

MATCH NUMBER 98: – STAFFORDSHIRE V SURREY 2ND XI -MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Played at County Ground, Stoke-on-Trent on Wednesday 30th, Thursday 31st August, Friday 1st September 1911

Result: Staffordshire won by 334 runs

Toss: Staffordshire Umpires: Debutants:

First day score: Staffordshire 289, Surrey 2nd XI 77-7 (// & ??),

Second day score: Staffordshire 289 & 255, Surrey 2nd XI 83 & 59-1 (?? & ??)

Staffordshire

P Briggs	c Knight b Abel	20	b Abel	0
A Hollowood	lbw b Abel	45	b Abel	0
S F Barnes	c Abel b Myers	6	c Knight b Myers	36
J E Nichols	lbw b Myers	61	c Abel b Harrison	2
W H Twigg	c Harrison b Abel	14	c Blackledge b Harrison	4
*B Meakin	not out	50	c Vigar b Abel	133
G Meakin	lbw b Abel	2	st Vigar b Spring	3
E Vost	run out	8	b Spring	48
A Bucknell	c Abel b Platt	12	not out	9
+J Poole	b Blackledge	3	b Abel	4
G Deyes	st Vigar b Harrison	41	lbw b Abel	0
Extras		27		16
Total	(all out)	289	(all out)	255

Fall of wickets	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
First innings	42	53	139	147	163	166	205	227	238	289
Second innings	0	5	18	22	83	86	202	251	255	255

Harrison	11.4	2	28	1	-	-	(1)	22	3	66	2	-	-
Myers	30	14	35	2			(2)	15	1	38	1		
Platt	16	2	58	1									
Abel	29	2	99	4			(3)	22.2	8	65	5		
Blackledge	9	2	42	1			(4)	6	2	20	0		
Spring							(5)	14	1	50	2		
Extras	-	-	27	1	-	-				16	0	-	-
Total	95.4	22	289	10	-	-		79.2	15	255	10	-	-

Surrey 2nd XI

D J Knight	c Twigg b Nichols	13	lbw b G Meakin	39
H S Harrison	lbw b Barnes	3	run out	15
A Sandham	c Deyes b Nichols	14	b Barnes	0
W J Abel	b Barnes	17	c & b Barnes	8
G W Palmer	lbw b Nichols	0	c G Meakin b Deyes	4
W A Spring	b Deyes	19	b Barnes	34
+H E Vigar	c Bucknell b Barnes	10	b Deyes	2
E B Myers	c B Meakin b Barnes	2	b Barnes	4
H G Blackledge	b Deyes	4	b Barnes	11
G W Platt	run out	0	not out	0
*A W F Rutty	not out	0	b Barnes	0
Extras		1		10
Total	(all out)	83	(all out)	127

Fall of wickets	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
First innings	4	30	33	37	67	77	77	83	83	83
Second innings										127

Barnes	14	8	30	4	-	-	(1)	15	5	43	6	-	-
Deyes	6.2	1	8	2			(2)	9	1	59	2		
Bucknell	4	2	4	0			(3)	7	6	4	0		
Nichols	6	1	31	3			(4)	3	1	7	0		
G Meakin	3	0	9	0			(5)	2	0	4	1		
Extras	-	-	1	1	-	-		-	-	10	1	-	-
Total	33.2	12	83	10	-	-		36	13	127	10	-	-

Notes:

[Missing: Umpires, close of play scores (players details), breakdown of extras & fall of wickets (Surrey 2nd XI 2nd innings)]

Sources: Staffordshire Advertiser 2/9/1911, Staffordshire Annual Report, Staffordshire Sentinel 30 & 31/8/1911

CRICKET.

STAFFORDSHIRE V. SURREY II.

CHAMPIONSHIP WON BY STAFFORDSHIRE.

The deciding match for the championship of the Minor Counties was played at Stoke on Wednesday, Thursday, and yesterday between Staffordshire and Surrey II., eleven, and furnished the home side with one of the most triumphant and splendid victories in the history of Staffordshire cricket. From beginning to end the Staffordshire representatives played like a first-class side, and the clever young players who have been got together at Kennington Oval with a view to recruiting the Surrey first team were completely outplayed and utterly routed. In batting, bowling, and even fielding, Staffordshire were incomparably the better side, and they won at mid-day yesterday by the huge margin of 334 runs. Eight of the Surrey players were professionals from the Oval ground staff, and most of them have already appeared in first-class cricket a good number of times. Sandham is a young batsman of whom great things are expected, Abel, son of the famous "Bobby" has often been the first eleven, and so have Spring, Platt, Vigar, Harrison, and Blackidge, whilst Myers impressed us as one of the most promising men on the side. D. J. Knight is regarded as a schoolboy prodigy, and is probably the best batsman in the public schools. G. W. Palmer is a left-hand bat of some ability, and A. W. F. Rutty is the captain of the team. This is practically the end that went it, way to the main of the competition. In the Southern Division, Berkshire gained the lead, but they had not met Surrey II., who were second, and, therefore, had the right to challenge the leaders to play for the right to enter the final. This they did, and defeated Berkshire by five wickets. Staffordshire were easily at the head of the Northern Division, winning seven matches outright, and losing one by a narrow margin and in treacherous weather at Newcastle-on-Tyne. For the final match, Staffordshire were not able to command their full strength, the absentees being Fereday, E. H. Bourne, L. F. Taylor, and J. S. Heath. B. Meakin took his place again as captain, J. Poole kept the wicket, and G. Meakin and W. H. Twigg were included. The former is the elder brother of the captain, who for the greater part of the year is resident in the South of England, but has occasionally assisted Staffordshire in the past, though not for several years. Walter Twigg is the well-known Staffordshire player, who also played for the county some years ago, but has not been able to do so for seven or eight years. By winning the match, Staffordshire gained the championship of their class for the third time, and no honour was ever better deserved. The team have shown magnificent form, and are deserving of unstinted praise. In the final match they had about equal conditions with their opponents, and their all-round play was of such excellence that much better sides than Surrey II. would have succumbed had they been in the visitors' place. It is rather difficult to write about the cricket with any confidence, but it appeared to have some moisture on Wednesday morning, and the ball turned readily for the first few hours. But after that the pitch seemed to be fast and true, and to remain so to the finish. Yesterday morning Barnes was able to make the ball break at a big speed, and probably the surface was wearing a little then, but to the eye the pitch, after the close of the match, looked good enough for hundreds of runs, and there was nothing to occur for the second or collapse of the visitors except brilliant bowling. The same remark applies to the first collapse. The attendance of the public was not what it ought to have been for a match of such importance, though there was a fair gate on Wednesday.

The match commenced at 11.30 on Wednesday. The spin of the coin favoured Staffordshire, who took first innings, and P. Briggs and Hollowood opened the innings, to the bowling of Harrison and Myers. The former is a fast-medium, right-hand bowler, and the latter slow-medium, left-hand. Myers, bowling from the Station end, made the ball turn a good deal from leg, and little could be done with him, but Harrison, after delivering two overs, gave way to Platt, another right-hand bowler, who sends down a fast-medium ball. The batting of both men was crisp and good, and several good fours came from Platt. At 33, Myers gave way to Abel, who bowls slow leg-breaks right-handed, with an occasional quick ball. He got Briggs caught mid-on at 43. Barnes followed and hit Abel to leg for four, but put one up in the slips at the other end. Nichols was Hollowood's next partner, and an invaluable stand was made. Nichols got hold of some loose balls from Abel, who let him off when he had scored eight by dropping a catch in the slips off Myers. Hollowood was out next, but was rather slow, and his partner rapidly overhauled him in the matter of scoring. Blackidge and Platt took up the bowling, but the century was passed. Nichols passed Hollowood, but at 36 he gave a palpable chance at the wicket off Platt. Harrison resumed bowling, and Hollowood gave a change at cover-point at 35, and another in the slips at 40, both from Harrison's bowling. Myers and Abel resumed bowling, the former at the stand end, and the right-hander got Hollowood in front to a straight one at 133. He had played a praiseworthy innings, maintaining a stubborn defence when the ball was "nipping" in disconcerting fashion. He was batting nearly two hours, and the third wicket had added 84 in seventy minutes. At lunch time, three wickets were down for 140—an excellent start.

On resuming, Myers and Abel bowled as before, and the latter was erratic in his length, sending down some full pitches and some that dropped little more than half way. When his length was right, he took a good deal of playing. Twigg should have been stumped from Abel after scoring 16, but with only seven added since lunch, Nichols walked in front to play a short ball to leg, missed it, and was leg-before. He had been in an hour and 20 minutes, and had hit ten fours in his excellent, if rather lucky, innings. The Staffordshire Captain lost Twigg at 63—caught on the leg side from a full pitch—and G. Meakin at 166. The last-named player, as though he expected a rather short ball to go away, instead of which it went straight, and he was leg-before. With Vost in, the play became very slow for a time, Vost being ultra-cautious. B. Meakin, who began his innings with a glorious off-drive from Abel, for which five runs were exceedingly sound, but could do absolutely nothing with Myers, except defend his wicket. Vost scored two singles in half an hour, and Myers sent down eight consecutive maiden overs, after which he was taken off. Harrison and Platt took up the bowling, and Meakin got a four from each end by grand drives. The second

century appeared, but five later Vost was run out in trying to negotiate a sharp run. He had been at the wicket nearly an hour for eight. Bucknell made a couple of nice hits, and was well taken in the slips, and Poole was bowled, nine wickets being down for 238. B. Meakin had just previously had a life in the slips off Blackidge, with his score at 37. Deyes was in a scoring humour, and got fours in rapid succession by means of clear, hard drives at both ends. He got 30 runs in twenty minutes, while his captain got a single, and the surviving a chance of stumping, he started to see the left-hander complete a timely and invaluable 50 as the result of two hours and ten minutes' batting. Deyes was batting half an hour and scored 41 out of 51, including six fours. The Staffordshire total of 239 was generally regarded as an exceedingly good score, but the subsequent play made it look even better.

Surrey commenced their innings at 4.55, Harrison and Knight facing Barnes and Deyes, and the play which followed was of a surprising character. Barnes bowled from the stand end, and in four runs scored he got Harrison leg before, a few yards of added speed apparently deceiving the batsman. Sandham followed, and the pair of young and promising batsmen defied the attack for 50 minutes, during which time 16 runs were scored. Bucknell had relieved Deyes without result, and Nichols was called upon in place of Bucknell. This change worked wonders, for the "goofy" bowler got three wickets in quick succession. At 30 Knight cocked a ball upon the leg, and Deyes, running from short leg, brought off a clever catch. Sandham was easily caught at mid-on from a full pitch, and Palmer stepped in front of a straight full pitch. Four wickets were down for 37, when Spring joined Abel. Barnes having bowled 10 overs for eight runs and a wicket—the last six overs being maiden—had been taken off in favour of G. Meakin, who bowled quite well, and the Forthill man was called upon again at 37. Spring was rather severe on Nichols, and Abel batted well, but with 30 added for the wicket, Barnes knocked back Abel's middle stump with a grand off break. Vigar had a merry life, and a short and lucky one. He drove Barnes for four, and should have been caught by Deyes from a skier at mid-on. He drove the next ball for four, and skied the next to point, where he was easily caught. Five minutes before the close, Deyes was brought on to bowl vice Nichols, and bowled Vigar with a ball that hit his bat and pad as it went through to the wicket. Stumps were then drawn for the day, Surrey having lost seven wickets for 77. This was a fine piece of work by Staffordshire, and almost ensured ultimate victory. Much of the credit is due to the captain, whose management of his bowling was clever in the extreme.

On Thursday, Staffordshire further drove home the tremendous advantage gained on the first day. Barnes and Deyes disposed of the three outstanding wickets for six runs, so that the home county had a lead of 206. In so commanding a position, with two whole days to play and the weather fairly settled, a wise policy was adopted by the Staffordshire captain in letting his side bat again instead of compelling the visitors to follow on. At first things went badly with the home team, for four wickets went down for 22 runs. Then Barnes and B. Meakin added 61 for the fifth wicket, and B. Meakin and Vost 116 for the seventh. This put Staffordshire again in a most flattering position, and they ultimately set Surrey the gargantuan task of making 472 in the fourth innings to win. The batting of B. Meakin was brilliant, his brilliant being remarkably well-timed and powerful. He made two straight drives for six in one over, and his splendid and opportune century could hardly be over-praised. Before the drawing of stumps, owing to bad light, at 5.55 on Thursday evening, the visitors had lost one wicket for 59.

Continuing yesterday morning, the side collapsed in sensational style, Barnes bowling in his greatest form, whilst Deyes also bowled finely for a spell. Sandham was beaten by the pace of the first ball that bowled his leg stump. Harrison ran himself out trying a foolish third run. Palmer scooped a ball up to cover-point, and Abel gently lifted one back to Barnes, making the great bowler's hundredth wicket for Staffordshire this season. Half the side were thus out for 75 and though Spring made some good hits, getting three fours in one over from Deyes, and putting Barnes twice through the slips to the 24s in the next, wickets continued to fall rapidly. Vigar was bowled by a ball of beautiful length and terrific speed from Deyes at 90. Myers fell to a leg break. Spring was beaten by an off break, and two lovely balls turning off the leg stumped on to the off at a rare pace, paralyzed the defence of Blackidge and Rutty. Thus Staffordshire won a great victory, and secured the championship. Scores and analysis—

STAFFORDSHIRE.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.	
P. Briggs, c. Knight, b. 20	b. Abel..... 0		
Abel..... 20	b. Abel..... 0		
Hollowood (A.), l.b.w., b. 45	b. Abel..... 0		
Abel..... 45	b. Abel..... 0		
Barnes (S. F.), c. Abel, b. 6	c. Knight, b. Myers 30		
Myers..... 6	c. Knight, b. Myers 30		
Nichols (J. E.), l.b.w., b. 61	c. Abel, b. Harrison 2		
Myers..... 61	c. Abel, b. Harrison 2		
W. H. Twigg, c. Harrison 14	c. Blackidge, b. Harrison..... 4		
b. Abel..... 14	c. Blackidge, b. Harrison..... 4		
B. Meakin, not out..... 50	c. Vigar, b. Abel..... 133		
G. Meakin, l.b.w., b. Abel 2	st. Vigar, b. Spring 3		
Vost (E.), run out..... 8	b. Spring..... 48		
Bucknell (A.), c. Abel, b. 12	not out..... 0		
Platt..... 12	b. Abel..... 4		
J. Poole, b. Blackidge..... 3	b. Abel..... 4		
Deyes (G.), st. Vigar, b. 41	l.b.w., b. Abel..... 0		
Harrison..... 41	l.b.w., b. Abel..... 0		
Extras..... 27	Extras..... 16		
Total..... 239	Total..... 255		

SURREY II.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.	
D. J. Knight, c. Twigg, b. 13	l.b.w., b. G. Meakin 39		
Nichols..... 13	l.b.w., b. G. Meakin 39		
Harrison, l.b.w., b. 3	run out..... 15		
Barnes..... 3	run out..... 15		
Sandham, c. Deyes, b. 14	b. Barnes..... 0		
Nichols..... 14	b. Barnes..... 0		
Abel, b. Barnes..... 17	c. and b. Barnes..... 8		
G. W. Palmer, l.b.w., b. 0	c. G. Meakin, b. Deyes..... 4		
Nichols..... 0	c. G. Meakin, b. Deyes..... 4		
Spring, b. Deyes..... 19	b. Barnes..... 31		
Vigar, c. Bucknell, b. 10	b. Barnes..... 2		
Barnes..... 10	b. Barnes..... 2		
Myers, c. B. Meakin, b. 2	b. Barnes..... 4		
Barnes..... 2	b. Barnes..... 4		
Blackidge, b. Deyes..... 11	b. Barnes..... 11		
Platt, run out..... 0	not out..... 0		
A. W. F. Rutty, not out..... 0	b. Barnes..... 0		
Extras..... 1	Extras..... 17		
Total..... 83	Total..... 127		

Umpires—Messrs. Myers and Atkinson.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

STAFFORDSHIRE.				SURREY II.			
First Innings.		Second Innings.		First Innings.		Second Innings.	
O.	M. R. W.	O.	M. R. W.	O.	M. R. W.	O.	M. R. W.
Harrison..... 11.4	2. 28. 1	22	5. 3. 66. 2	Barnes (S. F.) 11	8. 30. 4	15	5. 43. 6
Myers..... 30	14. 35. 2	15	1. 38. 1	Deyes (G.)..... 6.2	1. 8. 2	9	1. 59. 2
Platt..... 16	2. 58. 1	22.2	8. 65. 5	Bucknell (A.)..... 4	2. 4. 0	7	6. 4. 0
Abel..... 29	2. 99. 4	5	2. 20. 0	Nichols (J. E.)..... 0	1. 31. 3	3	1. 7. 0
Blackidge..... 3	2. 42. 1	14	1. 50. 2	G. Meakin..... 3	0. 9. 0	2	0. 4. 1
Spring..... 1	1. 1. 0						

Deyes bowled six no-balls.

SURREY (2ND XI.) V. STAFFORDSHIRE

STOKE, AUGUST 30, 31, SEPTEMBER 1, 1911

Staffordshire won by 334 runs.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

Table with columns: First Innings, Second Innings, Total. Lists players like P. Briggs, c Knight, b Abel, etc.

SURREY (2ND XI.)

Table with columns: First Innings, Second Innings, Total. Lists players like Harrison lbw, b Barnes, etc.

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

Table with columns: First Innings, Second Innings. Lists bowlers like Harrison, Myers, Platt, etc.

SURREY (2ND XI.)

Table with columns: First Innings, Second Innings. Lists bowlers like Barnes, Deyes, Bucknell, etc.

SURREY (2ND XI.) (ALL MATCHES).

BATTING AVERAGES.

Table with columns: No. of Inns., Times not out., Total Runs., Most in an Inns., Aver. Lists players like Abel (W. J.), Harrison, Sandham, etc.

The following batted in three innings only:—M. F. S. Jewell 10, 1, 2.

The following batted in two innings only:—G. Reay, 40, 7; W. T. Graham, 6, 2; C. W. Tuftnell, 6, 3; E. F. Campbell 17, 23; D. J. Knight 13, 39; Alwin 4, 0.

The following batted in one innings only:—D. G. Wigan 70, Jackson 0.

*Signifies not out.

BOWLING AVERAGES.

Table with columns: Overs., Mdns., Runs., Wkts., Aver. Lists bowlers like Blackledge, Myers, Abel (W. J.), etc.

The following bowled in two innings only:—G. Reay 4 for 137, Davis 1 for 33, Jackson 1 for 48.

The following bowled in one innings only: A. W. F. Ruttly 0 for 6, G. W. Palmer, 0 for 12, F. S. Gillespie 0 for 18, M. F. S. Jewell, 0 for 4. Vigar caught 16 and stumped 14, Sullivan caught 7.

MATCH NUMBER 98: – STAFFORDSHIRE V SURREY 2ND XI -MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

Played at County Ground, Stoke-on-Trent on Wednesday 30th, Thursday 31st August, Friday 1st September 1911

Result: Staffordshire won by 334 runs

Toss: Staffordshire Umpires: Debutants:

First day score: Staffordshire 289, Surrey 2nd XI 77-7 (// & ??),

Second day score: Staffordshire 289 & 255, Surrey 2nd XI 83 & 59-1 (?? & ??)

Umpires M.Myers and S.Atkinson

Close of play day1 Surrey 77-7 (Myers 0*, Blacklidge 0*)

Close of play Day2 Surrey 59-1 (Sandham 0*)

Surrey 2nd Inns

Fow

2-59 , 5-75, 6-90,

Notes: Staffordshire completely out-played and routed and played more like a first class side than their opponents, to gain their 3rd Championship in 5 years. Staffordshire elected to bat first and racked up a score of 289 with J.E.Nichols leading the way with 61 assisted by the Staffordshire captain B.Meakin's unbeaten 50. Surrey response was poor being bowled out for 83 with S.F.Barnes picking up another 4 wickets. Staffordshire didn't enforce the follow-on instead batting on to drive home the tremendous advantage. B.Meakin kept up his good form by scoring 133 to leave Surrey the gargantuan task of making 462 in the fourth innings to win. Barnes completed the rout by taking another 6 wickets and ending up with match figures of 10-73.

[Missing: Umpires, close of play scores (players details), breakdown of extras & fall of wickets (Surrey 2nd XI 2nd innings)

Sources: Staffordshire Advertiser 2/9/1911, Staffordshire Annual Report, Staffordshire Sentinel 30 & 31/8/1911