Middlesex entered on their last innings requiring only 94 runs to win the game.

Mr Warner and Mr J Douglas speedily put the issue beyond all doubt, for by dashing cricket they hit off 50 of the number in the course of the opening half-hour's play, and 63 runs were on the board when Mr J Douglas was caught by Stedman standing back to Richardson. Mr R N Douglas was Mr Warner's next partner, and the two scored steadily, though they frequently found Mr Jephson's lobs puzzling. Mr Warner once drove Mr Jephson to the pavilion rails, but in attempting to repeat the stroke he was easily stumped. Middlesex sustained no further loss, for Mr R N Douglas and Mr C Wells soon hit off the runs, and Middlesex won by eight wickets.

20 August: SOMERSET v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5565.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 August, page 10)

Yesterday, at Taunton, Yorkshire dismissed Somerset for 250, and subsequently scored 76 for one wicket, but their play was scarcely worthy of the team for no fewer than four chances were missed. Mr Palairet, Robson, Lewis and Tylecote were all let off, but only in the case of Robson had the Yorkshire men to pay for their blunder.

Mr Palairet played nice cricket at the start, scoring 36 out of the first 44, while after three wickets had fallen for 82 Mr Woods and Robson made the one good stand in the innings, these two batsmen in three-quarters of an hour hitting up 68 runs. Robson, who made the top score of the day, was let off by Haigh when 52, but otherwise the Somerset professional played capital cricket, cutting especially well. He hit ten fours, two threes and five twos.

Mr Woods batted carefully, but except that Mr Newton hit hard towards the finish the rest of the Somerset batting was only of average quality. By far the best bowling for Yorkshire was that of Hirst, whose four wickets cost 83 runs.

Yorkshire had 70 minutes' batting, and left off 174 behind with nine wickets in hand. Tunnicliffe and Lord Hawke started the innings successfully, but the former was not seen to much advantage, and Lord Hawke when 24 was badly missed by Mr Woods at mid-on. In the absence of Mr Ernest Smith, Yorkshire have given a place to Lees Whitehead.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 August, page 5)

Placing themselves quite safe from defeat at Taunton yesterday, Yorkshire made sure of the championship. They cannot now lose to Somerset, and even were they to go down before Sussex at Brighton first honours among the counties would still be theirs. Yesterday they gave a splendid display of batting and, although declaring when they had still two wickets in hand, succeeded in putting together their highest score of the season.

Going in against Somerset's total of 250, they had overnight made 76 for one wicket. Three men were out for 112, but then Mr Taylor and Denton came together and laid the foundation of Yorkshire's big total. A little unsteady at first, the two batsmen settled down to work and added 122 in 70 minutes. Denton, who had not got a run in any one of his three previous innings, played a lively game for an hour and a half, his 75 including 11 fours. Mr Taylor should have been caught at the wicket at four, but afterwards his batting was admirable.

Six wickets having fallen for 256, Wainwright and Haigh became partners, and so brilliantly did they hit that they added 162 in 85 minutes. Haigh's 73 included not only 11 fours, but a hit out of the ground. Wainwright stayed until 491, when he was eighth man out. Apart from a chance at 76, he batted in splendid style for two hours and a half, and in his 109 - his first 100 since May - were 14 fours, three threes and six twos. Whitehead made his 67 in 65 minutes, but should have been out for 52.

Somerset, 268 runs behind, had rather less than an hour's batting, and fared so badly that they left off with 235 in arrear with seven wickets to go down.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 August, page 10)

An hour and a half's cricket at Taunton yesterday brought the match to a close, Yorkshire winning by an innings and 120 runs. There was heavy rain during the night, and a hot sun in the morning made the wicket difficult.

Rhodes bowled with great effect and Somerset were all out for 148. Mr Woods in less than an hour and a half scored 73 out of 115 runs, and Mr Daniell helped him to put off 79 for the fifth wicket, which was the only partnership of any note.

20 August: SUSSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5566.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 August, page 10)

Scoring 145 for Sussex against Leicestershire at Brighton yesterday, Mr C B Fry had the satisfaction of making his aggregate for the present season into 2,093. His innings, moreover, was the ninth hundred he had obtained this summer. It was a splendid piece of batting, lasting rather less than three hours and being quite free from fault, while it ended unluckily, inasmuch as Mr Fry played the ball on to his wicket. It included 17 fours, four threes and 14 twos.

Relf assisted Mr Fry to put on 113 runs for the first wicket, and with Mr P H Latham, the old Cambridge captain, as Mr Fry's partner, 104 were added for the second. Later in the day K S Ranjitsinhji hit in most brilliant style, making 73 out of 84 in 50 minutes by 13 fours, two threes, three twos and nine singles. Killick subsequently batted well and was still not out at the close of the day, when 394 runs had been obtained for the loss of six wickets.

The match, which thus commenced in a manner so favourable to batsmen, was the return to that at Leicester, in which 1,295 were obtained and only 16 wickets went down during the three days. Leicestershire placed their best team in the field, while Sussex played Mr Latham and Mr Gresson for the first time this season, the home side also including J Bean. Delightful weather prevented and there was a large attendance of spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 August, page 5)

Yesterday's cricket at Leicester was in strong contrast to that of Monday, 16 wickets going down for 359 runs, as against six for 394. At the start of the day the Sussex innings was finished off in half an hour, the four outstanding wickets falling for the addition of only 26 runs.

Leicestershire's innings produced some strangely uneven cricket, Mr de Trafford and Mr Wood putting on 97 runs for the first wicket, and Mr Marriott and Whitehead 105 for the fifth, but the last five wickets fell for 21 runs and the visitors were all out for 248. Mr de Trafford, being missed when three and enjoying some luck with several of his strokes, hit up 62 in 50 minutes by 18 strokes, 12 of which were fours. Mr Marriott was at the wickets an hour and 40 minutes in making his 58, and Whitehead's 54 included seven fours. Vine bowling his leg breaks with considerable success, but the chief factor in the dismissal of Leicestershire was the bowling of Tate, who got out six batsmen for 55 runs.

Sussex, instead of making Leicestershire follow on, began their second innings with a lead of 172. Mr Fry failed, but with Relf and Mr Latham doing well, the score at the drawing of stumps had reached 85 for the loss of two batsmen, Sussex leaving off 257 ahead with eight wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 August, page 10)

Rain fell heavily at Brighton on Tuesday night, and by 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon the match between Sussex and the midland county had ended in the defeat of Leicestershire by 210 runs. In the course of the two previous days' cricket Sussex had gained a big advantage, leading by 172 runs on the first innings, and at the second attempt scoring 85 for the loss of two batsmen.

Had the ground remained hard Leicestershire might have expected to save the game, but, under the altered conditions, their position was hopeless. Sunshine and a strong wind had rendered the pitch fit for cricket at 11 o'clock, and in 55 minutes Mr Latham and Killick added 77 runs without being separated. So confident of victory was K S Ranjitsinhji that he then declared, and most thoroughly was his judgment justified.

Leicestershire had 335 runs to get on a slow wicket in four hours and 40 minutes. Three batsmen were dismissed for 15 runs and, though Knight and King added 44, half the side were out for 70 at lunch time. Forty minutes' play afterwards brought the innings to an end for 124 and left Sussex with an easy victory. Mr Latham, it should be stated, played faultless cricket for more than two hours, and hit ten fours, two threes and eight twos.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The competition now stands as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	27	16	0	11	16
Lancashire	26	13	2	11	11
Notts	17	7	3	7	4
Kent	19	7	3	9	4
Sussex	21	4	2	15	2

Surrey	25	9	5	11	4
Warwickshire	18	3	2	13	1
Middlesex	19	8	7	4	1
Gloucestershire	20	7	7	6	0
Essex	21	4	6	11	-2
Worcestershire	19	3	8	8	-5
Derbyshire	16	2	6	8	-4
Somerset	15	3	11	1	-8
Leicestershire	19	1	10	8	-9
Hampshire	20	0	15	5	-15

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 champion county."

23 August: ESSEX v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5567.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 August, page 10)

This match, the proceeds of which are to be set aside for the benefit of Mead, whose bowling has been of great service to Essex for some years, should have begun at Leyton yesterday, but owing to the bad weather not a ball was bowled. Middlesex are represented by the same side that beat Surrey with the exception of Mr C A Beldam for Mr G MacGregor. Essex will make up their team this morning.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 August, page 5)

On a wicket that was still soft from the previous day's rain, Middlesex made a good start on the Essex County Ground at Leyton yesterday. Their score of 284 was mostly the work of Mr Warner and Mr James Douglas.

They began the Middlesex innings and, although the wicket was always helping the bowlers, they scored 120 for the first wicket. Mr Douglas made his 72 in splendid style. Mr Warner, who was out at 158, played splendid cricket. Subsequently wickets fell quickly, and five of the Middlesex men were out for 194. Just then Mead broke down, but Reeves, who took up the bowling, met with great success. He sent down 14 overs and three balls for 41 runs and five wickets. As far as the remainder of the Middlesex innings went, Trott and Mr Robertson carried the score from 208 to 245, and when nine wickets were down for 292 Mr Williams and Rawlin hit up an additional 32 quickly.

Essex had half an hour's batting and scored 22 without loss. There were some 5,000 people present.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 August, page 9)

It was unfortunate for that deserving professional, Walter Mead, that the weather continued unkind throughout his benefit match. The play of Friday was of sufficient extent to see Middlesex all out for 284 and Essex score 22 for one wicket.

There were hopes that a long and interesting day might be seen on Saturday at Leyton, but the gloomy outlook in the morning did not portend good, and play proceeded under dismal conditions, Essex carrying their score to 157 for five wickets. Then a heavy rainstorm drove the players off the field, and in order to get some more cricket later in the day a fresh wicket had to be selected. On this Essex finished their innings for 286.

A fine batting feat was achieved by Mr Kortright, who hit 131 out of 166 during his stay of two hours; his strokes included 20 fours. When the Essex innings was ended, about half-past 5, the game was abandoned as a draw.

23 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5568.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 August, page 10)

At Bristol, yesterday, in the return match between Gloucestershire and Surrey, cricket was possible for only three-quarters of an hour. Some heavy showers in the morning prevented a start being made until ten minutes to 3, and shortly after half-past 3 rain set in so persistently that stumps were drawn for the day at a quarter to 5.

Winning the toss, Gloucestershire took first innings on a slow but easy wicket and fared very well, Wrathall and Mr Rice putting on 53 runs without being separated. The amateur batted with his customary care, but Wrathall, after a narrow escape from being caught at slip when 8, forced the game in capital style.

In the Gloucestershire team are three changes, Mr Champain, Mr de Winton and Langdon taking the places of Mr A G Richardson, Mr Frank Townsend and Mr Goodwin. Surrey are playing Clode and Mr L Walker instead of Richardson and Brockwell, the latter being indisposed. Mr Walker will be remembered as having bowled well for Surrey against the West Indians.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 August, page 5)

After an almost blank day on Thursday, there was a remarkably interesting day's play yesterday at Bristol. Gloucestershire, who had obtained 53 runs without loss, seemed up to a certain point likely to make a big score.

Wrathall was soon dismissed, but with Mr Wright batting steadily and Mr Jessop hitting with some of his old vigour 120 was on the board with only one man out. After Mr Jessop left, however, a surprising change came over the game, Lockwood and Lees proving too much for the remaining batsmen. Mr Jessop scored 54 out of 68 put on for the second wicket in three-quarters of an hour, while Mr Rice, who went in first and was eighth out at 177, was batting for nearly three hours without giving a chance.

The Surrey innings presented a curious resemblance to that of the home side. In their case, also, 120 was reached with only one man out, while later on the batting failed so badly that the last seven wickets went down for 40 runs. Abel and Mr Jephson made an excellent start, scoring 75 together for the first wicket, and the Surrey captain and Hayes added 49 for the second. Mr Jephson batted exceedingly well and Hayes gave an attractive display. Paish accomplished a fine piece of bowling when he went on a second time, at 134, sending down eleven overs and one ball for 22 runs and six wickets.

Gloucestershire entered upon their second innings with 40 minutes left for play, and fared very badly, Wrathall and Mr Townsend being dismissed for 28 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 August, page 9)

At Bristol, on Saturday, Gloucestershire won, after a most exciting finish, by 11 runs, the last Surrey wicket falling five minutes before time. For this result Mr Jessop was largely responsible. With the game going against his side he hit up 54 and had most to do with dismissing the visitors. In the whole match he scored 108 runs and took nine wickets for 127. In scoring his 54 Mr Jessop played less vigorously than usual; but still made his runs in an hour and a quarter. Mr Brown helped his captain to add 87 runs in an hour, this stand turning the game in their side's favour. Board, who scored 30 at the rate of one a minute, and Langdon also played well.

Surrey, who wanted 197 to win, always found run-getting difficult, and but for some mistakes in the field must have been beaten easily. Abel was let off before a run had been obtained, and Mr Crawford, who hit up 37 in 40 minutes, gave a chance when six; still half the side were out for 92. By adding 33 Holland and Lockwood made a victory for Surrey possible, but after a shower had stopped the game for ten minutes they still wanted 61 runs with three wickets in hand and an hour remaining for play.

Lees and Mr Walker steadily put on 17, and Stedman and Lees added 22; so that when Clode came in 25 runs were required and there remained 15 minutes to get them in. Lees, who might have been stumped, did his best; but Mr Jessop bowled him, the game ending amid much enthusiasm.

23 August: HAMPSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5569.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 August, page 10)

Play at Southampton yesterday was restricted by the rain to an hour and a quarter. No start could be made until ten minutes past 3, and at 20 past 5 the game had, after three interruptions, been given up for the day.

Hampshire won the toss and made good use of the time at their disposal, scoring 77 runs and losing only two wickets. Mr A J L Hill and Barton opened the innings well, but Barton left at 37 and Webb, who followed, was out at 45. Mr Sprot then stayed with Mr Hill until rain finally stopped play. Mr Hill hit in his best form, his driving being very brilliant. Among other good hits he made a big drive out of the ground for six.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 August, page 5)

Very little progress was made with the match at Southampton on Thursday owing to the bad weather, but yesterday a great deal was done.

The Hampshire innings, of which 77 had been made for the loss of two wickets, was continued by Mr Hill and Mr Sprot, and so successful were these two batsmen that they carried the score to 152 before they were separated, their partnership for the third wicket producing 107 runs. Mr Hill played finely for his 87, hitting one six and 12 fours. After he left five wickets went down in half an hour for 29 runs, and the total only reached 221.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 August, page 9)

Hampshire left off in a most favourable position at the close of Friday's cricket at Southampton, holding a lead of 100 runs with eight wickets to fall; but on Saturday Leicestershire beat them by six wickets. The batting of the home side broke down so badly before the bowling of King and Geeson that the eight outstanding wickets fell in a little over an hour for the addition of 79 runs.

Leicestershire, who had 180 to get to win, lost Mr de Trafford at 12, but Mr Wood and King put success for their side beyond doubt. Staying together for an hour and a half, they scored 109 for the second wicket.

23 August: KENT v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5570.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 August, page 10)

Just as play was going to begin at 12 o'clock yesterday at Canterbury rain came on, accompanied by thunder and lightning, and so heavy was the downpour that the start of the match had to be postponed until after luncheon. The weather cleared up completely and the rest of the day proved delightful.

Kent won the toss, and their innings, lasting from a quarter to 3 till five minutes to 6, filled up all the time available for cricket. At one point it did not seem as if they would profit much by batting first, for though Mr Burnup, who played well after the first two or three overs, received valuable help from A Hearne - his first partner - and Mr Mason, there were five wickets down for 90.

Mr Stewart and Mr Blaker then came together, and in three-quarters of an hour the score was carried to 166, Mr Stewart hitting with great brilliancy. He was out - seventh wicket down - at 186, having

made 77 runs in an hour and ten minutes. Although he played such a fast game, he gave no chance till he had scored 64, at which point of his innings he was missed at slip by Mr R E Foster. Among his hits were 11 fours, four threes and three twos. Mr Perkins and Huish put on 30 runs in 20 minutes, and when the innings closed for 232 stumps were drawn.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 August, page 5)

The score in this match at Canterbury was yesterday left as follows . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 August, page 9)

The position of the game at the close of the second day's play at Canterbury left little doubt as to the result, Kent, with five wickets in hand, holding a lead of 331 runs. On Saturday the match ended in accordance with expectation, Kent gaining an easy victory by 231 runs.

They finished their innings in three-quarters of an hour in the morning for 294, setting Worcestershire the formidable task of getting 376 to win. The Worcestershire batsmen, however, found the bowling of Blythe and Hearne so difficult that, though they stayed at the wickets for two hours and three-quarters, they only obtained a total of 144. The best batting was shown by the brothers Foster, who scored 46 together in 40 minutes for the fourth wicket. Mr R E Foster was in an hour and a quarter for his 46, playing in excellent style.

Blythe, by taking six wickets for 60 runs, made his record in this match 12 for 123. He bowled exceedingly well, beating the batsmen again and again with a ball that came with his arm.

23 August: LANCASHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5571.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 August, page 10)

Bad weather curtailed the game at Manchester yesterday, a thunderstorm stopping play at half-past 1, and so saturating the ground that nothing more could be done until 25 minutes to 5. Up to the time of the interruption Notts got on very well, scoring 54 for one wicket, and when they started again they carried their total to 88 before the fourth wicket fell. Then, however, Briggs bowled with such effect, on a pitch that became rapidly difficult under the influence of bright sunshine, that nine men were out for 97.

Since the resumption of the game Briggs had at this point taken six wickets at a cost of only eight runs, but he was rather freely punished by John Gunn and Atkinson, who added 31 for the last wicket. At the close of the Notts innings for 128 stumps were pulled up.

The best batting was shown by Shrewsbury, who scored 24 out of the first 57 in an hour and a half, and William Gunn, who maintained a sound defence for an hour and 40 minutes. Mr Groves stayed in nearly an hour for his 15.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 August, page 5)

Lancashire won their match in brilliant style at Manchester yesterday by an innings and 52 runs.

23 August: LONDON COUNTY v M.C.C. AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5572.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 August, page 10)

The weather prevented any cricket in this match at the Crystal Palace yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 August, page 5)

The last first-class match of the season at the Crystal Palace was begun yesterday between well-balanced teams of London County and the Marylebone Club. The chief interest attaching to the game was the question as to whether Dr Grace would succeed in making his 1,000 runs for the year in first-class cricket. This, to the great satisfaction of all present, he accomplished.

It was a low-scoring game, three runs dividing the sides at the end of the first innings. At the close London County, with eight wickets in hand, held an advantage of 50 and a good finish may be looked for to-day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 August, page 9)

There was an exciting finish to the final match of the first-class season at the Crystal Palace when the Marylebone Club beat London County by two wickets.

Dr Grace, who was not out overnight, continued to bat in his best style, and received great assistance from Mr Gilman, who helped him to add over 100 runs for the fourth wicket. Shortly after losing Mr Gilman, Dr Grace completed his second three-figure innings of the present season. The vigour of his batting may be judged from the fact that he sent the ball 16 times to the boundary. When Dr Grace was out, having skied a ball from Dr Doyle behind the wicket, rain came on and prevented further play before lunch. On inspecting the pitch at 3 o'clock it was decided to declare the innings closed, the visitors being set 187 runs to make.

Mr Tindall started in vigorous fashion and scored 48 before he was caught by Lilley. Two more wickets fell immediately, but a capital stand by Mr Hill and Mr Pereira put their side in a good position. Mr Hill hit brilliantly for 54 and, after his dismissal, Handford scored the necessary runs. It had been arranged to play extra time if there was a chance of finishing the game, and stumps were not drawn until after 6 o'clock.

23 August: SUSSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5573.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 August, page 10)

K S Ranjitsinhji yesterday, at Brighton, ventured on the dangerous speculation of putting in his opponents after he had won the toss, and, with the pitch unlikely now to improve, he seems to have erred, for Yorkshire on a bowler's wicket have already made 173 for the loss of six batsmen - a very good score in the circumstances.

In a common match the cricket would have started well to time, for the heavy shower of the morning had ceased long before midday. But the championship competition seems to expel the spirit of cricket from county cricket. The captains of the sides and the umpires, after much vacillation as to the choice of the originally prepared pitch and a fresh one, went back to the original, and the game began at 3 o'clock.

Even K S Ranjitsinhji took into consultation his chief colleagues of the Sussex side before deciding that Yorkshire should bat first, forgetting perhaps that Yorkshire have consistently proved themselves a capable side on sticky wickets. And even the weather was against the Sussex captain's policy, for a sharp shower of half an hour's duration took the sting out of the turf, while, to add to the home side's misfortunes, there were three catches dropped in the first half-hour.

Lord Hawke played the game and his fine hitting - he made 26 of the first 36 - stimulated some of the other members of the side. Tunnicliffe, with his steady watchfulness, played for an hour and three-quarters, and wanted only one for his 50 when he was splendidly caught by K S Ranjitsinhji; he had got on top of the half-volley and the catch was made left-handed at mid-off with the ball going at a great pace. Both Lord Hawke and Denton had been previously out to well-judged catches on the boundary. Mr Taylor, the Cambridge captain, played splendidly for his runs, and with the fall of his wicket, stumps were drawn.

For the most part the weather was beautifully fine and there were some 7,000 spectators of the cricket. The profits of the match are being devoted as a benefit to that very worthy Sussex wicket-keeper, Butt. This is Yorkshire's last county championship match, and if they remain unbeaten they will equal a record that has not been reached since 1886, when Notts went through the season without a loss.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 August, page 5)

The cricket at Hove yesterday was noteworthy for a fine innings by K S Ranjitsinhji, perhaps the best that he has played on a bad wicket against such skilful bowlers as those possessed by Yorkshire. He may have erred by putting his opponents in first after winning the toss, but he got everything back off his own bat.

Rhodes, the best bowler Yorkshire have had for many years, with his left-hand breaks and his mixed pace, puzzled all the batsmen except K S Ranjitsinhji. When he went in Sussex were already in a bad way - they had lost two wickets for 15 runs. On a bowler's pitch he got complete hold of the bowling, and neither Haigh nor Rhodes could check him. Those who remember him mostly for his cut and his leg play were astonished to see him get all his runs by driving. On a false wicket he made 87 out of 135 in 90 minutes, and he hit 13 fours.

Mr Fry played steadily for his runs, but his game was much hampered by the bowling. He was constantly in difficulties, but while his partner and captain did so well he had a reason for his steadiness. After he and K S Ranjitsinhji had made 135 for the third wicket there was a lull in the game. Wainwright had got out both the great Sussex batsmen in one over; he found K S Ranjitsinhji in two minds and bowled his off stump, and Mr Fry was leg before in the same over. There was another stand of a commonplace nature by Mr Collins and Killick which yielded 74, and then Rhodes finished off the innings rather abruptly, for he went on again at the marine end and took the last five wickets in nine overs at a cost to himself of 29 runs.

In the early part of the day Tate bowled well and got the last four wickets in the Yorkshire innings for 21 runs. The day's cricket, of which there were 8,000 spectators, ended with Sussex 54 on and an innings for each to play. The weather was beautifully fine and another good third day should make Butt's benefit match eminently successful.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 August, page 9)

Yorkshire for a long period at the Hove ground on Saturday saw the game going steadily against them, and the chances of cricket for at least two hours consistently pointed to their defeat. But after the first four wickets had gone the men fought tenaciously to preserve the unbeaten record, and the side once again showed their capacity to fight successfully an uphill game.

Mr T L Taylor, the Cambridge captain, has been chiefly known as a dashing batsman with a fine off-drive; but on Saturday he restrained his freedom; he sedulously watched the difficult bowling and showed that he can play back as skilfully as forward. When everything was going against his side on the rough wicket and when Sussex were fielding unerringly he kept up his end and found some useful partners in Wainwright, Hirst and Haigh. Mr Taylor, who went in first wicket down, was batting three hours for his 68, and hit eight fours.

When the rainstorm came and put an end to the match at 4 o'clock Yorkshire were already out of the wood, for there was then insufficient time for Sussex to get the runs, besides which Yorkshire had still two wickets left and were 145 ahead. How bad Yorkshire's position was on Saturday can be appreciated from the fact that with half the side out at 1 o'clock they were only 22 runs on. Sussex are to be congratulated on their hard fight against the champion county.

Saturday 25 August, page 10: THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AVERAGES

Although the Notts eleven were rather badly beaten at Manchester yesterday, their season's work shows a great advance on the last few years. This result may be traced to the improvement in their bowling, for nothing has been done in this line for the county for a long while to compare with the steady work achieved by Wass and John Gunn. The excellence of the batting averages may be gleaned from the tables given below: -

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP MATCHES

Played 18, won 7, lost 4, drawn 7.

[Note: batting and bowling averages follow. All county averages can be found via:
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Events/0/County_Championship_1900/Team_Averages.html]

Monday 27 August, page 9: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The Yorkshire eleven are to be congratulated that their splendidly consistent cricket has given them the championship honours for this summer. They have gone through the season unbeaten - a feat not achieved since 1886, when Nottinghamshire performed it. But the days of county cricket have changed since then, and the arduous duties of a card of 28 matches are very different from the programme of those times.

Yorkshire's batting, fielding and bowling particularly were unequalled in the counties' records. For a while at the beginning of the season Lancashire ran them hard; but when once the bowlers were slightly relieved by the break in the weather they out-distanced all-comers.

Rhodes, the left-hand bowler, proved a capable successor of Peate and Peel, and was more effective on both the hard and the soft pitches. His bowling was the main factor in the great success of Yorkshire; but Haigh, with his fast to medium bowling, accomplished many fine feats. He has an untiring action, and his slow "yorker" delivered without any apparent change of style helped him to many a wicket.

It says much for the cricket resources of a county when in a big cricket year they can do better than ever before, although the war had deprived them of the services of the finest all-round cricketer of the day - Mr F S Jackson, of Harrow and Cambridge - and of Mr Frank Mitchell, the fine hard-wicket batsman, also of Cambridge.

But the side in batting came out very strongly too. J T Brown was less brilliant than usual this season; but Tunnicliffe, Hirst and Mr T L Taylor, the Cambridge captain, all scored heavily. Mr Taylor, who is one of the best bats we have had from Uppingham for some years, is a worthy cricketer from a school that has turned out such men as Mr C E Green, Mr A P Lucas and Mr Gregor MacGregor, to mention only three of many great names.

In every point of the game Yorkshire have well earned their triumph. They played 28 matches, winning 16 and drawing 12.

The Essex season was brought to a close on Saturday with the drawn game against Middlesex. A record of 22 matches played of which only four were won is not a very flattering result. The county started well by winning three out of their first half-dozen engagements, and though the side afterwards achieved some notable batting performances there were a great uncertainty about their cricket in every department of the game.

The absence in South Africa of Mr A J Turner, of the Royal Artillery, who was one of the mainstays of the eleven last season, was very much felt, while Mr Fane, who headed the list 12 months ago, was a complete failure. Neither Mr Perrin nor Mr McGahey has been so reliable as formerly. Carpenter, however, has had a good season, and Mr A P Lucas and Mr H G Owen have shown that there is still a good deal of cricket left in them.

Of the bowlers, Mead has again done splendid work and Mr C J Kortright has been very useful. Two of last season's successes - Young and Mr F G Bull - have been very disappointing, the professional particularly. The return of the season was four won, six lost, 12 drawn.

The averages of the two counties are given below . . .

THE AVERAGES

Below we give the chief averages brought up to Saturday: -

BATTING

	Innings	Total runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
K S Ranjitsinhji	35	2691	275	4	86.80
Mr C B Fry	35	2152	229	3	65.21
Abel	40	2168	221	3	58.32
Mr R E Foster	32	1665	171	2	55.50
Hayward	48	2433	193	4	55.29
Mr J R Mason	33	1676	147	2	54.06
Kinneir	30	1131	156	7	49.17
William Quaife	38	1385	223*	9	47.75
Mr P F Warner	32	1459	170	0	45.58
Mr T L Taylor	37	1363	147	6	43.96
Dr W G Grace	26	1096	110*	1	43.84
Hirst	46	1732	155	6	43.30
Carpenter	45	1721	151	1	39.11
Mr C J B Wood	48	1682	116*	4	38.22
Mr D L A Jephson	48	1447	138*	10	38.07
Mr P Perrin	32	1138	205	2	37.93
Mr G L Jessop	47	1696	179	2	37.68
Mr C McGahey	34	1190	184	2	37.18
Mr C L Townsend	49	1585	141	6	36.86
Storer	39	1284	176	3	35.66
Killick	43	1364	127	4	35.48
W Gunn	28	887	137	3	35.48
Albert Ward	45	1410	111*	5	35.25
Mr A C MacLaren	42	1373	103	3	35.20
Tunnicliffe	46	1471	158	4	35.02
Mr L C H Palairet	25	850	161	0	34.00
Hayes	37	1218	176	1	33.83
Mr C J Burnup	40	1329	200	0	33.22
Mr B J T Bosanquet	29	927	139	1	33.10
Lockwood	42	1316	165	2	32.90
Mr L G Wright	33	1018	170	2	32.83
Tyldesley	43	1280	142	4	32.82
Shrewsbury	23	833	128	2	32.03
J T Brown, sen.	42	1229	163	3	31.51
Mr H K Foster	43	1288	113	1	30.66

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	1326.1	398	2978	232	12.83
Mold	538	149	1298	93	13.95
Haigh	894.1	243	2227	152	14.85
Mead	1022.2	342	2266	131	17.45
Briggs	1066.3	402	2004	112	17.89
Blythe	743.4	201	1916	105	18.24
Mr J R Mason	549.3	162	1506	81	18.59
Mr G L Jessop	671	205	1666	89	18.71
Wass	747.2	180	2025	108	18.75
Cuttell	977.5	343	2035	106	19.19
Mr C J Kortright	393	79	1268	65	19.47
Lockwood	808.2	189	2452	124	19.77
A Hearne	543	167	1415	70	20.21
J T Hearne	1040.2	302	2721	133	20.45
Trott	1294	314	4053	191	21.21
Lees	661	168	1749	82	21.32
Mr G A Wilson	851.4	169	2455	114	21.53
J Gunn	765.4	218	2286	104	21.98
Richardson	870.5	211	2517	107	23.52
Bland	895	210	2569	106	24.14

27 August: HAMPSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarhive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5574.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 August, page 9)

In consequence of bad weather no start could be made yesterday in this match at Portsmouth.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 August, page 5)

The conditions were favourable for cricket at Portsmouth yesterday, and a full and interesting afternoon's play was got through. Going in first on a slow wicket, Hampshire fared well for a time, the score reaching 137 before the third wicket fell; but later on there was a bad breakdown in the batting, six men being out at lunch time for 166, while the last four wickets went down afterwards for another 18.

Tate was mainly instrumental in this cheap dismissal of the Hampshire eleven, and after the interval he sent down three overs and four balls for five runs and four wickets. The best batting on the side was shown by Barton, who, after being let off when he had made one, played admirable cricket for 70 minutes.

For Sussex Mr Fry and K S Ranjitsinhji batted well, the former securing 77 out of 137. With Killick Mr Fry carried the score from 37 to 117 for the second wicket, and K S Ranjitsinhji followed with a brilliant 58. He made his runs out of 73 in 40 minutes, and his innings included six fours. As the game stands Sussex, with six men to be disposed of, are ten runs to the good.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 August, page 5)

The match at Portsmouth yesterday was given up as a draw, but Hampshire had nothing the worse of matters when play ceased, some splendid forcing cricket by Mr Hill and Webb quite pulling the game round.

27 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarhive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5575.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 August, page 9)

Cricket at Leicester yesterday was carried on under depressing conditions, and with rain and bad light causing delay the game was only in progress for three hours and 50 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 August, page 5)

The Derbyshire innings, of which 193 had been scored on Monday for six wickets, closed at Leicester yesterday for 285. Mr Wood, who was not out 121 at the finish, played in admirable style, the only blemishes in his innings being two hard chances, the first of which was not given until his score reached 111. Leicestershire are now only 30 runs behind with six wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 August, page 5)

The Leicestershire Eleven were in a very favourable position when play ceased at Leicester on Tuesday evening, as with six wickets to fall they were only 30 runs short of the Derbyshire total, but, with the pitch in excellent order, there did not seem much prospect of any other result than a draw. However, the fine batting of Leicestershire was followed up yesterday afternoon by such effective bowling on the part of Woodcock and Geeson that 20 minutes before the time for drawing stumps Leicestershire had gained a brilliant victory by an innings and 34 runs.

Mr C J B Wood, who had made 121 on Tuesday, was sixth man out yesterday morning, after increasing his score to 147. He was batting altogether for five hours and a quarter, and the only blemishes in his innings were two very hard chances, the first of which was not given until he had obtained 111. Coe, the other not out, only added 11 to his overnight score of 31, but he helped Mr Wood to put on 81 runs for the fifth wicket. Geeson played very sound cricket for 72, being in for an hour and three-quarters without making a mistake, and with all this capital batting Leicestershire were able to close their innings at lunch time, holding then a lead of 123 runs.

The first three Derbyshire wickets produced 57 runs, but there afterwards came such a breakdown that the whole side were out for 89.

27 August: MIDDLESEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5576.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 August, page 9)

The cheerless weather spoilt the cricket at Lord's yesterday. There was no play until late in the afternoon, and then the only feature was the batting of Mr J R Mason, the Kent captain, who went in third wicket down at 71 and was not out at the close. His batting for him was very quiet, but now and again he came down with great power on the off side. The Middlesex men bowled and fielded well, but at the best it was a wretched day and there was a mere sprinkling of spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 August, page 5)

The cricket at Lord's yesterday, as on Monday, was conducted under very depressing conditions. Apart from a break of a quarter of an hour caused by drizzling rain the game proceeded without interruption from shortly after 11 until 6 o'clock, but with a grey sky, a comparatively chilly atmosphere and indifferent light the cricket naturally suffered in point of interest.

Kent had a very bad hour in the morning. On Monday they had done very well in scoring 191 for four wickets, but they quite failed to follow up their good work. Mr Mason, who batted so skilfully on Monday afternoon, did not make another run, and though Mr Blaker hit fairly well the six outstanding wickets fell for the addition of 56 runs.

After some rain in the night the wicket in the morning helped the bowlers a little, but its condition was not such as to account for Kent's failure. As the day advanced the pitch became quite easy, and Middlesex, staying in for the remainder of the day, headed their opponents' total by 35 and had three wickets left.

After being missed quite early Mr James Douglas played attractive cricket, scoring 58 of the first 93 in an hour and three-quarters. Middlesex had four wickets down for 108, but at that point Mr Bosanquet went in and forced the game to such excellent purpose as to score 51 out of the next 80 in less than an hour. In the last hour and a half some keen cricket was witnessed, the Kent men striving hard to keep down the runs, but Mr Robertson and Trott succeeded in adding 94 runs and securing an advantage for their side. Trott, who was bowled just on 6 o'clock, was less vigorous than usual, but both he and Mr Robertson made their runs very well.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 August, page 5)

One of the most exciting finishes seen of late years took place at Lord's yesterday, when Middlesex beat Kent by an innings and three runs. The cricket throughout the day was full of interest, and when Kent went in for the Second Test it was a question whether they could be able to play out time. This they were unable to do, despite a grand attempt to save the game by Mr Mason and Alec Hearne. So poorly were they supported by their comrades that the other nine players made only 44 runs among them. The sportsmanlike manner in which the Kent men refused to take advantage of the full time allowance between the wickets is worthy of mention.

Continuing the Middlesex innings, Mr Robertson was joined by Rawlin. The amateur had scored only seven runs before he was caught at the wicket, Huish thus being responsible for five out of the first seven wickets. Mr Robertson had played fine free cricket for his runs. Mr Nicholls came in and a

useful stand was made. Rawlin continued to score freely and was not disposed of until he had made 60, Mr Nicholls in the meantime playing his usual polished game.

On being joined by Hearne, however, he opened out and, with the assistance of the last man, increased the record by over 60 before Hearne was run out. The total reached 438, a score that says much for the batting strength of the Middlesex eleven, more especially when it is seen that six men were credited with over 50. It is seldom that Nos. 9 and 10 are the top scorers on a side. Mr Nicholls was only at the wicket a little over an hour, and his 60 included a five and many hits for four.

With 191 runs to avert an innings defeat and four hours left for play, Kent started their second innings. Shortly before the luncheon interval Mr Burnup got in front of a straight one from Trott, and after resuming matters went badly for the visitors. Mr Wells from the old nursery end bowled Mr Baker all over his wicket with a ball that came back a lot, and Mr Knowles was soon leg before wicket to Trott, who bowled successfully from the pavilion end.

Mr Mason then joined Alec Hearne and the pair added over 100 runs in an hour and a half. At first the Kent captain played carefully, for the situation was critical; but once settled down he gave a good exhibition of his batting powers. However, when Mr Wells went on for the second time, he was tempted and fell to a good catch by Mr Bosanquet at mid-off. The telegraph board then showed 164 for four wickets down, and it looked as if Kent would save the day after all.

Mr Dillon was never comfortable, though he played very carefully, and was bowled in playing forward to Trott. Mr Stewart was caught in hitting out at Mr Wells and a similar fate befell Huish. Blythe was also tempted and was beaten by the slow bowler. Mr Bradley came in at five minutes to 6 and played an over confidently, and then the unexpected happened. Alec Hearne, who had defied the Middlesex bowling for four hours, was bowled by Trott. The Australian sent him down a very slow one, which beat him completely; but he got his legs in the way and the ball trickled into the wicket and just removed the off bail.

It was a sensational finish, and every ball of the last few overs was keenly watched and appreciated by the spectators. Mr Wells bowled with much success, taking in the match ten wickets at a cost of 79 runs. The wicket-keeping of Huish was one of the features of the game, and Mr Warner deserves credit for the way in which he managed his bowling and kept the field up to their work.

27 August: SOMERSET v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5577.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 August, page 9)

The opening at Taunton yesterday of the return match was marked towards the end of the afternoon by a noteworthy incident, Tyler the Somerset slow bowler being twice no-balled for throwing by James Phillips. The umpire was standing at the end opposite the bowler and acted under the powers conferred by laws 10 and 48a as altered some little time ago by the M.C.C. Walter Wright, who was standing at the bowler's end, made it plain that he considered Tyler's delivery fair, and in the second over in which the bowler was no-balled he went so far as to call "over" when six balls had been sent down. In doing this he was clearly wrong. Both umpires having now the power to no-ball for throwing, a no-ball once called cannot be one of the ordinary six balls, unless, of course, it is scored off by the batsman.

Yesterday was a cold, dull day at Taunton, and there was a little rain, but never enough to stop the cricket. Towards the end of the afternoon, however, the light became bad and stumps were drawn at a quarter to 6.

The day's cricket proved very interesting. Somerset, who went in first, stayed at the wickets for three hours and a half, and in that time scored 221. They were greatly indebted to Mr L C H Palairet, who, apart from a chance to the wicket-keeper when he had made seven, played admirable cricket. He scored 83 out of 135 in two hours and ten minutes, and was bowled at last by a splendid break back. Among his hits were 11 fours, three threes and four twos. Up to a certain point he was unfortunate in the support given him, but, after five wickets had fallen for 79, Gill helped him to put on 56 runs in less than an hour. The last five wickets added 86 to the score, both Gill and Mr Dunlop showing excellent form.

Surrey, on going in, found the slow bowling of Cranfield hard to play and, as will be seen below, four wickets fell for 78 before the defective light caused play to be stopped. Mr Crawford drove Cranfield over the pavilion just before that bowler took his wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 August, page 5)

Some admirable cricket was seen at Taunton yesterday, the Somerset eleven playing up well against a side manifestly stronger than themselves and leaving off, when bad light caused stumps to be drawn at ten minutes past 6, in a fairly even position. The weather, though dull, kept fine and the attendance numbered about 1,500.

It may be explained here that Tyler, who was twice no-balled on Monday by James Phillips for throwing, did not bowl yesterday till Surrey's innings was nearly over. When at last put on he bowled at Phillips's end and finished the innings by getting a wicket with his first ball.

In face of a total of 221 Surrey on Monday scored 78 for four wickets, and this number they yesterday increased to 281, their innings lasting in all three hours and 50 minutes. Hayward played a strong game and was unlucky in cutting a ball on to his wicket when only four runs short of his 11th hundred in first-class matches this season. When he had made 37 he gave a difficult chance at slip, but this was his only mistake. He was at the wickets for two hours and 20 minutes, and he hit one six, ten fours, five threes and seven twos.

Two batsmen gave him valuable help, his partnership with Holland producing 67 runs and that with Lees 74. Lees, who was out to a clever running catch, played exceedingly well for an hour and 40 minutes. In contrast to his steady cricket, Richardson, who made ten boundary hits, scored 51 in 40 minutes.

When Somerset, with a balance of 60 against them, went in for the second time, a bad start was made, three wickets quickly falling to Richardson's bowling. However, Mr Daniell and Mr Woods put quite a new appearance on the game, adding 104 to the score in 80 minutes. After Mr Daniell left Mr Newton hit well, and at the close Somerset were 103 runs ahead with six wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 August, page 5)

At Taunton, yesterday, Somerset, for the second time this season, had the satisfaction of beating Surrey, winning a well-contested match by 26 runs. Overnight Somerset, who were 60 to the bad on the first innings, had scored 163 at their second attempt for four wickets and yesterday morning the total was increased to 292.

Mr Woods and Mr Newton, the not outs, advanced the score to 229, their partnership altogether producing 96 runs in an hour, and afterwards Mr Jephson bowled his lobs with success. Mr Woods, who was eighth out at 265, played a brilliant game, taking less than three hours to score 121. He made a number of hard drives and cuts, his score including 16 fours.

Set 233 to get to win, Surrey never really looked like making the runs. Mr Jephson batted steadily for nearly two hours, scoring 51 out of the first 113, and Holland played well, being in for 80 minutes. The latter was seventh out, the score then only being 143. Afterwards Mr Walker and Clode batted steadily and Richardson hit with vigour, but shortly after half-past 5 the side were all out for 206, Somerset being left with a hard-earned victory. Cranfield bowled very skilfully and was ably supported by the field.

27 August: WORCESTERSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5578.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 August, page 9)

The Gloucestershire eleven gave a brilliant display of batting at Worcester yesterday. Their innings lasted four hours and three-quarters, and so vigorous was the hitting that in that time they scored 441 runs.

Chief honours rested with Wrathall and Mr G L Jessop. Wrathall was third to leave at 221, having made 136 of the number. He was batting for two hours and 25 minutes, and among his hits were 18 fours. This is the highest innings Wrathall has ever played for his county. Mr Jessop's cricket was thoroughly characteristic. He was only at the wickets an hour and a quarter for his 102, and the freedom of his methods may be judged from the fact that he hit one five and 14 fours.

Worcestershire had ten minutes' batting at the close and scored six runs without loss.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 August, page 5)

When stumps were drawn at Worcester on Monday evening the home side, going in against a big total of 443, had made six runs without loss. Yesterday Mr Bromley-Martin, Mr H K Foster and Arnold scored between them 159 runs out of 186.

At one point it hardly seemed likely that the eleven would make even so good a total as this, four wickets being lost for 31, but Mr Bromley-Martin and Mr H K Foster improved matters to a considerable extent, putting on 70 in an hour. The best batting was that of Mr Bromley-Martin, who played very patiently for three hours. Roberts, whose fine bowling accounted for the cheap dismissal of Worcestershire, began the day by sending down ten overs - eight maidens - for two runs and four wickets.

Following on in a minority of 257, Worcestershire did so well that at the close they were only 97 runs behind with nine wickets to fall. The start was not promising, Mr H K Foster being caught at point when seven runs had been scored. On his brother, R E, and Arnold coming together, however, so complete a mastery was obtained that in an hour and three-quarters the two batsmen took the score to 160. They were still not out at the end of the day. It became known in the morning that the Gloucestershire total was 443, two leg-byes having been omitted.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 August, page 5)

At Worcester yesterday Gloucestershire gained an easy victory over Worcestershire by eight wickets. At the start of play in the morning the home side with one wicket down in their second innings were only 97 runs behind, but with the exception of Mr Bromley-Martin and Mr Lowe, no one yesterday showed any ability to cope with the bowling, and when the innings ended Gloucestershire were left with a simple task.

Mr R E Foster, who was not out overnight with 92, had only made two more runs when he was caught at the wicket, and in Roberts's next over Arnold was out in the same way. Mr Foster's innings was in every way excellent and included 15 fours. Mr Bromley-Martin and Mr Lowe added 127 for the fourth wicket in an hour and 35 minutes, but after the former left Mr Lowe could get no support and the innings closed for 340. Mr Lowe hit brilliantly during the hour and three-quarters he was at the wickets, among his figures being 13 fours, four threes and seven twos.

Gloucestershire had 84 to get to win and the runs were obtained for the loss of Mr Townsend and Mr Champain. Mr Brown's not out 39 was a capital display of free cricket.

27 August: YORKSHIRE v M.C.C. AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5579.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 August, page 9)

Much of the interest in the opening match of the Scarborough festival was destroyed by the fact that the Marylebone Club sent down a very weak side to oppose the Yorkshire eleven, who early in the season had lost to the M.C.C. at Lord's. With the elevens so ill-matched and with Yorkshire also winning the toss it was not surprising that the day's play went all in favour of the county.

With the pitch helping the bowlers runs were difficult to obtain, and it was only by dint of hard work that Yorkshire put together a total of 191. Brown, who made 41 out of the first 109, was at the wickets for an hour and 40 minutes, and the chief success was achieved by Lees Whitehead, who by his plucky hitting saved the side from an indifferent score.

The M.C.C. batsmen, with one of two exceptions, found Rhodes and Haigh too difficult for them, and at the finish had lost eight wickets and were 111 runs behind. Mr W L Foster, who has recently been invalided home from South Africa, was seen in the cricket field yesterday for the first time this season.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 August, page 5)

The disparity between the elevens playing at Scarborough was even more marked yesterday than on Monday. The weak M.C.C. side were quite overmatched and at the finish had nothing but a severe defeat in prospect. They were set the formidable number of 378 to get to win, and in the last three-quarters of an hour lost half of their wickets for 35.

Apart from being so one-sided, the cricket presented several points of interest. Lord Hawke played an extremely bright innings, hitting no fewer than 11 fours in his 67, and [with] Mr T L Taylor put on 92 runs for the fourth Yorkshire wicket in an hour. Haigh and Rhodes also treated the spectators to some free play, between them scoring 60 runs in half an hour, and Rhodes hit up his 51 not out in less than an hour. Young again took five wickets, but he had no one to assist him.

The M.C.C. are in a hopeless position, wanting 343 to win with five wickets down.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 August, page 5)

There was a tame finish to the match at Scarborough yesterday. With half of their wickets down the M.C.C. eleven wanted 343 to win, and they were quite unequal to the task. A little over an hour's cricket sufficed to bring the game to an end, the five outstanding wickets falling for the addition of 70 runs and Yorkshire winning by 272 runs.

Mr W L Foster played fairly well, but none of the other batsmen showed any ability to cope with the bowling of Rhodes and Whitehead.

27 August: SURREY SECOND XI v WILTSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/86/86828.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 August, page 9)

The visiting county hardly brought up so strong a side to the Oval as they did to Lord's a fortnight ago, Mr Medlicott, who made so many runs against the M.C.C., being a notable absentee.

Little interest was shown in the match. Having won the toss Wiltshire batted first, but the only good form was that shown by Mr Radcliffe, who made 102 out of a total of 203. Batting for ten minutes before stumps were drawn, the 2nd Eleven of Surrey scored 11 without loss.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 August, page 5)

At the close of play yesterday the Surrey second eleven held a great advantage over their opponents. Continuing in the morning the home side did well, Mr Harper playing a very good innings of 102 not out. Baker, Penfold and Mr Sproston were also in good form.

After Surrey had declared there was some very quiet cricket, Mr Radcliffe, who had much to do with the saving of the game, taking over an hour to compile 14 runs. With defeat imminent Mr Bond and Mr Awdry played out time.

Thursday 30 August, page 5: THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE AVERAGES

Gloucestershire had a fairly favourable season, winning nine matches out of 22, against seven defeats. Mr Gilbert Jessop's splendid all-round cricket and the work of Mr C L Townsend, Paish and Board were the chief features in the general success of the team.

[Note: batting and bowling averages follow. All county averages can be found via:
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Events/0/County_Championship_1900/Team_Averages.html]

THE SOMERSET AVERAGES

Somerset finished their season yesterday with a clever victory over Surrey, whom they beat for the second time during the summer. There has been a falling off in the batting, while their fielding left much to be desired. Mr Woods was as strong as ever with the bat and in the field; but his bowling lacked something of its old sting. Somerset played 16 matches, winning four, losing eleven and drawing one.

THE HAMPSHIRE AVERAGES

The South African was deprived Hampshire of many of their best cricketers, and as a result the county eleven had their worst season since entering into the championship. Of the 22 matches 16 were lost and six drawn.

30 August: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5580.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 August, page 5)

Mr F S Jackson, who landed in England a few weeks ago, invalided home from the war, was persuaded to form one of the Gentlemen's team at Scarborough yesterday. He met with a great deal of success. Not until yesterday had he played in a good match since last season, and yet against some of the best bowling in the country he put together a fine innings of 134.

Moreover, he obtained his runs in almost faultless style, the only blemish in his play being a difficult chance to the wicket-keeper. Altogether he was batting for nearly three hours, and he hit 15 fours, four threes and 14 twos. He enjoyed the satisfaction of saving his side from disaster, for shortly after he went in there were five men out for 34, and yet the Gentlemen's total reached 257. Mr Woods, who hit up 52 without a chance, assisted Mr Jackson to put on 145 runs in an hour and 40 minutes, and subsequently Mr Ernest Smith helped to add 58 more.

The Players began their innings in a poor light. Carpenter was soon out, but Tunnicliffe and Brown increased the score by 63. At the drawing of stumps the professionals were 168 behind with seven wickets in hand. Although the weather was dull, the match proved a great attraction, the company numbering nearly 7,000.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 September, page 10)

The Players were batting the whole of yesterday at Scarborough, and gained a lead on the first innings of 198. For this they were chiefly indebted to Thompson, the Northamptonshire professional. He played quiet, defensive cricket up to luncheon time, and afterwards hit out freely, scoring at the rate of a run a minute.

He went in first yesterday, with the score at 91 for three wickets, and was eighth out at 388 [?] for a practically faultless 125, made in just over three hours. He hit 16 fours, seven threes and eight twos, and throughout showed excellent form. Tunnicliffe - fourth out at 144 - played well; and John Gunn scored 68 out of 124 in an hour and a half. The hardest hitting of the day was during the partnership of Thompson and Haigh, who in half an hour put on 86 runs.

After Thompson left Rhodes, Hunter and Young all scored fast, Rhodes and Young adding 69 for the last wicket in three-quarters of an hour. In spite of dull and threatening weather there were 5,000 spectators.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 September, page 9)

The Gentlemen, being 198 runs behind in the first innings, would in any circumstances have had an uphill task at Scarborough on Saturday, but as it happened their position was from the first almost hopeless, heavy rain for several hours in the night having spoilt the wicket. Up to lunch time the ground with no sun to dry it was too soft to be really difficult, but it afterwards became very treacherous and Hirst's bowling proved practically unplayable.

In the morning some admirable batting was shown by Mr Jackson and Mr Taylor, who put on 73 runs together in three-quarters of an hour. Hirst parted these batsmen and after lunch took the seven remaining wickets. Altogether he had the remarkable record of eight wickets for 35 runs. Lord Hawke and Mr Leveson-Gower by vigorous hitting added 47 in 25 minutes, but before 4 o'clock the match was over, the Players winning by an innings and 22 runs.

If for nothing else the match will be remembered for Mr F S Jackson's brilliantly successful reappearance in the cricket field after having been away in South Africa for the greater part of the season.

30 August: LANCASHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5581.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 August, page 5)

Except for a rather bad and variable light the conditions were quite favourable to batting at Old Trafford yesterday, so that Lancashire, who stayed in all day, did nothing out of the ordinary to score 317.

Albert Ward played a good innings of 120, but his cricket was always very slow and at times even tedious. He scored his runs in four hours and 20 minutes, out of 264, and hit 11 fours; his defence was perfect. Tyldesley helped to put on 91 for the second wicket, Mr MacLaren being the only man out before lunch. Afterwards Paul was Ward's best partner, the pair adding 107 in an hour and three-quarters. Ward was out to an excellent catch in the long field, Mr Stocks taking the ball high up with his left hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 September, page 10)

Mr A C MacLaren played his finest innings of the season at Manchester, yesterday, scoring 145 in less than two hours by almost faultless cricket. He began Lancashire's second innings after the visitors had been left in a minority of 121, and his cricket at once afforded a strong contrast to what had preceded it. Hitting with great power, he scored 34 off the first three overs sent down by Woodcock, and he treated the other bowlers very severely. Powerful driving and clever placing to the on marked his play, which was marred by only two bad strokes. He hit 23 fours, three threes and 12 twos.

Tyldesley helped his captain to make the stand of the afternoon, this second partnership producing 165 runs in 85 minutes. As the result of the day's cricket, which was stopped by rain at a quarter-past 6, Lancashire led by 336 and had still six wickets to fall. There were 3,600 spectators, the weather until late in the afternoon being bright and fine.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 September, page 9)

The rain which stopped the game at Manchester shortly after 6 o'clock on Friday evening continued until a late hour, with the result that the ground was not fit for cricket on Saturday until ten minutes to 3. Lancashire, who held a lead of 336 runs, closed their innings without delay.

Going in on a pitch that helped the bowlers Leicestershire had little or no chance of saving the game. Two wickets were lost for 24, and though Mr Marriott and Knight added 50 runs during their partnership and Whitehead afterwards hit vigorously - twice driving Cuttell over the rails in one over - the side were all out for 120, Lancashire winning at 5 o'clock by 216 runs. Briggs was the

most effective of the Lancashire bowlers, coming out with the fine analysis of six wickets for 49 runs.

30 August: MIDDLESEX v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5582.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 August, page 5)

The last county match of the season at Lord's was begun yesterday. Both sides were at full strength, and Middlesex were fortunate in having first innings on a true wicket.

The cricket before lunch was very quiet and the play of the early batsmen did not rise above mediocrity. Mr Warner was well set before he was out to the Worcestershire slow bowler and four good wickets were down for 84. On Mr Bosanquet's joining Mr Beldam a useful stand was made until the latter was run out, having scored 23 by good cricket. Mr Bosanquet, who played in his usual vigorous fashion, did not survive long, and with Trott leg before wicket Middlesex were in a bad way.

Rawlin, however, came to the rescue and helped Mr Robertson to add over 40 runs before he was tempted by Arnold and caught neatly by Mr R E Foster in the slips. Mr Nicholls stayed while a dozen were made and then the end soon came. Mr Robertson hit two consecutive balls from Arnold into the pavilion, but in attempting to do so a third time was caught at mid-on from a skier. He had played a valuable innings, his driving and placing on the leg side being especially good. The total of 193 was not a big score for such a strong side on a good wicket, but it must be borne in mind that the bowling was very steady and the fielding, particularly that of the brothers Foster and Arnold, was faultless.

The visitors had an hour and a quarter's batting before the end, and in that time made 76 without loss. After starting quietly, Mr H K Foster showed the brightest cricket of the day, playing well all round the wicket, Mr Bromley-Martin being content to allow his captain to score the majority of the runs. Though Mr Wells, Mr Bosanquet and the three professionals were all tried, they were unable to secure a wicket. Worcestershire are consequently in a very good position.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 September, page 10)

In the second day of this match some very variable play was witnessed. Continuing their innings, Mr H K Foster and Mr G Bromley-Martin took the score past the hundred before the former was dismissed. The visiting captain had played brilliant cricket, his driving being particularly effective.

Mr Bromley-Martin continued to bat steadily and, aided by Mr R E Foster, brought the total to 144. Arnold made but a short stay, and Mr Lowe lost the Oxford captain soon after coming in. It was a disappointment to many of those present that Mr R E Foster did not make one of his big scores. Mr Lowe made several strokes which fell just out of harm's way, and then Straw stayed with Mr E Bromley-Martin till the luncheon interval.

On resuming play, the game went all in favour of Middlesex, only four runs being scored in a quarter of an hour for the loss of as many batsmen. [Bannister] was run out through a brilliant return by Mr J Douglas and the innings closed for 209.

When Middlesex went in for the second time Mr Warner and Mr J Douglas scored at a great pace, the former making some beautiful strokes to the leg boundary and driving with great power, while his partner made most of his runs in the slips. When he had scored 53 Mr Warner mistimed a slow ball from Burrows and was caught at mid-on by Wilson. Mr Douglas did not stay much longer, being out to a marvellous catch on the part of the Worcestershire wicket-keeper.

After Mr Wells had run himself out there was a spell of dreary and unattractive cricket which excited the derision of the crowd. Mr Beldam and Mr R N Douglas played with unnecessary caution and treated the bowling, which had appeared very simple to the first pair of batsmen, with very great respect; in fact, they made Bannister, who bowled steadily but sent down many punishable balls, appear a veritable Alfred Shaw. The first 100 runs were made in 80 minutes, while the remaining 81 occupied the batsmen an hour and 50 minutes, Mr Douglas being at one time nearly half an hour without scoring.

He was still not out at the finish with Mr Bosanquet, Middlesex being 165 to the good with six wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 September, page 9)

The rain on Saturday prevented any cricket in the following matches, which were abandoned in the positions given in The Times of Saturday: -

. . . Middlesex v Worcestershire, at Lord's . . .

30 August: SURREY v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5583.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 August, page 5)

Derbyshire played their usual careful game when this match, the last of the season at Kennington Oval, was entered upon yesterday. They had the first use of a good wicket, but lost their initial pair of batsmen - Messrs Wright and Ashcroft - for 12 runs.

Subsequently Bagshaw, Storer, Chatterton, Mr Lawton, Mr S H Wood, Cadman, Humphreys and Bestwick all played steady cricket and the total reached 325. The scoring was extremely level after the first two batsmen had been disposed of, as, of the remaining nine, eight made double figures. Mr Wood carried out his bat for 81, the result of about two and three-quarter hours' play, in which he had a fair share of luck. With the end of the Derbyshire innings stumps were drawn.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 September, page 10)

Although Derbyshire had done well on the opening day at Kennington Oval, by scoring 325, their performance was eclipsed yesterday by Surrey. Mr Jephson, the Surrey captain, and Abel made 365 runs for the first wicket in four hours and 193 came from Abel's bat. The professional, who was the first to leave, caught at mid-off, was missed when 134, but otherwise gave no chance and played beautifully correct cricket, 24 strokes for four being included in his innings. It was Abel's 11th three-figure innings of the season and thus equals the feat of K S Ranjitsinhji.

Mr Jephson was slower than his partner at the start, and occupied three hours and 25 minutes in scoring a hundred, but subsequently he showed a much faster rate of run-getting. When he was bowled, after a stay of a little over five hours, he had 213 runs to his credit - his largest score in first-class cricket, although he had previously thrice exceeded three figures this season. He gave a sharp chance to mid-on when 53, but that was the only fault that could be found with a magnificent exhibition of batting, which included two fives and 26 fours.

The Surrey captain was fourth out at 466, and at the close of the day his side had scored 523 for the loss of half their wickets. The weather was finer than on Thursday and there was a good attendance.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 September, page 9)

The rain on Saturday prevented any cricket in the following matches, which were abandoned in the positions given in The Times of Saturday: -

. . . Surrey v Derbyshire, at the Oval.

30 August: SUSSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5584.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 August, page 5)

K S Ranjitsinhji played an innings of 220 at Brighton yesterday and so established a fresh record, this being the 11th time he has scored three figures this summer. In 1871 Dr W G Grace made ten separate hundreds, a feat K S Ranjitsinhji equalled in 1896, while this year Abel and Hayward have met with similar success. Now K S Ranjitsinhji stands alone; moreover, this is his fifth innings of 200 during the present season.

K S Ranjitsinhji's performance yesterday was the more remarkable as when he went in second wicket down at 32 the pitch was slow enough to give the bowlers some assistance, and at ten minutes to 2 four men were out for 87. Then, with the help of Mr Collins, he gradually mastered the bowling. Making his first hundred in two hours, he doubled his score in 70 minutes, while altogether he scored his 220 out of 288 in rather less than three hours and a half. Only once was he at fault, giving a chance of stumping when 98. Hard, clean driving was the chief feature of his great innings, but there was plenty of variety in his strokes and he scored with equal ease all round the wicket. His figures were 34 fours, five threes, 20 twos and 29 singles.

Mr Collins, who helped to add 246 in a little more than two hours and a half, showed capital defence. Both he and K S Ranjitsinhji were caught in the long field in successive overs from Blythe, K S Ranjitsinhji being sixth out at 335. A large company watched the cricket, the weather being fine.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 September, page 10)

After the brilliant doings of Thursday the cricket at Brighton yesterday was tame, the Kent batsmen adopting very careful methods in face of the big score obtained by Sussex. In the circumstances there was nothing to be gained by trying to force the pace, and such a policy might easily have been attended with disastrous results.

The Sussex innings was finished off in half an hour for 385, the four outstanding wickets going down for 20 runs, and then Kent remained in for the rest of the day and made 303 for the loss of eight batsmen. Mr Burnup and Hearne, who opened the innings, stayed together an hour and a half and scored 78, Mr Burnup, however, showing indifferent form in obtaining his 46. Hearne, who was third out at 154, batted with great patience for two hours and 40 minutes, but he ought to have been caught by Mr Fry at slip when he had made three.

Mr Knowles and Mr Mason batted with some freedom and added 44 runs during their partnership in less than half an hour, while later in the afternoon Mr Stewart, apart from one poor stroke, played very skilfully for his 24. At a quarter to 6 eight men were out for 268, but then Mr Blaker, who had not up to that point been seen to much advantage, improved matters, hitting out in splendid style.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 September, page 9)

The rain on Saturday prevented any cricket in the following matches, which were abandoned in the positions given in The Times of Saturday: -

Sussex v Kent, at Brighton . . .

Friday 31 August, page 5

J T HEARNE'S BENEFIT. - Mr G MacGregor and Mr A J Webbe write to us from Lord's Cricket Ground, under date August 29th: -

"The subscription list for Jack Hearne's benefit will be closed in a few days' time. As probably there are several of his admirers who have not yet contributed, and desire to do so, may we ask you to state that any further subscriptions should be sent at once to Mr J A Murdoch, Lord's Cricket Ground, by whom they will be gladly acknowledged?"

The county season at cricket was finished on Saturday, when eight clubs played their last match. The interest in the competition was not kept up to the end, for nearly a fortnight ago Yorkshire were almost assured of succession to Surrey in the championship. That they deserved their victory is beyond doubt, and there is nothing to add to the tribute paid to their general excellence as a side in The Times of last Monday.

Yorkshire and Surrey have for a long while almost monopolized the chief honours in county cricket; but this year the Surrey bowlers generally failed to get out good sides on hard wickets, while when their batsmen were away from the true turf at the Oval they were consistently unsuccessful. Surrey cricket may, indeed, be set down as something of a failure this season, in spite of the many batting triumphs and the records of Abel and Hayward. Their fielding left something to be desired, and although Richardson showed a little of his old sting and Lockwood had his spells of brilliancy, the eleven lacked the consistent excellence that marked them under the long tenure of captaincy by Mr K J Key.

It is not easy to follow such captains as were Mr Shuter and Mr Key, but Mr Jephson did his best with a side whose general play had deteriorated, and his personal efforts in every part of the game were remarkable. Surrey's remedy can be found in a good left-hand slow to medium pace bowler and in a greater carefulness in the field. But although not unmindful of the disasters away, the Surrey members will be quick to congratulate the team on the many fine feats performed by them on the Oval.

Middlesex, though they did beat Surrey both at the Oval and Lord's, were a disappointing team until August. But then with a rush they came to the front. Trott then found his game both with bat and ball; he is a fine natural cricketer and his example of not bowling for his average but only for his side might be well taken to heart by some other bowlers of the day.

With Mr Stoddart playing little and Mr F G J Ford disabled by an illness which meant much residence abroad, the Middlesex batting was disorganized, but with the schools' vacation came the aid of Mr Wells and the brothers Douglas. Mr Wells was particularly good all round and Mr James Douglas batted better than ever. Dulwich cricketers should certainly be proud of the three great cricketers who learned their game at Dulwich and developed it at Cambridge.

Middlesex are to be thoroughly congratulated on the brilliancy of their August cricket; and J T Hearne's name may be mentioned as one of the mainstays of the eleven. He perhaps does too much work in the season to be for ever possessed of that great sting which marked his early years for Middlesex, but he is always a fine bowler to watch, with his nice action and his superb length. Middlesex varied their side considerably through the exigencies of other occupations in life, and the fact that 30 cricketers were played by them during the season will bring this fact more closely home to their severe critics.

Lancashire, who are the runners-up to Yorkshire for the championship, were an even side, and for a long while - that is, while the hard wickets lasted - their bowling seemed possessed of more efficacy than that of Yorkshire; but they were never such a fine batting side. Mr MacLaren had his periods of failure, but he did splendidly on the whole, and in one or two of his innings on bad wickets he played with that splendour of style and vigour which long ago won for him fame as perhaps the best cricketer of modern days that Harrow School has turned out. He managed his bowlers and his field with consummate judgment and can be easily rated as the best captain of the day.

Lancashire were fortunate in the recovery of Briggs, who seemed quite himself on all wickets, while Mold did as much good work as ever. The no-balling of Mold by Phillips created some little stir in cricket circles; but Mold never had an action wholly pleasing to the more fastidious of the critics, and it was a little late, if not a reflection on umpires generally, to no-ball him for throwing at this late stage of his career.

Kent owed much of their fine position to the all-round cricket of Mr J R Mason, who never played better than he has done this year. On all wickets he played the same fine forcing game, his fast, good-length bowling was good, and as a short slip he was admirable. Few Wykehamist cricketers can be compared to him in all-round excellence. Blythe, the left-hand medium pace bowler, did particularly well; and Kent have done well [so soon to] secure a worthy successor to Martin, while Huish, as a

wicket-keeper, did splendid service. Like Middlesex, Kent have had to go far afield for their eleven, for it is largely an amateur side.

With Sussex, in a very good year for the county, everything was eclipsed by the batting of K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr Fry. Their many wonderful feats with the bat and their fine strokes are too familiar to readers to need repetition. Neither batsman ever played better, and K S Ranjitsinhji had increased his variety of strokes and has got a greater proportion of his runs in front of the wicket than in other years. Sussex still suffer from their old want of high-class bowling; but the Hove ground with all its perfection is a heart-breaking place on which to bowl.

Of the other counties who finished on Saturday the Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Worcestershire figures are in need of small comment, for there is such a fall between the greater sides and those who might without much difficulty be relegated to second-class.

[Note: batting and bowling averages follow. All county averages can be found via:
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Events/0/County_Championship_1900/Team_Averages.html]

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Yorkshire	28	16	0	12	16	100.00
Lancashire	28	15	2	11	13	78.47
{Kent	22	8	4	10	4	33.33
{Sussex	24	4	2	18	2	33.33
Notts	18	7	4	7	3	27.27
Warwickshire	18	3	2	13	1	20.00
{Middlesex	22	9	7	6	2	12.50
{Gloucestershire	22	9	7	6	2	12.50
{Surrey	28	9	7	12	2	12.50
Essex	22	4	6	12	-2	-20.00
Somerset	16	4	11	1	-7	-46.66
Worcestershire	22	3	10	9	-7	-53.84
Derbyshire	18	2	7	9	-5	-55.55
Leicestershire	22	3	11	8	-8	-57.14
Hampshire	22	0	16	6	-16	-100.00

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 champion county."

THE GENERAL AVERAGES

The following are the chief averages of the season brought up to Saturday: -

BATTING

	Innings	Total runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
K S Ranjitsinhji	38	2982	275	5	90.36
Mr C B Fry	39	2275	229	3	63.19
Abel	43	2383	221	3	59.57
Hayward	51	2584	193	5	56.17
Mr R E Foster	35	1790	171	2	54.24
Mr J R Mason	36	1828	147	2	53.76
Kinneir	30	1131	156	7	49.17
W G Quaife	38	1385	223*	9	47.75
Mr P F Warner	35	1567	170	0	44.77
Dr W G Grace	26	1096	110*	1	43.84
Mr D L A Jephson	51	1723	213	10	42.02
Hirst	48	1764	155	6	41.76
Mr T L Taylor	41	1448	147	6	41.37
Mr P Perrin	32	1138	205	2	37.93

Mr G L Jessop	50	1813	179	2	37.77
Mr A C MacLaren	44	1531	145	3	37.34
Mr C McGahey	34	1190	184	2	37.18
Carpenter	48	1742	140	1	37.05
Mr C L Townsend	49	1585	141	6	36.86
Ward	47	1531	120	5	36.45
Mr C J B Wood	51	1841	147	4	36.09
Storer	42	1383	176	3	35.46
W Gunn	28	887	137	3	35.20
Mr L C H Palairret	27	947	161	0	35.07
Tunnicliffe	49	1547	158	4	34.37
Mr B J T Bosanquet	32	1026	139	2	34.20
Mr G MacGregor	23	512	76*	8	34.13
Killick	46	1421	127	4	33.83
Tyldesley	45	1372	142	4	33.46
Mr H B Hayman	22	729	87	0	33.13
Mr C J Burnup	43	1407	200	0	32.72
Mr J Douglas	15	487	81	0	32.46
Lockwood	43	1317	165	2	32.12
Shrewsbury	28	833	128	2	32.03
Hayes	40	1248	175	1	32.00
Mr A J L Hill	22	701	87	0	31.85
Mr W W Lowe	17	501	120	1	31.31
Mr A P Lucas	21	626	95	1	31.30
Mr H K Foster	46	1404	113	1	31.20
J T Brown, sen.	45	1310	163	3	31.19
Mr L G Wright	36	1046	170	2	30.76
Knight	37	1124	182	0	30.37
Mr C R Hartley	40	1084	139	4	30.11
Wrathall	47	1324	136	3	30.09
Mr W P Robertson	18	511	62	1	30.05
Mr A Collins	32	857	102	3	29.55
Bagshaw	36	1055	98	0	29.30
Mr S M J Woods	34	977	148	0	28.73
Denton	49	1260	96	4	28.00
Mr E R Wilson	25	632	82	2	27.47
Barton	41	1060	205	2	27.17
Mr J Daniell	34	842	101*	3	27.16
Mr V F S Crawford	48	1128	122*	6	26.85
Brockwell	44	1043	132*	5	26.74

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	1409.1	418	3176	243	13.06
Haigh	884.3	251	2356	160	14.72
Mead	1022.2	342	2286	131	17.45
Blythe	842.1	232	2106	114	18.47
Wass	747.2	180	2026	108	18.75
Mr G L Jessop	731.1	217	1858	96	19.33
Mr C J Kortright	393	79	1266	65	19.47
Mr J R Mason	604.3	174	1678	86	19.51
Lockwood	808.2	189	2452	124	19.77
J Gunn	797.4	219	2210	106	20.84
J T Hearne	1116.2	383	2842	135	21.05
A E Trott	1406.1	343	4308	203	21.22
F W Tate	1114.5	314	2950	138	21.37
Lees	725.4	189	1926	90	21.40
Richardson	962.5	230	2785	117	22.85
Bland	924	217	2648	108	24.51

THE CRICKET SEASON OF 1900

(By an Old Blue)

Though a few more matches remain to be played, the cricket season is to all intents and purposes over, and it is possible now to estimate its probable influence on the position of the game. Yorkshire has, unconquered, reached the championship. K S Ranjitsinhji and Abel have made more centuries than ever were made in a season' first-class matches; other records have been broken, and it is undeniable that the energy and skill displayed during the past season are unsurpassed, and perhaps unrivalled, in the records of the game.

Nevertheless, there is a feeling increasing in intensity and expressed by a growing number of critics that there is something wrong in the circumstances and condition of the game, and that that something is having effect on the popularity of the great national pastime of which those who do not play it and have never played it are as proud as those who have or do. As to what that something is there is little difference of opinion.

The enormous improvement in the grounds and the establishment of boundaries have facilitated the operations of batsmen to such a degree as to produce an overwhelming preponderance of defence over attack. Occasionally, indeed, the bowlers have had successes and good sides have been dismissed for short scores. But the successes are becoming fewer every year. There is no lack of good bowling; and it seems certain that every season there will appear new bowlers worthy to take the places of those who retire crushed, worn out and reduced to impotence by the difficulties of their task.

But still the averages of leading batsmen grow greater and the huge totals become huger. I well remember the great sensation made in the cricket world when an innings of 500 was played at the Oval. With comparative coolness was regarded the success of Surrey last week when the eleven made well over that number for the loss of only five wickets. Not many years ago an eleven set the task of making 300 in the fourth innings of a match was considered to have a very faint chance of victory. Now 300 is by no means an abnormal score.

In a word, though batting and bowling have both improved since the days when the Walkers were holding their own against Carpenter and Hayward, Daft and Parr, and fielding is certainly no worse, batting has improved in by far the greatest proportion - for the simple reason, which applies to cricket as to other matters, that the stronger grows more in strength than the weaker of two opposing factors.

The preponderance of batting is not confined to first-class matches. Its effect in these may be more evident, because first-class matches are always played on true wickets and with boundaries. But it exists in all forms of cricket. Four innings are seldom, if ever, finished in one day. Two days are frequently found insufficient to complete a match of second-class importance. Local clubs and those wandering teams to which cricket has owed so much in its past history have nowadays to choose between an arrangement to decide the match by the first innings and the risk of a draw, both alternatives being unsatisfactory.

The ease with which huge scores are made is spoiling all classes of cricket; and unless some remedy can be found the popularity of the game will be endangered, and more and more of the rising generation will be tempted away to other arenas than the cricket field where they may play a brisk game rather than labour at a tedious exhibition of lone-drawn science.

I was allowed last year by The Times to make some suggestions with a view to the discovery of a remedy, and also to point to a radical alteration in the conditions which appeared alone likely to have valuable effect. That some change was necessary was admitted by the committee of the M.C.C. at the beginning of the season. They, with the general approval of cricketers and spectators, altered the number of balls in an over from five to six and extended the time at which a side might declare an innings closed.

They also, without such general approval, tried the experiment at Lord's of abolition of boundaries by the erection of a wire netting round the ground. That experiment failed, possibly for reasons inherent in its nature, possibly for reasons connected with the manner in which it was tried; it is not necessary to consider which. The experiment is not likely to be tried again and may be dismissed from the list of remedies applicable for the moment.

They declined, and they cannot be blamed for doing so, any change in the law of leg-before. And they adopted the very remarkable device of allowing either umpire to no-ball an unfair delivery. The changes thus made, if they have had any effect at all, have been merely palliations. The scores are

not reduced in length, the number of drawn matches is not materially lessened. There have again been signs of weariness on the part of spectators - The Times commented on one instance in the Middlesex and Worcestershire match of last Friday - and the undue advantages enjoyed by the batsmen are a source of growing dissatisfaction to all but batsmen themselves.

The true remedy is, I am convinced, to be found in a reduction of the size of the bat. Short of this radical change nothing is likely to have much effect in reducing scores and making the game more sportsmanlike, more brilliant and less laboriously dull. That is a radical change I admit, and I well understand that it cannot be introduced without trial. But, satisfied as I am that cricket with a small bat would be as far superior to cricket as it is as the new croquet with small hoops is superior to the old croquet, I see no reason why it should not be tried; and if it was tried I have little doubt that it would rapidly become so popular as to make its introduction into first-class play a matter of very short time.

My suggestion is that the leaders of such wandering clubs as I Zingari, the Free Foresters and many others whose members play cricket for pleasure only and without much thought or averages or of records, should organize a series of matches to be played with bats an inch, or even an inch and three-quarters, less in breadth than the present weapons; and that they should do so with the support of the many proprietors of private cricket grounds whose hospitality contributes so greatly to the pleasures of what is, and ought to be, a game and not a holiday task of unmitigated labour.

Some critics have objected that such a change would kill one-day matches. I do not believe it in the least. The only result would be that the completion of four innings would be more probable than the completion of two is now. Even Dingley Dell and All Muggleton, could those renowned clubs be brought together in a field, would score some 60 or 70 runs in each innings. The experienced batsmen of I Zingari and Free Foresters would do enough with the small bat to make a two-day match interesting; and I have no hesitation in saying that those players who treat cricket as a sport and do not have before their eyes the making of centuries and breaking of records, would find infinitely more zest and more real gratification in a fast score of 30, or even 25, than they find now in batting for three or four hours under no difficulties and with little to test their accuracy or their skill.

The smaller bat would be as useful as the larger to hit with; indeed, it would be probably more effective and, at any rate, more pleasurable a weapon. What it would not permit would be the stolid and obstinate defence which, prolonged hour after hour, makes cricket wearisome to play and dull beyond words to watch. With it cricket would be brilliant instead of being tedious. The superiority of the game would be as great as the superiority of snipe-shooting and driven grouse over the wholesale destruction of lolling hares or low pheasants.

More matches would be played and men would not be forced to abandon cricket because they cannot afford to devote several days in a week to a pastime. The game would be pleasanter to watch not merely when it was a novelty, and the prospects of close finishes and exciting episodes would be largely increased to the advantage of players and spectators alike. Professionals would benefit as well as amateurs, and we should see much less of the system which devolves upon professionals the duty of bowling and leaves the amateurs the making of averages of huge size.

3 September: YORKSHIRE v C I THORNTON'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5585.html)

Day 1 (no report or scorecard found on Tuesday 4 September)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 September, page 9)

Cricket at Scarborough yesterday was bright and afforded enjoyment to a large company. After a dull morning the weather became fine.

In face of a total of 266 Yorkshire had at the drawing of stumps on Monday scored 164 for six wickets, so that at the start of play yesterday they had by no means the better of the game. However, Wainwright and Haigh, the not outs, hit so brilliantly that in little more than an hour the England team's total was passed. Then at 271 Haigh was caught at slip for 54. He and Wainwright were together for an hour and a half and in that time put on 140 runs.

Wainwright stayed in some time longer, being out ninth wicket down at 322. His splendid innings of 117 lasted two hours and a half, and included 14 fours, eight threes and ten twos. It was a quarter past 3 when Yorkshire's innings closed, the total being 336.

With a majority of 70 against them Mr Thornton's eleven went in for the second time and, as in the first innings, a capital start was made by Mr W L Foster and Mr Warner, 98 runs being obtained before Mr Warner was bowled. Mr Leveson-Gower was stumped at 135, Mr R E Foster bowled at 165 and Mr Jessop caught at mid-off from a hard hit at 168. Then at 173 Mr W L Foster, who, owing to lameness, had for a little while had a man to run for him, ended a beautiful innings by skying a ball which the wicket-keeper caught. He was batting two hours and ten minutes for his 95 and hit 11 fours, five threes and eight twos. Trott and Board played out time, Mr Thornton's eleven at the finish being 120 runs ahead with five wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 September, page 10)

There was a very exciting finish at Scarborough yesterday in the last match of the festival, Yorkshire winning by three wickets with only ten minutes to spare. The end was reached at ten minutes to 5, it having been arranged, in order that some of the players might get away to Hastings in good time, to draw stumps at 5 o'clock.

There was a great deal of cheering after the winning hit had been made, the victory of the Yorkshire Eleven in the last match in which they will take part this season naturally pleasing the crowd. It was a capital wind-up to the wonderful season the county has enjoyed.

From the position of the score on Tuesday night there was every prospect of interesting play yesterday, Mr Thornton's Eleven, with five wickets down in the second innings for 190, holding a lead of 120 runs. They did not, however, improve their position to the extent expected, the innings being all over at ten minutes to 1 for 276. Trott and Board, the overnight not outs, played admirably together for some time, but as soon as they had been separated, with the score at 265, the batting broke down, the last three wickets all falling at the same total. Trott's innings of 50 lasted an hour and a quarter, and included half-a-dozen fours.

Yorkshire wanted to 207 to win, and just on lunch time, with the score at 22, lost Tunnicliffe's wicket. Lord Hawke was bowled at 38, but Brown and Denton played first-rate cricket and so long as they stayed together an easy win seemed in prospect. However, Brown was out at 114, and things then went so badly for the side that at 25 minutes past 4 there were seven wickets down for 157.

Only 35 minutes remained for play and 50 runs were still wanted. The position was critical, but Haigh kept in while Mr Ernest Smith hit, and without further loss the match was won. Mr Smith was missed in the long field by Mr Woods when he had made 30, but this was the only blemish in a brilliant piece of batting.

6 September: THE NORTH v THE SOUTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5586.html)

Thursday 6 September, page 10: TODAY'S MATCH

Hastings. - North v South (Hastings Festival).

Teams: - North. - Lord Hawke, Mr A C MacLaren, Mr A O Jones, J T Brown, sen., Cuttell, Denton, J Gunn, Hirst, Lilley, Rhodes and Tyldesley.

South. - Dr W G Grace, Mr C J Burnup, Mr D L A Jephson, Mr G L Jessop, Mr A E Stoddart, Mr C L Townsend, Abel, Butt, Hayward, Lockwood and Trott.

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

The start of the North innings yesterday in no way foreshadowed the bright and interesting cricket to follow, for, with only three on the board, Mr Jones was bowled off his pads and, with the addition of 16 runs, Mr MacLaren met with a similar fate. After this, however, the batsmen always held the upper

hand, the total runs, scored at an average of a fraction over 50 per wicket, being put together in less than four hours.

The foundation of the score was the partnership of Brown and Tyldesley, the two professionals remaining together while 103 were added in an hour and 35 minutes. Brown was the first to leave, being stumped by the rebound of the ball from the wicket-keeper's pads. With the exception of a hard chance to Mr Townsend in the slips when he had made 18 his innings, which lasted an hour and 35 minutes, was excellent. He was particularly good on the on side, while his cutting was as clean and hard as ever.

Tyldesley gave two chances before he completed his century, one a hard return to Lockwood when he had made 22 and another to Mr Jephson when within five of his hundred. Apart from this his batting was brilliant in the extreme, hit cutting being beautifully times, while in one over he hit Trott four times to the leg boundary; his runs were made in an hour and three-quarters and his hits included 22 fours.

There was a good partnership between Denton and Lilley, the two scoring 108 in 55 minutes. Lilley made his runs in 55 minutes, his hitting in front of the wicket being clean and vigorous; Denton's rate of scoring was somewhat slower. The Yorkshire player was at the wickets just two hours.

There was a little slackness in the fielding, but especial mention must be made of the catch whereby Trott, standing in close at short-leg, got out Hirst. There was a capital attendance, and the 14th festival, if the weather continues fine, should prove as successful as its predecessors.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 September, page 7)

There was little of interest during the early part of yesterday's play, as after the North had increased their overnight total of 402 by 38 the Southern batsmen failed so completely that eight wickets were down for 116 runs.

At the outset Mr Burnup and Abel batted steadily until, with the total at 46, Abel was out to a fine catch low down in the slips, Mr Jones falling in securing the ball. With Mr Townsend in, the 50 went up, but the Gloucestershire amateur was directly afterwards well caught in the long field. This was the beginning of a series of disasters. Hayward, who never appeared comfortable, was stumped in playing forward, while Mr Burnup, after batting an hour, succumbed to a very good ball. Mr Jessop scored 16 out of 20 in a quarter of an hour before being "yorked" by Gunn, while Mr Stoddart was taken high in the slips in attempting to cut Rhodes. Thus, at lunch-time six wickets had fallen with 103 on the board.

After the resumption neither Dr Grace nor Trott was able to do much, but upon Lockwood joining Jephson, who had been batting an hour for 26, the aspect of the game altered completely. With four successive boundary hits off Rhodes the Surrey captain completed his 50, and continued to hit out in splendid style, with the result that Cuttell and Hirst relieved Gunn and Rhodes, who had hitherto bowled unchanged.

Still runs came at a rapid rate, Mr Jephson doing most of the scoring, and though some of his strokes were made in unorthodox fashion his hitting generally was clean and vigorous. Whereas the first 100 had occupied an hour and 25 minutes, the second was added in three-quarters of an hour, and when the amateur had completed his century he had made 101 out of the 170 scored during his stay. Lockwood, although suffering from an injury to his leg, batted in good form, the ball travelling along the ground at a great pace, and the partnership had realized 146, of which Mr Jephson was responsible for 98, before the Surrey captain was caught just on the boundary from a lofty straight drive. He was batting two and a half hours. With Butt in the follow-on appeared likely to be saved, but with four required Lockwood was splendidly caught by Hirst, whose fielding at deep mid-off stood out as a feature of the day's play.

The North elected to go in a second time and, scoring 27 for no wicket, are, with all their wickets in hand, consequently 180 ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 September, page 9)

With the North starting the last day's play with all their wickets intact and 180 runs ahead and the wicket wearing well a draw appeared the probable end. But the cricket was always interesting.

The score was taken to 68 before Mr Jones was out, and with this success Mr Jessop secured his 100 wickets for the season. The feature of the innings was Tyldesley's batting; the Lancastrian was at the wickets only an hour and 20 minutes for his century, and by obtaining for the second time two hundreds in one match he is the first professional player to accomplish the feat, his previous success being in July, 1897, when he scored 103 and 100 for Lancashire against Warwickshire. His batting was marked by a fine variety of strokes and all the bowling came alike to him. Directly he had completed his 100 the innings was declared closed, so the South required 388 runs to get to win, a task impossible in view of the fact that only a little over two and a half hours remained for play.

Abel and Mr Burnup were the first pair of batsmen and both played a cautious game; but after Abel had left the cricket brightened. Mr Burnup batted in capital style, while Mr Jephson, after playing himself in, hit freely, and the score was taken to 81 before the Kent amateur was finely caught by Rhodes running from deep square leg. Mr Townsend never seemed at home, but with Mr Jessop and Mr Jephson together the cricket became most exhilarating. After Mr Jessop had been missed in the long field by Mr MacLaren - a somewhat difficult chance, as the fieldsman was running hard in with the sun in his eyes - both batsmen hit vigorously until, with the addition of 52 runs, Mr Jephson played on.

With Trott in the Gloucestershire captain's rate of scoring increased, his second 50 being made in 15 minutes, while he was in against an hour and a quarter. Apart from the chance mentioned he showed capital form, his ground strokes being more numerous than usual, while during his innings he obtained his 2,000 aggregate. At the finish the South required 121 with five wickets to fall.

THE AVERAGES

Subjoined are the chief averages brought up to Saturday's cricket: -

BATTING

	Innings	Total runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
K S Ranjitsinhji	38	2982	275	5	90.36
Mr C B Fry	39	2275	229	3	63.19
Abel	45	2407	221	3	57.30
Hayward	53	2588	193	6	55.06
Mr J R Mason	36	1828	147	2	53.76
Lees Whitehead	12	321	67*	6	53.50
Mr R E Foster	37	1807	171	2	51.62
Kinneir	30	1131	156	7	49.17
W G Quaife	38	1385	223*	9	47.75
Mr E W Dillon	10	429	108	1	47.66
Mr P F Warner	37	1641	170	0	44.35
Mr D L A Jephson	53	1898	213	10	44.13
Dr W G Grace	27	1101	110*	1	42.34
Devey	20	729	246	2	40.50
Mr G L Jessop	54	2049	179	3	40.17
Mr T L Taylor	43	1461	147	6	39.45
Hirst	52	1773	155	7	39.40
Mr C J B Wood	51	1841	147	4	39.17
Mr P Perrin	32	1138	205	2	37.93
Tyldesley	47	1593	142	5	37.93
Mr C McGahey	34	1190	184	2	37.18
Carpenter	48	1742	140	1	37.05
Ward	47	1531	120	5	36.45
Mr A C MacLaren	46	1554	145	3	36.13
W Gunn	28	887	137	3	35.48
Storer	42	1383	176	3	35.46
Mr L C H Palairret	27	947	161	0	35.07
Mr B J T Bosanquet	32	1026	139	2	34.20
Mr G MacGregor	23	512	76*	8	34.13
Mr C L Townsend	53	1600	141	6	34.04
Killick	46	1421	127	4	33.83

Mr C J Burnup	45	1495	200	0	33.22
Mr H B Hayman	22	729	87	0	33.13
Tunnicliffe	51	1551	158	4	33.00
Lockwood	44	1387	165	2	32.54
J T Brown, sen.	49	1495	163	3	32.50
Mr J Douglas	15	487	81	0	32.46
Shrewsbury	28	833	128	2	32.03
Hayes	40	1248	175	1	32.00
Mr A J L Hill	22	701	87	0	31.85
Mr W W Lowe	17	501	120	1	31.31
Mr H K Foster	46	1404	113	1	31.20
W Quaife	22	587	115	3	30.89
Denton	53	1511	104	4	30.83
Mr L G Wright	36	1046	170	2	30.76
Knight	37	1124	182	0	30.37
Mr C R Hartley	40	1084	139	4	30.11
Wrathall	47	1324	136	3	30.09
Mr W P Robertson	18	511	62	1	30.05
Mr A P Lucas	21	626	95	0	29.80
Mr A Collins	32	857	102	3	29.55
Bagshaw	36	1055	98	0	29.30
Mr J A Dixon	19	499	126*	1	27.72
Mr E Smith	31	665	116*	7	27.70
Mr E R Wilson	25	632	82	2	27.47
Mr S M J Woods	36	985	148	0	27.36
Barton	41	1060	205	2	27.17
Mr J Daniell	34	842	101*	3	27.16
Mr V F S Crawford	48	1128	122*	6	26.85
Mr E M Sprot	34	857	103*	2	26.78
Brockwell	44	1043	132*	5	26.74
P C Baker	29	738	130	1	26.25

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	1501.4	439	3450	256	13.52
Mold	560	153	1358	97	14.01
Haigh	958.3	258	2416	163	14.82
Briggs	1116.3	420	2084	120	17.45
Mead	1022.2	342	2286	131	17.45
Blythe	842.1	232	2106	114	18.47
Wass	747.2	180	2026	108	18.75
Mr C J Kortright	393	79	1266	65	19.47
Mr J R Mason	604.3	174	1678	86	19.51
Cuttell	1007.1	347	2142	109	19.65
Lockwood	819.2	190	2493	125	19.99
Mr G L Jessop	779.1	229	2101	103	20.39
Bannister	628.4	203	1331	65	20.47
J T Hearne	1116.2	383	2842	135	21.05
F W Tate	1114.5	314	2950	138	21.37
J Gunn	881.2	240	2461	115	21.40
Lees	795.4	188	1926	90	21.40
A E Trott	1479.1	351	4664	208	22.42
Field	708.2	131	2148	95	22.62
G A Wilson	923.4	179	2728	119	22.92
Richardson	962.5	230	2786	117	22.81
Bland	924	217	2648	108	24.51

10 September: SURREY AND SUSSEX v REST OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5587.html)

Monday 10 September, page 9: TO-DAY'S MATCH

Hastings Festival continued. Sides: -

Surrey and Sussex. - K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr C B Fry, Mr D L A Jephson, Mr V F S Crawford; Abel, Hayward, Richardson, Killick, Tate, Butt and either Lockwood or Vine.

Rest of England. - Dr W G Grace, Mr G L Jessop, Mr A E Stoddart, Mr C L Townsend, Mr C J Burnup; Trott, Rhodes, Lilley, Field, J T Brown and Hirst.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 September, page 5)

With half their wickets down for 115 runs it seemed improbable that the England eleven would make a big score; but a useful stand by Mr Burnup and Hirst and a brilliant innings by Trott so completely altered the aspect of the game that they are now in a fairly safe position.

At the outset Dr Grace and Mr Stoddart batted in their best style, while Brown also made several good strokes; but no one could stay long. Mr Jessop hit freely, as usual, but was well caught at long-on by Killick. The 115 runs then on the board had been made in 80 minutes. With Hirst and Mr Burnup together the cricket became slow. The partnership yielded 67 runs in an hour before the professional was caught low down in the slips. Trott, however, scored freely, with the result that 200 went up in two hours and 25 minutes.

Mr Burnup left after batting an hour and three-quarters for a careful innings, and then Lilley assisted Trott to add 89 runs in 45 minutes before the latter was splendidly caught at long-off almost on the ropes. He was batting only an hour and 20 minutes for his century, put together out of a total of 152 made during his stay, and despite his vigorous hitting all round the wicket he did not give a chance. The innings lasted three hours and a quarter.

Surrey and Sussex had ten minutes' batting, the light being bad, when at 5.15 stumps were drawn.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 September, page 10)

There was much interesting cricket in the second day's play of this match. Overnight Surrey and Sussex had scored 17, but without any addition to the total Mr Fry, from the two hours he received, was caught by the wicket-keeper standing back.

With Hayward and Abel together, the batsmen gained the upper hand, 110 being put on before Hayward was caught in the slips; he played superb cricket during his 80 minutes. After Abel had been joined by his captain the rate of scoring increased considerably, for, whereas the professional had taken an hour and 35 minutes to make 50, he secured his 100 in two and a half hours. With this century, his twelfth in first-class cricket this season, he creates a record, he and Prince Ranjitsinhji each having the week before last beaten the previous best held equally by the last-named and Dr W G Grace.

Mr Jephson was dismissed at 231, the partnership having realized 104 in 65 minutes, while four runs later Abel's innings ended through a catch at the wicket. He had been in two hours and 50 minutes, and his runs were made without a chance.

Upon Prince Ranjitsinhji being joined by Killick the score rose at a great rate. The amateur, after making his aggregate for the season 3,000, was only half an hour scoring 50 runs; his hitting was perfect, the ball travelling upon the ground at a tremendous pace; but when it looked probable that he would emulate Abel he was caught at long-on. Mr Crawford made some vigorous strokes, on one occasion hitting the ball out of the ground, and Killick's was a sound innings. The tail did little. Field bowled, with the exception of a few overs, through the innings, which lasted nearly four and a quarter hours, and with Mr Crawford's dismissal secured his hundredth wicket for the season.

The Rest of England had 40 minutes left for play, and after Dr Grace was bowled for a single Mr Stoddart and Brown played fine cricket, the amateur hitting in quite his best form.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 September, page 10)

The concerning day of the festival provided nothing out of the common, but the cricket presented many features of interest. In the first place, Mr Stoddart, who was not out 35, increased his score to 64

by fine hitting before being caught in the long-field. He made his runs faster than Brown, getting his 50 out of a total of 69 in 50 minutes.

Trott did not remain long, while Mr Jessop's stay was short but lively, his runs being scored out of a total of 56 in 20 minutes. He hit seven fours, four of them in one over off Vine. Brown left after batting an hour and three-quarters, the total then being 180, while from the next ball Mr Burnup was caught at the wicket.

With six wickets down it looked as though the match would come to a definite end, but the capital stand by Hirst and Mr Townsend completely altered the complexion of affairs. By means of bright and spirited cricket Mr Townsend completed his 50 in 55 minutes, while Hirst obtained a similar number in 50 minutes. With the total 301, the partnership having realized 121 in an hour, Dr Grace "declared," leaving Surrey and Sussex 287 to get to win, with two and a half hours for play.

Interest in the second innings of the counties centred in Abel's cricket. He started very cautiously, but Mr Fry, who with him opened the innings, hit hard, until with 71 up the amateur was caught at point. With Hayward in the play was very slow, the bowling of Rhodes and Trott being extremely good. After Hayward and Mr Jephson had left Abel and K S Ranjitsinhji scored freely, until with the score at 175 the Indian Prince was out. Abel was caught at mid-off. Mr Crawford hit freely, but when stumps were drawn Surrey and Sussex were still 82 runs behind, with five wickets to fall . . .

13 September: SOUTH v NORTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5589.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 September, page 10)

Some interesting cricket was witnessed at Lord's yesterday, when North and South teams met in the last match of the first-class season. The match was arranged as a benefit for Need, who for many years has been the pavilion attendant. The South was well represented, while a fairly strong eleven appeared for the North.

The South were in the whole day, and the dashing character of their cricket will be apparent from the fact that between noon and half-past 5, when stumps were drawn, they scored 431 for the loss of seven wickets. The day's cricket was marked by a fine innings by Dr Grace, who, going in with Mr Stoddart, remained about three hours for 126. His batting was worthy of his best days. Mr Stoddart batted in great form and at first did most of the scoring, for when he was caught by Gunn at short-leg - a very fine catch - he had made 51 out of 85 in an hour.

Mr Warner, Abel and Hayward were soon out, but when Mr Jessop joined Dr Grace there came the best cricket of the day. Mr Jessop hit with vigour. In one over from Hirst he made four fours, the ball on two occasions going into the pavilion. He scored 52 in half an hour; but when the wicket had yielded 85 runs Dr Grace played on. He hit 15 fours and six threes. Mr Jephson was bowled in the same over, and a few minutes later Mr Jessop was out to a splendid one-handed catch at mid-off. Mr Jessop was batting 50 minutes for his 77 and hit 15 fours.

With the total at 319 for seven wickets Captain Wynyard and Trott came together and the fatigued bowlers were freely punished. At the close of the day Captain Wynyard and Trott were still together, having added 112 runs during the hour of their partnership.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 September, page 12)

Yesterday's cricket at Lord's left the South with a substantial advantage, but as the North had not completed their first innings there is little prospect of any definite issue. Fine batting was shown by the South on Thursday, for they scored 431 for the loss of seven wickets. Yesterday Captain Wynyard and Trott, whose partnership of an hour overnight had produced 112 runs, took the total to 467, at which they were both dismissed, after playing dashing cricket.

In losing Lord Hawke and Thompson for 35 runs the North started disastrously, but a valuable partnership between the two Yorkshire professionals, Brown and Hirst, and then a stand by Hirst and Mr Smith, which produced 102 runs for the fourth wicket in a little less than 55 minutes,

substantially improved their prospects. Both batsmen played attractive cricket; but they were missed by Hayward, the professional at square leg when he had made 77, and Mr Smith at mid-off when 53. Hirst, who was the first to leave, hit ten fours, and Mr Smith, who was batting an hour and a quarter for his 70, 11 fours.

Briggs was missed by Captain Wynyard in the deep field early in his innings, and with the dismissal of Carlin, just before half-past 5, stumps were drawn, and the North, with still a wicket in hand, were within 138 of the other total.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 September, page 9)

The position in which the game was left overnight left small chance of a definite issue to the match; but there was a possibility at one time on Saturday that after all the South might win, and this invested the closing hours of cricket with interest. On the first innings the South led by 69 runs, and after scoring 143 in their second for the loss of six wickets they declared.

The feature of the morning's play was Mr Jessop's hitting. He was in only 11 minutes, but in that time 40 runs were scored, and of these he made 32, hitting seven fours, four of them being off Mr Smith in one over.

Only an hour and three-quarters was left for the game when the North went in for the second time, requiring 213 runs to win. Their first 38 were scored at the cost of Hirst, Briggs and Rhodes, Mr Stoddart catching both Hirst and Rhodes very finely on the boundary. At 57 Mr Smith was out. Thompson and Mr Lawton were quickly dismissed, and when Brown was caught in the slips seven wickets were down for 96.

With still half an hour remaining there was the prospect that the South would win. Gunn and Millward, however, came to the rescue and kept together until half-past 5, when the match was abandoned as a draw.

THE CLOSE OF THE FIRST-CLASS CRICKET SEASON

The "first-class" cricket season ended on Saturday at Lord's with a match granted by the Marylebone executive to be played under the much-abused title of North v South for the benefit of one of the club servants. There was a fine array of the best cricket talent in the ranks of the two sides; but cricket delayed to September with its heavy morning dew and the early sundown cannot be ranked with that of the summer months.

It has been a wonderful season for batsmen and, in spite of the new rule as to the follow-on, drawn matches have been as common as ever. In fact there are many who doubt the efficacy of the optional clause in its present state. Although the summer has been more or less varied in its spells of dry and wet weather, the rain has never really got a firm hold of the turf, so that the bowlers were almost always fighting very hard for their wickets.

Thus it is surprising that Rhodes, the young Yorkshireman, with his left hand slow to medium, has astonished everybody by his success. He had mostly to bowl on hard and true wickets, and his record is one of the finest in the annals of the game. He performed equally well on every kind of pitch, though especially favoured whenever the wickets were slow. Yorkshire were fortunate in finding such a successor to Peate and Peel; but the county season has already been so fully discussed in The Times that only a few general remarks are necessary on the season as a whole.

The wonderful preparation of wickets nowadays has been constantly urged as the reason of the increase in unfinished games, and it might perhaps be well that some general understanding should be arrived at by which there should be some modification of that artificial production of the perfection of the pitches that is practised on many of the leading grounds.

The records in batting have been exhaustively dealt with in The Times. K S Ranjitsinhji, though falling short of his aggregate of last year, has again made over 3,00 runs; and this, too, in fewer innings, so that he has an increased average of more than 209 over that of last year. He played less than in 1899, and this was attributable to his indisposition in May. His wonderful average of 87 is below that of Major Poore's 91 last summer. But K S Ranjitsinhji rather changed his game this year and, forsaking some of his strokes behind the wicket on the leg side, went forward and developed

wonderful power in the drive. It was all wrist and forearm, and his innings against Yorkshire on a bumping pitch at the Hove ground was intrinsically one of the finest ever played by him.

It has been a great season of records. Abel and K S Ranjitsinhji both beat Dr Grace's record of ten centuries in one season; and, while Hayward equalled it, Mr Fry only just failed to attain the same distinction.

In University cricket, Mr R E Foster, the Oxford captain, not only excelled his famous brother H K in execution, but he did what no other cricketer has done. Not content with securing the individual and aggregate records in Oxford v Cambridge, he performed the unprecedented feat of making two centuries in Gentlemen v Players, at Lord's. For Worcestershire he failed to keep up his Oxford form. It was the reverse with Mr T L Taylor, the Cambridge captain, who never played better cricket than when he was in the Yorkshire eleven.

Interminable comparison could be drawn between this year's figures and those of other seasons, but most followers of the game are thoroughly familiar with past feats. This much should be said, that Dr W G Grace, in spite of his advancing cricket years, can still make his 1,000 runs and his hundreds, and he occupies a high place in the table of averages. There is plenty of room for fine young bowlers; and this is a matter to which the counties should give attention. The chief averages are printed below: -

[Note: batting and bowling averages follow. These can be found from http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/ENG/1900_ENG_County_Championship_1900.html]

Wednesday 3 October, page 3: YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

A meeting of the committee of the Yorkshire County Club was held at Sheffield yesterday, Lord Hawke presiding. It was decided to give J T Brown, of Driffield, a benefit next season, but the match to be allotted to him has not been fixed.

It was resolved to present each member of the county team with a silver cup in recognition of the county having won the championship in the season just ended without suffering defeat, and it was also determined to place an additional sum of £20 to the credit of the following nine professionals in the Cricketers Investment Fund: Brown, Tunnicliffe, Denton, Haigh, Rhodes, Wainwright, Hirst, Hunter and Whitehead. The silver cups will be presented at the annual general meeting at Leeds on November 27, on which date the Milligan Memorial Fund, now amounting to £432, will be closed.

Fixtures with next season will be arranged with other counties as usual in recent years. An application from Northamptonshire for home and home games was declined. A grant was made to Luke Greenwood for the winter months.

Tuesday 6 November, page 11: KENT COUNTY CLUB

The Kent Committee met at the Golden Cross Hotel, Charing-cross, yesterday. In the absence of the president, Lord Harris took the chair, and among those who attended were Lord Camden, Mr J R Mason, Mr S Christopherson, Mr J A Mackinnon, Mr George Marsham, Mr F S W Cornwallis, Captain McCanlis, Mr W B Patterson, Captain Austin, Major Spens, Mr J Le Fleming, Mr P B Neame, Mr T Pawley and Mr A J Lancaster (secretary), &c.

In presenting their report the committee stated with much pleasure that the season of 1900 was the most successful the club had enjoyed for 12 years. Out of 22 matches Kent won eight, drew ten and lost only four. The committee not only congratulated Mr J R Mason on his splendid all-round play, but also expressed their best thanks to him for his energy and judgment as captain.

The income of the club from subscriptions showed a increase, but owing to the wet weather which prevailed on the occasion of nearly every home match, the gate money taken in the Canterbury Week and at every other match except the first one in the Tonbridge week fell below the average.

The committee felt very hopeful as to the future, the present team being the youngest that has ever represented the county. As the result of his benefit match at Canterbury Martin will receive about £920.

The committee have decided to play the same county matches next year, Kent meeting Yorkshire, Surrey, Lancashire, Notts, Essex, Sussex, Middlesex, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Hampshire and Worcestershire, and there will be one fixture with the M.C.C. at Lord's. Of the 11 county matches at home, three will be played at Canterbury, three at Tonbridge, two at Catford, and one each at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells. The other will be played at Canterbury if a suitable date can be secured, and, failing that, at Gravesend. The counties that will meet Kent during the Canterbury Week are Essex and Surrey.

The young wicket-keeper, Mitchell, joins the ground staff at Lord's, but will continue to live in Kent. Walter Wright is to have for his benefit the first match in the Tonbridge week.

Wednesday 14 November, page 7: THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual report and statement of accounts in connexion with the Yorkshire County Club have just been issued. The report, after congratulating the members and team upon their success in regaining the County Championship without the loss of a single match, and pointing out that a grant of £20 has been made to each professional, and that a cup will be presented to each member of the team at the annual general meeting, goes on to state that financially the club is in a very sound condition. In addition to the sum of £5,000 already invested, £2,005 has been invested in the Bradford Corporation, and the total balance to the credit of the club is £9,353 14s 5d.

For the first time since the formation of the present club the grounds have received 25 per cent of the gross receipts at county matches. The membership has fully maintained the great increase of the season of 1899. Subscriptions to Moorhouse's benefit fund amount to about £300, and the Milligan Memorial Fund to £434.

In recognition of 12 years' valuable service the committee have decided to grant a benefit to J T Brown during the ensuing season. The subject of increased accommodation for members is receiving the serious attention of the committee.

The revenue account for the season of 1900 shows an income of £8,662 17s 4d and an expenditure of £8,446 1s 6d, giving a balance of receipts over expenditure of £216 15s 11d. The annual meeting will be held at the Philosophical-hall, Leeds, on Tuesday, November 27, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

Friday 23 November, page 5: MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting was held yesterday at the Charing-cross Hotel. Mr V E Walker presided, and there were also present Mr A J Webbe, Mr G MacGregor, Mr E Rutter, Mr H Turner, Mr M Turner, Mr H V L Stanton, Mr R Westray, Mr J A Murdoch and Mr W J Ford.

The accounts show a large falling off in the balance which stood to the credit of the club at the end of the previous year, the loss being mainly attributable to the poor gate receipts at the beginning of the season and to the heavy expenses incurred in bringing out the book on Middlesex county cricket. There was a balance of £1,152 12s 4d from 1899, and this now stands at £335 7s 9d, while the balance from all county matches, after paying expenses and those connected with out-matches, was only £73 7s 1d. The cost of producing the book on Middlesex cricket amounted to more than £300, and so far the receipts from the sale of it have been only £12 4s 3d.

It was decided to reduce the number of county matches next season, the fixtures with Worcestershire and Leicestershire being dropped. Otherwise the programme of 1900 will be followed.

The officers were all re-elected, and a vote of thanks was passed to Mr MacGregor and Mr Warner for captaining the team during the season. Mr MacGregor consented to captain the side next summer.

Previous to the meeting the committee decided to send a negative reply to the suggestion of Mr W E Denison for a new method of scoring points in the county championship competition.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY CRICKET CLUB

Mr F P Knox, of Corpus Christi College, has been elected captain of the Oxford University Cricket Club for next season; Mr C H B Marsham, of Christ Church, will succeed Mr Knox in the secretaryship; and Mr A Hassall, student and tutor, Christ Church, has been appointed treasurer, in place of the Rev H M Burge, who resigned upon his election to the headmastership of Repton.

Tuesday 11 December, page 11: MEETING OF THE COUNTY CAPTAINS

The meeting of the captains of the first-class counties at Lord's yesterday was private, but at its close it was officially announced that the captains were unanimous in recommending to the Marylebone Club that the present law as to leg before wicket should remain unaltered and that no value should in county cricket be attached to drawn matches. They also were unanimously of opinion that, in the event of a team coming to England from South African next season, the matches should rank as first-class and consequently be counted in the averages.

In the course of the meeting the umpires who are to act in county matches next season were chosen, the following being the list of those selected: - Mycroft, William Hearn, Barlow, Wheeler, Richardson, White, Sherwin, W A J West, Titchmarsh, Arthur Hide, Alfred Shaw, W Richards, James Phillips, Moss, Walter Wright, Porter, Smith, Jesse Hide, J E West and H Wood.

The secretary to the Kent County Cricket Club asks us to state that the sum of £100 has been paid to his club by the hon. treasurer of the Crystal Palace Cricket Club, and that it will be at once invested in the names of the trustees of the Kent County Cricket Club, and it will appear in the club's accounts as "the Crystal Palace Cricket Club Fund." The income derived from this investment will be paid yearly to some deserving old professional who has played for Kent, to be selected by the committee.

Wednesday 12 December, page 8: THE MEETING OF COUNTY SECRETARIES

The Tuesday in Cattle Show week was duly observed at Lord's yesterday, when the secretaries and others from the counties met for the arrangement of next summer's programme. Mr F Eden Lacey, the secretary of the Marylebone Club, was in the chair, and among those present were: -

Lord Hawke and Mr J B Wostinholm (Yorkshire), Mr A N Hornby, Mr A C MacLaren, Mr S H Swire, Mr E B Rowley and Mr A Appleby (Lancashire), Mr C W Alcock and Mr D L A Jephson (Surrey), Mr H G Owen, Mr O R Borradaile and Mr C E Green (Essex), Mr A J Lancaster, Mr J R Mason, Mr T Pawley and Mr C J Burnup (Kent), Mr A J Webbe, Mr A E Stoddart and Mr G MacGregor (Middlesex), K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr W Newham and Mr E Smithers (Sussex), Mr P Foley and Mr H K Foster (Worcestershire), Mr H Turner and Mr W E Denison (Notts), Mr C Robson and Dr R Bencraft (Hampshire), Mr S M J Woods (Somerset), Mr C E De Trafford and Mr T Burdett (Leicestershire), Mr G L Jessop (Gloucestershire), Mr W B Delacombe (Derbyshire), Mr R Ryder (Warwickshire), Dr W G Grace (London County Club), Mr S H Day (Cambridge University), Mr C H B Marsham and Mr F P Knox (Oxford University), Mr E Roper (Liverpool), Mr C I Thornton (Scarborough) and Mr W Carless (Hastings).

No subject was brought forward for discussion and, except that Mr F E Lacey announced at the beginning of the meeting that the M.C.C. had no part in preparing the scheme of scoring points in the championship recently put forward by Mr W E Denison and agreed with the leading counties that no value should attach to a drawn game, the entire afternoon was given up to the arrangement of fixtures. As nearly all of these had been previously settled, there was little to do, except to fund suitable dates, and the meeting came to an end earlier than usual.

Virtually the fixture list remains as last season, with the substitution of a South African team for the West Indians. Some few changes, however, may be noted. Middlesex reduce their list by not playing Worcestershire and Leicestershire; and Hampshire do not meet Essex and Warwickshire. The loss in the number of matches is almost compensated by the arrangement of fixtures between Notts and Essex, Gloucestershire and Derbyshire, and Somerset and Worcestershire, the net decrease only amounting to two games. A larger reduction would perhaps have been acceptable as there is a strong feeling just now in many quarters that we have rather too much county cricket.

The big matches at Lord's will, of course, be played as usual, Oxford and Cambridge being again decided at the end of the week instead of the beginning. Gentlemen v Players at Lord's, for the first time for several years, precedes the corresponding match at the Oval.

In the course of the season there will be no fewer than eight benefit matches, the players concerned being William Gunn, Lockwood, J T Brown, Lilley, Board, F W Tate, Walter Wright and Carpenter. By arrangement, William Gunn, in receiving of his 20 years' service as a member of the ground staff at Lord's, is to have the Middlesex and Somerset match on Whit Monday, and the Yorkshire committee have generously given their match with Lancashire at Leeds on the August Bank Holiday to J T Brown.

There will be the usual festivals at Scarborough and Hastings, and it was practically arranged yesterday to finish the season with a match at Lord's for the benefit of the widow and children of the late Mr William Yardley, Lord Hawke and Dr W G Grace having readily consented to captain the sides.

As a result of Yorkshire and Lancashire going back to their old plan of meeting each other on Whit Monday and the August Bank Holiday, Essex will for the next three years meet Kent in the opening match of the Canterbury week. The programme arranged for the South African team is quite adequate without presenting any specially interesting feature.

[Note: the full first-class fixture list for 1901 can be found at:
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/Seasonal_Averages/ENG/1901_f_Match_List.html]

THE MINOR COUNTIES

The representatives of the minor counties met at 10 o'clock in the committee room. Colonel Fellowes (Devon) took the chair, and there were present Messrs R W Allen, W W Marks (Bedfordshire), G R Ward, P J de Paravicini (Buckinghamshire), O Papworth (Cambridgeshire), D Howell (Cornwall), F Monney (Dorset), J Earl Norman (Herts), J Foster Stedman (Monmouthshire), Matthew Forster, W R Wilson (Durham), A J Dornell, Percy W Dale, T Horton (Northamptonshire), E G Buxton (Norfolk), H M Turner (Oxfordshire), the Rev P E Mainwaring (Staffordshire), A M Miller (Wiltshire), J B Wostinholme (Yorkshire), J H Brain (Glamorganshire), F G H Clayton, R G Mortimer (Northumberland) and R H Mallett (Durham), hon. secretary.

It was announced that, as the result of the work by the committee last year, the M.C.C. had agreed to recognize a second division of the county championship competition according to the scheme submitted by the minor counties. A suggestion made through Mr F E Lacey, by the first-class county captains as to the desirability of neutral umpires being employed was agreed to in principle, and the following gentlemen were chosen to act with the secretary of the Marylebone Club in carrying out the plan: - Messrs A J Dornell, P J de Paravicini, A M Miller, W O Nares, J Earl Norman, O Papworth and R H Mallett.

The general arrangements of the competition were discussed and the idea of forming the counties into groups found favour with many; but everything was left in the hands of the committee. Mr Mallett, on re-elected as hon. secretary, was congratulated by Colonel Fellowes on his successful efforts to get their competition fully recognized by the M.C.C.

THE THROWING QUESTION

It is stated that, at the meeting of county captains at Lord's on Monday, an agreement was arrived at by which united action will be taken by the counties next season to get rid of all unfair and doubtful bowling. Details have not yet transpired, but strong measures are certain to be taken to enforce the decision.

Saturday 15 December, page 13: THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Lancashire County Club was held yesterday in Manchester, Mr A N Hornby presiding over a large attendance. The annual report showed that the membership was increasing and that the prospects of the county were satisfactory. Mr Hornby was re-elected president, Mr S H Swire secretary and Mr C Horner treasurer.

Mr Swire remarked that the report was one of the best he had ever penned. They had a good team, some clever and promising youngsters and a capital captain. He hoped that next season they would succeed in winning the championship.

A member inquired whether it would not be better to set aside the proceeds from one match per year and to devote them to a benefit fund from which players should be rewarded after a certain number of years' service, in place of the present haphazard system of benefit matches. Mr Hornby thought this was a matter which ought not to be dealt with by one county alone. He understood there would be a meeting of all the counties, at which the matter would be considered.

It was announced that Mold's benefit realized 32,100, and that Ward had chosen the Yorkshire match of 1902 for his benefit.