

THE TIMES REPORTS, 1876

[Note: Match reports are given in full, except . . . denotes the omission of an unnecessary section, usually details of the score at the fall of each wicket, which can easily be found on the scorecard provided by Cricket Archive; bowling figures, increasingly included in the actual report but still not the scorecard; or else the inclusion of the scorecard itself.)

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18 May: GENTLEMEN OF THE SOUTH v PLAYERS OF THE NORTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2003.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 May, page 12)

Although this may be regarded as the first great match of the season in London, it fell far short of expectation. An unusually large company assembled yesterday at Prince's Ground to witness it. Play began soon after 12 o'clock, with the professionals at the wickets.

The batting was slow. Half the wickets fell for 43 runs. This meagre contribution may be attributed mainly to the bowling of Messrs Absalom and Ridley, who were unchanged throughout the innings, which occupied nearly two hours and a half. The Gentlemen were less successful than their opponents, as one hour and a half sufficed to dispose of them all for an average of about six runs per wicket. In the second innings of the Players a little more life was infused, for at the close of the day just 50 runs were recorded for the loss of three wickets, two of which were the result of reckless running.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 May, page 9)

When Thursday's play in this match at Prince's ceased, each party had completed an innings, and three of the Players' wickets in the second innings were also down for 50 runs. The weather of yesterday was a great improvement upon that of Thursday, so also the play.

Ninety minutes were occupied in the capture of the seven remaining wickets, of which number Mr Grace claimed five. It may also be mentioned that just 90 runs were scored in the meantime. The gentlemen required 183 runs to win.

Messrs Grace and Walker were selected to lead off the batting, and before they parted 66 runs were recorded. When Mr Gilbert joined Mr Grace the batting became more obstinate and successful. Nearly all the bowling resources of the professional team were brought into action, but not until 112 runs were registered could the dismissal of Mr Grace be effected – caught long-field off. His chief hits were one six (lost ball), seven fours, one three and ten twos. With the total at 155 Hill uprooted Mr Gilbert's mid and off stumps. Soon after the winning hit was made by Mr Buller, with six wickets to spare.

18 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2002.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 May, page 12)

This annual match was commenced yesterday on the University ground. The weather proved a great drawback to the visitors. The University, who won the toss, went in first, and saving two instances, the scores were very trifling for each batsman. Marylebone were even less successful than Cambridge. The difference at the close of an innings each was slightly in favour of the University . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 May, page 9)

It may be remembered that Cambridge were 13 runs in advance of Marylebone when stumps were drawn on Thursday. All the parties concerned in the contest were in attendance at the appointed hour for recommencing play on Friday, and Messrs Greenfield and Lucas took their stations at the wickets within a few minutes of 12 o'clock. Shaw and Mycroft had charge of the early bowling.

At the outset runs came at the rate of one per minute for an hour. The first separation occurred nine runs further on, when Mr Greenfield, whose scoring was much slower than that of his partner, was caught at mid on. Mr Steel aided Mr Lucas materially. The chief hits of the former were two fives (drives), six fours and seven threes, and of the latter one five (drive), four fours and three threes. At 4.30 the tenth wicket fell for a total of 191.

Marylebone now required 205 runs to win, and when stumps were drawn they had obtained 59 at the cost of two wickets. Play will be resumed to-day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 May, page 9)

At the conclusion of Friday's play in this match at Cambridge, two of the Marylebone wickets in the last innings were down for 59 runs, and 146 more were required by them to win. Messrs Kenyon-Slaney and Nepean put together 58 of this number on Saturday morning before they were parted. But the remainder contributed so feebly that two hours sufficed to bring the match to a close. Cambridge won by 66 runs.

22 May: ALL ENGLAND ELEVEN v UNITED SOUTH OF ENGLAND ELEVEN

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2004.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 7)

When and wherever these forces come in contact, cricket of the highest order is anticipated; and taking into account the chances and changes incident to the noble game, the public are seldom to any extent disappointed. It attracted to Lord's yesterday the largest assembly of the present season. As the ground is now in superb condition – probably never in better – great scores were looked upon as certain from the character of the players concerned in the match, and before the day was half over this idea was realized.

The bowling of the United team exhibited most assuredly less strength than usual, and it got punished accordingly. The England innings occupied nearly the whole day. Mr Smith, who went in second wicket down, remained to the seventh. In his liberal contribution were a five (straight drive), four fours (chiefly drives), seven threes and eight twos (various). Mr Hornby also realized several large figures, after being let off by Mr Grace at "half-hit" as it is sometimes termed – i.e., between cover point forward and mid-off. A splendid piece of cricket disposed of Selby. At 4 o'clock just 200 runs were recorded.

A sharp N.E. wind then swept across the ground, accompanied by intermittent showers, which frequently compelled the players to seek the nearest shelter. As the innings approached the close, the batting of Shaw and Mycroft provoked a deal of excitement. The latter in one over from Mr Grace made 15 runs by off and on drives and leg hits. With the fall of Shaw's wicket the England innings closed for 287 runs. Time, 5h 55m.

Messrs Grace and Gilbert commenced batting for the United South under a very bad light, and when each had scored three runs further play for the day was abandoned. Umpires, Hearne and Clayton.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 12)

To the surprise of everybody, the United South went through two complete innings yesterday, and in the end were signally defeated. Play began at a quarter-past 12 with Messrs Grace and Gilbert at the wickets. The former made a very brief stay; a fine one-hand catch at short slip, with the slight addition of five runs to his overnight score, brought the innings to an unexpected close.

Elliott filled the vacancy, and a somewhat stubborn resistance ensued by both batsmen. The bowling, however, of Shaw indicated a superiority over the batting. Half the wickets were disposed of for 51 runs, and the remainder for a still less number. A fine catch by Shaw off his own ball, and to which Jupp fell a victim, was a fine piece of cricket. The innings, immediately after the retirement of Mr Grace, declined in interest and was almost devoid of incident. It occupied little more than two hours and a half . . .

Being in a minority of 201 runs, Messrs Grace and Gilbert recommenced the United batting, against the attacks of Shaw and Mycroft. Runs came apace at the start; 22 resulted from 11 overs. At this stage Mr Grace was caught

in the long field on. Jupp then joined Mr Gilbert, but the latter soon left - caught low down at slip. Nothing of note occurred from this period to the fall of the sixth wicket, except an off drive by Charlwood for six. The seventh wicket recorded 83 runs. Hill then relieved Mycroft, and Elliott, who went in third, soon after brought out his bat, after playing a faultless innings, with the largest score of his side.

At 6 o'clock the stumps were drawn, and All England - a questionable term - declared winners by an innings and 84 runs.

25 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2007.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 May, page 7)

The annual match between the above commenced yesterday in Cowley in anything but seasonable weather. Marylebone won the toss and went in. The wickets played slow at starting. With the exception of Mr Tylecote and Wild the scoring was very feeble. This may be attributed in a great measure to the bowling of Messrs T S Pearson and Buckland. On behalf of the University, only Messrs Dury and A Pearson stood out with any degree of prominence. These gentlemen contributed more than all the rest.

At the close of an innings each the University were 19 runs ahead. When stumps were drawn for the day, Marylebone had lost two wickets in their second innings for 25 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 14)

The morning opened unpromisingly yesterday at Oxford; but as the time for resumption of play in this match drew near the clouds sheered off and rain ceased. As a matter of course, the ground at Cowley was very dead, and runs were procured with difficulty.

More than an hour was spent in acquiring the first 30 on the part of Marylebone. Messrs Pearson and Ridley, the "not outs" for 5 and 2 respectively, put together 53 runs before they were parted, although the bowling underwent four changes. Save Mr Tubb, the remaining batsmen gave but little trouble, and at 4.30 the tenth wicket fell for 130 runs.

Oxford required 112 to win. Shaw and Mycroft bowled throughout the innings, and the ground suited them so well that the former got seven wickets for 28, the latter three wickets for 24. From the full score attached it will be seen that Marylebone won the match by 57 runs. Umpires, Farrands and Morton.

25 May: MIDDLESEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2006.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 May, page 7)

This most important county match attracted a large number of spectators to Prince's ground yesterday. Nearly an innings was got through . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 14)

Owing to the unfavourable state of the weather yesterday, very little progress was made in this match at Prince's . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 May, page 9)

A very unexpected turn characterized this match at Prince's on Saturday last. When Friday's play ceased each party had completed an innings, and four of the supposed best Middlesex wickets were lost in the second innings for 80 runs. Such being the case, a strong opinion was entertained that one hour of fine weather would dispose of the remaining six.

It so happened, however, that the home county stayed in much longer than this, and in the end left Yorkshire a "set" of 34 runs. No one thought that so insignificant a number would require much effort to procure. But it did. Mr Carter and Armitage were sent in first, against the bowling of Messrs Francis and Hadow. Both batsmen retired quickly and without a run. Emmett started with a cut for three, and on the next over was caught at mid off. Ulyett came, and with the score at eight retired, caught at wicket. Greenwood assisted in bringing up the fifth wicket to 15, clean bowled. A similar fate attended Hicks as that of his immediate predecessor.

Seven runs were wanting when Clayton was caught at deep long-on. Hill joined Lockwood at 4h 30m and all doubt about the issue of the match was soon set at rest. An on drive by the last comer included the winning hit for Yorkshire, with three wickets to spare. Umpires, Thoms and Rowbotham.

29 May: MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2009.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 May, page 8)

At length cricket weather has arrived. This cheering fact was demonstrated yesterday by the largest gathering at Lord's during the present season. The match itself had strong attractions for the admirers of first-class play. Marylebone won the toss, and within five minutes of the stipulated time sent Messrs W G Grace and F Penn to the wickets. Yorkshire began their bowling with Emmett and Hill.

Nothing particular transpired till the commencement of the 15th over, when Mr Grace played a ball into the hands of cover-point with total at 21. Mr Hadow joined Mr Penn, and the determined style of batting manifested by both brought on Ulyett in place of Emmett, and at 60 Clayton relieved Hill. The batting predominated notwithstanding, until West displaced Clayton, and with the score at 100 the last comer clean bowled Mr Penn, who played a remarkably fine defensive innings. The third and fourth wickets were taken soon after. Messrs Booth and Turner proved obstinate, and several changes of bowling were had recourse to before a parting could be effected.

At 145 the fifth wicket (Mr Booth's) fell. The next then offered but a feeble resistance; only eleven runs were contributed by them. Mycroft and Morley went in for hitting, and were not long in putting together their respective scores; but Mr Turner, the "not out," distinguished himself more particularly by a patient and, in many instances, finished style of defence. Six bowlers were engaged . . . The innings occupied four hours and a half.

Hicks and Green[wood] commenced the Yorkshire batting. Before the first over was completed the former ran himself out. Lockwood next appeared, and the score travelled rapidly on to 40, when a neat catch at wicket disposed of Greenwood. With Ulyett and Lockwood the field found plenty of active employment; in fact, these two played up to time, when 90 runs were totalled without further loss to Yorkshire than the two batsmen previously named. Umpires, Hearne and Rylott.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 May, page 12)

In order to get this important match finished yesterday, play, without any notice being given, began three-quarters of an hour earlier than usual. Lockwood and Ulyett, the not outs for 58 and 19 respectively, were, however, ready at call. The former was bowled off his pad from the first ball, but the latter increased his overnight score by 15 runs. Four wickets were lost for 123 runs. Of the remaining portion of the Yorkshire team little can be said beyond the batting of Emmett. The innings closed at 12.40 with a total of 164. Four bowlers were engaged . . .

The second innings of Marylebone was chiefly remarkable for the finished and effective batting of Messrs Penn and Buller. Several changes of bowling were found necessary before either could be removed from his wicket. With the score at 144, Mr Buller was easily stumped. The subsequent batsmen realized but 15, and at 5h 12m the innings terminated for 159 runs.

Yorkshire were left with a "set" of 192 runs to win, and but two hours to get them. Lockwood got nearly one-third of the number, but, as the match was arranged to close yesterday, it became impossible to play it out before sundown, and it was in consequence left drawn . . .

1 June: SOUTH v NORTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2011.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 June, page 10)

To the real lovers of cricket there are but few matches possessing an equal amount of interest with the above. For some years past it has been regarded as an "annual" well calculated to benefit "the Cricketers' Fund." Although the fee for admission to witness it is usually doubled, the attendance yesterday at Prince's Ground far exceeded that of any previous meeting during the present season. Considerable attention had been paid to the condition of the wickets, and they played tolerably true.

The South won the toss, and at 12.28 Mr W G Grace and Jupp were sent in under a somewhat thick light. Shaw bowled the first over to Jupp, but nothing resulted from it in the shape of runs. Mr Grace made a single off Hill, and almost directly after a four from each bowler. Jupp soon retired, and Mr Hadow joined Mr Grace. Everybody expected now to see a determined stand, but in the third over Mr Grace ran himself out. Mr Buller assisted in bringing up the third fall to 36. Mr Penn began slowly. During the next two overs Mr Hadow obtained 11 runs from three hits, and was then caught at short leg. Lord Harris made a brief stay. At 2 o'clock half the wickets were down for 63 runs.

After luncheon the scoring travelled faster, chiefly from the successes of Mr Penn, who, in fact, obtained the largest number of runs during the innings. The only remaining feature was the batting of Pooley. At five minutes past 4 o'clock the tenth wicket fell with the total at 128 . . .

The North began their batting admirably; 88 runs were totalled for three wickets. Selby and Oscroft advanced the score to 119, at which stage of the game stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 June, page 12)

Considering the attractions of Epsom Downs yesterday, the gathering at Prince's to witness a continuance of play in this match more than realized general expectation. Oscroft and Selby, the "not outs" for 39 and 16 respectively, commenced the North innings soon after 12 o'clock. The former, well set overnight, received but two balls, when he was finely caught at long off, and the latter added merely a couple of twos. Thus half the wickets fell for 123 runs.

Lillywhite's bowling proved so superior to the defence of the remaining batsmen that he obtained four wickets in succession. Mr Grace got three for a less average than three runs each. To show the success of the ball over the bat, the seven wickets just spoken of were the result of 40 minutes' play. The only other point of interest attachable to the match at this stage of it was the closeness of results - a difference of six runs.

The second innings of the South proceeded in the same order as the first, but with more satisfactory issues. Forty-five runs were produced at the cost of one and the first wicket - viz., Jupp's. Mr Hadow joined Mr Grace, and, as on the previous day, he quickly put together 11 runs by three hits. Mr Grace left with the total at 66. The chief figures were four fours, one three and four twos.

Mr Buller did not survive an over. Mr Penn and Mr Hadow were next partnered, and when 17 runs were accumulated by their joint exertions, the latter was disposed of by the wicket keeper. Lord Harris retired for a single - clean bowled. Half the Southern batsmen contributed 87 runs. A far more determined stand was evinced when Mr Walker associated himself with Mr Penn. The score travelled rapidly by big hits. At 113 Hill, who started bowling with Shaw and was displaced by Morley, resumed. At 1.30 rain stopped play for about half an hour.

On resumption, Mr Penn was finely thrown out by Daft, in the fifth over. His score of 43 was the product of a highly-finished style of batting. Between Pooley and Mr Walker a considerable degree of bustle manifested itself. Pooley retired at 125. With Lillywhite, the eighth man, the hitting continued vigorously till rain put a stop to further proceedings.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 June, page 8)

As this match at Prince's commenced as far back as the first day of the present month, it may not be amiss to remind the reader that at the close of Thursday's play the South had completed an innings, and three wickets of the other side had fallen for 119 runs. When stumps were drawn on Friday seven wickets of the South's second innings realized 213 runs, with Mr Walker and Lillywhite "not out" for 58 and 7 respectively.

In order to get the match finished on Saturday, play began Townsend minutes earlier than the stipulated time. Runs came freely from both batsmen. After Mr Walker had added 21 to his overnight score a catch at mid-off brought his innings to a termination. His hits included three fours, two threes and 13 twos. Southerton quickly fell to Hill and Flanagan was caught at mid-on. This brought the second innings of the South to an end for a total of 265 . . .

The North required 260 runs to win, but with two exceptions the batting for such a team was weakness itself. Mr Grace and Lillywhite began the bowling, and continued it with such effect that no change was needed throughout the innings. As usual, Lockwood gave a certain amount of trouble and Ulyett seemed very much disposed to stick. When, however, half the wickets collapsed for 62 runs, the issue was no longer a matter of doubt, and before 5 o'clock the South were declared winners by 153 runs. This important conquest may be mainly attributed to the batting of Messrs Hadow, Penn and Walker, as well as to the exertions of Mr Grace and Lillywhite, not only in this, but in the other essential part of the game.

5 June: SOUTH v NORTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2013.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 June, page 10)

Among the holyday gatherings of Whit-Monday that at Lord's must by no means be regarded as insignificant. A match bearing the above title, and recently played at Prince's, brought considerable gain to the Cricketers' Fund. The Marylebone Club, towards the close of last season, fixed upon the present 5th of June for the benefit of Hearne, a long-tried and much-esteemed member of the Ground. Some difference may be discovered in the composition of the two elevens, but the sides brought together yesterday contain a large amount of first-class talent.

The weather could scarcely have been more uninviting for cricket; not a ray of sunlight gladdened the scene, but a haziness scarcely one remove from a fog accompanied the play from the commencement up to 4 o'clock, when a heavy downpour drove the players to shelter. Little, if any, fault could be found with the wickets. Messrs W G Grace and I D Walker went to them first, opposed to the bowling of Shaw and Hill.

At the start the running was rapid. Hill got punished more severely than his companion. At 46 Morley relieved him. In the eighth over of the change Morley clean bowled Mr Grace, and in his tenth Mr Walker was caught by the third man up. For some time the hitting between Mr Buller and Jupp appeared to be very slow. The latter scarcely survived six overs when a fine piece of stumping on the leg side disposed of him. Mr Penn came next; yet with two such splendid batsmen as were now at the wickets, 22 overs were bowled for 11 runs.

With the total at 90, Hill resumed, but soon gave place again to Morley. A well-judged catch between square leg and mid on determined the fate of Mr Penn, and Lord Harris appeared at 111 for four wickets down. The play all round at this stage was remarkably fine. When 166 runs were put together, a shooter from Hill announced the fall of the fifth wicket. Mr Green played so well up to Mr Buller that Shaw, who went off at 149, reappeared, and soon after the rain fell so fast that the company, despairing of further play, began to move off.

After a dreary waiting of nearly two hours' duration, Pooley joined Mr Buller, and the innings was proceeded with up to 7 o'clock. It is estimated that during the day upwards of 10,000 persons attended the match, a large proportion of whom belonged, apparently, to what are called the "working classes."

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

The Marylebone Club have an excellent code of laws for playing the game of cricket, but they are not always abided by at Lord's Ground. Sometimes play, even in great matches, begins half an hour before the understood time, and sometimes as much after. Such was the case yesterday, but the arrear was made up by the capture of Mr Shand's wicket within seven minutes after the South appeared to finish their innings, which totalled 238 runs .

. .

The North entered upon their innings at 12.53, with Mr Hornby and Daft opposed to Messrs Lillywhite and Southerton. The former started from the east, or nursery end of the ground. Mr Hornby soon grew busy; 21 runs resulted from the first ten overs, of which the greater portion belonged to him. This activity increased, as 39 runs were soon after recorded for 16 overs. At this stage Mr Grace displaced Lillywhite, and from his second ball Mr Hornby was caught easily at cover point. His hits were five fours - three to square leg in succession - one three and minor figures.

Lockwood joined Daft, and the average score of the first hour was at the rate of a run per minute. Lillywhite then went over to Southerton's wicket, and shortly after Mr Shand relieved Mr Grace. The commencement of this change had an ominous look about it. From the first ball four wides were called; the second a no ball, and from the third three runs. The third ball of his third over, however, bowled Daft clean. It was desirable to bring on another change of bowling when Lockwood and Greenwood became partners. Mr Shand gave was to Mr Grace, and from the second ball of the latter Lockwood was caught easily in slip. Wild played a remarkably fine innings, and tested severely the devices of the bowlers. A badly-judged run brought his career to a close with the total at 205 for eight wickets. The innings terminated at 5.10 for 210 runs.

At 5.30 p.m. Messrs Grace and Walker commenced the second innings of the South, opposed to Shaw and Morley. 39 runs resulted from the first half hour's play, and 50 runs were telegraphed when Mr Walker retired, and 65 when Mr Grace was given out "leg before" . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 June, page 8)

At length the match at Lord's, under this wearying title, has been brought to a close with 85 runs in favour of the South. It may be remembered that when play ceased on Tuesday each party had completed an innings and three wickets of the South (second) were down for 72 runs. Lord Harris and Mr Penn, the not outs for 3 and 4 respectively, resumed batting yesterday within a few minutes of 12 o'clock.

Although opposed to Shaw and Hill, the score increased very fast, especially from the bat of Lord Harris, who played a really brilliant innings, composed of seven fours, three threes and seven twos - principally by drives and cuts. Mr Green, for a long time his companion, played well up to him, and on the retirement of these gentlemen the telegraph announced 219 runs for seven wickets. Saving the not out innings of Pooley, nothing transpired subsequently to call for comment, except the total to go in against - viz., 274, which it was deemed impossible for the North to reach . . .

Mr Hornby and Daft opened the second innings of the North; the latter seemed hardly up to the exigencies of the occasion. The bowling of Mr Grace and Lillywhite required great care in dealing with; more, in fact, than Daft had at his command, and he retired for a very insignificant figure - caught by wicket-keeper. Lockwood next appeared, and the hitting at both ends became very free and productive, 28 overs yielding 62 runs. At this stage Southerton took up the bowling at Lillywhite's end and Mr Shand relieved Mr Grace. Sixty-nine runs resulted from the first hour's play. Mr Shand, though thrice "no balled," continued his attack, but Mr Hornby and Lockwood made so much capital out of it that Lillywhite displaced him. From the first ball of the change Lockwood's leg stump fell.

Greenwood filled the vacancy thus caused, but before another run could be recorded Mr Hornby was caught in the slip. His hits were five fours, four threes, three twos and 20 singles – a spirited and well played innings throughout. With the fall of Greenwood at 139 and of Selby at 146, it was tolerably clear that the South had the game in their own hands. Clayton hit hard, but Shaw tamely. Wild fell down between the wickets just as he was warming up to his work. Hill left with the total at 189, and Morley, the last man, received but one ball. This brought the match to a conclusion at five minutes past 6 . . .

It is calculated that more than 15,000 persons attended the match during the three days of its continuance. Umpires, Randon and Farrands.

8 June: SURREY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2016.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 June, page 11)

The above match, for some years past a popular item in the Surrey programme, attracted a very considerable number of persons to the Oval yesterday. Surrey won the toss, and sent Jupp and Humphrey to the wickets forthwith. Messrs W G Grace and Miles were the bowlers, and so effective were they that half the wickets fell for 45 runs. Pooley played a lively innings of 63, composed of two fives, four fours, six threes &c. The last wicket put on 36 runs, and of these Street, the not-out, claimed two-thirds. Time, 3h 50min . . .

Gloucestershire lost their chieftain for a single, and only 34 were scored when Mr E M Grace was given out "leg before." Messrs Gilbert and Townsend then got together and made such a long and determined stand that the Surrey total was exceeded by eight runs when Mr Gilbert retired. His score of 86 included two fives, six fours, five threes, nine twos and singles. Mr G F Grace, though apparently out of health, kept possession of his wicket in conjunction with Mr Townsend up to the call of time.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 June, page 12)

Surrey came off badly in this contest. It may be remembered when Thursday's play at the Oval ceased they had completed an innings, and three wickets of Gloucestershire were lost for 197 runs, with Messrs Townsend and G F Grace not out for 86 and 7 respectively.

When three singles were added yesterday morning, the former retired, clean bowled, but the latter, missed at long leg, soon augmented his score to 46. The most remarkable part of the innings occurred towards the end of it. Mr Miles, twice missed, put on 35 runs quickly, and thereby so widened the difference of the two results that the match lost much of its general interest . . .

Surrey required 221 runs to score a single innings defeat. The same order of going was observed as at the outset of the play. Adverse luck attended both of the early batsmen - caught by short slip with the total at 9. Mr Ratcliffe and Elliott were for a considerable time partnered, but the result of their labours were but slowly recompensed. Only 11 more runs were chronicled when a catch at cover point settled Elliott, and Mr Fox who next appeared very soon fell to the wicket keeper. Thus four men, from whom a tolerable score was expected, were disposed of in 50 minutes for 22 runs.

Pooley infused some life into this dreamy state of things; he scored twice as fast as his companion, but was probably a little too self-reliant. A catch at point caused his dismissal, and the next ball settled Mr Chandler. The first change of bowling was necessitated when Mr Ratcliffe and Clifford were in. The second ball of the change disposed of Clifford, who had made the most of his time and opportunity. At 106 Mr Ratcliffe retired "leg before." Street and Southerton saved a single innings defeat, although had the chance given to Mr Wyatt been accepted, such an event would not have occurred. Six runs were required by Gloucestershire to win, and these were obtained without loss of wicket.

12 June: MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2017.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 5)

At the outset of this match yesterday, at Lord's, a strong opinion was expressed relative to the inequality of the sides, more especially when contrasted with the same match at the same place a year ago. Marylebone made a miserable start yesterday. Only two out of the chosen eleven were able to reach double figures, and these of no great moment.

Play commenced at 12.10. The first wicket fell without a run, and half were lost for 42. Mr Penn, the chief batsman, put together his score by three fours (cuts), one three, one two and three singles. Mr Turner, one three, four twos and two singles. Shaw and Morley bowled throughout . . . Duration of innings, one hour and 35 minutes.

Daft and Oscroft started the batting for Notts, opposed to Mycroft and Clayton. Between Shrewsbury and Daft the score moved on at a rapid rate, especially after an easy catch to mid-off was not turned to account. 48 runs resulted from half an hour's play, and 73 runs were recorded in 50 minutes. Daft displayed a great deal more freedom than usual, and his total of 49 included a six (forward drive), a five (drive), four fours &c. A Shrewsbury deservedly claims as much credit as the Nottingham chief. At 4.30 the third and fourth wickets fell for 108, and two hours later 200 appeared on the telegraph. Shaw, the not-out, exhibited his old form, and when the tenth wicket fell for 206 he brought out his bat . . .

Marylebone played up to time, and lost one wicket of their second innings for three runs.

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

The second day's play in this match at Lord's was entirely destitute of interest. At the close of Monday's proceedings each side had completed an innings, but with results so widely different that not the faintest hopes were entertained that Marylebone could escape a severe defeat.

Mr Penn batted beautifully, and put together the highest score by five fours, two threes, two twos and half a dozen singles. Mr Herbert also obtained his runs in very good style. On the retirement of these gentlemen the defence exhibited by Marylebone was weakness itself. Four wickets fell for 6q runs . . . nine 76. Mycroft, like a man in a desperate condition, struck at everything, and having possessed himself of 17 runs by six hits, he brought out his bat in triumph – certainly the most effective professional run-getter that Marylebone enlisted for the contest . . .

At 2h 25m the match terminated in favour of Nottinghamshire by an innings and 52 runs. Umpires, Hearne and Farrands.

12 June: MIDDLESEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2018.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 5)

If the start of the match at Prince's yesterday be an omen of success, Surrey will be able to retrieve their lost laurels. The toss for choice favoured them, and they proceeded at once to the wickets, which were pitched nearer the practice tents than usual. Soon after 12 o'clock Messrs Ratcliff and Lucas received the opening overs from Mr Hadow and Mr "Friar."

Nearly 50 runs were recorded before the first wicket fell. Jupp joined Mr Ratcliff, but lost two companions with the total at 78. Humphrey came, and the hitting by these two Surrey champions were so effective that 87 runs were contributed by them before parting. This brought up the total to 165 runs for four wickets. The next two in succession, though usually depended on for a liberal score, actually went for nothing.

Barratt and Southerton, renowned as bowlers, signalled themselves equally as efficient in defence. Some of the fielders were not only "out of form," but out of place when the ball travelled in the direction appointed to them; hence the unusual number of extras. Jupp proved a very stubborn defender of his wicket. He saw nine of his companions come and go, and then brought out his bat for 92 runs, the product of a somewhat slow, but careful and painstaking innings. Time, 6 o'clock. Six bowlers were engaged . . .

Only half an hour remained for Middlesex to bat. Messrs Ottaway and Walker scored 23 runs between them, to which were added three extras, when stumps were drawn for the day.

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

A larger assemblage was drawn together yesterday at Prince's than on the first day of the match. Shortly after 12 o'clock Messrs Ottaway and I D Walker, the "not outs" for 13 and 10 respectively, resumed the Middlesex batting, opposed to Southerton and Street.

As the score advanced with faster strides than the Surrey captain had contemplated, Mr Game went on at 61 in place of Street, whose balls were punished far more severely than those of his coadjutor. In the second over, and before another run was scored, the first wicket, Mr Walker's, fell. Mr Hadow came, and 28 runs were added, when Street resumed bowling. Notwithstanding this, the scoring went on at a rapid pace. It reached 119 before Mr Hadow retired, caught at cover-point. The capture of the two next wickets from like causes brought up the total to an average of 49 runs per wicket.

Although this pace declined a little in the subsequent stages of the play, Mr Ottaway, after an innings of four hours and 20 minutes, and in which he witnessed the dismissal of six companions, gave a chance to short slip, who accepted it. His hits were six fours (chiefly legs), five threes (various), 21 twos and 31 singles. After his retirement the scoring slackened somewhat. At 6 o'clock the innings terminated with a total of 339 . . .

Surrey (63 in arrear) began their second innings with as little delay as possible. The light was bad and the hitting languid. Forty minutes were expended in procuring 20 runs; this, too, at the cost of a very reliable batsman. Exactly at 7 o'clock stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 15 June, page 12)

The result of the match yesterday at Prince's sadly disappointed the hopes of Surrey, experience considering the prospects of Monday evening. At the finish of the second day's play Middlesex were most in favour, and this turn in the tide continued up to 4 o'clock yesterday, when they were declared winners of the match by eight wickets. Umpires, Thom and T Humphrey.

15 June: MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2021.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 June, page 8)

The result of the first day's contest in the above match at Lord's points to a second signal defeat in the course of one week. Play began at 12.5, with Derbyshire at the wickets, and although one was captured early, it took a long time to get half through the innings.

At 2.30 nearly 70 runs were recorded. Marylebone brought all their available bowling strength to bear, and many changes were rung upon it. The batsmen, however, proved very stubborn. In one instance Shaw delivered ten overs for two singles. A fine throw by Mr Pearson, a deep fielder, led to the dismissal of Mycroft and the close of the innings . . .

The Marylebone innings occupied an hour and 40 minutes, and possessed few matters of interest. The fielding was smart and the bowling effective. Messrs Pearson and Richardson were the only amateurs able to make a stand.

Day 2 (report from Monday 19 June, page 12)

It is not necessary to say much about Friday's play in this match at Lord's. When stumps were drawn on Thursday each party had completed an innings, and, as will be seen from the score, Marylebone were compelled to "follow on," in obedience to Law 46. Mr Tylecote, the not out for 0, had Mr Buller for a companion to start with at a quarter to 12 on Friday.

A good catch from a good hit, with the score at 28 for three wickets, disposed of Mr Tylecote, and Mr Tuck, next in and out, advanced to total to 32. Mr Buller, in attempting a leg hit, was caught over the wicket keeper's head, and Captain Meares' off stump fell quickly after. Shaw exhibited a very poor defence - caught mid-on. When Morley joined Mr Richardson a little more life was infused into the game; 13 runs were added to the 45 for the seventh wicket, when Mr Hills played a ball into the hands of slip. Rylott was caught from the first ball received. Morley, left without a partner, brought out his bat accordingly, after having made the longest score of the innings. Time, 1.20 . . .

It will be seen from the full score attached that Derbyshire won the match by an innings and 49 runs. Umpires - Nixon and Farrands.

15 June: SURREY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2022.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 June, page 8)

Yesterday the light blues paid their first visit to London this year in their capacity of cricketers. Considering the attractions of the Cup Day at Ascot, the attendance to witness the above return match at the Oval was by no means insignificant. Cambridge won the toss, and sent the Hon A Lyttelton and Mr Greenfield to the wickets, opposed to Southerton and Street as bowlers in chief.

The start proved favourable to Surrey, as from the second ball of Southerton the first wicket (Mr Lyttelton's) fell. Before Mr Lucas parted company with Mr Greenfield the score increased at the rate of 50 runs in 30 minutes. Barratt relieved Street, and at 57 he bowled Mr Lucas. Then came Mr Blacker, who, after making a cut for three, gave a chance to the enemy, but declined, and he turned his good fortune to account by making one of the best scores of his party.

At 82 Mr Greenfield retired, clean bowled. His most important hits were an off drive for five and a cut for four. The Hon E Lyttelton, more successful than his brother, put together 13 runs very quickly, and was then taken in the slips. Mr Steel, in conjunction with Mr Blacker, brought up the total to 156, the latter caught at wicket. Mr V K Shaw left at 174 and Mr Steel at 192. Time, 4h 45min . . .

Surrey started their batting with Jupp and Humphrey, against the bowling of Messrs Luddington and Patterson. The first wicket fell at 15. Elliott and Humphrey advanced to 45, when the latter left. At the close of the day Elliott was top scorer, and more than half his runs were composed of fours.

Days 2 and 3 (report from Monday 19 June, page 12)

The heavy shower on Thursday night caused the Oval wickets on Friday to play dead and runs to come slowly, even after the few hours of wind and sunshine. Mr Lindsay, the not-out for 15, was unable to pursue his innings on Friday in consequence of an injury to his hand. Jones and Barratt were the first to combat Messrs Luddington and Patterson. Before Barratt had obtained a run, he was missed at long-on by Mr Blacker. The remaining portion of the innings contained little interest, and at 1.5 it terminated for a total of 137 runs . . .

Cambridge, with 55 in hand, continued the same order of going in. Southerton and Jones had charge of the early bowling. Both batsmen were twice missed before the score had reached 40, and both left a little further on from the same cause. Messrs Blacker and Lucas advanced the score by slow processes to 78. At this stage the former succumbed to a bailer. The most prominent feature in the subsequent portion of the play was the staying power evinced by Mr Lucas, who went in first wicket down and brought out his bat. His chief hits were two fours (leg and drive), three threes (cuts), six and twos . . .

At 6.35 Surrey required 189 to win, and they lost five wickets for 7 runs. Jupp, Humphrey and Mr Shuter were all caught out from the first ball.

Less than an hour sufficed to finish the match on Saturday morning, as only four wickets had to go down in consequence of the absence of Mr Lindsay. Cambridge won by 148 runs.

19 June: MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2024.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 5)

The luxury of the thoroughly genial day for cricket had doubtless something to do with the bringing together such a goodly company as that witnessed yesterday at Lord's. Marylebone started the batting with Messrs W G Grace and Wild.

Full three-quarters of an hour were occupied in parting this pair. Mr Grace made a grand beginning with a hit for six, soon after followed by a five and supplemented by a four, two threes, three twos and a single. He was the first to leave. A great deal of free batting was continued up to luncheon time, when 130 runs were totalled, with four men out. At 4.40 the figures "200" were displayed on the telegraph. Mr Pearson's score of 51 comprised four fours, five threes &c. A well-played innings throughout. When the tenth wicket fell - viz., Randon's - a total of 206 was announced . . .

The Hon A Lyttelton and Mr Greenfield commenced the University batting. From the third ball of the first over, bowled by Shaw, surprise was expressed at the fall of Mr Lyttelton's wicket, [still] more that defended by Mr Lucas, and in both cases without a run. On the retirement of Mr Greenfield 37 were recorded by three wickets. Mr Grace went on at Morley's end, and he soon obtained Mr Blacker's wicket. Shaw continued bowling up to 88, when he gave place to Morley, and afterwards crossed over to the lower wicket. The advance of a run was regarded with great interest, and the one-sidedness of the match disappeared when 99 runs were recorded for the loss of five wickets, the actual state of the University innings when play for the day ceased.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 June, page 13)

When the first day's play in this important match at Lord's terminated, Marylebone had completed an innings, and five University wickets were down for 99 runs. Messrs Steel and Patterson, the not-outs for 20 and 6 respectively, proceeded with their batting shortly after 12 o'clock.

Both moved the score on at a brisk pace. Mr Steel made several fours, and eventually got together the longest score of the match, although it should be stated that he ought to have been caught before his total had assumed a fifth part of its ultimate proportions. Singular enough, the second portion of the innings realized precisely the same number of runs as the first - namely, 99. At the fall of the tenth wicket there was only a difference of eight runs. This closeness of results imparted an additional interest to the match, an interest well sustained throughout the day.

Marylebone sent in Mr Grace and Wild, as before. Mr Patterson started the bowling, and Mr Shaw continued at the other wicket. A hit to leg by Mr Grace sent the ball clean over the stand into the adjoining garden, and some delay occurred in finding it. But this sensational feat was short-lived, for in the third subsequent over a clever piece of stumping by Mr A Lyttelton disposed of the Marylebone captain for a trifling contribution. The second wicket fell for 19 and the third for 44.

The process of scoring was gradual up to 5 o'clock, when the "100" appeared on the telegraph for six wickets down. Mr Turner was beautifully caught in the slip soon after. The innings terminated at 6 o'clock for 148, thus leaving Cambridge a "set" of 157 runs to win . . . The comparative smallness of the score may be attributed to the excellence of the Cambridge fielding all round. Only two extras occurred in the second innings of Marylebone, and these from leg-byes. On the Marylebone side also the fielding is equally entitled to rank as first class.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 June, page 10)

Those who predicted a close run in this match were soon convinced yesterday that they were out in their reckoning. At the close of Tuesday's play Cambridge required 114 runs to win and had eight wickets to get the number.

At 12.8 Messrs Lucas and E Lyttelton, the not-outs for 17 and 5 respectively, re-commenced their batting, opposed to Morley and Shaw. 60 runs resulted from 45 minutes' play, and 75 from the first hour. Although the game was evidently in the hands of the Light Blues, they regarded the enemy with as much caution as if they were in a less favourable condition. All the available bowling resources of Marylebone were brought into requisition, but to little purpose. Mr E Lyttelton's score was compounded of two fours, one three, five twos and two singles; caught at wicket. Mr steel, who played a really finished innings of 44, was coolly waited upon by a deep fielder at this stage, and Mr A Lyttelton joined Mr Lucas.

A very few overs sufficed for the acquisition of the necessary number of runs, and Mr Lyttelton made the winning hit for Cambridge, at ten minutes to 2 o'clock, with six wickets to spare . . . Umpires, Hearne and Farrands.

19 June: MIDDLESEX v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2025.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 5)

This, the first Dark Blue encounter in London this season, began yesterday at Prince's shortly after 12 o'clock. Middlesex won the toss and went first to the wickets. Not a great deal of time elapsed before abundant evidence was given that both the fielding and bowling were beneath the standard of reputation. Hence the extravagant scoring, which averaged nearly 70 runs per hour from the first ball delivered to the last.

Mr Walker's tally of 110 runs consisted of one five (leg), 13 fours (cuts and drives), nine twos and 20 singles. He was at the wickets two hours and three-quarters. The innings of Mr Turner was irreproachable. His all-round hitting displayed alike a mastery of defence and great finish of style. It will be seen from the score appended hereto that only eight wickets were taken during the day. Umpires, Thoms and Willsher.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 21 June, page 13)

The records of cricket appertaining to Prince's ground furnish no parallel to the above match so far as it has proceeded for run-getting. Dating from its commencement on Monday up to the close of yesterday's play, no less than 767 runs have been scored, at the cost of 15 wickets.

Mr Rutter and Burghes, the not-outs of Monday, resumed the Middlesex batting at 12.10; the latter added 27 to his over-night score, and was then caught at deep square leg. Thirty-five minutes was consumed in completing the innings, which realized 439 runs. Nine bowlers were concerned . . .

Oxford began their batting with Messrs Webbe and Campbell at a few minutes past 1 o'clock. The condition of the wickets might challenge the most scrutinizing eye, and they played to perfection. Mr Campbell, well caught at mid-on, left the total at 55. Then came a stand of a full hour's duration; 152 runs were added in the meantime. Mr Webbe, caught by the third man up, left the second total at 207. Mr Heath retired in the fifth subsequent over, and Mr Dury, as fourth wicket down. Messrs Game and Briggs, from 25 overs, added 71 runs. These gentlemen played up to time . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 June, page 10)

Taking into account the high character of this match at Prince's, it may in one sense be regarded as the most wonderful on record. When play on Tuesday ceased, Middlesex had completed an innings, and five Oxford wickets were down for 328 runs. The interest created by the heavy scoring doubtlessly attracted a considerable portion of the company, for it was impossible to play the match out in the allotted time. Nor were the spectators disappointed, for the batsmen vied with each other in the effort to place all previous feats of scoring in the background.

Play was resumed at 10 minutes past 12 with Messrs Game and Briggs, the not-outs for 40 and 41 respectively. They kept together one hour exactly and added 94 runs in the meantime. Mr Briggs then - once missed - was

caught at point - six wickets, 422. Mr Buckland advanced these figures to 469, when he "played on." Mr Boyle next joined Mr Game, who, it should be observed, went in at 257 and was caught at short leg with the total at 506, towards which he contributed 141 by one six (straight drive), 20 fours, five threes, seven twos and 26 singles.

Mr Lewis came next, and between him and Mr Royle the bowling got severely punished; 562 runs were recorded for the fall of the ninth wicket. Even with the last man in the score proceeded almost at the same rapid rate as before. Great anxiety was manifested to see the "600" go up. Mr Royle accomplished the task, and eventually brought out his bat for 67 runs. Time, 4.45.

Middlesex, 173 in arrears, sent in Messrs Thornton and Green, who in the course of an hour put together 120 runs. Mr Thornton then left. There were yet 47 minutes of time, in which 46 runs were obtained, when stumps were drawn, and this unparalleled match was left drawn also.

22 June: MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2029.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 June, page 10)

In this match, which commenced yesterday at Lord's, the changes were many and the disappointments not a few. Oxford led off their batting with so much strength and determination that they promised to carry all before them. Mr Webbe treated Shaw and Morley, the early bowlers, with so much severity that nearly a dozen changes in some form were brought to bear before he was placed on the dismissed list.

The aspect of the match changed materially when he retired. Six wickets had fallen during the time Mr Webbe had been defending his own. His chief hits were eight fours, eight threes and nine twos. Messrs Buckland and Game, also important contributors, obtained their runs in a praiseworthy manner . . .

Messrs Grace and Booth were first at the wickets for Marylebone. The scoring proceeded at a rapid rate. Just 100 runs were recorded in 60 minutes. At 116 Mr Grace retired, caught by the bowler. Only one more wicket was taken by 7 o'clock, when stumps were drawn.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 June, page 14)

When it was fully understood that only two days would be allotted by the Marylebone Club for playing this match, the interest in it waned materially. At the close of the Marylebone innings yesterday there was a difference of 73 runs.

Oxford proceeded with their second venture in pretty much the same order as the first, but the bowling was entrusted to Mr Grace and Shaw. When 16 runs were obtained, the former induced Mr Buckland to return the ball to him. Mr Heath, in conjunction with Mr Webbe, brought up the total to 80, when the latter, who ought to have been taken when he had scored 28, fell to short leg. Beyond the not-out innings of Mr Briggs, there were but few, if any, incidents claiming special notice.

22 June: GENTLEMEN OF THE SOUTH v PLAYERS OF THE SOUTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2027.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 June, page 10)

The attendance at this annual match yesterday was hardly up to the standard of previous years. In many places the ring at the Oval appeared to be attenuated. Soon after 12 o'clock the Players proceeded to the wickets. Contrary to the recent exploits at Lord's and Prince's, the scoring was sluggish - in fact, it scarcely averaged 40 runs per hour all through the innings. Pooley, the top scorer, infused a little life into the game, but the stops of Jupp were slow. At the fall of the tenth wicket 147 runs were totalled - a comparatively trifling number for such an occasion . . .

At 4.35 the Gentlemen began their batting with Messrs Walker and Lucas, opposed to Street and Southerton. In the eighth over Mr Lucas ran himself out. With the score at 22 Mr Blacker came, and the hitting at both wickets was severe. No less than 98 runs resulted from 23 overs. On the retirement of Mr Walker the telegraph announced 120. Mr Hadow then joined Mr Blacker, and with the total at 176 the former, clean bowled, let in Mr Penn, who played up to time.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 24 June, page 14)

Had it not been for the deadness of the ground, the above match at the Oval would have terminated in the two days to which it was limited. The rain of yesterday morning prevented the resumption of play for a short time; but even when in motion the machinery of the game moved on sluggishly, and very few points of interest were observable.

As it approached the close an anxiety was manifested to make the best use of the time in hand, and the Gentlemen strove to get the few runs required to place them in the position of winners. When stumps were drawn at 7 o'clock, the match was also declared drawn.

26 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2031.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 8)

Viewed from a purely amateur standpoint, this annual Inter-University contest at Lord's claims a deserved pre-eminence. Its records date back to the year 1827, but the early arrangements were fitful, both as regards places and times, and the match had no fixity till the year of the Great Exhibition, when Lord's Ground was deemed the fittest place for its permanent continuance.

During the space of a quarter of a century Oxford has at times been winners year after year, and a similar run of success has fallen to the lot of Cambridge. When these are placed side by side it will be found that the differences of victories and defeats are very slight. Within the last ten years the interest in the match has increased so rapidly that at the present moment larger space is required for the convenience of a gathering like that of yesterday – a gathering little short of colossal. Judging from the previous trials, Cambridge were certainly the favourites with independent thinkers; stronger in bowling and faultless in the field.

Oxford won the toss and sent in Messrs Webbe and Buckland. No fault could be found with such an arrangement, but it failed to realize expectation, as Mr Luddington, who bowled from the pavilion wicket, presented Mr Webbe with a ball that travelled into the hands of slip, after a single only had been obtained of Mr Patterson. The over was completed by Mr Heath, but from the first ball of Mr Luddington the leg stump of Mr Heath fell. Two wickets for three runs.

Mr Dury exhibited a stronger promise of staying than the two dismissed batsmen, but with a score of seven he, in playing to leg, skied the ball, which the grasp of the wicket-keeper easily secured. A better face was put upon this bad business by Mr Briggs, for before another wicket could be captured 47 runs were recorded. Mr Buckland made three fours (bounding hits), two twos &c. Mr Pearson received but two balls, neither of which yielded a run. Equally disappointing was the stay of Mr Game, caught in slip. Five wickets, 62 runs.

Mr Campbell helped to enlarge this total to 69, contributing half-a-dozen. A good catch at wicket disposed of Mr Boyle for two singles. A little life was infused by Mr Lewis, who frequently sent the ball to the limits of the ring. Mr Briggs stayed till the last man came; not long after. His hits were three fours, two threes, two twos &c. Duration of innings, 2h 25m . . . Total, 112 runs.

At 3.15 Cambridge sent in Messrs Greenfield and Lucas to the bowling of Messrs Buckland and Lewis. Four byes were scored to start with, to these Mr Greenfield added a single off Mr Buckland, which sent him to the other wicket, but with the last ball of the over, Mr Lewis struck his leg stump. Thus the champions of the respective parties contributed only a single each. When Mr Blacker failed to score at all, the expressions of applause were varied and hearty.

But the successes of Oxford met with a check when the Hon E Lyttelton went to the assistance of Mr Lucas. A finer played innings than that of Mr Lucas is rarely witnessed. It comprised five fours, two threes, twelve

twos &c. Various changes of bowling were had recourse to before either of the Lytteltons or Mr Steel could be got rid of. Mr Patterson defied all their assailings, and at 7 o'clock brought out his bat with the greatest score of the day. When stumps were drawn Cambridge had lost seven wickets for 253 runs.

The weather was all that could be desired, the wickets played true, and the players were honoured with the attendance of 14,672 persons as checked by Mr Murdoch and his assistants at the turnstiles.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 10)

If the visitors to Lord's Ground yesterday were all told, it is quite likely that the second day's play in this annual encounter attracted as many as the first. At 11.40 - Marylebone time - Messrs Patterson and Allsopp, the not-outs for 74 and 16 respectively, again took their stations at the wickets, opposed to the bowling of Messrs Buckland and Lewis.

Ten runs were added, when Mr Allsopp retired, clean bowled. Mr Newton filled the vacancy this caused, and within 20 minutes from the commencement Mr Patterson's score of 100 was placed on the record. The knowledge of this feat evoked a great deal of cheering, on account of the rarity of its accomplishment in an inter-University match. Afterwards the score moved apace. Two wickets fell in the meantime, but not Mr Patterson's, and he brought out his bat for a masterly innings of 105, without giving a chance. Oxford was not so much wanting in the diversity of bowling as in efficiency . . .

Oxford, now 190 in arrear, sent Messrs Webbe and Buckland first to the wickets, as before; in fact, the same order of going in was preserved throughout. Messrs Patterson and Luddington were entrusted with the early bowling. Before a run was recorded Mr Buckland received his dismissal, and Mr Heath, after surviving one over, lost his wicket from the first ball of the next. Mr Dury infused a little life into the proceedings, and the Oxford prospects began to brighten. Great hopes were built upon the batting of Mr Webbe, but, after making 16 runs by four boundary hits, he was caught at point. At luncheon time five wickets were down for 60 runs, Messrs Game and Briggs then in.

On resumption of play, and with the total at 72, Mr Luddington delivered a no-ball, which Mr Briggs hit to leg, and was caught by the wicket-keeper. This let-off gave the batsman in question the opportunity of enlarging his score materially. It was, in fact, the starting point of the long score which Oxford subsequently made. There was nothing very smart or slightly in the style adopted by Mr Game, but he bided his time, and when opportunity offered for a grand hit he availed himself of it, and thus by degrees he obtained the long score appended to his name, and in the meantime wearied the bowlers out. The innings was "saved" a few minutes before 5, and at half-past "the 200" appeared on the telegraph. Still no one cherished an idea that Oxford would win. At 6.20 the innings closed for 262 runs . . .

Cambridge deputed the Hon A Lyttelton and Mr Lucas to go in against 72 runs. In 25 minutes 32 were scored. Stumps were then drawn, and the balance left for a little Light Blue play this day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 June, page 12)

A few words will sufficiently explain the closing events of yesterday. Cambridge required 43 runs to win, and at 12.10 Messrs A Lyttelton and Lucas, the not-outs, addressed themselves to the task. The latter scored ten right off. When only six were wanting Mr Dury accepted the ball from Mr Heath. Five runs resulted from the first over, thus making a tie.

Mr Lyttelton hit the next ball to short leg and started from his wicket, which Mr Tylecote soon put down. Mr Blacker came, but his partner drove the ball for four, and thus brought the match to a close in favour of Cambridge by nine wickets. Umpires, Farrands and Rylott.

29 June: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2032.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 30 June, page 11)

The first of three matches to be played under this head in the Metropolis commenced yesterday, at the Oval, and, notwithstanding the double tariff for admission, nearly 6,000 persons were present during the day. The Players won the toss, and began batting with Daft and Lockwood, to the bowling of Messrs W G Grace and Ridley.

In the 15th over Lockwood was caught at the wicket. Jupp then joined Daft. At 42 Mr Hadow displaced Mr Ridley, and at 64 the new-comer was stumped off him. Barlow exhibited a wonderful amount of patience, but Daft left him after a faultless innings of 48, composed of three fours (various), six threes, four twos and ten singles. Ulyett, after giving an early chance to the wicket-keeper, succeeded in equalling the Nottingham chief. Nor was that of Emmett less worthy of notice than either of the preceding batsmen, as a matter of course the changes of bowling were frequent. Nearly five hours were occupied in the completion of the innings, which terminated for 237 runs . . .

The Gentlemen started their batting with Messrs W G Grace and Lucas at 6.10, opposed to Shaw and Emmett, in a bad light. From the third ball Mr Grace's middle and leg stumps were disarranged. Such an unlooked for event evoked strong expressions of surprise. A better fate attended Mr Hadow; the score rose rapidly, and Hill relieved Shaw. Each batsman got a five off the first ball of the first and second over of the change. Hill then retaliated by bowling both. Three wickets were down at the call of time for 44 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 July, page 7)

When play in this match at the Oval ceased on Thursday, the professionals and completed an innings, and three of the Gentlemen's wickets were lost for 45 runs. Play was resumed yesterday at 11.40, with Mr Webbe, the not-out for a single, and Mr Hornby.

Only 17 were added by these accomplished batsmen, when Mr Webbe made way for Mr G F Grace. By gradual paces the score moved up to 98, when Mr Hornby was well caught at mid-on. Lord Harris occupied the vacant spot, and Shaw accepted the ball from Hill. The first ball of the eighth over bowled Lord Harris's middle stump, and in the next over Mr Grace was caught at deep square leg. Seven wickets, 124 runs.

Now came the stand of the innings by Messrs Ridley and Penn, who advanced the score to 175, and in the meantime necessitated three bowling changes at one end. Mr Ridley's leg stump fell to Emmett, and Mr Walker joined Mr Penn. The hitting at this stage of the game was even more free than hitherto. Forty-four runs were put together when Mr Penn left, caught easily. His figures were four fours, five threes, five twos &c., all obtained in first-class style. At 3.45 the innings closed for 229 . . .

The Players proceeded with the second innings in the same order as the first. Daft, again in good form, though slow, was not disposed of when stumps were drawn and 130 runs recorded for the loss of two wickets.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 July, page 12)

Quite as much interest was manifested by the public on Saturday at the Oval as on the two days previous, although an idea was generally entertained that the match could not be played out for want of time. Daft and Barlow, the not-outs for 58 and 19 respectively, resumed at 11.45.

The stand of the previous evening was not maintained by Daft, who played a ball "on." His chief hits were five fours and two threes. Greenwood and Ulyett were getting well set when a fine catch at deep square leg disposed of Greenwood, and with the addition of one run Ulyett retired. Six wickets, 172. Selby gave trouble, and a great deal of it. A bad hit got rid of Emmett, but Pooley, who took his place, stayed with Selby till the score advanced to 249. Afterwards the wickets fell fast, and at 3.40 the innings closed for 257 runs . . .

The Gentlemen required 266 to win, and they entered upon this almost impossible task at 4 o'clock, with Messrs W G Grace and Lucas against the bowling of Emmett and Shaw. 40 runs were recorded as a result of the first 35 minutes. Mr Lucas soon after left and Mr Webbe came. Between the two renowned batsmen now in the batting was fast and slow; fast with respect to Mr Grace, who made 37 runs while Mr Webbe was compounding two, by singles. Before parting Messrs Hornby and Grace the score advanced from 79 to 140. Among the hits of the latter were two sixes (straight drives), an overthrow for five, eight fours, five threes &c. Even after the retirement of Mr Hornby, at 150, hitting of a first-class order continued up to the call of time.

It is not a little remarkable that in each of the three completed innings eight wickets yielded double figures. Match drawn. Umpires, T Humphrey and Swann.

3 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2034.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 July, page 10)

Coming so slowly upon the contest at the Oval, much of the interest attaching to an other with the same title would suffer, were it not so arranged that the lists of competitors should not be identical, nor the place of play the same.

Just 70 years ago the first match between "Gentlemen and Players" was promoted and played at Lord's. From that period to the present – making an allowance for an interregnum of thirteen years – it has formed an important item in the Marylebone programme, and in order to keep the interest sustained many strange devices were often resorted to. In a strictly cricket sense, a well-arranged meeting of amateurs and professionals is generally regarded as the most important of the season.

Play began yesterday soon after 12 o'clock. Mr Hornby, having won the toss with Daft, sent Messrs Ottaway and W G Grace to the wickets, opposed to the bowling of Shaw and Emmett. From the first nine overs only three runs resulted. After this both batsmen began to make up for an apparent tardiness. Nearly 50 runs were recorded when Hill relieved Emmett. As the change failed its purpose, Morley went on at the pavilion wicket, and, although starting with three maidens, he afterwards got hit so freely that he gave way to Lockwood. The batting triumphed and 100 runs were scored in 90 minutes. Mr Ottaway's career closed by catch at wicket – total, 126.

Mr Webbe came, and though he played up to his usual "form," the splendid achievements of his companion put him somewhat into the shade. With the total at 230, he "pulled" a ball from Hill, which struck his off stump. Mr Hornby disappointed by the brevity of his visit, caught at slip. During the stay of the three gentlemen just named, Mr Grace displayed his batting skill to perfection. He was at the wickets nearly four hours, and only gave one chance in the meantime. His brilliant innings of 169 comprised one hit forward for seven, one six, eleven fours, six threes, 23 twos &c. Immense cheering greeted his return to the pavilion.

Messrs Ridley and Penn were partnered for half an hour, and the play assumed a much quieter tone. The bowling underwent a variety of changes, and Mr Penn was unable to contend longer against it. Five wickets, 293. From this stage to the close of the day's play runs came faster than before. Daft's lobs were tried, but they were severely punished by Mr Ridley especially. Mr G F Grace also made capital out of them, after being missed by Jupp at short leg. He was missed also afterwards by Pooley. A straight driven ball by Mr Ridley, off Emmett and secured by Morley, brought his innings to a close, and with it play for the day.

The enormous total of 433 runs for six wickets is without a parallel in a match of this character. A great deal of the success thus obtained is due to the excellence of the ground, which the bowlers aver is "too good" for the due exercise of their craft. 3,286 passed the turnstiles. Play is announced to commence this day at 11.30.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 July, page 12)

One of the prominent characteristics of cricket is uncertainty. This was never more thoroughly exemplified than during the first quarter of an hour on the resumption of play yesterday morning. When stumps were drawn on the previous evening the score stood at 433 for the loss of six wickets, averaging 72 runs per wicket, a number truly surprising.

But a surprise of another kind ensued when four remaining wickets fell in quick succession without a single run. Mr G F Grace, the not out for 53, had Lord Harris for his first partner, who received seven balls and was then taken at cover point. Mr Hadow had but one ball. The Hon A Lyttelton survived four overs, and was bowled by the last ball of the fifth, and Mr Appleby's wicket fell from the third ball delivered to him. Mr Grace did all the hitting, which added 15 runs to his previous total. Never was bowling more severely taxed on the first day, or easier on the second. Seven bowlers were engaged, and nearly all of them were changed twice or thrice during the innings of the Gentlemen, which resulted in a total of 449 runs . . .

At 2.20 Daft and Lockwood started the professional batting, opposed to Messrs W G Grace and Appleby. The scoring was not very uniform. Daft put together ten runs before his partner contributed a single, although confessedly a batsman of first class order. He fell to the wicket keeper with the total at 28. When Jupp came the running increased rapidly, but he lost the company of Daft at 57. Oscroft made a more determined stand than either, and, by a drive of five, four fours, four threes and hits of a smaller size, he brought up the fifth wicket to 164.

The relative strength of the teams was by this time apparent to everybody. The Gentlemen had given abundant evidence of their skill in batting, independently of the events of the morning, which was never likely again to recur, while the superiority of their fielding was too manifest to admit of doubt. Greenwood was capitally taken at mid-off; Pooley in deep long field; Shaw at mid-off; Hill and Morley both in long field. The innings closed at 5h 20m for 219 runs . . .

As the Players were in a minority of 230 runs, they had to "follow on," but the same order of going in was not pursued. Emmett, the not out, who had been playing well, received the first ball and was caught off it. Lockwood and Jupp played with spirit and a corresponding success. The light was now very bad, and all interest in the match from the hopelessness of a close result vanished. Play was continued to the usual time, when five wickets were down for 79 runs. Nearly four thousand persons were present during the day, of which 3,383 passed through the turnstiles. Umpires, Farrands and Nixon.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 July, page 6)

A few words will suffice to describe the closing events in this match at Lord's yesterday. Daft and Greenwood, the not outs for 11 and 1 respectively, resumed batting at 11.45, opposed to the brothers Grace.

In a very short time the overnight score of 79 was enlarged to 90, when Greenwood played into the hands of short slip. Pooley returned the ball to bowler for a trifling addition, and Shaw, after hitting to square leg for two, made a second attempt, but failed. Hill scored fast up to 11 runs and then played "on." Morley's movements were fitful, and to the surprise of nobody he ran himself out. During the time the above-named five were at the wickets, Daft steadily increased the score, until it reached 132. His

principal hits were one five, two fours and two threes. Mr Grace bowled 42 overs for 41 runs . . .

It will be seen from the full score attached that the Gentlemen won the match by an innings and 98 runs.

6 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2035.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 July, page 12)

The third and last match of the series commenced yesterday at Prince's, and, unlike that recently played at Lord's, was very slow, especially during the innings of the Gentlemen. This may be attributed to two causes - viz., the state of the wicket and the extraordinary bowling of Shaw.

The players went in first with Lockwood and Shrewsbury. The wickets fell fast; half of them realized only 42 runs. When Emmett joined Lockwood a stand was made, and 182 runs were recorded for the ninth wicket, when Lockwood was easily stumped. Lillywhite hit very freely. The innings closed at 4.8 for 158 runs . . .

The Gentlemen were at the wickets two hours and a half for 87 runs, averaging about 14 runs per man.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 July, page 10)

The second day's play in the above match at Prince's displayed the same characteristics as the first, especially with reference to slow scoring. Messrs Penn and Longman, the not outs for 8 and 0 respectively, continued the batting at 11.50 a.m.

Before parting they brought up the seventh wicket on the Gentlemen's side to 113, when Mr Penn retired, and Mr Hadow filled the vacancy. In the fourth subsequent over both Mr Longman and Mr Patterson were caught at point from two successive balls. Mr Lyttelton had his share of 21 overs, but only five runs were scored by him in the meantime. Mr Hadow brought out his bat at 12.55. The innings lasted three hours and a half, and resulted in a total of 144 runs . . .

The second innings of the Players requires little comment. Only four got into double figures, and but one of these to any extent. The fifth wicket fell for 71 runs, and the remaining five added 63, thus giving a total of 134 . . . The Gentlemen now wanted 149 to win, 31 of these were obtained without loss of a wicket when stumps were drawn. Umpires, Willsher and Henty.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 July, page 12)

The series of matches under this title, extending over a week and a half, terminated on Saturday at Prince's in favour of the former. This gives to the Gentlemen two decisive victories, while the drawn match at the Oval required of them but 65 runs and six good wickets to fall. It may be remembered, when stumps were drawn on Friday evening last 31 runs were got by the Gentlemen out of 149, the winning "set."

Messrs Longman and Hadow, the not outs, resumed batting on Saturday at 12 o'clock; the latter added a single to his overnight score and then played a ball into the hands of slip. Eight runs later Mr Longman's wicket fell. From a very indifferent hit to mid-off, Jupp caught Mr Lucas. The score advanced more rapidly when Messrs W G Grace and Penn were together, even

though they were interrupted by a heavy shower. The total had just passed 100 when Mr Grace retired.

After a slight delay, in consequence of a second shower, Mr Ridley appeared. A catch at point, however, soon disposed of him. With five wickets down for 104, the match was left in the hands of Messrs G F Grace and Penn, and at 3h 45m the number of runs necessary for winning was accomplished. The Gentlemen were the declared winners by five wickets . . .

10 July: MARYLEBONE CLUB AND GROUND v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2036.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 July, page 8)

Such a match as this deserved a much larger attendance than was witnessed yesterday at Lord's – probably not more than 200 at any one period. Surrey won the toss, and at 12.10 Messrs Lucas and Ratcliff were at the wickets. Flanagan bowled from the pavilion end of the ground, and Mycroft contra.

The scored moved up to 18, when Mr Ratcliff played "on." Jupp then joined Mr Lucas, and the hitting all round was free and productive. With the total at 37, Rylott relieved Flanagan, and at 81 the latter went on at Mycroft's end. In less than two hours 104 runs were obtained for the loss of three wickets. The innings continued up to 4 o'clock, when the telegraph announced a total of 205 runs. Flanagan's bowling deserves notice. From 36 overs and 2 balls he got nine wickets for 78 runs . . .

Marylebone led off indifferently. Mr Heath was reckoned upon for a good score, but failed to record a figure of any kind; the splendid batting of Mr Jeffrey's, however, brought up the fifth wicket to 120, towards which he contributed 50, and was then thrown out by Barratt – a remarkably effective piece of fielding. At the close of the day's play six Marylebone wickets were down for 151 runs. Umpires – Farrands and Nixon.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 July, page 7)

At Lord's Ground shortly before 12 o'clock yesterday, Mr Griffiths and Davey, the not outs for 35 and 3 respectively, resumed batting, with Southerton and Street against them as bowlers. Davey soon yielded, and in fact the first four wickets untaken over the night fell very rapidly in the morning, thus the seventh, eighth and ninth, for 169. The innings closed for 196 . . .

Surrey opened their second innings with Messrs Lucas and Ratcliff as before. Rylott opened from the lower wicket and Flanagan the pavilion. In consequence of the rapid running after Mr Ratcliff left, Mr Heath went on, and from his second ball the third wicket fell. He, however, bowled only five overs. Rylott and Mycroft did all the subsequent work in this department of the game. Jupp was the only batsman able to cope with them, and he brought out his bat after acquiring as many runs as the other ten composing the Surrey team – total, 139.

Marylebone required 149 runs to win. Messrs Heath and Turner went in first. The latter retired when only seven of this were obtained. Mr Richardson then appeared, and a very bold stand was made. 89 runs were recorded for the third wicket and 117 for the fifth. The game was now considered to be in the hands of Marylebone, but just at this stage came a turning point in favour of the other side. Four wickets were captured off Barratt in four overs at a quarter to seven o'clock. Surrey were pronounced winners of the match by 27 runs . . .

10 July: MIDDLESEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2037.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 July, page 8)

Prince's Ground was well patronized yesterday, and the whole of the day was occupied by Notts at the wickets. Daft led off the batting, and played a careful and masterly innings. His chief hits were one five (drive), three fours and four threes. Barnes, the "not out," also distinguished himself as the second best scorer - once missed at point. Of the six bowlers engaged only four were successful . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 July, page 7)

When the first day's play in this match at Prince's ceased Notts had completed a long innings and occupied the whole day in so doing. Middlesex began their batting yesterday with Messrs Ottaway and I D Walker, opposed to Shaw and Morley.

The last experienced somewhat severe treatment at the hands of Mr Walker, who cut him five times and then drove him to the off in five consecutive overs at the start. Each hit produced four runs. Tye, a new fast bowler, then accepted the ball from Morley; 54 runs were recorded when the first wicket fell. Mr Webbe survived four overs and Mr R D Walker six. Three wickets, 65. Mr Hadow contributed 16 runs by four hits (to leg) of equal value. Before a parting could be effected three changes of bowling were had recourse to. Mr Walker, after making the longest and liveliest innings of his side, played a ball to leg, where it was secured. Four wickets, 139. Little occurred on the retirement of Mr Hadow worthy of notice. The innings terminated at 4.35 for 173 runs . . .

Batting in a minority of 166 runs, Messrs Webbe and Ottaway continued the Middlesex batting. The start was promising as 61 runs were compiled at the cost of a total of one wicket - viz., Mr Webbe's, caught in slips. Mr I D Walker did not stay long. At the close of the day three wickets were down, as stated by the subjoined score. Umpires, [Willsher] and Carpenter.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 July, page 8)

The third day's play in this match at Prince's was proceeded with at the appointed time. Mr Ottaway, one of the not-outs for 44 runs, put on 62 before he surrendered to the varied attacks of Notts. Next to him "extras" figured most prominently. The innings closed for 220 runs. It should be observed that Mr Ottaway went in first and came out last. In his score were one five, four fours, seven threes and nine twos . . .

Notts now required 55 to win. Barnes and Selby were sent in to get them, but the latter was caught at mid-off from the fourth ball delivered. A Shrewsbury then joined Barnes, and the score reached 10, when play was stopped by a sad event.

Box, the groundkeeper, had put up the plate on the telegraph signifying the first decade; he then went to his chair, fell backward and expired three minutes afterwards. In consequence of this further play was abandoned.

Deceased for many years held a foremost position as wicket-keeper, and has rarely been excelled . . .

20 July: SOUTH v NORTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2045.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 July, page 6)

The fifth match bearing this title commenced yesterday, at the Oval. It was promoted in the winter for the benefit of T Humphrey, for many years one of the most prominent cricketers in the county of Surrey. Although the price of admission was doubled, nearly 4,000 persons attended.

The sides were well chosen. Mr Hornby and Lockwood began the batting at 12.34, and during the first hour scored 80 runs. Shortly after Mr Hornby retired, caught by bowler. This rapid running was not sustained in the next hour, as five wickets fell for 133. The subsequent feature was the play of Emmett, who as a left-hander may be accredited with a thoroughly sound innings. He left tenth wicket down . . . At the call of time the South lost one wicket for 15 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 July, page 13)

It may be well to remark when stumps were drawn on Thursday in this match at the Oval that the North had completed an innings for 247 runs, and one wicket of the South had fallen for 15. Mr Lucas and Charlwood, the not outs, brought up the score yesterday morning to 25, when the former gave way to Hill. This let in Mr G F Grace, and when 22 were added Charlwood was caught at cover point. Mr W G Grace then joined his brother, but a separation was effected before another run could be obtained. Four wickets, 47. Although Mr W G Grace gave an easy chance to mid on and not accepted, the subsequent portion of the batting, especially between him and Lillywhite, claimed general admiration . . .

The North, with 68 in hand, renewed their batting with Mr Hornby and Lockwood. Before being parted 125 runs were added. Mr Hornby was then caught in short slip, where he had been once missed . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 July, page 8)

Although three days were expended upon this match at the Oval, they were not sufficient, and on Saturday evening last it was left "drawn." At the conclusion of Friday's play each side had completed an innings, and three wickets of the North were down for 177 runs. Shrewsbury, one of the not outs, did not appear in consequence of illness, brought on by the heat of the sun. The main feature of the North innings on the third day was the batting of Selby, whose score was compounded of eight fours, two threes &c . . .

The South required 340 to win. Considering the time in hand, this was an impossible task. Both the bowling and fielding of the North for awhile carried all before it. Seven wickets fell for 84 runs. Here Mr W G Grace came to the rescue, and, in conjunction with Pooley, saved the South from what assuredly would have been a signal defeat by playing up to the hour agreed upon for drawing stumps. Umpires, Barnes and Barratt.

31 July: SURREY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2050.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 August, page 5)

The first match between these counties during the present season commenced yesterday at the Oval. Owing to the capricious state of the weather the attendance was below the average. As regards the condition of the ground there could hardly be two opinions. It played faultily. This fact will account in a great degree for the paucity of runs obtained by players of a first-class character.

The Surrey innings occupied two hours and a quarter, and averaged about 37 runs per hour. Eight wickets were lost eventually from catches . . . Notts made a very fine start with Daft and Oscroft, but at the call of time only 108 were totalled for six wickets, and five of these from catches.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 August, page 8)

Owing in a great measure to the weather of yesterday, a much larger company was attracted to the Oval than on the first day of the above match. Play began at 12.15 with Mr Tolley and Shaw, the not outs for 15 and 9 respectively. The four outstanding wickets of Notts fell for 45 runs – a number far too great had the fielding been up to the mark . . . Total, 153.

Surrey, with 70 in arrear, led off the batting with Jupp and Mr Lucas at a quarter to 2 o'clock. Three wickets fell before this number was overtaken. Jupp, slow at first, played a thoroughly sound innings, and came out ninth man, with the largest score of the match. His chief hits were four threes and six twos. The tenth wicket fell at 6h 20m . . . Notts required 73 to win, and 24 were obtained without the loss of a wicket at the close of the day's play.

Day 3 – no report found

7 August: THE CANTERBURY WEEK

KENT AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE v ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2053.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 8 August, page 6)

On few occasions since the foundation of "the week" in 1842 has there been witnessed a larger attendance on the opening match than that of yesterday. Doubtless the weather had much to do with it, as it was of a very inviting character. Some slight disappointment was occasioned by the total absence of Mr Hornby and also of Pinder, who were unable to be present, from personal and domestic affliction.

Play began somewhat late, owing to the non-arrival of other important persons at the specified time. Eventually, Messrs W G Grace and Gilbert were in possession of the wickets, opposed to Shaw and Emmett, the latter bowling from the city end of the ground. Of course a large number of spectators was attracted to the St Lawrence ground to witness the performance of Mr Grace. He started with a single; then followed two hits (cut and drive) to the extremity of the ground, for which fours were allowed. Beyond these he failed to go, being caught at deep square leg off Emmett. Mingled expressions of surprise and applause ensued.

Mr Townsend filled the vacancy, and the representatives of England found the task of separating the Gloucestershire amateurs one difficult of accomplishment, although the bowling was well up to the mark. At one time seven maidens were bowled in succession. With the score at 52 Hill displaced Emmett, and at 69 Morley went on at the opposite wicket – a change too long delayed. When half a dozen runs were added Mr Townsend gave sufficient elevation to the ball to enable the bowler to reach it some distance off. The chief hits of the retiring batsman were two fours (cuts), two threes (cut and drive) and four twos (various). Lord Harris next appeared, and the score quickly advanced to 100. Luncheon ensued.

On resumption of play Emmett resumed bowling, and in the second subsequent over Shaw appeared again at the wicket. As the batting was now in the ascendant, frequent changes of attack were had recourse to. Notwithstanding every device, 145 runs were obtained when Lord Harris was bowled, apparently off his pads, for a score of 45, compounded of seven fours, five twos and a balance of singles. This let in Mr Yardley, who, in conjunction with Mr Gilbert, pushed the score along at a rapid pace – viz., by eight fours (cuts and drive), one three, four twos &c. He fell at length to the bowler. Four wickets, 245.

Mr F Penn then became Mr Gilbert's fifth partner. Before a separation could be effected 41 runs were added. Mr G F Grace kept up the same vigorous style of defence as that which characterized nearly all who preceded him – caught at square leg from a lofty hit. After an innings of four hours and three-quarters' duration, Mr Gilbert was on an appeal to the umpire given out "leg before." His masterly accomplished score of 143 was compounded of seventeen fours (all-round hits), four threes, 11 twos and singles. His first appearance here will doubtless form a frequent topic of discussion. At the call of "time" Messrs Foord-Kelcey and V K Shaw were at the wickets, with the total at 336.

One reason to be assigned for the great amount of runs is the excellent condition of the ground, brought about by the application of a steam-roller at proper times, so that it is as level as a billiard-table, and with comparatively as thin a coat of grass as the table is of baize. Umpires, Hearne and Willsher.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 11)

Messrs Foord-Kelcey and Shaw, the not-outs of Monday evening for five runs each, took their stations at the wicket yesterday at 11.35. Hill bowled the first over, from which a bye only resulted, but from the following, delivered by A Shaw, a catch in the slip by Hill disposed of Mr V K Shaw, and 337 runs were telegraphed as the product of eight wickets.

Mr Absolom next appeared, and Mr Foord-Kelcey retired, leg before, after adding two to his overnight total. Mr Absolom made one hit for four, and was then caught at nearly square leg. This brought the innings to a close for 345 runs. During the compilation of this long score six bowlers were tried and frequently changed . . .

Messrs Lucas and A J Webbe started the batting for England, opposed to Messrs Foord-Kelcey and W G Grace, the latter at the city end. From the first ball Mr Lucas was caught at point. This let in Lockwood, who began with a cut for four. A similar catch to that just mentioned closed Mr Webbe's career, and 13 runs were recorded for the loss of two wickets. Greenwood, in conjunction with his countryman, soon pushed the score up to 44, when the ball propelled as it were by a piece of artillery sent the leg stump of Greenwood 19 yards from the two upstanding ones.

With the score at 53 Mr Absolom relieved Mr Grace, and at 79 Mr G F Grace tried a few overs at the opposite wicket. Both Ulyett and Lockwood appeared in good form for hitting, and the waiters upon the telegraph were continually shifting the plates. Ulyett left with the total at 93. Mr H R Webbe assisted in bringing up the first 100. Time 1.45. At 126 Mr Gilbert took part in the overthrow of [Lockwood], whose fine innings gave the fielders no inconsiderable amount of exhausting exercise, considering the high range of the thermometer. His chief hits were six fours, three threes &c. - caught at mid-off. Emmett carried his bat over luncheon time, as also did Mr Webbe, but the former was caught at cover-point with the score at 166 for six wickets, and the latter at 185. Of the remaining three little occurred calling for special remark; the eighth fell for 2091 ninth, 225; tenth, 226. Time, 4.20 . . .

Being 119 in arrear, England had to follow on; this humiliating process was commenced by the Messrs A J and H R Webbe (brothers). The former received the first ball from Mr Foord-Kelcey, and the latter retired with the total at seven. Mr Lucas came, and a very long and successful hand was made by him. At 43 Mr Absolom went on at the city end in lieu of Mr W G Grace, and at 66 Mr Gilbert at the opposite wicket. Notwithstanding these changes the score increased with much greater speed than at any previous stage of the match. The first 100 was obtained in one hour exactly.

At 113 Mr Shaw displaced Mr Absolom. At 6.30 the arrear of runs was "pulled off." Mr Lucas, who had successfully contended with all the bowling at command, was eventually "lobbed out" by Mr Townsend. Two wickets, 121. Lockwood then joined Mr Webbe, who played a masterly innings up to time. Score, 159 . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 August, page 8)

From the apprehension entertained by many that the match commenced on Monday would not be played out, in consequence of the long scores resulting from the first and second day's play, the attendance was by no means large yesterday. At 11.45 the not-outs, Mr A J Webbe and Lockwood, resumed batting.

The former added 23 to his overnight total when a good catch at wicket brought his career to a close. The masterly manner in which so large an innings as 109 was effected by Mr Webbe, against so experienced and accomplished a team, evoked loud expressions of applause from every portion of the field. His chief hits were 16 fours, two threes and eight twos. Greenwood and Ulyett worked well together, and before a parting could be effected the bowling underwent a variety of changes. At 293 Lord Harris displaced Mr Foord-Kelcey. This proved beneficial, as from the third ball put down by him the sixth wicket surrendered.

For a long time after luncheon the play assumed a sleepy aspect. Shortly after 3 o'clock, however, the figures 300 appeared on the telegraph. Some difficulty was experienced in getting another wicket, notwithstanding frequent changes in the form of attack. Two catches by Mr W Grace at cover-point after the score had passed 350 proclaimed the end of the innings to be near, and at 18 minutes to 4 o'clock it terminated for a total of 355 runs. Eight bowlers were tried . . .

Up to this period no less than 926 runs were recorded, and 237 were yet required by Kent and Gloucestershire to win. At a quarter-past 4 o'clock Mr W G Grace and Mr Yardley commenced the task of procuring them. Shaw delivered the first ball to Mr Grace, and Emmett carried on the bowling at the city end. The score increased rapidly nearly run for run up to about 30, when Ulyett displaced Emmett. At 52 Mr Yardley was splendidly caught by Davey off a ball from Ulyett. Thus far it seemed likely to get the match played out.

Mr Townsend played well up to his partner as far as opportunity offered. The second change of bowling occurred at 94, when Hill superseded Shaw. Upwards of 20 runs were added when Morley appeared and took the bowling from Ulyett. But in spite of these changes Mr Grace turned nearly every over to account. Mr Townsend hit a ball to long leg, and a fine catch from it announced 153 runs for the second wicket. Lord Harris started his innings with two singles, and followed them by four fours (chiefly drives). At 178 Shaw resumed at Ulyett's wicket, and from his second ball Mr Grace's wicket fell. His chief hits were ten fours; a five and a six were caused by overthrows.

Mr Absolom was bowled from the first ball received, and Mr Foord-Kelcey left with the total at 178. Mr Penn, though some time on the defensive, failed to get a run. At 202 Shaw changed ends, and Ulyett - who had been brought on in lieu of Hill - bowled Lord Harris in his first over. Messrs Gilbert and G F Grace were now together, but not for long, as Shaw bowled the latter from the first ball delivered to him. Stumps were then drawn, and the match declared drawn also . . .

10 August: KENT v GENTLEMEN OF MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2055.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 August, page 11)

Whether from inherited excellence or long standing, the above "annual" stands out prominently in the programme of the week. Among other appellations it takes the title of "the Ladies' Day," i.e., when it commences on Thursday. According to the estimates of some persons yesterday, nearly 3,000 of the fair sex alone - moving in the middle and upper strata of society - honoured the ground with their presence.

Play began at 12 o'clock, with Messrs Shaw and Absolom at the wickets, opposed to Mr W G Grace and Captain Meares. Two hits for four each and two singles comprehended the innings of the latter when the first wicket fell. Mr Pattison contributed a fair share of the 37 recorded, when Mr Clarke relieved Captain Meares. When four were added the new bowler caught Mr Pattison off his own ball. Mr Yardley then joined Mr Shaw, and the score advanced to 59, a stage of the innings which indicated the fall of the third wicket.

Lord Harris next appeared and commenced an innings which will be long remembered, not only for its numerical proportions, but for the free and brilliant style in which the runs comprising it were obtained. At 2h 20m - luncheon time - both he and Mr Yardley were 41 each, and the total 143 for three wickets.

On resumption of play, the leading bowlers, who had given place to several changes, went on at their respective ends, but the score by fast hitting reached 177 when Mr Yardley was clean bowled. Mr Penn disappointed by the misjudging, or rather not understanding sufficiently, his partner's intentions. Five wickets, 183. Mr Mackinnon had to contend against a variety of bowling before he surrendered to Mr Grace. Next in the order of going in was Hearne, a young professional of great promise. Lord Harris continued till the total reached 304, towards which he contributed more than half by 24 fours (all round), two threes, nine twos and a balance of singles.

Mr Thomson put together 27 chiefly by hard hitting. Eight wickets, 357 runs. Mr Foord-Kelcey occupied but little time in compounding 31. Captain Fellowes, adopting the style of his immediate predecessors, brought up the tenth wicket to 436, and on his retirement Henty joined Hearne and played up to time, when the extraordinary score of 453 was announced, thus averaging 45 runs per wicket, and at the rate of 75 per hour.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 12 August, page 5)

It may be remembered when the first day's play in this match ceased Kent had scored 453 runs, with one wicket to go down. Very little time was expended yesterday in obtaining this. Henty contributed 13 to his overnight score and Hearne brought out his bat. Nine bowlers were engaged, but four only with success . . .

Marylebone deputed Messrs W G Grace and Lucas to begin their batting, in opposition to Messrs Thomson (fast left hand) and Absolom. The scorers were scarcely in form for taking notes and recording figures when Mr

Absolom completely prostrated the wicket defended by Mr Lucas. This event let in Mr Bird, and the score progressed freely until it reached 17, all obtained by Mr Grace. A splendid catch at mid off then announced the end of this great batsman's career. The stay of Mr Bird was also an unusually brief one - caught at wicket for four runs.

A slight check to this bad beginning was effected by Messrs Turner and Clarke, who brought up the total to 54. At this stage Mr Foord-Kelcey supplanted Mr Absolom. Five runs were added, when the former was caught in the slip off Captain Fellowes. As the bowling was pretty well up to the mark, neither Mr Howell nor Mr Clarke could score fast, and Mr Clarke left with the total at 66, towards which he contributed 19. A second fine catch by Mr Absolom was the cause of his dismissal.

Mr Absolom went on to bowl for a second time with the total at 77, and before he left the figures 100 appeared on the telegraph. Eventually Mr Howell - who made the largest score of the innings - fell on resumption of bowling to Mr Foord-Kelcey's first ball. Seven wickets, 117. Mr Goldney secured but one ball. Captain Meares and Mr Hay had to be disposed of. As 137 were recorded Hearne was called on to bowl, and this youth soon made havoc of both, and another wicket soon after fell, towards which he claimed a share of interest. Shortly after 4 o'clock the innings terminated for 144 . . .

Being in a minority of 329 runs, Marylebone had to "follow on." Messrs Grace and Lucas received the early overs from Mr Absolom and Hearne. The first seven runs were obtained by Mr Lucas, at which his wicket fell. Mr Bird then came forward, and the running was carried on briskly up to 38, when Mr Foord-Kelcey displaced Mr Absolom, and soon after another run had been recorded Mr Bird's wicket fell to the new comer. Mr Tennent kept the ball rolling, in conjunction with his partner, and the total advanced by rapid strides to 80, when Captain Fellowes went [on] in place of Hearne. A fine drive by Mr Grace brought 100 on the telegraph, and this number resulted from the batting of 45 minutes. A splendid catch at long field on disposed of Mr Tennent. Three wickets, 125.

Mr Howell then became Mr Grace's fourth partner, and these made so determined a stand that 203 runs were recorded before Mr Howell retired - caught at point. Mr Crutchley assisted in bringing up the total to 217, when stumps were drawn for the day. It is well to observe here, in consequence of the time likely to be occupied in completing this match, that between the I Zingari and Gentlemen of Kent will not be attempted.

Day 3 (report from Monday 14 August, page 8)

In the long list of cricket marvels and curiosities few stand out, or are likely so to do, with greater prominence than those comprised in the last "Week at Canterbury." Three days of sunshine, with only an occasion passing cloud, were considered sufficient to play out the first match on paper. But it proved otherwise; and with 1,132 runs recorded it was left unfinished. Towards this number Mr Gilbert contributed 148, Mr [A J] Webbe 117, Mr W G Grace 100 and Lockwood 99.

The 2n was more remarkable than the first. Kent began the batting, and occupied the wickets the whole of Thursday. Nine wickets were lost in the meantime for 453 runs. To these 20 were added on Friday morning. Marylebone were singularly unlucky at the start, nor were they much befriended by fortune at any of the subsequent stages, being 329 runs in

arrear at the fall of the tenth wicket. A "follow on" was inevitable, and 217 were obtained with four wickets down when play for the day ceased.

No one attempted to forecast the result, and few, if any, dreamt that Mr Grace would rub out the debt of arrears himself. But he did. This feat puts in the shade that of Mr Ward in 1820, whose score of 278 has till now been regarded as the most wonderful of its kind on record.

The enormous total of 344 completed by Mr Grace on Saturday occupied six hours and a quarter, thus giving an average of 57 runs per hour. He had to contend against all the Kent bowlers save one. Three of them went on three times and three twice. In one instance Mr Yardley bowled from the right hand and then from the left. Never was a more striking exhibition of endurance against exhaustion manifested.

To explain the progress it may be well to say that play began at 12 o'clock on Saturday, and in 90 minutes the overnight total of 217 advanced to 323, and ten minutes later the arrears were pulled off. At 4.35 Mr Grace had secured just 300, and at 5 o'clock the figures 500 appeared on the telegraph, of which total Mr Crutchley claimed no ordinary share. Mr Turner, after resisting several changes of bowling, fell to the first ball delivered by Lord Harris. Six wickets, 506. Now came the close of Mr Grace's career - caught at mid off, and great was the joy thereat. His score of 344 contained 51 fours, eight threes, 20 twos and 76 singles.

There remained yet half an hour for play. This time was expended partly by Mr Cottrell, caught at square leg for 10. Neither Captain Meares nor Mr Goldney had a favourable opportunity for scoring, and when stumps were drawn 557 runs were announced for the loss of nine wickets; at the same time the match was declared drawn . . . Umpires - Willsher and Hearne.#

21 August: SURREY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2065.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 August, page 6)

So far back as the 19th of June last a match between these counties was played at Sheffield, when Yorkshire won by an innings and 58 runs. The "return" was regarded with some curiosity by the patrons of cricket in and near the metropolis, and the Oval yesterday presented such a gathering as is scarcely seen there except on occasions of a great match in which curiosity is thoroughly awakened.

Yorkshire won the toss, and, notwithstanding the deadness of the ground from recent rainfalls, they elected to go in. This questionable policy suited the bowling of Southerton and Barrett to a nicety, and the Yorkshire wickets fell fast – so fast, in fact, that 90 minutes sufficed for the completion of an innings. Ulyett came off top score for 21 runs . . .

The Surrey innings occupied nearly two hours and three quarters. Messrs Read and Chandler were alone able to contend against the assailings of Yorkshire. The former batted magnificently, and gave but one chance. His chief hits were four fours, four threes and five twos . . . Yorkshire began their second innings shortly before 7 o'clock, and when stumps were drawn the score stood thus . . . [Yorkshire (2) 11/0.] Umpires, Humphrey and Rowbotham.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 August, page 8)

Although the weather yesterday morning was not very promising, it did not interfere with the cricket at the Oval. Play began at 12.15 and was continued up to 6.30. It may be remembered at the close on Monday each side had completed an innings, and eleven runs were scored by Yorkshire in their second innings without loss of wicket.

Myers added 17 to his overnight total, chiefly by singles. The Northern batting centred in Lockwood, whose great score was composed of one six (on drive), five fours, five threes, ten twos &c, without a chance. The smaller contribution of Clayton is also worthy of mention from the careful and defensive style adopted – one somewhat new to him. At 4h 25m his wicket, the tenth, fell with the total at 151 . . .

Surrey required 102 runs to win, and as there were 100 minutes before the time for drawing stumps would arrive, it was thought the match would be played out. Such was the character of the bowling and fielding that 57 runs only were obtained at the cost of seven wickets. Surrey will therefore have 45 more runs to get, and a close finish may be expected to-day . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 August, page 6)

Five-and-thirty minutes sufficed yesterday to finish the above county match at the Oval. For two such Elevens the scores, with three or four exceptions, were unusually small. Yorkshire won by 24 runs.

21 August: KENT v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2064.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 August, page 6)

In this "return" match, commenced yesterday at Gravesend, Kent won the toss and went to the wickets forthwith. Messrs Absolom and Shaw received the early overs from M'Intyre and Watson, bowlers of widely different schools. The latter was very successful at the start; three wickets fell to him, including Mr Yardley's, for a total of 36. Lord Harris and Mr Penn were partnered till the score reached 46, when the former was caught at deep square leg, and the latter taken by the wicket-keeper about ten yards from the stumps.

Later in the day Mr Foord-Kelcey completely changed the aspect of the game, for when he retired ninth man out the score had advanced to 146, just double the number of that on his entry. His hits were all round and very well directed. An on drive for six over the wall met with hearty applause. The innings closed at 4h 40m . . .

Lancashire experienced a great loss in the short stay of Mr Hornby. In fact, the bowling of Mr Foord-Kelcey taxed the defensive capabilities of all so severely that only 77 runs were recorded for six wickets when play for the day ceased. Umpires, Goodhew and Smith.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 August, page 8)

Play in this return match at Gravesend was resumed yesterday at 11.35, with Barlow and Watson not out for 22 and 10 respectively. Messrs Foord-Kelcey and Absolom were the early bowlers. With the addition of 10 to the overnight total, Barlow was caught at short leg forward, and thus seven wickets were down for 87 runs. Mr Wadsworth effected two hits for five runs - clean bowled.

Mr Roper then joined Mr Watson, and, by a free style of batting on the part of both, the score advanced to 100. Hearne then relieved Mr Absolom, but the change failed in its purpose, and other changes were resorted to. Watson was eventually taken in the slip and Mr Roper at mid off; time, 12.45 . . .

The second innings of Kent was started by Messrs Absolom and Shaw. The former went to work vigorously. He made four fours and two twos in four overs off Watson; but Mr Shaw left with the total at 21. Mr Yardley came, and Mr Absolom retired with a total of 43 for two wickets. Lord Harris ought to have been stumped from the first ball tendered to him - caught in slip soon after. Messrs Penn and Yardley pushed the score along at a rapid rate, but the greatest batting feat of the innings must be attributed to Mr Mackinnon, who played splendid cricket . . . - total, 193.

Lancashire made a very unfortunate start. Mr Hornby was too much depended upon, and his early overthrow by the youthful Hearne at once threw Lancashire into the shade. They pursued their innings under the disadvantage of bad light, and lost five wickets for 49 runs when play for the day ceased.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 August, page 6)

In the middle of June last the above parties met at Rochdale, when Lancashire won their match by ten wickets. Yesterday, at Gravesend, the tables were turned, and Kent were proclaimed victors by 129 runs.

24 August: SURREY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2067.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 August, page 4)

This "return" match was commenced yesterday at the Oval, and attracted a considerable assemblage on account of its being the last of the London season. Kent won the toss and proceeded to the wickets forthwith. Considerable surprise was expressed at the feebleness of the scoring throughout, excepting that of Lord Harris and Mr Penn. Eight retired for an average somewhat less than two runs per man. Jones proved highly successful when called on to bowl; he took five wickets in five consecutive overs. The innings occupied just 90 minutes . . . Total, 66.

Surrey started their batting with Jupp and Elliott, to the bowling of Mr Foord-Kelcey and Hearne. A wicket fell in the second over. Humphrey then joined Jupp, and then brought up the second wicket to 126, when Humphrey was caught by the bowler. His chief hits were one six (on-drive), one 5, five 4s, four 3s and eight 2s. At 147 the fall of another wicket was proclaimed. Two afterwards collapsed without a run. Pooley and Jupp played up to time, and Surrey claimed 199 runs for five wickets. The number of extras recorded thus far is a severe commentary upon the fielding of Kent. Umpires, Fryer and T Humphrey.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 August, page 4)

Judging from the attendance yesterday at the Oval, the interest in this match is well sustained. At the close of Thursday's play Kent had completed an innings for 66 runs, and five wickets for Surrey were down for 199. The remaining five added 69. Jupp, who went in first, played the innings through without offering a chance. His chief hits were five fours, six threes and five twos. Street went in last and brought on six bowlers . . .

Kent, now 202 in arrear, sent in Messrs Penn and Mackinnon; the former was clean bowled at 16. Nearly all the batting worthy of mention was effected by Lord Harris, Mr Yardley and Mr Foord-Kelcey. When the last named gentleman retired, the score had reached 221. His hits were three fours (drives), three threes (chiefly cuts), six twos (various) and 16 singles. It will be seen from the subjoined score that eight wickets are down and only 19 runs "on." Surrey, in all probability, will make short work of winning . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 August, page 11)

On two occasions during the present season Kent have been defeated in county matches by ten wickets – the first at Rochdale in the third week of June, and the second at Kennington in the fourth week of August. When play at the latter place ceased on Friday evening Kent recorded 221 runs in their second innings for eight wickets, or 19 "on."

To this number were added 38 in about three-quarters of an hour on the following morning – viz., 27 by Mr Shaw, eight by Croxford, two by Henty &c.; the most noteworthy figure being a six obtained from a hit to leg by Mr Shaw . . .

Surrey required 57 to win. Jupp and Humphrey commenced the batting. Messrs Foord-Kelcey and Shaw delivered the early overs, but, as both got severely punished, Mr Absolom and Hearne were substituted for them. The batsmen, however, treated all so much alike that one hour sufficed to obtain the required number. Two fives and six fours were discoverable among the figures on the score sheet when the match was finished on Saturday afternoon in favour of Surrey, and, as aforesaid, by ten wickets .

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28 August: YORKSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2069.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 29 August, page 9)

Among the great "return" matches, few possess so much interest – regarded from a professional point of view – as the above. The combatants know full well the character of the assemblage gathered about them, as not being merely critical and demonstrative, but very outspoken.

The weather yesterday at Sheffield was a sad drawback to the game. Play did not begin till nearly 2 o'clock. Yorkshire, having now the toss, sent in Myers and Ulyett; the latter was the only member of the team who got into double figures, and he scored fully two-fifths of the total obtained from the bat . . .

As a matter of course, the heavy rainfalls caused the wickets to play dead, and the fielding proved difficult. Despite the unfavourable weather, upwards of 8,000 persons were present, and these watched the progress of the match with unflagging interest up to the time of drawing stumps.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 30 August, page 3)

The diminutive scores made hitherto by these celebrated cricket counties during the present week cannot fail to excite attention. Much is due, no doubt, to the unfavourable state of the weather and the consequence condition of the Sheffield ground. Play was stopped three times yesterday owing to rain. The Notts innings occupied less than two hours. Daft was the only batsman on the part of Notts who got into double figures, and these resulted from four threes and a four . . . Total, 46.

The second innings of the Yorkshiremen created still greater surprise than the first of Notts. They were all disposed of in 44 overs. Ulyett was again the only double figure scorer. Morley's bowling commanded special attention . . . Total, 32.

In Notts' second innings Daft was missed from the first ball presented to him. At the close of the day one wicket was down for 36 runs. The unfavourable weather seemed, however, to have but little effect upon the attendance.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 August, page 6)

One hour sufficed to bring this match, at Sheffield, to a conclusion yesterday in favour of Notts by eight wickets. Daft, after two escapes, made the winning hit. Umpires, Coward and Carpenter.

31 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/2/2070.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 September, page 3)

This, the last county match of the season, commenced yesterday at the Trent-bridge Ground, Nottingham. Repeated heavy showers spoiled the play. Surrey won the toss and proceeded forthwith to the wickets. All were disposed of for a total of 26 runs . . . At the call of time only one Notts wicket was down for 39 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 September, page 3)

Although favoured by fine weather yesterday, the attendance at Trent Bridge Ground was surprisingly small. Play began shortly after 12 o'clock. Daft, one of the not-outs, gave an easy catch to point with the total at 86. Half the Notts wickets were lost for 101 runs. The remaining half added 49. The style of batting adopted by Shrewsbury, combined with its effectiveness, was the subject of much eulogy. He remained at the wickets nearly four hours and out together 67 runs without offering a chance . . .

Surrey, 124 runs in arrears, started their second innings with Jupp and Humphrey, to the bowling of Shaw and Morley. Two singles resulted from the first over, and then came a long list of maidens. Humphrey gave a chance to Mr Power, which, being declined, enabled him to advance to 20, when Shaw clean bowled him . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 September, page 11)

All things considered, the concluding week of the season was by far the dullest and least interesting, although the matches played therein were by no means of an inferior character. The above-named stood last in the county lists. It began on the 31st of August and continued up to the 2nd inst., when Notts were declared winners by an innings and 24 runs. Morley and Shaw got all the wickets in the second Surrey innings, though not quite in the same ratio as the first. Shaw, who was kept in throughout, delivered 69 overs and two balls for 41 runs . . . Total 100.

During the season – one of the busiest on record – Notts have played 10 county matches, of which they won four, lost three and three were left drawn.