

"Wisden" this year quite maintains its good name as the standard record of the game. Cricketers invariably look for a fresh feature to introduce them to the analysis of the previous summer's work; and, although the present volume contains no such heated controversy as "throwing in first-class cricket," dealt with in the last annual, those who follow the great national pastime will find something of which the true cricketer never tires of hearing – the genius of W G Grace.

In a year made famous by the champion's completion of his hundred hundreds the editor of "Wisden" found his special subject almost imperative, and called in the aid, in the way of contributions, of Lord Harris, the president of the Marylebone Club, and Mr A G Steel. Both given their reminiscences of the greatest of players, and both will be read with interest. But one would have liked them longer.

Mr Steel writes cricket almost as well as he played it, and more might well have been acceptable from the gentleman who helped to give the cricket volume of "Badminton" its great popularity. Mr Steel describes Dr Grace's style of batting, and in closing his chapter pays the following tribute: - "There have been some who for a short period have given reason for the belief that his position as champion batsman was being dangerously assailed. I allude to such names as W L Murdoch, A Shrewsbury and A E Stoddart. That belief was, however, fleeting. W G Grace has proved his batting to be immensely superior to every other cricketer." Lord Harris believes that W.G.'s later style of batting is quite different from what it was between 1870 and 1880, and explains in what way.

The public schools in 1895 are dealt with by Mr W J Ford, and not the least interesting part of this article is the list of the cricketers who have gone up to the Universities. The vacancies in the Oxford team will be keenly fought for by a number of Freshmen of great school reputations. C C Pilkington, of Eton, has for some seasons been a fine cricketer, and Eton are also sending up A F W Baird, the wicket-keeper, and R W Mitchell. There are only two or three of the many good school names. Of the Cambridge Freshmen J H Stogdon, the brilliant Harrow batsman, is the most prominent.

All the counties' matches are fully analyzed, together with those of the Marylebone Club and the Universities, while there are records of the tours of Mr Stoddart's team in the colonies, Mr Frank Mitchell's in America and Mr Lucas's in the West Indies. In addition there are I Zingari results.

Deaths in 1895 make a long list. The obituary notices include those of Mr E M Hadow, the Earl of Bessborough, Mr J W Dale, Dr Henry Grace and George Freeman. It is satisfactory to find that last year's omission of the rule relating to the follow-on in two days' matches, which caused a great exchange of correspondence between various secretaries and captains and the authorities at Lord's, has been repaired.

Mr Sydney H Pardon is the editor of the excellent book, in which there is a capital portrait of W G Grace, and the publishers are John Wisden and Company, of Cranbourn-street.

Thursday 30 January, page 7: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR ENGLAND

Melbourne, Jan. 30

The selection committee invited Bruce and Garrett to join the team which is to visit England next season, but they declined. The omission of Lyons, Turner, Howell and Albert Trott from the selected team is strongly criticized. – Our Correspondent.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual general meeting of this club was held yesterday at Nottingham under the presidency of Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck. The financial statement showed that, by leasing the licensed property of Trent-bridge Ground and by the aid of last year's subscription, the club had been able to relieve itself of a debt of £4,800 and to start the year with a balance of £200.

Further satisfactory prospects for Notts cricket were found in the scheme for a club and ground, formed in order to retain the services of four or five professionals permanently. With the financially scheme and the idea of the club and ground the meeting was well pleased. The chairman pointed out that Notts had mostly suffered in the past through not being able to retain their young players, who migrated to other counties. Nottinghamshire always had played and always would play only those cricketers who were native to the county; and he regretted that other counties did not appreciate this spirit in county cricket.

Colonel Denison dwelt on some of the misfortunes of the county, which had often been deprived of the services of such men as Shrewsbury, Flowers and Gunn through illness. He thought the league system, as followed so much in Lancashire, was inimical to the best interests of cricket. Lord Belper pointed out that among the causes of the decadence of Notts cricket was the fact of young players leaving the shire before they were good enough for the eleven.

The meeting unanimously confirmed the adoption of the committee's financial and club and ground proposals. The Bishop of Southwell is the new president for the year. Regret was expressed that the Leicestershire matches could not be played. It was reported that Flowers's benefit fund reached £466.

Wednesday 29 January, page 7: LANCASHIRE COUNTY CLUB

There was a large attendance at the annual general meeting held yesterday at the Albion Hotel, Manchester. Mr A N Hornby, the president, who was in the chair, made the presentation of a gold watch and chain to Mr A C MacLaren as a souvenir if the record first-class score of 424 obtained by Mr MacLaren against Somerset at Taunton last summer. Mr MacLaren, in accepting the gift, said that in reading some old Wisdens he had found that most of his best performances had been away from Manchester. For this he was sorry. He was further afraid that he would be unable to play for Lancashire until the holidays next summer.

In the report of the club for the year it was shown that the attendances at the home county matches reached 148,000, an increase of 51,000 on 1894. The accounts showed a balance of nearly £2,300. Mr A N Hornby was re-elected president, Mr S H Swire hon. secretary and Mr J MacLaren hon. treasurer.

The Surrey Club executive have decided to give Robert Henderson a benefit match in 1897. Henderson's steady batting and usefulness as a change bowler made him in various years an invaluable player for the county. But he was not always a sound field. Henderson played first in 1883 for Surrey and is still among the first reserves for the county.

THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKET TEAM FOR ENGLAND

Sydney, Jan. 28.

The following have been definitely selected to form the Australian cricket team which is to visit England during the forthcoming season: -

Eady, Tasmania; T R M'Kibbin, F A Iredale, S Gregory, H Donnan, New South Wales; H Trott, H Graham, H Trumble, Johns, J Harry, Victoria; and George Giffen, E Jones, J Darling, South Australia.

The team does not include Albert Trott, who headed the Australian batting averages in the matches played during Mr Stoddart's tour in 1894-95, while three of the number – Easy, Donnan and Johns – did not take part in any of the test matches between Mr Stoddart's team and All Australia, Johns making his first appearance in the return match with Victoria on March [19], when he acted as wicket-keeper. George Giffen, Gregory, Trott, Trumble and Graham were members of the Australian team which played in England in 1893. – Reuter.

Saturday 14 March, page 12

THE KENT CXCLUB AND THE ST LAWRENCE GROUND

We are asked to publish the following letter which has been sent to the members of the Kent County Club: -

“Sir, - The Kent County Cricket Club, at a general meeting held on March 13, resolved to purchase the St Lawrence Cricket Ground, being urged thereto by the knowledge that, if the club did not purchase it, there was a risk of the ground being lost for cricket purposes for ever, and possibly at an early date; and by the conviction that the continuance of “The Week” was of vital importance to the club. This obligation has been forced on the club, not through any decrease of good will on the part of the landlord, but through the inexorable demands of the Finance Act, 1894.

“The club also resolved to invite subscriptions to assist in meeting the cost of purchase, its invested funds at present amounting to £2,100 only, whilst the price of the freehold is £4,500. In recommending the club to purchase, the committee felt that upon grounds of sentiment they might depend for a considerable measure of material support from that portion of the cricket-loving public, which either still makes its annual pilgrimage to Canterbury in August, or can look back to “The Week” with pleasant recollections.

“Canterbury Week” has been complimented by attempts at imitation, but to its devotees the St Lawrence Ground must always be unsurpassed in the picturesqueness and the appropriateness of its situation and surroundings. Years of labour have secured an excellent wicket, and the club has laid out a not inconsiderable sum on fixtures. The committee felt that it was worth while making an effort to retain these advantages, rather than seek for a new ground, which, in the long run, would certainly have cost not less than St Lawrence, whilst it could never have gained that savour of tradition which hangs over the spot where “those five mighty players, Felix, Wenman, Hillyer, Fuller Pilch and Alfred Mynn,” fought “their grand battle with all England,” and over which the standard of I.Z. has floated annually for nearly 50 years.

The committee beg your favourable consideration of this application and earnestly hope that you will assist them by bringing it to the notice of your friends and supporters of the game.

Subscriptions in aid, payable either in one sum or spread over two years, can be sent either to the secretary, Mr A J Lancaster, 46, St George’s-place, Canterbury; to Messrs Hammond and Co., the Bank, Canterbury; or to the London and County Bank, Canterbury. Signed on behalf of the committee, L H DENNE (president); HARRIS.

General Denne presided yesterday at the annual general meeting of the Kent Club held at the Golden Cross Hotel, S.W. The balance-sheet, apart from Consols, showed a sum in hand of £878, while the membership of the club had now increased to 1,261. After the accounts and report had been adopted, the proposal for the purchase of the St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury, was discussed. The purchase must be completed by May 9, and the Canterbury Bank will advance the money at an interest of 3½ per cent.

A few speeches were delivered in support of the scheme, notably one by Lord Harris, who, with Mr Akers Douglas, M.P., Mr W H Patterson and Mr Frank Marchant, the captain of the eleven, are guarantors for £1,000 each towards the fund, and who became trustees of the ground.

The public interest in cricket begins to revive at Easter, and this year it finds a programme provided for its satisfaction over-weighted by the addition of the heavy Australian tour to the already long list of county, Marylebone and University matches. It is remarkable that so much important cricket can be crowded into the brief English summer, and that a public should be found with so much time to give up to the game.

Cricket has never been more popular than it is now, and for much of this popularity the skilled county teams in their keen competition for the championship are responsible. A dozen years ago the visit of an Australian eleven had something like a monopoly of general interest. But times have changed. County cricket is the thing and no extraneous element can endanger its position. England v Australia retains much of its old attraction, although Englishmen are vain enough to think that their best side is of a higher class than any the Australians can produce. For the representative matches the counties have graciously undertaken to allow off any men who may be wanted.

There has been a warm controversy over the selection of this new Australian side, which, if not wholly satisfying the colonies themselves, seems to contain much skill. Some of the old staggers have dropped out and a large proportion of the team have yet to win their spurs on the more uncertain cricket fields of England than those to which the Colonials are used. And the turf and the climate may be very troublesome for some of the new men.

The county championship scheme has been slightly altered for this year so as to allow of Essex and Leicestershire, who could not reach the regulation programme of 16 matches, keeping their place in the competition. Twelve will this season be the *minimum* number.

Another thing that the counties have been asked to consider is the better wording of the qualification rule, which, as Last hour said at the secretaries' meeting, might be so amended as to have a more elastic meaning than at present. It occurred to the president of the M.C.C. that "the qualification which entitled a man to vote for a county should be sufficient to enable him to play for that county."

THE MARYLEBONE CLUB

Both at Lord's and elsewhere the M.C.C. programme is of the usually exhaustive character. Most of the first-class counties play at headquarters, while the popular and sound policy of sending teams out to most of the schools is to be again carried out.

It will be strange to old members at Lord's to see the season begin before the anniversary meeting, which is traditionally held on the first Wednesday in May. This falls on May 6; the first match between M.C.C. and Notts is fixed for the Monday. The Australians appear thrice at headquarters, meeting the Club and Ground twice and playing England in the first of the representative games on June 22.

The classic Gentlemen v Players is fixed for the Monday following Eton v Harrow, while Marylebone, with the idea of giving the Surrey Club an opportunity of making the other Gentlemen v Players match a success, have arranged only a two days' game for the Monday before. The visit of the Haverford College, U.S.A., team to Lord's threatened at one time to be confined to a day's match; but Mr Perkins, remembering that the Haverford College men are coming over here at their

own expense and for cricket's sake alone, decided to give them a second day, which will take up the Thursday before Eton v Harrow. Usually this has been a blank to prepare for the big society match of the year.

Visitors to Lord's will find no change in the ground itself. The new railway has destroyed all that was picturesque at the beginning of the St John's-wood-road, and the pretty little piece of bank of the canal, where the gardens ran down to the water's edge, is now only a place of ballast burnings. Things will not be much mended till the autumn, when the acres of the recent Clergy Orphan's school, already levelled, will be handed over to the M.C.C. and will then be covered with turf. The vestry is at present digging away at the ditch which used to run along near Guy's garden and the nursery, in order to convert it into a sewer.

The mild winter has left the grass a little rank at Lord's, but Pearse, in his long experience of the Lord's Ground, knows well how to treat it, and the turf is pretty close, so that a spell of dry weather should produce plenty of good wickets. If the summer proves fair there should be no lack of true turf.

The only addition of note to the ground staff is Huish, the Kent wicket-keeper, otherwise the professionals at Lord's will consist, as last year, of – Thomas Hearne, Farrands, Clayton, Rylott, G G Hearne, Wheeler, Sherwin, T Mycroft, W Hearn, Flowers, Barnes, Gunn, Hay, W Attewell, Burton, Pickett, Davenport, Pentecost, Titchmarsh, Chatterton, J E West, Martin, Pougher, Rawlin, A Hearne, Carlin, Davidson, Phillips, Richardson, Lees Whitehead, Whiteside, Burns, George Bean, Moorhouse, Needham, J T Hearne, Geeson, Board, Mead, Carpenter, Mee, W Storer, Moss, T Attewell, W A J West, Bagguley, Russell, T Brown, Butt, Hardstaff, Pike, Woodcock and Hanford.

THE AUSTRALIANS

The new Australian team has what some others lacked, the merit of freshness. It may not be thoroughly representative and there was much clamouring in the colonies for the inclusion of Lyons and the famous bowler C T B Turner, and also Bruce; but the side is really strong and, with plenty of batting and bowling, should have a pretty successful tour.

It cannot be said that the committee of selection went about their work with that judgment and decision that might have been expected from men who had the form of the cricketers at their fingers' ends. The vacillation and the ignoring of various good men were extremely puzzling to people in this country. By hook or by crook a capital side was finally got together, although even now it is not certain that Albert Trott, one of the best cricketers in the colonies, is coming as an actual member of the side. In the late Australian season he was not quite so good as he had been at the time Mr Stoddart's team were out in the colonies, but the opinion is almost unanimous as to his capacity.

C T B Turner long since expressed his determination not to join another Australian cricket company; he was asked as a second choice, and the cause of his refusal telegraphed was that he could not catch the Cuzco at Melbourne. He should have gone overland to Adelaide and secured the boat there, or might even have come later. As to the exclusion of Lyons and Bruce the Australian authorities were the best judges.

If we include Albert Trott the side consists of 15 players – George Giffen (probably captain), Albert

Trott, H Trott, H Graham, H Trumble, J Darling, S E Gregory, C Hill, F A Iredale, H Donnan, E Jones, A Johns, J J Kelly, C J Eady and T R M'Kibbin.

There is plenty of batting here, and as many of them are strange to English wickets and have made their names on the hard and true turf of the colonies it were well to leave an opinion of their form to the future. The bowling has much variety in Giffen, Trumble, the two Trotts, Eady, M'Kibbin and Johns, while Johns has been brought over expressly to keep wicket with Kelly to help him. Kelly was put in the team at the last minute for Harry.

Fielding was invariably a strong point in Australian cricket, and the side promises to sustain its reputation in this respect. Blackham, through an injured hand, has been obliged to give up the game, and it will be no easy task for the new Australians to follow this prince of wicketkeepers whom Englishmen have learned to know so well.

The ten men who have not been to England before are – Hill, Albert Trott, Johns, Kelly, Iredale, Donnan, Eady, Jones, M'Kibbin and Darling. H Moses, who is making a trip to this country and who has been held up by Australians as the man always wanting in their sides over here, may be able to give the team help in some of the matches. So far a programme of 34 has been arranged. This exceeds the limits that were suggested to Mr Perkins when the visit was first proposed.

The tour opens at Sheffield Park with a match against Lord Sheffield's team, after which they appear in London to meet Essex at Leyton and a scratch England side at the Crystal Palace. All the first-class counties will be engaged with the exception of Middlesex; there are a couple of games with the M.C.C. at Lord's, one match with Oxford University and three representative games – namely, at Lord's, Manchester and the Oval. Although the attraction of Australian cricket is not what it was in the early eighties, the tour seems to have aroused much interest, and crowds will no doubt flock to the grounds to see the men who did so well against Mr Stoddart's great side.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Mr Henry D G Leveson-Gower, who in his school days was a most able captain of the eleven at Winchester, succeeds Mr G J Mordaunt as head of the cricket at Oxford. The University is fortunate in the possession of such a sound cricketer, who when he was at Winchester was certainly the captain of the cricket in the proper sense of the word.

Besides himself there are six other members of last year's eleven in residence, while Mr G R Bardswell, who was unable to play at Lord's in 1895 through an accident, is still up and becomes the honorary secretary of the team. So with Mr G J Mordaunt, Mr H K Foster, Mr P F Warner, Mr R P Lewis, Mr G O Smith and Mr F H E Cunliffe also available the Oxford eleven promises to be very strong this season.

Last summer the team, after being warm favourites for the University match, broke down badly, and the fine efforts made by one or two of the men to save the game failed to stay disaster. Mr Leveson-Gower, Mr Smith and Mr H K Foster were the heroes in the uphill fight, and Oxford men will readily recall how on the Saturday morning Mr Foster made a wonderful 121 out of 159 in a couple of hours by some of the finest cutting and driving that were seen during the summer at Lord's. He may not be able to play in all the home matches, and neither Mr Mordaunt nor Mr Lewis is likely to be seen much among the home trials. If all the seven old blues keep their places in the eleven the competition for the other four will be keen amongst a host of good cricketers that

are up.

The Freshmen from Eton are a fine lot. Mr C C Pilkington goes up with one of the best school reputations, and the finest judges of the game think that he is sure of a place in the eleven, for he is skilful with the bat and the ball. And Mr R W Mitchell, another son of Mr R A H Mitchell, is also a very good cricketer. Mr A H Belcher, of Brighton College, who scored 685 runs with an average of 42 last summer, and also took 40 wickets for 14 runs each, is another promising Freshman. Mr F W Stocks, who has played for Leicestershire, also goes into residence at Oxford. Among the seniors there is a lot of batting talent – Mr F L Fane, of the Essex eleven, and the old Harrovians, Mr F G H Clayton, Mr M G Barlow and Mr B N Bosworth-Smith.

Bowling is likely to be a weakness difficult to remedy; a good fast bowler is much wanted. Mr S C Probyn, a Westminster Freshman, is said to be likely to supply the need, but of course it remains to be seen what he can do in first-class cricket.

There will be 16 professionals engaged in the Parks from April 27, while Attewell and Flowers will assist in the coaching for the first 10 days of term. The old fixtures with Surrey have been renewed, and the Australians will be met on the Christ Church ground on June 1, 2 and 3.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

At Cambridge the new captain is Mr Frank Mitchell, of Caius, who has the distinction of possessing three “blues” – cricket, Rugby football and athletic sports. He has a fine style of batting and, although not yet a very successful county player, he is sure to be accorded other opportunities of appearing in the Yorkshire ranks.

With nine of last year’s victorious team in residence there should be little fear of getting together a good side. Mr C E M Wilson and Mr W W Lowe proved themselves very skilful bowlers last summer at Lord’s, and Mr Grace and Mr Gray are also up. The other Old Blues at Cambridge, in addition to those to whom reference has already been made, are: - Mr N F Druce, Mr H H Marriott, Mr R A Studd and Mr W M’G Hemingway.

There is a long list of good Freshmen and seniors. But the cricketer who will be closely followed will be that fine Harrow batsman Mr J H Stogdon, who played a wonderful innings of 124 at Lord’s last year against Eton. He is perhaps the best bat that Harrow has had since A C MacLaren and F S Jackson and combines sound cricket with powerful hitting. Mr G L Jessop, of Gloucestershire, should also stand a fair chance for a place in the eleven.

Mr H H B Hawkins is up from Whitgift School with good reputation as a bowler; while Mr G F Gowers, last year’s captain at Rugby, although he failed in batting for his school at Lord’s, is a capital cricketer and has a good style of bowling. Another all-round player comes from Clifton, namely, Mr R O de Gex, who took 35 wickets for his school last summer at an average cost of 14 runs. Mr C R Worthington, Caius, did well in batting and bowling at Tonbridge, and Mr H B Jeffery in batting at Charterhouse. Mr H G Curgenven got 356 runs for Repton last year, and Mr D S Murray took 33 wickets at Malvern.

But apart from these freshmen the Cambridge captain has the choice of some capable seniors, among whom are Mr C J Burnup, Clare, Mr E Garnett, Mr E H Bray, Mr H J Davenport, Mr C L Alexander and Mr W Mortimer, of Trinity, Mr G H Simpson, Clare, and Mr E B Shine, Selwyn.

Fenner's ground is one of the best for batsmen in the country, and the turf this spring is in capital order. It is to be regretted that the Australians have not given Cambridge a match, and even now perhaps some arrangement may be made so as to overcome the difficulty. The Australian fixture at Cambridge has in the past furnished much fine cricket and often very close finishes. Cambridge have given up their fixture with Surrey, but otherwise the Light Blues' card is much the same as last year, and the visits of Mr Thornton's and Mr Webbe's teams, together with those of the M.C.C., Yorkshire and Somerset should give Cambridge every opportunity for getting their best eleven together. The season opens with the Freshmen's trial at the end of the month.

SURREY

The Surrey executive have such a wild and wealthy field of talent at their disposal that there will be little difficult in putting into the county tournament a very fine eleven. They are in the happy position, too, of knowing that much of their skill is in young hands and the eleven is now reaping the fruits of the judicious recruiting which has marked the policy for some years. And a rich reserve force is to be found in the second eleven, so admirably coached by Mr W T Grayburn, who has left no old Surrey village green unvisited in his search for talent, and this in a way that should secure the appreciation even of Mr Fred Gale, so long an agitator for some such policy.

Of last year's first eleven all will be available again except Maurice Read, who after many years of brilliant service talks of engagements as coach. Read has kept himself in condition during the winter by playing golf and, considering that he scored 986 runs in the championship last year and had an average of over 31, it seems regrettable that he should just yet retire from big cricket. He was always a spectator's batsman, and his splendid eye and nerve were shown by the wonderful manner in which he could practise the "pull." Read leaves the eleven very different to what he found it, when in the early eighties he was first change bowler.

Mr K J Key will again captain the side and will have the command of the services of Mr Walter Read, Abel, Hayward, Brockwell, Holland, Wood, Street, Richardson, Lockwood, Lohmann and Smith. Neither Lockwood nor Smith was very successful in bowling last summer and the wickets of each cost over 20 runs each. Young Smith with his left-hand slows seemed quite to lose the fine pitch possessed by him in the previous season. Mr Norman Druce, the brilliant Cambridge batsman, had the misfortune to find the wickets slow and treacherous when opportunity came for him to play for the county; but both he and Mr Leveson-Gower, the Oxford captain, another fine cricketer, will no doubt get a trial in the eleven again after the University match.

George Lohmann's health is reported to be much improved and he has been doing well in South African cricket. He has chosen Surrey v Yorkshire for his benefit at the end of July, and this is one of the best fixtures of the Oval season. Brockwell has been playing golf during the winter and he feels confident of being able to do something to reclaim his reputation as a batsman, which was impaired by his only partial success of last season. Nice, the young Earlswood Common player, and Thompson are pretty sure to get some cricket in a few of the smaller matches, for Surrey's programme is exceptionally heavy.

They play the whole of the other first-class counties, and have sundry matches with minor shires, against whom they pit their second team. The Australians appear thrice at Kennington, for two matches with the county and for one game with All England, to be decided on Monday, August 10, and following days. With no football on the Oval, Apted has been able to get the outfielding

ground into capital order. There is plenty of grass and the turf is close and firm, so that good wickets should be plentiful.

LANCASHIRE

Lancashire, who ran Surrey a pretty keen race for championship honours last year, will have much the same side as then, but Mr A C MacLaren will not be able to captain the eleven until the summer vacation, owing to his duties at Harrow. This, of course, is a matter of regret for the county, if we remember the wonderful skill of the famous Harrovian's batting.

Still the Lancastrians will have a pretty good team with Albert Ward, Frank Sugg, Briggs, Mold, Baker, Paul, C Smith, A Tinsley, Tyldesley, Lancaster and Hallam available. Mr Benton and Mr Tindall are pretty vigorous batsmen, but are not quite good enough for such a team as Lancashire. At present there is no news of any likely youngsters coming up, but, with club cricket so strong in the county, the committee would not have to look far if men were badly wanted. Mr C C Pilkington, last year's captain at Eton, who is now up at Oxford, will no doubt get a place in the eleven if he shows anything like his form in University cricket.

The Old Trafford ground is reported to be in splendid condition. Lancashire's programme is much the same as last year, with the addition of four Australian fixtures – two with the county and one each with the North of England and England. With the exception of the Leicestershire match on June 4 and that with the Australians on August 26, which are arranged for Liverpool, all the home fixtures will be carried out at Old Trafford.

A misunderstanding at one time threatened to deprive the cricket world of two of the best matches of the season in Lancashire v Yorkshire, through the latter county, in view of the Australian visit, refusing to give up the Bank Holidays, as hitherto in the last few years, to the interchange of visits between Old Trafford and Bramall-lane. But the difficulty was at last settled, but in a manner a little regardless of the importance of the match, for May 4 cannot be looked upon as a time when the sides are in full practice, as they should be for such a game.

Kent will now appear at Old Trafford on Whit Monday, while the Lancastrians have engaged to play the return in the Canterbury Week. The representative game with Australia follows in about three weeks after that at Lord's. Lancashire meet the other first-class counties with the exception of Essex and Hampshire.

YORKSHIRE

The Yorkshire Club have arranged their usually heavy programme and, in spite of the pressure caused by three matches with the Australians, they have managed to renew the two Leicestershire fixtures, which at one time stood in danger of being dropped. Yorkshire and Surrey share the distinction of being the only counties to play each of the others. It was the former, it may be remembered, who did so much to get the county championship placed on a more liberal basis; and Hampshire are especially indebted to Yorkshire for their promotion.

With so many claims on their programme from the huge towns in the county the distribution of matches needs the exercise of much tact on the part of the executive. Only four matches are down for decision at Bramall-lane, Sheffield. Here the Australians, Surrey, Derbyshire and

Gloucestershire appear. Bradford and Leeds secure four each of the home games, while Huddersfield, Scarborough, Dewsbury, Barnsley and Harrogate will also be the scene of county cricket. Hull and York have to be content with fixtures of interest to the county only. The grants to the various grounds on which county matches are played was increased at the last general meeting from 10 to 15 per cent of the receipts.

Yorkshire devote Whit Monday to the first game with the Australians, but they have no game for the August Bank Holiday. Lord Hawke, who has been passing the winter with his team in South Africa, will again captain the eleven, for which all last season's men will be ready to play. Mr Ernest Smith and Mr Frank Mitchell cannot play for the first two months of the season; but the county hope to have the services regularly of that brilliant all-round Harrow cricketer, Mr F S Jackson, whose absence once or twice last season made a great difference to the side.

Taking the team generally, there is no need to fear for its credit, for skill is plentiful and most of the men are young. Tunnicliffe, Brown, Moorhouse, Wainwright, Peel, Denton, Hirst and Hunter had a large share in Yorkshire's success last summer and in what is so much admired in cricket, the capacity to play an uphill game. Mr F W Milligan and W W Lancaster will no doubt get some opportunities of playing, while Schofield Haigh, who is engaged at Leeds, is a cricketer of much promise and is certain to get a good trial. Yorkshire, in addition to their other engagements, have their usual game with Canterbury at the beginning of June.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

It will be interesting to the cricket world to know that Dr W G Grace, whose wonderful batting last summer had so much to do with the placing of Gloucestershire fourth in the championship, is in excellent health. Dr E M Grace writes that "W.G. has run after the beagles regularly two days a week and is the very best finder of a hare that goes out, and he is now the picture of health."

Mr J J Ferris, who lost a good deal of his cricket, and especially the art of getting people out, was much of a disappointment to Gloucestershire. This season he will not be seen at all in the eleven, for he has returned to Australia. Next to "W.G.," the two men who chiefly shared in the rise of Gloucestershire's fortunes were Mr G L Jessop and Mr C L Townsend. The latter only just fresh from Clifton College made a mark as a bowler with a wonderful pitch and break that has no parallel since Mr A G Steel's day, while Mr Jessop's fine hitting powers and usefulness in bowling also do not need to be recalled. Mr Jessop is up at Cambridge, and no doubt Mr Frank Mitchell will keep his eye upon him even in a year that will furnish a very keen competition for places in the eleven, for there are nine old blues in residence. Mr Townsend has a law examination early in May, and if he gets through all right he will be able to help Gloucestershire in all the matches.

Murch had a coaching engagement last season that interfered with his playing for the county; but he has returned to Gloucestershire and will take part in most of the matches. Board and Roberts are both in good health. Gloucestershire have a few promised colts coming on, all of the county by birth, and Dr E M Grace adds that "We do not want imported ones."

Altogether Gloucestershire's prospects are very fair. The programme embraces nine home and home engagements with counties and two Australian matches. Essex, Hampshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire are the counties unplayed. Nearly all the home engagements are at Bristol, to which the match with Yorkshire has been altered in consequence of the epidemic at Gloucester. Middlesex and Surrey visit Clifton College ground late in August, while the Cheltenham week will

consist of the Kent and Australian games. The Gloucestershire v Sussex matches are fixed for the two Bank holidays, the first to be at Brighton.

MIDDLESEX

Middlesex, with all their brilliant amateur talent and two such professionals as J T Hearne and Rawlin, ought to secure a better position on the list than last year, when they tied with Warwickshire for sixth place. They certainly wanted a third good bowler, for in a heavy season, and especially when the wickets are hard and dry, Hearne, with his county and M.C.C. cricket, gets too much work and his bowling is apt to lose some of its sting. This is what occurred last summer.

Phillips made his usual trip to the colonies so as to avoid the English winter, and he has been umpiring in some of the important matches in Australia. Although perhaps a little slow in the field Phillips is a very good cricketer and has a splendid knowledge of the game, while his bowling was often in 1895 extremely useful to his side.

Mr A J Webbe hopes to have the services of nearly all last year's amateurs, Mr A E Stoddart, Sir T C O'Brien, Mr G MacGregor, Mr R S Lucas, Mr H B Hayman and Mr H Philipson, pretty regularly. In the school holidays Mr C M Wells and Mr J Douglas will be available; but Mr G F Vernon has gone out to Western Australia. Various other amateurs who played once or twice last summer may also be in the side occasionally.

Middlesex generally play such fine, fast cricket that their matches are always well attended, and there seems no reason why this should not be the case in the coming summer. There is a rich variety in the batting and, although the fielding is sometimes "in and out," the cricket spectator can generally rely on something good to see when Middlesex are engaged.

The county again devote the Whit Monday match with Somerset to a benefit, and this year their generosity is bestowed on J T Rawlin, a very worthy cricketer in every respect, whose bowling and batting have helped to win many a match. Mr G MacGregor, who has been playing a little Rugby football and who got his international cap for Scotland v England, is in very good health and will again do most of the wicket-keeping.

The pressure of the season has necessitated the abandonment of the Essex fixtures and the programme is limited to home and home matches with the nine old first-class counties. There is no match with the Australians.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

For some seasons past there has seemed a want of spirit and enthusiasm both in the Notts County Club and in the cricket of the eleven. But things have much mended. The financial condition of the club has been overhauled and so improved that the bankers' debt has been liquidated and a balance created on the right side. Then there are promises for getting Arthur Shrewsbury to play more regularly for the team, while with Flowers recovered from his injury and Gunn in better health things are altogether brighter.

There are several promising players in the colts matches on Easter Monday, and now that the county have decided to have a ground staff at Trent Bridge there is more chance of the club

retaining the services of men who would otherwise drift to other counties. Monday's eleven to meet the Colts will be selected from Mr J A Dixon, Mr A O Jones, Mr P W Oscroft, Mr A R Bennett, Flowers, Gunn, H B Daft, Wilkinson, Hardy, Pike, Bagguley, Hardstaff, Armstrong and Carlin.

Every one with the welfare of the game at heart would wish to see Nottinghamshire in something like its old position. It has had a long spell of bad luck, but a strengthened membership and increased attendances were both noted last year, so that perhaps the tide of ill fortune has at last turned.

Unquestionably one of the things that has driven people away from the Trent-bridge ground has been the lack of spirit in the Notts cricket. A little more vigour and a little less finish is what is wanted in the batting. It is almost time that Sutton-in-Ashfield gave the county some more types of Barnes and Briggs, while a good bowler of the Fred Morley sort would not be unwelcome. Anyhow, the Bishop of Southwell becomes president of the club at a period when its finances are far more flourishing than they were in the times of many of his predecessors.

Apart from Derbyshire, the Notts programme is confined to the old first-class counties, namely – Surrey, Sussex, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Kent, Gloucestershire and Middlesex, while there is one match with the Australians at the end of June. There is the usual Bank Holiday arrangement between Surrey and Nottinghamshire, by which the former appear at Trent-bridge on Whit Monday, while Notts ho up to the Oval on the first Monday in August.

Sherwin takes a benefit early in June at Trent-bridge, when the Cambridge Eleven will meet the county. The committee have also decided to play a match on May 11 between eleven amateurs and eleven professionals at Trent-bridge.

KENT

The cricket of the Kent eleven was worthy of a better place than that which they occupied last season, and, though nothing much is heard of any particularly rising talent, such a position as 14th ought to be easily avoided in the coming season. Kent's chief misfortune last summer was in having such a splendid bowler as Walter Hearne, who is a brother of J T Hearne of Middlesex, disabled. The news received from Mr A J Lancaster, the secretary of Kent, is encouraging. He writes that "Walter Hearne's knee is decidedly stronger; he is practising without pain and is in high hopes that the long rest will have restored the strength of the joint sufficiently to enable him to bear the strain of regular play with the eleven."

All last year's team will be ready to take the field, and with Alec Hearne, Mr J H Mason, Easby and Martin able to play regularly, Mr Marchant, the captain, has at least a good beginning to the side. In various quarters it was thought unwise last season to shelve George Hearne, who, is becoming now something of a veteran, is yet a steady bat and a bowler of much use as a change. Walter Wright will not be able to play in matches begun at the end of any week owing to an engagement he has with a northern league cricket club. The club are looking out keenly for any new bowlers or a wicket-keeper.

The St Lawrence Ground purchase fund has been already noticed in The Times. It may, however, be stated that nearly £400 has already been received, made up by £100 from Mr George Marsham, £50 from the Marquis Camden, £25 from Lord Hillingdon, £20 each from Lord Harris and Mr W H

Patterson, and £10 10s each from Sir Charles Oakeley, Mr C A Field and Mr J Stone-Wigg. The Canterbury Week, with its half-century of brilliant traditions of cricket, should not need much advertisement to secure the whole of the purchase-money. The jubilee of the Zingari, so closely identified with the Old Stagers of Canterbury fame, and celebrated last year at Lord's, should be a further incentive to the subscription fund. And perhaps Mr John Loraine Baldwin and Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane may influence the tide of subscription.

The Canterbury Week matches are with Lancashire and the Australians. Surrey again visit Catford, while the Sussex and Middlesex fixtures make up the increasingly popular Tonbridge festival.

SUSSEX

There is little news of rising talent in Sussex, and upon last year's players the county will almost entirely depend. K S Ranjitsinhji by his fine batting had much to do with their good position last year. Mr Murdoch is again to be captain; but the wants of Sussex are good bowlers, and bowlers, too, who can get men out, or at least keep up their end on wickets such as the Hove ground furnish. Hastings will be the scene of one of the county games, namely, that with Kent.

SOMERSET

Mr S M J Woods hopes to have the services of all the best Somerset men of last season, and under those conditions he should have small fear about his side securing at least a fair amount of success. Mr Woods is a splendid cricketer himself, and his fine energy seems to stimulate the side generally. Whether losing or winning it is exhilarating to watch the Somerset captain at play.

Mr L C H Palairet, Mr R C N Palairet, Mr G Fowler, the Rev A P Wickham, Mr V T Hill, Mr C E Dunlop, Mr W N Roe, Dr Trask, Captain Hedley, Tyler and Nichols will be the most able assistants to Mr Woods, and a trial will also be given to a few new hands.

Somerset have been compelled to drop the Essex matches, otherwise the programme is the same as that of last year, with the addition of the Australian fixture at the end of August. They play Oxford University in May at Oxford and Cambridge University in June at Cambridge.

The county club are negotiating for the purchase of the county ground at Taunton, and it will shortly become their property. Visitors this year will find considerable improvements in it. The home-and-home matches are with Gloucestershire, Yorkshire, Middlesex, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire, Lancashire and Kent.

THE OTHER COUNTIES

More than any of the new counties who entered the tournament of last season did Derbyshire justify their promotion, and with all last year's men at liberty the executive hope to do as well again. The committee have not forgotten the form of Middleton and B Hall, of Chesterfield, or of Purdy, of Brimington, in the colts match of 1895, and if opportunity offers trials may be given to those players.

W Chatterton's long and valuable services to the county are to be recognized by a benefit, towards

which the profits go of the match with Nottinghamshire on June 15 and following days at Derby. Both at home and at Lord's Chatterton, by his excellent cricket and conduct, has made himself very popular.

Derbyshire have made the same eight home and home county matches as last season, and they will play the M.C.C. at Lord's in the last days of May. The Australians visit Derbyshire on July 20, while at the end of the same month there will be a fixture that should furnish some good cricket – namely, Gentlemen of Derbyshire v Uppingham Rovers. Mr S H Evershed, when able to play, will captain the eleven.

Extra stands are to be built on the county ground and, with the turf in good condition and the same ground men, Derbyshire hope to have as fine wickets as have been obtained for the last five or six years.

Warwickshire, with a strong programme, a good eleven and a fine ground at Edgbaston, Birmingham, should do very well this season. The match list includes two visits from the Australians, one for the game with the Gentlemen of England in June and the other for the August Bank Holiday fixture with Warwickshire, while the counties met twice are Surrey, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Kent, Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Leicestershire, Essex, Hampshire and Staffordshire.

Mr H W Bainbridge, the captain of the club, will have the services available of Mr L C Docker, Mr J E Hill, Mr H G Hill, Mr A C S Glover and the Rev E Pereira, with Richards, Devey and Cresswell and the following ground staff: - Walter and William Quaife, Lilley, Pallett, Diver, Santall, Whitehead, Bates, Ward, Law, Anthony and Radford – the two last named are young players of promise. Ward is a young left-hand bowler who made a successful first appearance against Hampshire last season.

The Warwickshire Club itself is in a very sound condition. Some £1,500 has been spent on the pavilion and for the provision of better accommodation for the general public. The membership now exceeds 1,300, while there is some cause for congratulation to the club in the fact that last year there was a fairly good working profit.

In their first year of promotion the Essex team did well to get so far up the list as to share the joint honours of eighth place with Somerset, for it must be remembered that they badly want some more good batting and bowling. At the winter meeting of secretaries a difficulty was experienced in securing the number of matches by which a county retains its eligibility to compete in the championship. The temporarily relaxing of the rule has freed the county from anxiety, however, and the executive are to be congratulated on making a very attractive programme on the splendid ground at Leyton.

The counties met are Surrey, Leicestershire, Yorkshire, Warwickshire, Hampshire and Derbyshire. There are two matches for the Australians at Leyton, one with Essex, in which young Walter Mead will have an opportunity of repeating his great bowling triumph of the last visit, and the second on July 9 with the Players of England. On this day there are several big county games; but no doubt a pretty good side will be got together.

All last year's cricketers will be ready to play if wanted, and the committee have heard of several candidates for county honours, including a wicket-keeper very well spoken of who would be

especially welcomed. Maurice Read and Abel will coach the county eleven and any likely players from April 20 for three weeks. The experience of such men should be of much benefit to the county's cricket.

Freeman is a good ground man, and those parts of the enclosure away from the football side are in good condition and look remarkably well. The membership of the club has increased, but two or three hundred more subscribers are wanted to make up the 1,500 necessary for the easy financially working of the ground.

Captain Wynyard will captain the Hampshire eleven in place of Dr Russell Bencraft, who resigned at the last general meeting. It is stated that Mr A J L Hill, who has been touring with Lord Hawke's team in South Africa, intends to stay at the Cape for a shooting expedition, so that Hampshire cricket will miss his good batting. Last year he had the highest aggregate for the county and was third on the averages.

Otherwise the side will be much the same as in 1895. Soar, Baldwin and Bacon are attached to the ground staff at Southampton, and there is also a fast bowler named Kitchener who comes with good credentials from Winchfield. Although Barton has undertaken a professional engagement at Marlborough he will be able to play in most of the county matches.

With the addition of the Australian fixture in the early days of July the programme is similar to last year, when Derbyshire, Sussex, Surrey, Somerset, Yorkshire, Essex, Leicestershire and Warwickshire were engaged. Further improvements have been made in the county ground and, taken altogether, the club's prospects are very bright.

Leicestershire will have much the same side as last year. They have a good deal of fair bowling, but some more batting is what they require. A pretty respectable list of fixtures has been arranged, and the Australians visit Leicester on July 13.

6 April: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COLTS' MATCH

THE COLTS 78 (Hardstaff 10/28, A R Bennett 4/11) and 133 (W Widdowson 20, P Bagguley 20; A R Bennett 5/44, Hardstaff 6/19, A O Jones 8/23). THE COUNTY ELEVEN 74 (A O Jones 40*; J Gunn 3/4) and 139/4 (A O Jones 48, Gunn 30, Flowers 20*). The County Eleven won by six wickets.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 7 April, page 5)

As usual, the Easter Monday at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, was devoted to the trial of colts; but the policy of playing this match so early is scarcely beneficial to the prospects of the young cricketers. With the wicket, after a wet month, naturally slow, there was not much in the way of batting to record – in fact, not one of the colts ran into double figures.

Mr Jones, the old Cambridge man, however, carried his bat through the eleven's innings and scored 40. Although not a very successful county player Mr Jones is a very sound bat and great hopes are held of his future for Nottinghamshire.

The colts yesterday did some very fair bowling. Gunn, a nephew of William Gunn, got three wickets for four runs and also batted in a promising manner. From the score it will be gathered that the colts held a slight lead on the first innings.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 April, page 5)

The best thing in the colts match at Trent-bridge on each day was the cricket of Mr A O Jones for the county eleven. Yesterday he carried off the chief honours in both batting and bowling, and to him belonged most of the credit for the success of the eleven by six wickets. He scored his 48 in a quick and sound manner, while his bowling figures were very good.

Gunn played well, but was twice missed, and Pike kept wicket excellently. The colts did not bowl so effectively as on the first day, but Widdowson and Bagguley played in good form for their runs.

The Nottinghamshire County Club dinner will be held to-night at Nottingham, when the Bishop of Southwell, the president of the club, will preside. The toast of the evening, "Nottinghamshire Cricket," is to be given by the Dean of Rochester.

Thursday 9 April, page 10: CRICKET

The Bishop of Southwell presided at the dinner of the Notts County Cricket Club held in Nottingham yesterday evening, when the chief speaker was Dr Hole, the Dean of Rochester, who proposed "Success to Nottingham County Cricket."

After relating many interesting reminiscences of cricketers, Dr Hole said that as a manifestation of strength under the control of science, as a triple alliance of eye, hand and brain, and as interesting spectators with an infinite variety of incidents, he must give cricket priority over all other games. He greatly admired football – a brave, manly exercise – but the feet could never obtain that marvellous precision and subtle power which were given to the hand and wrist. Let there be no jealousy; let cricket be in summer and football in winter. Both kept men in health and condition. Cricket had not been degraded by bribes and bets, and it had never been so popular as now.

The presence of the Bishop proved that he believed the recreation to be an auxiliary to the noblest and most sacred purposes of life and to religion. It was helpful to temperance, manliness, self-command, obedience, endurance and unity.

Thursday 23 April, page 11: THE EARL OF SHEFFIELD'S ELEVEN v THE AUSTRALIANS

Lord Sheffield sends us the names of the cricketers he has invited to play against the Australians in the opening match of the tour at Sheffield-park, Sussex, on May 11 and following days. Dr W G Grace will captain the team, and the other ten are K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr F S Jackson, Mr C B Fry, Shrewsbury, Gunn, Mold, Davidson, Lilley, Pougher and Alec Hearne.

Monday 27 April, page 13: CRICKET

The Australian team, with the exception of Mr Eady, who remains on the Continent for a couple of days, landed at Tilbury on Saturday morning from the Orient liner Cuzco. As in other years the Tavistock hotel, Covent-garden, will be the headquarters of the cricketers, who intend to begin practice at Mitcham-green on Wednesday.

Wednesday 29 April, page 14: CRICKET

The Trinity Freshmen's match at Cambridge yesterday was made remarkable by the fine innings of 103 played by Mr H H B Hawkins, who has gone up to Cambridge from Whitgift School with a big cricket reputation. He made his runs in about two hours. Mr J H Stogdon, of Harrow, scored 17 and 18. Mr Hawkins took five wickets for 53 runs, and Mr H W de Zoete, of Eton, six for 49.

For the University Freshman's match at Cambridge to-morrow the sides will be as follows: - Mr F Mitchell's side. – Messrs F Mitchell (Caius), captain, M G Aphorop (Malvern and Queen's), H G Curgenven (Repton and Clare), R O de Gex (Clifton and Pembroke), S L Harke (Haileybury and Pembroke), H H B Hawkins (Whitgift and Trinity), H B Jeffery (Cheltenham and Pembroke), E B L Lee (Radley and Jesus), O G Mackie (Haileybury and Clare), W H Maundrell (Canterbury and

Corpus), C E Peacock (Derby and St John's) and J H Stogdon (Harrow and Trinity).

Mr N F Druce's side. – Messrs N F Druce (Trinity), captain, W Campbell (Rossall and Clare), A T Coode (Jesus), B F Cumberledge (Durham and Trinity), A E Eastwood (Giggleswick and Christ's), G G Ellett (Honiton and St Catherine's), C S Franklyn (Wellingborough and St John's), W F Gowers (Rugby and Trinity), G L Jessop (Beccles and Christ's), A C Miller (Oxford and Selwyn), H W de Zoete (Eton and Trinity) and C R Worthington (Tonbridge and Caius).

Thursday 30 April, page 6: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

Yesterday was the first day of the Australians' practice on the famous old village green at Mitcham. The men seemed in good health; but the hours of their exercised were shortened through the morning's showers, and it was 2 o'clock when a start was made.

30 April: THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY FRESHMEN'S MATCH

MR N F DRUCE'S SIDE 371 (G L Jessop 102, R F Cumberlege 33, W F Gowers 48, C R Worthington 66, W Campbell 29, A E Eastwood 52; H H B Hawkins 4/59, E B L Lee 5/79) and 82/2 (G L Jessop 23, A T Coode 22*). MR F MITCHELL'S SIDE 188 (H H B Jeffery 26, J H Stogdon 33, W H Maundrell 29, R O de Gex 34; G L Jessop 5/39, C S Franklyn 4/46) and 264 (C G Mackie 29, J H Stogdon 62, S L Harke 43*, G Apthorp 27; H E de Zoete 7/90). Mr N F Druce's side won by nine wickets.

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

Mr G L Jessop, the young Gloucestershire amateur, who made a name for himself last season as an all-round cricketer, has seized the first opportunity since going into residence at Cambridge of demonstrating his capacity as a batsman. Playing yesterday in the Freshmen's trial, he threw such vigour into his batting that, hitting 21 fours, he scored 102 in a little over an hour, and was then caught on the boundary. He forced the game at a great pace and got most of his runs in front of the wicket. Apart from his batting Mr Jessop is a steady bowler and a keen field, and good judges of cricket [prophesy] a great career for him.

There was other good batting yesterday for Mr N F Druce's side, who had not finished their innings when stumps were drawn. Mr Hawkins, the Whitgift school cricketer, bowled well and in the early hours met with considerable success. Late in the afternoon there was much delay through rain.

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

Mr G L Jessop, who distinguished himself with the bat on Thursday, did good service in bowling at Cambridge yesterday, when he got five of Mr Mitchell's side out at an average cost of less than eight runs each.

The other best feature of yesterday's cricket in the Freshmen's trial at Cambridge was the batting of Mr J H Stogdon, whose fine feats for Harrow in the great school match at Lord's will be easily remembered. Mr Stogdon played with a nice easy style, and that consistency was with him is shown by his scores in each innings of Mr Mitchell's team. Mr Jeffery and Mr De Gex, who also came "off" for the same side, played with extreme care. Mr Druce's side have all the best of the game . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 May, page 14)

Three hours proved sufficient to bring this match at Cambridge to a close on Saturday, Mr Druce's side winning by nine wickets. When stumps were drawn on Friday, Mr Mitchell's team, who followed on in a minority of 183, had lost five batsmen for 130.

Mr Stogdon, who was not out 48, hit well for a little while, until Mr Jessop found out the weak point in his defence. The next three did little, but Mr Harke, who carried out his bat for 43, and Mr Apthorp scored so freely that the prospects of a single innings victory for Mr Druce's side, which at one time seemed likely, were dispelled, and the total eventually reached 264. Mr de Zoete, who played for Eton against Winchester last season and was 12th man for the Harrow match, bowled with great effect.

Mr Druce's side had 82 to get for victory, and this number they found little difficulty in obtaining . .

Friday 1 May, page 11: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

While practising at the nets on Mitcham-green, yesterday, S E Gregory, who was bowling, had the ball driven back to him and was so severely hurt that he may have to keep his bed for a couple of days.

SURREY COUNTY TRIAL MATCH

NEXT SIXTEEN AND CAPTAIN 251 (W G Baker 38, Thompson 46, Lohmann 33*; Richardson 3/63, Lockwood 3/35, Abel 5/46) and 26/1. FIRST TWELVE 138 (Abel 23, Holland 24, K J Key 27; Plaistow 3/25) and 184 (Hayward 48, Holland 63, Lockwood 30*; Lees 3/22, Braund 4/45, W G Baker 4/13). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Saturday 2 May, page 16)

Yesterday, on Kennington Oval, the First Twelve of the county began a match with the Next Sixteen and a captain, Mr W T Graburn, who has charge of the exploration of Surrey villages for the finding of fresh county talent.

The Next Sixteen yesterday did very well in the first innings. W G Baker, of Farnham, played the best cricket, timing the ball precisely and coming down on it with much strength. He might have been stumped at 18, but otherwise his game was particularly good considering the bowling to which he was exposed. Thompson and J Lohmann, the latter a younger brother of George Lohmann, are familiar to followers of the famous Surrey second eleven. Yesterday they both hit well. Abel's slows were the most effective in the bowling for the twelve, and his pitch and break were very deceptive to the young players. A pleasant day's cricket produced the following score . . .

Day 2 (report from Monday 4 May, page 14)

Saturday at the Oval was occupied almost wholly by the two innings of the First Twelve, who found runs pretty difficult to get with 17 men in the field, to say nothing of the large amount of skill possessed by the Next Sixteen, of whom Mr Graburn was captain, and the result was that the Twelve had all the worst of the drawn match.

There was nothing very noticeable in the first innings, but in the follow-on Hayward and Holland, who put on 83 for the third wicket, played fine cricket, marked by both precision and vigour. Lockwood also did well. The best things in the young players' bowling were the "hat trick" performed by Braund in getting out Brockwell, Street and Mr Key, and the analysis of W G Baker.

3 May: THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COLTS MATCH

Scorecard not given. COLTS 157 and 218. THE COUNTY 241 (W G Grace 108).

Day 1 (report from Saturday 2 May, page 16)

There was not much of merit in the Colts' batting at Bristol yesterday. Perhaps the best thing was the play of Butt, at Cheltenham, who showed some capacity for cutting and off-driving. Pepall, a professional from Bourton-on-the-water, was included in the eleven and did very well with the ball.

Dr W G Grace and Mr E L Thomas severely punished the Colts' bowling and between them added 117 for the second wicket of the county, Dr Grace being not out, 76, at the close of the day's play.

Day 2 (report from Monday 4 May, page 14)

Saturday's play in this match at Ashley Down, near Bristol, was noteworthy from the fact that Dr W G Grace opened his season with a "century." He was batting for three hours and three-quarters, and was eventually caught at slip; his chief hits were ten fours and two threes. He made 108 out of a total of 241.

The batting of the Colts in their second innings improved. Butt again did well, as did Bucknell and Haines. Jellie, however, carried off the batting honours before obstructing the wicket, and in his 72 were five fours and eight threes. Roberts bowled remarkably well for the County, taking 14 wickets for 72, and on Saturday he performed the "hat trick." The colts made 157 and 218 and, as there was no time for the second innings of the County, the match was drawn.

Saturday 2 May, page 16: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

The Australians, with the exception of S E Gregory and H Graham, continued their practice yesterday on Mitcham-green.

4 May: LANCASHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4489.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 May, page 11)

The cricket world generally must feel some pangs of regret that such a match as Yorkshire v Lancashire should be played in the first days of the season. But it was a case of necessity, and this early date was resorted to through some friction occurring by reason of Yorkshire giving their Bank Holiday fixture on Whit Monday to the Australians. Of late seasons Lancashire v Yorkshire had usually been set apart for the two Bank Holidays of the cricket season in the same manner as Surrey v Notts.

The opening day's cricket attracted a comparatively small crowd at Old Trafford, and was marked by a comparative evenness. As two innings were got through and the aggregate scores were small it will be gathered that the bowlers had rather the better of the play. Lancashire's score of 150 depended to a very large extent to one man, Frank Sugg, who opened the season with a vigorous 74, the value of which was increased by the fact that the runs came at a time when the rest of the side were failing. He went in at the fall of the second wicket at 38 and made 74 out of 87 added during his stay of 75 minutes. His best hits were 11 fours, two threes and seven twos.

So successful was the early bowling of Briggs that the first five Yorkshire wickets fell to him, and Lancashire seemed likely to finish the first innings with a very substantial balance. But Moorhouse played steadily and well, and quite checked the course of disaster. He was batting 80 minutes for his 43, and was seventh out at 117. The other three wickets went quickly. Mr F S Jackson and Denton had played in good form in the early period of the innings.

The constitution of the elevens needs some remark. Mr A C MacLaren was away from the Lancashire eleven, whom Mr A N Hornby once again captained, and in the eleven was to be found a new medium-pace bowler in Cuttell. This player, who was tried half-a-dozen years ago for Yorkshire, has distinguished himself in Lancashire League Cricket of late, and on the strength of this a trial was given him. Lord Hawke was absent from the Yorkshire eleven, but otherwise the county had about their best men.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 May, page 14)

In the first big county match of the season keen and exciting cricket has been the dominant element. Yesterday, at Old Trafford, Manchester, after many alternations of fortune, the game was left in a practically open state, for Yorkshire with two wickets in hand want 18 runs to win.

Small scores, with here and there a good piece of batting, marked the day. Twice, however, when Yorkshire seemed to be making sure of success, the game suddenly changed. The morning's play opened in dull fashion, for Ward and Paul occupied an hour in making 31. Then the excitement rapidly grew. Mr Jackson and Mr Milligan bowled with such effect that the score was only 74 when the fifth wicket went down. Paul and Smith put on another 35 before luncheon; but afterwards the last five wickets fell for 30 more runs. The feature of the innings was the batting of Paul. Lancashire were all out for 139.

As Yorkshire wanted 167 to win, considerably more than they had got in the first innings, it seemed

that Lancashire had the better position. But Mr F S Jackson once again proved his capacity. With eight men in hand, Yorkshire got within 100 runs of victory. But Mr Hornby managed his bowling with great tact; and, in spite of Wainwright's successful batting, the eighth wicket fell just before the close of the day, when there were 18 runs required.

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

Yorkshire won a very fine match at Old Trafford yesterday, when they beat Lancashire by two wickets. They had been put in to make 167 – that was, to play the highest innings of the match. On Tuesday night it was almost an open question, the visitors wanting 18 to win with two wickets to fall. Mounsey and Hirst, however, batted very well and, with a leg hit for four from Briggs, Hirst won the match for Yorkshire.

4 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4490.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 May, page 11)

The novelty of a match being played at Lord's before the annual meeting of the Marylebone Club was experienced yesterday, when a large company visited headquarters. In the ranks of the county team, Wass and Hardstaff appeared for the first time at Lord's. Shrewsbury hit with more freedom than usual, while Mr de Trafford and Storer both batted vigorously. In the bowling Attewell comes out well, and his first five wickets were obtained for 27 runs.

Notts won the toss and sent in Mr Jones and Shrewsbury at five minutes past 12. Martin (nursery end) and Davidson opened the attack. After a few overs, in which nothing of moment happened, Mr Jones fell to a catch at wicket. The play became very slow for awhile until Shrewsbury relieved the monotony by driving two successive balls of Davidson's to the boundary. Fifty were recorded as the result of three-quarters of an hour's batting. Gunn then played into the hands of third man, while Flowers was clean bowled by the first ball sent him.

Mead went on for Martin at 65, and Mr Dixon was missed off him in the long field by Mr Maude. The batsman did not profit at all by his escape, a catch at mid-off dismissing him. The "100" was signalled as the result of an hour and a half's play. Shrewsbury was soon afterwards caught at deep mid-off, and half the wickets were down for 105. The remaining five wickets fell for an additional 31 runs. Total, 136. Duration of innings, 2 hours 5 min.

Dr W G Grace and Mr de Trafford batted first for Marylebone, to the bowling of Attewell (pavilion) and Wass. The last-named was freely hit in his first over, 13 resulting from it. Mr de Trafford batted with great vigour, obtaining 20 in five hits. Dr Grace, after making a square-leg hit and a single, was quite beaten by a ball from Attewell, to the great disappointment of the spectators. Attewell's deliveries proved very effective, as he bowled Mr Peacock and Mr Gibson in an over, and subsequently served Mr Maude and Mr Stone in the same manner, while Mead was given out leg-before to him. Eight wickets were lost for 103.

Storer and J T Hearne, however, hit with such determination that the Notts total was passed at ten minutes to 5. Indeed, it was not until 174 was reached that Hearne fell to a catch at point. Storer obtained his 50 in 65 minutes. Total, 174.

The county, who had arrears of 38, began their second innings with an hour's batting left them. Mr Jones and Shrewsbury were opposed by Mead and Hearne. In the second over from Mead Shrewsbury scored three fours and a two. When he had made 27, out of a total of 30, he was well caught at slip. The next three wickets averaged six runs each. Mr Wright and Flowers put together 16, when the latter played on and stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 May, page 14)

The close of Monday's play pointed to a pretty easy victory for Marylebone in this match at Lord's, and such it proved, the home side winning by six wickets.

4 May: SURREY v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4491.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 May, page 11)

Warwickshire, at the beginning of the match, had bad luck and nearly all the work was done by two men, after the seventh wicket had gone for 87. Nearly the whole of the excellence of the Warwickshire innings was due to Law and Pallett, who, in a two hours' partnership for the eighth wicket, put on 122 runs. This feat was achieved against some excellent bowling.

Law, who has been a long while in the Warwickshire eleven, never played better than he did yesterday. He went in when half the side had gone for 64, and was eighth out in a very unlucky way. Among his hits were seven fours and four threes, and he was batting altogether two hours and 40 minutes. His dismissal was practically the end of the innings, for the last two men gave no trouble whatever; and, whereas 200 had gone up with seven men out, the whole side went for 215. Pallett played in a vigorous way, getting most of his runs in front of the wicket.

The Surrey bowlers were supported by quick and clean fielding, and the only mistakes that seemed to occur were behind the wicket and in the long field. Lockwood's success as a bowler in the first Surrey match will be very welcome to his friends after his comparative failure last year. Considering the bad start, Warwickshire's score was extremely creditable.

Mr Key, the Surrey captain, had the command of nearly his full strength. Brockwell had to stand out through an injured foot; and Braund, a distinguished bowler of the champion second eleven, was given a trial. The closing hour of the day was marked by the fine cricket of Abel and Hayward, who came together when one man had gone for two runs and had put on 72 at the drawing of stumps.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 May, page 14)

Free hitting on the part of Abel and Mr Walter Read characterized the play in this match at Kennington Oval yesterday. The weather was delightful but the light got very bad towards 6 o'clock. There was again a large company. At the drawing of stumps on the previous evening the visitors had finished an innings for 215, and the home team had obtained 74 at the cost of a wicket.

Soon after half-past 11 Abel and Hayward (not-out 40 and 33) again faced the bowling of Ward and Santall. A catch at wicket promptly dismissed Hayward, and Holland cut the ball into the hands of point. Braund batted in fine style and aided Abel in taking the total beyond the 100 before he was secured by mid-off. Lockwood stayed for a little while before being taken at extra cover-point. Five for 136, out of which number Abel had made 76.

He was now joined by Mr Read, and runs, in spite of the many variations in the attack, came for a time at the rate of a run a minute. Abel, aided by an overthrow, completed his 100 after having batted for two hours and 50 minutes. Hearty cheers went round the ground when this feat was signalled. Nor was Mr Read idle, for in an hour he put together 50 runs. The enthusiasm was great over the determined hitting of these batsmen, who were still partners at the interval, when the total was advanced to 259.

On continuing, Abel gave a very difficult chance to third man when he had obtained 130. This he did not long survive, however, for having added eight only he was clean bowled. He had played excellent cricket, and with the exception to the escape alluded to, there was not a flaw in his innings; his chief hits were three fives, 15 fours and four threes. The wicket had produced 142.

Mr Key assisted Mr Read, and both batsmen hit so vigorously that the 300 was telegraphed at a quarter-past 3. Mr Key fell to a catch at mid-off, and Mr Read, after he had been batting for two hours and 20 minutes in Brighton style, was bowled; his principal figures were 18 fours and five threes. The innings closed at 4 o'clock for 362.

Warwickshire, who were 147 behind, went in a second time, and had lost five wickets for 88 when the light became so bad that stumps were drawn for the day.

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

Less than an hour's play proved sufficient to enable Surrey to win this match at Kennington Oval yesterday by an innings and 26 runs. Hayward's analysis for this latter part of the innings was 11 overs (five maidens), 19 runs, three wickets. Thus Surrey have begun their season in a very promising manner.

4 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY – THE SENIORS’ MATCH

MR E H BRAY’S SIDE 249 (F S Moore 74, E B Shine 46; J B Dyne 4/47) and 405 (F S Moore 48, A G Richardson 65, A S Farnfield 37, P W Cobbold 44. E B Shine 48; G H Simpson 3/104, J A Crocker 3/73, C L Alexander 3/94). MR C J BURNUP’S SIDE 195 (C J Burnup 93; E B Shine 7/51) and 351 (G H Simpson 110, C L Alexander 33; P W Cobbold 3/73, F S Moore 3/21). Mr E H Bray’s Side won by 98 runs.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 May, page 11)

Two fine batting feats marked yesterday’s cricket at Cambridge. These were achieved by Mr F S Moore and Mr C J Burnup (the captain of one of the sides and the international left-wing forward at football). Mr Burnup was an excellent bat at Cambridge last year, although he did not get into the eleven; but he distinguished himself by some capital cricket for the Gentlemen of England at Lord’s in the Zingari jubilee match.

Mr Moore, playing with a free style, got his 74 in 80 minutes, hitting five fours, three threes and 11 twos. The innings realized 249 runs . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 May, page 14)

Mr Burnup failed to reach the 100 at Cambridge yesterday, when his team completed their innings for 195. Mr Shine bowled well and came out with a fine analysis.

When Mr E H Bray’s side went in again Mr Moore and Mr Richardson ran up 92 for the first wicket. Mr Richardson was in an hour and a half for 65, and was then caught by the wicket-keeper. Among his hits were nine fours. The last partnership – Mr Shine and Mr Boucher – yielded 60. Mr Burnup’s side want 460 to win to-day.

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

Yesterday, at Cambridge, the last innings of the Seniors’ trial was remarkable for the fine attempt by Mr Burnup’s side to win the game after going in with 460 to get, and the vigorous hitting of Mr G H Simpson, the Association football blue. His free scoring came after the fifth wicket had gone for 109. He hit a fine and 11 fours. In the end Mr Bray’s team gained the match by 98 runs.

4 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY – SENIORS’ MATCH

MR B N BOSWORTH-SMITH’S SIDE 405 (B N Bosworth-Smith 107, F G H Clayton 117, K A Woodward 52, H D Corbet 69*; J C Hartley 8/150) and 199/4 dec (F G H Clayton 87, B D Bannon 50). MR M Y BARLOW’S SIDE 329 (F L Fane 41, W E Harrison 55, C E Briggs 36, P S Waddy 81, J M Quinton 32; F G H Clayton 6/67) and 133/4 (H T Stanley 54*). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 May, page 11)

The old Harrow boys, Mr B N Bosworth-Smith and Mr F G H Clayton, absorbed most of the attention in the opening stage of the Seniors’ trial yesterday at Oxford. Their scoring was curiously even, for they went in first and were both out soon after running into three-figure at 230. Mr Clayton made some mistakes after scoring about 80. Mr Bosworth-Smith, who apparently gave no chance, hit 11 fours and Mr Clayton 20 fours.

Subsequently the best things in the innings were the 51 of Mr K A Woodward, another Harrovian, and the batting of Mr H D Corbet, who made a straight drive into the pavilion for six. The bowling generally was weak and the fielding at times loose. Mr J C Hartley obtained a fine analysis. The day was wholly occupied by the innings of Mr Bosworth-Smith’s side.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 May, page 14)

The second day of this match at Oxford was, like Monday, devoted to one long innings. Mr M Y Barlow’s side ran up a total of 329, which was well distributed among the team. Mr Waddy’s 81 included ten fours, Mr Harrison’s 55 seven fours, and Mr Fane’s 41 eight fours. The batting was a little dull at first, but improved later on.

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

Some good batting on behalf of both teams marked the closing day’s cricket of the Seniors’ match at Oxford before the game was left drawn. Mr Clayton, who made 117 in the first innings, again came off for Mr Bosworth-Smith’s side. He hit with fine freedom, and 13 fours were included in his 87. Mr Bannon, who helped Mr Clayton to put on 100 in 50 minutes, contributed seven fours.

Mr Barlow’s team were put in to get 276 to win. Mr H T Stanley played well, but runs came very slowly and no definite issue was arrived at.

The 109th anniversary meeting was held yesterday evening in the Pavilion, at Lord's, when Lord Harris, the president, was in the chair. There was an average attendance of members, including the Earl of Jersey, the Earl of Lichfield, Major-General F C Trevor, Mr V E Walker, Mr A J Webbe, Mr W E Denison, Mr Denzil Onslow, Mr W H Long, M.P., Sir T C O'Brien, Mr A E Stoddart, Mr H T Hewett, Captain Wynyard, Mr J H Farmer and Mr C C Clarke.

The committee reported that in 1895 the club consisted of 4,128 members, of whom 3,689 paid, 213 were life members and 226 were abroad. During the last season 177 matches were played, of which 104 were won, 35 lost and 38 drawn.

Sir A W L Hemming resigned his place on the committee on his appointment as Governor of British Guiana; Mr G W Ricketts was elected to the vacancy. Mr H T Hewett, Mr A N Hornby, Mr C F Reid and Mr M Turner retired by rotation from the committee, and the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord Harris, Mr H Philipson and Mr A J Webbe were nominated to fill the vacancies and expressed their willingness to serve.

With regard to the Grace Testimonial Fund, the total sum collected amounted to £2,377 2s 6d, which sum, less £21 8s 10d expenses, was handed to Mr Grace.

The committee suggested that the club should possess a portrait of the Hon Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, who throughout his membership has been, at first in the field and subsequently in counsel, a most active and vigilant supporter of the club, and for the last 16 years has also been its honorary treasurer. They recommended that an eminent artist be commissioned to paint a half-length portrait at a cost of 300 guineas.

The report gave the names of the ground staff, already announced in *The Times*, with the exception of A E Trott, the Australian, who will also qualify for Middlesex. There are now 54 cricketers on the staff at Lord's. The accounts and report were adopted.

In the evening the annual dinner was held in the members' dining hall, when Lord Harris nominated his successor in the presidency – the Earl of Pembroke, better known to cricketers as the Hon Sidney Herbert.

6 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4492.html)

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

For some years past the M.C.C. and Sussex match at Lord's has furnished both close finishes and fine cricket, and only last spring the M.C.C. won by 19 runs in a game made famous by the fine batting of K S Ranjitsinhji. Yesterday that gentleman got the highest individual score in a poor Sussex total, but his game was slow and cautious.

All the fine batting of the day was seen when Gunn and Chatterton were in. To William Gunn belongs the honour of scoring the first hundred of the season at Lord's. Gunn never played better than he did yesterday. He found the fast, true pitch well suited to his forward style. All round the wicket he played correctly and vigorously, and there was the same finish about his strokes, whether he was driving, cutting or placing the ball to leg. He reached the hundred in two hours and a half. With Chatterton he established a strong lead for Marylebone, and their partnership of 144 for the second wicket in an hour and three-quarters was only severed by an ill-judged call by Chatterton to which Gunn did not respond. Chatterton played in a much more free manner than we are accustomed to see him, and his driving was extremely good; he made a five and seven fours.

At the beginning of the innings Mr Stoddart seemed to be in for a good score, but he was eventually caught very deep in the long field. The Sussex bowling was not very deadly, but the fielding was good, especially that of K S Ranjitsinhji at point. Hearne followed up his bowling success of the early part of the week with another good analysis; while Storer, who is one of the best of wicket-keepers, brought off a fine piece of stumping that finished the Sussex innings. At present the M.C.C. are 73 runs on with five wickets to fall.

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

By extending the playing time beyond the hour usually observed in May, at Lord's, this match was last evening finished, and Marylebone secured a victory by nine wickets.

Such a decisive result was yesterday not always probable; but just when Sussex, about 4 o'clock, looked like extricating themselves from a bad position, and when K S Ranjitsinhji was getting runs in his best form, there came a break-down, brought about by Hearne and Attewell. In the end, the M.C.C. were left with a small task that was easily accomplished.

In the first part of the day Marylebone, who started with a lead of 73 and five wickets in hand, finished off their innings for an addition of 68. Gunn's batting was again the thing of note. His long innings occupied three and a half hours and he made no fewer than 21 fours.

Sussex had a serious balance of 141 to face; but, as the wicket was good, their case was not hopeless, apart from their traditional capacity for an uphill fight. After a bad start, K S Ranjitsinhji and Marlow played very fine cricket against the good bowling of Hearne, Attewell and Martin. When Marlow had gone at 68, there was a long stand by Mr Murdoch and K S Ranjitsinhji. The latter's 74 was a masterly innings and included ten fours and six threes.

After this everything went against Sussex, and Hearne and Attewell got the last six men out for 23

runs, Storer again finishing the innings with an excellent piece of stumping that dismissed Mr Newham. Hearne was able to bring his bowling aggregate for the first week at Lord's up to 20 wickets for 190 runs. Marylebone, in getting their 64, lost Mr Stoddart at his first ball, but Mr Hayman and Gunn then hit off the runs.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4493.html)

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

Mr Thornton took a very good side down to Cambridge for this match which began yesterday at Fenner's Ground, and among his professionals was Albert Trott. After Mr Jessop's performances in the Freshmen's match and those of Mr Burnup's in the Seniors', the Cambridge captain gave those players the first opportunity of a trial against a strong eleven, and both did well, Mr Burnup especially so in batting.

At one period of yesterday Mr Jessop and the Old Blue, Mr Wilson, met with so much success with the ball that the visitors promised [scarcely to] reach the 100; but after six men had gone for 45 a change came, and the batting of Mr Weigall, Mr Maude and Captain Wynyard quite altered the position. The two first named put on 124 while they were together, and in Mr Weigall's 75 were ten fours. Mr Maude hit six fours. In the end, Mr Thornton's team made 219.

When Cambridge went in, three wickets fell for 80, but then Mr Burnup was joined by Mr H H Marriott and the pair added 120, so that, having seven men in hand, the University finished the day with the better of the match.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 May, page 15)

There was some splendid cricket yesterday in the second innings of Mr Thornton's side. The chief honours were borne by Captain E G Wynyard, who made 121, his principal hits being 16 fours and five threes. Mr Thornton's Eleven are now at 245 with five wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 May, page 9)

The Cambridge team just managed to escape defeat at Fenner's on Saturday, for their match with Mr Thornton's team was drawn when they had only one wicket to go and were still 139 behind. Friday night had left the visitors in a strong position, as they were 315, or 245 runs ahead and had still five men in hand in the second innings.

On Saturday morning Mr Webbe, who had been severely struck on the left arm, decided not to go in. But afterwards Mr Thornton's side fared pretty well. The feature of the late part of their innings was the batting of Albert Trott, the Australian. In conjunction with Mr Maude he added 50 runs, while he was last out at 440, having played extremely well for 58, in which were four fours and eight threes.

Although Cambridge had little better than a hopeless task before them (371 runs were wanted to win and there were only four hours and a quarter to play), they set about their work in earnest and were treated kindly by the fieldsmen. Mr Mitchell and Mr Burnup made 59 for the first wicket; but the stand of the innings was that between Mr Druce and Mr Marriott. This lasted an hour and a quarter and yielded 96 runs. Mr Druce, after twice escaping in the long-field, played excellently and he contributed seven fours in his 63. Mr Marriott again came off and his 39 brought his aggregate in the match to 115 runs.

Neither Mr Jessop nor Mr Stogdon did much and Cambridge seemed likely to be beaten. However, Mr Wilson and Mr Lowe stayed together 50 minutes, and then, when the ninth wicket fell, “time” had been exhausted and the match was drawn.

7 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4494.html)

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

Mr S M J Woods, the Somerset captain, made a characteristic appearance in county cricket yesterday at Bristol, when he put in a fine innings of 108. Four wickets had gone for 39 when he joined Mr Stanley, and such was the vigour of his batting that he made his 108 out of 165 added in the partnership of a couple of hours. Mr Woods was fifth out at 204 and he hit 13 fours.

Mr Stanley, who showed much steadiness, was ninth to go after a stay of three and a half hours for his 79. He made seven fours and eight threes. Somerset were batting from midday until a quarter to five. Dr Grace bowled very well; but the home side were handicapped by the inability of Mr Townsend, the bowler, to be present. Some mistakes in the Gloucestershire field – both Mr Stanley and Mr Woods were missed – were very expensive, while Murch had three catches missed from his bowling.

Gloucestershire, in a bad three-quarters of an hour at the end of the day, lost three men, including the captain, for 43 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 May, page 15)

After a thoroughly interesting day's play at Bristol yesterday Somerset left off with rather the better position. Dr Grace has yet to go in, and Gloucestershire, with eight wickets to fall, have 219 more runs to make, so that the success or failure of the home county will probably turn on what the champion does.

The early play yesterday was occupied with the first innings of Gloucestershire, who continued to do badly for a time. But when five men had gone for 84 and there seemed every prospect of a "follow-on" Wrathall did much to rescue the side from a bad position. By sound cricket he scored 59 of the last 69 runs and carried out his bat. This feat was the more creditable as Wrathall was suffering from an injured foot.

Somerset's second innings was quickly played after luncheon. It had for its best features the batting of Robson and Mr Woods. Dr Grace bowled with more success than he has done for some seasons, and his seven for 59 brought his record in the double innings to ten wickets for 82 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 May, page 9)

Somerset gained a well-merited victory at Bristol on Saturday by 12 runs. They had rather the better of the position on Friday night, for Gloucestershire had lost two wickets in the fourth innings of the match and still wanted 219 to win.

The hopes of the home county rested on Dr W G Grace, who had yet to go in, and for a brief period on Saturday, when he and Wrathall were together, there seemed just a chance of these hopes being realized. The batsmen mentioned were in capital form; they stayed together 90 minutes and added 53, but once rid of Dr Grace, who was caught in the deep field, Tyler made short work of the home

side. In the closing stage of the match the best thing was the fine cricket of Wrathall, who supplemented his success in the first innings by making 70 in 85 minutes, and his chief hits were eight fours and six threes. Wrathall has not before done so well for his county.

The last five wickets took over an hour to capture, but only 26 runs were added. Somerset were mainly indebted for their success to the batting of Mr Woods and the slow bowling of Tyler.

7 May: SURREY v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4495.html)

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

At Kennington Oval yesterday Surrey were unable to play quite their full strength, as Hayward was suffering from a severe cold and Brockwell's injured foot still prevented him from playing. Surrey won the toss and took possession of an excellent wicket within a minute or so of noon.

Mr Walter Read and Abel were first opposed by Pougher (pavilion end) and Woodcock. Abel hit with exceptional freedom. At 56 he lost the company of Mr Read, who was bowled by a fine ball from Geeson. Holland arrived and runs came freely, so much so that, although Woodcock relieved Coe and Pougher again went on, the 100 was signalled as the result of an hour and a quarter's play. Holland proved a most effective partner to Abel, and the latter completed his hundred by a leg hit for four in the last over before luncheon.

On the game's being resumed Holland batted very vigorously, but he did not long survive making his century, Whiteside well stumping him. Among his hits were 20 fours and three threes. Two were out for 76. Woodcock went on again, and it was not long before Abel cut a ball from him into point's hands. He was most heartily cheered, as he had been batting over three hours for 152, in which were a five and 20 fours. Three for 280.

Ayres and Braund became partners, and they caused 300 to be telegraphed at ten minutes past 4. At 324 Ayres fell to the wicket-keeper, and three runs later Braund returned the ball. Lockwood and Street remained together until 340 was reached, when the latter retired, clean bowled, and Mr Key came in. Coe was put on at the pavilion end with the total at 371. With his first ball he clean bowled Lockwood and from his fifth Wood was caught at mid-on. Smith was dismissed at 387, and Richardson, the last man, aided in sending the total up to 400, as the result of four hours and 55 minutes' play.

Mr Key then made 12 by a drive and two square-leg hits in an over of Coe's. At five minutes past 6 Richardson obstructed his wicket with the total at 443. Duration of innings five hours and a quarter. Mr Key's not out 62 was a display of free and, at the same time, sound cricket. Leicestershire had ten minutes' batting, and in what would probably have been the last over of the day Holland was bowled.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 May, page 15)

There was a large attendance at Kennington Oval yesterday. The batting of Leicestershire, with a few exceptions, proved weak, and they were defeated by an innings and 259 runs. On Thursday Surrey had amassed 443, and one of the visitors' wickets was down for 9.

The start against the bowling of Richardson and Lockwood was most disheartening. Mr de Trafford was bowled all over the wicket at 12 (the whole of them made by himself), Knight played on, Tomlin's off stump was disturbed, Wood was dismissed by a bailer and Pougher was clean bowled. Six wickets were now down for 22. Brown and Geeson enlivened matters by making 10 in an over from Lockwood, who gave way to Abel at 49. Richardson then disposed of two batsmen in an over – Geeson bowled and Coe caught at wicket from the first ball sent him. Eight for 53. The next two

– Woodcock and Whiteside – were quickly bowled, and the innings, which had lasted a little over an hour and a half, closed for 55.

In the follow-on, with arrears of 388, Lockwood did not take part, having slightly sprained his heel, and the bowling was intrusted to Richardson and Smith. Mr de Trafford made seven by two on-drives in the former's first over. Brown was soon caught at slip and Holland failed to stop a ball from Richardson. At the interval 28 were recorded.

Afterwards Tomlin was bowled without addition to the score. Mr de Trafford and Knight infused a little interest in the game. The former made some good hits, as well as a few lucky ones. At 3.20 he completed his 50, which had occupied him a little over an hour. Most of the hitting was done by him until 90 were recorded, when he was caught by the wicket-keeper; among his hits were a four and nine threes. Pougher assisted Knight in taking the score past the 100 at ten minutes to 4. Although the end soon came, it was invested with some interest, as Richardson achieved the “hat trick” by bowling Pougher, Geeson and Coe with successive balls. The venture closed for 129.

From the full score it will be seen that Surrey won with the greatest ease. In the corresponding match last season Leicestershire were the winners by four wickets. Richardson's bowling was excellent, as he took in all 15 wickets at an average cost of a little over seven runs each.

7 May: WARWICKSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4496.html)

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

The Yorkshire team gave a display of good batting on the true wicket at Edgbaston, Birmingham, yesterday. To Mr F S Jackson and Wainwright, the men who had done most towards winning the match at Old Trafford with Lancashire, belonged the honours of the day. Mr Jackson forced the game at a great pace and his cricket all round the wicket was extremely good. Beyond a chance at 71 he made no mistake while compiling his 117 in two hours and a half. He hit 13 fours, four threes and 11 twos. The home bowling seemed very easy, and perhaps Ward was the only man who kept a consistent pitch.

Wainwright and Moorhouse put on 128 in 90 minutes. From the time he went in Wainwright scored at a great pace, making his 126 out of 192 in two and a half hours, contributing 16 fours, three threes and 12 twos. Yorkshire lost only seven wickets in scoring their 452, which were obtained at the rate of 90 an hour. Lord Hawke captained the Yorkshire eleven. Denton hurt his hand and will probably not be able to field to-day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 May, page 15)

The fast wickets which are prevalent on most important grounds was yesterday productive of a gigantic score at Edgbaston. Yorkshire beat all previous records for the highest score in an innings by obtaining 887. The previous best in first-class cricket was achieved by the Australian cricketers in their last tour on July 31, August 1, 2 and 3, at Portsmouth, when they ran up a total of 843 against Oxford and Cambridge Universities Past and Present. The highest score in any match was made by the Orleans Club, when their total was 920 against Rickling Green, in August, 1882.

On the present occasion not only was the record for the highest score beaten, but the individual achievements of the team are unprecedented, as four of them – Lord Hawke, Mr F S Jackson, Wainwright and Peel – all made three figures. There are many instances of three “centuries” on one innings, but on no previous occasion has there been four.

Thursday night’s position of 452 for seven wickets left no one prepared for the extraordinary feats of yesterday. But Lord Hawke and Peel (the not-outs with three and 37) carried the score to 740 before their partnership was severed. The full stand amounted to 292, this number being secured on three hours and three-quarters. Lord Hawke then played on. In his splendid innings of 166, in which hard driving was the characteristic, he made only one mistake, and that was a chance to mid-off with his figures at 151. The vigour of his play may be gleaned from the fact that he was credited with 21 fours, seven threes and 13 twos.

Peel, for a long while afterwards, found in Hirst such a useful partner that there seem a probability of even a fifth individual 100. Profiting by an escape at 27 Hirst hit out freely, and had made 85 out of 136, put on in an hour and three-quarters, before Santall got him caught; his chief hits were 15 fours. Hunter’s stay proved brief and the innings closed for 887.

Peel, who had gone in late on Thursday afternoon when five wickets were down for 339, carried out his bat; in his 210, which had occupied rather less than seven hours, were 16 fours, 14 threes and 17

twos, while he had one five (four from an overthrow). He was badly missed at slip with his score at 17, and there was a shade of a chance to mid-off when he had made 119. This is the best batting performance he has ever done for his county.

The falls of the wickets in the innings are interesting. They were:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	and--
63	124	141	211	339	405	448	740	876	887

The nearest approach to four hundreds in an innings was by Essex against Somerset last season at Taunton, when in a total of 692 Carpenter scored 153, Mr C M'Gahey 147, Mr A P Lucas 135 and Russell 99. Ten bowlers were tried yesterday and, as may naturally be concluded, the fielding became a little slack at times.

Day 3 (report from Monday 11 May, page 9)

The lengthened innings of Yorkshire at Birmingham, which absorbed the whole of cricketing hours on Thursday and Friday, may have possessed the merit of establishing a double record in the way of scoring and of four hundreds in one innings, but it left no time for Yorkshire to win, as the wicket remained hard and true and Warwickshire possessed sundry good batsmen. And on Saturday this historical match was left drawn.

To begin with, Hirst's great pace and pitch so steadily got the home men out that when, at the end of 70 minutes, the fifth wicket went down for 31 runs, the prospect of Yorkshire's success brightened. Thus far Hirst had sent down 17 overs (six maidens), 20 runs, for five wickets. But the next few partnerships settled the question about the match being played out. William Quaife by his steadiness did more to save the match than any one else. He went in first wicket down before a run had been scored, and after four more men had gone he got Diver to stay with him an hour and a quarter, during which 47 runs were added; and he had subsequent partnerships of 39 and 53 with Pallett and Santall. By these stands the better part of the afternoon time was exhausted.

When at last the Warwickshire innings ended William Quaife remained not out; his early care had been succeeded by some vigorous play near the close, but in spite of this he failed to reach the 100. In the four hours and a quarter of his stay he had given no chance, while his best hits were nine fours, five threes and ten twos. Hirst bowled wonderfully well on the hard wicket. When Warwickshire followed on Mr Bainbridge and Walter Quaife hit hard . . .

7 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY – THE FRESHMEN’S MATCH

MR H D G LEVESON-GOWER’S SIDE 305 (A F Vernon 86, R W Mitchell 63; F W Stocks 3/70, P P Graves 5/59). MR G R BARDSWELL’S SIDE 128 (A Eccles 40; C C Pilkington 6/37, G Burnet-Stuart 3/42) and 138 (F Good 4/35, C C Pilkington 6/27). Mr H D G Leveson-Gower’s Side won by an innings and 41 runs.

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

Yesterday at Oxford was occupied by the innings of Mr Leveson-Gower’s side, in which the best features were the 86 by Mr A F Vernon, of Shrewsbury School, and the 63 by Mr R W Mitchell. Mr Probyn hit freely, while Mr C C Pilkington and Mr A S Crawley, from Harrow, started well. Mr Vernon gave some chances, and among his hits were ten fours. Mr Graves and Mr Stocks bowled fairly well.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 May, page 15)

On the opening day Mr Leveson-Gower’s side were out for 305, which number enabled them to win the match by an innings and 41 runs. Mr Pilkington took 12 wickets for an average of a little over five runs each.

THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS. — With the exception of Mr H Graham, who is yet unwell, the Australians engaged in practice at Lord's yesterday on the auxiliary ground of the M.C.C. They had a couple of hours in the nets before luncheon with turns on 20 minutes' batting each.

Friday 8 May, page 11: SURREY COUNTY CLUB

Sir Richard Webster presided over the annual general meeting of this club last evening, in the members' dining-hall at Kennington-oval. In proposing the adoption of the report he mentioned that the privilege of members introducing a friend into the pavilion would be suspended on five occasions – viz., the three Australian matches, Gentlemen v Players and Surrey v Nottinghamshire.

As evidence of the cricketing ability in the county he drew attention to the fact that last season was the third in succession in which the second eleven had not been beaten.

The accounts showed a favourable balance as the result of the season. The matches were well attended, and the interest in county cricket fully maintained throughout. For the first time since 1866 Surrey played England. This match was arranged as a testimonial to Mr W W Read, in recognition of his long and valuable service to Surrey cricket. In addition to the receipts as shown a sum of £125 15s was subscribed by members.

The proceeds of the Yorkshire match were given to Robert Abel, who has served the county faithfully for 15 years. Notwithstanding the continuous rain on the second day the result was satisfactory. A sum of £134 3s 6d was subscribed by members.

The eleven, who again secured the highest honours of first-class county cricket, took part altogether in 28 matches, of which 18 were won, five drawn and five lost. Home and home matches are arranged for the season with Derbyshire, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Notts, Somersetshire, Sussex, Warwickshire, Yorkshire and Oxford University, as well as one between Gentlemen v Players. The Australian team will play at the Oval three times, twice v Surrey and once against England. The Yorkshire match at the Oval will be for the benefit of G Lohmann, who reappeared in the Surrey eleven last summer after two years' absence.

The match receipts amounts to £8,596 and the subscriptions to £4,080. There was a surplus of £1,001 from the year's total income of £13,627, while the club has £10,000 invested in India and Canada stock. Both the report and balance-sheet were adopted.

Sir Richard Webster was re-elected president, General Marshall vice-president and Mr Wildman Cattley treasurer.

ESSEX COUNTY CLUB

At Leyton yesterday the annual general meeting of this club was held under the presidency of Mr C E Green. The chairman congratulated the members on their improved cricket and on last season's results.

Of the £2,000 guaranteed towards the liquidation of the club debt only £800 had been received, and he hoped the others would come forward so that Mr Tebbutt, who had advanced the money, could be repaid. There was a loss on the year of about £200.

Monday 11 May, page 9

“Centuries.” – During the past week there have been no fewer than 14 individual scores of three figures in important cricket – namely, Abel, 136, and Mr W W Read, 112, for Surrey v Warwickshire at the Oval; Mr B N Bosworth-Smith, 107, and Mr F G H Clayton, 117, in the Oxford University Seniors’ match; Mr G H Simpson, 110, in the Cambridge University Seniors’ match; Abel, 152, and Holland, 110, for Sty v Leicestershire at the Oval; Gunn, 138, for M.C.C. and Ground v Sussex at Lord’s; Mr F S Jackson, 117, Wainwright, 126, Peel, 210 (not out), and Lord Hawke, 166, for Yorkshire v Warwickshire at Birmingham; Captain Wynyard, 121, for Mr C I Thornton’s XI v Cambridge University at Cambridge; and Mr S M J Woods, 108, for Somerset v Gloucestershire at Bristol.

AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS IN ENGLAND

The growth of cricket in Australia during the past 30 years has been steady and the colonies now possess so many cricketers of the front rank that the difficulty lies in the selection of a team to visit England.

In 1873-74 Mr W G Grace took an English team out to Australia which only engaged in matches against odds; but three years later James Lillywhite captained a side, and for the first time in the records of colonial cricket England, in an eleven-a-side match, were beaten by the Australians by four wickets. The vast improvement in Australian cricket suggested the idea of a team from the colonies visiting England.

Mr D W Gregory was the captain of the first eleven, which came in 1878, and his companions were Mr G H Bailey, Mr H F Boyle, Mr T Horan, Mr F R Spofforth, Mr F E Allan, Mr J M'C Blackham, Mr T W Garrett, Mr W L Murdoch, Mr A C Bannerman and Mr W Midwinter. This team opened badly at Nottingham; but their defeat on the Trent-bridge ground was amply compensated for by their victory at Lord's, when a powerful M.C.C. eleven were beaten in a day by nine wickets. The wonderful bowling of Mr Spofforth and Mr Boyle and the superb fielding of the visitors were the themes of conversation among lovers of the national game for many a day.

From this match their success was assured, and the comparative inattention with which their visit was at first regarded gave way to a feeling of keen interest. Their matches were largely attended and their doings eagerly followed by those who could not witness them. Victories over Yorkshire and Surrey gave further proof of their power. They did not engage in a match with a representative team, but they played the Gentlemen of England on the old Prince's Ground and were beaten by an innings; but at the same place they managed to draw the game against the Players. Of their 17 eleven-a-side contests they won nine, lost four and drew four, while their complete record was 37 matches played, 18 won, seven lost and 12 drawn.

Mr W L Murdoch was the captain of the second team to visit us. It included eight new men – viz., Messrs P S M'Donnell, G E Palmer, G J Bonnor, A H Jarvis, J Slight, G Alexander, T U Groube and W H Moule. In addition to the captain there were four of the 1878 side – Mr J M'C Blackham, Mr F R Spofforth, Mr H F Boyle and Mr A C Bannerman. The trip was undertaken without any direct invitation, and some difficulty was experienced in arranging an adequate programme. The team, however, showed such fine cricket as to force themselves upon the attention of English players. They had no engagement at Lord's, but at Kennington Oval they met an England team, and two scores of over 100 runs were made – Dr W G Grace, 152 for England; while Mr Murdoch, after the Australians had followed on against 271, carried his bat out for 153. In those days "centuries" were not so frequent and the achievements of the two captains were quite sensational. England won the match by five wickets.

This tour comprised 11 contests on even terms; the Colonials were five times successful, twice defeated, while the remaining four matches were drawn. Their complete results were 37 matches played, 21 wins, four losses and 12 drawn games.

It fell to the lot of the 1882 team to have an entirely eleven-a-side programme arranged for them. Matches against odds were altogether abandoned and such was the calibre of the players that of the

38 engagements they won 23, lost only four and drew 11. It is pretty generally admitted that this was the finest side ever sent to England. It was composed of the eight best members of the previous team – Mr W L Murdoch, Mr A C Bannerman, Mr P S M'Donnell, Mr G E Palmer, Mr J M'C Blackham, Mr G J Bonnor, Mr H F Boyle and Mr F R Spofforth. The new element in the team included five of the finest cricketers Australia has produced. These were Mr G Giffen, Mr T W Garrett, Mr H H Massie, Mr S P Jones and Mr T Horan.

They played only one representative match, and that at the Oval in the closing days of August. It proved of a most sensational nature and was full of surprises. The wicket was all in favour of the bowlers and the scores ruled small. Mr Murdoch's team were first out for 63, but the powerful England side could only get a lead of 38. Mr Massie's brilliant 55 was the feature of the visitors' second innings; yet England were only set 85 to win. This seemed an easy enough task, but the capacity of the Australians for playing an uphill game, for which they have become noted, was here shown. Dr W G Grace did well and matters seemed to be going smoothly for England, as they made 51 at the cost of three wickets. An entire change now came over the game through the bowling of Mr Spofforth and Mr Boyle. When the ninth wicket went the home side wanted ten runs, and the excitement among the crowd which thronged the Oval became intense. [Peate], the last man, was, however, bowled for a couple, and Australia won by seven runs.

Two years later the fourth team from the colonies visited England. Mr Murdoch again captained them and had eight others of the team which had done so well in 1882. These were Mr J M'C Blackham, Mr H F Boyle, Mr F R Spofforth, Mr G Giffen, Mr G E Palmer, Mr G J Bonnor, Mr A C Bannerman and Mr P S M'Donnell. Two new cricketers were introduced to the English public in Mr W H Cooper (a particularly slow bowler) and Mr H J H Scott, while Mr Midwinter, who had played as a professional for Gloucestershire, was also in the side.

This time the issue of Australia v England was not allowed to rest on one match, as three fixtures were made, and Lord's, Kennington Oval and Manchester were the grounds chosen. The last-named game ended in a draw, as did that at the Oval. On the Surrey enclosure heavy scoring predominated, and this was the real cause of the contest being left unfinished. Mr Murdoch's team played a first innings of 551; the captain scored 211 himself, and Mr M'Donnell and Mr Scott each passed the hundred. A curious feature in the England total of 346 was that Mr W W Read, though tenth on the order, ran up 117.

The Lord's match, which came between the other two, decided the supremacy, and England won by an innings and five runs. Most of the home batsmen did well, the chief scorer being Mr A G Steel with 148. Of the 32 matches played, 18 were won, seven lost and seven drawn.

The fifth team arrived in 1886 and was captained by Mr H J H Scott. It became noteworthy for its number of unfinished games, as of the 38 matches played no fewer than 22 were drawn, while they won nine and lost seven. Beside the captain, of those who had been to England before there were eight – viz., Mr J M'C Blackham, Mr G J Bonnor, Mr G Giffen, Mr G E Palmer, Mr F R Spofforth, Mr A H Jarvis, Mr T W Garrett and Mr S P Jones. The fresh men were Mr W Bruce, Mr E Evans, Mr J M'Ilwraith and Mr J W Trumble. They were quite unable to cope with England, who beat them at Manchester by four wickets, at Lord's by an innings and 106 runs, and at the Oval by an innings and 217 runs. In the Kennington match Dr W G Grace scored 170.

The sixth team of Australians came over in 1888. It was confidently expected that Mr Moses, who enjoyed a fine reputation in the colonies as a left-handed batsman, would be included in the team, and also that Mr George Giffen would be in its ranks; but these prominent men, from some cause or another, did not come over. There were in the team, however, two bowlers who bore the brunt of the work throughout the summer. These were Mr C T B Turner and Mr J J Ferris. The side was captained by Mr P S M'Donnell, and in addition to the bowlers mentioned it included Mr G J Bonnor, Mr A C Bannerman, Mr S P Jones, Mr H Trott, Mr J M'C Blackham, Mr J J Lyons, Mr J D Edwards, Mr A H Jarvis, Mr J Worrall and Mr H F Boyle. They engaged in 40 matches, 19 of which were won, 14 lost and seven drawn.

Their season was begun with great success by defeating an eleven got together by Mr C I Thornton by six wickets. Both Mr Turner and Mr Ferris made themselves felt – the latter taking 11 wickets and the former nine. They next beat Warwickshire in a most decisive manner at Birmingham by an innings and 150 runs. Further surprises were in store, for they vanquished Surrey by an innings and 158 runs and beat Oxford University by an innings and 19 runs. Another great victory awaited them at Sheffield, where they beat Yorkshire by an innings and 64 runs. It was left to Lancashire to stem this tide of success, which they did by beating the visitors by 23 runs.

The victory which the Australians probably most coveted, and of which they well had reason to be proud, was the match against England at Lord's. On this occasion the home team fell lamentably short of expectation. Low scores were the order of the day, and the batting honours were carried off by Dr W G Grace with 24. The bowling of Messrs Turner and Ferris was remarkable, for they took between them 18 out of the 20 possible wickets. The Australians won by 61 runs.

The seventh team was captained by Mr W L Murdoch, who had not taken part in first-class cricket for between four and five years. He had with him Dr J E Barrett, Mr H Trott, Mr J J Lyons, Mr J M'C Blackham, Mr C T B Turner, Mr J J Ferris, Mr P C Charlton, Mr S E Gregory, Mr S P Jones, Mr K E Burn, Mr F H Walters and Mr H Trumble. They did not do well, and out of the 38 matches played they only won 13, lost 16 and drew nine. Their most prominent victories were against Lord Sheffield's Eleven, Surrey, Oxford University, Lancashire and Gloucestershire. They lost the England match at Lord's by seven wickets and that at the Oval by two, the Manchester contest being abandoned owing to the weather. Marylebone also beat them by four wickets.

The eighth team was captained by Mr J M'C Blackham, whose experience of English grounds and English cricketers was unrivalled, for he alone had been with all the previous elevens. There were several new members in the side, which was considered fairly representative of Australian cricket. At times they did extremely well, but altogether the tour was neither so harmonious nor so successful as had been anticipated. Thirty-six matches were played; half were won, but ten were lost. Of the three representative contests only one was played out, and that at the Oval, when England won by an innings and 43 runs. They began badly by losing to Lord Sheffield's Eleven by eight wickets, and among their other defeats were two by Surrey and one at the hands of Marylebone.

The ninth team, which opens its tour to-day, is the third in succession that has begun operations at Sheffield-park. With four exceptions all the colonials are appearing for the first time on an English ground, and their side will be chosen from the following: - Mr H Trott, Victoria (captain), Mr J Darling, South Australia, Mr C J Eady, Tasmania, Mr G Giffen, South Australia, Mr S E Gregory, New South Wales, Mr C Hill, South Australia, Mr H Donnan, New South Wales, Mr F A Iredale,

New South Wales, Mr A E Johns, Victoria, Mr E Jones, South Australia, Mr J J Kelly, New South Wales, Mr H Trumble, Victoria, and Mr T R [M'Kibbin], New South Wales.

Lord Sheffield's Eleven. – Dr W G Grace, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr F S Jackson, Mr C B Fry, Shrewsbury, Gunn, Mold, Davidson, A Hearne, Lilley and Pougher. The Prince of Wales will be the guest of Lord Sheffield to-day.

11 May: LORD SHEFFIELD'S XI v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4497.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 May, page 13)

Sheffield Park presented a most animated appearance yesterday, when the ninth Australian team opened their tour. The weather held fine and the conditions altogether were so favourable to cricket that the rather ordinary day's play must have been disappointing to the average spectator. Against strange bowling the Australians, of course, played the game in adopting cautious tactics. Their batsmen had plenty of good strokes, but when well set they seemed to lose sight of the fact that there were only three days in which to play the match out instead of the almost unlimited time allowed to big contests in Australia. As the day went they had the satisfaction of losing only five wickets for 241, but the comparative tameness of the batting left a dull impression.

The wisdom of putting in two men entirely strange to the English wickets was at first questioned, but later on Mr Trott's judgment proved correct. Playing back on a true, fast wicket is a lasting, but not very productive, game. This was adopted by Mr Donnan, and if he waited for loose balls to hit few came to him, and Mold, Pougher and Mr Jackson kept a good length and offered few opportunities of scoring on the leg side. Mr Darling has a more vigorous style, but as he is a left-handed batsman no small time was taken up by the fieldsmen having [so frequently to] cross over. He scored nearly twice as fast as his companion. There was more life in the batting when Mr Giffen and Mr Trott came together, and the home side could have done with another good bowler to back up Mold and Mr Jackson. The actual batting time for the day was four hours and three-quarters, and sufficient cricket has not yet been witnessed to form an adequate estimate of the capabilities of our visitors.

The Prince of Wales does not often favour the cricket field, and when it became known that he would be Lord Sheffield's guest the public appreciated the compliment to the Australians and thronged in their thousands to the park, which was thrown open to them. The official return showed an attendance of 24,930. A special train which conveyed the Prince to the park was met by Lord Sheffield, and a guard of honour of the 1st Sussex (Seaford) Engineers was drawn up outside the station. The route through the park to the plateau which forms the cricket field was beautifully decorated. Among the company were Lord and Lady Harris, Lord Lathom, Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane, Lord and Lady De-La-Warr, Lord and Lady Evelyn Somerset, Lord Zouche and Sir H Fletcher, M.P., and Lady Fletcher.

It should be mentioned that the Australians, who are staying at Brighton, elected to leave out Mr H Trumble, Mr A E Johns and Mr H Graham, the last of whom is suffering from an attack of rheumatism. Special trains were run from London to Sheffield Park, but the railway company are not to be congratulated on the time taken to cover a comparatively short journey.

A piece of good fortune befell the Australians in winning the toss, and they took possession of an excellent wicket in Sheffield Park at ten minutes past 12. Mold led off the bowling, and in his first over Mr Donnan got a lucky four through the slips. The other batsman was Mr Darling (left hand). The first good hit was a fine drive to the off by Mr Darling from Pougher, a feat which this batsman soon repeated. The play became quiet, the first half-hour producing 22 runs. A beautiful hit through the slips by Mr Donnan was followed by a splendid piece of fielding on the part of Mr Fry at extra slip. Thirty-four runs came in 40 minutes, and then Pougher (from whom 18 had been made) gave up the ball to Mr Jackson. Davidson was tried for Mold at 48, and a cut to the ring by

Mr Donnan caused the 50 to be recorded as the result of an hour's play.

Further quietude ensued, after which Mr Darling drove a ball to the off boundary from Mr Jackson, who gave way to Dr W G Grace at 58. The first delivery of the change (a full-pitched ball) Mr Darling drove almost straight to the spectators. This batsman with a single in the same over completed his individual 50. Mr Donnan drove Davidson to the off boundary, and at 68 Mold resumed bowling, from whom the same batsmen hit the ball to the on for four. The total was advanced to 80 at the luncheon interval without the loss of a wicket. Subsequently the bowling was intrusted to Mr Fry, while Mold crossed over to the Fletching end. Mr Donnan did not long survive, being bowled by Mr Fry. One for 92, the game having lasted two hours and ten minutes.

Mr Darling, who was joined by Mr Giffen, caused the 100 to be signalled by a capital on drive at 20 minutes to 4. Mr Giffen, having sent Mr Fry to the on boundary, made six by two clean cuts from Mold. He was unfortunate enough to lose the company at 112 of Mr Darling, who was caught by the wicket-keeper standing well back to the bowling of Mold.

The vacancy was filled by Mr Iredale, who, after obtaining a lucky four through the slips, gave a hard one-handed chance to Dr W G Grace at point. A couple of fours came from successive overs of Mr Fry's – a cut to Mr Iredale and a square-leg hit to Mr Giffen. A variation of the attack was adopted at 132, Pougher going on for Mold, who crossed over to his old end. Runs were obtained at a slow but steady rate. Then Mr Iredale effected eight by two late cuts from Mr Fry off successive balls. Dr Grace went on for Mold at 142, and bowled Mr Iredale with his second ball. Three for 145.

Mr Trott (the Australian captain) led off with a three from Mold, and then he drove Pougher to the onlookers. The 150 was signalled at half-past 4. Mr Giffen well cut a ball from Pougher, who was displaced by Mr Jackson at 164. At this stage Davidson fielded very finely at extra slip. Mr Giffen cut the new bowler for four, but a catch at wicket dismissed him with the score at 175. Among his hits were four fours and two threes. Four down.

Mr Gregory aided Mr Trott. Four byes were recorded before Mr Trott cut Dr Grace for four, but the Gloucestershire captain soon bowled Mr Gregory. Mr Hill arrived and a double change was tried, the bowling being intrusted to Hearne and Davidson. This did not prevent 200 being signalled at half-past 5. A late cut through the slips to Mr Hill was the most notable hit prior to the drawing of stumps at 6 o'clock . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 May, page 13)

The cricket at Sheffield Park yesterday was incomparably better than that of the opening day, when the Australians took four and three-quarter hours in scoring 241 for five wickets. In fact, it was quite a different class of batting and, although the English were over 60 behind on the first innings, they had the satisfaction of knowing that their runs had been splendidly got.

Dr Grace obtained his 49 with the vigour of his younger days, while K S Ranjitsinhji never played a more beautiful innings than his 79. From the time he came in he batted with graceful excellence, and that wonderful stroke of his on the leg side was well demonstrated. But all round the wicket he was very good, and those who had seen his stilted game for Sussex at Lord's last week were agreeably surprised yesterday.

It was well for the Englishmen that K S Ranjitsinhji was in form, as things were going very badly for them after the great start made by Dr Grace and Mr Jackson. It was Mr Jones's bowling that wrought the change in the position. Keeping short and very fast, he had most of his field behind the wicket, and his tactics succeeded, for he brought about the dismissal of nearly all the leading batsmen in a strong side by tempting them with short balls. K S Ranjitsinhji treated these bad deliveries in the manner they deserved; but the other batsmen were not so successful. The Australian who really bowled the best, although no wicket fell to his share, was Mr G Giffen, who twice nearly dismissed Mr Grace.

To begin the second day, the Australians finished off their first innings in quite an ignominious fashion. The batting lacked life and there was quite a collapse, and the home side were able to start on their innings long before it had been expected. But the finish of the day left the Australians with the better position and, if they do at all well this morning, the result can be little else than a draw. The Australians fielded very well and brought off some very fine catches. The weather was even warmer than that of Monday and the company numbered about 12,000.

Lord Sheffield entertained the teams and a large party at luncheon, and his guests included Mr G J Goschen, M.P., Mr Bruce Weatworth, M.P., Sir H Fletcher, M.P. and Sir Lepel Griffin.

It was 20 minutes to 12 when the match was resumed, and there was a full and deep ring to see the Australians, who were 241 for five wickets, proceed with their innings. Mr Trott and Mr Hill were the not-outs with 43 and 30. In the first over Alec Hearne got Mr Trott easily caught at short slip. This sixth partnership, by thoroughly sound cricket, had yielded 50 runs.

Wickets fell rapidly, and the crowd cheered very loudly when Alec Hearne brought off a wonderful catch at slip, dismissing Mr Eady, from Mold's bowling; he fell in holding the ball low down with his right hand. By a quarter past 12 the innings was over for 257, only 16 runs having been added by the last five wickets. Mold during the morning had taken three wickets for 10 runs and Hearne two for five. Mold had bowled remarkably well right through the innings and his four for 60 was a good analysis on a wicket so favourable to batsmen.

Dr Grace and Mr Jackson made a splendid beginning to the innings of Lord Sheffield's team. Mr Jones (very fast) and Mr M'Kibbin were the bowlers. "W.G.," after being twice badly hit in the first over from Mr Jones, began to force the game at a great pace, and the last two balls of the over he drove and cut to the boundary. Ten getting to the other end he severely punished Mr M'Kibbin, off whom he made five fours by two cuts and three drives, and at the end of half an hour the score stood at 55. Various changes of bowling were tried and at 58 Mr Jackson, in endeavouring to cut Mr Jones, was easily caught by third man.

Mr Giffen twice beat "W.G.," and then Shrewsbury, in trying to get a "long hop" from Mr Jones away, only just touched the ball, which went into the hands of one of the slips. Gunn and Dr Grace played carefully for a time. Dr Grace, in attempting to play one of Mr Jones's short balls, was caught off his glove by the wicket-keeper. The score was 71 and the champion had made 49 in his best form in an hour. K S Ranjitsinhji began with a lovely stroke on the leg side from Mr Jones. But from the fast bowler Gunn, in hitting at one of the short-pitched balls, was caught at slip by Mr Giffen, who was fielding deep. Without addition to the score Mr Fry played on. Luncheon was taken with the score at 80 for five.

After the interval A Hearne came out with K S Ranjitsinhji and the crowd was treated to some brilliant batting. K S Ranjitsinhji forced the game all round the wicket. After Hearne had gone at

110 the score rose rapidly. Lilley made some very hard drives and K S Ranjitsinhji severely punished some short balls. Mr Jones, Mr Giffen, Mr Eady and Mr M'Kibbin all had a turn at bowling, but K S Ranjitsinhji played everything with easy precision, and with Lilley added 56 before the latter was caught and bowled very cleverly, Mr M'Kibbin running half way up the wicket and taking the ball low down with his right hand.

Mr Jones for a second time went on at the top end and, after bowling Davidson, he got K S Ranjitsinhji caught at mid-on. K S Ranjitsinhji had made 79 out of 115. His score included 15 fours, two threes and two twos. It was a great catch that dismissed him; Iredale running in from mid-on just got to the ball and held it with his right hand.

The Australians eventually secured a lead of 62 on the first innings, and in the closing hour of the day Mr Donnan and Mr Darling batted steadily, and the side left off 114 runs to the good with nine wickets to fall.

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

The Australians have come out of their first trial with at least the merit of having played the good team secured by Lord Sheffield a hard and interesting game. They had not the better of the drawn match because they failed to sustain the advantage on the first innings and, remembering that the Englishmen could bat to a man, with the exception of Mold, they would in all probability have been beaten had the hours of play been a little less easy at Sheffield-park.

In a brief survey of the game's characteristics one of the first things brought home was the fact that the Australians did not make most of the advantage of getting first innings on a perfectly true wicket. Dullness marked their batting, which suffered much in comparison with the form of several of Lord Sheffield's eleven. In fact, apart from the excellence of Mr Trott, the batting of the visitors seemed singularly ordinary; and, making allowances for the want of practice, the strangeness of the bowlers and so on, a careful observation of the style of the men failed to remove this impression. A methodical and plodding tendency pervades their defence.

It seems a good fielding side, although there were some mistakes yesterday, and one very bad one which cost our visitors a great many runs. Of their bowlers it will probably be found, as the season goes on, that Mr Giffen is the most consistent and most skilful. Mr Jones is very fast and bumps a good deal; but he has no particular length and on some of the best English grounds he will find it difficult to make the ball get up in the way that he did in the two innings of Lord Sheffield's team.

What the Australians failed to show in this match was a batsmen of the brilliant class of Massie, Percy M'Donnell and Lyons, players who would have revelled on such a fast ground as that in Sheffield-park. The batting honours yesterday rested with three men – Mr Trott, Mr Jackson and K S Ranjitsinhji. When the Australian captain went in there was a chance of his side losing and, under these conditions, his good cricket possessed much more than ordinary merit. The circumstances of Mr Jackson's and K S Ranjitsinhji's batting were different. They were engaged in something like a forlorn hope in endeavouring to get over 250 in two hours and a quarter.

Lord Sheffield's cricket festival for the third day had a continuance of beautiful weather, and about 5,000 people availed themselves of the opportunity of visiting the park, bringing the attendance for the three days to about 30,000.

As the Australians were in such a strong position on Tuesday night, being 114 ahead with nine wickets to fall, the prospect favoured either a draw or a win for them. Mr Darling and Mr Kelly, the not-outs, however, were not quite at home with the bowling of Mold and Alec Hearne. The score of 52 had been increased only to 68 when Mr Darling was caught at short-slip. He had played with much steadiness and once or twice had shown capacity at cutting.

Mr Giffen, who followed, played Mold very well. Steadily the score reached 87, and then Mr Kelly, in playing right back to a good length ball from Alec Hearne, was clean bowled. His nine runs had taken him more than 40 minutes to make. Mr Giffen was out soon afterwards. With four wickets lost for 89 the game seemed to be changing in England's favour. Mr Trott, however, played a quiet and sound game and, with Mr Iredale as a partner, runs came at a fair rate. Davidson went on for Mold and Mr Fry relieved Hearne, who had bowled rather too long at the top end. Mr Fry, had he gathered a quick return, might have run out Mr Trott; but soon afterwards Mr Iredale was dismissed by a good catch at the wicket.

Half the side had now gone for 126; but the next partnership, that between Mr Trott and Mr Hill, did much to place the Australians in a very safe position. Dr Grace scarcely seemed to make the most of his bowling. Mr Jackson did not go on at all. Mr Fry is not a particularly good bowler, but he kept a fairly accurate length. Pougher came on at 161; but the wicket was secured by Davidson, from whom Mr Hill played on. The 42 runs of the partnership had been made at the rate of one a minute. Mr Gregory was run out by Mr Trott, who called him for a single when the ball had gone slowly to cover-point. It was a case of chivalry, for Mr Gregory might have easily saved his own wicket. Mr Trott continued to play very good cricket and with Mr Eady before luncheon carried the score to 173.

In half an hour afterwards the innings was completed. Mr Eady fell to the wicket-keeper and Mr Jones to slip, while Mr M'Kibbin played on, the total being 194. Mr Trott took out his bat for 59, a very sound innings, the value of which to the side could not be overestimated. He came well down on the ball and, while mostly content to play the good bowling back to the bowler, never allowed a loose ball to escape. He took two hours and ten minutes to make his 59, in which were 11 fours, two threes and three twos.

With two hours and three-quarters left for play Lord Sheffield's eleven had to make 257 to win, and the chances were naturally in favour of a draw. To begin with the "order" of the first innings was observed. Dr Grace and Mr Jackson began to the bowling of Mr Jones and Mr M'Kibbin. In the first over from the former there were three appeals for catches at wicket, one against Mr Jackson and two against Dr Grace. None of these were successful. The batsmen at once began to force the play and made some fine hits, mostly from Mr M'Kibbin, whereas the bumping balls from Mr Jones were neither well timed nor apparently relished by either. Mr Jones bowled short and at a great pace down the incline, and the batsmen made many erratic strokes in playing him. The play was lively and 45 had been made in 25 minutes when Dr Grace, who had narrowly escaped being caught in the long field and in the slips, was at last secured by short-slip from a bumping ball.

Mr Giffen soon took up the bowling when Gunn arrived, and he ought to have got out Mr Jackson, who was badly missed by Mr Eady from a skier at short-leg when his figures were 37. Gunn gave third man an easy catch in endeavouring to get rid of a bumping ball from Mr Eady, and two wickets were down for 86. K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr Jackson played freely. The latter ran into his 50, out of 87, and in a little over an hour the score was taken to 100. Sundry bowling changes were tried, but the runs came at a fast pace, and eventually Mr Jones was put on at the lower end. Both batsmen played splendidly and in the course of 80 minutes 90 runs were added.

K S Ranjitsinhji was then caught in the slips for 42. He had played equally as well as on the second day, and his aggregate for the match was 121. Mr Fry was at once dismissed, and then stumps were drawn, Lord Sheffield's team wanting 77 to win with six wickets to fall.

11 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4498.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 May, page 13)

Several choice pieces of cricket marked an even day's play at Lord's yesterday. Mr A N Hornby played the best innings he has done for several years at Lord's.

The manner in which Marylebone started yesterday promised a match of unevenness, for Mr Stoddart and Mr de Trafford ran into three figures before a wicket fell in the first hour. Mr Stoddart played in his best form. The prospect of a heavy score dissolved before the bowling of I'Anson, who, going on a second time, found a spot in the turf and, pitching very accuracy, brought about something like a collapse. Mr Stoddart in playing forward to him was the first to succumb, and when his wicket had gone at 103 the other nine men added only 88 runs, and the innings was over at about 25 minutes to 4. Mr Marchant played much more carefully than usual.

I'Anson, on his first appearance at Lord's, came out with a good analysis and in his second spell with the ball he took his seven wickets in 24 overs for 45 runs. He bowls rather faster than medium pace and keeps a good length. Though a Yorkshireman by birth, I'Anson has made his mark in connexion with cricket at Leyland, in Lancashire.

After his capital bowling, it was I'Anson who helped his captain to check the M.C.C. successes. He and Mr Hornby became partners when three of the best wickets had gone for 18 runs, and in the course of an hour the pair put on 87. Mr Hornby was fifth to go at 111 for a vigorous 66, in which were a five (four by an overthrow) and nine fours. The other things of note were the bowling of Hearne and Martin and the beautiful piece of stumping by Storer that got out Albert Ward. So far Lancashire are 33 behind, with two wickets to fall.

Albert Trott, the Australian, made his first appearance at Lord's for the M.C.C., and although he got only nine runs, his style of batting was good, and he also bowled and fielded well.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 May, page 13)

The close of the first day's play in this match at Lord's left affairs in a pretty even state. Yesterday the two outstanding Lancashire wickets were taken in 20 minutes for an addition of 15 runs. The innings had lasted nearly two hours and a half.

Mr Stoddart and Mr Wright opened the second innings of the M.C.C., who were 18 on. Briggs and I'Anson bowled. Runs came at a pretty fast rate, the Nottinghamshire batsman scoring the quicker, making several good drives to the off. When Chatterton and Mr de Trafford became partners, once more the batting triumphed. Hallam relieved Briggs at 86. This proved a lucky change for Mr de Trafford, who scored from every ball in the first over, obtaining 16 by two leg hits and on-drives. Thus the 100 was passed, and the first hour's batting yielded 120. Chatterton, who got 35 in as many minutes, obstructed his wicket, while Mr de Trafford was well taken in the long field.

For a while the score travelled slowly. Briggs resumed bowling and Hallam crossed over. Mr Hayman gave a very hard return chance to Briggs. After the interval the batting became more free. Trott, who was well received by the spectators, was nearly run out by a good piece of fielding by

deep cover-point. Mr Hayman fell to a catch at sharp mid-off. He had batted vigorously for an hour and three-quarters, and among his hits were eight fours and three threes. The innings then was soon over.

Lancashire, who were set 320 to win, started feebly in their second innings, for they lost Ward, Mr Hornby and Paul for 10 runs. Matters were considerably improved by Mr Benton and Briggs, and at 29 Martin, who had shared the bowling with Hearne, gave up the ball to Attewell. This proved disastrous to Mr Benton. Sugg appeared, and among many good hits was a remarkably fine one to the on by the new comer, who, when he and Briggs seemed to be getting set, was clean bowled. Half the wickets were thus lost for 77.

Briggs hit a ball to the awning which covers the terraces and Baker drove one straight over the pavilion rails. The 100 was reached at 6.20. Briggs completed his 50 and, whether stumps were drawn after a capital day's cricket, the game stood thus . . .

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

Little play was necessary at Lord's yesterday to bring this match to a close, for Lancashire had lost six wickets in their second innings and were 208 runs behind, and as Cuttell was absent hurt they actually only had three men in hand.

Briggs added a couple of runs to his score and was then bowled for a vigorous 54, in which were a five and seven fours. Baker played good cricket but in the end MCC won by 160 runs. The wicket was dusty and helped the bowlers.

11 May: SOMERSET v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4499.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 May, page 13)

Mr L C H Palairet, who, in his last two years at Oxford, was captain of the eleven, played a fine innings of 113 for Somerset at Taunton yesterday. He went in first and was fourth out at 217, having been at the wickets less than three hours. His best hits were 14 fours, four threes and five twos.

The dashing batting of the day came from the captain, Mr Woods, who followed up his successes at Bristol last week with an innings of 76 in 75 minutes, these runs coming out of 94 added while Mr Woods was in. This 76 included a six, eight fours, five threes and six twos. It was nearly 5 o'clock when the last Somerset wicket went down, so that the Yorkshiremen had a long spell in the field. Their bowling and fielding, however, were always good.

In the closing hour of the day the visitors lost Brown for a few runs. Yorkshire were without the services of Mr F S Jackson, while Denton, who hurt himself at Birmingham, was also away.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 May, page 13)

At Taunton yesterday the Yorkshire eleven were seen to much advantage; but the feat of the day was the 113 by Moorhouse. He went in second wicket down at 49 and was fifth to leave at 266. In his innings were 15 fours, three threes and eleven twos.

Wainwright, who also played well, helped Moorhouse to add 131 in 90 minutes for the fourth wicket. Wainwright hit seven fours and Lord Hawke a six and six fours. Eventually Yorkshire, as the result of less than five hours' batting, secured a lead on the innings of 77. As the game now stands Somerset are 25 behind with eight wickets to fall.

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

In spite of the great effort made by Mr Woods to save his side from defeat at Taunton yesterday Yorkshire gained a splendid victory by five wickets. It is not often that the team playing a first innings of 323 lose a match; but Yorkshire who went in against this actually secured a lead of 77.

Somerset this morning had actually lost four wickets when these arrears were at last rubbed off. The respectable position given to Somerset's total was mostly the work of Mr Woods, whom Robson helped to add 75 in three-quarters of an hour, while Nichols also stayed some time. But with Mr Woods's dismissal after luncheon any chances that Somerset had of saving the game disappeared, and the innings ended for 208. Mr Woods with his 71 brought his aggregate in the match to 147. He yesterday made his runs in 90 minutes by four fours, four threes, 13 twos and singles.

Yorkshire were left with 132 to get to win, and they had plenty of time in which to accomplish the task. The wicket, however, had broken up to some extent, and had all the catches been held the finish might have been close. Mounsey and Wainwright were both missed.

11 May: SURREY v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4500.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 May, page 13)

Surrey seem well on the road to another easy victory, for last evening at Kennington Oval they finished up the day with a slight lead and still seven wickets to fall, while Abel has got to within 11 runs of his third hundred of this season. The champion county has certainly begun the competition well.

With first innings of a good, fast wicket, Essex ought to have done better, although at starting, with three men out for ten runs, their prospect promised something far less than a total of 174. Sound hitting Mr M'Gahey, Mr Owen and Russell, however, rescued the side from danger, while Mr Bull towards the close played good cricket. The best partnership of the innings was that for the sixth wicket, when Mr Owen and Russell took the score from 54 to 120. It was nearly a quarter to four when the innings ended. Richardson again bowled well, while Hayward, who was the last to be tried, got three men out pretty cheaply.

Surrey in two hours and a half passed the Essex total for the loss of only three wickets. Mr W W Read and Abel made 50 for the first, and Abel and Holland put on 98 for the third. Both counties were strongly represented and the play was watched by six thousand people.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 May, page 13)

Abel's innings of 231 at the Oval stands out as the most interesting feature in yesterday's play. He surpassed anything he had yet accomplished, as his previous best score was 217 made in the match against Essex last season.

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

Although the visiting county had no chance against the great total of Surrey at Kennington Oval yesterday, they played up in a vigorous manner. On Tuesday evening they had only two wickets left and wanted 106 to avert a single innings defeat. Mr Owen (not out with 20) hit freely; he added 50 and then carried out his bat; he had made nine fours, two threes, six twos &c. From the complete score it will be seen that Surrey won by an innings and 20 runs.

11 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY – FIRST TWELVE v EIGHTEEN FRESHMEN

EIGHTEEN FRESHMEN 159 (A F Page 24, C C Pilkington 27, E H V Weigall 28*; J C Hartley 8/77, F H G Cunliffe 7/58) and 155/15 dec. (A Eccles 47, T H K Dashwood 28; J C Hartley 8/72). FIRST TWELVE 244/3 dec. (B N Bosworth-Smith 100, B D Bannon 38, F L Fane 50*, F G H Clayton 38*) and 69/1 (G R Bardswell 30*, P S Waddy 22*). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 May, page 13)

With two or three exceptions the bowling of Mr Cunliffe and Mr Hartley was much too good for the Freshmen in the trial match at Oxford yesterday. Mr C C Pilkington played excellent cricket and Mr Page and Mr Weigall also did well. Only four out of the eleven which played at Lord's last year were available yesterday for the First Twelve.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 May, page 13)

When play in this match was continued at Oxford yesterday afternoon the Freshmen had finished an innings for 169 and one of their opponents' wickets was down for 25. Mr Bosworth-Smith just managed to reach three figures, and among his hits were nine fours, three threes and eight twos. Mr Bannon, Mr Fane and Mr Clayton also batted well.

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

Yesterday in this trial match at Oxford the bowling of Mr Hartley for the First Twelve was the chief feature. The game ended in a draw . . .

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4501.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 May, page 9)

Yesterday Mr Webbe's strong side remained at the wicket all day and had not completed their innings at the drawing of stumps. The feature of the play was the 114 by Mr C W Wright. Aided by some kindness on the part of the field, he stayed in over three hours and 16 fours were among his contributions.

Mr Mason, the Old Winchester captain, played fine cricket and the vigour of his game may be judged from the fact that he obtained nine fours. The longest partnerships were 99 by Mr Wright and Mr Lacey and 90 by Mr Wright and Mr Weigall, while towards the end Mr Bromley-Davenport and Mr Bathurst added another 80, and were still together at the drawing of stumps.

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

The Cambridge eleven were engaged in an uphill fight at Fenner's yesterday and, in spite of some very fine batting in their second innings, they last evening finished with the worst of the game. Mr Webbe's team completed their batting for 422, and then Albert Trott and Mr Bromley-Davenport made short work of the home team.

The batting was poor in the first innings; but after following on Cambridge fared much better. Mr Hemingway played fine cricket, and the fact that he hit 13 fours speaks for itself. Mr Wilson and Mr Marriott put on 101 in an hour and a quarter while they were together. The score given below will show than Cambridge still want 23 to save the innings defeat and have only two wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 May, page 13)

Cambridge were beaten by Mr Webbe's team at Cambridge on Saturday by eight wickets. This result was not so decisive as Friday night's position had promised, for then the home side, with only two men left, wanted 23 runs to save an innings defeat. Mr Mitchell, however, played well and, aided by Mr Robinson, put on 106 for the ninth partnership. The latter did not get many runs but he kept up his end. Mr Mitchell secured his 84 in 90 minutes and hit 13 fours, three threes and five twos.

Had the visitors held all the catches they would probably not have had to have gone in again. As it was, the 75 necessary to win cost them two wickets. Mr Stoddart and Mr Hayward played well, but the latter got the more runs.

14 May: DERBYSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4502.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 May, page 9)

The Derbyshire Eleven secured a batting triumph at Derbyshire yesterday in scoring 349 for the loss of eight wickets against the powerful Surrey Eleven. The wicket was hard and beautifully true and, with the ball coming along easily, the Midland eleven made the most of the chances afforded them.

Their fine score was well distributed among the side; but its foundation was really laid by Mr Wright, who, going in first, was third out at 168, when he was bowled by Hayward in trying to drive. He was two hours and three-quarters in getting his runs, and hit eight fours, five threes and six twos. There were several long stands; but the Surrey fielding was not so good as usual and the sundry catches dropped made a great difference to the side. Bagshaw and Mr Wright put on 61 while they were together, and the latter and Davidson added 71, while Davidson and Sugg scored 55 in 35 minutes for the fifth wicket.

The discomfiture of the Surrey bowlers was completed by Mr Marsden and Porter, who in the last hour of the day's play put on 76 runs without being separated. Richardson bowled a good deal with bad luck, but he was at times severely hit.

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

Surrey completely eclipsed the batting successes of Derbyshire yesterday at Derby, and the merit of the achievement very largely rested with Hayward, whose finished batting is familiar to those who follow Surrey cricket. He is at present not out with 193.

After a whole day in the field on Thursday and a few overs yesterday, the Surrey men went in and made 414 for eight wickets. Hayward's chief help was secured from Brockwell and Lockwood, with whom he added 99 and 157 respectively, both at a great pace. Lockwood hit nine and Brockwell 10 fours. Hayward made two or three mistakes; but the real chances of getting him out occurred whether he was 51 and 181. Hayward took three hours to get his 100, but his ext 50 were obtained in three-quarters of an hour. Surrey are now 65 ahead with two wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 May, page 13)

To go in against a score of 349 and win the match by more than an innings is a feat that well illustrated the great capacity of the Surrey eleven, who on Saturday beat Derbyshire by an innings and 15 runs. Richardson and Lockwood bowled in their best form, and there was the same brilliancy in the field about the whole side when Derbyshire were batting a second time.

The match will be best remembered for the great innings of Hayward, who went in first wicket down when only two runs were scored and took out his bat for 229 as the result of six and a half hours' play. Hayward's chief figures were one six (a drive), 26 fours, ten threes and 24 twos. There was a dashing finish to the Surrey innings on Saturday morning when, after Wood had stayed while 48 were made, Richardson, profiting by a couple of escapes, put on 42 of the last 50 in half an hour.

So Derbyshire were left to face arrears of 163. When two men had gone for 42, Davidson and Chatterton played well, and while they remained the home county had just a chance of saving the match. But after an hour and a quarter's partnership had realized 68 they both went. Then the end came quickly. Richardson and Lockwood carried all before them, and the last six wickets were got down in less than an hour for an addition of 38. Surrey, therefore, won by an innings and 15 runs; and this was their fourth victory within a fortnight. The ground at Derby stood the hard work of the match very well until towards the finish, when the ball slightly kicked.

14 May: ESSEX v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4503.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 May, page 9)

If marked by no great individual feat the cricket at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday was interesting to watch, and the county, which has been struggling hard of late years both for more public support and to reach a higher standard of play may be congratulated on having come out very well from the first stage of the game with the Australians.

Nothing could have been better to watch than the innings of one of the most famous Uppingham and Cambridge men who ever played cricket. Mr A P Lucas is now very seldom seen in important matches; but in the hour and three-quarters of his play yesterday his steadiness and power in playing with a perfectly straight bat were well demonstrated, and there was one particularly fine drive by him all along the ground from the Australian fast bowler. Other batsmen who did well for Essex yesterday were Mr Perrin, who made his mark in county play at the Oval this week and who acquired his skill in local cricket, and Mr M'Gahey.

After starting rather badly the visitors left off with the game in a pretty even position. In the bowling and fielding on both sides there was much that was good. Some of the best balls sent down were by Walter Mead, who in the Essex and Australian match of 1893 became famous by his record of 17 wickets for 205 runs.

Like most other grounds, that at Leyton is suffering much from the very dry weather. Otherwise everything was favourable for the match, and the crowd of 8,000 or 9,000 was such as is not often seen at cricket at Leyton. Except that Mr Eady stood out for Mr Trumble the Australian side was the same as at Sheffield Park.

Essex had the advantage of first innings on the fast wicket, but at the beginning they fared badly. Mr Owen, the captain, did not play the short fast bowling of Mr Jones very well, and Carpenter showed no inclination to hit at either end. The result was that two wickets went in the course of rather less than half an hour for 11 runs. Mr Owen had been well caught at point.

Things mended to some extent during the partnership of Mr M'Gahey and Mr Perrin, and Mr Trott soon thought fit to change the bowling, Mr Trumble going on for Mr Jones. Both batsmen made the most of their fine height, and several fours came as the result of hard cutting and driving. At 52 a change came, for Mr M'Gahey, in reaching forward to play Mr Giffen, was beautifully stumped. Three for 52.

Mr Kortright made things very lively in his brief stay, and among other hits drove a ball from Mr Giffen to the pavilion seats, but soon afterwards he failed to get fairly on one from Mr Trumble and at 74 was out to a well-judged catch at long-off. All this time Mr Perrin had been playing extremely well, and on Mr Lucas's arrival there seemed to be a prospect of a long stand. After being nearly run out, however, Mr Perrin was caught at the wicket on the off side. Mr Perrin has a nice style of batting and his 35 was very creditable, coming as it did so quickly after his success at the Oval against the Surrey bowlers early this week.

The fifth wicket fell at 88, and before luncheon Russell helped Mr Lucas to add 17 runs. Subsequently Mr Trott tried his slows, and his leg break was very puzzling to the professional.

Then followed some very good cricket both in the field and at the wicket, and Mr Gregory and Mr M'Kibbin especially distinguished themselves. By slow degrees the score advanced to 119, and then in the course of a few overs Russell, Mr Bawtree, Mr Bull and Mead all went. None of them liked Mr Jones's bowling. Nine men were out for 135 runs.

Mr Lucas had been playing excellently and with Pickett made a fine stand for the last wicket. Mr Trott, after a spell of three-quarters of an hour, had given up the ball to Mr Trumble. Mr Lucas made two or three beautiful cuts from Mr Jones, but when Mr Giffen went on he was bowled in playing forward. The last partnership yielded 31 runs. Mr Lucas, for upwards of an hour and three-quarters, had shown a fine defence, timing the ball with accuracy and coming down very hard on it. As to the bowling, it was noticed that Mr M'Kibbin was not given a trial.

The Australians went in at a quarter to 5. Mr Darling and Mr Donnan made light work of Mr Kortright's fast bowling; but Mead's fine length and break needed watching. As it was, Mr Donnan gave a sharp chance to Mr Kortright at short slip in Mead's first over. After some delay through the encroachments of the crowd on the field of play Mr Donnan fell to the wicket-keeper, while Mead bowled out Mr Giffen and got Mr Darling caught. The 50 had not long been passed when Mr Kortright bowled Mr Iredale off his pads. Mr Gregory in the last quarter of an hour scored freely and made 21 of the 22 added before the drawing of stumps, when the Australians, with six wickets in hand, were 88 runs behind.

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

The Australians left off in a strong position yesterday. Essex, with five of their best men gone in the second innings, are only 52 runs in front. The 6,000 or 7,000 people who visited the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday could not complain of a lack of attracted incident in the play.

There were two fine pieces of batting – namely, the 73 by Mr Hill and the 51 by young Carpenter, who seems thoroughly capable of upholding the fame of the cricket family who did so much for Cambridgeshire when that shire was a great cricketing county. Mr Hill's success came at a time when his side were really hard pressed for a few runs, and he showed that he possessed the double merit of correctness and vigour. Indeed, before he and Mr Kelly made their stand, things were looking very black for the visitors.

Essex in the second innings began well; but the last half-hour almost destroyed their chances of success. To-day much will depend on Mr A P Lucas and the support he receives.

One of the best things yesterday was the analysis of Walter Mead, of Essex. He kept his pitch throughout, and this was so accurate, together with the work he got on the ball, as to secure much respect from the Australian batsmen. He required a great deal of playing, as Mr Trott and Mr Hill found to their cost. The wicket lasted well; but the light was variable, and was much blamed by batsmen who were out for small scores.

On Thursday evening the Australians had made 78 for the loss of four men. Neither Mr Trott nor Mr Gregory, the not outs, long survived. Mr Trott was bad by a ball that kept low and Mr Gregory mistimed one from Mr Kortright at 97. Mr Trumble was soon leg-before, and with seven wickets down for 110 the game seemed to have turned in favour of Essex.

Mr Hill, however, played thoroughly sound cricket and, with Mr Kelly in, runs came rapidly.

Various changes were tried without effect, and Mr Kortright and Mead crossed over. Mr Hill ran to his 50 in 75 minutes, and it was not until after luncheon, when the eighth wicket had yielded 85 runs in as many minutes, that Mr Kelly left. Mr Jones made a few good hits and the innings came to an end for 223. Mr Hill was in rather less than two hours. He gave something like a chance at wicket early in his career; otherwise, no fault could be found with his game. He contributed seven fours. The last three Australian wickets managed to place the visitors in a strong position, for they were 57 ahead.

When Essex went in again Mr Owen and Carpenter made a very bright beginning. Runs came at a good pace from Mr Giffen and Mr Jones, and 30 were obtained in as many minutes. Mr Owen, however, was eventually caught at slip, against which catch an appeal was unsuccessfully made. One for 48.

Mr Perrin played very well; but soon after the arrears had been cleared off he lost Carpenter, who, having scored 51 out of 75, was caught in the slips. Carpenter showed very good form. Mr M'Gahey made one fine hit into the pavilion, but he and Mr Perrin and Mr Kortright were disposed of before the close of the day's play . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 May, page 13)

Victory has come to the Australians in the second match of their tour and, although it has been gained over one of the newest and weakest of the first-class shires, the result was brought about by a steady all-round excellence in which the best things were the batting of Mr Hill and Mr Iredale and the medium pace bowling of Mr Trumble.

Essex made a gallant fight against their powerful opponents, but the position on Friday night held out small hopes of their saving the game, for with half the side gone in the second innings there was only a balance for them of 52 runs. On Saturday morning Mr Lucas made a few good hits and Mr Bull was pretty successful, but Mr Trumble and Mr Giffen slowly got down the five outstanding wickets, and in the course of 75 minutes the innings was finished off for an addition of 40 runs. Mr Trumble's double analysis showed an aggregate of ten wickets for a fraction under 11 runs each.

The Australians began none too well when they went in to get the 93 to win, for after lunch Mr Donnan was run out and Mr Kortright clean bowled both Mr Darling and Mr Giffen. The first two wickets were lost for 14 runs and the third for 36. Subsequently Mr Trott and Mr Iredale played good cricket, and the latter hit at times with vigour. Near the end Mead had a chance of a return catch from Mr Trott, but this was not accepted, and the Australians won by seven wickets.

14 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4504.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 May, page 9)

Yorkshire, following up their successes with Lancashire and Somerset and their big score against Warwickshire, established a strong position in the match with Gloucestershire at Bristol yesterday, as they left off 42 ahead with five wickets to fall in the first innings.

The home county had not their strongest side and failed to maintain the early standard of batting set by Dr Grace and Wrathall. Indeed, after the former was out there was something like a breakdown, and a little good cricket by Mr Prichard late in the innings alone made the score fairly respectable. As it was, 131 was a meagre total for a very fast wicket.

At the beginning of the visitors' innings there seemed every prospect of an even game, for, in spite of Mr Jackson's vigour, four of the side went for 85. Moorhouse and Peel, however, changed the aspect by adding 78 in less than an hour. After taking some time to settle down, Moorhouse played fine, free cricket and in his 51 were seven fours. A large company visited the ground to see the play.

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

At Bristol, yesterday, the Yorkshire eleven gained a brilliant victory over Gloucestershire by nine wickets. Tuesday's cricket, although much in favour of the visitors, had scarcely promised such a result. But yesterday, after being rid of the last five Yorkshiremen for an addition of 61 runs, the Gloucestershire team fared badly.

Dr W G Grace was almost the sole exception to the home failures. He and Mr Thomas put on 57 runs for the second wicket in three-quarters of an hour; but four men were lost before the arrears were rubbed off. In Dr Grace's 70 were four fours, four threes and seven twos.

14 May: LANCASHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4505.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 May, page 9)

There was much excellence in the cricket at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, and at the finish Lancashire certainly had not the better position, for with four of the best men out they were 143 behind the Sussex total.

A good deal of the visitors' creditable score was due to K S Ranjitsinhji, who seems to have got thoroughly into form, and he is playing with all that brilliancy that marked his game last year. He and Marlow yesterday put on 112 for the second Sussex wicket in 70 minutes. His figures were 11 fours, five twos and ten singles. Marlow batted steadily for his 79 and, going in first, was third to leave at 173. He might have been caught in the slips when only 13. Mr Murdoch batted with his characteristic finish, but after him the visitors' defence was of small account. Mold bowled wonderfully well on the good wicket, and though two catches were missed off him his analysis was remarkable.

Lancashire for a long time scored freely, and Frank Sugg forced the game at such a pace that the first 100 were made in 65 minutes. Parris met with some bowling success in the last half-hour, and this it was that changed the position of the game.

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

To Frank Sugg belonged the credit of Lancashire's strong position at the end of an innings each at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday. The home side had the worst of the game at one time, for with five men out they found themselves 142 behind. Sugg and Baker, however, who got together at 125, exactly doubled the score in 80 minutes. Sugg's chief hits were 12 fours. Baker also made 12 fours in an innings of 81. Lancashire were 80 ahead on the first innings.

When Sussex went in again Marlow and K S Ranjitsinhji played extremely well, and by adding 63 for the second wicket cleared off the arrears. But subsequently Mr Newham alone met with any substantial success, and Lancashire had only to make 62 to win. They lost a wicket for 30, so that to-day their success is almost certain.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 May, page 13)

There was not much play necessary to finish this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, in Saturday, for Lancashire had only 30 more runs to get to win and had 9 wickets in hand. Sugg was bowled, after which Paul and Tyldesley won the game for Lancashire by eight wickets.

A satisfactory feature for the home county was the success in the match of their new bowler I'Anson, who followed up his performance at Lord's early in the week with another fine analysis.

14 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4506.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 May, page 9)

Bowling triumphed at every point on a rather bad wicket at Lord's yesterday, and various fine analyses were recorded. The result was that great progress was made with the match and at the close Leicestershire with two men in hand in the second innings were 112 runs ahead.

The batting was not of much account. Holland played fairly well for Leicestershire and Mr Ford was credited with a few good hits for the M.C.C. J T Hearne, Woodcock and Pougher were the bowlers who carried off chief honours. Harry, the Australian, made his first appearance in this country, for the Club.

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

Marylebone beat Leicestershire at Lord's yesterday by three wickets. The game overnight left the county with two wickets to fall in their second innings and a lead of 112; but they only put in the M.C.C. with 118 to get to win. Harry (the Australian), Mr Ford (who was hurt) and Mr Gibbs met with success in batting, and to them belonged much of the credit for the M.C.C. victory. J T Hearne in the double innings took 11 wickets for 78 runs.

14 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY – THE ELEVEN v NEXT SIXTEEN

NEXT SIXTEEN 399 (R Boland 34, M Y Barlow 30, K A Woodward 53, P B Porch 64, G E Bromley-Martin 33, P S Waddy 33; T B Henderson 59; F E Cunliffe 10 wkts, G B Raikes 4 wkts). THE ELEVEN 263 (P F Warner 92, F L Fane 43, C C Pilkington 53; P S Waddy 5/74) and (following on) 92/7. Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 May, page 9)

The brief cricket day at Oxford yesterday was occupied with the batting of the Next Sixteen, who lost only eight wickets. Various members of the side who had distinguished cricket careers at school did well, but the most satisfactory thing to Oxford men was perhaps the skilful bowling of Mr Cunliffe, the Old Etonian.

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

Yesterday, at Oxford, the two best things in the day's cricket were the bowling of Mr Cunliffe and the fine free batting of Mr P F Warner, the old Blue. Mr Fane, the old Carthusian, also came off for the Eleven.

Day 3 (report from Monday 18 May, page 13)

Mr C C Pilkington, the Eton Freshman, carried off the honours of Saturday afternoon at Oxford when the hours of cricket were taken up with a part of the first and the second innings of the Eleven. He batted with much skill, and in his 53 were five fours, a three and seven twos. Mr Waddy and Mr Mitchell were the best bowlers. There was nothing of note in the follow on, and the match ended in a draw.

Saturday 16 May, page 15: THE AUSTRALIANS AT SHEFFIELD PARK

The Earl of Sheffield writes to day that the aggregate attendance at the Australian match in Sheffield Park this week was calculated at about 50,000.

“J.H.C.” writes under date May 14: - “In the account in The Time of to-day of the match at Sheffield-park you refer to the hours of play having been easy. To draw at 6 or 6.30 p.m., even during the present long days, is necessary perhaps in the case of the Australians, who may have to do some sight-seeing in London in the evenings. Still, it is very disappointing to see interesting matches spoiled for want of time to finish them.

“But there is a growing tendency nowadays to curtail hours (except the luncheon hour) in matches, and notably by Middlesex, who, I believed, will never play beyond 6.30, and I should like to see a remonstrance in The Times, which might do much to alter matters and would reduce the number of drawn games.”

18 May: C E DE TRAFFORD'S XI v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4507.html)

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

The Australians had a cordial welcome from about 5,000 or 6,000 spectators at the Crystal Palace yesterday. They had arranged to meet an England eleven which was not really representative owing to the important county and other fixtures which had been also arranged. Nevertheless it included Briggs, Mold, Frank Sugg, Albert Ward and Rawlin. On the whole it was a strong side in view of the difficulties which beset those who arranged it. But the feeling is pretty general that "an England eleven" has been in other seasons a much-abused title, so that perhaps a better title would have been Mr C E de Trafford's eleven.

The Englishmen did not distinguish themselves in spite of the favourable conditions, for on a fast and true wicket they were dismissed for 114. Mr Jones, who has been dubbed the "Australian Richardson," but who is many degrees below the Surrey man's skill and pitch, bowled better than he has done so far in the tour. Without lessening his great pace he kept a more consistent length and accomplished a fine performance in getting out eight men for 39 runs. But the English eleven never looked like making a very respectable score and their cricket was devoid of life.

The Australians gained a big advantage on the first day. Mr de Trafford, when he remembered he had got so fine a bowler as Rawlin in his side, checked the success of the Australians, and the game was left in a more even position than was at one time probable.

The Englishmen's innings was noteworthy for the stand made by Baker and Pougher, who by very careful play added 41 for the seventh wicket. Baker's 17 took him 75 minutes to make. Mr Jones got out the last three men for an addition of six runs. Pougher played soundly for his 27.

The thoroughly good batting of Mr Donnan and Mr Darling contrasted very much with the comparatively poor exhibition of the Englishmen. Mr Donnan made his 50 in 70 minutes. When stumps were drawn the Australians were left with six wickets in hand and within six runs of their opponents.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 13)

Two very fine pieces of cricket at the Crystal Palace yesterday led up to the brilliant victory of the Australians by an innings and 221 runs. These were Mr Gregory's batting and Mr George Giffen's bowling.

Mr Giffen, with a fine length and a good break, brought about such a collapse among the Englishmen that their second innings degenerated into something like a "procession." Mr Sidney Gregory is known in this country not only for his feats for the last Australian team, but for his success in various instances against Mr Stoddart's side in the colonies. But the English public never saw him play such fine cricket as he displayed in making his 154 yesterday. Whether in cutting or driving or playing to leg he was equally excellent. Mr Giffen's skill as a bowler is well known, and his seven wickets for 15 runs is not a performance likely to have many parallels during the tour.

If no one thought much of the side as a whole which adopted the high-sounding title of an England Eleven, there were few who would have believed them capable of being dismissed for 39. The Australians outplayed them from the start, and the match afforded our visitors another opportunity of running into form that did certainly not pass neglected. On both days the game was well patronized by the public, and the arrangements were admirably carried out under the direction of Mr H Gillman, the manager of the Crystal Palace.

When the Australians resumed their innings yesterday Mr Iredale stayed until 150 before giving a catch to slip. When Mr Gregory was joined by Mr Hill, however, the score was forced along at a great pace. Mr Gregory played splendidly all round the wicket, and 113 runs were put on before Mr Hill skied the ball and was caught, and then, after the addition of another 87, Mr Trumble left. The score was 363 when Mr Gregory was bowled by Pougher. He had made his 154 out of 255 put on during the three hours and a quarter of his stay. He was very strong on the leg side and he hit 21 fours, nine threes and 13 twos. Pougher bowled very well.

Little need be said of the Englishmen's second innings, which occupied 70 minutes. Mr Jones, who took 11 wickets in the match for 59 runs, and Mr Giffen bowled unchanged.

18 May: KENT v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4508.html)

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

A couple of showers shortened the hours of play at Gravesend yesterday, and the day passed away without the prospect of anything like the famous cricket of last year in this particular match, when Gloucestershire won after going in against Kent's first innings of 470.

However, for a long time yesterday there was a chance of Kent's doing remarkably well. Alec Hearne and Mr Burnup, the Cambridge batsman, put on 70 runs in an hour for the second Kent wicket. The amateur played extremely well, his cutting and his off driving being especially good. Subsequently came some sound cricket by Easby and a more cautious innings by Mr Weigall. But when Kent were well under way for a long score there was a considerable interruption by rain, and after this Mr Jessop and Mr Townsend, helped by the pitch, got the last five wickets down for an addition of 37.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 13)

The Kent Eleven had themselves very much to blame for standing with the worst of the game last evening at Gravesend. The Gloucestershire team were successful in batting. Dr Grace and Wrathall made a good start by scoring 45 in half an hour, while Mr Hemingway and his captain added 72 in 40 minutes. Mr Hemingway contributed nine fours. After eight wickets had gone for 277, there was a substantial stand by Mr de Winton and Murch.

Kent went in again, and the finish left them 86 behind with nine wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 May, page 13)

Gloucestershire gained a brilliant nine-wickets victory over Kent yesterday at Gravesend. It was a stormy day and the various interruptions of the cricket by the weather made it appear probable more than once that the game would be drawn.

The day began with Kent possessed on nine wickets and with arrears of 86. But not all the excellent batting of Easby nor the care and patience of Mr Weigall could keep away defeat. The fourth Kent wicket went at 79, after which Easby and Mr Weigall out on 59; but western the former had left there came a collapse, and the last five men were got out for an addition of 45 runs. About half-past 3 rain was falling steadily, and as Kent, with four wickets in hand, were then 16 runs ahead, the prospect of a finish was not very bright. The subsequent change was very surprising. Dr Grace came out with a fine analysis, his six wickets averaging only 6½ runs each.

Gloucestershire had 47 runs to get to win, and these were obtained in less than half an hour. There were several thousand spectators in spite of the wind and showers. The Western county won the remarkable match at Gravesend last year also by nine wickets.

18 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4509.html)

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

Mr Kortright and Mead bowled so well against the M.C.C. at Lord's yesterday as to make their analyses the features of the day's cricket. They dismissed the home club for 41 runs, 14 of which were only got in the tenth partnership. The pitch helped them a good deal and a bad light made Mr Kortright's fast bowling still more deadly. From the score below it will be seen that the M.C.C. followed on and are still 60 runs behind with four wickets down.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 13)

After the way the match had gone at Lord's on Monday it was not surprising that Essex won yesterday by an innings and 21 runs. Marylebone, who followed on, never recovered from their disasters of the first day. The county's fast bowlers met with much success, and although Davenport played well the game soon ended.

18 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4510.html)

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

William Gunn played a very fine innings of 135 for his county at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, when Derbyshire were kept in the field the whole day, and the home side had yet to finish their batting at the drawing of stumps, only nine wickets being down.

Apart from Gunn's feat, the display of Notts was quite ordinary. Gunn gave a couple of sharp chances; but on the true wicket his fine forward style was seen at its best. He took four hours to get his runs, and hit 12 fours, five threes and 19 twos. Nottinghamshire included in their side two colts – Robinson and Gregory.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 13)

An interesting day's cricket at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, left the home county with an advantage, Derbyshire following on and leaving off 31 behind with six wickets to fall.

Some rain fell in the morning; but a start was made in good time. Notts finished their innings without adding to their score. When Derbyshire went in three wickets fell quickly for 45; but then came a fine stand by Chatterton and Storer, both of whom played remarkably well and obtained 115 during their partnership. Storer hit seven fours and Chatterton five.

Something like a collapse occurred and Derbyshire had to follow on 125 behind. The closing feature of the day was a dashing innings by Mr Evershed, who scored 88 in 90 minutes, and whose chief figures were 13 fours.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 May, page 13)

A fine piece of batting by Mr Jones and Flowers at Trent-bridge yesterday afternoon enabled Nottinghamshire to beat Derbyshire by seven wickets. At the beginning of the day Derbyshire had six wickets to fall and were only 31 runs to the good.

Another batsman left almost directly, but Chatterton and Storer, as in the first innings, played well and put on 60. Then, after a delay by rain, the last five wickets went for an addition of 53. The weather was very cold and there were two or three catches dropped.

Notts went in to get the 122 to win. They started badly, losing Robinson, Gunn and Shrewsbury for 11 runs; but Mr Jones and Flowers, by splendid cricket, then won the match.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4511.html)

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

The Oxford eleven came well out of the first day of this match. For their fine score of 346 the chief credit belongs to Mr C C Pilkington and the captain, Mr Leveson-Gower. Oxford made their runs in a little over four hours.

Mr Pilkington, going in third wicket down at 111, forced the game at a great pace, and scored his 86 out of 152 in 90 minutes, contributing among other hits 13 fours. With his captain he put on 107 for the fifth wicket in an hour. Mr Leveson-Gower played in quite his best form, which has been consistently good since his Winchester days.

Owing to the indifferent light Mr Webbe delayed sending in his leading batsmen until this morning. Mr Woods was unable to bowl for the visitors owing to a strain.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 13)

In spite of the fine batting of Mr Webbe, Mr Stoddart and Mr Woods, the visitors finished last evening at Oxford with all the worst of the match with the University, who are now 240 runs to the good and have six wickets to fall in the second innings.

Mr Webbe played in something like his old form for an excellent 80, made in an hour and three-quarters, and which included 11 fours, three threes and five twos. Mr Stoddart was not so good as usual; but Mr Woods got his runs in his own vigorous fashion. Mr Waddy, who bowls rather fast, did well for the home side. When Oxford went in again Mr Warner [batted] well and hit eight fours in a quickly played innings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 May, page 13)

The Oxford eleven secured a fine win yesterday after closing their innings, and their success was only the result of the excellent cricket played by them right through the match. Tuesday evening had left them in a strong position, for they were 240 ahead with six wickets to fall.

In the course of 90 minutes 139 more runs were scored, these being mostly the result of the captain's partnership with Mr C C Pilkington. Mr Leveson-Gower made eight and Mr Pilkington nine fours. Rain caused an extension of the luncheon interval, and then Oxford closed their innings.

At one time the visitors seemed likely to save the match and the score was 149 for four wickets. Mr Woods and Mr Hayman had obtained 53 in 25 minutes while they were together. However, eight men were out for 173. Mr Webbe made a great effort to avert defeat, and he was much helped by Mr Bathurst, but in the end the University won by 150 runs. Mr Webbe took out his bat for a good 41, which brought his aggregate to 121 in the match. Mr Raikes bowled remarkably well.

18 May: WARWICKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4512.html)

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

At Birmingham, yesterday, the Surrey eleven had something like a repetition of their experiences on the first day of the Derbyshire match. Warwickshire were in nearly the whole time and, making most of their chances on a good wicket, ran up a big score.

The foundation of this was laid by Walter Quaife and Mr Bainbridge, who made 110 for the first wicket in 90 minutes. Quaife had rather bad luck in missing his 100; but he played very well and was only fourth out at 184, when he broke his wicket in playing back to Abel. He might have been caught by Mr Read at point when 61. His best hits were 11 fours. The Surrey fielding was not, on the whole, worthy of the great team. Welford made a good first appearance for the home county. Surrey, in the course of 40 minutes, lost Brockwell for 38 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 13)

The Surrey eleven continue their batting triumphs. Going in against a score of 313, they secured a lead of 58.

Much of the credit of this feat belonged to Holland, who played a brilliant innings of 153, his second hundred for the side this season and the seventh made for the county in the five matches yet contested. Holland has the advantage of a good height and he plays nice free cricket, possessing much power on the off side. He made his runs out of 266 added during his stay of four hours. Chances were offered by him at 69 to W G Quaife and at 141 to Barton; but these were small blemishes in a very fine innings. Twenty fours, seven threes and 14 twos were his best hits.

After he had gone at 286 the last six Surrey wickets went for an addition of 85, so that the visitors' score scarcely reached the proportions at one time promised. Hayward was in his best form; but some of the other batsmen were a trifle slow. The two cases of running out in the Surrey innings were the work of fine fielding by Santall and William Quaife.

Warwickshire had a little batting again near the close, and at present they are 51 behind with all ten wickets to fall. There was a large company to see the play on the Edgbaston Ground.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 May, page 13)

Surrey secured their fifth victory in county cricket this season at Birmingham yesterday, beating Warwickshire by ten wickets. The rain that had fallen had not affected the pitch, and it was a good performance by Richardson to get so many of the home side out. His bowling was, however, the more difficult to play in the early overs because of the bad light.

Warwickshire had to face arrears of 58 in their second innings, but the majority of their batsmen played the bowling only indifferently. Lilley and Mr Bainbridge were the exceptions. The latter was very steady, but Lilley was in fine form and hit six fours, two threes and five twos. Abel and Brockwell hit off the 57 necessary for victory in three-quarters of an hour.

18 May: YORKSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4513.html)

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

The wickets at Bradford are renowned for their favours to batsmen, and yesterday Yorkshire, getting first innings, treated the apparently weak Sussex bowling with small respect. Tunnicliffe in the early part of the day did well, and had useful partnerships with Brown, Moorhouse and Wainwright, while he was fourth to leave at 179 for 87, in which were 12 fours.

But Wainwright carried off the honours and scored his second 100 of the season for Yorkshire. He and Peel made 198 in two hours for the fifth wicket. Wainwright was batting about three hours altogether, and hit 18 fours, nine threes and ten twos. So far the home side have lost only five wickets for 389 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 May, page 13)

Yorkshire established a strong lead at Bradford yesterday, and this morning Sussex will have to follow on against arrears of 278. The home side in a couple of hours added 154 to the overnight score for the loss of five wickets.

Peel increased his 85 not out of Monday to 111, but he should have been caught early yesterday morning. His cricket was otherwise steady and sound, and during his stay of three hours he hit ten fours, eight threes and 11 twos. Before now Hirst, the fast bowler, has proved his capacity for hard hitting, and his 90 was in every way worthy of him, including as it did a six and 11 fours. He had partnerships of 79 and 69 with Peel and Mounsey.

The great thing in the Sussex innings, which extended from just before 2 o'clock until 6, was the batting of Mr Newham. His success really came after the sixth wicket had gone for 123, when he forsook his steadiness and took to vigorous play, and was mainly the cause of Sussex getting a respectable score. He went in third wicket down at 87 and was ninth to go at 232. Thirteen fours were his chief hits. There were 6,000 people on the ground.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 May, page 13)

The great innings by K S Ranjitsinhji at Bradford yesterday merited something better than defeat; but all his fine play failed to save the game for his side, and Yorkshire won by ten wickets.

As Sussex had to play their second innings yesterday with arrears of 278, every one expected an early and an easy win for the home eleven. Yet at the finish Yorkshire were pinched for time and had less than 20 minutes in which to get the 19 runs necessary to win. Sussex, however, turned out to field very quickly when their innings was completed.

K S Ranjitsinhji went in first wicket down at 14 and he was fourth out at 207, having obtained 138 runs in two hours and a half. He made no mistake and hit 16 fours, ten threes and ten twos. He and Mr Murdoch put on 130 while they were together.

Thursday 21 May, page 13: SURREY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE. – To-day, at the Oval, neither Mr Jessop nor Mr M'G Hemingway will be able to help Gloucestershire, and in their places Captain Luard and Pepall will appear.

21 May: MIDDLESEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4514.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 11)

The contest between Middlesex and Yorkshire yesterday at Lord's was thoroughly in keeping with its best traditions. One great feat excited most of the interest of the day. This was the stand for the first Middlesex wicket by Mr Stoddart and Mr Hayman. Mr Stoddart's strength on all sides of the wicket was wonderful, and he played all the bowling with easy and vigorous precision. Mr Hayman never did anything approaching his performance of yesterday.

It was the first match of the season for Middlesex, and the home county was fortunate in securing the first spell on what is far and away the best wicket that has yet been prepared at Lord's. The Yorkshiremen were rather more than two hours and a quarter in getting down the first wicket, which fell at 218. Mr Stoddart had then just completed his 100 and, in attempting to cut Peel, he gave a catch to Brown, who was fielding in rather a bowled position at point. Mr Stoddart hit 13 fours, three threes and eight twos.

With such a batting side to dispose of Yorkshire seemed in for a very long spell of fielding; but there is nothing so uncertain as cricket, and after Mr Stoddart had gone the game became quite ordinary. Mr Hayman stayed until 279 – the result of three hours' play – when he was secured at cover-point. His 152 was a splendid innings and, beyond a chance in the slips just before his three figures, he made very few errors of any kind. He got his runs at the rate of 50 an hour and made 25 fours, six threes and three twos.

Subsequently the best thing in the batting was the 50 by Mr MacGregor, who went in third wicket down at 279 and was ninth out at 381. He hit seven fours, two threes and two twos. Middlesex completed their innings at 20 minutes to 6, their 384 runs having come at the rate of about 85 an hour. Peel bowled very well. There was a large and enthusiastic company.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 May, page 14)

The combined effect of some rain in the morning and a bad light in the evening shortened the cricket day at Lord's yesterday to four hours and a quarter. This time was wholly occupied by a part of the Yorkshire innings, and the score, at a fast rate, was advanced to 349 for the loss of five batsmen.

The interest in the day was largely taken up by the fine innings of one of the most famous of Mr Stoddart's Australian side – J T Brown, of Driffield, who played with wonderful precision up to the time of passing the 100, but afterwards grew somewhat reckless and was badly missed when he had made 155 by Mr Bromley-Davenport. At 192 he went forward to Mr Stoddart and, just edging the ball, gave Mr MacGregor a chance at wicket. He steadied himself too much near the 100 and took 20 minutes to run from 90 into the three figures; but his third 50 he got in about three-quarters of an hour, whereas his 100 took him nearly three hours.

Brown and Tunnicliffe played finely in making 139 for the first wicket, and the latter, who hit nine fours, was only caught through the ball "kicking" and going from the shoulder of the bat to point. Five wickets went for 275, and then, in the last three-quarters of an hour before play was given up

on account of the bad light, Brown and Mr Smith put on 74. Hearne bowled very well all day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 May, page 11)

The Middlesex and Yorkshire match at Lord's has followed its tradition of furnishing remarkable cricket. When Middlesex had over 200 up without loss of wicket, and when Brown had made his 203 contribution to Yorkshire's score of 381, it might have been thought that perhaps the game would assume a more ordinary nature. But late on Saturday afternoon there was another sensation when Brown and Tunnicliffe went in and hit off the 146 necessary for Yorkshire to win in the course of 80 minutes.

It was a beautiful piece of batting in which the cut of Brown was a great feature. Tunnicliffe and Brown had made 139 for the first wicket in the other innings, so that what with these feats, and others such as those achieved by Mr Stoddart and Mr Hayman, and the fact that Middlesex, after playing a first innings of 384, were beaten by ten wickets, the match will secure a place among the great things in cricket history.

Brown, of Driffield, never played better cricket, not even on the finest pitches in Australia for Mr Stoddart's team, than he did on Friday and Saturday at Lord's. He began forcing the play on the third afternoon the moment he went in, and his powerful style was sustained until the game was won. As only an innings and a half had been got through up to Friday night and then Yorkshire were 35 behind with five wickets to fall there was a majority of people expectant of an unfinished game. But these had not reckoned on the chances of rain and its effect on the pitch. As a matter of fact the match really turned on what the bowlers made the ball do before luncheon, when Yorkshire finished their innings for 32 more runs and Middlesex lost four of their best men for 52. But the pitch steadily recovered, and before the fourth innings began it was completely true and easy, for the absence of sun had allowed the turf to dry gradually.

Middlesex had the bad luck to get the worst of the wicket on Saturday. About 6,000 people were on the ground. In the forenoon not much time was required for the disposal of the last five Yorkshiremen. Brown, who was not out 192, just stayed long enough to exceed 200, and then gave a catch to third man. His long innings of five hours was marked by a wonderful all-round excellence of strokes. His chief figures were a five, 28 fours, 11 threes and 10 twos. Hearne bowled remarkably well in the prolonged innings, and his analysis of seven wickets for 104 runs in 53 overs is a fine demonstration of his skill with the ball.

Middlesex, who held a lead of three runs, had a bad half hour of Wainwright and Peel, and in spite of a very vigorous 34 out of 47 by Mr Lucas the fourth wicket went when the score was only 52. Sir T C O'Brien and Mr Stoddart made some fine hits, and with the pitch steadily improving there seemed a prospect that Middlesex would be able to save the game. A dropped catch by Mr Smith running from cover-point by which Sir T C O'Brien was let off promised to be very serious for Yorkshire. The miss was off Hirst's bowling.

No other wicket had fallen up to luncheon time; but subsequently the batting fortunes of Middlesex were decided within an hour. The Yorkshiremen fielded well and some great catches were brought off. To begin with, Mr Stoddart was taken very low down at extra slip, and then from a quick return the Yorkshire fast bowler managed to hold the ball and get rid of Mr Webbe. Mr Maude played Peel badly and did not stay long. Meantime Sir T C O'Brien had been forcing the game well; but having been in 70 minutes for his 57 he was caught near cover-point from a very hard

drive, Wainwright bringing off the third great catch of the innings. Sir T C O'Brien had hit ten fours. The batting soon ended. Peel had bowled with marked effect, and his six wickets averaged only four and a half runs each.

Yorkshire had to make 146 to win, and as two hours and a half remained for play there was time enough either to get the runs or lose the match. Brown, who went in first, with Tunnicliffe, made two fine fours in the first over. The bowling in a brief time was quite mastered and at a great pace the runs were put on. It was a case of mostly fours. Tunnicliffe got a good proportion of his by drives; but Brown was strong at all points, and his cut and his leg placing were particularly good to watch. There were some great hits by Tunnicliffe over the ring, and one dropped by the side of the pavilion. A bad return by Mr Lucas from third man enabled Tunnicliffe to escape a certain run out, and once the same batsman almost gave a return catch to Phillips, who, however, had not followed up his bowling any distance.

The 50 went up in 25 minutes, and Brown got his 50 out of 82 in three-quarters of an hour, while the 100 was made in 55 minutes. Nothing could check the Yorkshire players, and when Mr Lucas was tried Tunnicliffe got ten runs in three drives, and won Yorkshire the match by ten wickets. Brown had hit 12 and Tunnicliffe nine fours. There was an enthusiastic scene in front of the pavilion and the chief performers in the match were called and cheered.

21 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4515.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 11)

Yesterday at Oxford the University team were again seen to much advantage and their first innings occupied nearly the whole of the day. The total of 314 was well distributed among the side; but the best cricket was shown by Mr Leveson-Gower, Mr Warner, Mr Mordaunt and Mr Bardswell. The last-mentioned, going in at 190 for seven, took out his bat for 66, in which fine, vigorous driving was the chief merit. He hit a six and eight fours.

Mr Warner and Mr Bosworth-Smith did well and made 67 for the first wicket; but one of the chief events of the day was the partnership between Mr Mordaunt and Mr Leveson-Gower, who in three-quarters of an hour put on 64. Mr Mordaunt obtained eight fours. The last three Oxford wickets produced 124 runs and little time was left for Somerset to bat. Mr Hartley stood out of the home eleven through an injured hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 May, page 14)

The Oxford men fielded and bowled splendidly yesterday and the county were thoroughly beaten by an innings and 107 runs. Somerset had the misfortune to have to play an uphill game on a wicket ruined by rain. There was nothing of much merit in their batting apart from a stand of 52 by Dr Poynton and Mr Porch for the seventh wicket in the first innings and the steadiness of Mr Stanley in the second. Mr Cunliffe, the Old Etonian, had a fine bowling record for the match – namely, 11 wickets for 72 – while Mr Lewis kept wicket in quite the form of his Winchester school days.

21 May: SOUTH v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4516.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 11)

Another comparatively mild match was begun by the Australians at Eastbourne yesterday, when they met an eleven of the South that contained various good batsmen, but lacked any considerable bowling talent.

The features of the afternoon were the two long innings by Mr Darling and Mr Giffen, each of whom ran into three figures. They got together when the first wicket had gone without any scoring, and for nearly three hours played steadily and well, making 213. Mr Darling's innings, in which driving was the best point, was as a whole remarkably good, and included 16 fours and seven twos. Mr Giffen was fourth out at 276, and during his stay of three and a half hours he played a very sound game and obtained 13 fours, nine threes and eight twos. About 5 o'clock only three men had gone for 240 runs, but in the other time the batting grew dull and careful, and three more batsmen left. Splendid weather prevailed.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 May, page 14)

It was only through the clamouring of the people who had paid for admission to the ground at Eastbourne yesterday that any cricket whatever occurred in this match. The steady rain made the wicket so soft that when a start was decided upon just before 5 o'clock the bowlers had much difficulty in finding a footing. Play lasted 65 minutes, and Mr Hill and Mr Trumble by free hitting added 70 to the score. Mr Trumble early in his innings was badly missed by Mr Mitchell at mid-off.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 May, page 11)

Rain again considerably curtailed the time of play at Eastbourne on Saturday and the match was eventually abandoned as a draw. With such little progress made on the first two days there was not much chance of finishing the game, and although the Australians at once closed their innings on Saturday morning, they could have had little hope of getting twice rid of the good batsmen on the South in one afternoon. The pitch, however, had been spoiled by the weather, and after two and a half hours' play the rain put an end to the cricket altogether.

The excellence of the brief play on Saturday was shared by Mr Mitchell, Mr Mason and K S Ranjitsinhji. Mr Mitchell made some very good strokes on the leg side, while, after the third wicket had gone at 57, K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr Mason raised the score to 121. Mr Druce had failed to profit much by an escape which he had through Mr Giffen dropping a simple return catch. Mr Mason, who went in first wicket down, was fifth out at 129, having taken two hours to get his runs, in which were seven fours, a three and six twos. He was very strong on the off side.

21 May: SURREY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4517.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 May, page 11)

The victorious Surrey eleven returned to the Oval yesterday from their successes in the provinces, and had a very enthusiastic reception from the many thousand people who gathered to see the day's cricket; and as the game went everything pointed to one more win for them, as they finished the day 98 ahead with seven wickets to fall.

Gloucestershire, with first innings, began extremely well. Dr Grace was always a lover of fast bowling, and he was at once at home to Lockwood and Richardson. He seemed in for a big score and had made 30 out of 49 in half an hour when a piece of ill-fortune lost him his wicket. Wrathall left at 62, and from that point everything went badly with Gloucestershire. Eight of the visitors were out at luncheon for 106, and the innings was subsequently completed for 125. Richardson had the fine analysis of seven for 54. Surrey's fielding was very good.

The last three hours of the day were made the most of by Surrey. Abel and Holland put on 92 for the second wicket; while Abel and Hayward added 72 while they were together. Abel, who was caught at mid-on at 174, made a perfect 82 in two hours and a quarter, and his best hits were nine fours, two threes and eight twos. Hayward played good cricket, and at the drawing of stumps Surrey were in the following strong position.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 23 May, page 14)

There were two things in the cricket at the Oval yesterday to make the play remarkable – namely, the innings of Hayward and the vigorous partnership by Board and Wrathall, who in the course of 70 minutes hit the famous Surrey bowlers all over the field, and made 145 runs for the first Gloucestershire wicket in the second innings. The light was rather bad all day, and it finally caused the abandonment of the game for the afternoon.

Surrey, who had scored 223 for three wickets, completed their innings for 380. For this large total they were mostly indebted to the batting of Hayward, who made scarcely a mistake in running to the 100 in a little over two hours. For a little time after this his cricket was not quite up to his previous form; but he soon recovered his game and finally was not out 153, the result of a stay of three hours and three-quarters. He obtained 19 fours, three threes and 16 twos. Dr W G Grace, in fielding, opened an old wound on his right hand and, unless a crisis should occur, he will take no further part in the match.

As it was, Gloucestershire went in a second time 255 behind. Board and Wrathall forced the game against the Surrey bowling in a wonderful manner, and the former made the most of a couple of sharp escapes when his figures were 21 and 39. A hundred runs were put together in 54 minutes, and at 120 each man had scored 60. Finally, at 145, Wrathall, who had hit a five and ten fours, was taken from a skier at mid-off; and at 193 Board was caught at mid-on. The last-named's chief figures were 11 fours, three threes and seven twos. Neither player had ever obtained such a big score for his county. Gloucestershire are 62 behind with eight wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 May, page 11)

Surrey's victory at the Oval on Saturday was more easily gained than might have been expected from Friday night's score, when Gloucestershire with eight wickets to fall were within 62 of the total arrears of 255 left them on the first innings. But on Saturday everything went against them on the spoiled turf and in the bad light, and nothing of note followed the dashing cricket by Board and Wrathall on the Friday evening.

The visitors' disasters set in at once, for Dr W G Grace, who in spite of his injured hand had decided to go in, was caught and bowled from the first ball of the day. Mr Townsend was caught at slip and a good ball bowled Captain Luard. So the fifth wicket fell at 210. Mr Thomas and Mr Sewell strove with a stand of 41 to put a better complexion on affairs. But Mr Thomas was then caught at cover-point, and catches in the slips by Ayres disposed of Murch and Pepall. Mr Sewell was taken at mid-off and, with Mr de Winton absent hurt, the innings ended.

Surrey had only seven runs to get to win, and the victory was quickly theirs by ten wickets. Hayward had done a fine piece of bowling during the morning, dismissing six men in 12 overs for 41 runs.

Saturday 23 May, page 14

RETURN OF LOHMANN. – A Reuter telegram from Plymouth says that among the passengers that arrived by the Union Line steamer Norman, from Cape Town, was George Lohmann, the Surrey cricketer. He is in good health and will play for Surrey at an early date.

Surrey and Yorkshire have begun the season in brilliant fashion. The former, last year's champions, in a fortnight's consecutive cricket have beaten Warwickshire (twice), Leicestershire, Essex, Derbyshire and Gloucestershire, and several of their victories have been gained in a very remarkable way, notably that at Derby.

Yorkshire have also played six matches and won all of them, except the record scoring game with Warwickshire at Birmingham, this being a draw. Their wins have been over Lancashire, Somerset, Gloucestershire, Sussex and Middlesex.

The Surrey eleven will soon be strengthened by the presence of George Lohmann, and his bowling will be much welcomed by the side. Mr F S Jackson has been absent from the Yorkshire eleven in the mast three matches, owing to the injury sustained by him while batting against the Australian, Mr Jones, at Sheffield Park a fortnight ago, but he hopes soon to be well enough to help the county.

The Yorkshire match with the Australians at Sheffield to-day has aroused much interest, for with the county team in such fine form it is the most severe test to which the Australians have yet been subjected. The Surrey and Yorkshire fixtures are June 8 at Sheffield and July 30 at Kennington Oval, the latter being for George Lohmann's benefit. Surrey are away at Trent Bridge to-day for their first game with Nottinghamshire. The results of the competition up to the present are as follows: -

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

Losses are deducted from wins and drawn games ignored.

25 May: ESSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4518.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 May, page 4)

Seeing that Essex with five wickets in hand are within 15 runs of their opponents' innings, it may be stated that the home side had the better of the cricket at the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, yesterday, and the way the game went for them aroused much enthusiasm among the crowd of 5,000 people.

This result was in the first place largely the work of the bowling of Mead, who, keeping an excellent pitch, came out with a capital analysis, while when Essex went in Mr Perrin and Carpenter made a stand of 80 for the second wicket. Carpenter was a trifle slow in his play, but Mr Perrin gave a bright and skilful display for his 52, in which were seven fours, four threes and two twos.

Leicestershire's innings, which extended well into the afternoon, was not marked by any particular incident. Holland played very carefully, but neither Pougher nor Coe got his runs by consistently good batting.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 May, page 7)

Essex, who held an advantage on Monday evening, inasmuch as they were only 15 runs behind their opponents' first score and had five wickets to fall, established a big lead on the first innings at Leyton yesterday and this, at the close of the day, left them with all the better of the game.

Much of the merit of this performance belonged to the assistance given by Mead to Mr Owen, and these batsmen after the eighth wicket had gone at 158 added 69, while Mr Owen and Pickett put on another 58, leaving Essex with a lead of 144 on the first innings. Mr Owen has played few better innings than that of yesterday. All his strokes were good, and when he was last out he had made 82. His best hits were ten fours, five threes and four twos.

For their capital score in the second innings Leicestershire depended mostly on two men – Mr Lorrimer and Pougher, who added 84 for the fifth wicket. Pougher played very fine cricket and was only ninth out at 225. He hit eight fours, four threes and nine twos. Mead bowled splendidly and, with nine wickets for 75, brought his record in the match to 14 for 132 runs. This, together with his batting, so pleased the spectators that the 4,000 people contributed £11 for him as a token of their appreciation. Essex went in to get 82 to win . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 May, page 10)

The success of Essex in this match at Leyton was pretty well assured on Tuesday evening when, with nine wickets in hand, they had only 68 more runs to get to win. In the course of an hour yesterday morning the remainder of the task set the home side was accomplished, and Essex won by seven wickets.

For the second time in the three days Mr C Perrin batted well. It is not often that a young player fresh to county cricket has met with such consistent success as Mr Perrin has done. He entered the county eleven with a good local reputation, which he has maintained. By their capital cricket right

through the match Essex in every way merited their substantial victory.

25 May: HAMPSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4519.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 May, page 4)

The honours of the cricket at Southampton yesterday were carried off by the young Hampshire amateur, Mr H F Ward, with an innings of 113. He went in first and was seventh out at 206, after a stay of rather more than three hours, and he made his runs without giving a chance; his best hits were 12 fours, seven threes and nine twos. His most useful partner was Mr Lacey, who helped him to add 44 for the third wicket.

Eight men were out for 206; but Soar and Wootton and Soar and Baldwin added 39 and 60 respectively for their partnerships, so that in the end the Hampshire score reached the substantial proportions of 307. There was a large attendance, and the home success aroused much enthusiasm.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 May, page 7)

So far this match at Southampton has proved singularly even. Derbyshire, in spite of the home side's big score of Monday, were able to get a lead on the first innings of 35.

Their batting success ran right through the team, but the chief honours belonged to Walter Sugg, whose 88 was a steady and careful display and included a six, eight fours, seven threes and six twos. His most useful partner was Mr Evershed, who helped him to add 133 for the second wicket. The Derbyshire captain hit eight fours in his 57. After five men had gone for 222 Bagshaw and Hulme met with much success, while Davidson also played well. Hampshire, who were 35 behind, went in a second time . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 May, page 10)

In spite of their fine score in the first innings on Monday the Hampshire eleven had to submit to defeat yesterday, at Southampton, by seven wickets. Tues night's position pointed rather to a draw, for Hampshire, a strong batting side, had nine wickets to fall and were seven runs ahead, and the pitch was still favourable to run-getting.

Probably with the idea of making the game safe the home batsmen adopted a high standard of cautious play and, although the balance of their innings extended over three hours, only 144 runs were made in that time, bringing the total to 179. Barton and Mr Lacey both played sound cricket and Soar for the second time did well. Dr Bencraft ran Soar out in attempting a sharp single at the finish, and this may have cost Hampshire the match.

Derbyshire were put in to get 145 for victory, and they hit these off in fine style in less than two hours. Walter Sugg and Mr Wright obtained 95 for the first wicket, and the former was second out at 111. In his vigorous 62 were eight fours. The weather was again fine.

25 May: LANCASHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4520.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 May, page 4)

Mr E H Simpson, the Cambridge Freshman and last year's captain at Malvern, played the innings that was the feature of yesterday's cricket at Old Trafford, Manchester, where there was a crowd of 15,000 people. He did not start very confidently and gave a distinct chance of a return catch when he had made 11; but subsequently he timed the ball well and got his runs in a bright and steady style. His 94 occupied him altogether three hours, and he hit 12 fours, four threes and eight twos.

The other best thing in the Kent innings, which extended over four and a half hours and yielded 254 runs, was the cricket of Mr Weigall, who for 75 minutes played a fine vigorous game, and among his figures were six fours. It was not a particularly great day's cricket; but although Lancashire have lost two men for 36 there is every promise of a keen and interesting match. Martin, owing to a family bereavement, was absent from the visiting team, and Walter Wright, who is engaged by one of the Lancashire League clubs, came into the side.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 May, page 7)

At Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, this match was continued with fluctuating fortunes, and at the finish Lancashire wanted 150 to win with eight wickets to fall. There were over 5,000 spectators.

After Frank Sugg and Smith had obtained 45 for the third partnership, there was a run of ill-luck for Lancashire, and six men were out for 87. I'Anson and Baker, however, played extremely well, especially the latter, and Kent in the end were left with 78 runs in front.

Mr Mason and Alec Hearne played fine cricket and made 79 in the second innings before being separated, but Mold, going on at the fall of this wicket, bowled with wonderful effect and took seven wickets – five clean bowled for 19 runs. This was the cause of Kent's being out for 129. Lancashire, who wanted 208 to win, lost Albert Ward and Sugg for 58 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 May, page 10)

The well-contested match between Lancashire and Kent, at Old Trafford, Manchester, resulted yesterday in Lancashire's victory by three wickets. At the beginning of the day Lancashire had to make another 150 with eight wickets in hand. These were obtained chiefly through the steadiness of Paul and the fine forcing game of Briggs. The play lasted two hours and a half, and was lively both in the field and at the wicket.

Paul increased his overnight score from 21 to 52, and found a useful partner in that valuable addition to the Lancashire ranks, I'Anson. Between them 67 were added for the third stand. Tyldesley stayed for a little time, but the wk went at 104. At this juncture Briggs came to the wicket, and his vigorous play rapidly placed Lancashire in a winning position. He naturally ran some risks in forcing the play, but had he not gone in for these tactics the game might have been lost to his side. He got his 60 out of 91 obtained while he was in, and hit seven fours.

When he left, seventh at 195, only 13 runs were wanted. Smith played steadily and well at this critical point, the result being a win for Lancashire.

25 May: MIDDLESEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4521.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 May, page 4)

The Middlesex eleven long since by their brilliant and quick cricket established themselves as a spectators' side, and in no sense yesterday, at Lord's, did they belie their good name. Mr A E Stoddart made 121 runs, and that excellent cricketer, Mr A J Webbe, made a 79 that was worthy of his best days at Harrow and Oxford, while Mr MacGregor played vigorously for his 52. The outcome of all this success was that Middlesex remained in from noon until 6 o'clock and made the heavy score of 386.

The day began well. Mr Stoddart from the moment that he went in settled down and played all the bowlers with easy precision and exhibited all his wonted resourcefulness. Some very late cuts and a few balls that he "glanced" cleverly to leg gave the crowd something to cheer. By comparison Mr Hayman's cricket was dull, and although he stayed an hour and a half he never looked like getting many runs. Mr Hayman took over an hour to run into double figures. Mr Lucas began well enough; but he was out to a very clever running catch in the long field by Smith, one of Somerset's new professionals, who showed much capacity for true fielding all day.

After three wickets had gone for 105, Mr Stoddart and Mr MacGregor, the latter of whom considerably profited by a dropped return catch to Nichols, added 91 in about 50 minutes. Mr Stoddart, who made his 121 in two hours and a half, does not get so many runs in front of the wicket as he used to do, but he has many more strokes than when he first helped the county. That "glance" to leg of his is inimitable, and nothing could excel his cut or the manner in which he draws himself up to play a short ball. Mr MacGregor was fifth out to a very good return catch for 52, a bright and first-class innings inclusive of nine fours.

With only half the side gone at this stage there seemed every prospect of a big score. But the game slightly changed in the next hour, only eventually to change again. Sir T C O'Brien made sundry good hits before being caught at extra slip, and Dr Thornton and Phillips were soon out, while with Hearne's dismissal at 289 the ninth wicket had gone. Now came the longest partnership of the day. Mr Webbe, who had been playing steadily, had some anxious moments to start with, for his partner had a great inclination to dash in and go at everything. Presently Mr Bromley-Davenport timed the ball better and Mr Webbe, making the most of his chances, forced the game at a great pace. The bowlers were hit all over the field and in less than an hour 97 runs were added, and then Mr Bromley-Davenport, who had hit ten fours, was bowled. Mr Webbe got his 79 in rather more than a couple of hours, and hit eleven fours, five threes and three twos.

Somerset fielded very well and their bowlers did their best on the hard, true wicket against a great batting side. Tyler's slows were the most effective, but they were very expensive. In the closing few minutes Somerset had a little play and made 14 without loss.

A great crowd, estimated at 20,000, was present during the day to see the play; the actual number paying for admission was 16,975. Indeed, such was the determination of the public to see the cricket that the field of play at places was awkwardly narrowed. Middlesex are generously devoting the gate money to the benefit fund of Rawlin, as a recognition of the fine work done by that all-round cricketer since he became a member of the eleven in 1889. After playing for Yorkshire in 1884 and 1885 he was dropped by the northern shire and was only discovered again by Mr A J

Webbe and Mr I D Walker during a Harrow Wanderers match at Lincoln against the Lindum Club.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 May, page 7)

At Lord's, yesterday, Somerset were twice got out in the course of a little over four hours' actual cricket, and were beaten by an innings and 101 runs. About 10,000 spectators witnessed the match.

Feeble batting and very good bowling were the secrets of the triumph of Middlesex, whose bowlers, perhaps, were helped a little by the worn pitch. But the turf had not become sufficiently difficult to excuse to any degree the batting of the visitors. He batting of the first day had been too much for the team, and the spectators of yesterday waited in vain for a rally. The batting of Mr Fowler and Smith and the bowling of J T Hearne, who took 12 wickets for less than eight runs each, however, furnished some gratifying play. Smith is a very sound bat and promises to become a worthy member of the eleven.

Somerset's opening innings extended from 11.30 until 2 o'clock. Mr Fowler played a fine, vigorous game in the first hour and his nine fours, but after he had gone at 76 the only respectable batting came from Smith. Hearne kept an excellent pitch and got on much work, while Phillips's slows were very effective. Finding the end near, Smith hit out, but at 162 he was finely caught at slip after a stay of two and a half hours. He made 11 fours.

In the "follow-on" against arrears of 207 the batting was indifferent. Had all the chances been accepted Somerset would never have reached the 100. Mr MacGregor kept wicket very well, and Hearne and Phillips bowled unchanged in this second innings of Somerset. The side went in an hour and a half for 106 runs, and Middlesex won the match by an innings and 101.

25 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4522.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 May, page 4)

Since the Surrey Eleven so far outstripped their old opponents of Trent Bridge in the race for supremacy and were rid of some of the old scores, of which they had many to square up, the Notts v Surrey fixtures have scarcely commanded their old widespread attention. But yesterday the people of Nottingham gave a good deal of support to the match which had dropped off of late years, and the numbers of those paying for admission to Trent Bridge reached 9,500, while the full attendance was well over 10,000. These figures must be eminently satisfactory to the friends of Nottinghamshire, who have for a long time past been making a great effort to put the famous old cricketing shire on something like its old basis of popularity.

Although Surrey occupied nearly the whole of the playing hours with their score of 327 the course of the match may yet be long, for Notts possess a number of fine batsmen. Still, the Southerners' batting successes were only the continuation of that splendid consistency which in three weeks' cricket had furnished the county with six victories. The side that had defeated Gloucestershire were intrusted with Surrey's fortunes, and it acquitted itself well.

The score of 327 was far in excess of what at one time was promised, for though Abel and Holland put on 109 while they were together the record was only 143 when five men had gone. Abel in the last hour of his two and a half hours' innings was obviously affected in his game by a bad blow he had from Guttridge's bowling. Holland, too, played extremely well, but things were going well for Notts when Mr Read, Hayward and Brockwell were disposed of for very small scores.

From this point the character of the game changed. Lockwood and Street added 59 and then followed the best piece of batting of the day. It was Mr Key's. The Surrey captain having escaped being caught and bowled at 12 threw plenty of spirit into his game and was mostly responsible for the 110 runs which the last three Surrey wickets added. He got his 73 in 90 minutes, and hit eight fours, three threes and nine twos. Of the home bowlers Attewell was by far the best, and the visiting batsmen had to watch him very carefully. His length was always very good and at times he got a fair break on the ball.

Notts in a few minutes' cricket lost Pike for eight runs. Guttridge, who is a native of Notts, appeared again for his own county. Formerly he had a good deal of cricket with the Sussex team. The home side, however, had the misfortune to have Mr Bennett injured in attempting to stop a hard return, while Mr Wright was absent through Yeomanry duties.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 May, page 7)

Nottinghamshire fought an up-hill game throughout yesterday at Trent-bridge and acquitted themselves well, for they finished level with the Surrey first score of 327 and have seven wickets left in the second innings.

At half-past 3 the home side's first innings was completed for 183. Shrewsbury played fine cricket and with Flowers added 63. The score at luncheon stood at 156 for five wickets. Shrewsbury left at 166 and the other batsmen were disposed of for 17 more runs. Shrewsbury hit six fours and three

threes. Guttridge was thrice missed in making three runs, two catches going to Lockwood and one to Mr Key.

In the follow on against arrears of 144 the feature of the cricket was the good batting for the old Cambridge man, Mr Jones, who played the powerful Surrey bowlers with easy precision. He was, however, nearly two hours and a half getting his runs. He and Daft made 53 for the first wicket and Flowers stayed while 55 were secured for the third. The number of spectators must have reached 9,000.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 May, page 10)

The Surrey Eleven, who have been playing continuously in county cricket since the 4th inst., secured their seventh successive win at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, beating Nottinghamshire by six wickets.

Nottinghamshire fought very sturdily against their powerful opponents, and had fortune been more kind to Attewell, who, as usual, made the most of a few worn spots in the wicket, the result might have been less decisive. But when Surrey went in to play the last innings, Brockwell was twice palpably missed, and made sundry bad strokes that fell just out of harm's way.

One of the most gratifying things to the friends of Nottinghamshire was the batting of Mr A O Jones, whose innings of 98 was a very fine performance and was made against some of the best bowling of the day. Mr Jones when at Cambridge impressed keen followers of the game with the excellence of his style, but he has not hitherto been a very successful county player.

When Shrewsbury, for the second time in the match, was clean bowled by Richardson, the Notts prospect of doing well was much lessened. Mr Jones, too, went at 161. His whole stay extended over two and three-quarter hours and his best hits were 14 fours. After six men had gone for 165, Mr Dixon's care and Guttridge's vigour improved things to some extent.

Surrey were finally left with 88 to make for victory, and of these Mr W W Read and Brockwell obtained 55 before they were separated. Brockwell had a great deal of luck, giving chances to mid-off and the wicket-keeper with his scores at 6 and 9, and being twice nearly caught at slip. However, Mr Key and Lockwood were together at 65 and they hit off the runs.

25 May: SUSSEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4523.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 May, page 4)

Dr W G Grace had neither allowed the season to extend very far nor his young rivals to have the honours of “centuries” before he himself has put in his contribution of a fine three-figure score. Yesterday the champion played a great innings of 226 at the Hove Ground, Brighton, and remaining at the wickets all day had yet to complete his innings when stumps were pulled up and his side were left with a record of 424 at a cost of seven men.

Until yesterday Dr Grace’s best score of the season was his 70 against Yorkshire nearly a fortnight ago at Bristol. There were two or three errors in his game; but difficult chances to point when 12 and at the wicket when 61 are trivialities for a man who can keep up his wicket for something like five and a half hours. He made his 100 out of 197 and ran to 200 when the score was 369.

Wrathall and his captain put on 72 for the first partnership; but when the fifth wicket went at 129 and when Mr Sewell had helped to add 47 more there was no prospect of the events that came. Dr Grace and Mr Thomas got together at 176 and, remaining for three hours, added 248. Mr Thomas, in spite of a couple of “lives,” batted excellently. Mr Goodwin, an Oxford man from St John’s School, Leatherhead, finds a place in the visiting side.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 May, page 7)

Dr W G Grace not only carried his bat through the Gloucestershire innings in this match at the Hove, Brighton, but, despite the big scores of this season, managed to make the highest by his 243, and to beat Abel’s previous best of 231. Overnight the champion was 226 and Gloucestershire had made 424 for seven wickets.

Yesterday the last three visitors were dismissed for an addition of 39 runs, of which 17 belonged to the champion. Dr Grace’s long innings of 243 in rather more than six hours was marked by his wonderful power of scoring all round the wicket, and he made 33 fours, two threes and 22 twos. Dr Grace in his long career has now obtained 12 scores of over 200, and this of yesterday was his seventh best.

When Sussex went in the two things of most merit were the 61 of Marlow and the 47 of Mr Murdoch. For once K S Ranjitsinhji failed. Marlow and Mr Murdoch added 59 for the third wicket in less than three-quarters of an hour. Marlow had forced the game at a fine pace and in his 61 were 11 fours. Mr Murdoch and Mr Brann added 53 for the fifth partnership, and several of the later batsmen met with a good deal of success.

Sussex followed on with arrears of 217 and in the course of 85 minutes Bean and Marlow hit off 120 of them. Sussex are now 97 behind with all their wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 May, page 10)

There seems no end to this season’s cricket phenomena, and at Brighton yesterday Sussex, in their

traditional capacity for doing well in an uphill fight, came out in a manner remarkable even for a batsman's ground such as is the famous field at Hove. After following on against 217 Sussex scored 420 for three wickets, and three of the side ran into [triple] figures.

It almost goes without saying that K S Ranjitsinhji had a hand in this success; but his big innings came after the Gloucestershire bowling had for nearly three hours been thumped all over the field by Marlow and Bean, who made 211 for the first wicket. This feat of the two Sussex professionals was substantially recognized by the spectators subscribing 20 guineas, and this sum was presented to the two batsmen by Mrs Murdoch, the wife of the old Australian captain.

Bean and Marlow, who made 120 of their runs on Tuesday night, in 90 minutes yesterday morning carried the score to 211, when Bean was caught at wicket. There was scarcely an error in his long innings. He got a large proportion of his runs by drives, and his 17 fours, three threes and ten twos. His partner, Marlow, did not long survive him; but this player had a considerable amount of generosity from the field for he was missed at nine, 46 and 74. Otherwise his batting was bright and powerful, and his best figures were 18 fours.

Mr Murdoch and K S Ranjitsinhji put on 76, and then from 313 the latter and Mr Newham in the course of 75 minutes went to 420, at which point Mr Murdoch closed the innings. K S Ranjitsinhji scored his 114 without giving a chance in two hours and 40 minutes, and hit 15 fours, three threes and nine twos.

When Gloucestershire went in to play the fourth innings of the match there were only 80 minutes left for the game. The visitors, who wanted 204 to win, lost seven wickets, so that Sussex were able to claim much the better position in the unfinished match, in which the aggregate of runs amounted to 1,217.

25 May: YORKSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4524.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 May, page 4)

The huge crowd of something like 30,000 people that gathered at the Bramall-lane ground, Sheffield, yesterday, must have been sorely grieved by the ill-fortune that overtook the county side. As the home men had done so well in their six matches this season it was confidently expected they would have little the worst of the cricket in this, and the Australians themselves looked upon it as the most severe test of their merits to which they have yet been subjected.

But even a cursory glance at the score will show the advantage gained so far by the Australians, who, having played a first innings of 262, got down five of their opponents for 86, so that Yorkshire still want 57 more to avert the follow-on. For this bad position the county have themselves very much to blame through missing sundry catches off Hirst's bowling. The wicket kicked a good deal and the fast bowlers, especially at one end, were nearly always dangerous, so that Bramall-lane seems again far from being the good ground that many Yorkshiremen are so eager to make it out to be. Still it was the dropped catches that had much to do with the plight that Yorkshire found themselves in at the finish.

The Australians were batting from noon until 20 minutes past 4. Mr Donnan was soon out; but Mr Giffen and Mr Darling by good batting raised the score from seven to 51 in a little over half an hour. Mr Giffen's wicket was cleverly thrown down by Peel; but Mr Darling was not out until 86. His 57 was a bright and on the whole correct innings, though he gave a chance at wicket at 39. His figures comprised eight fours, three threes and four twos. But to Mr Gregory belonged the credit for the most lively play of the day. He made 54 out of 72 added for the fifth partnership, and hit a five, seven fours, three threes and a two. Mr Trott and Mr Hill obtained 58 for the sixth wicket. The former secured the highest score of the afternoon; but he was twice let off. His best contributions were ten fours. The last four Australian batsmen went for 46.

Yorkshire had a bad 90 minutes. Brown and Tunnicliffe were dismissed at 11, soon after which Denton and Moorhouse put on 32. The former played very well and was the fifth to go.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 May, page 7)

The Australian team gained a brilliant victory over Yorkshire at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday, by an innings and eight runs. Such a result was not wholly unexpected after the way the game had gone on Monday. When the contest was resumed the home side, with five wickets gone for 86, were facing the first Australian score of 262.

Half an hour sufficed for the completion of the innings, only 32 runs being added. Peel and Hirst strove hard to improve the position of their team and made 27 runs in a quarter of an hour, but the subsequent batsmen were quickly disposed of. Mr Giffen bowled finely and his six wickets for 49 runs furnished an analysis that speaks for itself. Mr Jones's short fast bowling was also very effective.

Yorkshire had to follow on with arrears of 144. In the second innings Brown played fine cricket, and he and Tunnicliffe made 45 before the first wicket fell. After this, however, Mr Jones and Mr

Giffen carried all before them, and six men were out at luncheon time for 72. Lord Hawke played well, and with Mounsey added 35 for the eighth wicket, while Mr Milligan stayed during the addition of 20 for the ninth. Mr Jones took nine wickets in the match for 120 runs, while Mr Giffen's nine cost 99 runs.

The Australians gained a well-deserved victory. Even if the wicket was bad they made the most of their chances, which is more than can be said of Yorkshire, whose dropped catches on Monday had much to do with their ill-fortune. The turf at Bramall-lane is certainly in rather bad condition, and there were rumours yesterday that the Surrey v Yorkshire fixture would be changed. Over 16,500 people paid for admission.

Thursday 28 May, page 10

SURREY v OXFORD UNIVERSITY. – It is understood that Surrey will give their great bowler Richardson a rest after his hard work in the last three weeks, and that he will not play in the Eleven at Oxford to-day.

28 May: LANCASHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4525.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 May, page 7)

The Australians continued to fare well. Yesterday, at Old Trafford, Manchester, they made the most of the opportunities afforded by the true pitch and of the generosity of the fieldsmen, who dropped five or six catches, so that it was not surprising that the day's cricket was finished with the visitors in the better position.

Steadiness, perhaps, was the best feature of the Australian innings, which extended from midday until nearly 5 o'clock. For some time there was no promise of the good score which the Australians did in the end secure, as in spite of sundry mistakes in the field seven wickets were down for 177. Then it was that the longest partnership and the brightest cricket of the day occurred, Mr Iredale and Mr Kelly scoring 94 in the course of an hour and a quarter.

Mr Iredale's reduction on the order of going in (in other matches he had been high up) was marked by his first real success as a batsman in the tour. He played indifferently yesterday in the first few overs, but after he had got set his cuts as square-leg hits were very attractive to watch. He made his 67 in about a couple of hours, and hit 12 fours, two threes and three twos. Mr Kelly, who should have been caught when 29, played fairly good cricket for his 45. The best stand prior to that already noticed was by Mr Hill and Mr Trott, who added 42 for the fourth wicket. Mr Giffen was missed at four and Mr Gregory was thrice let off.

But if the Lancastrians could not hold catches they showed a certain capacity for running their opponents out. Ward's clever return caused the separation of the first two batsmen; and Briggs, with the unerring aim traditional of the little Notts village of Sutton-in-Ashfield, threw down Mr Giffen's wicket.

When Lancashire went in, Ward and Paul made 45 runs in an hour, and then the former and Baker were dismissed. Paul and Mr Tindall were let off, and at the finish the home score was 54 for two wickets. In spite of the Manchester races there was a crowd of over 20,000, of whom 18,661 paid for admission.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 May, page 12)

If Lancashire managed to get the Australians out a second time for the smallest score yet made by them during the tour, they were too far behind to lay claim to any substantial position; and going in to obtain 253 to win, they lost three of their weakest batsmen for four runs; so that they cannot flatter themselves on any wonderful prospect of success, seeing that the wicket shows signs of breaking and that 253 is a very heavy task for a fourth innings.

The county, with eight men in hand on Thursday night, had made 54 runs. For awhile yesterday Paul and Sugg played good cricket; but after 118 had gone up with only three wickets down a change came, and the whole side was out for 168, so that the follow-on was not much more than saved. This had actually not been accomplished when only two men remained; but Briggs and Hallam, with a stand of 33 for the ninth wicket, improved the county's prospects. Mr Trumble did the best bowling for the Australians.

A lead of 113 on the first innings was a great advantage; but after luncheon the Australians fared so badly against Mold that half the side went in 80 minutes for a mere 45 runs. The Lancashire fielding had been remarkably good and the game seemed turning in their favour. Six wickets fell for 68 and then Mr Gregory and Mr Trumble by fine cricket put on 59 runs in less than an hour. This was the only serious batting against which Lancashire had to contend, for after Paul had brought off a brilliant catch at point that got rid of Mr Trumble, the other three wickets were taken for an addition of 12 runs. Mr Gregory played very well, and going in fourth wicket down at 30 was only eighth out at 135. It was a careful innings of two hours' duration and included four fours, two threes and ten twos.

Lancashire lost their three wickets in a quarter of an hour. Another huge "gate" at Old Trafford, Manchester, was recorded, 18,807 people paying for admission, while the full attendance was well over 20,000.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 June, page 13)

The Australians ought to feel very gratified with their last week's work, which included two victories, both very substantially gained, over the great northern shires. On the third day of their match with Lancashire the county had a big task in front of them, for on a worn pitch they had to make 253 runs and had already lost three of their weakest batsmen.

But the last quarter of an hour of Friday night, when these three wickets went for four runs, only too truly presaged the disasters that befell the Lancastrians on Saturday morning. The bad places in the turf were not sufficient reason for the weakness of the batting, and there was a lack of life about the home side generally in the final stage of the game that was unworthy of a county team to which the cricket public have long since learned to look both for pluck and for excellence. They played like a beaten side.

The one really good display of batting came from Mr Arnold, the Whalley Range amateur, who went in at four and was ninth to leave at 97. Ward and Mr Arnold added 46 runs while they were together for the fourth wicket. But both were missed, so that the Australians, like Lancashire, were far from being perfect in the field. After Ward had gone the other five wickets fell for 32 more runs, and the morning's cricket was over in a couple of hours. Mr Trumble, as in the first innings, did the best bowling for the visitors.

The Australians have now got to the end of three weeks' cricket, and their success at Old Trafford, Manchester, on Saturday, which by the way was witnessed by only 2,000 people, brought the record to four wins and two drawn games.

28 May: LEICESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4526.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 May, page 7)

Most of the scoring in the big Warwickshire innings at Leicester yesterday was done by two men – William Quaife and Welford, who became partners when five wickets had gone for 90 and carried the score at a rapid rate to 235. Quaife might have been caught in the slips before reaching double figures; but otherwise he played extremely well. His best hits were eight fours and ten threes.

Welford, although missed once, played very well, and his scoring of 118 in his second first-class match was a feat of much distinction. He was at the wicket two hours and three-quarters, and made 11 fours and nine threes.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 May, page 12)

In an uphill fight at Leicester yesterday the home county came out well and managed to save the follow-on against their opponents' big innings of 321. For this achievement they were chiefly indebted to Pougher. He took rather more than three hours to make his runs, and his most useful partner was Coe, who helped to add 62 for the ninth wicket. His best hits were ten fours, five threes and nine twos. Santall's effective bowling is worth drawing attention to.

The most notable thing in Warwickshire's second innings was the batting of Law and Diver. Both of them got their runs in good style, and added during their partnership 88 runs inside the hour. Warwickshire did not finish in such a strong position as was expected, for in spite of their lead of 110 on the first innings they are now no more than 244 to the good with two wickets to fall. As a token of appreciation of Pougher's batting the company subscribed £10 for him.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 June, page 13)

There was a fine win for Leicestershire on Saturday at Leicester, when Warwickshire were beaten by one wicket. It is not often that a side playing the fourth innings of a match manages to get 267 runs, as the home county did on this occasion.

There were various stages when a victory for Leicestershire was not within the range of probability, and even after four wickets had gone at 101, and after the fine cricket of Pougher and Coe, who added 75, there was little hope for the side when it was left to the last two, neither of whom has any pretension to skill in batting, to make 47 runs; but Whiteside kept up his end while Woodcock hit, and there was great applause when the task was completed.

Woodcock and Pougher played a big part in the match; the former, in addition to his final piece of hitting, took 11 wickets in the double innings for 141 runs, while Pougher followed up his big score of Friday with another fine innings of 60, bringing his aggregate to 162 for once out. Coe showed a sound defence, while Mr de Trafford and Knight made some very good hits.

In the earlier part of the day Warwickshire had finished their innings for an addition of 22 runs. The best thing was the batting of Law, who made his 81 in two and a half hours by very sound

cricket. He hit eight fours, six threes and six twos. Leicestershire for the greater part of the three days were playing an uphill game, and until the winning stroke came they could never have felt much confidence as to the result.

28 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4527.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 May, page 7)

There was not much excellence in the way of batting in the cricket at Lord's yesterday; indeed for the most part the bowlers had all the better of the play, and the end of it was that the position at the close left little to choose between the sides, Marylebone having lost six wickets in their second innings and possessing an advantage of 114 runs.

The M.C.C. were very strong in bowling, and they were able to rid themselves of the county without calling upon Albert Trott. Playing the first innings, the club were out soon after the luncheon interval for a total that far exceeded the proportions expected, when half the team were dismissed for 29. The best thing in run-getting was accomplished by Sir T C O'Brien and Mead, who by bright, free cricket put on 64 in three-quarters of an hour for the sixth partnership. Subsequently Board hit vigorously.

Derbyshire began badly and, in spite of Chatterton's 29, the seventh wicket went at 56, but Hulme made a lot of good strokes and was mostly responsible for the score running into three figures. Marylebone in their second innings were doing pretty well until Trott was badly run out by Board. It was a foolish blunder, for Trott was set and was playing excellent cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 May, page 12)

It was a good performance by Derbyshire at Lord's yesterday to go in on a false pitch to make 218, and to win by one wicket. The close finish naturally caused much excitement, and when the last man went in there were still 17 runs wanted. These were scraped together mostly by unintentional strokes, although the finishing four was a good hit by Mr Marsden in front of square leg.

The day's cricket was of a far higher character than that of Thursday. To begin with, Mead and Attewell made 41 for the seventh M.C.C. wicket; but the best thing in the rest of the Club innings was Mr Maude's 38.

Derbyshire's course to victory was of a plodding nature. Bagshaw had some luck and profited by it; but Storer was badly run out by Chatterton, and when the fifth wicket went at 120 the game was apparently turning for the M.C.C. Chatterton, however, played sound cricket, and with Hulme put on 69 in the course of an hour and a quarter. The issue of the match rested upon the last two men, who managed to win for Derbyshire by one wicket.

28 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4528.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 May, page 7)

After all Surrey's brilliant achievements this season their cricket in the Parks at Oxford yesterday will cause much disappointment to their friends. They had, however, some excuse in the absence of such men as Richardson, Abel and Wood from their eleven. The places of these men were filled by capable reserve men; but the Surrey executive evidently reckoned without their host, and the Oxford eleven, who were also without Mr C C Pilkington and Mr G O Smith, had much the better of the day's play considering the state of the pitch.

The best things in the cricket were the plucky stand for the last Oxford wicket and the excellent left-hand bowling of the Old Etonian and Old Blue, F H E Cunliffe, who first made his name as a bowler by his success for his school in 1894. Mr Hartley and Mr Lewis got together when nine of the home side had gone for 91 runs, and they added 71 in an hour. As for Mr Cunliffe he has so far taken seven of the Surrey wickets for 26 runs.

At one period the game promised to be even worse for the county as five of the side went for 55, and it was only the good batting of Mr Key that improved the position. For the University Mr Foster and Mr Leveson-Gower, the captain, played well. Mr Pilkington is absent from the eleven on account of a bad hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 May, page 12)

The Surrey eleven experienced something of a novelty as concerns this season at Oxford yesterday, when for the greater part of the day they were playing a losing game. Oxford were largely indebted to Mr Cunliffe, who took eight wickets for 26 runs – a wonderful feat against such a side as Surrey – for their lead of 66 on the first innings.

When the University went in again runs were difficult to get on a pitch much worn, and seven men were out for 67. At this pinch Mr Hartley once more came to the rescue, and with Mr Waddy added 57 in an hour for the eighth partnership, and in the end Surrey were put in to make 209 to win. Brockwell played a fine vigorous game and Holland also did well.

But when Surrey seemed easily on their way to victory the game changed. Brockwell, who hit seven fours, made his 45 out of 88; but six Surrey men were dismissed for 128. Mr Key for the second time in the match met with much success and, with the aid of Henderson, improved the visitors' position. The finish of the day found Surrey with 60 to score to win and four wickets to fall . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 June, page 13)

The Oxford eleven are to be congratulated on their victory in a hard fight with Surrey by 23 runs. Friday night's score pointed rather to some such result, for the wicket was false, most of Surrey's best men had gone, and the last four batsmen had to get 60 more runs. In this attempt they failed, and soon after midday on Saturday the match in the Parks was over.

Surrey's hopes rested largely upon what Mr Key would do. He had played fearlessly on the bad wicket on both Thursday and Friday; but on Saturday Surrey's last chance practically disappeared with a fine piece of work in the field and at the wicket between Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr Lewis, when Mr Key was run out. Henderson made a plucky attempt to win the game; but nothing could check the fine play of the fielding side. Braund was cleverly stumped, Thompson was bowled and Marshall gave an easy catch to mid-on. The last four wickets had added only 36 runs to the overnight score.

Having once got the match in hand on Thursday, Oxford played a splendid winning game, fielding and bowling extremely well, while Mr Lewis kept wicket with all the precision that marked his play in his school days at Winchester. Although Surrey had neither Richardson nor Abel in the eleven, this defeat is a distinct check after their victorious career against the counties.

28 May: SUSSEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4529.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 May, page 7)

Yesterday was another great batsman's day at the Hove Ground, Brighton, and Sussex had to field to a big innings of 424, which occupied nearly the whole of the cricketing hours. The game had for its features the fine batting of Mr S M J Woods, the Somerset captain, who, going in fourth wicket down at 123, remained not out for 158. He forced the game at a great pace, and in endeavouring to accept two difficult chances from him Marlow and Parris both injured their hands, the former so much that he had to retire from the match.

Mr Woods got his runs in three hours and hit 25 fours and 13 twos. His best partners were Mr Hill, who helped to add 126 in 70 minutes, Mr Robinson and Tyler, the two last-named staying while 62 and 59 were made. Early in the innings Mr Gerald Fowler and Smith put on 79 while they were together, and the latter, playing pretty good cricket, hit nine fours. Last year in the same match the Somerset captain scored 215. The visitors' total yesterday was far heavier than at one time seemed probable, for the first five wickets fell for 139.

Sussex had a little play near the end of the day and obtained 44 at the cost of one batsman. Mr Woods consented to allow J Bean to take the place of Marlow in the home side. Fine weather prevailed, but there was not a very large company.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 May, page 12)

Sussex seem to revel in a stern uphill fight, and yesterday their game with Somerset on the Hove ground, Brighton, bore a striking similarity to that with Gloucestershire at the beginning of the week, for following on against odds of over 200, they scored 283 for only two wickets. Hundreds with them in the second innings have grown to be common, and yesterday there were two more, one a most beautiful 107 by the great cricketer K S Ranjitsinhji, and the other a careful 106 (not out) by Mr Murdoch, the captain.

The best points in the first Sussex innings were the vigour of George Bean, who hit 11 fours in his 66, and the correct and finished play of Mr Newham and Mr Brann. But all the great excellence came in the follow-on. This time Bean went at 53, and then Mr Murdoch and K S Ranjitsinhji in two hours added 171 runs. The latter, who was caught in the long field, made his 107 in his own brilliantly finished style without giving anything worthy of the name of a chance, and hit 16 fours, three threes and eight twos. Mr Murdoch took over three hours to run into three figures. As Sussex are 76 ahead with eight wickets to fall, there is every prospect of a good game to-day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 June, page 13)

More wonderful batting by Sussex and the keen and successful fight with Somerset, mostly aided by Mr Palairat, made to escape defeat sustained the interest in the drawn match at the Hove Ground, Brighton, to the end.

Another three-figure score, the sixth for Sussex in the week, was recorded on Saturday, and this by

Mr W Newham, who, in a long and profitable career for his county, never played a higher innings than this 201. The enforcement of the closure rule was delayed by Sussex in order to let Mr Newham run into the second hundred; but this delay may have cost Sussex the match.

The home county made the huge score of 525, 283 of which had been scored overnight, and these runs were put together at the cost of only four wickets. Mr Murdoch, who was third out at 440, played with every care and his stay of 144 extended over five and a quarter hours. His correct manner of playing the ball marked his game from beginning to end, and beyond a return chance to Tyler at 96 he made scarcely a false hit. Twelve fours, six threes and 16 twos were his chief figures. He and Mr Newham added 216 while they were together. Mr Newham's vigorous forcing game was in marked contrast to that of his captain. He got his 201 in three hours and three-quarters, and hit 31 fours, five threes and 13 twos.

When Mr Murdoch closed the innings there were two hours and a half left for play; but as Somerset were strong in batting, and as the turf was still good and the Sussex bowling of no great account, there was not much prospect of anything else but a draw. However, Tate met with startling success, and in half an hour five wickets were down for 14 runs and the sixth fell at 21. The home side seemed well on their way to victory.

But Mr Palairet's fine batting proved the stumbling-block to their success. The old Oxford captain played in his best form and found useful partners in Captain Hedley and Mr Robinson, each of whom stayed with him about an hour. Mr Palairet made the large proportion of 83 out of 122 runs by perfect cricket, and hit seven fours, four threes and seven twos. So the game was drawn, Somerset being 106 behind with only three wickets left.

With this draw there came to an end an extraordinary week's cricket, the matches bearing a striking similarity to each other and Sussex in each instance having the better of the position at the finish. A collection of over £20 was made on the ground for Tate as a mark of appreciation of his bowling. Over 1,200 runs were obtained in each of the two games of the week, and there were nine individual three-figure innings.

28 May: YORKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4530.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 May, page 7)

Mr Frank Marchant, the captain of the Kent Eleven, came out in something like his old form at Leeds yesterday, when he scored 128 in two hours and a half, but in spite of his efforts Kent finished with the worst of the match.

The only member of the visitors' side who rendered much assistance to Mr Marchant was Walter Hearne, whose knee, however, gave way, thus causing his retirement. It is very unfortunate for Kent that this fine cricketer should be unable to help them much through his knee trouble, which kept him out of the side all last season. Yesterday he renewed the injury so severely in running that he had to be carried off the field. He and Mr Marchant had up to that point carried the score from 89 for the seventh wicket to 174 for the eighth in 50 minutes.

Mr Marchant gave an easy chance of stumping when 96; but this was the sole mistake of his innings, in which were 15 fours and ten threes. Easby by patient batting helped his captain to add 58 for the fourth partnership.

When Yorkshire went in there was some good batting by Brown and Tunnicliffe, and the former's style was especially good. In the course of 100 minutes the home side had got to within 78 of their opponents' score at the cost of a wicket. There were about 8,000 spectators of the cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 May, page 12)

As might have been expected from the position of Thursday night and the trueness of the wicket, Yorkshire gained a huge advantage on the day's cricket at Headingley, Leeds, yesterday, and put their opponents in a second time requiring 254 to save an innings defeat.

The Yorkshire eleven has no "tail," for even the last wicket yesterday put on 118 runs in the course of 70 minutes. It was this partnership between Lord Hawke and Hunter that furnished the feature of the day's play. When Hunter arrived the Yorkshire captain's score was only 36, and of the last 118 runs he made no fewer than 74. He got his hundred in about two and a half hours, and from the moment he went in he timed the ball well and made scarcely a false hit, while his chief figures were one five, 16 fours, two threes and ten twos. The characteristic of Lord Hawke's batting was his splendid driving.

In the early part of the innings Brown, who had made 78 overnight, ran to 90, and his fine score included ten fours and nine threes. Moorhouse, who by merit has worked his way on the "order" to a high position, and Denton both played very good cricket and put on 88 runs during their partnership. Denton was more free than his companion and hit ten fours. The Yorkshire innings of 359 extended over about six hours; but this total was, of course, much heavier than was promised when the eighth wicket went at 297. Kent suffered much from the loss of Walter Hearne's services, but Huish proved himself an admirable wicket-keeper.

When stumps were drawn Kent had lost Alec Hearne's wicket in the second innings and were 220 behind. Walter Hearne, whose knee is very bad, left for Canterbury yesterday, so that Kent have

only eight men in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 June, page 13)

Kent fought hard on Saturday against the ill-fortune that had placed them with arrears of 254 on the first innings, but they were not successful, and late in the afternoon Yorkshire won at Headingley, Leeds, by nine wickets.

One of the best things of the day was the second innings of Mr Marchant, who played fine cricket and came near to performing a feat that has only a few times been accomplished – namely, obtaining two hundreds in the same match. He only missed his second three-figure score by a dozen runs. On Saturday he went in second wicket down at 90 and was fifth to go at 199, having scored his 88 in an hour and a half. He hit seven fours and six threes.

Other good scores were made for Kent by Mr Mason and Mr Simpson, who between them added 72 for the second partnership. Mr Mason played particularly well and got his 50 out of the first 90 in an hour and a half by two fives, five fours, a three, two twos and singles. Easby played very carefully and helped his captain to score 63 for the fourth wicket. There was a nice healthy vigour about the Kent batting, and had a little more judgment been shown in running the side might have done better. Mr Simpson and Mr Cooper were both run out when well set.

With only four men gone at luncheon time there was a bare chance of a draw; but the end of the innings began to come quickly, and it was only the hitting of Martin that caused Yorkshire to have to go in again, the last wicket falling soon after 4 o'clock. It took Yorkshire only a quarter of an hour to make the necessary 22 for victory, but Tunnicliffe was dismissed.

Monday 1 June, page 13: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Although Surrey and Yorkshire were beaten last week by Oxford and the Australians respectively they each managed to secure a win in the County Championship, Surrey at Nottingham and Yorkshire at Leeds, so that as the season advances the fight for the championship becomes almost a match between these two. Surrey thus far have a slight advantage through Yorkshire having drawn a game with Warwickshire.

To-day, at the Oval, Surrey will have Richardson and Abel back in the side for the match with Somerset, while George Lohmann will make his first appearance for the county this season. He arrived in England from South Africa rather more than a week ago. He is in good health and has had some practice. In a local match at Reigate on Saturday, playing for the Priory Club, he scored 257 runs.

Yorkshire are engaged at Trent Bridge to-day with Nottinghamshire, and their eleven will be strengthened by the inclusion of Mr F S Jackson, who has almost recovered from the injury he sustained at Sheffield Park. Mr Jackson had a course of practice at the nets at Lord's last week.

With so much depending on the match between Surrey and Yorkshire, arranged to take place at Sheffield on the 8th inst., it would be very wise were the Yorkshire executive to later the ground rather than run the risk of a rough fiery wicket at Bramall-lane, which has greatly suffered by the dry weather. The results up to the present are:-

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

Losses are deducted from wins and drawn games ignored.

HAMPSHIRE v SOMERSET. – We are asked to call attention to the following alteration:- the Hampshire matches with Somerset will be played on June 15, 16 and 17 at Taunton and July 9, 10 and 11 at Southampton, instead of as previously arranged.

1 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4531.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 June, page 7)

The Yorkshire eleven were batting during the whole of the cricketing hours at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, and scored 390 runs for the loss of seven wickets. J T Brown, of Driffield, carried off the chief honours with a fine innings of 107 made out of 168, when he was second out, being bowled in attempting to play back-handed to one of Gunn's lobs. Brown had previously played beautiful cricket. He hit 14 fours, seven threes and five twos.

This was the feature of the day's play; but there were sundry other good things. Mr F S Jackson was welcomed back to the eleven, and by vigorous hitting helped Brown to make 85 in the first hour for the first wicket. Then there was the good play of Tunnicliffe, who took rather more than two hours to obtain his 65, in which were seven fours. Wainwright and Peel (38) and Lord Hawke and Peel (936) made other stands before Peel and Hirst had a long partnership, which was unbroken for the eighth wicket, when stumps were drawn.

Mr C W Wright, Hardstaff and Mee appointed for Nottinghamshire in place of Mr Bennett, Mr Robinson and Guttridge. There were 2,000 spectators of the day's play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 June, page 13)

In a long and excellent day's batting at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, Nottinghamshire were mainly engaged in an uphill fight against the Yorkshire score of 450. There were two beautiful pieces of cricket by Arthur Shrewsbury and Gunn, and while these batsmen were making their long stand, and subsequently when Mr C W Wright and Daft were together, and during the partnership of Pike and Attewell, the prospect of the home side saving the follow-on was bright. But in the end this feat was not achieved, and to-day Notts have to play their second innings with a deficit of 179.

In the opening hours of yesterday Yorkshire, who had scored 390 overnight for seven wickets, added 60 more runs. Peel and Hirst's partnership yielded altogether 100, and when it ended the remaining batsmen were soon got rid of. Hirst hit vigorously and got his runs in 90 minutes, while his best figures were 11 fours. On the other hand, Peel played very steadily and generally waited for the loose ball from which to score. There were ten fours among his contributions.

The Shrewsbury and Gunn stand for the second Nottinghamshire wicket produced bright and finished batting, and no one could complain of the pace of the scoring when 98 were added in 100 minutes. Gunn scored the more freely and made five fours and six threes, while Shrewsbury was fourth out after a stay of two hours and a quarter. Daft and Mr Wright and Pike and Attewell obtained 50 and 53 while they were together, and it was close upon "time" when the Notts innings ended. Some thousand people were present.

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

At several stages of yesterday's cricket at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, the Yorkshire eleven seemed well on their way to victory; but the fine, vigorous batting of Attewell saved the game to

Nottinghamshire, at the end of whose innings stumps were pulled up and the match left drawn.

The Nottinghamshire second innings absorbed the whole time of cricket. The morning found them 171 behind, and when Shrewsbury, Mr Jones, Mr Dixon and Flowers were out in an hour for 50 runs there seemed little hope for Notts. But from that player matters mended rapidly for the home side, and not all the fine bowling and fielding could win the game for Yorkshire.

First of all, there was an eighty-minutes' stand for 61 runs by Gunn and Mr Wright, and then the latter and Daft were not separated until 140, when Daft left. The climax came in the successful hitting of Attewell, who, with Mr Wright, added 131 runs for the seventh wicket. Mr Wright played with every care and was in about three and a half hours; but Attewell forced the game at a great pace and made his 96 in 80 minutes. He hit ten fours and seven threes. This is the best thing Attewell has ever done for his county in the shape of batting, and so pleased were the spectators that the subscribed ten guineas for him. Finally the match was drawn as follows . . .

1 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4532.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 June, page 7)

The Oxford eleven, who have done so well this season, have no cause to complain of the results of their cricket yesterday on the Christ Church ground, when they met the Australians. For most of their success they were indebted to their captain, Mr Leveson-Gower, who has sustained all the fine traditions established by him when he was at Winchester, and to Mr H K Foster, the hero of the third day of Oxford v Cambridge at Lord's last year. The Oxford men can certainly claim the better of the position with the so far victorious Australian eleven and, except that most likely Mr C C Pilkington, the Eton Freshman, will come into the team, this side against the Australians will very probably play against Cambridge at Lord's next month.

Yesterday there was not much in the Oxford innings apart from the fine batting of Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr Foster. Something more than the average courage was necessary to play Mr Jones, the Australian fast bowler, on a fiery wicket; but this stoutness of heart was justified until Mr Foster and Mr Leveson-Gower became partners. The first hour's cricket saw four Oxford men go for 31 runs; but after this matters mended very much for the University.

Mr Foster and Mr Leveson-Gower were careful at starting; but, having got set, they played a vigorous game and good strokes were plentiful. In about an hour and three-quarters their splendid cricket yielded 115 for the fifth wicket. Mr Foster, who went in first wicket down at 66, was in altogether two hours and a quarter for his 66. He made few mistakes and his best figures were eight fours, two threes and six twos. Mr Bardswell helped his captain to add 43 for the sixth partnership; but, when every one was looking for Mr Leveson-Gower's 100, he was well caught at mid-on – a one-handed catch. His 93 was a splendid innings of three hours' duration and included ten fours, four threes and nine twos. A little vigour by Mr Hartley and Mr Waddy helped on the score to 237, the highest total yet recorded against the Australians during the present tour.

The visitors lost two good men for 21 runs, Mr Iredale failing to profit by an escape at point. Mr C C Pilkington was not well enough to take a place in the Oxford side; but Mr Graham, who has been unwell, made his first appearance for the Australians.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 June, page 13)

On the Christ Church Ground, Oxford, yesterday, the Australians managed to establish an advantage over the University. But the game at one period – namely, when the fifth wicket had gone at 122 – looked like turning against them. At the close of the day Oxford at the cost of two wickets had rubbed off 60 of the 71 arrears.

The merits of the fine Australian score of 308 largely belonged to two men – Mr Giffen and Mr Gregory. They became partners when the fifth wicket went and, playing good cricket for an hour and a quarter, added 107 runs. With the game in a critical state it was natural that they should at the beginning of their partnership exercise some caution; but they eventually developed a nice, free style, and their play all round the wicket was very attractive to watch. Neither man made any bad mistake, for the ball coming along truly was easily timed. This stand was made against much good bowling and fielding.

Mr Giffen, who was the first of the pair to go, obtained his 76 in something over two hours, and hit six fours, five threes and nine twos. Mr Gregory was seventh out at 277; his was a rather quicker innings and his best figures were six fours, six threes and ten twos. The closing part of the visitors' batting was marked by the vigour of Mr Trumble, who, however, had an escape when his score was only 13. Mr Warner dropped the catch at mid-off, and the error turned out rather serious. Early in the day Mr Eady and Mr Graham played very well. The Australians were all out by half-past 5.

The day closed with a splendid piece of batting on the part of Mr H K Foster, who, after Mr Smith had been stumped, drove the Australian bowling all over the field and made 40 out of 47 in half an hour before Mr Trumble dismissed him. He hit six fours, a three and three twos. Although Oxford have the worst of the match, they have so many good batsmen left that to-day's cricket should prove very interesting. There were about 5,000 spectators of yesterday's play.

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

Up to Tuesday evening the Oxford eleven had made a splendid fight on the Christ Church Ground against their powerful Australian opponents; but on the third day they failed to sustain the excellence of their cricket and were well beaten, to the disappointment of Oxford men generally, by seven wickets.

Overnight Mr H K Foster's brilliant innings of 40 had set the Dark Blues a fine example of pluck and skill. Yesterday the eight outstanding wickets yielded little play of interest. In fact, at one period, that was when seven men were out for 83, there seemed every prospect of the visitors winning even more easily than they did. But Mr Hartley and Mr Waddy put on 38 while they were together. One of the best things of the day was the bowling of Mr Trumble, who at one time took four wickets for three runs, while his analysis during the morning was 19 overs (11 maidens), 15 runs, five wickets. The balance of the Oxford innings lasted yesterday an hour and three-quarters, but only 69 runs were added. Mr Trumble had a splendid analysis.

The 59 which the Australians had to make to win cost three wickets. It was a fine victory for the visitors, who for a good while on Tuesday were fighting an uphill game.

1 June: SURREY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4533.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 June, page 7)

About 10,000 people were present at Kennington Oval yesterday to witness this match. Surrey had a great deal the better of the position when stumps were drawn, for their opponents with two good wickets gone in the second innings are still 79 runs behind.

The best feat in batting came from Mr Woods, the Somerset captain. Yesterday, when his side were in a deplorable condition, he rescued them with a beautiful innings of 65, made by most courageous cricket against the Surrey bowling. Richardson's "workers" and his great pace gave quite a sensational start to the day's cricket, and aided by a run out five wickets went for seven runs, while at 26 Mr Hill was caught at deep third man. So far Richardson had these bowling figures – five overs (one maiden), 18 runs, five wickets.

Somerset were in a sorry plight with six men out for 26. But it was then that Mr Woods played in that sturdy style which has so long marked his game. Nichols helped him to add 65, and when he himself was at last caught from a skier at mid-off he had made 65 in an hour and a half. He obtained 11 fours and was ninth out. Mr Woods had hit off both Richardson and Lohmann, and he was warmly cheered for his fine batting. Somerset were all out just before the luncheon interval for 116.

Surrey were batting from a quarter to 3 until nearly 6 o'clock and managed to head the Somerset total by 82. Brockwell played a free game, but after he and Abel had made 45 for the first wicket a steady dismissal of the side set in before Tyler's slows and Mr Woods's fast bowling. Lohmann made many good strokes and was in nearly an hour for his 36, when he was beaten in going forward to a ball that kept very low. He was fifth out at 106. But no substantial advantage was gained by Surrey until the sixth wicket had gone at 118. Then Mr Key played fine free cricket and Lockwood too hit hard. No one played Tyler's slow bowling as well as Mr Key, who timed the ball very accurately and frequently got it round to leg. This partnership yielded 53 runs, after which there was nothing of importance in the play except the fine return catch that got out Lockwood. On the whole the Somerset ground fielding was not up to the usual standard.

Somerset had a bad quarter of an hour at the end of the day; but Smith would probably have saved Mr Fowler's wicket had he gone for the run. The large crowd, in spite of the heat, took a lively interest in the play. Mr L C H Palairet was unable to assist Somerset; but Surrey had absolutely their best side. Lohmann had a warm welcome from the company, who had afterwards much to admire in his fielding and batting, and if he did not get a wicket he bowled very well.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 June, page 13)

The play at the Oval yesterday was so uneven that Surrey won by ten wickets; but the cricket contained sundry fine points, the best of which were the 36 of Robson's, the 24 by Mr Woods, the wonderful catch by Hayward near the boundary that got out Mr Woods, the bowling of Richardson and the batting of Brockwell. So that if the hours of play were brief the 5,000 spectators had much to see that was excellent. The wicket, which had often played falsely on Monday, had recovered and the ball came along easily.

Any chances that Somerset had of making a good fight were soon disposed of by the deadly bowling of Richardson. Two wickets had gone overnight for three runs and, in spite of Robson's good batting, which brought 36 runs in 40 minutes, six were down when ten runs of the first innings arrears remained. The catch that got out Robson was very cleverly made on the leg side by Wood, the wicket-keeper, standing back to Richardson.

Just when things seemed to be slightly mending for Somerset – namely, when Mr Woods and Nichols were together – the Somerset captain was caught by Hayward, who, standing close to the pavilion rails, judged the ball well from a hard drive off Richardson and held it side out with his right hand. It was a great piece of fielding and was warmly applauded by every one. The steadiness of Nichols and the vigour of Tyler, who hit five fours, extended the innings to luncheon time. Richardson brought his double bowling figures up to 13 wickets for 131 runs.

After the interval Brockwell and Abel made light work of the task of getting 82 for victory. Brockwell, who had an escape soon after he had run into double figures, played a fine forcing game. In fact, he made 54 of the 84 scored in 50 min, and hit 11 fours and a three. Abel was very careful.

1 June: WARWICKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4534.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 June, page 7)

Most of the excellence in yesterday's cricket at Birmingham belonged to Warwickshire, for whom there were two fine innings by Mr H W Bainbridge and Diver. To begin with Kent, who had the advantage of first innings, were batting three hours and a half for 135. Mr Mason and Alec Hearne made 58 for the first wicket, and up to luncheon the score of 107 for three promised a very fair total. But Cresswell after the interval dismissed four batsmen in four overs for seven runs and, although Mr Weigall and Martin put on 53 for the eighth partnership, the side went for the comparatively small score above mentioned. Cresswell bowled very well and his six wickets cost less than 12 runs each.

The great feature in the Warwickshire innings was the batting of Mr Bainbridge and Diver, whose partnership of 80 minutes yielded 99 runs. Diver hit eight fours, a six and three twos. Mr Bainbridge played very sound cricket. Warwickshire at the drawing of stumps were only 18 runs behind with seven wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 June, page 13)

Yesterday's cricket at Edgbaston, Birmingham, was not marked by any particular brightness – indeed, nearly all the batsmen made steadiness their characteristic. Warwickshire, as was expected from their position on Monday night, when with only three men out they were within 18 runs of their opponents' total, established a great advantage on the first innings, while going in again Kent found the game steadily being lost to them. Such is their plight now that with four men in hand they are only four runs on.

In the early part of the day Mr Bainbridge and Law carried the overnight score of 167 to 221, and then the former ran himself out. He was three hours and a quarter getting his 89, and he hit seven fours, six threes and eight twos. Law played carefully, but Lilley, although successful, was scarcely so precise in his strokes as usual. Kent fielded well and Wright came out with a pretty good analysis. Mr Simpson, the Cambridge freshman, and Mr Weigall did fairly well in the Kent second innings, but the general play was of a very ordinary nature.

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

Kent were left in a bad position on Tuesday night in this match at Birmingham, and yesterday Warwickshire won by nine wickets. The score at the resumption gave Kent a lead of only four runs, and they had lost six men in the second innings.

Yesterday the other four wickets went for an addition of 28 runs, Pallett, who bowled very well, being responsible for three of these at a cost to himself of ten. Mr Weigall, who had gone in fourth wicket down at 99, played very steadily and took out his bat. Warwickshire had only 33 to get to win, and these were made for the loss of one wicket. This was Warwickshire's first county championship success of the season.

Tuesday 2 June, page 7: THE YORKSHIRE AND SURREY MATCH

The meeting of the Yorkshire committee at Sheffield yesterday was principally interesting to cricketers by reason of the decision made as to Yorkshire v Surrey, which is fixed for next Monday at Sheffield, but which the county captain was anxious to get altered because of the indifferent wickets at Bramall-lane. Mr M J Ellison presided. The following resolution was carried:-

“That, whilst not admitting that there is sufficient justification for the complaints made against the Sheffield ground, the committee are willing to yield to the express desire of Lord Hawke to remove this match to Bradford.”

Previous to this decision being arrived at, the committees of Bradford, Leeds and Huddersfield had kindly offered to allow Sheffield to receive the benefits of this match if played on any of their grounds.

Thursday 4 June, page 10: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The inability of Yorkshire to beat Nottinghamshire yesterday strengthens Surrey's position at the head of the competition, which up to the present stands as follows:-

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

4 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4535.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 11)

Although Fenner's is a batsman's ground the Cambridge eleven may congratulate themselves on their capital performance yesterday against the Yorkshire eleven. The scoring honours were shared by Mr Burnup, Mr Druce, Mr Moore and Mr Jessop, who all played fine cricket; but the most brilliant piece of work was the stand by Mr Jessop and Mr Moore, who put on 65 in 25 minutes. Mr Jessop hit ten fours, while Mr Druce, who also played a vigorous game, obtained 11 fours. Mr Burnup's innings was marked by fine forcing tactics, but Mr Moore's play was cautious.

Cambridge were fortunate in getting rid of Mr Jackson, run out, but Mr Jessop bowled well and three other wickets fell, while in the end Yorkshire were left with only six men in hand and 255 runs behind. Peel, Hirst and Hunter are away from the county eleven.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 16)

Aided by some assistance from the wicket, which was affected by the overnight rain, the Cambridge bowlers did splendid work yesterday and Mr Wilson, Mr Jessop and Mr Shine had most to do with the University's victory of an innings and 35 runs.

Yorkshire, who began the day with arrears of 255 and six wickets to fall, completed their first innings for an addition of 31 runs. In the follow-on there was some fine batting by Brown and Tunnicliffe, who put on 74 while they were together; but apart from these men the defence was weak and the innings was steadily finished off before the good bowling and fielding. Brown's 61 were excellently made and included nine fours.

4 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4536.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 11)

Gloucestershire cannot be congratulated on their cricket at Ashley Down, Bristol, yesterday, for in no department of the game was their play worthy of the splendid traditions of the county. With all the advantages attached to a first innings on a true, hard wicket it was a weak performance to get out for 110 in the course of two hours and a quarter, while when the Australians went in the home bowling and fielding left a good deal to be desired.

The county were without two or three good men, such as Mr Jessop, Mr Hemingway and Painter; but this fact could scarcely be offered as an excuse for their feeble show. The innings was relieved from absolute insignificance by the batting of Dr W G Grace and Mr Sewell, whose partnership for the third wicket yielded 47 runs. Mr Sewell played very well. After 70 had been made for the loss of three men the whole side was out for 110. Mr Trumble and Mr Giffen both bowled very well. Mr Jones was given a rest.

When the Australians went in Mr Darling and Mr Donnan played so freely that 72 were obtained in as many minutes before the former was cleverly caught at short leg off a "lob." But each batsman had a life. Dr E M Grace makes one more appearance for Gloucestershire, playing in the place of Painter, who has a bad hand. Except for rain that extended the luncheon interval until nearly 4 o'clock the weather was fine, and about 3,000 or 4,000 people visited the ground.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 16)

Gloucestershire had done so badly in this match at Bristol on Thursday as to diminish the interest originally aroused by it, and yesterday not only saw the Australians absolutely secure from defeat but also with a good chance of victory, for no doubt they will declare their innings closed this morning, being as they are 268 runs on with a wicket to fall.

The Australians innings was yesterday marked by sound and steady excellence, but there was no wonderful brilliancy in their game. They advanced their overnight score from, 80 to 378. The wicket quickly recovered from the rain, and afterwards a couple of interruptions by the weather, which in all delayed the game half an hour only, made the turf easy. The feature of the innings was the stand of 108 for the fourth wicket by Mr Donnan and Mr Gregory. Mr Donnan, the top scorer, was fifth out at 256 after a stay of about three and a half hours for 87, in which were six fours and four threes. Various other members of the side came off, although Mr Kelly owed some of his success to the rather kind treatment of the fieldsmen. Murch bowled pretty well; but none of the others seemed very dangerous with the ball.

Mr Townsend, who did such great things last year, is suffering from a bad arm. There was a large company at Ashley Down ground.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 June, page 9)

The batting of Dr W G Grace and Mr Sewell at Bristol on Saturday did something to relieved the

weakness which seemed so long to settle over the county's cricket in this match. But the captain and Mr Sewell received little help from the other members of the side, who found Mr Trumble's and Mr Giffen's skill with the ball much too good for them. So the end of Gloucestershire's ill fortune was that the Australians gained one more victory, this time so substantial as an innings and 91 runs.

Saturday saw the Australians early complete their innings, which had extended over the whole of the second day and parts of the first and third, for 382. Steadiness marked the game of nearly all their men, and it was thought that, with their chances and against such a weak bowling side, the Australians might have forced the play and so put a little more life in it.

At the beginning of Gloucestershire's second innings the early successes of Dr Grace, Wrathall and Mr Sewell created just a faint hope among the county friends that the match might be saved; but, after having over 100 up with only two men out, there soon came a collapse. Indeed the last six wickets went for a mere 23 runs. Dr W G Grace, who for the second time in the game was caught in the long field, made few mistakes in getting his 66 in rather less than two hours. In fact there was no other batting in the match that came up to the champion's class; his chief figures were eight fours, three threes and five twos. He was third out at 122, while Mr Sewell, who again played well, left fourth at 158. Thereafter the Australians had matters all their own way. Mr Trumble bowled with great effect and his full record for the match was 11 wickets for 127 runs.

4 June: LANCASHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4537.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 11)

By rain the cricket day at Liverpool yesterday was shortened to three hours. Most of this time was devoted to the innings of Leicestershire, whose batting, however, was of a very ordinary nature. Pougher played well and helped to add 39 for the second wicket; but the bowling was the feature of the day. Hallam, going on at 40, secured six wickets at a cost of less than five runs each.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 16)

The Lancastrians yesterday found the only profitable game on the Aigburth Ground, Liverpool, which had become false, was to hit, and up to a certain stage the home side did so well that they were 50 ahead with five men in hand. But they did not fare so well afterwards, and their lead on the first innings was only 70.

Sugg made some fine big hits; but the stand of the day came from Mr Tindall and Mr Arnold, who added 96 for the fifth wicket in 75 minutes. Mr Tindall survived a chance at point when 15, and he naturally ran other risks in forcing the game. In his 57 were eight fours, and this innings was one of the best things he has ever done for the county. Pougher and Mr Hillyard bowled very well, but the fielding was rather slack. Leicestershire hit off 65 of the 70 arrears at the cost of two wickets . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 June, page 9)

As Leicestershire left off on Friday night with eight wickets in hand and only five of the arrears on the first innings remaining, it was expected that they would make something more of a fight than to be beaten by ten wickets. However, this was the result that was reached at Aigburth, Liverpool, on Saturday.

It was left to a member of the losing side to play the highest and best innings of the match – namely, Knight, who going in first was sixth out at 119 for 62. He exercise a good deal of care, but this was necessary for the reason that I'Anson and Mold bowled so remarkably well; but among his hits were seven fours and two threes. Bailey gave Knight the most assistance and helped him to add 37. Otherwise the batting was bad. I'Anson's analysis of four wickets for 13 runs furnished one of the features of the cricket.

Albert Ward and Paul made a long task of the 68 necessary to win. Every steadiness and care marked their play; but eventually Lancashire won by ten wickets.

4 June: MIDDLESEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4538.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 11)

If no great rate of scoring was attained at Lord's yesterday, the cricket reached a high degree of excellence. There were various good pieces of batting, one wonderful thing in the way of bowling and some very sound fielding, notably the catch by Robinson at long leg that got out Phillips. As Mr Webbe had almost the best side that can now be mustered for Middlesex, the home score scarcely reached the expected proportions. But the pitch helped the bowlers a little before it was rid of the effects of Wednesday night's rain, and the side were nearly four hours making their 227.

Attewell, who is bowling this year as well as ever he did, kept a wonderful length and, getting some work on the ball, had very much the most to do with the dismissal of Middlesex so easily. He had two spells with the ball. In the first his figures were 23 overs (19 maidens), five runs, one wicket, and he went off at 99. Mr Wright put him on again at 161, and he sent down 18 overs (11 maidens) for 21 runs and five wickets. Six for 26 was a big feat for a man who delivered 41 overs in an innings of 227. The Middlesex batsmen scored pretty freely from the other bowlers and Handford was very severely dealt with.

Mr Hayman played a quick innings of 51; his best hits were nine fours. Mr MacGregor was in good form; but it was after he left at 105 that the most substantial partnership occurred, when Sir T C O'Brien and Rawlin, by capital cricket, added 65 in a little over three hours and a quarter for the fifth wicket. Rawlin was caught from a hard drive at mid-on, and Sir T C O'Brien, going forward to a good ball from Attewell, was beaten and bowled. It was another very skilful ball that dismissed Mr Webbe, and then the innings was steadily finished.

Nottinghamshire had rather less than an hour and a half's play and ran up 74. Mr Jones, Shrewsbury and Gunn all batted in a finished manner, but they found runs not easily to be obtained against the good bowling and fielding. There were about 5,000 spectators and the cricket was watched under very pleasant conditions.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 16)

The merits of yesterday's cricket at Lord's belonged almost wholly to the bowlers and the fieldsmen. Middlesex won by 123 runs.

It was a disastrous day for batsmen, 29 of whom were dismissed for an average of a fraction over seven runs each, and such a record speaks emphatically as to the condition of the wicket. As a matter of fact all the trueness of the pitch had been driven away by the rain of Thursday night, which only just softened the surface of the turf. It was most treacherous in the morning; but afterwards, although improved, the ball came at all sorts of paces from the pitch and made accurate timing a matter of considerable difficulty. Here, then, were the excuses of the batsmen.

Nottinghamshire had certainly the worst of the luck; but Middlesex, when they got the game in hand, bowled and fielded in a way that was quite worthy of success. Rawlin and Hearne had some remarkable bowling figures, while the wicket-keeping of Mr MacGregor, that catches at point and in the long-field that got out Daft each time, and the ground fielding of Mr Webbe and Mr Stoddart

were other good features in the Middlesex cricket.

On the other side all the batting excellence seemed to have been absorbed by Shrewsbury and Gunn on Thursday evening; but yesterday Attewell again bowled wonderfully well and had a record in the match of 11 wickets for 58 runs, and Gunn brought off two very awkward catches rather deep on the off-side. Nottinghamshire ought certainly to have done better in the second innings, which degenerated into something like a procession to and from the pavilion. They had begun pretty well on Thursday evening, when 74 had been scored for the loss of only one wicket; but yesterday, although the rest of the batting occupied an hour and a half, only 46 runs were added and the follow-on was narrowly avoided.

The best thing in the second spell at the wickets of Middlesex was the 21 by Sir T C O'Brien, who hit out well and made several fine drives. Mr Lucas and Mr Webbe were both out through the great skill of Gunn in the field. It was not expected that Notts would make the 198 wanted to win very easily; but no one thought to see the wickets fall with such rapidity that the team went in a little over an hour and a half for a mere 74.

4 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v M.C.C. AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4539.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 11)

It was comparatively a poor side that was sent down from Lord's to play the Oxford eleven yesterday, and the result was that the University had much the better of the day's cricket, seeing that they are now ten runs from the M.C.C. score with three men out.

The only really good feature in the Marylebone batting was the 56 by Harry, the latest Australian addition to the Lord's ground staff. He got his runs in a free style out of the first 93 in an hour, and he made nine fours. Albert Trott and Bean also did pretty well, while Mr Fane scored 13 in an hour. Mr Cunliffe and Mr Hartley bowled extremely well, and the former going on a second time at 93 actually took four wickets for 12 runs. After luncheon the last four M.C.C. batsmen added only 27 runs to the score.

In the Oxford innings, which yielded 137 runs for three wickets in two hours, the principal feature was the stand of 114 by Mr Clayton and Mr Warner for the second wicket. The former hit nine and the latter eight fours. Mr Pilkington, who had been suffering from an injured hand, hurt the wound and had to retire. Mr Foster, Mr Lewis and Mr Mordaunt were kept out of the eleven by their engagement in the schools.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 16)

This match was brought to a close yesterday with an innings and 23 runs victory for Oxford over the M.C.C. The only game, so far, lost this season by the Dark Blues has been that with the Australians, against whom, for two days at least, they played quite as good cricket as the winners.

Yesterday's success was certainly gained over a very weak Marylebone side; but the Oxford men did much good work in both batting and bowling. In spite of the effect of the rain on the turf, the last seven Oxford wickets yesterday added 159 runs to the overnight score. Mr Leveson-Gower made his 46 in 75 minutes and hit seven fours, and afterwards Mr Bardswell scored 40 out of 69 in 50 minutes, while Mr Waddy and Mr Cunliffe put on 52 for the ninth wicket.

Marylebone's second innings was marked by the good batting of Bean and Mr Fane, by whose efforts the score was raised to 91 before the second wicket fell. Then came a collapse and the other eight batsmen were dismissed for 35 runs. Bean hit hard and secured seven fours in his 47, while Mr Fane was careful throughout, and going in first wicket down was the ninth out after an hour and a half's stay. In the two innings Mr Cunliffe took nine wickets for 73 runs and Mr Hartley ten for 128.

4 June: SURREY v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4540.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 June, page 11)

Derbyshire fared ill against the skilful bowling of Lohmann and Richardson on the Oval yesterday, and the present position promises them a very hard fight to avoid being beaten in an innings, for Surrey already possess a lead of 87 and have eight men in hand.

It is not often that the policy of putting in the opposing team turns out so successful as it did yesterday, when Mr Key won the toss and, as the wicket promised to recover from the night's rain, decided to take the second innings. But bad batting had a good deal to do with Derbyshire's poor score. As well as the fine bowling, for if the wicket helped the bowlers a trifle it was not thoroughly false. So bad was the start that six of the side went in about 75 minutes for 87 runs, but subsequently Mr Marsden and Davidson by very steady defence strove to improve matters. They did to some extent, for 34 runs were added; but Derbyshire were all out in two hours and 40 minutes for 96.

The bowling figures of Lohmann and Richardson speak for themselves. Hayward's catch that got out Chatterton was very good; but the best piece of fielding of the day occurred when Brockwell caught Sugg high up with one hand near the boundary. In making the catch Brockwell lost his balance and fell among the spectators, and the batsman seemed to hesitate at going out, apparently questioning two things – whether the ball was held sufficiently long or whether the catch became unfair by the fact of Brockwell's falling among the spectators.

When Surrey went in Brockwell forced the game, and afterwards Holland played carefully until a very good ball from Bennett, who is a slow left-hand bowler, dismissed him. Then came the best cricket of the day by Abel and Hayward, who have so far obtained 113 for the third wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 June, page 16)

One more decisive victory has to be recorded for Surrey in the county championship. Yesterday they beat Derbyshire on the Oval by an innings and 57 runs. The rain had rather affected the turf; but Derbyshire's bowlers were not able to make so much of this advantage as those of Surrey subsequently did. The great points in the cricket were Abel's further 100 for the side, Lockwood's sound and hard batting, and the sturdy attempt which Chatterton and Davidson made to try and avoid at least the innings beating.

Surrey carried their overnight score of 183 for two wickets to 341. Abel and Hayward's long partnership yielded altogether 121, and the latter's share of this was 61. Hayward played very well, and so also did Abel, who was fourth to leave at 229, when, in trying to place the ball to leg, he came a catch to point. He was in more than three hours and his best hits were 16 fours. Lockwood took a couple of hours to obtain his 76, in which were a five, ten fours, two threes and seven twos.

Derbyshire had to fight against the odds of 245 with only ten men, for Bagshaw had hurt his hand and could not go in. No one did much in batting beyond Davidson and Chatterton, who put on 50 for the third wicket, and after Chatterton had gone the innings was steadily finished off. Davidson played a nice, sound game and took out his bat for 70. The match was all over just before the hour

fixed for the drawing stumps. Lohmann again bowled successfully and brought his full record to ten wickets for 105 runs.

Saturday 6 June, page 16: EXTRAORDINARY BOWLING. – Mr Charles Absolon, a veteran cricketer now 79 years old, took eight wickets for 20 runs yesterday at Finsbury Park, playing for the North London Tradesmen against the Munro C.C.

Monday 8 June, page 9: THE AUSTRALIANS

The Australians, who have completed the first month of their tour with much success – they have won six matches and drawn two – enter to-day upon their ninth fixture against a team that will play at Wembley Park, under that much abused title, “An England Eleven”; and, to judge from the composition of their opponents, their present victorious career should remain unchecked.

The Australians have, so far, done much better than those who saw them early expected. That they were a good, steady batting side of no particular brilliancy most keen judges were ready to admit; but the bowling successes of the team on the hard wickets have furnished the surprising element in their cricket. While their successes have been so many, however, they have not yet met many sides under equal conditions – the Yorkshire win was on a wicket that did not last much longer than the first Australian innings – of any great bowling pretensions; so that cricketers will look to Thursday’s match at Lord’s against the Marylebone Club for the first great test. Here good hours will be observed, and the M.C.C. are capable of putting into the field an eleven that would do well to represent England.

The M.C.C. team is not yet officially announced, but one may depend on finding Mr F S Jackson, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr A E Stoddart and Dr W G Grace playing, and very likely M MacGregor. J T Hearne and Attewell, too, are sure to be among the bowlers. The Surrey, Yorkshire and Lancashire professionals are not members of the Lord’s ground staff.

The eleven at Wembley Park to-day against the Australians will consist of Sir T C O’Brien, Mr C E de Trafford, Mr E A Nepean, Mr F R Spofforth, Mr H B Hayman, Mr P Perrin, Mr C M’Gahey, Pickett, Rawlin, Phillips and Russell.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Surrey made another advance in the competition last week by their success over Derbyshire, and they now lead Yorkshire by three points; the latter eleven, however, have played one match less. Curiously, Yorkshire against Cambridge, as Surrey did against Oxford, held their opponents too cheaply and, not putting their strongest side in the field, were beaten by the University.

To-day at Bradford, to which ground the venue has been changed because of the badness of the Bramall-lane wickets, the great match between Surrey and Yorkshire begins, and if the former should prove successful they will establish an advantage that will not easily be disturbed. The Surrey executive, it is understood, will make no change from the side which won for them two matches on the Oval last week – namely, Mr Key, Mr Read, Lohmann, Richardson, Abel, Lockwood, Holland, Ayres, Brockwell, Wood and Hayward.

But Yorkshire will be severely handicapped if Peel, who has been ill, is not sufficiently well to take a part in the game. For a side to lose one of its finest all-round cricketers of the day, in a match of this importance, would be nothing short of a calamity for them. Apart from the doubt about Peel, Yorkshire will have their best side, Mr Ernest Smith coming into the team for Mr Milligan. The positions in the championship are now as follows:-

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

THE OXFORD ELEVEN. – Mr Leveson-Gower, the captain, has given Mr J C Hartley a “blue” for the match with Cambridge at Lord’s.

8 June: DERBYSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4541.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 13)

The cricket at Derby yesterday was both even and ordinary. An innings was played by each side on a wicket that helped the bowlers and the result was that Derbyshire secured a lead of 42 runs. There were several fast wicket batsmen on both sides, and this had as much to do with the small scoring as anything because of the slowness of the turf following the heavy rains.

Lancashire took over two hours to make their 111 runs. Baker played very good cricket for his 34, but Mr Arnold, although successful, was very slow in getting his runs. When Derbyshire went in there was a stand of 62 for the second wicket by Chatterton and Mr Wright, and this promised a bigger advantage to the home side than that eventually secured. Hulme and Mold bowled well for their respective sides.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 June, page 9)

The Lancashire Eleven came out well yesterday from an uphill fight with Derbyshire at Derby, and mainly by the fine bowling of Briggs and Mold beat the home side by 37 runs.

For some time yesterday Derbyshire seemed to have the game in hand. On an improved wicket the Lancashire batsmen in the second innings generally showed no particular excellence. Frank Sugg played some good drives and Mr Rowley played very well, the two between them adding 63 runs for the second wicket. The soundest cricket of the match was shown by Mr Rowley, who hit five fours in getting his 49.

Briggs played steadily; but in the end Derbyshire were left with only 117 to make to win. This task, it was thought, they would easily accomplish. Mold, however, bowled with great effect on the full pitch and, with Briggs, got out Derbyshire in an hour and three-quarters for 79. Mold altogether secured 12 wickets for 104 runs.

8 June: HAMPSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4542.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 13)

There was much interesting cricket in this match at Southampton yesterday and, after fortune had fluctuated a great deal, Hampshire established an advantage by getting 135 on the second innings with eight wickets to fall.

They were principally indebted to one man for their respectable first score. This was Barton, who in an hour and three-quarters by fine batting made 74 out of 108, and hit nine fours. At one time Hampshire promised to secure a far stronger position; but Tate, going on a second time, took the last six wickets in ten overs for nine runs.

Baldwin and Soar bowled without change against Sussex, whom they got out for 71. Mr Murdoch and K S Ranjitsinhji played steadily, but the other batting was of no account. Mr Robson's dashing cricket was a brilliant feature of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 June, page 9)

Hampshire won their match with Sussex at Southampton yesterday by 76 runs. On Monday night Hampshire had already established an advantage, being 135 on with eight wickets left in the second innings. Mr Robson's 62 were made in 80 minutes. Some good hitting by Bacon and Mr Steele helped to strengthen the home position, and Sussex were left with 231 to get to win.

Tate's double analysis for the match gave him a record of 12 wickets for 99 runs. Kitchener, a fast bowler appearing for Hampshire for the first time, took five wickets for 21 runs.

8 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4543.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 13)

With the wicket difficult at Lord's yesterday the bowlers had a good time, and the only batting approaching any excellence was that of Alec Hearne and Easby for Kent. The M.C.C. apart from their bowlers had a poor side and got the worst of the play, for they were left with 155 to get in the last innings, a somewhat difficult task unless the pitch should improve.

The finest bowling of the day was really that by J T Hearne, who was on at the pavilion end throughout each of the county's innings and had a double analysis of 11 wickets for 92 runs. Martin and Mr Shine also had splendid analyses for the visitors.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 June, page 9)

After a very close finish at Lord's yesterday Kent managed to beat the M.C.C. by two runs, a result that was largely due to Mr Shine, of Cambridge, who had the fine record in the match of 11 wickets for 77 runs.

Overnight Marylebone had been left to play the fourth innings and to get 155 in order to win. The turf had perhaps slightly improved, but it still helped the bowlers. Carpenter and Mr Peacock added 54 for the third M.C.C. partnership, and later Carlin and Mr G Thornton did so well that 120 went up with only five men out. However, in the course of half an hour four wickets fell, and when the last man arrived seven runs were still wanted. These were not obtained, and Kent won by two runs.

8 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4544.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 13)

The proceeds of yesterday's match at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, are to be devoted to one of Nottinghamshire's most worthy professionals – M Sherwin – who did splendid work for the side as a wicket-keeper. Some of the Notts players are very fortunate, and Sherwin may be rated among these, for only a couple of years ago he received a substantial benefit at Lord's from the M.C.C., Middlesex generously giving their Whitsun match with Somerset to him.

There are many even now who think that Notts were rather indiscreet in throwing over Sherwin when he was still keeping wicket extremely well. He reappeared for the county yesterday, when Mr J S Robinson and Mr Howitt came into the side, while Daft, Pike and Guttridge stood down. The attendance was comparatively small, the numbers scarcely running into four figures.

The day's cricket furnished much that was interesting; but through the splendid batting of Shrewsbury and Mr Jones the end left the match rather uneven, Notts being 67 ahead with four wickets in hand. Cambridge found it extremely difficult to get runs against Hardstaff and Attewell, and were out in two hours for 113. Mr Stogdon, the old Harrovian, played by far the best cricket. Shrewsbury and Mr Jones made 138 in two hours for the first Notts wicket; but afterwards there came such a change that six men went for 180. Mr Jones obtained seven and Shrewsbury eighteen fours. The weather was fine.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 June, page 9)

At Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, the Cambridge eleven were beaten by Nottinghamshire by six wickets. The batting of Mr Jones and Shrewsbury had led to the county holding the stronger position overnight; but yesterday there was nothing of note in the balance of the innings, in which the last four wickets added only 27 runs.

The best thing in the Cambridge second venture was the batting of young Mr Grace, who exercised the greatest care and, going in first, took out his bat for 68 as the result of three and a quarter hours' play. His chief partners were Mr Burnup and Mr Druce, who helped to obtain 46 and 69. Subsequently the University batting broke down before the bowling of Hardstaff, whose figures after luncheon were 21 overs and three balls (10 maidens), 28 runs, six wickets. Altogether, Hardstaff took 12 wickets in the match. The 76 necessary to win were only got by the county at the cost of four men.

8 June: WARWICKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4545.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 13)

The home side at Birmingham may be said to have the better of the game with Gloucestershire, seeing that at the cost of three men they are within 52 of the visitors' score. On the slow and false turf Gloucestershire fared ill before luncheon and lost six batsmen for 67 runs, but afterwards, with the pitch made easy by a shower, they did well.

For the improved position they were chiefly indebted to Mr Thomas, who by fine cricket scored 67 in 90 minutes, and among other hits contributed ten fours. Murch was his most able partner. Dr Grace at the beginning of the day played very cautiously and was in three-quarters of an hour for his 14. The good position secured by Warwickshire was to a great extent the work of the captain, Mr Bainbridge, who played very soundly until 90, when he gave a return catch to Dr Grace.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 June, page 9)

In the rather more than two hours' play allowed by the weather at Edgbaston, Birmingham, yesterday, Warwickshire increased the advantage already possessed by them on Monday night, and at present they are 127 runs ahead with four wickets in hand. Lilley and Diver in the course of 80 minutes added 123 runs for the sixth partnership. Diver made 53, in which were seven fours and three threes. Rain stopped the game altogether at a quarter to four, and at 6 o'clock stumps were drawn.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 11 June, page 10)

Gloucestershire managed to draw the match with Warwickshire, at Birmingham yesterday, although the closing position left the home side almost assured of victory, seeing that they wanted only 41 to win and had an innings to play. Warwickshire, on Tuesday night, were 127 ahead with four wickets in hand. The rest of the batsmen added 55 yesterday morning. Lilley's innings extended over two and three-quarter hours, and his best hits were 14 fours, eight threes and 13 twos.

Gloucestershire, who were 182 behind, started badly, for Dr Grace, Captain Luard and Wrathall were all out for 13. Mr Townsend, however, aided by Mr Jessop and Mr Thomas, played steady cricket and these three men practically saved the match for Gloucestershire. Mr Townsend and Mr Thomas added 68 and Mr Townsend and Mr Jessop 95. Mr Townsend was in about two and three-quarter hours, and hit eight fours, three threes and eight twos.

8 June: WEMBLEY PARK v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4546.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 13)

With some wisdom the promoters of yesterday's match at Wembley Park decided to drop the comprehensive title of "An England Eleven." Upon this the Wembley Park executive are to be complimented, for the public has grown disgusted with the way in which the title "An England Eleven" is always resorted to for dubbing a scratch side which plays the Australians.

Mr Spofforth yesterday bowled with much of his old sting, taking in all six wickets for 49. In the matter of bowling, however, his old colleague, Mr George Giffen, excelled him, for Mr Giffen took in all six wickets for 20 runs. He took the "hat trick" by bowling out Mr Nepean, Mr Perrin and Rawlin. These great triumphs with the ball led one to infer that something was the matter with the pitch. And the inference was correct. Sunday night's heavy rain had reduced the wicket to a pulpy condition and after luncheon the surface became "caked" by the hot sun, so that the bowlers had a very good time, for the ball popped about and broke in a wonderful manner. The batsmen were at the mercy of the bowlers, and in four and a half hours 23 wickets fell for an aggregate of 200 runs.

The Australians made 106 in two hours, and Mr Gregory and Mr Trumble hit fairly well, while after eight wickets had gone in the home innings for 26 runs the batting was eventually brightened by the vigour of Pickett, who went in and hit as his predecessors should have done. In his 20 was one drive over the ring for six.

On a bowler's pitch the Australians have the better position, being 70 ahead with seven wickets to fall in the second innings. The best thing in fielding during the day was the left-hand catch at short slip by Mr Nepean that got out Mr Hill. There were a couple of thousand spectators and the weather was beautifully fine.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 June, page 9)

Yesterday at Wembley Park the Australians beat the scratch side, captained by Mr de Trafford, by 135 runs, a result that was not wholly unexpected after the first day's cricket. The wicket remained untrue to the end. It was a bowler's match from first to last, and the only really good piece of batting in the two days was by Mr Gregory. He went in fifth wicket down at 57 and was tenth out, the last hour of the innings yielding 74 runs. In his 43 were five fours.

So the Australians, who had begun the day with 70 on and seven wickets in hand, set their opponents 173 to make to win. Mr Spofforth's second good analysis brought his record for the match to 11 wickets for 100 runs. Wembley Park's innings lasted little more than an hour, and Mr Trott and Mr Trumble, aided by three men being run out, dismissed the side for 37, this being two less than the previous worst score made against the Australians in this tour – namely, the 39 of an English team at the Crystal Palace.

8 June: YORKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4547.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 June, page 13)

The heavy rain on Sunday night was followed by a severe storm about midday at Bradford yesterday, and the wicket at Park-avenue was reduced to a state quite unfitted for play. Although the weather improved after 1 o'clock, the umpires, on inspecting the wicket a couple of hours later, decided that cricket was out of the question for the day and the start was postponed until this morning. Peel is much better in health and may probably play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 June, page 9)

This match, in which there was no play on Monday on account of rain, was opened at Bradford yesterday. [Note: no further report given!]

Day 3 (report from Thursday 11 June, page 10)

Lord Hawke at Bradford yesterday closed his innings when there were nearly two hours left for play and put in Surrey to make 123 to win. On an ordinarily fast wicket such a task would have been made light of by the Surrey side, but at Park-avenue yesterday the turf was heavy and rather helped the bowlers. As it was the game was drawn, Surrey having lost six wickets at the finish and still wanting 48 to win.

Surrey had the better position on Tuesday night, for with seven men in hand they were only 55 behind the Yorkshire score. Still, the Yorkshiremen made the most of their chances and their bowling was backed up by fine fielding. The Surrey men scarcely seemed good judges of a run and during the morning the last seven wickets went for 67 runs. Mr Jackson and Wainwright bowled extremely well and the latter, when he went on again towards the close of the innings, got the last two wickets without having a run scored from him. Yorkshire were 12 runs behind.

Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe put on 44, after which Brown, Denton and Moorhouse all met with success. Lord Hawke closed the innings, leaving Surrey with 123 to make in an hour and 55 minutes. Brockwell played such a strong game that he and Abel got 47 of the runs in 40 minutes, so that Surrey for the moment looked like winning. But Mr Jackson and Wainwright bowled well, and Surrey, after their fine start, settled down and played for the draw.

Tuesday 9 June, page 13: M.C.C. AND GROUND v THE AUSTRALIANS

Although the Marylebone Club have not officially announced their side for the important match with the Australians at Lord's on Thursday, it is understood that it will include Dr W G Grace, Mr A E Stoddart, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr F S Jackson, Mr F Marchant, Mr G MacGregor (or Storer), J T Hearne, Attewell, Pougher, Gunn and Davidson or Martin. Martin will play if the wicket is slow. Sir T C O'Brien would have been in the team but for an injured hand. This is a very fine side.

Wednesday 10 June, page 9: M.C.C. AND GROUND v AUSTRALIANS

The M.C.C. team for this match at Lord's to-morrow was officially announced yesterday. There is no change from the names given in The Times yesterday except that it is definitely decided that Mr MacGregor shall keep wicket. The side will therefore be as follows . . . It is reported that Gunn has injured his knee, so that his place is a little doubtful.

Thursday 11 June, page 10: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions up to the present are as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	10	9	0	1	9
Yorkshire	9	6	0	3	6
Lancashire	5	4	1	0	3
Middlesex	3	2	1	0	1
Essex	2	1	1	0	0
Hampshire	2	1	1	0	0
Nottinghamshire	4	1	2	1	-1
Leicestershire	4	1	3	0	-2
Somerset	5	1	3	1	-2
Gloucestershire	6	1	3	2	-2
Warwickshire	6	1	3	2	-2
Derbyshire	5	1	4	0	-3
Sussex	5	0	3	2	-3
Kent	4	0	4	0	-4

Losses are deducted from wins and drawn games ignored.

Thursday 11 June, page 10: M.C.C. AND GROUND v THE AUSTRALIANS

The great match between the M.C.C. and the Australians at Lord's, which should begin to-day, promises to have for its declaration a wicket not much better than that of 1878, when the first Australian team vanquished Marylebone in a day. Except that Martin will play, and not Davidson, the M.C.C. side is the same as already given in *The Times*.

11 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4548.html)

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

On the slow wicket at Cambridge yesterday the cricket was dull and at the close the position remained even, the University being 20 runs behind with a wicket to fall. Mr Gray bowled extremely well for the Light Blues, while when Cambridge went in Mr Wilson and Mr M'Hemingway alone seemed able to make much headway against Mr Woods, who up to the present has taken seven wickets for 47. Stumps were drawn earlier than usual owing to the boat-races.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 June, page 15)

At Fenner's Ground, Cambridge, yesterday, the University beat Somerset by ten wickets. The county eleven, after finishing with a slight advantage on the first innings, did so badly before the bowling of Mr Gray and Mr Wilson that the side was out for 68. Cambridge, by the aid of Mr Grace and Mr Burnup, rapidly got the 80 necessary to win, and a dull match ended as already recorded.

11 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4549.html)

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

The Marylebone Club have at last revenged themselves on the Australians, by whom they were got out in 1878 for 19. With Mr Giffen indisposed after sending down nine overs for 22 runs in the early hours of the game the Australians had to bat one short; but it will be remembered that the M.C.C. actually got out the 1896 Australian team for 18 runs long after details are forgotten.

Yesterday's cricket was an experience of a lifetime. It witnessed a great M.C.C. eleven make 219, in itself a wonderful feat for a very false itch, and then dismiss their opponents in an hour for 18. To Pougher belongs the honour of what must be almost a record in bowling in a big match. He was put on at 18, when three Australians had gone, and in less than half an hour the innings collapsed without the addition of a run. Pougher bowled three overs (three maidens) for five wickets. The turf, no doubt, helped his medium pace to some extent, but he started in a way that made the Australians think all the elements of cricket against them by bringing off a splendid return catch. In the historical match of 1878, when Mr Boyle and Mr Spofforth got out the M.C.C. for 19 runs, the former took five wickets for three.

The Australians have at last been checked, and after seven victories and two drawn games their tenth match promises them nothing else than defeat, even though we remember all their tradition capacity for an uphill fight, for there are 176 behind with two wickets gone in the second innings.

This match at Lord's was naturally looked to as one more likely to test their merits than any that had preceded it. With two or three exceptions the M.C.C. was practically All England, and under unfavourable conditions it acquitted itself well. Mr Stoddart and Mr Jackson are perhaps the two finest cricketers on indifferent wickets that we have, and yesterday they set the other members of the side a good standard for the proper method to play on the false pitch, on which the bowlers were breaking the ball almost as they liked. Both men had some luck, and the few mistakes in the Australian field were almost irreparable. Considerable help towards placing the M.C.C. in a most powerful position was given by Gunn, who made a useful 39.

The M.C.C. made one alteration in their original plan, which was to play Martin if the wicket proved soft; but Davidson, having a reputation for successful batting on bad wickets, was put in the team at the last minute. As everyone expected, the wicket was soft and treacherous, and got worse as they day went on and the sun became hot, so that winning the toss was a matter of more than ordinary importance. No one could have bowled much better than Mr Trumble did, and the men at the other end also did well. Mr Giffen's indisposition was a severe handicap to the side, but when he was taken off the M.C.C. were fast getting set for a big score. There was an attendance at Lord's of about 12,000 people, and the pavilion presented an appearance succeeding as it does as the Universities' and Schools' matches.

Under the existing conditions winning the toss gave the M.C.C. a considerable advantage. Grace and Stoddart each found some difficulty in timing the ball from Giffen and Trumble. After 23 had been scored Grace was bowled. Ranjitsinhji came near to losing his wicket almost directly, and would have done so had Iredale not returned the ball to the wrong end. Stoddart made a fine hit in front of square-leg, sending the ball among the people in front of the tavern. Ranjitsinhji was out, bowled, in hitting over a ball from Trumble, and two wickets had so far gone for 39.

With Jackson and Stoddart partners the cricket grew bright. M'Kibbin's slows were tried at Giffen's end at 47; but Stoddart made two very fine strokes from them, one a four by an off-drive and another a three. Soon after passing the 60 the Englishmen were treated generously by the Australians, as Kelly at wicket missed catching Stoddart and should have easily stumped Jackson, while Stoddart had an easy life at the hands of Graham. As half-past 1 approached the spectators began to watch closely for the total of 100 and the 50 of Stoddart, which things were recorded after the match had been in progress about 85 minutes. Stoddart when he had made 54 was almost stumped from Trott, and in the next over from the same bowler he ran out to hit, and this time, failing to get back, was easily stumped. The Jackson-Stoddart stand had lasted an hour, during which 76 runs were made. Stoddart hit five fours.

The third wicket fell at 117; but with Gunn in there was a lively ten minutes before luncheon, during which 20 were added. Gunn made 16 of these, in which were one drive and two cuts for four each.

Both men started hitting after luncheon and 22 were rapidly added. Then Jackson, who had made one great drive to the boundary, gave Trumble a hard return catch, which was just held. Jackson had made 51 in an hour and a half. Four wickets were down for 159. MacGregor was soon bowled, and Davidson stayed for a few overs also without scoring, so that six wickets went for 166. Merchant made a few good hits and Gunn played very strongly. With several drives and also a four on the leg side he advanced the score rapidly. Trumble and M'Kibbin bowled extremely well and the latter at last got out Gunn. Gunn played fine cricket for an hour.

Merchant tried to force the game and made a couple of fine drives, but after staying until the 200 went up he too was bowled. Under the influence of the sun the wicket had become worse and worse, and to time the ball accurately was almost an impossibility. Attewell and Hearne were soon bowled, and by 4 o'clock the innings was over for 219. Trumble had bowled extremely well; he was off for only eight overs and his six wickets cost 14 runs each.

It was 20 minutes past 4 when the Australians went in. The order was varied from that lately observed, and Kelly, who came off at Wembley Park, started first with Graham. Hearne and Attewell were the bowlers. Graham made a late cut for four, but then played on, the score being eight. Trott cut Attewell for four and got a single at each end, but then Hearne completely beat him, and the score was still 14 when Gregory also fell to the skill of Hearne, the ball breaking back and hitting the top of the wicket.

With Iredale in [Kelly] made four from Attewell by an off-drive, and this proved the last score of the innings, for with 18 up and only three men out not a run more was obtained. Pougher came on for Attewell at 18, and from his first ball he held a wonderful return catch, crossing the wicket and taking the ball low down and wide out with his right hand, while with his next ball he bowled out Hill. Then in Hearne's over Iredale's off stump was sent down, while after a maiden from each end Pougher got the last three wickets in his third over – Trumble played on, Eady was bowled first ball and [M'Kibbin] gave Davidson an easy catch at mid-on. Giffen was absent. Six wickets had fallen in 25 minutes without the scoring of a run.

Pougher's bowling figures were extraordinary, and his analysis of three overs came out thus:-

W W . . - - . W W W

[Note: this shows a hat trick, which is not mentioned, and the final over contains only four balls, so

it may be that McKibbin was out second ball.]

Pougher had an enthusiastic reception from the crowd. Hearne, too, had bowled very finely, as his figures show.

In the follow-on against 201 the Australians began badly, for Hearne clean bowled both Graham and Kelly, the second wicket going down at eight. Kelly was in 20 minutes without scoring. Gregory and Trott could make little headway and were often beaten, while the former, further, had a narrow escape of being run out. At the close the Australians were 176 behind with eight wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 June, page 15)

The Australians' first reverse is severe and will be the more keenly felt coming as it does after a succession of seven victories, broken only by the two drawn games at Sheffield Park and Eastbourne. Just before 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon the Marylebone Club beat the Australians by an innings and 18 runs in a match which will become historical by the small score of 18 made by the Australians, by the wonderful piece of bowling by Pougher, whose record analysis was five wickets for no runs, and by the fine skill shown by J T Hearne, of Middlesex, perhaps the best bowler on all wickets that we have at the present time.

To Hearne yesterday belonged the honour of getting all the Australians out in the second innings. Mr George Giffen, although in improved health, did not feel sufficiently well [even to] endeavour to save his side from an innings defeat. The performance of Hearne's yesterday is tantamount to the dismissal of a whole side. He bowled splendidly all through, and his first seven wickets were taken in 26 overs (14 maidens) for 28 runs; his last two cost 45. Gunn, unfortunately, missed Mr Darling when the latter was 14, and the error cost the M.C.C. much trouble and almost enabled the visitors to escape an innings defeat. Hearne's full analysis amounted to 13 wickets for 77 runs.

If the M.C.C. won perhaps less easily than was expected, the day's cricket was made excellent by the fine form of Mr Darling, who is a left-hand batsman of much merit. Occasionally he was beaten by Hearne, but his 76 was a very fine achievement. After the application of the big roller yesterday morning the pitch steadily improved. The Australians made an effort to retrieve their fallen fortunes of Thursday; but the stand of 112 by Mr Darling and Mr Eady came too late to make the game at all even. It was another splendid day and there were about 5,000 spectators of the finish.

The first half-hour yesterday morning did not promise an extension of the match into the afternoon. Overnight the Australians had made 25 towards the arrears of 201 on the first innings at the cost of two wickets. In the course of 25 minutes four more wickets fell for an addition of eight runs. There were all to Hearne's bowling. MacGregor brought off one fine catch at wicket, low down on the off side; Hill was bowled in playing back; Iredale completely lost the second ball sent him; and Trumble was also bowled. So six wickets were down for 33. Gregory, who played very steadily, and Darling slowly raised the score to 62, when MacGregor, by bringing off another very good catch at wicket, sent back Gregory, who had been in an hour and a half for his 28.

With Giffen's declaration not to go in there were only two wickets left and the end seemed near. But for the next two hours Darling and Eady kept together. Eady took a long time to settle down and, after being beaten several times, got his first run at the end of half an hour. His steadiness continued, whereas Darling made a great many fine strokes. When the partnership had lasted an

hour 54 had been added, after which Hearne, who had bowled for two hours, was rather severely hit, and at 118 Grace at last took him off and put on Attewell. Davidson, Pougher and Grace all had a turn at the other end; but at luncheon time the score was 140.

Afterwards Grace bowled a good deal without success at the nursery end, but at 170 gave way to Attewell. Hearne had resumed at his old end, and at last, at 174, he got Eady splendidly caught at point by Grace from a hard cut. In the two hours of the partnership 112 were added. Nine runs later Darling skied the ball to third man, and the innings came to an end. Darling was batting two and three-quarter hours for his 76. His score included eight fours, three threes and seven twos. The M.C.C. won by an innings and 18 runs.

J T HEARNE'S BOWLING. — By his feat at Lord's yesterday, J T Hearne increased his aggregate for the season to 103 wickets, he being the first of the great bowlers to run into three figures.

11 June: SURREY v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4550.html)

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

The best thing in yesterday's cricket at Kennington Oval, when Surrey established a big advantage, was the fine hitting in the last hour of the day by Mr Walter Read and George Lohmann, who put on 90 runs and were still together at the drawing of stumps. It was this long stand that placed Surrey in the strong position occupied by them at the end of the day, when, with five men in hand, they were already 147 ahead.

Hampshire's innings, which occupied rather more than the first two hours, was very dull and yielded only 58 runs. The pitch was soft; but, in spite of the sun, it rapidly improved. Surrey's fielding was very close and the bowling good, although the turf at first was too wet to enable Richardson to get a footing. When Surrey went in four men were lost for 52; but Lockwood and Mr Read added 63 for the fifth partnership.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 June, page 15)

At Kennington Oval, yesterday, the wicket was all in favour of the bowlers, and Surrey followed up the advantage gained on the first day by beating Hampshire by an innings and 114 runs.

Mr Read and Lohmann, who had put together 90 for the sixth wicket overnight, were soon separated; but even the Surrey batting was dull yesterday and over an hour was taken to complete the innings for an addition of 39 runs. Mr Read hit a five and ten fours, and Lohmann, who took out his bat, scored eight fours and three threes. The Read and Lohmann partnership yielded altogether 96 runs. On the treacherous pitch Hampshire fared very badly against the bowling and fielding of Surrey.

11 June: WARWICKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4551.html)

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

Warwickshire fared badly against the Lancashire bowlers on the uncertain turf at Edgbaston, Birmingham, yesterday, and although their opponents' score was not more than 168, only just saved the follow-on by a single.

For Lancashire Mr Rowley played an excellent and steady innings of 65, made without an error. He went in first and was seventh out at 141; his best hits were seven fours, a three and five twos. Warwickshire were out for 49. At present the Lancastrians are 135 ahead with ten wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 June, page 15)

Yesterday's cricket at Birmingham had for its characteristic the fine batting of the Lancastrians, whose innings lasted about five and a half hours and yielded 317 runs. Mr Rowley, who had come off in the first innings, again did well, while he and Albert Ward met with so much success that 128 were made before the first wicket fell. Mr Rowley hit five and Ward eight fours. Paul got his runs rather quicker than usual and made nine fours. Paul and Sugg added 63 for the third wicket.

Warwickshire were left with 437 to make to win, and they did so badly that they lost four wickets for 56, so that at the finish there was not much promise of their averting defeat to-day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 June, page 9)

At Birmingham on Friday night the Warwickshire eleven were in a very bad position, for with four wickets lost in the second innings they still required 381 to win. Law and Lilley played very good cricket on Saturday, but Mold and Briggs were too strong for most of the other batsmen. So the end was quickly reached, and Lancashire gained the victory by 293 runs.

11 June: YORKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4552.html)

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

It was a bowlers' day at Park-avenue, Bradford, yesterday, and there was little batting of any excellence. Perhaps the best innings was the 40 by Mr Perrin for Essex. This batsman has quickly established a reputation this season in first-class cricket.

In spite of a good innings by Tunnicliffe, Yorkshire were 29 behind on the first innings, a fact that was chiefly attributable to the successful bowling of young Mr Bull, of Essex. But the visitors did so badly in the second attempt that Yorkshire finished in the better position. Essex, indeed, are only 77 on with three wickets to fall.

Yorkshire were without several of their best men. Mr Jackson was away at Lord's, and Hunter, Peel and Moorhouse were also absent.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 June, page 15)

Yorkshire beat Essex at Bradford yesterday by seven wickets. The turf had helped the bowlers so much on the first day that there was no judging how the second stage of the match would go, although Essex, with only three men left, were not in a very strong position.

And as yesterday these three men added but seven runs, Yorkshire had only 85 to get to win. Wainwright bowled very well, and his full analysis for the match showed a record of 14 wickets for 77. The second Yorkshire innings was marked by the fine play of Tunnicliffe, who got his runs in 50 minutes and contributed nine fours.

Monday 15 June, page 9: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Both Yorkshire and Surrey won a match last week, though the fixture between the two was spoilt by the bad weather and was not played out, so that there is no change in the relative positions of the shires who are making such a hard fight for the championship. Lancashire, at present third, are playing very good cricket, although a keen analysis of the relative merits of the side would make them out to be below Surrey and Yorkshire in general excellence.

To-day Surrey take the same eleven to Leicester that won the Hampshire match so easily; but the side may be slightly changed for the big game with Lancashire at Old Trafford at the end of the week. Yorkshire play their second match with the Australians at Headingley, Leeds; and on Thursday they also have a game with Leicestershire at Leicester.

There is much other county cricket in the south during the next few days. The Tonbridge week comprises Kent v Middlesex and Kent v Sussex . . .

W Chatterton, the all-round Derbyshire cricketer, takes the profits of the match Notts v Derbyshire, beginning to-day, for his benefit. Chatterton originally joined the ground staff at Lord's as a bowler; but he soon developed his batting. The present results of the county championship are as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	11	10	0	1	10
Yorkshire	10	7	0	3	7
Lancashire	6	5	1	0	4
Middlesex	3	2	1	0	1
Essex	3	1	2	0	-1
Hampshire	3	1	2	0	-1
Nottinghamshire	4	1	2	1	-1
Leicestershire	4	1	3	0	-2
Somerset	5	1	3	1	-2
Gloucestershire	6	1	3	2	-2
Warwickshire	7	1	4	2	-3
Derbyshire	5	1	4	0	-3
Sussex	5	0	3	2	-3
Kent	4	0	4	0	-4

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

THE AUSTRALIANS

The Australians, who met with disaster at Lord's last Thursday and Friday, play their second match with Yorkshire on the Headingley Ground, Leeds, to-day. At the end of the week the Australians are in Birmingham for a match with a Midland Counties side. Their record up to the present is – seven wins, one loss, two drawn games.

Tuesday 15 June, page 7: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE COUNTY CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - The entertaining history of this competition is pleasantly exemplified by the table which you publish to-day, showing the present positions of the competing counties.

The "Championship" was, I believe, the invention of sporting reporters, and by some means or other it came to be the practice that nothing "counted" except defeats. The county which had lost fewest matches was champion county, next fewest second, and so on. After some years it was found that this encouraged dull play and unfinished matches. One county in particular, which often appeared at the head of the list, acquired an unenviable notoriety for its frequently successful efforts not to finish matches in which it was likely to be beaten. Eventually, if I remember rightly, they purposely dropped catches (which may have been purposely hit up to them), so as to postpone or avoid the necessity of going in a second time for a score they could not hope to make.

Therefore some irresponsible and undefined persons succeeded in altering the rule. They established a new method, which was that of "deducting losses from wins," and the county that in this way got most points was the champion. This worked well enough until, I think, 1895, when a number of new counties were admitted to the description "first-class." This mad so many first-class counties that they could not all play each other, and simply "deducting losses from wins" became liable to produce anomalies, or so it was considered.

The M.C.C. then took the matter in hand, recognized the "championship," and evolved the singular and very complicated rule now prevailing. Losses are deducted from wins as before, but the number of points does not decide the order of the counties, which depends upon "the proportion of points to finished games." I doubt whether the M.C.C. quite foresaw how this would work.

It is, in fact, a return to the old system of counting losses only, with one modification. All a county has to do is to win one match and not lose any, and it must be champion. Its number of finished games is 1. Its number of points is (1 win – 0 losses =) 1. The proportion of 1 to 1 is 1, which is the highest possible. The modification of the system of counting losses only is that by the present rule it is necessary, in order to get the highest possible score, to win one game, whereas 20 years ago a county would have been at the head of the list if it had managed never to finish a match at all.

Now let us see how the new rule works in practice. At the head of the list are Lancashire, Essex and Nottinghamshire, each of which has the proportion 1. Next come Yorkshire and Surrey, one-third of the way down the scale of possible proportions, with 6. But the points are Lancashire 5, Yorkshire and Surrey each 4, Essex and Notts each 1. Yorkshire and Surrey have each won five

matches and only lost one. Essex and Notts have won one each, but have lost none, Essex having drawn four and Notts three.

I do not know whether, in the opinion of cricketers, the achievements of Essex and Notts are really half as meritorious again as those of Yorkshire and Surrey; but I think these facts establish absolutely my proposition that a county which can win a match before it loses one is back in the position which the common sense of somebody found intolerable a good many years ago, and is under the same inducement as before to play at all hazards for a draw whenever it seems impossible to win.

I am, sir, your obedient servant.

June 12. SPECTATOR

15 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v M.C.C. AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4553.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 June, page 14)

Marylebone sent a fairly good side to Cambridge yesterday for the match with the University, and in their team were to be found a couple of aspirants for “blues” – Mr J H Stogdon, the Harrow batsman, and Mr Shine, the bowler who came off for Kent last week at Lord’s. Fenner’s Ground was at its best yesterday, and the University gave a splendid display of batting on a pitch which would have made any bowling appear simple.

The best thing in the day was the fine batting of Mr Burnup, who scored his 95 in two and a half hours and hit nine fours and three threes. He and Mr Marriott put on 107 for the second wicket. The batsmen who followed all did well. Mr Druce played excellently. Mr Wilson and Mr M’G Hemingway scored 53 in eight overs, and Mr Mitchell and Mr Wilson put on 106 in 100 minutes for the sixth wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 June, page 13)

At Fenner’s, Cambridge, yesterday, K S Ranjitsinhji played his fourth three-figure innings in first-class cricket of the season. His game was marked by all his well-known brilliancy, and he scored his 146 in three hours and a half, hitting 15 fours, 11 threes and 12 twos. He and Albert Trott made 99 for the second M.C.C. wicket, and he and Mr Hornsby 128 for the fourth. Dr W G Grace, it may be noted, was out to a very fine catch in the slips. In spite of the University’s big score there was only a difference of 58 between the innings.

The conclusion of the Cambridge innings at the beginning of the day was marked by the vigour of Mr Jessop, who obtained his 21 in six hits. Mr Wilson’s 78 was characterized by that excellence of defence which made him celebrated at Uppingham.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 June, page 12)

After the heavy scoring of the first two days, which were occupied with an innings of each side, it was not surprising that this match at Cambridge ended in a draw. The best thing in yesterday’s cricket was the fine batting of two or three of the Cambridge men, notably Mr C J Burnup, who once more after running well into the nineties failed to reach 100. His chief partners were Mr Druce, Mr Wilson and Mr Hemingway. Mr Burnup made his runs without a fault, and hit nine fours, six threes and 13 twos, while Mr Hemingway scored eight fours.

Cambridge put the M.C.C. in for a couple of hours to make 277 to win, and seven men were lost for 163. Over 1,100 runs were obtained in the three days.

15 June: DERBYSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4554.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 June, page 14)

The play in Chatterton's benefit match at Derby yesterday was marked by a great not-out innings of 137 by William Gunn, who made his runs out of the 345 scored by Notts for six wickets during the day. Chatterton is one of the best cricketers Derbyshire ever possessed. Apart from his batting he is a good change bowler.

Yesterday's cricket was played on a fine, hard wicket, and the visitors made the most of their chances. Gunn, who went in first wicket down at 31, obtained his hundred in two hours and three-quarters; but afterwards he played with more freedom. His best partners were Attewell, who helped to add 151 in two hours for the fourth wicket, and Mr Dixon, who made 50 out of 75 in 45 minutes for the sixth. Mr Dixon played very fine cricket and hit seven fours. Derbyshire fielded well.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 June, page 13)

Play at Derby did in Chatterton's benefit match was limited to about two and a half hours, for the weather was stormy and there were sundry interruptions. Gunn, who is in splendid form this season, by beautifully finished cricket managed to take out his bat for 207, this being the fourth 200 innings of the year.

Overnight his figures were 157, and he was only enabled to reach his second hundred by the assistance rendered him for the last wicket by Hardstaff, who helped to add 108. Gunn was batting in all about seven hours, and hit a six, 17 fours, eight threes and 28 twos. After Nottinghamshire were out there came another storm, and the game for the day was abandoned.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 June, page 12)

There was no play at Derby yesterday, owing to the rain, until 4 o'clock, by which time the wicket had grown treacherous and Hardstaff's left-hand medium-pace bowling had a wonderful effect against Derbyshire. He took eight wickets for 53 runs, and Derbyshire played their innings through in about two hours and a quarter. Hardstaff is the best bowler Nottinghamshire has produced for some time, but he has a rather cur action in delivering the ball.

Derbyshire's batting constituted the whole of yesterday's cricket, and the interference by rain on two of the days was a piece of ill-fortune for Chatterton, whose benefit match it was. Mr Evershed played well, hitting a six and three fours, and while he and Mr Wright were together there was just a chance of Derbyshire's making a fairly good score. The match, however, was drawn.

15 June: KENT v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4555.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 June, page 14)

The fine cricket of Mr Rashleigh and Mr Mason, who between them rapidly contributed 229 to the Kent score of 257, placed their county in an advantageous position on the first day of the Tonbridge week. With the exception of three instances, the bowlers yesterday had the upper hand.

There was scarcely a false stroke in Mr Rashleigh's innings, while his hitting was in no sense reckless. He went in first wicket down at two and was fourth out at 233, having made 163. This number had taken him two hours and a half to get, and comprised 25 fours, four threes and 11 twos. He and Mr Mason put on 199 for the second wicket in two hours. The Old Winchester captain also batted well and made nine fours in his 66. After two wickets had gone for 201 the Kent innings collapsed. Hearne did a fine piece of bowling after luncheon – 18 overs (11 maidens), 23 runs, six wickets.

In spite of Mr Stoddart and Mr Hayman making 45 in half an hour, Middlesex fared badly against good Kent bowling, and at the finish were 115 for six wickets, or 142 behind. There was a good attendance, and the town and ground were decorated in honour of the week.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 June, page 13)

Middlesex were fighting an uphill game almost throughout yesterday. When five Kent wickets had gone in the second innings for 108 they seemed to get on terms with their opponents; but the partnership of Easby and Mr Weigall again turned the game, and when stumps were drawn last night they had a big task before them, since with three wickets lost they still require 340 runs to win.

The second day of the Tonbridge festival was splendidly fine, and under the best conditions there were 6,000 spectators of the play. Middlesex in the first hour of the day did much to reduce the unevenness of Monday night, for by the aid of Sir T C O'Brien, Dr Thornton, Phillips and Hearne 71 were added to the overnight score.

After a splendid start to the Kent second innings by Mr Mason and Alec Hearne – 83 were made in an hour for the first wicket – the game changed. J T Hearne performed the "hat trick," bowling out Mr Rashleigh, Mr Marchant and Mr Simpson with successive balls. Mr Weigall and Easby, however, made a stand of 118 for the sixth partnership, and both played very fine cricket; Easby hit nine and Mr Weigall, who was ninth out, seven fours.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 June, page 12)

The first match of the popular Tonbridge Week ended yesterday with a draw. This was caused by the bad weather, with actually limited yesterday's cricket to a quarter of an hour, during which Middlesex, who had to make 340 to win with their last seven wickets, added 23 to their overnight score. Mr Stoddart and Mr Hayman made some good hits, but the bowlers and fieldsmen were handicapped by the wet ball. Lord Harris presided on Tuesday night at a successful smoking

concert held in connexion with the week.

15 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4556.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 June, page 14)

Not for the first time have the Surrey eleven found the game go very badly for them at Leicester, any yesterday the home side preserved the traditions of this match by playing a very hard game. The pitch was not quite true, and the great pace of Woodcock was the chief reason for the failure of the Surrey batsmen.

By careful cricket Leicestershire did fairly well before luncheon and made 96 for the loss of three men. Afterwards there came something of a collapse, although things were much improved by the steadiness of Tomlin, and the total amounted to 170. Curiously, the regular Surrey bowlers did nothing very much.

To begin with, Surrey had a terrible three-quarters of an hour and lost five men for 42 runs. In Woodcock's 10 there were six balls, and from the last of these Abel was out. When the game was running so badly for Surrey there came some good batting by Mr Read, Hayward and Lohmann, and at the finish Surrey were 61 behind with three wickets to fall. A side such as Surrey can perhaps well afford a handicap on the first innings.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 June, page 13)

Leicestershire are playing Surrey in a splendid match at Leicester, and the game now stands in an even position – that is, considering the condition of the pitch – Surrey still wanting 95 to win with eight wickets to fall. Hayward and Wood were the chief contributors in the morning to the reduction of Leicestershire's advantage. Woodcock, the home fast bowler, had a fine analysis.

When Leicestershire went in a second time Pougher and Knight added 40 and Tomlin and Geeson 38. These were the best partnerships, but the finest cricket was that of Pougher and Tomlin, more especially the former's. Surrey, who wanted 162 to win, lost Hayward and Brockwell for 13 runs. Abel and Street, however, aided by a shower to make the pitch easy, improved matters . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 June, page 12)

The rain befriended Surrey yesterday at Leicester, for though it delayed the game it made the wicket easy, and both the bowlers and the field were handicapped. Up to the close of Monday's play the pitch was all against the batsmen, and Woodcock's great pace told severely when Surrey were in. As 95 more runs were wanted by the visitors and two good wickets had gone there was a chance that Leicestershire might win. Surrey, however, were victorious by four wickets, and the runs were got with six or seven minutes to spare.

Most of the credit for Surrey's ultimate success belonged to Abel and Street, who, going in yesterday after the rain, increased their total to 96 in two hours and a quarter. Abel played steadily, but Street was slightly more free. When five men were out for 121 there was a shower, and eventually 41 had to be made in 40 minutes, and when Lohmann came in there were 18 to get in 16 minutes. Lohmann and Mr Read, however, quickly accomplished the task. Surrey thus won a fine

match by four wickets.

15 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4557.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 June, page 14)

The cricket at Lord's yesterday was even and not remarkable. Two innings were played and Warwickshire secured a lead of 26. Marylebone had not a very good side, and considering their weakness in bowling they were fortunate to be rid of the Warwickshire batsmen for 185.

Their own innings extended well into the afternoon, and it had for its feature the vigorous play of Bean, who scored his 68 out of 126, and was fourth to leave; his best hits were ten fours, two threes and four twos. The longest partnership was the between him and Whitehead, when 61 were added for the third wicket.

The runs of the county were well distributed through the team. Law and W G Quaife played very well, and after four men had gone for 69 Diver and Lilley by good batting obtained 48. When the ninth Warwickshire wicket went at 151 it seemed probable that the M.C.C. would finish with an advantage, but Pallett and Whitehead added 34, and it was just 7 o'clock when the last man left. Mr Maude's slow bowling, if expensive, was successful, and six wickets fell to it for 90 runs. There was a good attendance.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 June, page 13)

The Warwickshire eleven, after a steady day's cricket at Lord's yesterday, beat the M.C.C. by seven wickets. Yesterday the club were batting in the second innings from half-past 11 until well after luncheon, and scored 183. Whitehead and Mr Stone made 53 by some capital cricket for the fifth partnership, and Handford and Butt put on 42 for the tenth, and in the end Warwickshire had to make 158 to win.

This number occupied them from a quarter to 4 until about a quarter past 6. Steadiness marked the batting. Mr Bainbridge scored 41 of the first 62 runs, and afterwards there was a long stand by Quaife and Welford, who added 81. Quaife played a very sound game but it was rather slow to watch.

15 June: SOMERSET v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4558.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 June, page 14)

In the rather more than three hours to which yesterday's cricket day at Taunton was curtailed by a severe thunderstorm late in the afternoon, Somerset established a big advantage by making 214 for the loss of five wickets. The rain which fell is sure to have anything but a beneficial effect on what was originally a hard and true pitch.

The men who did most for Somerset were Mr Woods, the captain, and Mr Lionel Palairet. When the game came to an abrupt ending Mr Palairet was not out 93, so that there is every probability of his getting his 100 to-day. He seemed to have a life at wicket when at 55, but apart from this his game was free from error. Mr Trask and Mr Palairet put on 73 while they were together, but the finest cricket of the day occurred during the Palairet and Woods partnership. After four wickets had fallen for 103, this stand yielded 94 in less than an hour. Mr Woods played a hard, forcing game and made a drive out of the ground for six, five fours and five threes in his 59.

The rainstorm was so severe that in 20 minutes the ground in several places was under water. Mr Hill and Captain Hedley are away from Somerset, and Captain Wynyard was unable to help Hampshire.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 June, page 13)

The cricket at Taunton was again much interfered with by weather yesterday. In this instance the play was limited to less than two hours, the rain coming on at a quarter past 1 and, although it soon ceased, there was neither wind nor sun to dry the pitch.

Somerset added 123 to their overnight score at the cost of four more wickets, and no doubt this morning they will close their innings. The feature of most interest yesterday was the batting of Mr Lionel Palairet, who increased his innings to 147 and is still not out. Much more care than usual marked his game and he has so far taken five hours to get his runs. Tyler hit hard and Mr Sturt helped to add 52 for the eighth wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 June, page 12)

The rain, which interfered so much with the first two days' play in this match at Taunton, prevented the bowling of a ball yesterday, and the game was left drawn, Somerset having obtained 337 in the first innings for nine wickets. Mr Lionel Palairet's chief hits in his 147 were 13 fours, five threes and ten twos, and he was batting about five hours . . .

15 June: YORKSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4559.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 June, page 14)

It would seem almost that the Australians and Yorkshire are not to get a good, hard, true wicket on which to play their matches with one another. At Sheffield in Whitsun week the ground was fiery and false; yesterday, at Headingley, Leeds, it was slow, and the batsmen found the pace of the ball far different from what of late they have been used to, while the bowlers were also able to get some work on.

As the day went there was not a great deal to choose between the sides, Yorkshire finishing 48 behind with three wickets to fall. The batting in the early part of the day was almost painfully slow, for the Australians, after losing Mr Graham in the fourth over, took only a little less than an hour to score 15 runs. Then came an improvement. Mr Gregory once again showed himself a high-class forcing bat at a pinch, and he made 59 by fine cricket in 90 minutes; his best hits were six fours, five threes and six twos. Mr Donnan, after being in an hour for four, helped Mr Gregory to add 36 runs, and when five wickets had gone for 71 runs Mr Gregory and Mr Hill put on 43. Hirst bowled very well and the Yorkshire fielding was close.

Mr Jackson and several others of the home side played very different cricket when Yorkshire started, but their efforts were not followed up. Mr Jackson and Brown hit hard and 39 were made in the first half hour; but when Mr Jones went on the batsmen fell rapidly, and Denton was twice let off by short-stop. So far Mr Jones's five wickets have cost 28 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 June, page 13)

Except for the consideration of the 7,000 people assembled at Headingley, Leeds, yesterday there would probably have been no cricket on the second day of this match. After heavy rain about midday and subsequent showers a start was made. And after all there was only an hour's play. Yorkshire ought to have done batter with the ball cutting through the soft surface than to add only 12 runs for their last three men. Mr Jones bowled extremely well and came out with a fine analysis.

Mr Darling and Mr Graham forced the game for the Australians on the wet turf, and at the end the visitors were left with 67 runs to the good with nine wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 June, page 12)

Yesterday morning the Headingley Ground, Leeds, was so damaged by three and a half hours' heavy rain that at half-past 1 it was decided to abandon the match . . .

15 June: SURREY SECOND XI v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128987.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 June, page 14)

There was some remarkable scoring by the Surrey Second Eleven in this match at the Oval yesterday. Ayres and Smith each scored over 100, and 400 were on the board at one time with only two men out.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 June, page 13)

In this heavy scoring match at Kennington Oval the visitors yesterday just managed to escape defeat, the game being drawn . . .

Tuesday 16 June, page 14: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

The Marylebone Club executive discussed yesterday the team that should be chosen for England in this match at Lord's next Monday. About eight definite names will be announced on Wednesday; but some of the last few places will be left to fill on the morning of the match, the choice being dependent on the state of the ground.

Wednesday 17 June, page 13

No official information as to the England team for this match at Lord's next Monday is yet forthcoming. It is understood that K S Ranjitsinhji's qualification to play for England was discussed at Monday's meeting of the committee at Lord's, and it was decided that he could not well be asked.

The post of wicket-keeper would most likely fall to Lilley, of Warwickshire. Many good judges thought that either Mr MacGregor or Storer would, on the strength of their greater experience of the best English bowlers, have been selected. It is stated that the following are the nine certainties for the eleven, the remaining two places to remain open until Monday:- Dr W G Grace, Mr F S Jackson, Mr A E Stoddart, Abel, J T Hearne, Richardson, Lohmann, Hayward and Lilley.

Thursday 18 July, page 12

It is understood that J T Brown, of the Yorkshire team, has been asked by the M.C.C. to make one of the England side for the match with Australia next Monday, at Lord's.

The results up to the present are as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	12	11	0	1	11
Yorkshire	10	7	0	3	7
Lancashire	6	5	1	0	4
Middlesex	4	2	1	1	1
Essex	3	1	2	0	-1
Hampshire	4	1	2	1	-1
Nottinghamshire	5	1	2	2	-1
Somerset	6	1	3	2	-2
Gloucestershire	6	1	3	2	-2
Warwickshire	7	1	4	2	-3
Derbyshire	6	1	4	1	-3
Leicestershire	5	1	4	0	-3
Sussex	5	0	3	2	-3
Kent	5	0	4	1	-4

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

THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN

The Cambridge eleven has been definitely selected as follows:-

Mr F Mitchell, Mr N F Druce, Mr C E M Wilson, Mr W McG Hemingway, Mr H Gray, Mr W G Grace, jun., and Mr H H Marriott, all of whom played last year, and Mr C J Burnup, Mr G L Jessop, Mr E H Bray and Mr E B Shine. Of the four new "blues" three are Seniors, Mr G L Jessop the Gloucestershire bowler and hitter, being the only Freshman.

The days of the University match at Lord's are Thursday, Friday and Saturday, July 2, 3 and 4.

THE BRAMALL-LANE GROUND, SHEFFIELD. – At a meeting of the Sheffield United Cricket and Football Club yesterday, it was announced by Mr M J Ellison, the Yorkshire president, that four experts from different parts of the country would be called in to examine the ground and to give advice on the subject. Mr Ellison himself thought that the criticisms on the Bramall-lane wickets were very unjust.

18 June: KENT v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4560.html)

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

As at Canterbury the great social day of the Tonbridge Festival is the Thursday, and with everything favourable for the spectators, there was a very large gathering on the Angel Ground. The day's cricket was even until the last half-hour.

When two great teams get out for small scores it is natural to attribute it either to bad batting or to something untrue in the pitch. Yesterday there was a little of both in the course of the meagre run-getting. When Kent went in Alec Hearne and Mr Mason began well; but after they were separated a rapid dismissal of the side set in, and it was only a little vigour by Mr Mordaunt that raised the score to the scarcely respectable dimensions of 122. Tate and Parris shared the bowling honours, but the former had the better analysis.

In the first hour and a half after luncheon Sussex fared so badly before the bowling of Hearne and Mr Mason that eight men were out for 73. Mr Murdoch, who had been playing very steadily, was then joined by Tate, who proved an extremely useful partner. Once or twice Tate made a bad stroke through the slips, but at other times he drove hard. Mr Murdoch was always good. So the end was that this ninth partnership in the course of an hour put on 71 runs. Alec Hearne bowled very well. The best innings of the day was undoubtedly that of Mr Murdoch, who got his runs in two hours and hit six fours. Throughout the fielding was good.

Kent, who were 22 behind, had three-quarters of an hour's batting in the second innings, and did badly, their position at the finish showing them only 22 runs ahead with three of their best wickets gone.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 June, page 11)

The Tonbridge Week came to an end yesterday with the victory of Sussex over Kent by four wickets. But for some errors in the field, this result might have been closer. As it was, Sussex, in securing their first win of the season, owed much to Mr Arlington, whose vigorous 42, inclusive of eight fours, made after luncheon yesterday afternoon, had most to do with the turning of the game.

The match altogether was not one very favourable to batsmen, and for the second time yesterday there were several good analyses. Kent were actually in a bad way on Thursday night, for they were only 22 runs ahead and had lost three of their best wickets. And yesterday for an addition of eight three more men were dismissed. Subsequently Easby played very good cricket, and his 34 enabled Kent to put Sussex in to make 116 to win.

After four of the best wickets had gone for 46 runs there came the fine, vigorous play of Mr Arlington, who got his runs in three-quarters of an hour. Both he and Killick should have been caught at short-slip by Alec Hearne. The last-named and Parris each took ten wickets in the match; but Tate's double analysis of nine for 87 was the best bowling record.

18 June: LANCASHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4561.html)

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

The Surrey eleven had a very bad time at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday before the bowling of Mold, who, on the treacherous wicket, got eight of them out at a very small cost, while later in the day Lancashire almost doubled the visitors' score, and still at the finish had two men in hand.

Mold bowled at a great pace and his "break back" was too much for Surrey. His analysis came out thus: - 22 overs and a ball; 33 runs; eight wickets. Against such a side as Surrey this was a feat of which to be proud. There was absolutely nothing of note in the Surrey batting. Mr Key made some almost startling changes in his "order" and the wisdom of putting himself and Holland in so late as he did was very questionable.

The crowd, with its local sympathies, grew very enthusiastic at the way the game went, and their applause was very great when Mr E Rowley and Albert Ward by sound cricket passed the visitors' score without loss of wicket in the course of 80 minutes. Mr Rowley's aggregate of runs in five matches is now 221. The first partnership yielded 81 runs. Richardson, in his second spell of bowling, took three wickets – those of Mr Tindall, Briggs and I'Anson in one over. Frank Sugg and Baker made some good hits. The adjournment took place at 149 for eight wickets, when rain stopped the cricket for the day at a quarter past 5. There were over 10,000 people on the ground.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 June, page 11)

The great Surrey eleven were beaten at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, by three wickets. This result was only reached after a remarkable match.

Two of Surrey's best batsmen, in spite of the wicket, which was extremely bad, made a splendid beginning in the Surrey second innings by scoring nearly 100 for the first partnership; but thereafter the champion county's men failed lamentably before the bowling of Mold and Hallam, and the side, heavily weighted by their feebleness in the first innings, set their opponents what seemed like an easy task in the last spell of batting.

Even then the Surrey bowlers strove hard to save their side, but a dropped catch, perhaps, turned the game and Lancashire won. This Surrey v Lancashire match has almost invariably possessed something startling in its nature, yet after the bad position in which Surrey found themselves on Thursday night there were plenty of South country folk who expected to see them come out of the match triumphantly. Such was not to be, and now the friends of Surrey will be ready to blame the captain for the almost foolish order of going in on the first day. This defeat of Surrey creates a fresh interest in the county championship and leaves them hard pressed by Yorkshire, while Lancashire are now going strongly in the third position.

On Thursday evening the Lancastrians had made 149 for the loss of eight wickets against the first Surrey total of 78. The home side added only eight more runs to their score. There had been a great deal of rain during the night and this made the pitch very false, for the weather was bright and there were chances of the turf "caking."

Surrey had to face arrears of 79. But even with the turf growing every moment more difficult Abel and Brockwell gave a splendid display of batting. They obtained 50 runs in half an hour and in 80 min had made 96. They gained a complete mastery of the bowling and timed the ball with such a wonderful degree of accuracy that neither batsman made much mistake. Brockwell, however, left at 96, and then the game completely changed. Brockwell, who had played a superb forcing game, got 53 and hit six fours, five threes and five twos. At the interval Surrey were 33 runs ahead with nine wickets to fall.

During luncheon time the pitch had grown worse and afterwards the batting collapsed. Abel was in an hour and three-quarters, and his chief hits were ten fours. Such was the breakdown of Surrey that four wickets fell after luncheon for an addition of seven runs, and eight were down for 132. Up to this point Hallam since the adjournment had taken five wickets for four runs, while altogether after the interval the last nine Surrey batsmen were dismissed in an hour for 49. Hallam had a fine analysis, while actually he took his six wickets for 17 runs after luncheon. Mold also had a great aggregate for the match – namely, 12 for 101.

Lancashire had to make 83 to win. Surrey bowled and fielded keenly, and in spite of a stand by Mr Rowley and Paul the score was only 30 at the end of an hour for one wicket. Then came such a change that five men were out for 35. A serious error now occurred in the Surrey field, Mr Key missing Baker at mid-on. It was not an easy catch; but it should have been held. Baker profited much by his escape and batted steadily while Briggs forced the hitting. Thirty-six runs were added and the game was soon afterwards over. Lancashire were two hours and a quarter getting the runs necessary to win. There were 8,000 spectators.

18 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4562.html)

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

At Leicester yesterday the home eleven, by sundry mistakes in the field, nearly the whole of which were in the slips, greatly handicapped themselves, and the Yorkshiremen, profiting by these escapes, remained at the wickets all day and lost only five men for 397.

Brown, of Driffield, played very well, and in conjunction with Tunnicliffe and Mr Jackson made stands for the first and second wickets of 139 and 150. This second partnership lasted only 95 minutes. Brown, who was second out at 289, made his runs in three and three-quarter hours and hit two fives and 12 fours. He was badly missed at slip when 34, and Mr Jackson was let off in the same position at 56. Tunnicliffe hit ten fours and Mr Jackson nine.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 June, page 11)

Yorkshire earlier in the season established a record score at Birmingham in the match with Warwickshire, and yesterday, at Leicester, they made the second highest total of this year by obtaining 660 against the home county. Of these runs 397 were regarded overnight at the cost of five wickets.

Hirst was the chief contributor yesterday, and his 107 were secured in a couple of hours by two sixes, 15 fours and smaller hits. He and Denton put on 117, and he and Mr Milligan 78. About a dozen catches were dropped and most of these were off Woodcock's bowling. Apart from Tomlin, the Leicestershire batting was weak, and a follow-on against 495 took place.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 June, page 13)

The Leicestershire eleven were beaten by Yorkshire at Leicester on Saturday by an innings and 302 runs. They had followed on overnight against 495, and had lost one wicket for three runs.

They were three hours and a half in completing their batting on Saturday, their best features being the scores of Pougher, Knight and Tomlin. Bad fielding on Thursday and Friday did much to bring about this disaster to Leicestershire.

18 June: MIDDLESEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4563.html)

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

Middlesex scored heavily at Lord's yesterday and, keeping Gloucestershire in the field during the whole of cricketing hours, made 420 at the cost of eight batsmen. The honours were shared by three of the side – Mr Webbe, the captain, Dr Thornton and Mr Hayman.

Dr Thornton went in at the fall of the second wicket at 41. He was fifth out, stumped at 323, having made 161 out of the 282 added during his stay. His runs were got at the rate of about 50 an hour. From the time he went in Dr Thornton forced the game; though he, among many fine drives and leg hits, made sundry mistakes and had various escapes. But his play pleased the spectators and was profitable to his side, and there were 23 fours in his innings. The two big partnerships of the day were Hayman and Thornton and Thornton and Webbe. The former yielded 128 in 85 minutes and the latter 143 in 100 minutes. Mr Webbe is still not out and requires only 17 to run to three figures.

Middlesex are without Mr MacGregor; but Gloucestershire, with Mr G L Jessop, Mr M'G Hemingway and young Mr Grace, all of Cambridge, in their side, are stronger than usual. After the rain Lord's, with the renewal of the fine weather, looked at its best and there were about 6,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 June, page 11)

Although Gloucestershire were fighting an uphill game throughout yesterday at Lord's the cricket was thoroughly bright and seemed to be well enjoyed by the 6,000 spectators.

At the beginning of the day most of the interest was taken up by Mr A J Webbe's cricket. The Middlesex captain was within 17 of his 100 on Thursday night; but yesterday he got only a dozen more runs and was then caught at wicket. His innings extended over about three and a half hours. He hit nine fours, three threes and ten twos. Middlesex, who had obtained 420 overnight for eight wickets, completed their innings for 450.

The visitors were all out in two and a quarter hours for 143. The sole feature of the innings was the play of Dr Grace, who, going in first, was seventh of leave at 124 for 60, a very good innings, inclusive of nine fours. He and Board put on 50 in half an hour for the seventh partnership. An event in the innings was the beautiful catch in the long-field that got out Mr Jessop; Mr Stoddart, running hard from the long field and taking the ball sideways. Phillips had bowled so well that his seven wickets averaged only a fraction over 11 runs each.

Gloucestershire had to follow on against 307, and in their second attempt the two Graces made a fine start, scoring 71 in 55 minutes. Dr W G Grace was second out at 105, having made 56 in an hour and a quarter and only being out to a fine catch at long-on. There was other hard hitting by Captain Luard and Wrathall, and at the finish Gloucestershire, with four wickets left, were 117 behind.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 June, page 13)

Middlesex beat Gloucestershire at Lord's on Saturday by an innings and 77 runs, a result which every one must have expected after the way the game had gone on the first two days. On Friday evening the Western eleven, with only four wickets left, still wanted 117 to save defeat by an innings.

Saturday's play was bright and brief. Mr Townsend and Board made some good hits and added 30 in 20 minutes, but then in the course of a few overs the last four men were got out. Mr Townsend played some capital cricket for his 41 and Board, who was cleverly caught at slip, hit hard for 16. For the second time in the match Phillips's slows came off, and he had an analysis for the two innings of 13 wickets for 187 runs.

18 June: MIDLAND COUNTIES v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4564.html)

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

Some fine bowling by Hulme, of Derbyshire, and the splendid stand by Gunn and William Quaife led to the substantial advantage which the Midland Counties established at Edgbaston, Birmingham, yesterday. When the day's cricket finished the home side was 30 runs ahead with seven wickets to fall.

Originally the Australians' fixture at Birmingham was with the Gentlemen of England, but with so much county cricket in progress the match with a Midland Counties' team was wisely substituted. There were 5,000 or 6,000 spectators of the cricket.

On an improving wicket the Australians, who were without Mr Giffen and Mr Trumble, actually lost seven men for 53; six of these were dismissed for 23 by Hulme. But when things were going very badly for the Australians Mr Eady, aided by Mr Kelly and Mr Jones, added 30 and 55 for the eighth and ninth wickets. The ninth partnership yielded 55 runs in 35 minutes. Mr Eady, who went in sixth wicket down at 45, was last out for 41.

In the Midland Counties' batting the great feature was the stand of an hour and three-quarters for the third wicket by Gunn and William Quaife, who put on 102 by fine cricket. Gunn hit 11 fours. Mr Jones played well.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 June, page 11)

Last evening at the Edgbaston Ground, Birmingham, the Australians finished the second day of their match with a good Midland eleven in a bad position, for with four wickets left in the second innings they are only 13 runs ahead.

After the way the game had gone on Thursday such a position could not have been wholly unexpected, for yesterday the Midlands renewed the match with seven men in hand and a lead of 30 runs. In two hours and a quarter the Englishmen added 99 runs and secured an advantage on the first innings of 129. Mr Hill and Attewell obtained 36 for the eighth partnership by some of the best batting of the match.

With the turf fast and true it was expected that the Australians would come out well in an uphill fight. But expectations were not realized. After the dismissed of Mr Iredale at 11, Mr Trott and Mr Darling took the score to 50, and then the latter was run out through a good piece of fielding by Quaife. Mr Trott played with every care for his 35; but when five men had gone for 72 Mr Donnan and Mr Hill made a stand of 65min, which yielded 60 runs. Mr Hill played very sound cricket, in fact the best of the day. The weather was again fine and there were about 6,000 spectators.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 June, page 13)

In spite of Mr Hill's fine batting and Mr Jones's vigour on Saturday at Birmingham the Australians were unable to shake off the effects of their comparative failure on the first innings, and the

Midland Counties beat them by four wickets, this being the second defeat of the Australian eleven during the present tour.

The game had been left in such a one-sided condition that it was surprising to find so many as 4,000 people on the Edgbaston Ground. The spectators, however, had plenty to see. With four wickets to fall in the second innings, a lead of only 13 runs was not a very happy position for the visitors. Mr Hill, nevertheless, played extremely well, and was backed up by some strong batting by a couple of his colleagues. He had gone in overnight fifth wicket down at 72, and was ninth out at 230, when, in his anxiety to get his 100, he attempted to pull a straight ball, by which he was bowled. His 98 was one of the finest pieces of batting yet shown by any of the Australians. He timed the ball well and seemed to have plenty of strokes. He made his runs in three hours, and hit eight fours, six threes and ten twos.

For the seventh wicket Mr Hill and Mr Eady added 47, and then the latter, through a misunderstanding, was run out, and afterwards there were partnerships of 33 by Mr Hill and Mr Jones, and of 24 by Mr Jones and Mr M'Kibbin. As the analyses testify, Attewell and Hulme bowled very well in both innings, the latter taking ten wickets in the two innings for 123 runs.

When the Midland Counties went in to make 126 to win there remained two hours and a half for cricket. Shrewsbury managed to get a single, but he was then bowled, having just escaped the "pair." Then came a fine hour's batting, in which Gunn and Mr Jones added 63, and in a series of shorter partnerships the runs were steadily hit off, and the Australians were beaten by four wickets. It was a very good match and the fine play of the winners did the Midland Counties much credit.

The Marylebone Club committee are making much unnecessary mystery about the constitution of the England eleven to meet the Australians at Lord's on Monday. Within two days of the match no official information is forthcoming. From a good source it is understood that the nine certainties in the side are:-

Dr W G Grace, Mr A E Stoddart, Mr F S Jackson, J T Hearne, Lilley, Brown, Lohmann, Hayward and Abel. The last two places rest between Richardson, Peel, Gunn and Wainwright.

THE 1,000 RUNS AGGREGATE. – Yesterday Abel and K S Ranjitsinhji were the first batsmen to reach the four figures aggregate for the season. Last year Dr Grace achieved this feat before May was out.

The loss sustained by Surrey at Old Trafford last week gives fresh interest to the fight for the championship, in which if the greatest proportionate number of points in finished matches were worked out it would be seen that Yorkshire are just now actually at the head of affairs. Below will be found the results all that at present it is really necessary to give.

To-day there is a lull in the competition because of England v Australia; but Lancashire have their West of England this week, while next Thursday Surrey meet Middlesex at the Oval. Results up to the present:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	13	11	1	1	10
Yorkshire	11	8	0	3	8
Lancashire	7	6	1	0	5
Middlesex	5	3	1	1	2
Essex	3	1	2	0	-1
Hampshire	4	1	2	1	-1
Nottinghamshire	5	1	2	2	-1
Somerset	6	1	3	2	-2
Sussex	6	1	3	2	-2
Gloucestershire	7	1	4	2	-3
Warwickshire	7	1	4	2	-3
Derbyshire	6	1	4	1	-3
Leicestershire	6	1	5	0	-4
Kent	6	0	5	1	-5

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

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

Mr Henry Perkins, the secretary of the Marylebone Club, on Saturday, at Lord's, courteously confirmed the information as to the England eleven for to-day's great match which appeared in The Times of Saturday. The M.C.C. committee left nothing undone to get together the most representative side, and with this idea, and as so much depended on the weather, the last two places were left open until to-day.

The professionals who will attend for the two places are Richardson, Gunn, Wainwright and Peel. If the wicket, which will be pitched almost in the centre of the ground, close to the stretch of turf that will be reserved for Oxford and Cambridge, is hard and true, no doubt Richardson will come in, while if the weather sets in wet probably Gunn and Wainwright will be played.

The Marylebone committee have exercised sound judgment in their selection and in their policy. If any exception has to be taken, it is to the choice of wicket-keeper. Mr M'Gregor has his off days, but he is always a great wicket-keeper on great occasions, and the skill shown by him in the recent M.C.C. match with the Australians really earned for him a place in the first of the representative

matches.

Since the Australians were at Lord's last they have lost another match and drawn one; but it should not be overlooked that at Birmingham they were, in view of to-day's contest, resting both Mr Giffen and Mr Trumble. Play begins at noon . . .

The Australians will decide upon their side this morning.

22 June: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4565.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 June, page 14)

It has been laid down by some of the best and keenest judges of cricket that an analysis of the merits of teams would show that an eleven chosen from the best of English cricketers and an average Australian side were not to be compared. The Australians at Lord's yesterday were outclassed. With every advantage of going in first, with all the freshness of the morning with them and with the knowledge that the turf was hard and perfectly true, the Australians were got out in 85 minutes for a mere 53 runs. Richardson's great pace and Lohmann's pitch and break were too much for the Australian side. The batting of the Australians was very bad and the only play of any merit was shown by Mr Darling.

Dr W G Grace played very well for England. Abel exhibited his own steady game, and if at times his scoring was slow, his method was too good to be reproached, and he was unfortunate to miss his 100. Mr F S Jackson, always a bright batsman, did credit to both Harrow and Cambridge. Gunn played well, but on such a wicket England ought to have done better than they did. Still, 233 ahead on the first innings and two wickets to fall is by no means a small advantage. The Australians dropped some catches that cost them dearly, and perhaps the worst of these was the easy miss of Abel when he had made nine.

The fairness of Mr Jones's bowling has been widely questioned ever since the opening match at Sheffield Park, and the first ball which he sent down to Dr Grace quite startled the members in the pavilion by its near resemblance to throwing. Mr Jones mended his ways after a while, but the umpires do not seem to lend much attention to the rule which says that the ball must be bowled, "not thrown or jerked." The Australians have a big uphill task to face, and with the odds so overwhelming they have an opportunity of showing their tradition capacity for an uphill game.

The Marylebone Club committee's policy in keeping open their team until the morning of the match was thoroughly justified, for with the wicket hard and true they were able to put Richardson and Gunn in the side. In fact, it was a great day for Surrey, who had four men in the team; Richardson and Lohmann got the Australians out and Abel scored 94. There was some feeling about K S Ranjitsinhji's absence, but although the Indian Prince has learnt all his cricket in England he could scarcely, if the title of the match were to be adhered to, have been included in the English eleven.

Lord's has scarcely before been the scene of so much noisiness and rowdyism as we're displayed yesterday, when the crowd encroached in the ground, shortening the boundaries to an alarming extent, and when those whose view was obscured by the people in the field of play had recourse to such methods as throwing missiles of every kind at the people in front of them. It was a record "gate" at the St John's-wood Ground; 25,414 people paid for admission, and as the pavilion was full and the privilege of members introducing friends was suspended, there was an attendance of about 30,000. Until late in the day the weather was fine, but the light grew bad soon after 5 o'clock.

The Englishmen, led by Grace, took the field a moment or so after noon, and were warmly cheered. They were soon followed by Darling and Donnan, and at 12.5 the match began. Richardson started the bowling, and from him Donnan made the first single of the innings, while in the same over Darling got a couple on the leg side. Then came a maiden from each end, to be followed by the running out of Donnan in Lohmann's second over. The batsman had played the ball hard to cover-

point, off whom it glanced to Jackson at extra mid-off. Donnan, who had started, turned to get back, but he was easily run out by the wicket-keeper by nearly half a dozen yards. Before the applause had died away Lohmann got Giffen well caught low down at wicket on the off side from the first ball sent him, while Trott, after playing Lohmann very badly for the balance of this over, got to Richardson's end only to have his leg stump sent out of the ground. Three wickets had fallen for four runs.

For a moment while Gregory and Darling were together the innings improved. The Surrey professional was bowling at a great pace from the pavilion end; Lilley was standing back to him, and he also had three men in the slips close together – Abel, Lohmann and Stoddart. The fielding was keen and the batsmen seemed to lack the art of placing the ball between the fieldsmen. At 26 fresh disasters overtook the Australians, Richardson with successive balls bowling out Gregory and Graham. Five wickets had fallen in 40 minutes for 26, and five runs later still, in playing back to Lohmann, turned the ball into his wicket.

With Eady in there were one or two fine strokes by Darling, who by a pretty place on the leg side and by a fine cut got eight runs from Richardson. But that bowler bowled him at 41. Darling had played very well when everything was going against his side, and was in nearly an hour for his 22. Seven for 41. The Australians' troubles were increasing, for at 45 Trumble turned a ball into his wicket. A single later Kelly was finely caught at wicket, and a short ball from Richardson got rid of Jones, the innings being all over in an hour and a quarter for 53. Richardson and Lohmann had bowled without change, and the former had the splendid analysis of six for 39, while Lohmann had only 13 runs hit from him and took three wickets.

W G Grace and Stoddart went in for England at 1.35. Jones started the bowling from the pavilion end, and from a short and fast ball Grace got a two through the slips. In this same over there were a bye and a four and a two by Stoddart through the slips. Giffen bowled at the other end. The batting was not very certain. Donnan injured his hand in fielding and had to retire, and Albert Trott came out as substitute. Grace pulled a couple of balls from Giffen for a two and a four, and then he cut the same bowler in the next over to the boundary, and although Eady was put on for Giffen the English score at luncheon was 37 for no wicket.

After the interval Jones and Eady were again the bowlers and, with only a single added, Stoddart, in playing back, turned a ball from Eady into his wicket. With Abel and Grace together the play became very bright, although most of the runs came behind the wicket. Fifty were made in three-quarters of an hour, and there were loud cheers when the Australian score was headed. Abel when only nine gave an easy chance to Eady, standing third in the slips. Grace had a single increased to five by an overthrow, and Abel got four by a cut. The play continued excellent, both in batting and fielding, and the score rose steadily.

Trott's trial at the nursery end had no effect, and Trumble, although bowling well from the pavilion wicket, failed to keep the runs down. Giffen came on for Trott at 99, and in his first over Grace was badly missed at long-on by Hill, who dropped the ball after getting it fairly into his hands. The champion had made 51 at this point, and the 100 went up as the result of 85 minutes' batting. Abel was rapidly overtaking his partner, and a couple of fine strokes on the off side, both of which reached the boundary, ran his score up to 40. Grace made a very bad hit that was not worth four just out of reach of Trumble at short slip. Jones had come on in place of Trumble at his original end. The score rose steadily, and Abel reached his 50 after a stay of an hour and a quarter. At 145 the long partnership came to an end. Grace got under a ball and out it up in the slips, and Trumble brought off a very clever catch. The partnership had lasted about 85 minutes and had yielded 105

runs. The champion had played fine cricket, and in his 66, made in two hours, were six fours, a three and six twos. Two for 143.

Brown made the next nine runs, and was then bowled by a very good ball, the third wicket falling at 152. Gunn and Abel played good and careful cricket. Gunn made two beautiful drives, each of which brought him four; but when he had obtained 25 he was missed by the wicket-keeper off Eady, only to be taken by the same fieldsman off Trumble without adding to his figures. Fifty-five were added for this wicket, which fell at 197.

During the last hour the play had been a little dull, but with Jackson's arrival a period of quick scoring began. He forced the game well and made some splendid drives. It was in vain that Trott changed his bowling. Trumble had a turn at each end, and Jones and Eady were also tried. Jackson made two fine drives off Trumble, and by five minutes to 6 the Englishmen were 200 ahead. Meanwhile Abel was nearing his 100; but at 256 he hit right over a ball from Eady and was bowled. He had made 94 out of 218 added during his stay of three hours, and his best hits were 13 fours, one three and five twos.

When Hayward came in Giffen took a turn at the pavilion end, and in his first over he got out Jackson, who was well caught on the boundary by Darling, who from the previous ball might have taken him in the same position but for the encroachments of the crowd. Lilley was bowled first ball in playing forward to Eady, and seven wickets were down for 266. About this time the light had grown bad. Lohmann made a single and then gave a catch to mid-on – Iredale running bowling behind the bowler. Eight wickets were down for 267, and in the last quarter of an hour some good hits by Hayward and Hearne took the score to 286, England finishing 233 runs ahead with two wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 June)

By as fine batting as has been exhibited by any Australian players in England, Mr Trott and Mr Gregory yesterday at Lord's not only did much to restore the reputation of the Australians, but rescued their side from a position that was little less than hopeless. For not much less than three hours these two men played with a precision that was remarkable when the nature of the bowling was considered.

When Mr Trott and Mr Gregory had gone within an over of each other fortune changed. The Trott and Gregory partnership yielded altogether 221, but after Mr Grace Gregory had gone five more wickets fell for the addition of 35 runs. It wanted something more than such a fine total as 347 to shake off the effects of the collapse on the first day, and England were set only 109 to get to win. The last quarter of an hour in a declining light and after much fatigue in the field has ruined the chances of many a side; but yesterday England lost only one wicket under these conditions, in spite of the great pace and short length of Mr Jones's bowling.

Dr W G Grace cannot be thoroughly complimented on the management of his bowling yesterday. In the opinion of good judges he kept Richardson on too long at the pavilion end, and even when he tried such a great bowler as Hearne he had to take him off again before the Middlesex professional had had much chance of finding his length. And perhaps it was scarcely wise to begin with himself after the interval. He should have had J T Hearne at the pavilion end and Richardson at the nursery more often as the bowlers. At a late period of the innings the English captain found such a policy very efficacious.

There were a few mistakes in the home ground-fielding. Maybe the Englishmen held their opponents a little too cheaply. This is dangerous in so uncertain a game as cricket. Among the incidents of the day was the question of a catch which Hayward claimed to have made low down in the slips and which would have got out Mr Trott for 61. Had this been allowed by the umpire it would, of course, have made a great difference to the match. Some of the field who were in an admirable position to see were clear as to the catch; but Mr Trott had the benefit of the doubt.

The Australians were handicapped by the injury to one of their best batsmen; but Mr Donnan, in spite of his wounded hand, courageously went in last, and this meant the addition of 29 runs. The Australians are to be congratulated on their fine uphill game and on the feats of their two members – Mr Trott and Mr Gregory.

With the match left in such an uneven position on Monday night it was natural that there should be a big reduction in the attendance. Indeed, the numbers of the spectators fell from 30,000 to 15,000, of whom 12,418 paid gate-money. It was a much more gentlemanly company and there was no repetition of the rowdyism or of the encroachments on the field of play that marked Monday. The company were delighted with the play of the Australians, and both Mr Trott and Mr Gregory had a great reception on their way back to the pavilion, the members rising in a body and applauding very heartily. Generally the weather was bright. Whatever happens England, with so many fine batsmen, should get the 93 runs wanted by them to win this morning.

With two wickets to fall the Englishmen's score was 286, but in the course of ten minutes yesterday morning the innings was finished, Trott getting both wickets – Hearne caught at point and Richardson at long on. Before this Gregory had made a fine attempt to catch Richardson at cover point. Hayward, who ought really to have gone in earlier, did not have a ball yesterday morning. The analysis of the bowling presented no special feature; but Jones and Trumble were both very expensive.

The Australians, who were 239 behind, altered their order for the second innings, which began precisely at noon. This was rendered necessary by the injury to Donnan's hand. Eady came in with Darling. The Australians started badly, for a good ball from Richardson sent Darling's middle stump flying before a run had been scored, and the record was only three when the same bowler got Eady caught by the wicket-keeper standing back. Two wickets for three runs was a sorry start in an uphill fight; but Trott and Giffen during the next 20 minutes mended matters, both hitting several fours.

When Giffen had scored 21 there occurred an error in the English field, Lohmann missing a catch in the slips that in other days would have been considered easy by him. Giffen played splendid cricket; but Trott seemed much troubled at both ends. Runs came rapidly against the good bowling, and the men added 50 in the course of half an hour. Trott made two fours and a three on the leg side from lucky snicks off Richardson, and with the score at 61 Grace, none too soon, decided to change his bowling, Hayward going on at the nursery end for Lohmann. He persevered with Richardson for another over, and his policy was successful, for Richardson with a fine ball bowled out Giffen, the top of the off stump being just struck. Giffen had hit hard, seven fours, a two and two singles comprising his 32, while the partnership in 40 minutes had yielded 59 runs.

Gregory sustained his fine forcing reputation by at once beginning to hit. He made several fine strokes on the leg side from Richardson, while he also made a four and a three by cuts. Hayward almost bowled Trott, who was not playing very good cricket. There was a round of applause for the

100 – made in 75 minutes; and the cheering was renewed when Grace, after making use of Richardson for about an hour and a quarter, put on Hearne. His delay in making this change seemed to be a mistake. Hearne nearly bowled Trott in his first over, and his fine length at once checked the fast rate on run-getting. An appeal by Hearne against Gregory for leg-before was given “not out.” Jackson came on for Hayward at 110; but the pace of run-getting soon increased.

Trott was playing far better cricket about this time than he had done earlier in the day; but when he had made 61 he was apparently caught in the slips by Hayward off Jackson; the fieldsman, being confident of the catch, threw the ball up and seemed surprised when, on appeal, Trott was given in. Richardson and Lohmann took up the bowling again; but Trott got a couple of fours from the former, and although Grace had a turn with the ball no further wicket had fallen when the adjournment for luncheon was made, the score then being 152. Ninety runs had so far been added in 70 minutes.

After luncheon Grace started the bowling himself and put Richardson on at the nursery end. These tactics did not answer, for Trott and Gregory scored freely, hitting strongly all round the wicket. It was not until Trott had sent him well round to the leg boundary that Grace went off for Richardson, who had been displaced by Lohmann at the other end. Still the batting triumphed, and although the bowling changes were tried the 200 was reached in two and a half hours. Then Trott at 99 was missed by the wicket-keeper standing back, while from the single with which he completed his 100 he was almost run out, Jackson’s return only just missing the wicket. Trott had made his 100 out of 207 in two and a half hours.

Hearne was at last tried again at the nursery end at 234, and then a four and a three to Gregory knocked off the last of the arrears amid hearty cheers. Lohmann took a turn at the pavilion end; but the batsmen continued their fine play and the score rose rapidly. As Gregory got within measurable distance of his 100 he forsook his forcing game and played with every care. Hearne and Jackson bowled extremely well; but at last Gregory with a cut for four reached his 100, which had occupied two hours and a half. Richardson came on again at 279, and then Lilley blundered at wicket by failing to take the ball from a sharp return by Stoddart and in that way failing to run out Trott. But the long partnership ended in the next over, a clever catch low down at extra slip by Lohmann getting rid of Gregory. It had been a splendid stand of two and three-quarter hours and had produced 221 runs. Gregory had made his 103 without an error and had hit 17 fours, six threes and four twos.

As so often happens at the finish of a long partnership the two batsmen went within a short time of one another, for almost directly Trott, in hitting Richardson, skied the ball towards extra mid-off, where Hayward, running back, brought off a good catch. Trott had been in about three hours and a half, and beyond the doubt about the catch in the slips at 61 and his chance to Lilley when 99 his innings was excellent after the first half-hour had passed. Altogether he made 24 fours, three threes and ten twos.

Five wickets had gone for 289, and after the English score had been passed amid cheers from the crowd two more batsmen were dismissed; Hearne bowled Hill off his legs and a “yorker” on the leg stump settled the career of Graham. Seven for 201 presented a very different aspect from the total of 280 and only three men out.

A period of dullness came over the game when Trumble and Kelly were partners. Richardson and Hearne bowled very well, and when four runs had been added in 20 minutes Trumble was very cleverly caught at wicket, while at 318 Jones was taken in the deep field. Donnan came in last with

his hand bandaged, owing to the injury sustained in fielding. He was content to keep up his end while Kelly steadily scored, but in 25 minutes he made a couple of fours and was only bowled after the last wicket had put on 29 runs. The Australian batting had lasted altogether about five hours, exclusive of the luncheon interval, and it was on the stroke of 6 o'clock when the innings ended. Richardson and Hearne shared the bowling honours; but the Middlesex man had by far the better record.

England had to make 109 to win, and in the last quarter of an hour they scored 16 for the loss of Abel, who was caught in the slips by Iredale, fielding substitute. When stumps were drawn England with nine wickets to fall wanted 93 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Wednesday 25 June, page 12)

The England Eleven, upon whose selection the Marylebone Club committee had bestowed infinite care, have come victoriously out of the first of the great test matches. Yesterday at Lord's they beat the Australians by six wickets.

On the face of it, this looks like a substantial win, but there was really a "pinch" for runs. The wicket had been ruined by the morning's rain, which had not penetrated far enough to make the turf slow, and with the surface slightly soft and the pitch very hard underneath the ball kicked tremendously.

It was well for England that they had so few runs to get. As it was the proportion of them was literally "scraped" together against fine bowling and fielding; but when Gunn and Mr Stoddart became partners something like style and power were put into the batting for the last 20 runs. Things certainly looked a little ominous when the third man was out at 42; for 67 runs are not so easy to get under such conditions. And the result might have been closer had the Australians not missed Mr Stoddart twice before he had made six.

That England deserved their success is beyond question; but the Australians, after being outclassed on Monday, gave them a wonderfully hard fight. A general survey of the match brings out the stand of 221 by Mr Gregory and Mr Trott as its feature, and when the score in future comes to be referred to the error of the umpire in giving Mr Trott in at 61 when he was palpably caught in the slips will have been forgotten. The Australians will have opportunities of retrieving their fallen fortunes in the other test matches, at Old Trafford on July 16 and at the Oval on August 10.

About 5,000 people visited the ground yesterday to see the finish, bringing the aggregate for the match to about 50,000. There had been rain during the night and it set in again at 11.15 and continued sharply until about a quarter to 12; but quickly after it had ceased the umpires inspected the pitch and decided to proceed with the game about noon. The heavy roller was put over the wicket for ten minutes, and soon after midday the Australians turned out in the field, and Grace and Hayward renewed the last innings of the match with the score at 16 for one.

The effect of the rain on the turf was quickly apparent. Seven overs were sent down for the addition of four runs and then Grace mistimed a ball from Trumble, which went up from his bat and his pad to short-leg. With Brown in Jones bowled one exceptionally fast over in which there were four leg-byes and also an on drive for four by Brown. Soon after this the last-named was almost caught and bowled by Jones, from whom, however, he soon got another four by a drive. But runs were very difficult to obtain. The wicket seemed to get worse, the bowling more deadly and the fielding more

keen. Twenty-six runs had been added in three-quarters of an hour during the morning when Hayward was bowled by a ball from Jones that was of a better length than usual. Three for 42.

With the wicket so queer and the Australians so keen people began to make up their minds for an exciting finish. Stoddart arrived at this stage and, as Brown was scoring so steadily, was content to play very quietly. Brown got a three through the slips from a bad hit, and then a four on the leg side by Stoddart sent up the 50. The Middlesex amateur was missed by the wicket-keeper standing back, after which Brown made two fine fours off Trumble, one an on drive and the other from a ball well up on the leg side. How difficult runs were to secure may be noted from the fact that at this stage only 44 had been recorded in an hour during the morning. Brown did his best to force the game and scored well off Trumble, though he narrowly escaped being caught by Giffen at short slip when he had obtained 24.

The bowling was now changed; but in Eady's first over at Trumble's end there was a short ball that Brown deservedly hit to the boundary. Stoddart having been let off by Iredale (substitute for Donnan) in the slips made a couple of fine fours on the leg side from Jones, the second a wonderful stroke from a ball that got up close to his face. Then came the dismissal of Brown, who was caught by the wicket-keeper standing back. The partnership had lasted about 35 minutes and had yielded 40 runs, while Brown's 36 contained several good hits and was invaluable to his side. Four for 82.

Gunn and Stoddart made the other 27 runs in 12 minutes. They ran four for a leg hit by Stoddart, and Gunn made two splendid fours by drives from Trumble, who had come on for Eady. Giffen had an over at the other end, but it yielded nine runs, four of these coming from a cut by Stoddart. There was a cheer for the 100, and when Trott went on at 107 and Stoddart cut his first ball for four there was a loud burst of applause for England's victory of six wickets. During the luncheon interval a heavy rainstorm swept over Lord's, so that it was just as well that the game was over early.

Below are the results of the England v Australia matches played in England. There was no representative game in 1878, the year of the historical win of the Australians in one day over the M.C.C.

[List of matches follows.]

Summary: England, 11 wins; Australia, 2 wins; drawn games, 4.

J T BROWN@S BATTING. – By his runs at Lord's yesterday the famous Yorkshire batsman reached his aggregate of 1,000 runs for the season.

22 June: SOMERSET v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4566.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 June, page 14)

Yesterday, at Taunton, the Lancastrians established an advantage in this match, and last night they finished with a lead of 33 runs and two wickets to fall. For this they were mostly indebted to their good bowling and fielding and to the well-judged defence of Albert Ward, whose 77 was the result of fine cricket all round. For Somerset Mr Lionel Palairet played well at first; but things would have gone badly for them had not Mr Woods played in his well-known style for 41.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 June)

The Somerset eleven were badly beaten at Taunton yesterday by ten wickets. Such a result as this was scarcely expected, even though on Monday night Lancashire, with two wickets in hand, were 33 ahead.

But yesterday Mr Lionel Palairet and Mr Woods alone showed much merit in batting for Somerset, and Lancashire in the second innings were left with only 31 runs to make for victory. The brightest cricket of the day came from Mr Woods, who hit six fours in his 41. The Lancastrians bowled and fielded extremely well.

22 June: SURREY v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4567.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 June, page 14)

Surrey sadly missed their great bowlers, who were away playing for England yesterday, and in this match at the Oval they had much the worst of the play, for in spite of the good bowling of Lockwood they were kept in the field nearly the whole day.

Up to a certain point the play went well for them, as, although Mr H K Foster played fine cricket, six of the visitors were out for 154. Afterwards came the vigorous batting of Mr Bardswell and Mr Waddy, and the last four wickets added 252. The former hit 16 fours in his 97, while Mr Waddy, who got his runs in two hours and a quarter, made 15 fours, six threes and six twos.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 June)

By their capital bowling and fielding on the Oval yesterday the Oxford eleven followed up their big score of Monday by again getting the better of the day's cricket, and there is now every prospect for them of a second victory over Surrey this season.

The best things in the county's first innings were the batting of Holland and Street, and the stand of 110 by these men for the fourth wicket. In his well-played 84 Holland made a five, eight fours, two threes and eight twos. The Old Etonian, Mr Cunliffe, bowled excellently, and his five wickets on a hard pitch cost only 16 runs each.

In the follow-on against 171, Surrey, despite the good batting of Braund, fared ill, and seven men were lost for 94. Mr Key and Ayres, however, added 73 and were still together at the drawing of stumps, when with three wickets to fall four runs were required to avoid the innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Wednesday 25 June, page 12)

In spite of the courageous efforts of Mr Key, Ayres and Lees to rescue their side from a bad position, the Surrey eleven were yesterday for the second time this season beaten by Oxford University, in this instance by eight wickets. Surrey were on both occasions, however, handicapped by the absence of some of their leading men.

The best thing in yesterday's cricket was the stand of Mr Key and Lees, who put on 63 in 35 minutes. Lees's batting was particularly vigorous. Mr Key, who was last out, hit 11 fours. Oxford had only 65 to make for victory, and these were scored for the loss of two wickets. Mr Smith and Mr Foster batted well, and the latter brought his aggregate in the match to 102. This latest success of the Oxford eleven points more than ever to a fine University match at Lord's at the end of next week.

Thursday 23 June, page 14

THE OXFORD ELEVEN. – Mr Leveson-Gower has given Mr Bardswell and Mr Waddy their

blues for the match with Cambridge at Lord's on Thursday week.

22 June: SUSSEX v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4568.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 June, page 14)

On such a batsman's ground as is the Hove, Brighton, something better than the cricket of the Sussex eleven was expected yesterday. Apart from Mr Newham and Killick, no one did much for the side. Mr Jessop and Mr Wilson bowled very finely for Cambridge.

When the Light Blues went in Mr Burnup forced the hitting; but the chief batting honours were borne off by Mr Marriott and Mr Hemingway, who added over 100 during their partnership. Both men made themselves thoroughly at home on the Hove wicket, and before stumps were drawn Cambridge had secured a strong position.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 June)

At the Hove, Brighton, yesterday, the Cambridge eleven were seen to great advantage. Two of their number ran into three figures, while the innings produced 514. Of this total 227 had been scored overnight at a cost of five wickets.

The finest piece of hitting yesterday was Mr Jessop's 93, which was made out of 142 in 75 minutes, and in which were 19 fours. Mr Hemingway obtained his first 100 in important cricket; he got his runs in an hour and three-quarters, and hit 15 fours and seven threes. Mr Mitchell scarcely played so freely as he used to do; but he contributed eight fours, eight threes and ten twos in his 110.

Sussex, in their second innings, had to face odds of 385. There was some fine play by K S Ranjitsinhji, Marlow and Mr Murdoch; but at the close, with four men out for 183, the county were still in a bad way.

Day 3 (report from Wednesday 25 June, page 12)

The Cambridge eleven easily beat Sussex at the Hove Ground, Brighton, yesterday, by an innings and 136 runs. Overnight Sussex, in their second venture, had made 183 for the loss of four wickets, and still required 202 runs to put their opponents in again.

With the turf affected by rain the Cambridge bowlers disposed of the county men steadily, and the remaining six averaged only 11 runs each. Mr Murdoch added nine to his overnight score. His 55 was a capital innings, and included five fours. Mr Cobbold bowled extremely well, and this was perhaps the best thing in the 90 minutes' cricket.

M.C.C. v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY. – At Lord's to-day Mr Mitchell will not play Mr G L Jessop, whom he is resting in view of the University match. Mr J H Stogdon, the Old Harrovian, will take his place.

22 June: YORKSHIRE v DURHAM

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/102/102957.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 June, page 14)

The Yorkshire eleven gained a great advantage in this match at Barnsley yesterday. Haigh bowled very finely for them, and among much good batting Mr Coates carried off chief honours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 June)

The fine bowling of Haigh was too much for the Durham team at Barnsley yesterday, and on a wicket affected by rain the visitors were got out for 67, and Yorkshire won by an innings and 166 runs. Haigh in the match took 14 wickets for 50 runs.

Thursday 25 June, page 9

The cricket ground at Lord's, and not the House of Commons or any other of the chosen abodes of the more serious frivolity, is the point to which the public gaze had been most eagerly turned during the last three days; and the great match between England and Australia, and not any such trifles as the fate of the chief Government Bill of the Session, is the issue which has held the attention of the multitude. Rarely has an athletic contest proved more interesting in its progress or been more satisfactory in its results to all concerned.

The Australians, it is true, had to submit to defeat, and defeat by the apparently handsome margin of six wickets. But an analysis of the situation at the close of the match would show that the fight was much keener and the issue more doubtful to the last moment than appears on the surface. On a pitch rendered treacherous by the heavy rain of yesterday morning there were at the end only two good wickets left to save the English eleven from a possible collapse; and to have brought about such a situation as that after complete failure in their first innings is a feat highly creditable to the pluck and skill of the colonists. The chief credit, of course, is due to their captain, MR TROTT, and his colleague, MR GREGORY, who had the honour of scoring the only "centuries" of the match, and whose wonderful stand on Tuesday, when ruin seemed to be impending for their side, will live long in the annals of cricket.

Australian teams have a happy capacity for rising to the level of the situation. In the present game the colonists have shown a degree of success on maintaining the struggle against an unusually powerful eleven which was hardly expected of them after their very poor performances in the recent test matches with the M.C.C. at Lord's and with an eleven of the Midland Counties at Birmingham. To be valiant against the strong is the perfection of courage, and to have been beaten in the end by such an eleven as DR GRACE led into the field n Monday is not a thing to be ashamed of.

A list which we publish this morning shows that of 17 matches between representative teams of England and Australia played in this country in the last 16 years England has won 11 and Australia two, while four have been drawn. As might have been expected, England, the historic home of the game and with a larger field of choice, has shown a decided superiority. And on the present occasion the English eleven was chosen with extraordinary care in a season when an unusual

number of cricketers, both batsmen and bowlers, have been playing in brilliant style. The final choice has been criticized in some points, as all such choices are bound to be; but there seems no reason to doubt that the eleven that appeared at Lord's adequately represented the cricketing prowess of the country in a season when that prowess is unusually great.

Of the individual Englishmen who distinguished themselves DR GRACE and Abel in the first innings and MR STODDART and BROWN, the Yorkshire professional, in the second had the chief batting honours, while RICHARDSON, HEARNE and LOHMANN between them obtained all the Australian wickets.

The Australians will have two opportunities of revenge before the season is over, one at Manchester, the other at Kennington Oval, and their fine cricket and plucky efforts in the game just concluded will add to the interest of their other engagements. International athletic festivals, we used to be told, were for the future to be among the most powerful agents in the promotion of international amity and good understanding. That judgment has recently been proved to need some qualification; but happily the trials of strength on the cricket-field which have become almost annual between ourselves and our Australian kindred and fellow-subjects have tended only to draw us closer together.

25 June: DERBYSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4569.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 11)

The Yorkshire eleven scored heavily at Derby yesterday, and the runs were well distributed among the side. The Derby ground furnishes a splendid natural wicket and, in spite of the overnight rain, the pitch was true. Yorkshire made 403 for seven wickets.

Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe scored 83 for the first partnership, Wainwright and Peel 84 for the sixth, while Hirst and Lord Hawke had put on 70 for the seventh when stumps were drawn. The quickest scoring occurred during the last stand, Hirst making his 64 in a little over an hour.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 16)

The Derbyshire eleven yesterday came out well in their uphill fight with Yorkshire, who on Thursday evening, at Derby, had made 403 for seven wickets. Yielded the innings was completed for an addition of 13 runs. Hirst hit hard for his 68, in which were ten fours.

The best thing yesterday was the fine batting of Storer, who got his hundred for Derbyshire in two and a half hours and made 13 fours and three threes. At one time Derbyshire seemed likely to save the follow-on; but the performance of the “hat trick” by Brown gave quite a sensational close to the innings. Derbyshire went in again, and at present they are 116 behind with nine wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 June, page 11)

Storer, whose special occupation in cricket is to keep the wicket, has long been a good all-round cricketer, and now by his feat at Derby he takes rank among the few batsmen who in important cricket have played two innings of three figures in the same game. Dr W G Grace (thrice), Mr A E Stoddart and Mr George Brann are the only other cricketers of late years who have achieved this feat in important English matches.

Derbyshire were able to draw with Yorkshire and to maintain the traditions of Yorkshire v Derbyshire, which is proverbially a hard fight. The foundation of Derbyshire’s big score was laid on Saturday by Bagshaw and Mr Evershed, who put on 192 in an hour and three-quarters. The former, who is one of the best left-hand batsmen of the day, was particularly strong on the leg side and his hitting generally was hard and clean. In his 115 were 16 fours. Mr Evershed played more carefully, but he yet managed to get 13 fours. After seven wickets had gone cheaply, Storer and Hulme hit hard and put on 81 in 45 minutes.

When the innings was declared closed Derbyshire were 315 ahead, a fine position to reach after following on against odds of 135. Storer got his hundred in two hours, and hit 15 fours, five threes and four twos. Finally the game was drawn . . .

25 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4570.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 11)

After a fine start at Ashley Down, Bristol, yesterday, Gloucestershire fared badly and finished up with all the worst of the game, seeing that their opponents with nine wickets to fall are within 36 of the home score. The cause of the breakdown in the Gloucestershire batting was the rain, which set in before luncheon and made the wicket very false by the time the game was resumed just after 4 o'clock.

Dr Grace and Wrathall batted so well that at the cost of one wicket the score at the adjournment was 101. Thereafter everything went wrong for the home side, and nine more batsmen were got out for an addition of 32 runs. Baker took six wickets for 18 runs, but after the interval his figures were – 11 overs and a ball (eight maidens), six runs, five wickets. Wrathall, who scored 44 of the first 64 in 45 minutes, made nine fours and eight twos, while Dr Grace, who played faultlessly for his 51, was fifth out at 121. His best hits were four fours.

The day finished with splendid batting in the last hour by frank Sugg for Lancashire. Fifty were made in half an hour, and Sugg got his own 50 out of 78 in three-quarters of an hour, while the first wicket fell at 87. Hallam, through indisposition, stood out of the Lancashire team, and Mold hurt his hand in fielding early in the game.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 16)

A great innings of 220 by Frank Sugg marked yesterday's cricket at Bristol, and this did much to place the Lancastrians in a winning position. Sugg was 69 not out on Thursday night, and yesterday he was sixth to leave at 335. When 112 he gave an easy chance to Mr Lamb at mid-off, and at 148 W G Grace missed him at point. These were his only errors. He made his 100 out of 139 in an hour and a half, and he ran to 202 with the record at 293. He was batting altogether more than three and a half hours, and hit 33 fours, eight threes and ten twos.

Baker was Sugg's most useful partner, for he helped him to add 128 for the sixth wicket in 65 minutes. Baker played very good cricket and contributed seven fours and a three in his 63. Mr Townsend secured his first bowling triumph of the season, and his six wickets for 125 was a fine performance in such a long innings.

Gloucestershire, who were 256 behind, went in again. Dr Grace played beautiful cricket, and there was some vigorous batting by Wrathall. The present score will show that Gloucestershire are 99 runs behind with six wickets to fall.

DR W G GRACE'S BATTING. – By his runs at Bristol yesterday Dr Grace increased his aggregate for this season to 1,000.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 June, page 11)

The fine batting of Dr W G Grace could not save his side from an innings defeat at Ashley Down, Bristol, on Saturday, and Lancashire won by an innings and 18 runs. The batting of the champion was the sole feature of Saturday's cricket, and he took his bat through the innings for 102.

Murch, owing to an injury, was unable to go in, and on Saturday morning Gloucestershire were 99 behind with practically only five wickets to fall. When Roberts, the last man, arrived, Grace was only 84; but the former managed to stay with his captain for 35 minutes. Roberts failed to get a run himself. Dr Grace took over four hours to make his 102, and his best hits were 12 fours, a three and nine twos. Briggs bowled remarkably well and secured ten wickets in the match for 174 runs. Mold was still away hurt.

25 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4571.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 11)

At Lord's, yesterday, on a slow and uncertain pitch, the bowlers for two innings had the upper hand; but subsequently Carpenter and Mr F A Phillips played fine cricket and placed the M.C.C. in a good position. The Light Blues were resting their bowler, Mr G L Jessop, and brought into the side the Old Harrovian, Mr J H Stogdon.

The club were batting for a couple of hours but, apart from Carpenter, no one gave the bowlers much trouble, and Mr Shine and Mr Gray came out with very good analyses. When Cambridge went in Mr Burnup and Mr Grace made a capital start and took the score to 41. Then came something like a collapse and the last nine wickets added only 70 runs. Albert Trott, the Australian, and Martin bowled well, and the former's six wickets cost little more than nine runs each. The closing position was that Marylebone, with eight wickets left, were 115 ahead.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 16)

Some very rapid scoring was witnessed at Lord's yesterday, 489 runs being obtained in less than six hours, and only nine batsmen being dismissed. The honours of the day rested almost entirely with the M.C.C. eleven, who in four hours scored 391 runs, raising their overnight score in the second innings of 92 for two wickets to 483.

A fine innings was played by Carpenter, who increased his score of 48 to 161. The Essex professional obtained his runs in three hours and ten minutes, and he hit 25 fours, five threes and eight twos. Mr Phillips also batted well for 74, and he and Carpenter altogether put on 168 runs for the third wicket in an hour and 40 minutes. Martin assisted Carpenter to add 92 runs for the fourth partnership in 55 minutes, but the fiercest hitting of all was witnessed when Mr Nicholls and Mead were together. With the bowlers worn out and the fieldsmen demoralized, the two batsmen between them scored 81 in just over half an hour for the ninth wicket.

Cambridge were set the exceptional number of 507 to get to win, and in the last hour and 50 minutes they scored 98 for the loss of two wickets. Mr Norman Druce played in good style and was 50 not out at the close. The day's play was marred by an unfortunate accident, Mr Marriott being hit in the face by a fast ball from Trott and compelled to retire.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 June, page 11)

It has been left to the Cambridge eleven to establish a record that even in these days of heavy scoring will probably stand long. They were set 507 to win in the fourth innings of the match with the M.C.C., and they got them at the cost of seven wickets in six hours and a half. This performance eclipse anything in the way of scoring ever done in important cricket in the fourth innings of a game. Its nearest approach perhaps was last year at Lord's, when Sussex going in to get 405 against the M.C.C. made 385.

There was an incident on Friday evening at Lord's which should be mentioned, as it may have had

something to do with the success of the Light Blues. Albert Trott, the Australian, was bowling very fast and well when a ball got up and struck Mr Marriott, who retired in consequence. Then, apparently on the protest of Mr Mitchell, the Cambridge captain, Trott was not allowed to go on again that day. This was rather an unusual occurrence in serious cricket and may have taken some of the earnestness out of the match.

When Trott was off, Cambridge found runs easier to get, and Mr Norman Druce and Mr Wilson rapidly took the score to 98. From this point the game was renewed on Saturday, when the M.C.C. laboured under the disadvantage of having no proper wicket-keeper owing to the injury to Davenport. The Wilson and Druce partnership lasted on Saturday until 280, and realized altogether 240 as the result of three and a quarter hours' cricket. Mr Druce, who was then out, played very finely, his driving being especially good. He hit 17 fours, five threes and nine twos.

Four more wickets fell for the addition of 109 runs, seven being down for 389. Mr Wilson, who was fourth out at 286, played very pretty cricket and his best hits were seven fours and four threes. Mr Marriott had sufficiently recovered from his overnight injury to resume batting when Mr Druce left. He played a strong forcing game, and when only three wickets remained he and Mr Bray hit off the last 118 runs of the Cambridge task in 75 minutes. Mr Marriott's 140 on Saturday were made in two and a half hours, and included a five, 20 fours and five threes. The Cambridge rate of scoring on Saturday was between 80 and 95 an hour.

25 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4572.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 11)

The cricket at Trent-bridge yesterday was keenly followed by about 4,000 spectators, who seemed well pleased by the play of the home team. There were sundry useful scores to begin with, but it was left to Pike, the wicket-keeper, to make the highest record of the innings. He went in seventh wicket down at 189 and took out his bat for 41, the result of an hour and a quarter's play.

Shrewsbury and Mr Jones obtained 52 for the first wicket, and the latter and Gunn added 56 for the second, all by quick cricket, while the next best partnership was the tenth, which yielded 36 runs. The pitch was a little slow in the morning, but it gradually dried and the bowlers had not much assistance from the turf. In the last half-hour the Australians lost one wicket for 30, so that the end was that the visitors with nine wickets in hand were 239 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 16)

Yesterday's cricket at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, was keenly fought, and there was not a great deal to choose between the positions of the sides at the close of the day. The Australians' innings occupied the greater part of the time, and the score in this was advanced from one for 30 to 246, or 23 runs behind the Nottinghamshire total.

Mr Darling played very well and with Mr Graham put on 66 for the second wicket. But the honours of the day belonged to Mr Graham, who, after a good deal of ill-fortune, has at last come off. He went in first wicket down at 30 and was fifth to leave at 185, his 96 having been obtained in about two and a quarter hours. His chief figures were eight fours and 13 threes. Notts bowled and fielded keenly. Pike kept wicket in fine style and brought off four catches.

When Notts went in again Mr Jones and Shrewsbury obtained 44 for the first wicket; but three men had gone when Gunn and Attewell got together and played out time. To-day Nottinghamshire are 97 ahead with seven wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 June, page 11)

The Australians, at Trent Bridge on Saturday, beat Nottinghamshire by six wickets. After a fairly even game up to the end of the first innings and a promise on Friday evening of a good score in the second innings, the Nottinghamshire batsmen to a great extent failed to sustain the reputation secured by them on Thursday.

The last seven wickets went for an addition of 72 runs. Gunn played with the utmost care but could not get anyone to stay with him until the seventh wicket had gone at 103. Then Brown batted pluckily and the total was hit up to 146. Gunn was in about three hours for his 49.

The Australians secured the 170 wanted by them to win by ten minutes to 6. The best thing in their innings was the steady batting of Mr Iredale, who had partnerships of 40 and 76 with Mr Darling and Mr Trott for the first and third wickets. Towards the close of the innings Mr Iredale was missed

by Mr Dixon at short-leg and by Flowers at mid-on. These were the only errors in a very good piece of batting which included nine fours.

About 5,000 people visited the ground; and the failure of the Notts men in the morning seemed to cause much disappointment. Attewell was very lame, owing to an injury sustained while batting, and was not able to do much for his side in bowling.

25 June: SURREY v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4573.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 11)

Wet weather is the worst foe of the batsmen, for under its influence the wicket becomes slow and treacherous and favours the bowlers. This was shown at Kennington Oval yesterday, and is a match, too, that had it been played on hard, true turf, would probably have furnished some of the best batting of the London season. Surrey v Middlesex is one of the best fixtures in the county programme. A bad wicket is the leveller of all sides, and it was Middlesex and not Surrey who had the advantage in yesterday's cricket, and unless there be a wonderful improvement in the condition of the ground the lead of Middlesex of 169 with four wickets left in the second innings gives Surrey little prospect of success.

It was a day of bowlers' triumphs until the last hour, when Sir T C O'Brien and Mr Lucas collared the Surrey bowling and put on 67 runs without being separated. Sir Timothy's 48 last evening was a very fine piece of batting, marked by a variety of powerful strokes all round the wicket.

Middlesex played the first innings through in about a couple of hours for 108. Sir T C O'Brien, who was badly missed by Mr Key at mid-on when only 11, and Rawlin put on 38 for the fifth wicket; but there was no other stand of note. Lohmann bowled splendidly and made the most of the assistance afforded him by the condition of the turf. Sir T C O'Brien went in fourth wicket down at 31, and was sixth out, caught at mid-on at 76.

Although it was expected that Surrey would find runs pretty difficult to make, no one expected them to collapse in such a manner as to be all out in a little over an hour for 46 – a terribly small score for such an eleven on any wicket. But the turf, as it dried, seemed to get worse, and Hearne, with his fine length of break, and Rawlin were almost unplayable. The Surrey innings degenerated into a procession. Mr Key ought certainly to have put himself in a little earlier. As it was, he went in late and could get no one to stay with him.

Sixty-two was a substantial lead for Middlesex, under the circumstances, but the visitors had a bad three-quarters of an hour in the second innings and six men were out for 40 runs. Mr Webbe and Sir T C O'Brien had seemed likely to do well when the former was cleverly run out, Hayward throwing down the wicket from extra mid-off. Then came the O'Brien-Lucas partnership, which yielded 67 runs in the last hour of the day. The frequency with which Mr Key changed his bowling made no impression on the batsmen. The weather alternated between sunshine and dullness; but there was a crowd of about 6,000 people in the afternoon.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 16)

At Kennington Oval yesterday Middlesex beat Surrey by 205 runs. Their victory had been foreshadowed by the state of the score overnight, but it was not expected that they would win so easily.

Middlesex went into the field yesterday morning with a lead of 170 runs, and had still four wickets to fall in their second innings. Sir T C O'Brien batted so finely and received such excellent support from Mr Bromley-Davenport that the previous score of 107 was carried to 268. So fast was the

hitting while the two men were together that 106 runs were put on in 65 minutes for the ninth wicket. During the first half-hour Mr Lucas showed better form with the bat than he has been doing of late, but with the score at 134 Sir T C O'Brien ran him out for 26. Although thus disposed of rather cheaply, Mr Lucas could claim a share in the stand for the seventh wicket, which, commencing with the score at 40 on Thursday evening, produced 94 runs in 80 minutes.

Phillips stayed while 27 runs were added, and then came the excellent batting of Sir T C O'Brien and Mr Bromley-Davenport. One after another the famous Surrey bowlers were tried and failed to bring about a separation, but, curiously enough, Mr Read's lobs succeeded where higher class bowling had proved useless. Sir T C O'Brien was at length out to a catch at long-off, having at that time scored 137 out of 238 runs added to the score during the three hours and ten minutes he was at the wickets. He hit 17 fours, nine threes and seven twos, and his innings was one of the finest seen this season.

Middlesex were all out at 25 minutes to 2 for 268, and with five minutes left for play before lunch time Surrey entered upon their formidable task of trying to make 332. One wicket was lost for two runs before the interval, and afterwards, with Brockwell playing on to Hearne and Abel brilliantly stumped by Mr MacGregor, there were three wickets down in half an hour for 15 runs. Hayward batted patiently and, with Lockwood, put on 24, but half the side were out for 45.

Mr Key went in rather earlier than usual to stem the tide of disaster, and in company with Mr Read put on 35 runs in less than half an hour, but this was the only approach to a stand all through the innings. To add to Surrey's misfortunes, Street had to abandon his innings owing to his knee giving way; and, Hearne and Rawlin bowling finely to the end, Surrey were all out in a little more than two hours and a half for 126.

Hearne and Rawlin again bowled throughout the innings and thus, in dismissing Surrey twice without a change, accomplished a remarkable performance. Hearne for the second time in the match dismissed six batsmen, 64 runs being hit off him, and for the two innings his record was 12 wickets for 90 runs. Rawlin, who rendered him excellent assistance, took seven wickets for 69 runs. Surrey have now lost two matches in the county championship, Yorkshire none, and Middlesex and Lancashire only one apiece.

25 June: SUSSEX v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4574.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 June, page 11)

In a cricket day shortened to less than four hours by the rain at Hove, Brighton, yesterday, the Oxford eleven came out well with an innings of 244. The chief merit of this good score rested with the captain, Mr Leveson-Gower, and Mr Bardswell, who at a time when things were going badly for their side put on 125 runs in an hour and a half. Mr Bardswell, who was sixth out at 193, hit eight fours. Mr Leveson-Gower continued for some time longer to do well, and in his 78 were four fours, seven threes and nine twos. In forcing the game both batsmen ran some risks, but neither gave a real chance.

Earlier in the day Mr Mordaunt and Mr Warner put on 47 in half an hour for the first wicket. Mr Brann reappeared in the Sussex eleven.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 June, page 16)

Yesterday, at the Sussex County Ground, Brighton, Oxford established a considerable advantage in this match, for they are now 196 runs ahead with six wickets to fall in the second innings. The pitch seemed to help the bowlers to some extent, and Mr Cunliffe was very effective.

After three Sussex wickets had been lost for 41, there was some excellent batting by Mr Murdoch, Mr Newham and Mr Brann. Mr Murdoch occupied more than two hours in getting his runs, although he hit six fours. The Oxford men fielded very well, Mr Bardswell's one-handed catches that got out K S Ranjitsinhji and Tate being very remarkable. When Oxford went in again three wickets fell for 62; but Mr Pilkington and Mr Warner put on 77. Mr Warner made 14 fours . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 June, page 11)

By a combination of judgment and good fortune Mr Leveson-Gower on Saturday estimated the capacity of the Sussex eleven at Hove, Brighton, so well that Sussex being put on for three hours and a half, and with 339 to make to win, got 329 at the cost of six wickets. In playing a high game to win the Oxford captain by closing his innings invested the last day's cricket with remarkable interest.

K S Ranjitsinhji played a splendid not out innings of 171 without the vestige of a chance. He was in nearly three hours and a half, and made a five, 19 fours, seven threes and 13 twos. The first big posh was between him and Bean, which added 153 in 90 minutes for the second wicket. As the chance of winning the game improved Mr Murdoch determined to send in his other fast scoring men; but this policy did not pay. Mr Cunliffe bowled so well that the sixth wicket went at 202, and there remained an hour and 20 minutes to play. But when Oxford seemed to be winning, fortune again changed, and Killick stayed with Ranjitsinhji to the end, another 127 being added to the score, and only ten being required for Sussex to win. The Oxford men crossed over as quickly as possible and gave their rivals in this way every chance of winning; but, of course, a little time was lost by Killick's being left-handed.

In the early hours of the day there had been some fine batting by Mr Pilkington, Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr Raikes . . .

The double defeat of Surrey in their last two county matches with Lancashire and Middlesex has reduced the holders of the championship to third place in the season's competition – that is, by working out the proportionate number of points to finished matches under the rule laid down by the M.C.C. committee at the request of the counties. Below will be found the positions of the four counties, who have any points, reduced to decimals. Perhaps a more equitable rule would have been the proportion of wins to finished matches for the decision of the championship.

The changes in Surrey's fortunes which have occurred have brought fresh interest into the competition. Surrey on the Oval last Friday showed quite an incapacity to play a good uphill game, and they seemed almost outclassed in this particular match by the brilliancy of Middlesex. At present Yorkshire and Lancashire, although they have played fewer matches, are in better proportionate positions than Surrey; but the season has yet long to run, and there will probably be many fluctuations before the committee of the M.C.C. will have officially to decide who are the county champions of the year. Results:-

matches	Proportion of points					
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	to finished
Yorkshire	12	8	0	4	3	1
Lancashire	9	8	1	0	7	.9
Surrey	14	11	2	1	9	.89
Middlesex	5	4	1	1	3	.8

The following counties are all minus points:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Essex	3	1	2	0	-1
Hampshire	4	1	2	1	-1
Nottinghamshire	4	1	2	2	-1
Sussex	6	1	3	2	-2
Somerset	7	1	4	2	-3
Warwickshire	7	1	4	2	-3
Derbyshire	7	1	4	2	-3
Gloucestershire	8	1	5	2	-4
Leicestershire	6	1	5	0	-4
Kent	6	0	5	1	-5

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

Monday 29 June, page 11

OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE

Mr Leveson-Gower has decided upon ten of the Oxford eleven for Thursday's match at Lord's, and the side will consist of Mr H D G Leveson-Gower, Mr P F Warner, Mr H K Foster, Mr R P Lewis, Mr C C Pilkington, Mr G R Bardswell, Mr F H E Cunliffe, Mr P S Waddy, Mr J C Hartley and Mr G J Mordaunt, and one of the following three:- Mr G B Raikes, Mr G O Smith and Mr F G H Clayton. Mr Raikes and Mr Smith both played last year.

The Cambridge side, which has already been given in The Times, is as follows:- Mr F Mitchell, Mr C J Burnup, Mr W G Grace, jun., Mr H H Marriott, Mr N F Druce, Mr C E M Wilson, Mr W M'G Hemingway, Mr E H Bray, Mr E B Shine, Mr H Gray and Mr G L Jessop.

29 June: ESSEX v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4575.html)

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

The Essex eleven had the better of the day's cricket at Leyton yesterday – that is, assuming the seven wickets they have in hand to be worth much more than the 28 runs which they are behind the visitors' score.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 9)

Altogether the batting at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday fell below the standard of Monday. Essex won by six wickets. They really had the better of the match on Monday evening, when their score of 140 for three wickets promised a greater advantage on first innings than the 81 eventually secured.

Warwickshire fared so badly before the bowling of Mead and Mr Kortright that eight of them were dismissed for 64. Diver, however, hit hard, and in the end Essex were set 37 to make to win. This occupied them three-quarters of an hour and cost them four wickets. Showers in the morning had something to do with the discomfiture of the batsmen during the day.

29 June: HAMPSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4576.html)

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

Surrey established an advantage in this match at Southampton yesterday, for Hampshire at the finish had lost four of their best wickets and were 171 behind the visitors' score. Between 4,000 and 5,000 people were present and the weather was beautifully fine.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 9)

The Surrey eleven were something like themselves at Southampton yesterday, and with two of their great batsmen each playing a three-figure innings they established a big advantage over the home side. Hampshire, who had lost four men for 88 overnight, at one time seemed likely to follow on, as nine wickets were down for 117. Wootton and Baldwin, however, by lively cricket added 52 and reduced Surrey's lead on the innings to 90.

When the champion county went in again, there was a lot of very brilliant cricket, by which 387 runs were made for the loss of four wickets. There were partnerships of 57 by Brockwell and Abel, 81 by Brockwell and Holland, 99 by Brockwell and Hayward, and 98 by Hayward and Lockwood. Brockwell, who was third out at 237 for 116, got his runs mostly by fine driving; his innings lasted two and three-quarter hours and included 19 fours, two threes and eight twos. Hayward ran to his 100 in the last over of the day. He played more cautiously than Brockwell, but his cricket was good to watch. Surrey are at present 477 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 July, page 12)

Surrey beat Hampshire, at Southampton, yesterday, by 380 runs. Such a result was the most probable ending to the game, to judge from the position overnight, when Surrey were already 477 runs ahead with six wickets to fall. Yesterday more Mr Key did not close his innings at once; but eventually he put his opponents in to get 497.

Hampshire fared badly before Lohmann and Richardson, the former seeming to find a spot in the pitch which made his bowling terribly effective. Mr Robson and Mr Ward made 42 for the first wicket; and afterwards Barton batted sturdily, but the side were out for 116. Hayward's chief hits in his not-out innings for Surrey were 13 fours, while Richardson in the double innings took ten wickets for 148 runs.

29 June: KENT v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4577.html)

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

Yesterday's cricket at Beckenham, conducted under the most enjoyable conditions, was made chiefly interesting by the sound batting of the Nottinghamshire side, whose innings occupied nearly the whole of the day. A good company followed the play with keen interest.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 9)

The cricket at Beckenham yesterday ran fairly even in spite of the failure of several of the great Notts batsmen in the second innings; and the position of the match last evening was that Kent were left with 232 to make for victory.

Kent on Monday night had scored 21 for the loss of two wickets, against the Notts total of 283. In the first period of play yesterday, Alec Hearne batted extremely well and with Mr Mason added 50 in 35 minutes for the third wicket. There was also a useful stand by Hearne and Easby. However, six men were out for 125 and it was only the useful play of Mr Weigall that enabled the home side to reach the substantial figures of 198. Guttridge came out with a fairly good analysis.

Nottinghamshire, who had a lead of 85, started their second innings with some startling disasters. Walter Wright bowled out Mr Jones and Shrewsbury, and Alec Hearne dismissed Gunn and Mr Dixon, the four best batsmen on the side going for 19 runs. Mr Wright stayed altogether two hours, when he was caught by extra slip at 123; he hit six fours, three threes and three twos. A few good strokes by Brown and Guttridge helped on the record to 146, the end of the innings coming on the stroke of half-past 6.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 July, page 12)

Not even the fine start of Alec Hearne and Mr Mason, nor all the subsequent brilliant batting of the old Winchester captain, could turn yesterday's game at Beckenham, and before half-past 4 in the afternoon Kent were beaten by 19 runs.

It was a fine achievement for Notts to win, after the position in which they stood at luncheon, when Kent had got 125 of the 233 runs necessary for victory at the cost of only one wicket. But after Mr Merchant had gone at 138 there was, apart from Mr Mason, great poverty exposed in the Kent batting. Mr Mason did his best to get most of the bowling; but nothing could stay the Kentish collapse. The Nottinghamshire fielding and bowling were in the afternoon a vast improvement on the form of the morning. Brown bowled particularly well.

Mr Mason played beautiful cricket right through his innings, but he made one grave error when in hitting Brown he skied the ball, Shrewsbury dropping a ridiculously easy catch. Mr Mason had then scored 54. At one time Shrewsbury's blunder promised to cost Notts the game. A terrible tail was, however, discovered in the home side. Alec Hearne and Mr Mason made 115 for the first wicket. Naturally the honours of the match belonged to Mr Mason, who took his bat through the innings for 127. It is perhaps the best thing he has ever done for Kent. The cut was his most severe

stroke, although at times he came down heavily in his driving, and the field was placed very deep for him. His runs were made in three hours, and he hit 16 fours, eight threes and five twos.

After Mr Marchant's dismissal eight wickets fell for 74 runs. The rain slightly interfered with the game, but it was never sufficient to affect the pitch to any appreciable extent. Kent will still have to win their first match in the County Championship.

29 June: LANCASHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4578.html)

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

The 6,000 spectators at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday saw some splendid cricket. In the early hours of the day the Lancastrians put together a score of 250. The best thing in this was the play of Baker, who made 94 out of 170 in two hours without giving a chance, and hit 13 fours, four threes and eight twos. There were sundry substantial partnerships as the result of good cricket. Albert Ward and Frank Sugg made 53 for the second, Tindall and Baker 56 for the sixth and I'Anson and Baker 76 for the seventh. Lancashire were all out in three and a half hours.

But the finest cricket of the day was seen when Mr Stoddart and Mr Hayman, without the semblance of a chance, scored 134 in 80 minutes for the first Middlesex wicket. It was a wonderful piece of batting against strong bowling and accurate fielding. Mr Hayman, who was first to go, hit nine fours, while Mr Stoddart was dismissed by what proved to be the last ball of the day. It is sufficient to say that Mr Stoddart was quite himself and that he hit 11 fours. Middlesex are now 100 behind with eight wickets to fall. Hearne and Rawlin bowled remarkably well.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 9)

At Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, in the early hours of play the Middlesex team did not follow up the splendid start made in their innings by Mr Stoddart and Mr Hayman. Some of the pace had gone out of the pitch owing to a little rain which fell in the morning, but the turf was still true. The last eight wickets of the visitors were got down for an addition of 73 runs to the overnight 150. Mr Webbe and Dr Thornton batted pretty well, but no one else made much headway against the bowling of Briggs and I'Anson.

Lancashire were able to begin their second innings with a lead of 27 runs. This time they were batting for about three and a half hours and their score reached 193. Ward and Paul did fairly well, making 35 for the first wicket. However, the best stand occurred when Mr Tindall and Briggs got together and added 50. The Middlesex team, who bowled and fielded keenly, were left with 221 to score for victory and, as they have obtained a single and lost no wicket, there should be interesting play to-day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 July, page 12)

The last day of an extremely well-fought match at Old Trafford, Manchester, was marked by a very fine innings by that brilliant batsman, Mr A E Stoddart, who, by his splendid cricket on a soft pitch, scored 109 runs and enabled Middlesex to beat Lancashire by four wickets.

Middlesex had to get 211 in the fourth innings, which was by no means an easy task against the Lancastrian bowlers. But yesterday the turf was too wet to help the bowlers; for the ball cut straight through and Mr Stoddart demonstrated his power of strokes all round the wicket. To begin with, he found a sturdy partner in Hearne, who helped him to add 57 in less than an hour for the second partnership, and afterwards Mr Hayman, who was rather kindly treated by the Lancashire fieldsmen, stayed with Mr Stoddart until only 54 runs were wanted with eight wickets in hand. Mr

Stoddart was then caught at third man; he had made 109 in a couple of hours and had hit 12 fours.

Several other batsmen left, and it remained for Mr Webbe and Sir Timothy O'Brien to hit off the last few runs. The Lancastrians were handicapped to some extent by the state of the ground; but the result might have been closer had all the catches been held.

29 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4579.html)

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

More batting triumphs have to be recorded for Storer, of Derbyshire, who only in the closing days of last week achieved the feat of scoring two hundreds in the same match, and those two against the good Yorkshire bowling. Yesterday at Leicester he went in fifth wicket down at 177 and took out his bat for a brilliant 142, made in two hours and a half. The power of his play may be judged from the fact that he hit 19 fours, six threes and nine twos.

Before Storer went in Derbyshire had done pretty well through the agency of Bagshaw and Chatterton, who added 116 for the fifth partnership in an hour and three-quarters. Both played remarkably good cricket, and Bagshaw made seven and Chatterton six fours. The Derbyshire innings absorbed the whole of cricketing hours and was the more creditable coming as it did after their fine performance against Yorkshire last Saturday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 9)

With the wicket slightly affected by rain Leicestershire cut a poor figure before the Derbyshire bowlers, by whom they were twice got out yesterday at Leicester, and Derbyshire won the match by an innings and 147 runs.

The best piece of batting during the day was seen when Tomlin and Pougher were adding 63 for the third partnership in the first home innings. After following on against 257 Leicester were dismissed a second time in a couple of hours.

29 June: M.C.C. AND GROUND v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4580.html)

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

After their hard work last week in the matches with Surrey and Sussex Mr Leveson-Gower, the Oxford captain, not unwiseley decided to give most of the eleven who are to play against Cambridge on Thursday a rest. In fact, beyond himself, the only other certainty for the eleven who appeared afternoon the M.C.C. yesterday at Lord's was Mr Mordaunt. So that with eight of the "blues" away from the side it would be incorrect to refer to this match than by any other title than the above.

[Note: An Oxford University Eleven.]

As usual Oxford v M.C.C., played on the eve of the University match, is limited to two days. The first of these was wholly occupied by a part of the Marylebone innings, 583 runs being scored for the loss of seven wickets, and no doubt this morning the M.C.C. will declare their batting at an end. The two great partnerships of the day were for the fifth wicket - 170 - by Mr Druce and Mr [F A G] Leveson-Gower, and for the seventh - 141 by Mr "Herbert" [Hewett] and Albert Trott, the Australian. There was a good attendance of the general public and M.C.C. members.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 9)

With only a few minutes to spare the M.C.C. won this match last evening at Lord's by an innings and 103 runs. The day's play was remarkable for the fine batting of Mr G O Smith, last year's "blue," and Mr F L Fane, both of whom are old Carthusians. Their game was consistent, for each did well in the two innings. Mr Fane, who went in first, was fourth to leave at 159, and Mr Smith, who had helped him to put on 69 for the fourth wicket, was next caught at short slip. Mr Compton and Mr Stocks added 62 for the last partnership.

In the follow-on the honours were again borne off by Mr Fane and Mr Smith. The former this time was the fourth to be dismissed, at 139. In the double innings he made 12 fours. Mr Smith played excellently until 216, when he was eighth to go for 85, as the result of an hour and three-quarters' batting; he hit 11 fours and six threes. Oxford looked like saving the match, but the last few wickets went down rapidly. In the two days over 1,000 runs were obtained.

29 June: SOMERSET v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4581.html)

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

A great innings by Dr W G Grace marked yesterday's play in this match at Taunton. As a rule at the county town of Somerset the champion has not been seen at his best, but in this instance he broke the spell of mediocrity by staying in four hours and three-quarters, and was then caught from a short-pitched ball in the slips. All his well-known resource of "placing" was demonstrated, and beyond a chance when 31 he scarcely made a false hit. Among his contributions were 25 fours, five threes and 11 twos.

His best partners were young Mr Townsend, who helped him to add 133 in an hour and three-quarters for the second wicket, and Board, who contributed 83 to the 113 in less than an hour for the fifth. Dr Grace was the last out. Somerset had a few minutes' batting and lost one wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 9)

The batting of the Somerset team was generally indifferent at Taunton yesterday, and the result was that Gloucestershire secured an easy victory by an innings and 83 runs. If the pitch had been affected by the wet it was not sufficiently hurt [wholly to] excuse the bad cricket of Somerset. Dr W G Grace supplemented his fine batting of Monday with some effective bowling, and he was well assisted by Mr Townsend and Roberts.

In the first home innings of two hours' duration a little vigour by Nichols was the sole brightness, while in the "follow-on" it was through Wrathall's missing two of the six catches that went to him that Somerset did rather better. Mr Lionel Palairet and Smith, both of whom escaped, played pretty well. The large company which visited the ground must have been disappointed by the feebleness of the home side.

29 June: YORKSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4582.html)

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

When meeting the Australians the Yorkshiremen somehow or other do not play that fine cricket generally shown by them in their county matches. Another instance of this was marked in their third game with the Australian team, begun yesterday at Park-avenue Ground, Bradford, before 15,000 people. The Yorkshire executive put Schofield Haigh, a right-hand fast bowler, into the side in place of Mr Milligan, who was injured.

With first innings on a batsman's pitch the Australians scarcely made so many runs as had been experience, and they would have got still fewer had all the catches been held. They were batting for their 224 from midday until half-past 4. Before luncheon the score was advanced to 106 at the cost of four batsmen. Mr Darling played very well and obtained 48 out of 81, being the fourth to leave. Mr Gregory, in attempting to pull a ball, turned it into his face and retired hurt; but after the interval he completed his innings.

Mr Graham and Mr Eady by good cricket put on 65 while they were together; indeed, Mr Graham's brilliant 67 was the feature of the innings. He was badly missed by Wainwright in the slips when only 22, but this was a small error amid so much excellence. His best hits were ten fours. Mr Kelly and Mr M'Kibbin added 28 for the last partnership. Hirst and Wainwright bowled very well.

Yorkshire, in an hour and a half, lost five wickets for 112. Mr Jackson and Brown secured 45 very quickly, the latter hitting Mr Giffen for six fours, while Mr Jackson and Denton made 48 in a little over half an hour. Mr Jackson put the last ball of the day up on the leg side and was caught for a finely-played 46.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 July, page 9)

The Australians attained something like a winning position before the drawing of stumps last evening at Park-avenue, Bradford, and for this they were very largely indebted to two of their members – to Mr M'Kibbin for his capital bowling and to Mr Iredale for his sound batting, which brought 114 runs. Only last week Mr Iredale, at Trent-bridge, broke a long spell of ill-fortune that have overtaken him and he has quickly come off again in a most excellent manner.

After the good fight of Monday yesterday's failure of the Yorkshiremen created much chagrin amongst the big band of their followers. Even two dropped catches did not help the Yorkshiremen, who in the course of the first 40 minutes of the day completed their first innings for an addition of 33 runs, so that the last five men averaged only a fraction over six runs each. Mr M'Kibbin bowled remarkably well; he took four wickets yesterday morning for nine runs and brought his full analysis to seven for 23. This is the best piece of bowling Mr M'Kibbin has so far done for the Australians.

When the Australians went in again with a lead of 79 Mr Iredale, who came to this country with a great reputation, batted in fine style. Going in first he was not out until 213, when he had made 114, an innings that occupied him two hours and three-quarters, and in which were 14 fours, ten threes and six twos. He gave a couple of chances, in the slips at 26 and at point at 108; but otherwise his game was free from fault. He played strongly all round the wicket and was warmly

cheered upon his retirement. His two most useful partners were Mr Graham, who helped to score 72 for the first wicket, and Mr Darling, who stayed while 92 were made in 70 minutes for the fifth.

At one time the Australians promised to do much better than they ultimately did; but after 204 had gone up for the loss of four men there was a collapse following a delay by rain. Five wickets fell in the last hour for 35 runs, all to Schofield Haigh, the new fast bowler, off whom only 21 runs were hit after the interruption. The Australians are 318 ahead with one wicket to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 July, page 12)

The Yorkshire eleven, who are so good in county cricket, cannot be congratulated on their very ordinary play against the Australians, by whom they were beaten for the second time this season at Park-avenue, Bradford, yesterday by 140 runs. On Tuesday evening the most optimistic Yorkshireman could scarcely have expected the county to win, seeing that the Australians were 318 ahead with still a wicket to go.

A dropped catch has turned many a game, and much of Yorkshire's discomfiture could be traced to the mistake of Wainwright on Tuesday, who easily missed Mr Iredale when that batsman, who eventually scored 114, had made only 26. And not all the fine fast bowling of Schofield Haigh could rectify this mistake. Haigh, with his splendid record of eight wickets for 78 runs, has made a great stride forward in cricket. He is really a very good bowler.

Having got the game in hand, the Australians played excellently, their bowling and fielding being equally keen. The chances of Yorkshire, however, were to some extent prejudiced by the overnight rain, for the turf was slow, although the bowlers were not able to get on any wonderful break. The home side were left to make 331 in the fourth innings.

Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe scored 44 for the first wicket, and later on there was a stand for 55 by the latter and Denton. Tunnicliffe played very well and hit ten fours; but after luncheon Wainwright, Moorhouse and Peel were all out at 135. Hirst hit hard, and Lord Hawke and Haigh obtained 29 while they were together; but by 3.45 the game was over. This was the Australians' ninth success of the tour; they have lost three matches and drawn three.

Tuesday 30 June, page 11: THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN. – In consequence of Mr Gray having hurt his shoulder his play will be filled in the University match by Mr P W Cobbold, the Old Etonian.

Wednesday 1 July, page 9: THE OXFORD ELEVEN. – The 11th place in the Oxford team will not be filled until to-morrow morning, when either Mr G O Smith or Mr G B Raikes, both of whom played against Cambridge last year, will be chosen. The other members of the side have already been published in The Times, together with the Cambridge eleven.

Thursday 2 July, page 12: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

In spite of Surrey's substantial win over Hampshire they are still behind Yorkshire in the present position of the competition – that is, under the rule laid down by the M.C.C. Middlesex by their defeat of Lancashire have fractionally reduced the latter shire to fourth place. All these counties are far in front of the other ten, none of which under the “deduction” rule have yet scored a point. The competition stands thus:-

matches	Proportion of points						to finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points		
Yorkshire	12	8	4	0	8	1	
Surrey	15	12	2	1	10	.714	
Middlesex	7	5	1	1	4	.6	
Lancashire	10	8	2	0	6	.6	

The other counties' results are:-

Nottinghamshire	6	2	2	2	0	
Essex	4	2	2	0	0	
Hampshire	5	1	3	1	-2	
Derbyshire	8	2	4	2	-2	
Sussex	6	1	3	2	-2	
Gloucestershire	9	2	5	2	-3	
Somerset	8	1	5	2	-4	
Warwickshire	8	1	5	2	-4	
Leicestershire	7	1	6	0	-6	
Kent	7	0	6	1	-6	

According to the M.C.C. decision, “One point shall be reckoned for a win and one point deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county.”

OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE

The University match will begin to-day at Lord's, and with all the splendid talent possessed by the sides, it should furnish excellent cricket. Oxford have the more consistent players in the trials and would seem to have the better variety of bowlers, although they have no one perhaps quite as good as Mr G L Jessop, whose "blue" at Cambridge was pretty well assured by his fine bowling and batting for Gloucestershire last year. Then Mr C E M Wilson and Mr Shine are both skilful bowlers.

Oxford, however, with Mr Cunliffe and Mr C C Pilkington, the Etonians, and Mr Bardswell, Mr Waddy and Mr Hartley, are very strong in attack, while in Mr H D G Leveson-Gower the Dark Blues have not only a fine all-round cricketer but one of the best of captains. His capacity for directing a side was shown as a boy at Winchester, and his judgment and ability have been well developed at Oxford. He has left the 11th place in his side open until this morning, when he will decide upon either Mr G O Smith or Mr G B Raikes, both of whom played in the match last year.

There is a great strength of batting in each team, and if the weather holds fine the scores should be heavy. Yesterday's rain was scarcely sufficient to affect the turf at Lord's, and Pearce, the ground man, has preserved a fine pitch as usual in the centre of the playing field. The sides will be as follows:-

Oxford.- *H D G Leveson-Gower (captain), Magdalen; *H K Foster, Trinity; *G J Mordaunt, University; *R P Lewis, University; *F H E Cunliffe, New College; *P F Warner, Oriel; *G R Bardswell, Oriel; C C Pilkington, Magdalen; J C Hartley, B.N.C.; P S Waddy, Balliol; *G O Smith, Keble or *G B Raikes, Magdalen.

Cambridge.- *F Mitchell (captain), Trinity; *N F Druce, Trinity; *C E M Wilson, Trinity; *H H Marriott, Clare; *W M'G Hemingway, King's; *W G Grace, jun., Pembroke; G L Jessop, Christ's; C J Burnup, Clare; P W Cobbold, Trinity; E B Shine, Selwyn; E H Bray, Trinity.

*An Old Blue.

2 July: NORTH v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4583.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 July, page 12)

A very good side was got together to represent the North of England yesterday at Manchester, this, too, in spite of the match at Sheffield, where Derbyshire and Yorkshire were engaged, and of the absence of Gunn and Shrewsbury. At no time, however, did the attendance run to 5,000.

The first innings of the Australians was marked by the fine cricket of Mr Gregory, the best player in this year's Australian eleven. He went in when [four] of the team had gone for 45 and, forcing the game, he made eight fours, six threes and three twos. The Australians had the better of the game.

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

It was mostly a bowler's day at Old Trafford, Manchester, and when rain caused the abandonment of play the Australians had every reason of a substantial win. The pitch was slow and treacherous.

Among the features of the day was the collapse of the Australians in their second innings, which occurred after the first wicket had yielded 66 runs. The whole ten wickets went after luncheon for 53. Briggs and Mold bowled splendidly. The North had to make 192 to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 July, page 13)

After at one period standing in some risk of defeat the Australians on Saturday managed to beat the North of England at Old Trafford, Manchester, by 42 runs. The North, who wanted 192 to win, had lost two wickets on Friday night for 19 runs, and on Saturday three more had been dismissed by the time the score reached 45.

On the soft and difficult pitch Pougher and Lilley made a splendid attempt to win the game for the Englishmen. After starting carefully Lilley hit out in fine free manner. In an hour and a quarter the score was carried to 136, or 01 for the partnership, and things were beginning to look bad for the Australians. But Lilley at this stage was bowled for a superb 61, in which were eight fours, two threes and three twos. What chances the North had of winning were quickly spoiled by the rapid loss of three wickets for 13 more runs, and as Mold was unable to go in the match came to an end. Pougher played very well.

2 July: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4584.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 July, page 12)

In these days when good bowling seems a lost art among amateurs it is remarkable that on a perfectly true pitch at Lord's yesterday the Cambridge eleven, with all the advantage of first innings, averaged only 58 runs an hour. The fielding was certainly very good and the Oxford bowlers kept a very fine pitch, for the simple reason that there was almost a total disinclination by the Light Blues to go in and hit. Had Cambridge with all their fine batsmen forced the game to some extent we should have had much heavier scoring. Instead of this they allowed the Oxford bowlers to retain their pitch and a good number of the runs were scraped together.

Of course 319 is a very big score; but it was not until the seventh wicket had gone at 231 that anything substantial in the way of free hitting was noticed. Then it was that Mr Bray, the old Carthusian and the Cambridge wicket-keeper, played perhaps the brightest cricket of the day. The 319 was in no sense a wonderful score considering the conditions under which the runs were obtained. Mr Burnup and Mr Wilson have been as a rule bright and fast scorers; but yesterday both seemed to fear to force the play. With the pitch so good and true it was a great feat of Mr Hartley to get eight wickets. Mr Pilkington bowled wonderfully well. Mr Leveson-Gower managed his bowling well and, if the weather only holds good, the Dark Blues ought to get a lot of runs.

Although Oxford had the more consistent record in the trials, it was felt that much depended on the toss, and as the game has so far advanced the Light Blues will have to play badly to be beaten. The eleventh place in the Oxford team was given to Mr G O Smith, and in fielding that player acquitted himself well. Mr Bardswell's dropped catch, that let off Mr Wilson when only 11, was a serious mistake for Oxford, for that batsman ran his figures to the same number as Mr Burnup.

After a full morning the weather at Lord's yesterday became very fine, and the crowd was officially estimated at some 16,000. There was all the old charm of the promenade, and during the luncheon interval the scene lacked nothing of the picturesqueness of other years. At Knatchbull's corner and the nursery end were to be found the coaches of the Four-in-Hand and the Coaching Clubs. The huge pavilion was very full and among the entertainers of private parties on the grand stand were the Duke of Buccleuch, the Earl of Sefton and Mr Henry Perkins.

But the M.C.C., though rightly conservative of the interests of cricket itself, have yet to understand that more liberal attention should be bestowed on the accommodation of the Press, whose many representatives in these changed days were much hampered in their work and in their view of the game by the limited room left for them on the grand stand. The M.C.C. in this respect might take a lesson from the Oval and other grounds.

Leveson-Gower led his men out precisely at mid-day, and was quickly followed by the Cambridge batsmen, Grace and Burnup. Cunliffe, left-hand medium, opened the bowling with his field thus:- Lewis, wicket; Bardswell, slip; Hartley, extra slip; Mordaunt, third man; Pilkington, point; Leveson-Gower, cover; Foster, extra mid-off; Smith, mid-off; Waddy, mid-on; and Warner, long-on. Hartley, almost slow right, took up the bowling at the Nursery end and his field was:- Lewis, wicket; Bardswell, slip; Warner, extra slip; Pilkington, point; Leveson-Gower, cover; Cunliffe, mid-off; Mordaunt, long-off; Waddy, mid-on; Foster, square-leg; Smith, long-on.

The first over to Grace was a maiden; but Burnup got a very good single from Hartley, by whom, however, he was almost bowled. With only three runs scored Grace was altogether beaten by Hartley, who sent the leg stump out of the ground. Marriott and Burnup, both reputed for quick scoring, found it extremely difficult to get runs, the bowling and fielding were so good, and for the latter there was plenty of applause. Marriott got a ball from Cunliffe well away to square-leg for four; but this remained the sole hit of note for some time, and at the end of 40 minutes the score was only 23. Both batsmen were evidently bent on playing themselves in; but without addition Marriott, in trying to cut, got under a ball and was cleverly caught at extra slip very low down by Warner. Two for 23 on a good wicket was not a very hopeful start for Cambridge.

Norman Druce, who came in, seemed in good form. He played a fine forward game and, keeping the ball down, secured several singles that were really worth more. Perhaps the best stroke was a cut by Druce for four from Hartley. But the fielding and bowling continued very good, and at the end of an hour the score was only 42. The score was still 42 when Druce went in to hit Cunliffe and, getting only half hold of it, gave Smith an easy catch at mid-off. Three for 42.

Wilson, who came next, was nearly bowled, and also nearly played on to Cunliffe. Burnup obtained four by a fine drive, and afterwards Wilson secured a couple of fours by late cuts, the second off the Oxford fast bowler Waddy, who had gone on for Hartley at 58. Leveson-Gower made another change in his bowling at 65, Pilkington going on for Cunliffe. In his second over Pilkington ought to have got out Wilson, but Bardswell failed to make a sharp catch at short slip which went straight to him. Meanwhile, Burnup, who had been playing steadily, made a beautiful cut for four from Waddy. Wilson played Pilkington rather badly, but Burnup was strong at both ends. Hartley came on again at 71; but the batsmen were content to play a steady game. Nothing could be done with Pilkington, off whom only three runs were scored in seven overs. Leveson-Gower had a turn himself before lunch at the Nursery end, and put Cunliffe on again at the Pavilion wicket. However, at the interval the batsmen were unseparated, 44 runs having so far been added for the wicket in 50 minutes, and the score standing at 86 for three wickets.

After lunch Leveson-Gower had on his two original bowlers, Cunliffe and Hartley. A fruitless appeal against Burnup for leg-before and a lot of splendid fielding by Mordaunt and Smith were the characteristics of the play for a time. Wilson, with a pretty stroke on the leg side for four, sent up the 100 at the end of two and a quarter hours, and a few minutes later Burnup, amidst loud applause, ran to his 50. Pilkington went on for Cunliffe, who crossed over; but runs were now coming faster than hitherto, and Burnup got five by a good drive all along the ground. The bowling continued good and the fielding was perfect.

Burnup made a couple of drives and the score ran up quickly. Soon afterwards Waddy was tried again, this time at the Pavilion end, and Hartley resumed in place of Cunliffe. Mordaunt erred in fielding at third man; but almost immediately afterwards he saved three runs by a splendid piece of stopping. Runs again came but slowly, and at the end of an hour after luncheon only 53 runs had been added. The 150 went up amid cheers; but four runs later the end of the partnership came, Burnup being caught in the long-field off Hartley, Mordaunt bringing off a nicely-judged catch. The wicket had yielded 112 runs in a little over two hours. Burnup had taken rather more than three hours for his 80; he gave no chance and hit a five, seven fours, four threes and four twos.

Hemingway made the cricket lively while he stayed and hit five fours. At 187, however, he skied the ball and was caught by the bowler, the fifth wicket falling at 187. With Mitchell in, the game went back to the steadiness which marked the earlier play. The 200 was signalled at ten minutes to 5, and the next three-quarters of an hour saw this augmented by 31 runs. Various changes in the

bowling were tried; but Wilson at the end of three hours reached his 50. The fielding continued excellent and the bowlers kept a fine length that did not permit of much hitting. Hartley came on again at 231, and in his first over Mitchell went in to drive and gave cover-point an easy catch, while Jessop lashed out and enabled Mordaunt to make an easy catch in the long field. Both these wickets went at 231. The Mitchell-Wilson partnership in rather less than an hour added 44 runs; but it was a very poor hit by which Jessop was out. Seven for 231.

Wilson played very carefully, and for nearly an hour his score stood at 62. But although the bowling was varied Bray settled down and forced the game for the first time during the day; he made many fine drives from both ends and a nice square-leg hit to the boundary from Hartley. At length, at 299, when 68 had been added in 50 minutes by the brightest batting of the day, Wilson was caught low down at mid-off. From the time he arrived he had given himself up entirely to sound, defensive cricket. He was in while 257 were made in four and a half hours, and his share of these was 80.

Bray was out immediately afterwards, caught from a skier at mid-off, for a brilliant 49, in which were many fours. Cobbold and Shine hit vigorously for a couple of overs, but the bowling of Cobbold closed the innings for 319, a total that had taken five hours and a half to put together. Hartley had gone most of the bowling and had taken eight wickets; but these cost him more than 20 runs each.

Mitchell had his men out soon after the regulation ten minutes, but only three overs were bowled. Mordaunt got Jessop through the slips for four, and there was a bye, and the finish left Oxford 314 behind with ten wickets to fall.

Play will be continued this morning at 11.30.

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

If the honourable traditions of cricket are to be preserved there must be no more tactics such as those which were employed in the afternoon of yesterday, of all places at Lord's, and in such a match as Oxford v Cambridge. Is it cricket to tamper with the natural course of a match? A great majority of the members on the pavilion, which was crowded, apart from the outside public, gave unmistakable signs of their opinion. And these were not favourable to the Cambridge procedure.

Naturally Mr Frank Mitchell, the Cambridge captain, wanted to adopt the course most likely to succeed; but his instructions to his bowler to send down no-balls in order to make up the Oxford score to such a number as would prevent the follow-on were far removed from the region of sportsmanlike conduct, and were hardly within the spirit of the game as generally understood. There should not, of course, be any sentiment in the pastime; but keenness can be shown without breaking the bounds of honourable play.

With the pitch showing signs of breaking and with his men fatigued by their hard bowling and fielding, the Cambridge captain strove to get the best of the wicket, and he allowed his keenness to override one of the first principles of the game. No doubt he will find the support of a great many people who think only of the means to secure success. But it is not cricket in its highest form.

Mr F S Jackson, in 1893, when the old rule of 80 was in force, adopted the same policy; but in that instance it was a case of diamond cut diamond, for the Oxford men were attempting to lose their

wickets when Mr C M Wells settled the question by bowling some wides in the neighbourhood of square-leg. This incident really brought the alteration in the law of follow-on. Such scenes as these of yesterday are not good for the village and small clubs who look to Lord's for their principles.

Mr Mitchell's policy has so far attained success that Cambridge are in a very strong position. Already they are 271 runs ahead and have two wickets to fall, and after last night's rain Oxford will have to achieve no ordinary feat in the fourth innings to win, for the pitch is sure to be slow, and if there is any sun may be reduced to that condition known in cricket language as "sticky."

Yesterday was a day full of exciting incidents. The breakdown of some of the famous Oxford batsmen – it is strange how cricketers of great repute fail in this match – and attempt of Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr G O Smith to save the side, the vigorous batting of Mr Hartley and the catch that got out the last-named were things that held the spectator until late in the afternoon. Then there was the furious bowling of Mr Jessop, who seemed bent on maiming some one; his own wicket-keeper and Mr Leveson-Gower were very badly knocked about, especially the latter, who was "doubled up" in one case, in another had a bad blow on the hand, and was hit in sundry places. This short stuff that Mr Jessop was bowling was very dangerous and he should have endeavoured to keep a better length. Mr Leveson-Gower, however, is a model captain and cricketer; and although so lame towards the close of his innings that he could not get forward quickly enough, he stuck to his batting for an hour and a half. Mr Smith's 37 was a very fine piece of cricket.

As if offended by the conduct with which Cambridge got the third innings of the match fortune seemed to veer quite round after this. Mr Cunliffe's fine pitch and considerable break were too much for many of the Light Blues, four of whom he bowled out, while Mr Hartley's slows were always a good length and were always difficult to play. But when Cambridge were going to pieces there came a brilliant innings from Mr Norman Druce, whose beautiful style and power in the drive seemed to win back some of the friendliness of the company, who, after the "no-balls" incident, had received the Cambridge men and their performances in reproving silence. This batting of Mr Druce turned the game once more for Cambridge, and Oxford's prospect of winning rapidly dissolved when the rain came at the finish.

The fielding of the Dark Blues was as brilliant as ever, and whatever happens the match 1896 will often be remembered for this characteristic of the Oxford eleven. Young Mr Grace had the misfortune to [fail completely] in batting, and Dr W G Grace and Mrs Grace, who were among the spectators on the grand stand, were quite grieved at the ill success of their son. Dr Grace himself has never got a "pair" in his long career in important cricket.

There was a much larger attendance at Lord's yesterday than on the opening day. The figures ran from 17,000 to 18,000, and with the weather until late in the day bright the scene during the promenade was very brilliant. The auxiliary ground, generally known as the Nursery, presented a remarkable spectacle during the luncheon interval; for it was here that nearly all the picnic parties were mustered.

It was half-past 11 when the game was renewed. Shine bowled an over at the pavilion wicket so that Jessop could change ends. Mordaunt and Warner, the not-outs, soon settled down and played beautiful cricket. Mordaunt made two fine drives to the boundary and Warner secured four by a snick from Wilson. Mordaunt also got four by a cut from Jessop; but after this the play quieted down, the fielding and bowling being very true and keen. Mordaunt made four by a square-leg hit from Jessop, and then in trying to play the same bowler to leg again he seemed [just to] turn the ball into his wicket. His share of the 37 runs then scored was 26.

Foster, who came next, after nearly playing on, cut Jessop for four; but almost directly, in attempting an absurd run, Warner's wicket was lost. Foster cut the ball hard to third man, and answering Warner's call the latter was easily out. It was a terrible blunder on the part of Warner, who was just beginning to open his game. Foster, when Smith arrived, began to force the hitting and, getting well forward, made two or three fine drives, bringing up the 50 soon after midday; but his stay was brief, for at 51 he was clean bowled. Pilkington was disappointing; he managed to snick a four through the slips and then, after a few good strokes by Smith, he was clean bowled. Four for 64.

Things were going very ill for the Dark Blues when Smith and Leveson-Gower became partners. From the time when he went in Smith played with confidence, timing the ball easily, and Leveson-Gower's cricket was at courageous as usual. About this time Jessop was bowling very fast and a good deal short. Bray, the wicket-keeper, was twice struck on the head, and afterwards stood back, while Leveson-Gower was doubled up by another ball. Runs came steadily, and Mitchell changed his bowling at both ends, bringing on Shine and Cobbold. Some bright hits and some nicely-judged singles ran the score up to the 100 when the innings had lasted as many minutes; but ten runs later this most useful partnership came to an end, Smith being caught at wicket. His 37 was a remarkably good innings, in which the feature was the very fine strokes in front of cover-point – a stroke, too, that he often practised.

With Bardswell and Leveson-Gower together there was a period of dull cricket, enlivened now and again by a sharply run single. Jessop came on again and Cobbold took a turn at the other end. By slow degrees the record was carried to 130, and then Leveson-Gower, in playing back to Jessop, had his off stump bowled out of the ground. Leveson-Gower had been in an hour and a half for his 26. Six for 130. Immediately before luncheon Bardswell, who had forsaken his usual forcing game for one of caution, was cleverly caught and bowled by Cobbold, who took the ball low down at the fourth or fifth attempt. It was a wonderful catch. So seven men were out at luncheon for 132 – a very poor prospect for the Dark Blues.

With a single only added after the interval Waddy was stumped, the result of a very good piece of work by Bray; but Cunliffe and Hartley made a fine stand. In this the latter was the chief player. He hit hard and some of his drives were particularly good; but the batsmen to begin with did not seem very keen judges of a run. Hartley would have been out in one instance had Jessop returned the ball a little better. As it was, the men went on scoring at a good pace for three-quarters of an hour, putting on 55 runs in that time. The end of this partnership was brought about by a splendid catch at point by Marriott, who held the ball low down with his right hand from a terrific cut by Hartley.

The ninth wicket fell at 188, and Oxford were then within a dozen runs of saving the follow-on. Mitchell quickly grasped the situation and, with his bowlers and field fatigued by nearly four hours' hard work, he saw that it was the interest of Cambridge to prevent their opponents from going in then a second time. So, no doubt under instructions, Shine, when Lewis came in, twice went over the crease and bowled two no-balls, both of which went to the boundary, and then from the next ball four byes were scored. When the crowd realized the tactics of Cambridge there went up a great shout of "Cricket!" "Play the game!" "Shame!" and other cries. The end of the innings came in the same over, Shine bowling Cunliffe. So Oxford had saved the follow-on.

Many members in the pavilion joined very strongly in the demonstration of dissent at the action of the Cambridge men, and there was a round of groans for them instead of the usual cheers. Oxford

were batting altogether three hours and 50 minutes for their 202. There was nothing very remarkable in the analysis; but Wilson bowled extremely well.

With the substantial lead of 117 Cambridge were in a very strong position when they went in again at a quarter past 4. Mitchell kept to his original "order." Cunliffe started the bowling, and with the fifth ball, before a run had been scored, he dismissed Grace, who had secured the unenviable "pair." In the second over Cunliffe also bowled Marriott, and two wickets were down for five runs. Druce played steadily; but neither he nor Burnup seemed to relish Hartley's pitch and break. There were two or three good hits, however, between which Warner made a great effort to catch Druce in the slips. At 24 Hartley, with a fine right-hand return catch low down, got rid of Burnup, and six runs later Wilson was beautiful stumped.

With four wickets lost for 30 there was something like consternation among Cambridge men, who saw their advantage slipping rapidly away. Hemingway and Druce put on 20 in eight minutes, and then the former was clean bowled in trying to hit. Five for 50. Mitchell stayed some time with Druce; but the fielding and bowling were very keen, and after 11 runs had been slowly added Mitchell's leg stump was bowled out of the ground, the sixth wicket falling at 61. Much was hoped for from the great Gloucestershire hitter Jessop, but his reckless play brought him little success. He made a few big hits and one leg hit; but at 84 he ran into Hartley and was easily stumped. He had scored 19 out of 23 in 12 minutes.

Meanwhile Druce had been playing soundly and well, and with Bray in the Cambridge series of disasters received a check. Leveson-Gower put Waddy and Pilkington on for a few overs, but he soon had Hartley and Cunliffe back again. The score increased at a good rate, and with a beautiful drive Druce ran to his 50 amid much cheering. After 6 o'clock the light grew bad and rain threatened. Druce went in and hit a no-ball from Cunliffe to the boundary, and made several other good drives. Bray played very carefully and was often puzzled by Hartley's slows. Waddy, the Oxford fast bowler, had a turn at the pavilion end at 145, and nine runs later he got Druce caught from a hard drive at mid-on. Druce had played splendid cricket when his side were hard pressed, and his driving was clean and well timed throughout the two and a quarter hours of his stay. He hit five fours, three threes and four twos. The partnership for the eighth wicket yielded 70 runs in just over an hour.

Rain came on heavily before another batsman arrived, and there was no further play. Cambridge at present are 271 runs ahead with two wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 July, page 13)

On Saturday the Oxonians made this year's University match memorable by scoring over 300 runs in the fourth innings – a feat never before achieved by either side. The Oxford victory by four wickets was the more extraordinary for the reason that for nearly two days and a half Cambridge were playing a winning game.

When Cambridge held the big lead on Friday night of 271 and when rain fell rather heavily for some hours the Dark Blues' chances were considerably discounted; but the rain ceased between 9 and 10 on Friday night, and with the help of a strong north-west wind the wicket dried naturally, and it rolled out on Saturday as true as it had been at any time in the match. So, as fortune willed it, it was not Cambridge but Oxford who, after all, had the better of the wicket in the last two innings.

Cambridge had to pay penance for turning the game out of its natural course by preventing Oxford from following on, for the Dark Blues might have lost several wickets to Mr Jessop on Friday evening with the turf crumbling to some extent at one end. Still Oxford had a gigantic task to get 330 in the last innings; but they had the advantage of the freshness of the morning, to say nothing of the mended wicket.

Looked at from any cricket standpoint it was a great feat and one that will be talked of for many a day. The foundation of the success was in the play of the Old Carthusian and international forward, Mr G O Smith, who developed wonderful batting powers. For four long hours he batted with easy and powerful precision; and to watch him casually made one marvel where all the strength in his drive and his cut came from; but a closely observant spectator could easily discover his fine power of wrist and forearm, while without apparent exertion from the shoulder he came down very heavily on the ball in cutting. Wonderful coolness and judgment distinguished his game from beginning to end; and when things were going badly for his side, and afterwards when the game had changed, there was the same sturdy excellence about his cricket. Only once he lost his coolness, and that cost him his wicket, when attempting to make the winning hit.

Mr Smith's 132 is the third highest score ever made in the Oxford v Cambridge match and, like Lord George Scott in 1887, he played his three-figure innings when he was only the 11th choice of the side. It is not given to many men to have such a reception as Mr Smith had on his return to the pavilion on Saturday afternoon; the great building was crowded and the members rose in a body and cheered the batsman.

The game was won for Oxford by the partnerships of the fourth, fifth and sixth wickets. These were shared by Mr Smith with Mr Pilkington, Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr Bardswell, and yielded in all 268 runs. Mr Pilkington, who went up from Eton to Oxford with quite a world-wide cricket reputation, played in a style completely worthy of his school. Mr Leveson-Gower, although a little stiff from the blows he received on Friday from Mr Jessop's bowling, played with all that doggedness and determination which have been characteristic of him, both at Winchester and Oxford, and the presence of such a high-spirited captain made all the difference in the world to the Oxford eleven, who for nearly the whole match were engaged in a stern, up-hill fight.

The boldest Oxford man on Saturday morning could scarcely have dared to hope for success in face of the score of 330 necessary to win, even when he remembered all the fine batsmen on the side. Cambridge's success much depended on Mr Jessop; but that bowler turned out one of their disappointments. To begin with, he rarely found a respectable length, and his short bowling on Saturday afternoon was very expensive. Mr Smith showed a capacity for scoring off short bowling in the proper way that would have done credit to Mr Stoddart. But this short, fast bowling is not good cricket. There is too much of going for the man instead of the wicket about it, and it should be discouraged. In England v Australia recently there was seen quite enough of this, when Mr Jones, the Australian, pitched sometimes less than half way.

Oxford were the better side, and their success was made more popular by the hard, up-hill game which they played. They had a better variety of bowling – Mr Cunliffe's beautiful length and break on Friday evening were as good a piece of amateur bowling as has been seen for many a day – their fielding was perfection itself, and in the end they proved themselves stronger batsmen. Nothing could have been better than the cricket of Mr Smith, Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr Pilkington on Saturday afternoon. Some injustice was done to Mr Bardswell by the statement that he missed Mr Wilson on the slips on Thursday; it is now explained that it was no catch, the ball falling just in front of the fieldsman's hands.

Cambridge on Saturday morning must have felt pretty sure of victory, and when they had got three men out for 60 things seemed to be going well for them. But afterwards all their good fielding could not keep the runs down; and the match was steadily lost to them.

The sympathy of a large body of the cricket public was, no doubt, alienated from the Cambridge team by through the “follow-on” incident of Friday afternoon. Both in the pavilion and on the ground the action of Mr Mitchell was widely and warmly discussed, and there was a feeling that the introduction of such strategy into cricket was not within the spirit of the game. The rule after the incident of 1893 was altered largely in the hope of preventing its recurrence. The laws of cricket, of course, cannot be changed for every unseemly incident; but, no doubt, there will be a revival of the suggestion that either the follow-on should be optional with the side possessed of the lead or it should be abolished altogether. The objection to making it optional is that this would place all the and on one side.

Saturday was a gloriously fine day and the crowd numbered 14,000 or 15,000 people, who saw virtually a full day’s cricket, for play began at 11.30 and it was 20 minutes past 6 when the winning hit was made.

With a lead of 117 on the first innings and having made 154 in the second innings at the cots of eight wickets, Cambridge were in a strong and what appeared like a winning position, being 271 ahead with two men to go. And this position was considerably strengthened in the 35 minutes over which the balance of their innings extended. Bray was joined by Cobbold, and the batsmen settled down and forced the game well. Bray, who had proved such a valuable batsman to Cambridge on both of the previous days, again played extremely well; in a nice easy style he drove and cut with much power. Leveson-Gower, who had Hartley and Cunliffe on, made a change at 179, Waddy’s fast bowling being tried with immediate success, for he got Bray caught at wicket in the first over. Bray played sound cricket for his 41, which had occupied him an hour and 25 minutes. Shine and Cobbald rapidly put on another 33 before the former was caught in the slips. During the morning 58 runs had been added in 35 minutes.

The innings of 212 had occupied rather more than three hours. Cunliffe, Hartley and Waddy all bowled very well; but the two first-named, after the fall of the seventh wicket, were rather severely punished. Hartley, in the double innings, however, took 11 wickets for 239 runs.

As in no Oxford and Cambridge match over 300 had been got in the fourth innings, there were not many Oxford men hopeful of the successful performance of the task of making 330 to win. After the light roller had been put over the wicket the Dark Blues started their second innings just before half-past 12. Leveson-Gower kept to the original order and Mordaunt and Warner began to the bowling of Jessop and Wilson.

The former was short at starting and his bumping was a little dangerous to the batsmen; Bray stood back from the wicket. Mordaunt snicked a short ball and it went over slip’s head away to the boundary, and then Warner obtained four by a lofty cut from the other end. The batting was steady and good. Mordaunt played a short ball from Jessop to the square-leg boundary; but the latter then gave him one that was well up and which kept low and shot the leg stump out of the ground. One for 16 was not a hopeful beginning.

Foster and Warner were both struck by Jessop’s bowling and Foster became lame. However, the last-named made two or three pretty boundary cuts and drives from each end, one of his drives from

Wilson being particularly good. Runs came steadily, the batsmen evidently playing themselves in. Foster drew back and hit a short one from Jessop to the boundary, and just before the 50 was reached Mitchell changed his bowling at both ends, Cobbold and Shine coming on. When things were going fairly well for Oxford there was a foolish call for a sharp single by Foster, who had played the ball hard and straight to Grace at mid-off. Warner had no chance of getting home and the blunder cost him his wicket – “run out” for the second time in the match. Two for 55. Another disaster befell Oxford directly afterwards – namely, at 60, when Foster gave Cobbold a return catch. With three wickets down for 60 the game seemed running strongly for Cambridge, who were bowling and fielding excellently.

Smith, who had come in when Warner had gone, was joined by Pilkington, and there followed a period of beautiful cricket. Smith’s method of dealing with the short balls from Jessop was much admired; his stroke on the leg side was very good and his drive between cover-point and extra mid-off was splendidly placed. Mitchell could not afford to let Jessop stay on long, for he did not find his pitch and was severely hit. So Wilson had a turn at the pavilion end, and from him Pilkington made a pretty late cut for two, bringing the luncheon score to 84.

After the interval Cobbold and Jessop were the bowlers again, but neither could make much impression on the batsmen, both of who played particularly well. Pilkington gave what seemed like a chance in the slips at 19, but then with a cut for four he sent up the 100 at 3 o’clock. Pilkington in true Eton style made two fine fours – a drive and a leg hit – in an over from Jessop, and then Mitchell again put on Wilson and Shine. But the batsmen were well set and scored quickly in spite of the accurate fielding. Some well-judged singles and a beautiful drive all along the ground to the nursery by Smith helped the score to 129, when Cobbold took a turn with the ball. Smith, after getting a short ball from Shine round to the leg boundary, made a dangerous stroke in the slips that was almost a chance to Marriott. The batsman at that point had scored 32. Cambridge still fielded keenly and there was a fine piece of work by Shine at short-leg. Jessop was on again at 140, and a wicket fell in the first over, for after he had been hit by Pilkington to leg for four he caught and bowled that batsman right hand high up. In the course of the 70 minutes’ partnership 84 runs had been made, and of these Pilkington’s share, as a result of superb cricket, was 44.

Four for 144 was a record still a long way from suggesting success. Leveson-Gower, the Oxford captain, was very heartily cheered as he made his way to the wicket. He did not take long to get his first single, and thereafter both he and Smith played excellently. Smith was particularly good and showed a variety of strokes that few people thought him possessed of. The way he drew himself up to get rid of the short ball was very clever. Leveson-Gower was at first scarcely at home to Cobbold, some of whose bowling he mistimed. Other bowling changes were tried, but the score mounted steadily, and as the various landmarks of the game were passed there was the usual cheering. Burnup bowled a couple of overs prior to Cobbold’s resuming at 174, but he sent down two wides and was easily hit for some singles. There was a nice leg-hit by Leveson-Gower to the boundary, and the Oxford captain was soon so severe on Cobbold that Mitchell had him off and put on Druce.

Meantime Smith had run to 50 at the end of a couple of hours. Runs were now coming quite quickly, and when Jessop once more was tried he was promptly hit to the boundary twice in one over, and the 200 was reached at 4.35. The friends of Oxford began now to talk of victory, and the Cambridge bowlers were evidently getting fatigued under the hot sun. Various changes were tried. Shine, Druce, Jessop, Cobbold, Wilson and Mitchell in turn bowled, but nothing would keep down the runs. To show how closely the company followed the play it may be mentioned that they did not pass unnoticed Smith’s aggregate of 100 in the two innings, while by 5 o’clock there was more

applause when Oxford entered upon their last 100 runs. At last Mitchell tried Shine at the nursery end, and after sending down three wides the latter got Leveson-Gower caught at wicket. Ninety-seven for the wicket in 100 minutes was the return. Leveson-Gower had played excellently for his 41, and he had a fine reception as he returned to the pavilion.

Five for 241 still left Oxford a long way to go, for 89 runs were wanted. But the next partnership virtually settled the match. Bardswell played steadily; but Smith began to score off the worn-out bowlers with telling rapidity. The way he kept the ball, when driving, all along the ground, his cut and his leg-hit frequently elicited the applause of the crowd; but it was a bad stroke through the slips off Shine that carried him to his 100, scored in three and a half hours. There was tremendous cheering for this feat, and none so hearty as that which came from the balcony of the Oxford dressing-room.

No bowling change could check the Dark Blues. Jessop, who had been off for a great while, came on again only to be cut for four by Bardswell, while Smith drove Shine thrice to the boundary in one over, bringing up 300 just before 6 o'clock. Bardswell hit Jessop for four to leg, and got five from the next ball by a cut (run out). The score ran to 322, or eight runs only to win, when Smith had to take an over from Cobbold. He got six by a drive and a leg-hit, and then, in his anxiety to make the winning stroke, he misjudged the ball and was caught at short-slip. As Smith went back there was a scene of great enthusiasm and the members on the pavilion rose to receive him. In the four hours over which his fine innings extended Smith had made 132 with scarcely a false hit; there was a steady excellence right through his innings, and he obtained 12 fours, six threes and nine twos. Smith and Bardswell had added 87 while they were in together in about 50 minutes.

When Waddy came in only two runs were wanted. After being nearly bowled he got one of them, and then Bardswell secured the next from a drive that was a catch to Burnup at long-off, but which the fieldsman dropped. So Oxford won by four wickets. A great crowd assembled in front of the pavilion and called for Smith, who was loudly cheered.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,- Nobody likes to be called “unsportsmanlike”; but abuse is not argument. It seems to me that a reporter is equally entitled to call a captain’s conduct “unsportsmanlike” if he does not change the bowling as soon as the reporter thinks fit, and so loses some runs.

Your reporter’s criticisms on the tactics of the Cambridge captain, however much support they may receive from the general public, will not, I fancy, commend themselves to the cricketing world. They seem to me to be based on a radical misconception of the duties of a captain. Those duties are not to provide an interesting issue for the spectators, but to win the match if possible. Nothing that Mr Mitchell did was contrary to the laws of cricket; and if, in his opinion, he was more likely to win the match by presenting his opponents with a few runs, such a “finesse” was not only justifiable but his clear duty. It is surely rather hard to penalize success and put a side at a disadvantage just because it has the best of the game.

Is it not time that the “follow-on” rule should be further amended – say, by giving the captain of the leading side the option of putting his opponents in again or going in again himself? This would be following the analogy of the recent reform by which a captain can “declare” his innings over when he thinks he has enough runs to win.

I am yours faithfully,
LOOKER-ON

Sir,- there are many suggestions about altering the laws of cricket in consequence of the Cambridge and “follow-on” question. Would it not be better to drop the subject and bury it, as it must have been evident to all real cricketers that the tumultuous joy of the public at Lord’s at Oxford’s brilliant victory was a convincing proof that, even supposing that the captain of Cambridge was within the law, the successful stratagem which he adopted for avoiding having a “second outing” is wholly against the chivalrous fair play of the game?

Yours, &c,
AN OLD CRICKETER

Tuesday 7 July, page 11: TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,- I wholly differ from the view taken by your cricket correspondent of the “no-ball” incident in the Oxford and Cambridge match. He accuses the Cambridge captain of overriding one of the first principles of the game. The first and only principle of the game is that the players should do their best to win it, subject to a strict adherence to the letter and, if you will, to the spirit of the rules. What rule has been infringed either in letter or in spirit, and what pretence is there for making the odious charge that there has been a “breaking of the bounds of honourable play”?

In 1893 the Cambridge captain, in a perfectly open and above-board way, asserted his right to act precisely as his successor acted on Friday. This position has never been receded from; it constituted a distinct notice of the view of the matter taken by Cambridge, and indeed, if your correspondent’s reference to the 1893 incident is correct, by Oxford as well, and this view the M.C.C. has deliberately refrained from condemning.

Cricket in these days excites too deep an interest and too keen a partisanship to admit of its being

regulated by vague traditions and understandings, or otherwise than by strict law. Even, however, if it were not so, I utterly deny that there ever has been or can have been an understanding, or whatever else you might call it, against a side purposely throwing away runs or wickets, and I say to attempt to establish such an understanding would be disastrous in the extreme. You can never be sure that a batsman has purposely allowed himself to be bowled out or that a bowler is purposely not bowling his best. But whenever at the critical moment the last wicket or two may have opportunely fallen, or a wicket-keeper may have let a boundary bye, angry imputations of unfair play would inevitably be made, discreditable exhibitions of feeling, as on Friday, would become frequent, and the good humour which has hitherto characterized our keenest games would become a thing of the past.

I so far agree with your correspondent that I think the rules of the game should not encourage any tampering with its natural course, especially when they operate in a one-sided manner. At present the in-side cannot prevent the out-side depriving them of the advantage (when it is one) of following on, and I do not see why this advantage should be conferred upon the side winning the toss in addition to the many which they already enjoy. I would suggest, as one way out of the difficulty, that the in-side at any time before the follow-on has been saved should have the option of closing their innings. The closure rule was passed to prevent intentional knocking down of wickets and such like practices, and it gives an enormous advantage to the closing side – e.g., the Eton and Harrow match last year. Why not counterbalance this to some extent by giving the other side a similar privilege?

I write in the hope that there will be sober discussion followed by well-considered legislation on this difficult subject, and that we shall have no more offensive and unjust aspersions cast upon men who have done nothing to deserve them.

Yours obediently,
July 4. COBHAM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,- The best way to test the quality of the Cambridge tactics last Friday is to suppose such play to be allowed and freely practised. What would be the result?

As the critical time drew near, the bowlers would begin to bowl wides and the batsman in retaliation would knock down his wicket, or would call his companion to run, and both would remain standing out of their ground when the ball was returned. The M.C.C. committee would then have to determine whether a batsman was out for “hit wicket” when the ball was out of his reach. Failing in this, the batsman might, conceivably, stop the wide ball with his hands and throw down his own wicket. I suppose he would be out. But is it not perfectly clear that this and other foolery would be perfectly legitimate if once you admit the principle that a captain must play to win, and that to this object all traditions of the game must be sacrificed?

The public came in their thousands to Lord’s to see the great game played as well as it could be by two picked elevens. If Mr Mitchell’s ideas of winning a match are to prevail, the public would have to look on at the game being played as badly as it can be by these elevens. And, moreover, granted sufficient eagerness on each side, the farce might be protracted for some time.

But, though the question of these tactics being “sportsmanlike” or not seems to me hardly a matter

for dispute, that is no reason why the law should not be altered.

The rule allowing "follow on" ceased to have any distinct reason for existence as soon as the closing of the innings was allowed. Let it therefore be abolished altogether. This will be found simpler and better than making it optional. Yours obediently,

Haileybury, July 6.

E LYTTELTON

2 July: YORKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4585.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 July, page 12)

For the greater part of yesterday at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, the home side were at the wickets, and their innings was marked by the fine batting of Denton, whose 113 were made in about two hours and three-quarters and included 16 fours, seven threes and six twos. Brown, Moorhouse and Mounsey also played well and the first-named hit nine fours.

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

After a poor first innings Derbyshire played Yorkshire a fairly good game at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday. The features of the cricket were the splendid batting of Storer, who made his fourth hundred in five innings, and the bowling of Schofield Haigh, who took 12 wickets for Yorkshire at a small cost. Coming after his Australian performance Haigh's fast bowling seems likely to be of great value to Yorkshire.

Storer was batting two hours and a quarter, and hit one five, 14 fours, six threes and 11 twos. Yorkshire went in to get 86 to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 July, page 13)

Yorkshire's success in this match at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, was on Saturday pretty well assured, seeing that only 86 runs were wanted by them to win in the fourth innings, and that 22 of this number had been made overnight. In an hour and a quarter the end was reached, Yorkshire winning by nine wickets.

Brown played fine cricket, hitting a five and five fours, while he scored in the match over 100 runs. One of the secrets of Yorkshire's success was the splendid bowling of the new professional Schofield Haigh, who in delivery and pace closely resembles Hirst. But he has a deadly slow ball which he sends down without alteration of action, and it was this ball that proved so effective against Derbyshire. Yorkshire wanted another good bowler, and in Haigh they seem to have found a treasure. On a batsman's wicket he got out 12 men for 115 runs.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The following are the present positions of the counties:-

	Proportion of Points						to Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points		
Matches							
Yorkshire	13	9	0	4	9	1	
Surrey	15	12	2	1	10	.714	
Middlesex	7	5	1	1	4	.6	
Lancashire	10	8	2	0	8	.6	

The other counties' results are:-

Nottinghamshire	6	2	2	2	0	
Essex	4	2	2	0	0	
Hampshire	5	1	3	1	-2	
Sussex	6	1	3	2	-2	
Derbyshire	9	2	5	2	-3	
Gloucestershire	9	2	5	2	-3	
Somerset	8	1	5	2	-4	
Warwickshire	8	1	5	2	-4	
Leicestershire	7	1	6	0	-5	
Kent	7	0	6	1	-6	

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

6 July: DERBYSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4586.html)

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

Derbyshire scored heavily against Leicestershire, at Derby, yesterday, and their present incomplete innings promises them another fine victory. Pougher, who injured his hand at Manchester last week, was unable to bowl for the visitors, who in this way were much handicapped.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 July, page 13)

In the brief time of play, limited as it was by the weather, at Derby, yesterday, the visitors had the worst of the cricket, and to-day they have a severe uphill game before them. Derbyshire's four outstanding wickets of Monday fell for an addition of 47 runs. Storer increased his overnight record by ten and his innings of 52 was the result of fine batting; it included seven fours. It is worthy of remark that in this long innings of Derbyshire scarcely an error occurred in the field.

When Leicestershire went in Davidson bowled with much success, and when rain stopped the match for the day four men were out for 30 runs. Mr Hillyard will take no further part in the match owing to the death of his father.

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

The fine batting of Pougher and Mr Wright in the first three hours of yesterday at Derby enabled Leicestershire to save their return match with Derbyshire, who had played a first innings of 435. Pougher and Mr Wright in their partnership for the fifth wicket made 153 runs. Mr Wright, who was then out, hit four fours and five threes. Pougher played splendidly for his 114. He left at 220 after a stay of four hours. Among his figures were seven fours, ten threes and 16 twos.

When Leicestershire followed on against arrears of 165 there was little time left for play, and the match ended in a draw . . .

6 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4587.html)

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

With so many of the counties engaged it was no easy matter for the Surrey executive to muster two sides of a representative character for the match which they annually play under the title of Gentlemen v Players at Kennington Oval. Hence a casual perusal of the names of the elevens will quickly show that many famous amateurs and professionals were absent from yesterday's game. With the pressure caused by the Australian visit it would have perhaps been better had the Surrey Club dropped the fixture this year; and, after all, the cricket public look only to the Lord's match between Gentlemen and Players for a complete test of the skilled representative sides of the year. This contest at Lord's is arranged for the beginning of next week, and two fine elevens are sure to be obtained by Marylebone.

Weak sides naturally diminish the public interest in the match; but the names of the players yesterday, if unrepresentative, were a guarantee of good cricket, so it was not wholly surprising to find a crowd of seven or eight thousand people on the Oval as the weather was beautifully fine. More progress was made with the game than might have been expected, considering that the Players had first innings on a pitch very true and that the Gentlemen's bowling was of a comparatively moderate kind.

But success came from an unexpected quarter. Mr Bull, of Essex, when he was put on at 80, had two catches missed off him at starting, and in the end he took eight wickets for 24 runs, a very fine performance. Mr Bull bowls right-hand slows and makes to ball twist a good deal. In fact, he and Dr Grace were the first changes, and Mr Kortright and Mr Townsend had not to go on again. Dr Grace seemed to find a spot or two, probably left by the bowlers, and he greatly puzzled many of the batsmen. The Gentlemen could not well be congratulated on their fielding, for there were two easy catches badly dropped early in the game.

The finest innings during the Players' innings of 248, which lasted three hours, was that shown by Abel and Brockwell, who, profiting by the dropped catches of Mr Palairet and Mr Kortright late in their innings, made 96 for the first wicket. Brockwell's driving was very fine and Abel's play was steady all round the wicket. Then, after a little over an hour, Brockwell, in going in to hit Mr Bull, skied the ball to mid-off; among his figures were nine fours. Abel stayed some time longer but the batting did not improve. The professionals played Mr Bull very badly and the side were rapidly dismissed. The fifth wicket went at 153, and after Lohmann and Rawlin had added 44 the innings soon ended. Board made some good hits, scoring 24 of the last 51 runs.

The Gentlemen were batting for two hours and a quarter, and at the cost of five wickets went to within 100 of the other score. They started badly. J T Hearne got out Dr Grace with a beautiful ball, while Board at wicket quickly disposed both of Mr Palairet and Mr Hayman. After three men had gone for 16 a steady partnership occurred between Mr Gwynn and Mr Townsend, which produced 47 runs. But the thing that brought something like evenness to the match was the dashing batting of Mr W W Read in the last hour of the day. Mr Read scored well on the leg side and also by the cut, making in all 56 out of 85 in an hour and a quarter; his chief hits were seven fours, two threes and eight twos. Board secured four catches at wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 July, page 13)

Throughout yesterday the cricket in this match on the Oval steadily favoured the Gentlemen, who were left last evening with 101 more runs to make in the fourth innings to win and with eight wickets to fall. Slow bowling was the cause of the Players' somewhat indifferent show in the second innings as it was in the first. A majority of the men treated it too lightly and went in for indiscriminate hitting. As the Gentlemen's fielding was very good, the want of judgment in forcing the game led the Players into a bad position. Mr Palairet made three fine catches in the deep field, and there was another at long-leg by Thompson, of Surrey (substitute for Mr Read, who had hurt himself).

Monday night's position showed the professionals to have rather the better of the game, for they had got down five of their opponents' best wickets and were still 100 runs ahead. But the first hour and a quarter yesterday turned the game. In this time Mr H K Foster, of the Oxford eleven, played a brilliant innings of 72 that was full of fine cuts and drives, while Mr Townsend, who had gone in overnight third wicket down at 16, proved a model of steadiness and, keeping up his end, usually waited for the loose ball to hit. Mr Foster's share of the 107 added in 75 minutes for the sixth partnership came to nearly two-thirds. His nice forward came was profitable against most of the bowlers, and he obtained a five, ten fours and four threes.

Mr Perrin played very good cricket for about half an hour; but after Mr Foster had gone attention was devoted to the probabilities of Mr Townsend's 100. This figure he was not allowed to reach, as he was clean bowled for 96. For four hours he had played with every care and steadiness. He obtained a five and ten fours, and his 96 against so many strong players was a distinct triumph for a first appearance in Gentlemen v Players. Hearne bowled remarkably well and his analysis of five for 58 was very creditable in an innings of 303.

The Players, who had 55 of arrears to rub off, went in a second time soon after 3 o'clock, and their innings lasted about two and a half hours. They batted one short through the absence of Mead, who hurt his hand in fielding, and when their fourth wicket went down at 66 the easiest of victories seemed in store for the Gentlemen. Dr Grace made a wonderful catch at point when he got out Carpenter, whom he caught from a hard cut low down and with one hand.

With the presence of Lohmann, Wrathall and Rawlin at the wicket, the Players' prospects improved, for all three men threw plenty of vigour into their game. Lohmann and Wrathall actually added 63 in 35min for the fifth partnership; but after the sixth wicket had gone at 154 Rawlin could get no one to stay with him for any considerable time. Dr Grace in his second spell with the ball secured three men at a small cost, and the last of the Players was out before 20 minutes to 6. Mr Bull obtained two more wickets, bringing his double analysis to 10 for 132.

The Gentlemen had to get 137 for victory. Dr Grace and Mr Palairet made some very good drives to begin with; but two wickets soon fell, after which Dr Grace and Mr Perrin reduced the task to 101. the weather yesterday became dull in the afternoon; but there was a good attendance, about 5,000 people being present.

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

The annals of Gentlemen v Players contain many close finishes, including the tie match in 1883 on the Surrey ground, and yesterday's game closely approached a similar result. Finally the

Gentlemen, after being almost at the end of their resources – Mr Hayman, although scarcely being able to walk owing to his strained leg, and Mr Read, in spite of his bad hand, were both pressed into the fight – won by a single wicket.

Although on Monday and Tuesday there were big crowds at the Oval to see the play, the genuine interest in the match as a test between the amateur and professional talent of the day will rapidly diminish unless representative sides are got together. Some guarantee should be given by the counties at the secretaries' meeting to make the teams representative if the value of the match as a trial between the two great classes of the game is to be preserved.

When 100 went up yesterday morning and three men were out it seemed that an easy victory was in store for the Gentlemen, who wanted only 137 in all to win. But the character of the play became changed when Richardson went on at the top end at 95 and Lohmann took the ball at the pavilion wicket. In the course of 35 minutes four more men – Mr Townsend, Mr Foster, Mr Kortright and Mr Read – went for an addition of 25, while Mr Hayman, who had a man to run for him, left at 131. Two wickets now remained to get six runs. Mr Bull stayed until the game was a tie, and then Mr Lewis, the last batsman, had to play Richardson. Mr Lewis, from the second ball sent him, scored a single and won the match.

Dr Grace took out his bat for a soundly played 53, made in two and a half hours; he was the backbone of the side, and had Board caught him at wicket, as he should have easily done at 15, things might have gone very badly for the Gentlemen. With the Players bowling true and difficult and the fielding very keen, even Dr Grace found it no easy task to get runs; but he made many fine drives and also placed the ball well on the leg side. Just before the finish he gave a difficult chance to Rawlin at short slip, so that it may be said that fortune was mostly on the Gentlemen's side.

In the early part of the day Mr Perrin batted excellently and helped Dr Grace to make 47 for the third partnership. Richardson in the double innings took ten wickets for 172 runs. Among the close finishes in Gentlemen v Players at Lord's were those of 1877 – when the late Mr G F Grace and Mr W S Pattison, by making 46 for the tenth partnership, enabled the Gentlemen to win by one wicket – and 1888, when the Gentlemen won by five runs. Near the end of yesterday's match Dr Grace was badly hit by a bumping ball from Richardson.

6 July: HAMPSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4588.html)

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

The Australians established in great advantage in the match at Southampton yesterday, and for this they were indebted to the fine batting of Mr Iredale and Mr Donnan, and to the effective bowling of Mr Eady and Mr M'Kibbin. There was a large company present.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 July, page 13)

The Australians gained a brilliant victory over Hampshire at Southampton yesterday by an innings and 125 runs. After the way the game had gone on Monday, some such result as this was expected; but yesterday, in spite of the unevenness of the match, there was plenty of interesting play and some fine batting was shown by both sides.

The visitors precisely doubled their overnight score of 231, made at the cost of three wickets, and their 462 is the highest total yet credited to them in this tour. Mr Giffen's 130 was the chief feature of yesterday's play. He went in first wicket down and was eighth to go. Steady excellence marked his batting, which was strong all round, and he got his runs in three and a half hours, making 14 fours, six threes and 12 twos. Mr Graham helped him to add 99 for the fourth partnership. Mr Graham hit brilliantly and in his 66 were 11 fours.

Hampshire, who were 328 behind, lost two men for 29. Then came some very fine play by Captain Wynyard, who, after Mr Ward had helped him to add 71 in 40 minutes, was eventually caught and bowled; his 68 were obtained in a little over an hour. In forcing the game so well he not unnaturally ran some risks; but the figures of his innings speak as to the vigour of his play. He made a drive out of the ground for six, 13 fours and a three. Subsequently, the best defence was shown by Webb, who was last to be dismissed by a fine catch in the long field.

6 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4589.html)

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

Nottinghamshire started very well at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, by getting out five of their opponents on a good, hard wicket for 89 runs. Thereafter things went badly for the home side. Ward and Baker by sound and steady cricket scored 140 for the sixth partnership in a couple of hours. Ward was altogether 3½ hours making his 83, in which were six fours. As might be gathered, his game was at times very slow, while he ought twice to have been caught at wicket.

Baker played much brighter cricket, making eight fours and four threes and never giving a chance. Subsequently Tyldesley, after beginning badly, settled down and played well, and when stumps were drawn Lancashire were 340 with a wicket in hand. The Notts men fielded very well; but their side was weakened by the absence of Shrewsbury, who injured his hand at Beckenham last week, while Mason, the professional to the Notts Amateur Club, failed to come off in bowling.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 July, page 13)

In consequence of the rain little progress could be made with the cricket at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday. Lancashire quickly completed their innings in the morning for 347, the partnership for the last wicket between Mold and Lancaster yielding altogether 37 runs. In county were batting in all about five and a half hours.

Nottinghamshire soon lost Mr Jones; but Flowers and Gunn played well and in 40 minutes 54 runs were scored. To-day Notts want 174 more to save the follow-on.

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

After at one period of yesterday, at Trent-bridge, appearing almost certain of drawing their game with Lancashire, the Nottinghamshire eleven in the second innings collapsed, and on the verge of "time" Lancashire won the match by an innings and 63 runs. With the rain coming on when Lancashire had run up a heavy score, the home side had all the worst of the luck, for yesterday they found the bowlers very difficult, and Briggs and Mold finished off the game in quite a sensational manner.

Tuesday night had left the position of affairs thus:- Lancashire, 347; Nottinghamshire, 54 for one wicket. The first hour of yesterday foreboded ill for the Notts men, as five wickets went for the addition of 33 runs, while before luncheon the end of the innings was reached for 135. Attewell played very steadily and, going in third wicket down at 67, took out his bat for 31. Baker, who was fourth to go on, had a fine bowling analysis.

The pitch during the interval grew more difficult as it dried, and when Nottinghamshire followed on after luncheon with arrears of 212 everything pointed to an easy victory for the Lancastrians, especially as three hours and three-quarters remained for play. Mr Jones was soon out; but Gunn and Attewell made a fine attempt to stave off defeat. For an hour and 20 minutes they remained together and in this time added 60 runs. Another steady partnership between Gunn and Mr Dixon

absorbed 50 minutes, and when the third wicket fell at 103 Notts, with an hour to play, had seven men left.

Gunn was doing remarkably well on the false pitch, but just before 6 o'clock his long stay of two hours and 40 minutes came to an end. He had played a great game for his side, and in his 54 were three fours, seven threes and seven twos. After his dismissal the innings collapsed, the last wicket falling two minutes before "time." Mold and Briggs were supported by splendid fielding.

6 July: SUSSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4590.html)

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

Two fine individual innings marked the heavy Kent scoring at Hastings yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 July, page 13)

The best thing in yesterday's cricket at Hastings was the brilliant batting of K S Ranjitsinhji for Sussex in their uphill fight. When the game was going badly for his team he made 59 in an hour and 20 minutes, hitting 12 fours and two threes, while in the follow-on there was a repetition of all his splendid forcing powers on both sides of the wicket.

In the first Sussex innings Bean and Marlow made 49 for the opening partnership, but thereafter the stands were small. Sussex have all the worst of the game seeing that they have only six wickets left in their second innings and are still 98 runs in arrear. Alec Hearne bowled very well; but the pitch was not wholly favourable to batsmen and Mr Shine made the ball bump a good deal.

In the early part of the day Kent, who had lost nine wickets on Monday for 398, finished their innings for 418, Martin taking out his bat for 70, the highest score he had ever made for the county. Mr Murdoch, who has injured his hand, may not be able to bat to-day.

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

Kent have at last won a match in this season's championship competition. They have had much ill-fortune in their games, notably in the first fixture on the Tonbridge week; but yesterday there was no doubt about their superiority, for they won by an innings and 16 runs. Not all the brilliancy of K S Ranjitsinhji could save Sussex from defeat.

Things looked ominous for the home side at Hastings on Tuesday night, when, with only six men left after the follow-on, they were still 98 runs behind, besides which Mr Murdoch could not go in owing to his injured hand. In the course of an hour the balance of the Sussex innings was got through. Ranjitsinhji was eighth out at 138, having added 27 runs to his overnight score. His innings of 73 was a splendid display of batting and included 12 fours. Butt and Tate made 31 for the last partnership.

6 July: YORKSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4591.html)

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

In the return at Headingley, Leeds, yesterday to the famous match at Birmingham, wherein Yorkshire this year made a record score, the Yorkshire eleven really got the better of the day's cricket, seeing that they are within 46 runs of the visitors' total and have six wickets in hand. There were about 5,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 July, page 13)

The Yorkshire eleven secured their tenth victory in the county championship yesterday, at Leeds, when they were again much indebted for their success to their new fast bowler, Schofield Haigh. Their win yesterday was by an innings and 14 runs. Haigh in this match took 11 wickets for 110, while in three consecutive games for Yorkshire his aggregate is 33 wickets for 358 runs.

On Monday evening Yorkshire had made 121 for the loss of four batsmen against Warwickshire's first innings of 167. Yesterday the home team added 208, bringing their total to 329 as the result of four and three-quarter hours' play. The chief cause of this fine score was the batting of Brown, Wainwright and Peel, who, in spite of the assistance given to the bowlers by the pitch, met with much success. Brown was fifth out at 181; he hit nine fours, seven threes and nine twos, and got his runs at a quick rate. Peel played in something like his old form, and in his not-out innings of 73, which extended over two hours and a quarter, were ten fours, four threes and a two. Mr Glover bowled effectively towards the close of the innings and Lilley during the innings made five catches.

Warwickshire in their second venture played fairly well, the best batting coming from Walter Quaife.

Thursday 9 July, page 12: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The Yorkshire eleven are still playing very finely and, with the bowling much strengthened by Schofield Haigh, their match with Surrey at the Oval on the 30th inst. continues to grow in interest. Subjoined are the present positions of the counties:-

	Proportion of Points						to Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points		
Matches							
Yorkshire	14	10	0	4	10	1	
Surrey	15	12	2	1	10	.714	
Middlesex	7	5	1	1	4	.6	
Lancashire	11	9	2	0	7	.53	
The other counties' results are:-							
Essex	4	2	2	0	0		
Nottinghamshire	7	2	3	2	-1		
Hampshire	5	1	3	1	-2		
Derbyshire	10	2	5	3	-3		
Sussex	7	1	4	2	-3		
Gloucestershire	9	2	5	2	-3		
Somerset	8	1	5	2	-4		
Kent	8	1	6	1	-5		
Leicestershire	8	1	6	1	-5		
Warwickshire	9	1	6	2	-5		

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

For the second of the test matches, to be played next Thursday, the 16th inst., at Manchester, the England side will be selected from:-

Dr W G Grace, Mr A E Stoddart, Mr F S Jackson, Mr A C M'Laren, K S Ranjitsinhji, Richardson, Lohmann, J T Hearne, Mold, Briggs, Brown, Lilley, Pougher and Abel.

THE AUSTRALIANS v PLAYERS OF ENGLAND

In spite of the fact that Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire are engaged, the Essex executive have secured a fine side for to-day's match at Leyton. It will consist of Frank Sugg, Albert Ward, Baker, Briggs and Mold from Lancashire; J T Hearne, Middlesex; Pougher, Leicestershire; Chatterton, Davidson and Storer, Derbyshire; and Carpenter, Essex.

GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS AT LORD'S.- Among those invited to play for the Gentlemen against the Players at Lord's next Monday is Mr A O Jones, of Nottinghamshire. The famous Derbyshire wicket-keeper and batsman has been chosen by the M.C.C. to appear for the Players.

9 July: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4592.html)

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

In a quiet day's cricket at Ashley Down, Bristol, yesterday, Gloucestershire scarcely did so well as might have been expected, considering that they were at the wicket nearly four hours and a half. After the rain of Wednesday night the wicket was a little difficult and the bowlers required a lot of watching.

Mr C L Townsend's 57 was the best score of the day; it occupied two and three-quarter hours and included five fours and five threes. Dr Grace played with great care and was nearly two hours and a half getting his runs. Warwickshire lost two wickets for three runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 July, page 13)

The Warwickshire eleven did very well at Bristol yesterday against Gloucestershire, and at present they have every prospect of beating the home county. Mr Bainbridge and Diver added 106 in 65 minutes while they were together, the latter playing with all his old brilliancy and hitting ten fours and two threes. Mr Bainbridge, who was rather kindly treated by the field, and William Quaife also met with success.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 July, page 9)

In spite of a finely-hit innings of 124, made in an hour and three-quarters by Board, Gloucestershire were unable to save their game at Bristol with Warwickshire, by whom they were beaten on Saturday by five wickets. In forcing the game on a pitch that helped the bowlers Board ran some risks, but he gave no actual chance and he obtained 14 fours, six threes and 14 twos. This was his first 100 for the county, and the company showed their appreciation of his game by contributing £11 to the collection made for him. The two best partnerships were 64 and 87 by Board with Mr Jellie and Mr Jessop.

Warwickshire had to get 118 to win, and chiefly by the aid of Diver, who scored 45 out of 85 in an hour, they eventually performed their task. Mr Bainbridge played very sound cricket.

9 July: HAMPSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4593.html)

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

Mr L C H Palairet, the old Oxford captain, played a very fine innings of 251 for Somerset at Southampton yesterday. His power of stroke all round the wicket was remarkable and, although the partnerships were comparatively brief, he scored at a great pace, and at the finish Somerset had made 417 for seven wickets. Mr Palairet's 251 is the highest individual total of the season.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 July, page 13)

Mr L C H Palairet's fine score of 292 has been the feature of this match, which now stands so much in favour of Somerset that Hampshire, having followed on, are still 237 runs behind with nine wickets to fall. The home side at Southampton yesterday came out fairly well in their uphill fight.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 July, page 9)

As was expected, the Somerset team after the advantage established by them on the first day at Southampton gained an easy victory on Saturday, when they beat Hampshire by eight wickets. The home side, who followed on, just managed to avert the innings defeat. Wootton played steadily and well, and Captain Quinton and Bacon were in excellent form.

9 July: PLAYERS v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4594.html)

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

Most of the merit of the Australians' long day's batting at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, was in the numerical value of the position attained before the drawing of stumps. Three hundred and twenty-five for four wickets is a very fine score, and a man who can get 154, as Mr Iredale did, without giving a chance, must be a more than average cricketer.

But amid such triumphs in run-getting there was the stamp of dullness about the whole day's play at Leyton. The Australian batting was cautious to excess with such a splendid pitch as they were fortunate enough to get the first of. The cricket was extremely sound, but there was an absence of that fine forward, forcing game for which the public not unnaturally looks when the conditions are perfect. So the 5,000 spectators had yesterday to be content with steadiness in batting and much good bowling and fielding. There was nothing to rouse them from a quiet interest in the game except the various landmarks, such as the completion of a batsman's 50 and his 100 and the various 100's of the aggregate.

The great thing of the day was Mr Iredale's not out 154, which extended from mid-day until 6 o'clock. From the time he went in he played the same steady game, nearly always waiting for the loose ball from which to score. A large proportion of his runs came from driving, and the bad strokes which he now and then made were generally the fruit of attempting to cut. Mr Iredale has an excellent style, and just lately he seems to have developed the game for which he came over here with so high a reputation. This was his second 100 within a week. Although occasionally mistiming the ball, he gave no actual chance. He was two hours running to 50, and his 100 occupied about three hours and a half.

The day opened with a long stand between him and Mr Darling, whose 70 had one error in it – namely, a chance to Storer at wicket when the batsmen had made only 14 runs. Before the first wicket fell, just on luncheon time, the score stood at 117. Mr Darling, who made most of his runs by drives, hit eleven fours. Mr Giffen and Mr Iredale steadily added 68 for the second partnership, when the former was bowled out by a very good ball from Davidson, and at 194 the third wicket fell, Mr Donnan giving Briggs an easy catch at cover-point.

With Mr Gregory and Mr Iredale together the play became slow, and the home captain exhausted most of his bowling resources in the hour and 35 minutes of this stand. Nothing but a bad ball would tempt the batsmen to force the game. The bowlers kept a fine length and there were several good pieces of fielding. At last, at 270, Storer gave up the pads and gloves to Frank Sugg and took a turn with the ball. He was mostly slow, but put in a fast one now and again. His leg break puzzled Mr Gregory to begin with, and when 30 runs were added he bowled out that batsman amid loud cheers. The wicket had put on 113 runs. Storer did some good work at point and, taken altogether, he increased his reputation as an all-round cricketer.

As Surrey, Yorkshire and Notts were engaged, the Essex executive were fortunate in getting together such a fine set of professionals; but no doubt Mold would have been on much use had he been able to play.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 July, page 13)

The cricket at Leyton, yesterday, was of a very ordinary nature and failed to arouse much enthusiasm among the three or four hundred spectators. In two and a half hours the Australians added only 128 to their overnight score, the balance of their innings being marked by dull and almost indifferent play.

Mr Iredale, who was not out on Thursday evening for 154, left at 354 for 171, an innings that extended over five and a half hours and included 22 fours, eight threes and 12 twos. He played in a nice style and the pace of his run-getting was always much the same; but in waiting for the loose ball to hit his game often became very slow. He gave no actual chance, although he made sundry bad hits in the slips. Mr Trott, who took out his bat for 64, was scarcely in his best form; he was two and three-quarter hours getting his runs and hit eight fours.

When the Players went in Mr Jones met with much success, and in dismissing Ward he knocked the bail 40 or 50 yards. Chatterton played well; but it was when Pougher and Storer got together and added 63 in the last 50 minutes that the best cricket of the day was seen.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 July, page 9)

It was a dull match that came to an end at Leyton on Saturday, when the Australians beat the Players team by an innings and 137 runs. There were 4,000 spectators.

The Players, who had five wickets left in the first innings, finished their opening spell of batting in an hour. Pougher and Storer, who had made a good stand overnight, were separated when 21 were added, and the other four wickets went down for 18 more runs. Storer played well for his 62, in which were seven fours.

Following on against odds of 257, the Englishmen lost five men in half an hour for 28 runs, while when the sixth was out the score stood at only 39. Storer and Baker by some good hitting added 57 in 35 minutes; but the end of the innings was reached in an hour and three-quarters. Mr Jones, who took eight wickets in the match for 74 runs, kept his fast bowling a much better length than usual.

9 July: SURREY v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4595.html)

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

Ill-judged running and Mr Hartley's slows, which were pretty effective in the recent Oxford and Cambridge match, brought about the collapse of the Surrey eleven on the Oval yesterday and left them in a bad position, for it is not very likely that they will get Sussex out so cheaply as they did in the first innings.

When the visitors went for a meagre score of 116 every one was sympathizing with them, little dreaming of the disasters that were to come upon Surrey. The Surrey batsmen showed quite an incapacity to play Mr Hartley's good-length slows, which had plenty of break on, and to crown all they lost their coolness and had three men run out.

Richardson's bowling early in the day bumped a good deal and things went badly for Sussex, who had five wickets down for 47. At this stage Killick arrived and, although he could get no one to stay with him, his fine left-hand batting greatly improved the position of his side, and he was eventually not out 57, nearly half of the full score. Lockwood, who was fourth to go on, bowled with great effect.

Surrey began fairly well and made 53 for two wickets. The disasters set in with the running-out of Abel at 71, and were unchecked, the last seven men going for 23 more runs. Mr Hartley's six wickets cost only five runs each. With a lead of 22 Sussex in their second innings had Marlow hurt, but then Ranjitsinhji and Killick played out time, the visitors being 75 ahead.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 July, page 13)

Sussex established a great advantage in this match at Kennington Oval yesterday. Uniform excellence characterized their batting, which was marked, however, by the cricket of Killick, who had helped them so much on the first day. Yesterday he played a great innings of 102, which was no ordinary achievement against the fine bowling and fielding of Surrey. He was third out at 205, gave no chance and hit a five, seven fours, seven threes and 11 twos. He was batting about three hours and a half, and all round the wicket he played with an easy precision that was quite remarkable.

After Ranjitsinhji had been dismissed Killick and Marlow put on 86 in 75 minutes, while for the fifth partnership Mr Murdoch and G Bean added 91 at a quick rate. Mr Murdoch played with his customary steadiness; but Bean forced the game and hit nine fours. Sussex batted extremely well all day and the large company on the Oval gave them plenty of applause. Surrey are, of course, in a very bad way, for the visitors are 410 ahead with a wicket in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 July, page 9)

By the kindness very largely of the fielding side, who showed a great incapacity to make catches off Mr Hartley's slows, Surrey came near achieving a wonderful feat in the fourth innings at the Oval on Saturday. They went in to get 414 to win in five and three-quarter hours and were beaten by

only 43 runs. This defeat of Surrey, on the same afternoon curiously enough that Yorkshire were beaten by Nottinghamshire, could be traced to the bad batting of the side on Thursday, from which they never recovered.

Even on Saturday their fine, long innings was marked by many blunders. Brockwell, who gave six or seven palpable chances, got over 100 runs, but he ran out two of Surrey's best batsmen, Holland and Hayward. Brockwell made 137 out of 203 in two and a half hours and, forcing the game with great power, hit 21 fours, five threes and nine twos. It was after he had run into his sixties that he gave most of his chances, many of them off Mr Hartley and generally in the long field. He and Abel scored 60 for the first wicket, while Brockwell obtained his 100 out of the first 125 runs in 80 minutes.

When the seventh wicket had fallen at 203 Surrey still wanted 211 to win. No fewer than 140 of these were made by Mr W W Read and Lohmann by very fine cricket in less than two hours. Mr Read, who when 51 was missed by Mr Murdoch in the long field off Mr Hartley, played on at 343; in his 75 were ten fours, three threes and eight twos. Another 27 runs saw the dismissal of both Wood and Richardson; and Lohmann took out his bat for a dashing 86, in which were 14 fours. It was an extraordinary day's cricket, and the crowd of 8,000 people took a warm and impartial interest in the play.

9 July: YORKSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4596.html)

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

Nottinghamshire had to fight very keenly for their runs against the fine Yorkshire bowling and fielding at Huddersfield yesterday, and the difficulty of scoring revived memories of the days when Yorkshire v Notts was known as a bowler's match.

Nottinghamshire were batting yesterday from mid-day until half-past 5, the exact time of their innings of 226 being 4½ hours. The pitch, affected to some extent as it was by the overnight rain, slightly helped the bowlers. At one time the visitors appeared likely to be out for quite a small score, as, in spite of good batting by Gunn and Mr Dixon, seven men were dismissed for 125. Then came a stand of more than an hour by Pike and Brown, who added 68, while subsequently Guttridge was successful. Pike played very good cricket and was in while 103 runs were scored.

In the early part of the innings Mr Dixon was seen to most advantage. He went in second wicket down at 26 and was sixth to leave at 113, making 45 of the 87 put on while he was in an hour and three-quarters. He hit nine fours and two twos. His most useful partner was Attewell, who helped him to add 42 runs for the fourth partnership. The Yorkshire bowling was very good.

When the home side went in for rather more than three-quarters of an hour they lost three good men for 37, so that the present position of the match perhaps slightly favours Nottinghamshire. Shrewsbury was still away from the visitors' side. There were 6,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 July, page 13)

Nottinghamshire had all the better of the day's cricket at Huddersfield yesterday, for last evening, at the drawing of stumps, Yorkshire, having following on, were only 26 ahead and had lost five good wickets.

There had been rain overnight, and this not only delayed the game yesterday, but affected the turf and gave a great advantage to the bowlers, of whom Attewell and Brown were quick to grasp their opportunity. Lord Hawke made a few good hits; but in the end the Yorkshiremen had so far failed that they had to follow on against arrears of 136.

Mr Jackson and Brown made a brilliant stand in the second innings and obtained 93 runs in less than an hour, carrying the score from 11 to 104 for the second partnership. This batting brought the game to a comparatively even position. Afterwards Yorkshire again fared ill. Mr Jackson and Brown both played splendid cricket under difficulties; the former hit nine and the latter 12 fours.

Day 3 (report from Monday 13 July, page 9)

The handicapped imposed on the Yorkshire batsmen by the rain spoiling the pitch at Huddersfield enabled Nottinghamshire on Saturday to beat their old opponents by four wickets. Yorkshire were in a bad way on Friday evening, when they finished only 26 ahead with half the side lost in the second innings. They fared worse than ever on Saturday and, although Wainwright made a few

good hits, the last five wickets fell in an hour for an addition of 31 runs.

When Nottinghamshire went in to get the 58 wanted to win the home bowlers made a good attempt to save the game; but after five men had been got out for 31 runs, Flowers and Mr Wright made the result almost certain, and only one more player was dismissed. Haigh by his bowling in this match increased his fine record for the county, for he took six wickets for 70 runs.

9 July: LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/128/128990.html)

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

At the Aigburth Ground, Liverpool, yesterday the Cambridge eleven had all the worst of the cricket, and at present they have only a wicket to fall and are 67 behind. Ringrose, the home professional, has so far dismissed seven of the visitors at a cost to himself of 47 runs. There were a couple of thousand spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 July, page 13)

Yesterday at Liverpool the local side played the better cricket and, aided by the effective bowling of Ringrose, they beat Cambridge by 145 runs.

Monday 13 July, page 9: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The defeats of Yorkshire and Surrey on Saturday have given increased interest to the championship, and have made the fight between the first four shires much keener. On the proportional system of the M.C.C. Surrey are for the moment deprived on a slight fractional advantage of second place by Middlesex and Lancashire. Present positions:-

Matches	Proportion of Points					to Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	
Yorkshire	15	10	1	4	9	.91
Middlesex	7	5	1	1	4	.8
Lancashire	11	9	2	0	7	.63
Surrey	16	12	3	1	9	.6
The other counties' results are:-						
Nottinghamshire	8	3	3	2	0	
Essex	4	2	2	0	0	
Sussex	8	2	4	2	-2	
Hampshire	6	1	4	1	-3	
Derbyshire	10	2	5	3	-3	
Somerset	9	2	5	3	-3	
Gloucestershire	10	2	6	2	-4	
Warwickshire	10	2	6	2	-4	
Kent	8	1	6	1	-5	
Leicestershire	8	1	6	1	-5	

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

In the great match of the year at Lord's, between Gentlemen and Players, which begins to-day, it is doubtful whether Dr W G Grace will be able to play, as he telegraphed to the M.C.C. on Saturday that he had injured his foot at Bristol. The following are the chosen sides:-

Gentlemen.- Dr W G Grace, Mr F S Jackson, Mr A E Stoddart, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr L C H Palairet, Sir T C O'Brien, Mr Ernest Smith, Mr A C Maclaren, Mr S M J Woods, Mr G MacGregor and Mr A O Jones.

Players.- Lohmann, Hayward, Abel, Richardson, J T Hearne, Storer, Briggs, Gunn, Frank Sugg, Albert Ward and J T Brown.

Some surprise has been expressed at the absence of any representative of this year's University match. Mr Hartley and Mr Cunliffe would both have been useful to the Gentlemen, who are very weak in bowling.

13 July: DERBYSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4597.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 July, page 8)

In spite of the long innings by Lilley for Warwickshire, yesterday, at Derby, the home side came well out of the day's play after losing the toss. Lilley went in fourth wicket down at 22 and was eighth out at 231; he gave no chance and hit 17 fours. He and Pallett put on 139 for the seventh partnership. Chatterton and Mr Wright made a good beginning for Derbyshire, who are without Storer.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 July, page 13)

Throughout yesterday at Derby the home side seemed to be playing a winning game, and when stumps were drawn last evening Warwickshire in the second innings were only 17 runs ahead and had lost four wickets.

Derbyshire in the early part of the day promised to lead heavily on the first innings, for there were long partnerships by Bagshaw and Chatterton and Chatterton and Mr Evershed. But when Lilley forsook the post of wicketkeeper to bowl he met with much success, and in all got six men out for 46 runs. Chatterton played very carefully for his 64, which took him over three hours to make; but Mr Evershed's cricket was of a far brighter nature. Warwickshire scored 82 at the cost of four wickets in the last two hours of the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 July, page 11)

At Derby yesterday the home county gained a brilliant victory over Warwickshire by ten wickets. The visitors in the second innings could make little headway against the bowling of Hulme, who took in all seven wickets for 44 runs. Derbyshire had to make 73 to win, and Chatterton and Sugg played so vigorously that they got these runs in 40 minutes.

13 July: ESSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4598.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 July, page 8)

At Leyton, yesterday, the cricket was even. Yorkshire, who were without Mr Jackson and Brown, Had the assistance of Mr Wilson, of Cambridge, who appeared in the eleven for the first time. The visitors did not do so well as was expected, and apart from Denton, who batted vigorously, they played Mr Bull's slows rather badly.

When Essex went in Mr Perrin and Mr M'Gahey made 85 in an hour, and later on Mr Bonner and Russell added 43 in 40 minutes. Mr Perrin played the best cricket of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 July, page 13)

There was a keen day's cricket at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday, and Essex were left to make this morning 60 more runs to win with six wickets to fall. In the first hour of yesterday Essex, by the aid of Russell's sound batting, managed to add 49 runs for the balance of their first innings, and this gave them a lead of two.

Going in a second time Yorkshire did fairly well up to the point of Mr Kortright's taking the ball for a second spell, and though the 100 had gone up with only four men out the side were all dismissed for 133. Mr C E M Wilson was badly hurt by Mr Kortright's bowling and gave up his innings. In his second turn with the ball Mr Kortright bowled six overs for 12 runs and four wickets. Mr Bull dismissed ten men in the match, bringing his aggregate for the two Yorkshire fixtures up to 19 for 209.

When Essex went in to make 132 to win the Yorkshiremen bowled and fielded keenly and got four wickets down for 72. Carpenter played well. All day the pitch rather helped the bowlers.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 July, page 11)

Essex beat Yorkshire at Leyton yesterday by four wickets. That they won on the merits of this particular game no one will deny; but the result is something of a lesson to the big counties, who rate their weaker brethren too cheaply.

The turning point of the match might be found in that deadly piece of bowling by Mr Kortright on Tuesday, when he took four wickets for 12 runs. Yorkshire, it must not be forgotten, had both Mr Jackson and Brown away and had Mr Wilson injured in the second innings; but still taken all round, they did not play up to form. Essex are to be congratulated on their success, for the victory will do much good to the game in the eastern county.

Overnight Essex had to make 60 more runs to win with six wickets in hand. Yesterday two men were dismissed and six were out at 88; but then Mr Owen and Russell took things quietly and by the steadiest of cricket worked off the runs. Mr Owen played excellently.

13 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4599.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 July, page 8)

The cricket at Lord's yesterday was of the highest class; but, as the pitch contained sundry bad places, the bowling needed a great deal of playing, and this was especially the case when the professionals went in and in two hours became involved in a severe uphill fight. With only a wicket left they want 35 runs to avoid the follow-on.

A stretch of turf with a broken place here and there is a leveller of all sides, so that those who wonderful how the Gentlemen were going to get their opponents out had, after all, small reason for fear. Mr S M J Woods bowled at a great pace from the pavilion end for over two hours; he sent down a lot of short stuff that rose occasionally over the batsman's head, but this was only mingled with much splendid length and break. Then the Players had other discomfiture from Mr Ernest Smith, whom Dr Grace rather delayed putting on and who met with quick success, taking three wickets for about a dozen runs. This breakdown of the Players' batting was quite startling in its nature.

In the first hour occurred the brilliant 47 by K S Ranjitsinhji, whose easy powers of hitting were so marked that he compelled Gunn to take off Richardson when he had been in only three overs. After this runs were much more easy to obtain. Mr Stoddart, Mr Jackson, Mr Maclarens and Mr Palairet all did splendid work for their side, although Mr Jackson rarely was comfortable in playing Hearne. The attendance was quite 10,000.

The representative nature of the Lord's Gentlemen v Players was well preserved by the Marylebone Club, who had, in spite of sundry county matches, secured splendid teams. It was widely felt that either Mr Hartley or Mr Cunliffe, of Oxford, might have been brought into the Gentlemen's team to strengthen the bowling; but otherwise the most captious could scarcely disagree with the Marylebone choice. Oxford and Cambridge cricket was well represented, inasmuch as there were the old University captains, Mr Palairet, Mr Jackson, Mr Woods and Mr MacGregor, and also the old "blues" Sir Timothy O'Brien, Mr Ernest Smith, Mr A O Jones and K S Ranjitsinhji.

When the Gentlemen went in everyone expected that, with such a batting side to get out, the Players had a long day's fielding before them. Stoddart and Grace went to 39, when Grace was out in hitting at a ball that was well up and that he just turned into his wicket. Then came a most wonderful 20 minutes of Ranjitsinhji and Stoddart, but mostly of the former, who dealt so freely with Richardson that he made six fours (three leg hits, two drives and a cut) in three overs, scoring 24 out of 26 in ten minutes. Lohmann and J T Hearne were put on to check this course of events, and when 83 had been made in an hour Hearne got Stoddart leg before and Ranjitsinhji was third out at 109 in the same way. In his 47, made in 40 minutes, were ten fours.

The Players were fielding very well; everything seemed to come off for them, and at 116 Palairet was out to a great return catch, Briggs taking the ball right hand from a very hard drive. Jackson and Maclarens made a stand of 68, and eventually Jackson left eighth at 254. The care exercised by him in getting his 57 testified to the excellence of the bowling. For he usually forces the game. In this instance he was over two hours in making his runs, and he hit seven fours, a three and six twos. One of the best things of the day was a running catch in the long-field by Abel when he caught out Smith.

The Players had a disastrous 25 minutes to begin with from Jackson and Woods. But when three wickets had gone for 17 Gunn and Hayward played with extreme care for three-quarters of an hour. Frank Sugg strove hard to force the game; but Gunn eventually forgot his caution and, going in to hit Grace, was missed by O'Brien in the long field, and was caught next ball at deep square-leg by Palairet, who judged the catch well.

After the fifth wicket had fallen at 72 Sugg punished Grace rather severely; but at 94 he was cleverly caught by MacGregor, standing back to Woods. Then Grace put on Ernest Smith, who got three wickets in a quarter of an hour, Hearne being out on the stroke of 7 o'clock. Woods bowled at a great pace for two hours and ten minutes, but his hard work did not seem to tell on him.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 July, page 13)

The Players at one period of yesterday seemed to be in a hopeless position, for in the follow-on they lost six wickets for 164, or only 12 runs ahead, while eight men were out for 204. Then occurred a wonderful stand by Hayward and J T Hearne, who in a couple of hours brought the game to something like evenness, and in the end the Gentlemen were set 222 to get in the fourth innings – no easy task on a wicket which contains some bad places and against bowlers who know how to make the most of anything wrong with the pitch. The second day of the great test match at Lord's produced cricket rich in excellence; and the great effort made by two or three of the Players to compensate for the failures of Monday aroused much enthusiasm among the seven or eight thousand spectators at Lord's.

Abel and Hayward, of Surrey, and Hearne, of Middlesex, never played better than they did yesterday, and perhaps Abel's was the innings of most merit. While some of his companions as Albert Ward and J T Brown could do little with the Gentlemen's bowling, he timed the ball with remarkable precision and was strong all round the wicket. He had not the good fortune to reach the three figures like Hayward, who for the first hour and a half of his stay played with such care that he made only 30 runs. But when the position of the Players became desperate Hayward found his game and threw much brilliancy into his batting. Driving is Hayward's strength of play, and the way he kept the ball down yesterday was wonderful. Hearne made many fine strokes. The merits of the Gentlemen's bowling was quickly exhausted during the Hayward-Hearne partnership. The Gentlemen took their long day's fielding under a glaringly hot sun very well and Mr MacGregor was quite himself at the wicket.

Monday night's position left the Players in a bad way, for with only a wicket in hand they were 154 behind. Yesterday morning their innings quickly ended and the arrears were 152. Woods bowled extremely well and was on at the pavilion end throughout the innings; his five wickets cost ten runs each.

When the Players followed on Abel at once settled down to a bright game and scored at a good average rate from both ends; but neither Ward nor Brown seemed comfortable, although each stayed a good while, and the first and second wickets went at 66 and 96. Abel was not out at luncheon time with 86 to his credit out of a total of 116. Subsequently, at 125, he was bowled, in playing forward to Grace, for 94. It was a beautiful innings, wholly free from fault and extending over a couple of hours; Abel came down on the ball with great power and he hit 17 fours, three threes and five twos.

For a time things went badly for the Players and Grace got out both Gunn and Sugg, the former from an easy return and the latter by a catch in the long-field. Sugg was only in ten minutes; but in his couple of overs from Grace he made five fours and a two, all by drives. But with seven men fielding behind him Grace got him caught at last. Indiscriminate hitting cost the professionals other wickets, and Grace, tempting them, secured three more men. So eight were out for 204, or only 52 ahead, when at 4 o'clock Hearne arrived.

Hayward, who had been in an hour and a half for 30, at once discarded his steadiness, and both he and Hearne forced the game by splendid batting. Grace kept himself on a little too long, for Hearne played him well and his slows never troubled Hayward. All sorts of changes were tried; but the men were well set and their scores travelled at about the same rate. Hearne made his 50 in an hour and a quarter and Hayward ran to his 100 in three hours, scoring the four to reach this from an easy ball on the leg side from Grace. At last Ranjitsinhji was put on and very soon he brought the long partnership to an end, Hearne being out to a wonderful piece of stumping by MacGregor. The wicket had yielded 156 in 145 minutes, and Hearne's share of this was 71; he gave no chance and his chief hits were six fours, three threes and ten twos.

Hayward eventually carried out his bat for 116, a faultless innings of three and a half hours' duration; he made 13 fours, four threes and 11 twos, and also had a single increased to five by an overthrow. By these runs he completed his 1,000 aggregate for the season.

The Gentlemen, who wanted 222 to win, lost Stoddart, wonderfully caught at point, before 7 o'clock, and at the finish had made 31. Jones had a lot of splendid bowling from Richardson to play. Grace was missed at short-leg by Storer before he had scored, while just before the close he was badly hit on the side by a bumping ball from Richardson. Storer, owing to a bad hand, resigned the position of wicket-keeper to Frank Sugg.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 July, page 11)

The Gentlemen played such beautiful cricket at Lord's yesterday that in two and a half hours they obtained the last 191 of their runs and beat the Players by six wickets. It was a brilliant victory to gain over such a team of opponents, for the pitch was none too good and 222 had to be made in the fourth innings.

Dr W G Grace set his side a fine example, and his 54 against Hearne and Richardson, when those great bowlers were fresh, was well worthy of the great master of the game that he is. Then, when there was just a chance of things going ill for the Gentlemen, there came the fine cricket of K S Ranjitsinhji with that wonderful stroke of his on the leg side, and the sturdy batting of Mr F S Jackson. And so the professionals were well beaten.

When the match was resumed yesterday morning the Gentlemen had made 31 of the requisite 222 for victory. Briggs and Richardson were the bowlers. Grace played in fine form and was well assisted by Jones, the other not out, and the first half-hour produced 42 runs. Lohmann and Hearne came on; but Mr Grace ran to his 50 soon after noon, having made these runs out of 88. He obtained four more and then gave mid-off an easy catch; his 54 out of 92 was a splendid innings and included eight fours and four twos. Jones did not long survive the appearance of the 100, for at 108 he was cleverly caught at extra mid-off, Gunn just getting his left hand to the ball.

Three men were out for 108, and as the Gentlemen had a long way to go it was still an interesting

match. However, Palairret made some good strokes and, although Richardson came on again – he had slightly hurt his leg in fielding – the score was 141 when Palairret was bowled. Jackson and Ranjitsinhji forced the game at a fine pace and fours were plentiful. Briggs and Hayward were both tried again, while a bumping ball from Richardson at the other end went for four byes. Ranjitsinhji, when 34, should have been easily stumped, but Frank Sugg, who kept wicket for Storer, whose hand was too bad to admit of his fielding at all, missed the chance. As only 21 were wanted at luncheon time it was decided to finish the game without any interval. Brown went on, but by a cut for three Ranjitsinhji won the match for the Gentlemen by six wickets.

13 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4600.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 July, page 8)

In a four and a half hours' cricket day at Leicester yesterday the Australians scored 299 for the loss of only three wickets. Mr Darling's not-out innings of 145 was a feature of the cricket. It had steadiness for its merit and the only errors were difficult chances at seven and 75. Mr Darling and Mr Giffen made 145 while they were together, and the former and Mr Donnan put on 133. In the absence of Mr Trott the visitors were captained by Mr Giffen. There were about 3,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 July, page 13)

Yesterday the Australians made the highest total of the tour, and Mr Darling and Mr Gregory both ran to their four-figure aggregates. The cricket at Leicester did not attract a very large company to the ground and there were scarcely 2,000 spectators.

The visitors obtained their 584 runs at the rate of about 69 an hour. Mr Gregory's 102 in two and a half hours was by far the brightest innings, and he hit 15 fours, five threes and three twos. Steadiness marked the long stay of six hours and a half of Mr Darling, in whose 194 were one five, 21 fours, 12 threes and 14 twos. Beyond difficult chances at seven and 75, there were few bad strokes by him, and he occasionally drove very hard. Mr Trumble and Mr Jones made 53 in 35min for the last Australian wicket.

Leicestershire, whose fielding had not been consistently good, lost one man in 40 minutes for 26 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 July, page 11)

After quite an exciting finish at Leicester last evening, the home county managed to save their match with the Australians, although at the close they were 317 behind with only a wicket in hand. Probably the absence of Mr Jones, who retired from the game early in the day through a slight strain sustained while bowling, helped Leicestershire to attain what was their only object at the end of the first two days.

Although Holland played fairly well, the county's first innings ended for 87. In the follow-on Mr Marriott met with much success; but seven of the side had gone for 94 when an hour and a quarter remained for play. Pougher, who was lame and had a man to run for him, stayed with Geeson for half an hour, and eventually Whiteside managed to keep up his end while Geeson hit. And so the game was drawn. Mr Geeson's double analysis showed a record of 14 wickets for 119 runs.

13 July: SUSSEX v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4601.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 July, page 8)

Captain Wynyrd, yesterday, played a fine innings of 112 for Hampshire against Sussex at Hove, Brighton. He made his runs by brilliant cricket in a little over two hours, and contributed 19 fours. The other feature of Hampshire's long spell at the wicket was the 86 by Mr Ward, who was in two and a quarter hours and hit eight fours. Mr Hartley bowled very well, but had some catches missed off him.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 July, page 13)

The follow-on incident in Oxford v Cambridge has been quickly succeeded by another, this time in county cricket. Yesterday, at Hove, Brighton, Sussex, being in a very bad way and having nine men out, thought to gain something by following on, and so Butt, the last man, put himself out by hitting his wicket; and Sussex went in again with arrears of 131.

The home county did not profit to any great extent by their tactics, for they were still 21 behind at the finish and had lost four batsmen. The Hampshire team bowled and fielded well, but the cricket generally was quite ordinary in its nature. Sussex, who had an uphill game to fight, did badly for a long time, and six men were out for 100. Mr Newham's 81 gave some respectability to the home score, and he and Mr Brann obtained 94 for the seventh wicket while they were together. Three hours were taken by Mr Newham to get his runs, in which were eleven fours.

In the "follow-on" there was a brilliant 59 by Marlow, who, with Mr Murdoch, put on 60 in 55 minutes.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 July, page 11)

The Hampshire eleven yesterday gained a brilliant victory over Sussex at Brighton by seven wickets. Sussex started yesterday's cricket with arrears of 21 and four men out in the second innings. Mr Newham, Mr Arlington and Parris all played good cricket, but Mr Brann was handicapped by a bad hand and was very slow in his batting.

Hampshire had to make 129 to win. Barton and Mr Ward were out for 27, after which Captains Wynyrd and Quinton added 53 in 50 minutes. Subsequently the latter and Mr Lacey hit off the balance of the runs. This was Hampshire's second win over Sussex during the season.

Tuesday 14 July, page 8: THE CRICKETERS' FUND

Lord Harris, Mr W E Denison and Mr Henry Perkins were present at the annual meeting of the Cricketers' Fund Friendly Society last night at Lord's, when the financial position of the society was reported to be very satisfactory. Lord Harris and Mr Denison expressed regret that no Australian match could be arranged for the benefit of the fund.

Mr Denison incidentally referred to the "follow-on" in the recent Oxford and Cambridge match. He was sorry that Mr Mitchell should have acted in the way he did, although he was thoroughly within the latter of the law, but Mr Denison expressed a hope that there would be no recurrence of the incident.

Thursday 16 July, page 11: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The defeat of Yorkshire by Essex at Leyton yesterday reduces their position in the county championship to the level of Middlesex, that is on the system laid down by the M.C.C. So the fight for the first place continues to be as keen as ever. Present positions:-

	Proportion of Points						to	Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points			
Matches								
Yorkshire	16	10	2	4	8		.8	
Middlesex	7	5	1	1	4		.8	
Lancashire	11	9	2	0	7		.63	
Surrey	16	12	3	1	9		.6	
Essex	5	3	2	0	1		.2	
The other counties' results are:								
Nottinghamshire	8	3	3	2	0			
Hampshire	7	2	4	1	-2			
Derbyshire	11	3	5	3	-2			
Sussex	9	2	5	2	-3			
Somerset	9	2	5	2	-3			
Gloucestershire	10	2	6	2	-4			
Warwickshire	11	2	7	2	-5			
Kent	6	1	6	1	-5			
Leicestershire	8	1	6	1	-5			

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

The second of the test matches begins to-day at Old Trafford, Manchester. The Lancashire executive have included K S Ranjitsinhji in the side. There will be five gentlemen in the England side, Dr Grace, Mr A E Stoddart, Mr F S Jackson, K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr A C Maclaren, while of the professionals Abel, Briggs, Lilley and Richardson are certainties. There are two places to be filled this morning, for which Lohmann, J T Hearne, Brown and Mold are candidates, all of whom will be at Old Trafford.

16 July: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4062.html)

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

The Australians have started in the second of the great test matches with the representatives of England in a manner which some cricketers would have thought incredible, rating them on their form at Lord's in the games with the M.C.C. and England. But undoubtedly they have "come on"; their batsmen on the good hard wickets experienced of late have played correct and sound cricket, and their bowlers and fieldsmen have been working in a way the keenness of which would have been worthy of the greatest Australian elevens. Yesterday's play at Old Trafford proves that they are certain, even if they do not beat us, to make a fine attempt to avenge their defeat at Lord's last month.

Curiously the man who stood out of that match for lack of form has been doing wonderfully well ever since, and hundreds with him have been quite common – he has made four in six innings. Reference is here made to Mr Frank Iredale, whose 108 yesterday, in such a match as England v Australia, is a crowning triumph. Mr Iredale has an easy method of batting which compares well with that of any other member of the side; but on a true wicket he does not get forward enough to please the keen upholder of what might be termed the Stoddart or Maclaren form. Apparently he has yet to learn the art of scoring off a good ball in a way practised by the school referred to, and his game often becomes dull by his indomitable patience in waiting for the bad ball from which to score.

But he is to be congratulated on his big innings yesterday against splendid bowling. Fortune did in no sense frown on him, for his innings was not wholly faultless. Richardson, who bowled with bad luck, repeatedly got through his defence and only missed the wicket by a mere trifle, and then between the seventies and eighties he had almost a life at the hands of Abel, at short slip. Abel used to be a certain catch in this position; but the best of cricketers will often fail.

One of the best things of yesterday was Mr George Giffen's 80. Although not such an attractive batsman as Mr Iredale he is a great cricketer, and his stroke on the leg side and his drive were in every way worthy of his younger days. He was he and Mr Iredale who laid the foundation of the big Australian score by their two hours' partnership, which yielded 131 for the second wicket. Mr Trott, the Australian captain, batted in his won sturdy, characteristic way, playing back to most things and coming out well in the cut and the leg-hit.

So the Australians had a splendid day at Old Trafford. Matches have been won by a side going in against nearly a 400 score; but with the interminable variety of cricket prophecy is always dangerous, and it can only be said that England in the uphill fight before them must hope for the

continuation of the fine weather and the retention by the wicket of its yesterday's trueness. The fielding yesterday was good generally; but not quite up to the standard of this year's Oxford Eleven or even that of Winchester and Eton.

Perhaps the first thing that the organizers of this second of the England elevens will be charged with by those most zealous for the interests of England is their under-estimate of the Australians as a batting side, and that therefore they did not put enough bowling into the team. For this they were not wholly to blame. It was force of circumstances as much as anything. Mold, whom Mr A N Hornby sent to London last week to see Mr Atkinson about an injured limb, was unable to play, and Pougher had to stand down through lameness. But the most unfortunate thing of all for England was the request by George Lohmann yesterday morning to stand out of the side, as he did not feel himself owing to a sprained leg. So Dr Grace's selection of 11 from the 14 men on the ground practically resolved itself into a case of "Hobson's choice," for three of the 14 were unfit to play.

Where the Lancashire executive is most to blame in taking the field without another good bowler is for not including Hayward, of Surrey, in the original invitations for the eleven. Every one knows how good a bowler as well as a bat is this nephew of the famous Tom Hayward of other days. Lohmann, Hayward and Gunn, who played at Lord's, were yesterday succeeded by Mr Maclaren, K S Ranjitsinhji and Briggs. As to the presence of the young Indian prince in the side, it may be interesting to mention that he stipulated that he would play if the choice were unanimous and if the Australians raised no objection. Mr Trott, the Australian captain, openly expressed a wish to see Ranjitsinhji in the English side.

After a bright morning yesterday the north wind brought up many clouds, and about mid-day the weather was not promising, but it rapidly cleared and the afternoon was that of a glorious summer day. There was a huge crowd at Old Trafford, Manchester, so conveniently reached from the city by the special trains which run right up to the entrance gates. About 17,000 people paid for admission, so that with members the company was about 20,000 strong.

The Lancashire Club possesses one of the best pavilions in the country; it is quite of recent construction and is modelled, on a small scale, on Lord's. This was closely filled yesterday and, with the stands, presented an imposing sight. Old Trafford itself never looked better and, what was more important than anything, the ground was beautifully true.

Trott's success in tossing for choice of innings has become proverbial, and yesterday he once more beat Grace and, naturally, decided to go in first. Richardson started the bowling to Iredale, who got a four through the slips from the first ball of the match. In the same over he scored three on the leg side and Darling made a cut for four. This was a bright beginning for the visitors. The batsmen could do little with Briggs's bowling, but from Richardson runs came freely. Darling played quite a strong game; but at nine he was almost caught by Ranjitsinhji at third man; the fieldsman jumped up and broke the pace of the ball, but failed to hold it. The score mounted at a good pace until it reached 41, when Darling, who had hit six fours and three singles, was caught by Lilley standing back at wicket.

Giffen opened his score with a bold run that went near to costing him his wicket; but he then settled down to a sound and vigorous game, coming out well on the leg side. Fifty were made in three-quarters of an hour, and with runs coming quickly Grace brought on Jackson and Hearne at 62 and 73 respectively. Jackson seemed in no bowling form and, with only an indifferent length, he was severely punished. In one over Iredale made three fours from him. However, in one, instance, if there was any satisfaction to be had out of it, he nearly bowled Giffen. The rapid rate of run-getting

was unchecked and the 100 was reached in 80min. Things quieted down when Grace took a turn himself and put Richardson back again. The latter repeatedly beat the batsmen without hitting the wicket; but Giffen and Iredale were still together at luncheon, when the score was 130 and Giffen had already run beyond the 50.

After the interval Grace got back to his original bowlers, Richardson and Briggs, and the former almost had Giffen caught in the slips from a very bad stroke. Richardson continued to bowl with bad luck and often only just missed the stumps by a hair's breadth. Hearne came on and Richardson crossed to the other end, and at last the wicket fell. In his third over Richardson brought off a very clever return catch that got out Giffen. For nearly two hours the partnership had lasted, and of the 131 runs added Giffen's share was 80; he had played admirably and among his figures were 12 fours. Two for 172.

With Trott in runs came rapidly. Iredale did most of the run-getting and made many fine drives, being rather severe on Hearne. Richardson, however, was always difficult to him. After the 200 had gone up at ten minutes to 4 Stoddart and Jackson were put on. Again did the latter fail to find his length and both batsmen scored freely from him. There were hearty cheers all round the ground for Iredale's 100, made out of 229 in three and a half hours. Briggs came on once more at 235, and at 242 he bowled Iredale for a great innings of 108, made in three and three-quarter hours; Iredale's chief hits were 16 fours, four threes and nine twos. He had a most cordial reception on his return to the pavilion. This third-wicket partnership had yielded 70 runs.

When Gregory arrived the score advanced rapidly, and after putting Richardson on again "W.G." decided to give a chance to Lilley, whose place at wicket was taken by Brown. This newest change quickly brought about the dismissal of Trott, who was caught at wicket off a "long hop"; the Australian captain had played soundly for his 53, while he and Gregory had made 52 in 40min for the fourth partnership. This wicket went at 294, and without addition Gregory in hitting round to leg was caught in the slips.

Hill and Donnan were together when the 300 went up; but Richardson coming on again disposed of Donnan with a "yorker," and at 325 got Hill caught at slip. Seven for 325. Trumble played on at 352, and then Kelly and M'Kibbin remained together to the end. Throughout the day Richardson had bowled remarkably well; but, as at Lord's, the English captain did not bowl Hearne sufficiently.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 July, page 14)

It was a grievous spectacle at Old Trafford yesterday to see so many fine English batsmen, players of the highest class, fail before the keen Australians, who, having once got a game in hand, had shown over and over again the great aptitude they possess for the retention of their advantage. England fared very badly yesterday, and their present position promises nothing short of defeat unless a long day's rain should come to their aid.

Their comparative failure yesterday came even after the realization of their wishes as to the wicket's remaining true and the weather fine. But on this fine piece of turf 14 of the Englishmen were dismissed for 340 runs, leaving the home side still 72 runs in arrear, with Dr Grace, Mr Stoddart, Mr Jackson and Abel all out in the second innings. There is still some batting talent left; but the odds against which the Englishmen will have to fight are extremely heavy and their sole hope must be a draw.

K S Ranjitsinhji played two fine innings, the second yet unfinished, and got his runs in that inimitable style of finish and quickness which is so much his own, and in which the wonderful stroke on the leg side was as prominent as ever. Already he has scored over 100 in the match, and has once more demonstrated the skill which was acquired by him in the few years of his residence at Cambridge.

Lilley played a dashing innings of 65, and in the follow-on Mr Stoddart was more himself. But the general manner of the play was disappointing. Mr Jones was suffering from his strain sustained at Leicester, and the discomfiture of England was wrought by Mr Trott's leg breaks and the medium pace of Mr M'Kibbin and Mr Trumble. The Australians' fielding was brilliant and several great catches were brought off. There were about 18,000 people present.

The Australians increased their overnight score of 366 for eight wickets to 412 in three-quarters of an hour. England began badly and lost Grace and Stoddart, both of whom were stumped through misjudging Trott's leg break, for 23. Things seemed to mend during the Ranjitsinhji and Abel partnership, which by fine cricket and in spite of sundry bowling changes yielded 81 in an hour and a quarter for the third wicket. Abel's dismissal was quickly followed by that of Ranjitsinhji, whom Trott cleverly caught at point; the fieldsman secured the ball low down and fell in making the catch. In his brilliant 62 were eight fours, two threes and six twos.

Jackson and Brown made some good hits but never got set, and in a foolish attempt at short running the old Cambridge captain lost his wicket. Maclaren was at once out to a fine catch at short slip, Trumble holding the ball at the third attempt, and so six men were lost for 140. This was a sorry beginning for England in an uphill game.

With Lilley in there came a refreshing improvement in the batting. The Warwickshire wicket-keeper played in beautiful style while things continued to go badly for his side. Hearne helped him to add 53 before being caught at short slip, but Richardson, in attempting to give Lilley the bowling, lost his wicket, the innings being all over at a quarter to 5 for 231. Lilley took out his bat for a brilliant 65, the highest score of his side. He was only batting a little over an hour, and he hit eight fours, a three and eight twos.

With arrears of 181 England followed on shortly after 5 o'clock. At 33 Grace gave point an easy catch, and then there was a period of brilliant play during the partnership of Stoddart and Ranjitsinhji; but at 76 Stoddart was bowled by M'Kibbin, who soon afterwards made a brilliant catch at short mid-on that got out Abel, and also easily caught out Jackson in the same position. So England finished 72 behind with six wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 July, page 9)

At the end of the second day of the great test match at Old Trafford the English eleven appeared to be in a hopeless position; but on the third afternoon they almost had the game in their hands and were beaten by only three wickets. It was a great victory for the Australians, and every one will be ready to congratulate them. Englishmen, with their rich resources of cricket, can well afford to be generous to their colonial friends in the matter of congratulation; for in matches, recognized as representative, the English eleven have a great preponderance of victories.

K S Ranjitsinhji's batting and the bold attempt, subsequently made by England to pull the match out of the fire, made Saturday the greatest day of the match and the five or six thousand people who

went up to the Manchester ground instead of seeing the expected easy win for Australia had a splendidly keen fight over which to grow enthusiastic. And the end might have been closer had a catch not been dropped when there were yet nine runs to win.

The man who did most to rescue England from ignominious defeat was K S Ranjitsinhji, who in his not-out innings of 154 played in the course of a stern uphill fight, exceeded all the other many brilliant feats in his comparatively brief career as a cricketer. Some cricketers were, on principle, against the inclusion of Ranjitsinhji on the English side. The Marylebone Club committee thoroughly weighed the matter and, while recognizing the wonderful ability of that cricketer, thought it scarcely right to play him for England against Australia. And Mr Perkins, on behalf of the M.C.C., sent a letter to K S Ranjitsinhji explaining the reason why the M.C.C. did not choose him. But the Lancashire committee did not follow the M.C.C. precedent and their policy proved immensely successful.

Ranjitsinhji is playing cricket this season in a way that recalls to many Grace's great years in the seventies. The easy precision of his batting is wonderful, and he has developed that short-arm stroke on the leg side to a degree never before attained by any one. Brown, of Yorkshire, practises it at times; but with nothing like the consistency or success of Ranjitsinhji. In an innings of over three hours the Indian Prince scarcely made an ill-timed hit; and he contributed 154 to a total of 305, while in the double innings he was credited with 216. These figures fully demonstrate how ill England would have fared without him. He and Mr Stoddart and Lilley were in fact the only English batsmen who can be said to have played up to their form.

But on Saturday nothing could be said against the manner in which the Englishmen by their fielding and bowling strove to win the game. The fourth innings even with only 125 to score is a trying ordeal when there is so much at stake. And on Saturday the Australians, who had so far been playing a winning game, almost suddenly became involved in a hard fight for victory. How well Richardson and the others bowled and how excellent was the fielding may be gathered from a simple statement of fact – at the end of two and three-quarter hours the Australians found themselves with seven men out for 100 runs and 25 more wanted. Fortune then fluttered back to the visitors, whom she never forsook for any lengthened spell in this match; and a dropped catch and a few small hits followed and the match was over.

Richardson's pace and pitch were worthy of the great Surrey bowler, and were sustained for the three hours and 10 minutes which it took the Australians to make their 125. Throughout the match he did nearly all the hard work with the ball. The Lancashire executive should have made a much greater effort to have another good bowler in the side, and the fact that Lohmann, Mold and Pougher were all too unwell for cricket does not wholly exonerate them from blame.

It was the Australian's third victory over England since the institution of this particular match in England, played for the first time in 1880. The third and last of the test matches will be decided at Kennington Oval on August 10 and following days. It may be pointed out that the English score of 305 is the highest so far made against this season's Australian team as K S Ranjitsinhji's 154 is the first three-figure innings played against them.

The morning was dull, and rain threatened, when at 11.35 England renewed their second innings, in which four wickets were down for 109, so that 72 were still necessary to save the innings defeat. Ranjitsinhji, not out 41, and Brown started steadily to the bowling of Giffen and Jones. Brown soon began to score freely; but in his attempts to force the game he did not show much of that fine, clean batting for which he has grown famous, and, having made 19 out of 23 added for the

partnership, he was easily caught in the slips.

Five for 123 was the record when Maclarens joined Ranjitsinhji, who by careful batting ran to his 50 after a stay altogether of an hour and a half. Having got thoroughly set, Ranjitsinhji began to force the game in great style. He was very severe on Giffen, four of whose overs yielded 26 runs. But just when there was a prospect of a long stand Maclarens hit too quickly at a ball from Trumble and gave an easy catch on the off-side.

With only four men left England were still two runs behind, so that their prospect was very bad. However, a change was at hand. Lilley, finding Ranjitsinhji doing so well, contended himself with steadiness. Ranjitsinhji when nearing his 100 went straight along and he hit the bowling all over the field. He ran to his 100 in two hours and ten minutes, his last 50 having been obtained in 40 minutes. Lilley had a single increased to five by an overthrow; but soon afterwards, with Giffen back again, he hit a ball hard to short leg, where Trott brought off a wonderful catch; he knocked the ball up and caught it at the second attempt. Fifty-three had been obtained during the partnership.

Ranjitsinhji went on forcing the game and had some assistance from Briggs and Hearne; but the side were all out by a quarter to 2 for 305. Ranjitsinhji had a great reception on his way back to the pavilion. In his brilliant innings of 154, not out, he gave no chance whatever; he was batting rather more than three hours; and he hit 23 fours, five threes and nine twos.

On their previous form the Australians, it was thought, would easily make the 125 necessary to win. But the fourth innings is nearly always a very difficult one to play. Iredale and Darling started to Richardson and Briggs. Neither batsman seemed very confident; but Darling got some lucky strokes away through the slips. Indeed, the runs were only scraped together. Hearne, who came on for Briggs, had a beautiful pitch and could not be hit, and Richardson was bowling in great form. A ball from the Surrey man struck Iredale, whom he directly afterwards bowled. The first wicket fell at 20, and six runs later Giffen was beautifully caught in the slips by Ranjitsinhji, while at 28 a fine catch at wicket on the leg side by Lilley standing back got out Trott.

England, with a prospect of winning, bowled and fielded with great brilliancy. The Australians played with care and the score went to 45, when Darling also fell to the wicket-keeper. Gregory and Donnan stayed together some time; but the bowling was too good to be hit. Eleven overs by Hearne were actually sent down for four runs. The 50 had gone up in an hour and 20 Messrs, Briggs coming on again for Hearne, and at 79 he got Gregory caught at short leg for 33, a very fine score under the conditions of the cricket.

With five men left, the Australians wanted 46 runs. Donnan was out at 95, and at 100 Hill was caught by the wicket-keeper. Only three wickets remained and 25 runs were wanted. Trumble and Kelly very slowly secured these; but when 12 of them had been made Lilley missed Kelly standing back at the wicket off Richardson. It was an irreparable blunder. So by 6 o'clock the Australians had won the match by three wickets.

16 July: HAMPSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4603.html)

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

The Yorkshire eleven have fallen upon bad times. After being beaten by Essex at Leyton, they went on to Southampton, where yesterday Hampshire kept them in the field the whole day, making 350 for three wickets. For this fine score Captain Wynyard, with his 211 not out, was chiefly responsible.

Going in first wicket down at 27, he started steadily, and then forced the game in vigorous style, and in four and three-quarter hours obtained his large number of runs. He timed the ball beautifully and, apart from a difficult chance in the long field when 155, he made scarcely a bad stroke. Driving was his strong point. Mr H F Ward also played well and helped Captain Wynyard to put on 100 for the second wicket, and Captains Quinton and Wynyard added 184 in the two hours and a quarter that they were together.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 July, page 14)

Captain Wynyard yesterday increased his score to 268, which is the second highest individual innings of the season, the best being Mr Lionel Palairet's 292, and by this Hampshire were able to get all the better of the match with Yorkshire at Southampton. He was batting over six hours, and the only mistakes in his great innings were hard chances at 155 and 257. Fine driving and cutting were his chief characteristics and he made two sixes, 38 fours, five threes and 23 twos.

Yorkshire lost three men for 54, but subsequently there were sundry steady partnerships, and Yorkshire at the finish were 309 behind with four wickets in hand. Moorhouse was hurt and may be unable to play to-day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 July, page 9)

After a severe uphill game Yorkshire managed on Saturday to save the match at Southampton, which was left drawn. With Moorhouse hurt, Yorkshire, when the game was renewed, had three wickets left and wanted 188 to avert the follow-on. Only 99 of these were made – Hirst and Mounsey put on 57 and Hirst and Hunter 42. Hirst and Mounsey were both missed; but generally their cricket was very good.

In the follow-on against odds of 208 Yorkshire did so badly that four men were lost for 19 runs. Then came a fine stand by Mounsey and Hirst; the former escaped when only three, but afterwards showed capital form. Nearly two hours were absorbed by this partnership and 102 runs were added. Mounsey, who scored over 119 in the double innings, hit nine fours in his 64. Mr Milligan and Hirst contributed another 81, the former making eight fours in a brilliant 52, while Hirst was not out until the innings defeat had been averted. For the second time in the match he played fine cricket, and among his figures were 12 fours.

In the end Yorkshire were 27 ahead with virtually only one wicket to fall. Hampshire would very likely have won the match on Saturday had their fieldsmen not dropped several catches. There was

a large attendance.

16 July: WARWICKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4604.html)

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

Mr Perrin, who has much to do with the improved run-getting powers of Essex this season, played a fine innings of 139 for the county yesterday at Birmingham, when the venture of the visitors occupied the whole of the cricketing hours. He went in first wicket down at 57 and was fifth out at 348 after a stay of about three hours and a half. His best hits were nine fours, five threes and 22 fours.

Mr Owen and Mr Fane also played well, and the former, with Mr Perrin, made 125 in an hour and a half for the fourth partnership. At one time the Essex score promised to be much heavier than 395, but the last five wickets yielded only 47 runs. Warwickshire did not field well; sundry catches were dropped and, as these were from the batsmen who did most mischief, the errors were serious.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 July, page 14)

Yesterday's cricket at Birmingham was thoroughly interesting, the home eleven giving a most spirited display of batting in face of the total of 395 put together by Essex on the previous day. The start was disastrous, Walter Quaife being bowled by the first ball of the day, but then came a succession of batting triumphs by [Diver], Welford and William Quaife.

After the interval Kortright effected so wonderful a change in the game that eight wickets were down for 238. When it seemed most probable that Warwickshire would follow on, Glover and Willie Quaife added 92 in an hour and a half, and the total in the end reached 347, or only 48 behind. At the finish Essex were 111 runs to the good with eight wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 July, page 9)

There was some splendid batting at Birmingham on Saturday, when Warwickshire had rather the better of the drawn match, seeing that with eight wickets to fall they wanted at the finish only 55 runs to win. The great thing of the day was the brilliant innings of Diver, who took out his bat for 112, made without a chance in a little over two hours; he hit 11 fours, 11 threes and seven twos. Mr Bainbridge and Diver obtained 85 in 40 minutes during their partnership, while subsequently William Quaife helped Diver to advance the score at a rapid rate.

In the earlier hours of the day various members of the Essex eleven played remarkably well. Russell was the most successful and hit four fours, five threes and six twos, while he and Mr Kortright put on 83 during their stand for the seventh wicket. Warwickshire achieved a great feat in making 236 for two wickets out of the 291 required to win.

Monday 20 July, page 9: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The games finished on Saturday were both drawn and they made no difference to the positions of the counties concerned. Yorkshire just managed to escape defeat at Southampton, so that their high place in the competition is still preserved.

After the great interest aroused by England v Australia has subsided attention will once more be closely devoted to the championship. To-day Yorkshire play Lancashire at Leeds, while at Lord's there is the Surrey and Middlesex return. The figures given below will show that the championship is still a very open question.

	Proportion of Points						to Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points		
Matches							
Yorkshire	17	10	2	5	8	.8	
Middlesex	7	5	1	1	4	.8	
Lancashire	11	9	2	0	7	.63	
Surrey	16	12	3	1	9	.6	
Essex	6	3	2	1	1	.2	
The other counties' results are:							
Nottinghamshire	8	3	3	2	0		
Hampshire	8	2	4	2	-2		
Derbyshire	11	3	5	3	-2		
Sussex	9	2	5	2	-3		
Somerset	9	2	5	2	-3		
Gloucestershire	10	2	6	2	-4		
Warwickshire	12	2	7	3	-5		
Kent	6	1	6	1	-5		
Leicestershire	8	1	6	1	-5		

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

20 July: DERBYSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4605.html)

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

On a splendid wicket and before 5,000 spectators yesterday, at Derby, the Australians ran up another big score, making in the course of five hours 370 runs for the loss of only four batsmen.

Mr Trott's fortune in tossing for choice of innings has become proverbial. After Mr Iredale had been missed at point and when Mr Darling had gone there was a stand of an hour and three-quarters by Mr Iredale and Mr Giffen, who put on 120 runs. Mr Giffen played very well and hit seven fours. Mr Iredale was third out at 157 for 73, an innings that brought his record for the season into the thousand. He made ten fours.

After four wickets had fallen for 175 Mr Donnan and Mr Trott remained together for the rest of the day – namely, two and a half hours – and by fine cricket added 195 runs. Mr Trott obtained his second three-figure score of the tour, and at times he forced the game in brilliant style. Storer's hand was still bad, and at the end of an hour he gave up the gloves and pads to Mr Wright. The Australians are leaving out Mr Jones, Mr Trumble and Mr Kelly.

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

The Australians, at Derby yesterday, made the highest score of their tour – namely, 625 – which considerably exceeds the previous best of 584 against Leicestershire last week. This huge total was the work of nine hours, marked for the most part by a steadiness of batting that, considering that the bowling was so completely mastered, was apt to become dull to the spectators, of whom there were yesterday about 4,000.

Mr Trott had already reached his 100 on Monday; but yesterday Mr Donnan and Mr Hill each secured their first three-figure scores of the tour. The Trott and Donnan partnership yielded 211 in rather less than three hours, and that between Donnan and Hill 183 in three and a quarter hours. Mr Trott played in his well-known, sturdy style and hit 18 fours; but Mr Donnan's play was extremely slow to follow, and he took something like six hours to get his runs; in fact, after luncheon he was about 90 minutes obtaining 27. Mr Hill's was the brightest cricket of the day and he was credited with 15 fours. Derbyshire made sundry mistakes in the field.

In half an hour the home eleven lost a couple of men and, of course, to-day they have nothing but the draw for which to play.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 July, page 7)

The match between the Australians and Derbyshire ended yesterday at Derby in a tame draw. Derbyshire's first innings did not close until ten minutes to 5.

20 July: HAMPSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4606.html)

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

As Hampshire are only seven runs behind the Essex innings and have four wickets to fall, they may be said to hold an advantage in this match, begun yesterday at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton. Essex started very well and made 126 before luncheon at the cost of only two batsmen; but subsequently they fared so badly that they were all out for 160, the last four wickets all going down at the same total. The best cricket of the side was played by young Carpenter, who was fourth to leave at 132. In his 54, made at a steady rate, he gave no chance, while his best hits were seven fours.

When Hampshire went in Barton hit hard and obtained 48 out of the first 52. Captain Wynyard was bowled by a ball that he did not attempt to play, and four wickets were down for 84. Webb and Captain Bradford made a stand of 59 and in the end the score was left as follows . . .

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

The Hampshire eleven beat Essex in a most decisive manner at Leyton yesterday by eight wickets. Soar's fast bowling, which the home side played very badly, was the chief cause of this easy win. He carried all before him and secured eight wickets – five clean bowled – for 38 runs.

At the beginning of the day Mr Kortright by getting the last four Hampshire men at a cost to himself of 13 runs reduced the game to something like evenness; but the failure of Essex in the second innings undid this good. Captain Bradford again played well for the visitors.

20 July: KENT v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4607.html)

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

In yesterday's cricket at the Rectory Field, Blackheath, Kent were indebted to Mr Livesay and Mr Weigall for the advantage they secured. To begin with the home side lost four men for 51. Then it was that the batsmen named became partners and in the course of 80 minutes added 85 runs.

Mr Livesay, who went in second wicket down at 17, was the fifth to leave at 136. He got his runs in a nice free style and among other hits made 12 fours. Mr Weigall made his 70 at a much steadier rate and was batting two and a half hours, seven fours and four threes being his principal hits. Mr Marchant played brilliantly for half an hour and in the end the score reached 244.

Somerset started disastrously and lost half the side for 12 runs – three of the wickets fell at 9; but subsequently there was some fine batting by Mr Roe and Robson, who added 59 in 35 minutes, while afterwards Nichols kept up his end while Mr Roe forced the play. At the finish Somerset were 131 behind with four wickets to fall. Mr Shine bowled very fast and kept a pretty good length.

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

Kent established a great advantage in this match at the Rectory Field, Blackheath, yesterday, and last evening with a wicket in hand they were already 331 runs ahead. Somerset in an hour and a half yesterday morning finished off their first innings for an addition of 81 runs. Mr Roe took out his bat for 93; for this he was in over three hours. His best hits were 13 fours, five threes and six twos.

When Kent went in again there was no lack of fine batting. Mr Mason and Alec Hearne made 77 for the first wicket, and later on Mr Burnup, of the Cambridge Eleven, hit hard and contributed ten fours in an innings of 45 that occupied only 50 minutes. He obtained four fours in one over from Tyler. Mr Weigall and Mr Livesay again did well and put on 91 in less than an hour for the fifth partnership. Mr Lionel Palairet's lobs were pretty successful for Somerset.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 July, page 7)

As was foreshadowed by the position of the game at Blackheath on Tuesday evening, the success of Kent yesterday was very easily secured; the side actually won by 145 runs. Kent's last wicket yielded altogether 33.

When Somerset went in again a second time 340 were necessary to win; but any chances they may have had of achieving the task were destroyed by the early failures of their men. Mr Woods, the two Palairets, Mr Hill and Mr Stanley were got out for 53 runs. Then Mr Roe and Robson, who had made the stand in the first innings, again strove hard to save their side. By very good cricket 73 runs were added in a little over an hour. Robson obtained 52 of these and among his figures were seven fours. Nichols helped Mr Roe to carry the score to 170 and then the end came quickly. Mr Roe, who was ninth to leave, played well and brought his aggregate in the match to 138. The Kent eleven batted, bowled and fielded in a manner that in every degree merited their substantial victory.

20 July: MIDDLESEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4608.html)

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

If Surrey got the better of this game by their fine batting at Lord's yesterday, the honours of the cricket were not wholly theirs, for in the four hours of their experiences as the out side Middlesex greatly distinguished themselves in fielding. The whole team in this respect were excellent, but Mr Bromley-Davenport, Mr Webbe and Mr Stoddart were conspicuous amid all the fine stopping and returning of the eleven as a whole.

But against all this fine fielding and some very fair bowling and on a wicket not thoroughly sound, Surrey came extremely well out on the day's play and they made their 300 runs at the rate of over 75 an hour. For this fine score they were very largely indebted to Lohmann, who is just now batting as well as he ever did. Yesterday he went in soon after half-past 3 when there seemed every prospect of the side being out for a comparatively ordinary total seeing that seven wickets had fallen for 190 runs. In the course of his three-quarters of an hour's partnership with Mr Key the character of Surrey's position was much altered. Lohmann hit all round the wicket with startling brilliancy, and Mr Key, who beforehand had been playing with a care that made his cricket quite dull, followed Lohmann's example. So in 45 minutes 96 runs were added to the score. When this stand ended the innings rapidly finished and Lohmann remained not out with 63. He had made these runs in less than an hour and had hit 12 fours. In driving, cutting and leg hitting he was equally brilliant, and in spite of his vigorous style he scarcely ever mistimed the ball.

Before this stand, which was the feature of the day, occurred there had been several other feats with the bat. Brockwell made 23 of the first 35, before being dismissed by a great running catch by Mr Lucas in the long field, following which came a profitable hour's partnership between Holland and Abel, who put on 91 for the second wicket. Holland began with some very fortunate strokes, but when once in he did well and his fine forward play was warmly greeted. He was only out to a clever catch by Sir Timothy O'Brien, who was fielding very close in at point.

When the 120 went up with only one man gone it appeared that Surrey were in for a great score. But cricket changes suddenly. This time the change was wrought by Mr Stoddart, whom Mr Webbe had put on at 89. When Holland left wickets fell so rapidly that six were down for 155, and up to this point Mr Stoddart had taken five of them in 13 overs at a cost to himself of 37 runs. Mr Stoddart was always a good change bowler, and yesterday he kept a good length and got some work on the ball, a fact that was plainly shown when Hayward had his off stump bowled down in endeavouring to place the ball to leg.

Mr Key by his steadiness and Mr Read by his vigour checked the misfortune that seemed likely to tell so heavily against Surrey. Abel, who went in first, was third to leave at 133 for a soundly-played 58; he gave no chance and got his runs in an hour and three-quarters. The partnership of Mr Read and Mr Key yielded 35 runs. Surrey were all out by a quarter to 5. The catches that got rid of the Surrey batsmen were nearly all brilliantly made; those by Hearne and Stoddart in the slips were exceptionally skilful, as also was that by Mr Webbe when running round from mod he caught Mr Key almost behind the bowler.

Middlesex in the course of an hour and a half scored 64 for the loss of four wickets, so that with 117 still necessary to save the "follow-on" they have a severe task before them. The best features of

their batting so far have been the dashing 26 of Sir Timothy O'Brien and the steady 21 of Mr MacGregor. Near the finish the last-named was badly hit on the hand by a ball from Lockwood.

Fine summer weather prevailed and there were over 10,000 spectators of a capital day's cricket. Mr G O Smith, who did most to win for Oxford the University match, appeared in the Surrey eleven, while Mr Webbe gave Mr Bray and Mr Warner, this year's University "Blues," places in the Middlesex team. It may be remembered that Middlesex beat Surrey a few weeks ago on the Oval.

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

The fears entertained about the wicket at Lord's were only too well founded, and yesterday the pitch had broken up so badly that the prospects of Middlesex became hopeless. The Surrey bowlers triumphed at every turn, and Middlesex were beaten by an innings and 58 runs.

Surrey had done extremely well indeed to make the big score of 300 on the first day with the turf by no means true; and the wicket did not last more than an innings. It is to be regretted that the return game between the two great southern counties was not played through on a fine stretch of turf instead of a worn wicket, for after the way the play had gone in the first match at the Oval, when Middlesex won substantially, it was hoped that there would be a keen fight in the return under equal conditions. Middlesex were, however, easily beaten yesterday, and except in the case of their professionals, Rawlin and Hearne, there was only disappointment at their batting.

That the playing ground at Lord's is causing the M.C.C. executive much anxiety by the repeated failure of the wicket to last was shown by the close inspection of the turf which some of the leading members of the committee, among whom were Mr A J Webbe, Mr Henry Perkins and Mr W E Denison, made after the finish of yesterday's match. To-morrow the M.C.C. will have their second game with the Australians, and the pitch for this was the subject of serious discussion. It need scarcely be stated that every care will be taken to secure a good wicket.

Yesterday's play, which attracted 5,000 spectators, had for its chief merit the effected bowling of Richardson and Abel. It is long since the latter had the distinction, which he as well as Richardson had yesterday, of bowling right through an innings. His slows came off so well that his aggregate in the match was six wickets for 46 runs. In Surrey's less fortunate days he used often to prove a very useful change; but it is doubtful if ever before Abel bowled without relief. Richardson's great pace and break were much too good for most of the Middlesex batsmen, ten of whom he dismissed for 119 runs. To add to the home county's misfortunes, Mr MacGregor's injury to his hand was so severe as to prevent his taking any part in yesterday's cricket.

Middlesex, who overnight had made 64 for four wickets, completed their first innings in an hour and a half for an addition of 95 runs. Rawlin played steadily, and with Hearne raised the score from 105 to 142 for the eighth wicket. No one else accomplished anything of note. In the follow-on against 141 the collapse of Middlesex was dreadful. The side were dismissed by Richardson and Abel for 83 in an hour and a quarter, Surrey winning easily.

20 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4609.html)

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

Runs were rather difficult to make yesterday at Trent-bridge, this, too, in spite of the true wicket. But the bowling and fielding on both sides were good.

Dr Grace and his son made a capital start to the visitors' innings by scoring 57; but subsequently things went badly for Gloucestershire, indeed the last six wickets after luncheon added only 53 runs. The best thing in the innings was the batting of young Mr Grace, who showed much steadiness and was fifth out at 119 after a stay of two hours. In his 62 were five fours, three threes and seven twos. Murch hit well towards the close of the innings.

Nottinghamshire did well at first. Mr Jones played fine, bright cricket, making 45 out of 58, but Shrewsbury was very careful and as a rule waited for the bad ball from which to score. After some effected bowling by Roberts – four wickets were down for 69 – Shrewsbury had some aid from Mr Dixon and Daft, and at the finish he was not out 39 as the result of two and a quarter hours' play. Notts were then 39 behind with five wickets to fall. Owing to a slight bicycle accident, Mr Wright stood out of the Notts eleven and his place was filled by Daft.

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

Arthur Shrewsbury, who has not been quite himself this season, came out well yesterday at Trent-bridge, carrying his bat through the innings for 125. It was the great Nottinghamshire professional's first three-figure score of the year.

Although never what might be called a quick run-getter, Shrewsbury was always a splendid cricketer to watch, and if his innings lasted well over five hours, his masterly method was as ably demonstrated as ever. Mr Townsend's bowling troubled him occasionally; but actually he gave no change beyond one to short slip when his figures stood at 62. He mostly waited for the loose ball from which to score, and he hit 12 fours, five threes and 14 twos. Yesterday he had two good partnerships – those with Daft and Pike, which yielded respectively 58 and 82 – and in the end Notts secured a lead on the innings of 109.

Dr Grace and Wrathall made such a fine start in the visitors' second innings that there appeared every chance of a keen fight. The batsmen named scored 86 for the first wicket; but then before the bowling of Hardstaff and Attewell the batting faded, and at the finish Gloucestershire were two runs behind with only four wickets left. Dr Grace played excellently for his 55, which occupied him about two hours.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 July, page 7)

The fine batting of Shrewsbury and the effected bowling of Attewell and Hardstaff were the chief things that led yesterday at Trent-bridge to the brilliant victory of Nottinghamshire by nine wickets.

Already on Tuesday night Gloucestershire were in a bad way, for they had lost six men for 107; and

yesterday, in a quarter of an hour, Notts were rid of the other four for an addition of a mere 12 runs. Attewell in the match actually took eight wickets for 37 runs. Nottinghamshire, in getting the 11 they wanted to win, lost Mr Jones, who was splendidly caught in the slips.

20 July: YORKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4610.html)

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

At one time yesterday at Headingley, Leeds, Yorkshire seemed to be in for a very good score; but after some fine batting by the first three members of the side – 130 up with only two men out – there came a collapse and the last wicket fell at 190. Eight of the team were actually dismissed for 161; but Peel and Haigh made some good hits towards the close.

Mr Jackson, who played very well, and Tunnicliffe put on 66 for the first wicket, while Brown, who was never quite set, left at 109. Tunnicliffe, who was third out and contributed the highest score of the day, had a good deal of luck – he was twice missed; but his 62 was of inestimable value to the side. His best hits were ten fours, four threes and three twos.

In the last hour and three-quarters of the day Lancashire fared badly before the bowling of Schofield Haigh and Hirst, and, with six of their best batsmen gone, they are 96 runs behind. Ward and Mr Maclaren played very well. Brown made a wonderful catch at point to get out I'Anson. There were 10,000 spectators.

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

In a keen day's cricket at Headingley, Leeds, yesterday, Yorkshire throughout had rather the better of the game, and last night Lancashire, who had gone in to get 231 to win, had lost one batsman in the fourth innings for 23 runs.

The last four Lancashire wickets in the morning were pretty fruitful, although nearly all the credit for the ultimate respectability of the visitors' score belonged to Tyldesley and Baker, who put on 53 in 50 minutes. Mold hit vigorously, and finally Lancashire were only 21 behind. Haigh had again bowled excellently.

Yorkshire's second innings was marked by a steadiness that against the close fielding and keen bowling was made necessary. And it further proved profitable. This spell of the home batting lasted from 1 o'clock until 10 minutes to 6, and all the members of the side did something towards the 209. Tunnicliffe managed, with his 21, to run into his four-figure aggregate for the season, and Mr Jackson got to within six of his. There were again about 10,000 spectators. Rain set in soon after the drawing of stumps.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 July, page 7)

Yorkshire beat Lancashire at Headingley yesterday by 123 runs, this being their second victory over that county during the season. In the match finished yesterday they always seemed to have rather the better of the game. But the rain which fell on Tuesday evening rather helped them, as it affected the pitch, although in the early part of the day the turf was, for a time, made easy by a sharp shower. It was under these conditions that Mr M'Laren and Mr Rowley batted brilliantly.

Lancashire had to make 231 for victory, and Albert Ward was out overnight when the score was

only 23. yesterday Mr M'Laren and Mr Rowley put on 51 in 50 minutes before the former was finely caught at cover-point. Mr Rowley stayed a little time longer and Baker made a few good hits. A collapse then set in, and with Hallam hurt the match was soon over. Peel bowled splendidly.

Tuesday 21 July, page 11: M.C.C. AND GROUND v AUSTRALIANS

For the second match with the Australians the M.C.C. Committee, at their usual weekly meeting at Lord's yesterday, decided upon ten of the side for Thursday next as follows:-

Dr W G Grace, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr A E Stoddart, Mr A C Maclaren, Gunn, J T Hearne, Attewell, Pougher, Board and Woodcock. The 11th place will be filled by an amateur batsman.

Wednesday 22 July, page 13: M.C.C. AND GROUND v AUSTRALIANS

Captain Wynyard (Hampshire) will complete the M.C.C. side for this match at Lord's to-morrow. The names of the other members of the team were given in The Times of yesterday.

The Yorkshire and Surrey victories this week have had the effect of raising the two counties to the foremost places in the championship, and their defeats of Lancashire and Middlesex again made it probable that the competition will resolve itself into a match between these counties. Present results:-

Matches	Proportion of Points					to Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	
Yorkshire	18	11	2	5	9	.692
Surrey	17	13	3	1	10	.625
Lancashire	12	9	3	0	6	.5
Middlesex	8	5	2	1	3	.423
Nottinghamshire	9	4	3	2	1	.142
The other counties' results are:						
Essex	7	3	3	1	0	
Hampshire	9	3	4	2	-1	
Derbyshire	11	3	5	3	-2	
Sussex	9	2	5	2	-3	
Kent	9	2	6	1	-4	
Somerset	10	2	6	2	-4	
Gloucestershire	11	2	7	2	-5	
Warwickshire	12	2	7	3	-5	
Leicestershire	8	1	6	1	-5	

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

M.C.C. AND GROUND v AUSTRALIANS

Dr W G Grace will be unable to play for the M.C.C. at Lord's to-day, as he has a badly bruised knee, which he is desirous of resting. In his absence the M.C.C. have fallen back upon the services of their professional, George Bean. The eleven will now consist to Mr A E Stoddart, K S Ranjitsinhji, Captain E G Wynyard, Mr A C M'Laren, Gunn, J T Hearne, Attewell, Board, Pougher, Woodcock and George Bean.

Both Mr MacGregor and Storer have injured hands; but under any circumstances Mr MacGregor could not have kept wicket to-day owing to his professional engagements.

23 July: ESSEX v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4611.html)

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

Yesterday, at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, the Derbyshire eleven gave a fine exhibition of their batting skill. To begin with they did badly and three men were out for 29; but then came a succession of good partnerships, the chief of which were Chatterton and Davidson for 73 and Chatterton and Storer for 139. All these runs were scored at a good rate and were made by capital cricket.

Chatterton was about three hours reaching his 111, made without a chance and inclusive of a five, 12 fours and eight twos. Storer played soundly for his 92, in which were 12 fours and five twos. Walter Sugg hit freely but had some escapes. The Essex fielding became very slack at times. Mr Kortright was absent from the home side owing to a strain.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 July, page 9)

Most of the cricketing hours at Leyton yesterday were absorbed by the steady innings of Essex. There was the same careful excellence about nearly the whole side. Mr Bull was an exception, and surviving an easy chance of a catch he hit out well. Essex in the end were only 64 behind the big Derbyshire score.

In the second innings of the visitors there was some very fine batting by Mr Wright and Bagshaw, and the record was left as follows . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 July, page 13)

On the last day of this match, at Leyton, the cricket had for its feature the fine batting by several members of both sides. The wicket lasted well to the end and in the drawn game over 1,000 runs were scored.

Derbyshire began in the morning with a lead of 151 and two batsmen only lost in the second innings. In two and three-quarter hours 177 more were added and then the innings was declared closed. Chatterton, who made over 100 on Thursday, took out his bat for 85; he played very well and among his figures were eight fours.

Essex were put in a second time 328 behind and there were just three hours to play. After Carpenter had been dismissed, Mr Fane and Mr Perrin contributed 83 in 70 minutes, and the latter then stayed with Mr M'Gahey until 150. He made 73 in a couple of hours by capital cricket, and hit nine fours and three threes. Mr M'Gahey, who secured nine fours, and Mr Owen played for the last three-quarters of an hour, during which only 29 runs were obtained. Essex at the finish were 149 behind with seven wickets to fall.

23 July: KENT v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4612.html)

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

Bad cricket and a broken wicket were the causes of the disastrous time experienced by the Surrey eleven at Catford-bridge yesterday. When Kent went in at the beginning of the day the Surrey fielding was bad, various catches were dropped and Wood, the wicket-keeper, was much at fault. Thus the home side were able to put together a tolerably good score.

But runs were very difficult to obtain, as may be judged from the fact that such a batsman as Mr J R Mason was 80 minutes making 29. Mr Patterson, going in third wicket down at 29, was eighth out at 123 after a stay of over two hours. He had some luck in the field; but Easby helped him to put on 44 for the seventh partnership, while Martin and Huish added 38 for the last.

The pitch had grown worse when Surrey began batting, and between ten minutes to five and ten minutes past 6 the whole side were out for 48. Alec Hearne took the first four wickets and then Martin got down the other six in three overs and three balls for seven runs. In one over he dismissed Mr Read, Lohmann and Wood.

Kent went in again with a lead of 113, and in an over of Richardson's lost two men for six runs. The weather was fine and a large company visited the ground.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 July, page 9)

With the wicket broken and false, Surrey, yesterday, at Catford-bridge, could not recover from the disasters of Thursday. They paid severely for their fielding errors on the first day and were beaten by Kent by 61 runs.

Beyond Mr Mason and Mr Patterson no one gave the visitors much trouble in the second innings; but Surrey were set 208 to get to win. Abel and Brockwell made a capital start by obtaining 40 for the first partnership; but after luncheon the Kent bowlers with a better length found the bad spots in the pitch and not all the courageous batting of George Lohmann could save the side. So Kent won easily.

23 July: M.C.C. AND GROUND v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4613.html)

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

In the closing hours at Lord's yesterday the play attained a high degree of excellence by the batting of Mr Stoddart and Mr Maclaren. Beforehand there had been a sound, if less brilliant, innings by the Australian captain, Mr Trott, upon whom the side almost wholly depended for the score of 202.

When his team were going to pieces Mr Trott played with that sturdy vigour which always arouses the idea that he is never likely to get out. It is well known that Mr Trott's great successes as a cricketer have been achieved by his wonderful back play. He always brings to mind the days before the introduction of the dashing forward game. In fact, although Mr Trott is only verging on the 30's, his game would relegate him to the old school.

Mr Trott had some luck yesterday, for Board at different stages of his innings gave him lives at the wicket, which must have made the M.C.C. regret the absence of their MacGregor and their Storer. The errors of Board had a great influence on the game, for Mr Trott was respectively 24 and 67 at the time of his escapes. Apart from these errors the Australian captain played a remarkable innings. It was his second 100 on Lord's Ground this year, and his third during the tour. Without much doubt yesterday's was his best. His great characteristic is his drive, and the power he puts into this and the way in which he keeps the ball down are especially noteworthy. Various other strokes, especially the cut, were also well brought out by him yesterday.

But the best batting of the day was during the Stoddart-Maclaren partnership. Mr Stoddart never played better cricket than last evening. The drive, the cut and the leg "glance" were all splendidly demonstrated. It was this that enabled the M.C.C. to get the better position, for 119 for two wickets is clearly a far stronger score than 202 for an innings.

In the absence of Dr W G Grace the captaincy of the M.C.C. devolved upon Mr Stoddart, and generally he managed his bowling well. He had a variety of attack that was strengthened by the inclusion in the side of Mr Ernest Smith, who retains much of the skill shown by him in his Oxford days. Then there was Woodcock, of Leicestershire, with his great pace, whose success in the early part of the day was very marked. Several of the Australians fell to him simply because they were unable to get out of the way of his off-bowling. Hearne bowled well, but with no luck. Attewell was very difficult to play.

Judged from all points of the game, indeed, the M.C.C. side yesterday may rest well satisfied with the way the game went. Marylebone had not such a strong team as they at one time hoped for, but they were very good. Among the eleven was to be found K S Ranjitsinhji, the hero of England v Australia last Saturday, whose great feat on that occasion the crowd yesterday did not forget to recognize, for he was given a most enthusiastic reception on his way to the wicket. But the novelty occurred of seeing his fail. The wicket was good and the M.C.C. ground man, Pearce, is to be congratulated on having secured such a fine pitch after the unpromising outlook at the beginning of the week. Mr Trott's continued prosperity in tossing was much talked about. There were 10,000 people present, and a pleasant breeze from the south-west kept the air cool.

Trott's fortune in tossing for choice of innings clings to him as much as ever, and for the third time of the visits of his sides to Lord's he had the advantage of going in. But when the Australians

started yesterday their career reminded one of the notorious "18 innings" of the early June days this year. They began at five minutes past 12 and had a terrible first half-hour. Stoddart started his bowling with Hearne and Woodcock, the latter being on at the nursery end. He has a terrible pace, and when getting anything like a length he is very effective.

In Hearne's first over – in fact, from the second ball of the match – Iredale was finely caught low down at short slip. No run had been scored. Then in Woodcock's first few overs three wickets went – Giffen bowled and Darling and Gregory both caught in the slips; Stoddart made both these catches and the second of them was extremely good, the ball being held high up over the fieldsman's head. Four for 16 was a record that placed the Australians in a very bad position; but things after this mended, mostly by the sterling cricket of Trott and the kindness with which he was treated by Board, who missed him at the wicket when his score was only 24.

Donnan was in with Trott when the first stand occurred. For a long while the batting lacked precision and snicks were plentiful; but Trott soon settled down and made many fine drives, with here and there a clean cut. The M.C.C. fielding was keen, although the return was not so direct to the wicket as it might have been. In this way some possible chances of getting a run-out were thrown away, for Trott and Donnan both showed a slight incapacity for judging a run. Fifty were made in 70 minutes, and soon after this, with both men well set, the M.C.C. bowling was doubly changed. Ernest Smith and Pougher were scored from freely by Trott, whose driving was very fine; but at 79 – that was, after 63 had been made in an hour for the wicket – Smith got Donnan caught at wicket. Donnan's 24 was a very steady innings.

Afterwards Trott continued to play very well, and he ran to his 50 in an hour and 40 minutes. More luck befell him after luncheon, for with his score at 67 Board again missed him at the wicket, and for the second time the error was very serious. Attewell had a turn with the ball, but afterwards Woodcock and J T Hearne had a long spell. Hill was in rather more than three-quarters of an hour for his 15, but during his stay Trott's sturdy excellence triumphed to such an extent that soon after Hill and Trumble had gone – both were out at 122 – the Australian captain ran to his 100.

Meantime the Englishmen had been distinguishing themselves in the field and their bowling was invariably true. Trott's driving continued to be the feature of his cricket; but his dismissal came about at 161, when, playing back to Attewell, he was completely beaten, the ball breaking slightly and hitting the leg stump. Trott had played superb cricket for about three hours, and in his 103 were 15 fours, four threes and six twos. Beyond the chances at wicket already mentioned he made scarcely a mistake. Here and there a snick would occur, but all through he played fine cricket.

After the captain had left Jones went in for some hard hitting, and met with so much success that he contributed 31 out of 41 in 20 minutes. Ernest Smith then bowled him and M'Kibbin, and Kelly took out his bat for 18, an innings that had occupied an hour and a quarter. It was 25 minutes to 5 when the Australians were all dismissed for 202, a score far more substantial than the early play promised. Woodcock and Smith carried off the bowling honours, but the former, after getting his first four wickets cheaply, was rather expensive.

Marylebone's innings was brilliantly begun by Stoddart and Maclaren, both of whom forced the play so powerfully that 38 were made in half an hour and 50 went up five minutes later. Stoddart's driving was exquisite, while in cutting and leg-placing he, with less frequency, also did well. Jones and Trumble were soon hit off, but for a time when M'Kibbin and Giffen were tried runs came quicker than ever. Subsequently Jones had another turn at the nursery end, but Stoddart drove him and cut him in a way that would almost break the heart of an ordinary bowler. When, however, it

seemed probable that the 100 would go up without loss Stoddart was caught at wicket. His 61 out of 96 in about an hour was excellent from first to last. Stoddart hit eight fours, two threes and seven twos.

Ranjitsinhji, off a short ball, was caught deep in the slips, but with Gunn in the 100 went up. Maclaren played finely, although with his score at 41 he was nearly caught and bowled by Jones, who made a brilliant attempt to get the ball. Then by steady play the score was advanced to 119, so that the M.C.C. finished 83 behind with eight wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 July, page 9)

Without furnishing any probability striking incident, the second day of the Australians and Marylebone match at Lord's saw the establishment of a big advantage by the M.C.C.; but the Australians in their uphill game – 165 was a terribly heavy weight to carry in the second innings – came out well and, in view of their strong batting side and the excellence of the wicket, there seems every probability of a fine third day.

Thursday evening found the club in a string position with eight wickets in hand and within 83 of the Australian score; but curiously much of the substantial lead on the first innings was secured from what may be not unkindly termed an unexpected quarter. For after the fine batting of Gunn and the vigour of Captain Wynyard had brought the M.C.C. on something like terms with the Australians, it was left to the hitting propensities of Board and Woodcock, allied with no considerable share of luck, to place the M.C.C. in a degree that promised success. Amid everything else there was the dogged resistance of that good all-round cricketer Pougher, who in his two and a half hours' innings did a great deal to turn the game for the M.C.C. The end of it all was that the Australians found themselves with the no small task of having to rub off 165 before they actually started in the second innings.

In the last two hours of the day they did well. Mr Iredale, with his fine style of play, and Mr Giffen's many strokes all round the wicket came off to such an extent that with eight men left the visitors are now only 52 behind. Splendid cricket weather prevailed, and the crowd of about 10,000 people followed the play with keen enthusiasm.

The M.C.C., who had made 119 for the loss of two wickets against the Australian score of 202, started badly yesterday morning, for in the first over of the day Maclaren, who had played so well on Thursday evening, gave forward short-leg an easy catch through endeavouring to pull a short ball. Wynyard and Gunn met with much success. The former was not quite precise in his strokes for a while; but Gunn played beautiful cricket, his drive and his cut being exceptionally good. At 185, Gunn, who had just before given a sharp chance at wicket, was taken at short slip. He had been in an hour and a quarter, and his partnership with Wynyard had yielded 66 runs. Among his best hits were a five, ten fours and three twos.

Ernest Smith stayed until the Australian score had been passed; but the stand for the sixth wicket was very fruitful; Pougher kept up his end while Wynyard forced the game, although the latter mingled a lot of fine strokes with sundry chance hits. The Hampshire captain was in about an hour and three-quarters for his 58, and among his hits were eight fours, three threes and four twos. Six of the side were now out for 249, and as the M.C.C. had something of a tail it seemed that after all the club would not be such a great way in front at the end of the first innings. Board, as usual, made hitting his policy, and if many of his strokes were far removed from precision and many almost

catches, he yet met with much success. Forty-five out of 51 in a little over half an hour was an extremely useful score. Board hit seven fours.

After luncheon Attewell and Hearne were quickly out, but Woodcock proved an admirable partner to Pougher, who had been for a long time playing with every care. Of the 61 added for the last partnership Woodcock's share was 30, made in 70 minutes. Pougher had played with credited patience for two and a half hours. He mostly waited for the loose ball from which to score, but generally his innings was full of soundness and success.

There were rather more than two hours left for cricket when the Australians began their second innings with arrears of 165. After Darling had gone when the figures were only eight, Giffen and Iredale put a much brighter complexion on the game for the Australians. They played with steady excellence, Giffen coming out remarkably well. Stoddart showed an unreasonable diffidence in changing his bowling, and he should scarcely have allowed Woodcock to bowl at his great pace for an hour without relief. An hour and a quarter's sound cricket yielded 79 runs, and then, with Trott in, the score was carried to 113, and the day's play closed with the Australians 52 behind and eight wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 July, page 13)

Time in all probability enabled the Australians to escape a severe beating from the M.C.C. on Saturday. The match was drawn with Marylebone wanting 68 for victory and only three wickets lost. Lord's has not been a happy place for the Australians this tour; on the first occasion of their visit they were out for the notorious 18 and well beaten by Marylebone; and on the second they were defeated by England substantially; while here in the third they only managed to escape disaster through the help of time.

Saturday's batting was possessed of much dullness until the closing hour, when Mr Stoddart roused the company from its lethargy by one of those beautiful pieces of cricket which long ago made him a favourite of the spectator. But even amid all the slowness of the Australian scoring, there was plenty of fine cricket to see in the way of bowling and fielding by the M.C.C., and the two wonderful one-handed catches at mid-on by Captain Wynyard were among the best things done in the way of fielding at Lord's this year.

While the Australians were labouring in their second innings under arrears of 165 it is doubtful whether they actually adopted the most efficacious way of avoiding defeat by playing for a draw. With a long day before them and with the wicket beautifully true, the majority of big cricket teams would have made an effort to win, for on Saturday morning they had eight wickets in hand and only 52 of the arrears remaining. The side must have feared their capacity to make enough runs to give them a chance of winning, and rather than indulge in any risk of defeat they went for the draw, and by a good element of fortune they successfully carried out their policy.

Such was the quietude of run-getting by the Australians that in four hours' actual play, beginning at 11.35, the rate of scoring was 44 an hour – an abnormally slow pace on a fast, true pitch such as that of Saturday at Lord's. So in this slowness dissolved any chance that they might have had of winning had they successfully forced the game. The thing that saved them in the end was to 20 minutes' hard hitting by Mr Jones and Mr M'Kibbin, by which 41 runs were obtained for the last wicket. And so the Australians saved the game.

How well several of their men managed to keep up their ends may be understood from a few statements of fact. Mr Trott, the captain, after playing in his best form in the early stages of the day, took an hour to make his last 12 runs; Mr hill stood at 49 for 20 minutes; and the Hill and Trumble partnership lasted more than an hour and a half for 59 runs. The match proved once more that, if not particularly brilliant, the thoroughness of the Australians makes them a troublesome side to be rid of on any good wicket, and those who are inclined to blame them for slow scoring must remember that in the colonies, where the big matches are played without limit of time, the patient game becomes habitual.

The Marylebone wicket-keeper's errors greatly influenced the character of this match. Such a great batsman as Mr Trott is not the kind of player to be generous to in the field. Board is usually a sterling wicket-keeper, but he seemed fated to miss Mr Trott, whom he twice let off in the first innings and once on Saturday. Another subject that may be touched on is the fact that J T Hearne has been working too much on the hard and true wickets if this season, and his bowling seems to have lost much of its sting. What with Middlesex and Marylebone Club matches, he has been almost incessantly playing this summer.

Another incident on Saturday was the success of Gunn as a bowler of lobs; he really brought about the collapse of the Australians when they looked like playing out time, although he was indebted for Mr Hill's wicket to a wonderful catch by Mr Stoddart in the vicinity of mid-off. And Gunn afterwards has a share of the fine batting with which the match closed.

After the first innings the bowlers had rather a bad time. Mr Trumble, for the Australians, had the most consistent record; but Mr Jones was very badly treated, and his solitary wicket in the three days cost him 142 runs. From beginning to end it was a keen match, full of good cricket, leaving only one regret, which was that it had no better result than a draw. The pitch played excellently to the finish, and only one short of 1,000 runs were made on it. Rain fell slightly for a few minutes on Saturday, but generally the weather was fine and the company ran to nearly 7,000.

The position on Friday night had left the Australians in the midst of an uphill fight, for with two of their best wickets gone they had still 52 more runs to obtain to be on a level with the first English score of 367, which is the largest total yet made against the present Australian side. Iredale and Trott, who had scored 42 and 19 overnight, both played very steadily; but here and there was a beautiful off drive by Trott. Woodcock, who began the bowling with Hearne, soon gave way to Attewell. The latter at once found a fine pitch and was very difficult to play, but Hearne sent down a loose ball now and again. By great soundness of cricket the score slowly advanced to 150, or 63 for the partnership, in 70 minutes, and the Iredale in attempting to cut gave an easy catch to extra slip. He had shown very good form for his runs, relying, however, mostly on the drive to get them. Curiously, this was the first time that Iredale had scored on Lord's ground, for he got a "pair" in the first of the M.C.C. matches and he did not play in the earliest of those with England. How steady was his game in this case may be gathered from the time of his innings, which extended over two hours and three-quarters. Among his figures were four fours.

Gregory did not give much trouble, for, playing too soon at a ball from Attewell, he put it up towards mid-on, and Wynyard ran in and just got it low down with his right hand – a wonderful catch. Four of the side were now out and the arrears were still six when Board at wicket missed Trott, who had then scored 44. Donnan, after giving Attewell a return chance, was splendidly caught by Wynyard, running in from short mid-on, the fieldsman getting only one hand to the ball and falling over in making the catch. Five for 184 was the record, and as it was only 1 o'clock there seemed every chance of an easy win for the M.C.C.

Hill joined Trott at this stage and made several very fine strokes on the leg side. Runs came quite quickly; but Trott had an escape from a difficult return catch, and Hill when 24 was given in when he seemed palpably run out, the wicket having been thrown down from cover-point by Pougher. Soon afterwards, however, Board made a good catch at wicket and Trott was the batsmen to go. The Australian captain had played a dogged and sound game, and had striven his hardest to save the match for his side. In two and a half hours he had obtained 62, which included seven fours. So the Australians were only 53 runs on with four wickets to fall. Only eight were added – that is, the total was 226 – when owing to a light shower the teams adjourned to luncheon nearly a quarter of an hour earlier than usual.

The game was renewed again at the regular time. Trumble and Hill played to save the game. A few fours occurred, but Hill remained at 49 for 20 minutes before venturing on a hit to get to his 50. As Attewell, Woodcock, Hearne and Pougher could make no impression on the batsmen, Stoddart resorted to the lobs of Gunn as a trial. This was at 274. Gunn met with great success, for in his second over he bowled Trumble, who was playing right back, off his legs, and thus severed a partnership that had lasted an hour and a half and which had yielded 50 runs. Directly afterwards Gunn held a hard return from a full pitch which he had given Kelly, and at 290 he also got Hill through a wonderful catch by Stoddart, standing rather wide at mid-off and who leant sideways to get to the ball. Hill hit ten fours.

Nine of the team had now gone for 290, and as nearly two hours remained for play the M.C.C. had a good chance of winning, seeing that their opponents were only 125 on. Jones and M'Kibbin settled the issue of the game by a 20 minutes' stand and the addition in that time of 41 runs. Gunn was kept on too long when Jones and M'Kibbin began hitting him, and against two men of no batting pretensions some fast bowling would have been more efficacious. So the Australians were not all out until ten minutes to 5, which meant, after the deduction of the interval, practically only 80 minutes left for the M.C.C. to get 167 for victory. The achievement of this feat was something of an impossibility even in a game so uncertain as cricket.

Marylebone began the last innings of the match, and for 70 minutes the company was treated to some beautiful batting by Stoddart, whose strokes all round the wicket were made with brilliant precision. His drive was very powerful and he was very severe on Jones, the Australian fast bowler. But while Stoddart was playing so finely he lost two of his most valuable colleagues, Maclarens and Ranjitsinhji, both of whom were out in the same way to Trumble – namely, in endeavouring to hit to leg a good ball that was dead on the middle stump. Ranjitsinhji for once failed in trying his wonderful stroke.

Two wickets were down for 26 runs, and then followed three-quarters of an hour's fine batting by Gunn and Stoddart. Fours came quickly and Stoddart got his 50 out of 80 in an hour; but at 91 the M.C.C. captain misjudged the length of one from Trumble and gave an easy return catch. His 59 took him well into his 1,000 for the season. He hit ten fours, five twos and nine singles. Wynyard and Gunn added eight runs in the last ten minutes, and the drawing of stumps found the M.C.C. within 68 of victory and with seven wickets to fall.

23 July: YORKSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4614.html)

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

On a wicket that slightly helped the bowlers at Dewsbury yesterday the Yorkshire eleven did pretty well, and their score was the work of most of the members of the side, the runs being well distributed. Perhaps the best cricket of the day was played by Mr Jackson, who by his runs yesterday managed to reach his 1,000 aggregate for the season.

The pitch was quite treacherous when Somerset's turn came to bat, and three wickets were lost for 37 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 July, page 9)

Yorkshire gained a brilliant victory over Somerset at Dewsbury yesterday by an innings and six runs. This result was largely the work of Schofield Haigh and Peel, who bowled with wonderful success. The Somerset first venture was completed for an addition of 41 to the overnight score.

Going in again the visitors found the pitch made easier by the rain, but they failed to save the innings defeat. The merit of Peel's and Haigh's bowling will be gathered from the analysis.

Saturday 25 July, page 9: MR G McGREGOR.- The old Cambridge captain and Middlesex cricketer whose hand was badly injured at Lord's last Monday is very much better and hopes to play in the course of a fortnight.

Monday 27 July, page 13: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The past week's matches in the County championship saw the strengthening of Yorkshire's position at the head of the competition; but the first place will yet be keenly contested, and the interest in the Yorkshire v Surrey match, which begins next Thursday on the Oval, grows every day. The present position is as follows:-

Matches	Proportion of Points					to Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	
Yorkshire	19	12	2	5	10	.714
Surrey	18	13	4	1	9	.529
Lancashire	12	9	3	0	6	.5
Middlesex	8	6	2	1	3	.428
Nottinghamshire	9	4	3	2	1	.142
The other counties' results are:						
Essex	8	3	3	2	0	
Hampshire	9	3	4	2	-1	
Derbyshire	12	3	5	4	-2	
Sussex	9	2	5	2	-3	
Kent	10	3	6	1	-3	
Somerset	11	2	7	2	-5	
Gloucestershire	11	2	7	2	-5	
Warwickshire	12	2	7	3	-5	
Leicestershire	8	1	6	1	-5	

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

Monday 27 July, page 13

SURREY v THE AUSTRALIANS. — To-day the Australians, who have so far not been beaten in any of their matches with the counties, make their first appearance on the Oval in a game with the champion county of last year. Although Surrey have had one or two indifferent spells of cricket just lately, no one doubts that they are a great side and that the Australians have a difficult task before them.

Yesterday's rain will, no doubt, make the pitch at the Oval slow to begin with; but the ground of the Surrey Club has wonderful recuperative powers. Neither side will be definitely decided upon until this morning; but there is some understanding that Mr Leveson-Gower may be found in the Surrey ranks.

MR A E STODDART'S BATTING. — Mr Stoddart by his innings at Lord's on Saturday ran well into his 1,000 aggregate for the season.

27 July: KENT v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4615.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 July, page 10)

The Kent first innings occupied nearly the whole of cricketing hours at Maidstone yesterday. To begin with the play was very quiet, but after the fifth wicket had gone at 145 there came a dashing piece of batting by Mr Marchant, who was helped by Walter Wright to put on 83 in an hour. Mr Marchant, who was then bowled, made 61 in 70 minutes without a distinct chance; he played his customary fine forcing game and hit nine fours. Alec Hearne's batting was very steady and he took two and a half hours to make his 59, in which were three fours, three threes and ten twos.

The home county are playing the same side that beat Surrey with the exception that Easby stands down for Walter Wright.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 June, page 12)

Kent beat Warwickshire at Maidstone yesterday by an innings and 34 runs. As no rain had fallen and the wicket played very well it was generally expected that the visitors would make a stout fight, but the side collapsed before the splendid bowling of Mr Shine, of this year's Cambridge eleven, and Alec Hearne.

The only feature in the Warwickshire first innings was the steadiness in batting of W G Quaife, who took an hour and three-quarters to obtain his 39. In the follow-on Warwickshire fared worse than ever and Hearne, bowling for the first time at 53, secured five wickets at a cost to himself of 13 runs. This was Kent's third successive victory.

27 July: LANCASHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4616.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 July, page 10)

Mr Woods and Mr R C N Palairet by their fine batting at Manchester yesterday before luncheon gave the feature to the day's cricket. Such was the pace with which they forced the game that in a little over three-quarters of an hour 110 were made for the first wicket. Mr Woods then left, but Mr Palairet continued his fine play. He got 50 in three-quarters of an hour, but afterwards steadied himself in making his last 42. He ought easily to have been caught by Mr Maclarens in the slips when at five, but otherwise he made scarcely a mistake, while his best hits were nine fours.

For a time after luncheon there was a steady fall of wickets and, while only two went for 170, six were lost for 203. Mold's effective bowling brought about this change. Subsequently Mr Porch, Mr Fowler and Nichols met with so much success that the score reached 367. The Lancastrians did not field particularly well and Mold was the chief sufferer by the dropped catches. In the last half-hour of the day Lancashire lost two of their best batsmen for a few runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 June, page 12)

Much fine batting and the effective bowling of Briggs and Mold completely transformed the character of this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday. A side which makes 367 in a first innings is not often beaten; but yesterday the Lancastrians, who overnight had lost two wickets for 37, played so well that by the time stumps were drawn Somerset in the second innings had lost five wickets and were only 69 ahead. Albert Ward, Tyldesley, Paul, Frank Sugg and Baker all played fine cricket, and to then belonged the honours of Lancashire's fine score. The foundation of the good total was laid by Ward and Tyldesley, who put on 96 for the third wicket. Frank Sugg did not hit so vigorously as usual, presumably because of an injured hand.

With a lead of 29 Somerset went in a second time, and Mr R C N Palairet alone made much headway against the bowling. There were about 4,000 spectators.

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

The weather favoured Somerset at Old Trafford Ground, Manchester, yesterday, and enabled them to save the match with Lancashire, who at the finish wanted only 50 to win with nine wickets to fall. Rain delayed the Somerset innings from 12.30 until a quarter past 4; but dropped catches – Nichols and Mr Fowler were both missed – most likely cost Lancashire the match.

In the end Lancashire had to make 166 in a little over an hour. Mr Rowley and Mr Maclarens both played fine cricket; but of course there was never an chance of the runs being secured. The game was drawn . . .

27 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4617.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 July, page 10)

Sundry catches were dropped by both teams in this match at Leicester yesterday, when Hampshire got the better of the cricket – that is, assuming their last six wickets to be worth more than the 55 runs which the visitors are so far behind. Scoring was not an easy matter on the false pitch. Knight and Tomlin put up 45 for the fifth Leicestershire wicket and Geeson hit vigorously.

When Hampshire went in the best batting occurred during the partnership of Captain Quinton and Mr Ward, who obtained 53 for the third partnership.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 June, page 12)

After a capital day's cricket at Leicester yesterday the visitors were at the finish left with 209 runs to make for victory. The best thing in Hampshire's first innings was the batting of Captain Quinton, who in his 62 obtained six fours and six threes.

Leicestershire, who were 31 behind, had the rest of the day for their second innings which yielded 239 runs, a score that was well distributed over the side. Pougher played the best cricket and hit a five, four fours and six threes.

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

After a finely-contested match at Leicester the home county yesterday beat Hampshire by 21 runs. Hampshire had been left with an innings to play and 209 to make to win. Not all the steady batting of Captain Quinton could save the game for the visitors. Captain Quinton took two and a half hours to make his runs, and he hit a five, four fours and four threes.

27 July: SURREY v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4618.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 July, page 10)

To Robert Abel, of Surrey, belongs the distinction of playing the second three-figure innings against the ninth Australian team. The first was K S Ranjitsinhji's 154 in the test match at Manchester last Saturday week. Very naturally Abel's batting triumph on the Oval yesterday created a great deal of enthusiasm, for a more popular professional than he exists on no ground. This innings will rank among the best of many great things he has done in his long career with Surrey cricket.

The other cricketer most closely associated with Abel in placing Surrey in quite an advantageous position was this year's Oxford captain, Mr Leveson-Gower. Yesterday he came out excellently and played a fine courageous game against the difficult Australian bowlers. Mr Leveson-Gower yesterday came well down on the ball and gave an excellent demonstration of his skill as a batsman. He and Abel monopolized nearly all the excellence of the Surrey innings of 283, for apart from them there were less than 100 runs got from the bat, and away from Brockwell the rest of the side's cricket was of a very ordinary description.

The other chief thing in the play was the bowling of Mr M'Kibbin, upon whom the Australians were mostly dependent for getting the Surrey team out as cheaply as they did. He varies his pace slightly, but is mostly slow, and gets on a wonderful break either from the leg or the off. Many of the Surrey batsmen were completely beaten by him, and in all he took seven wickets at a cost of less than 12 runs each.

Surrey have made a fine start in the match. Surrey are without the services of George Lohmann, who was unable to play yesterday, while Mr Key also stood out of the side. These cricketers made room for Mr Leveson-Gower and Mr G O Smith, while Baldwin, who has not played in inter-county matches since 1894, was given the 11th place. As the Australians had not been beaten by any of the counties, it was of interest to see how they would fare against the champions of 1895, so that the company was very large and ran to about 12,000, nearly 10,000 of whom paid for admission to the ground.

For once Trott lost the toss. Walter Read decided to take first innings, and shortly after midday Abel and Brockwell made a start on the slow wicket to Trumble and Jones. They began carefully, but Jones's short stuff bumped a good deal and Brockwell was badly struck by it in the region of the heart. The blow made him stagger, but when he had recovered both he and Abel forced the game at a good pace. There were sundry fine drives and now and again a pretty stroke on the leg side by Abel. As Jones had nothing of a pitch and with runs coming mostly from him, M'Kibbin was put on at 34. The score, however, continued in its steady rise, and the 50 was reached in as many minutes. Abel, getting most of the bowling, scored much quicker than Brockwell, and at one time made 33 while the latter was securing a single. Although Giffen took a turn with the ball the score was up to 77 when Brockwell was out leg-before.

Holland was in about half an hour and saw Abel get his 50 in 80 minutes, but the new batsman played Giffen badly and was generally in trouble with Trott's leg-breaks, and the end of his innings was reached at 113, when Trott clean-bowled him. Hayward was well stumped, so that at luncheon time 116 for three was a far different record to 100 up and only one wicket down.

After the interval there was some splendid batting by Leveson-Gower and Abel, who scored at a steady rate against a lot of fine bowling and fielding. Trott bowled very well and nearly caught and bowled Abel when the latter had made 68; the ball was returned very hard and hit Trott badly on the leg. Sharp runs and good cuts and drives kept the cricket very bright, and there was warm applause for the fine fielding of Jones at mid-off. Each batsman made a cut for four from Trumble, but, having obtained 37, Leveson-Gower hit a ball very hard from Giffen round to short-leg, where M'Kibbin failed to hold it. After this the batsmen prospered greatly. M'Kibbin and Giffen were both well punished, although in two instances the latter almost bowled Abel. Leveson-Gower got a full pitch from Giffen round to the on-boundary, bringing up the 200 at 4.10, while from the next ball he ran to his 50 as the result of 80 minutes' cricket.

Jones, who had not been on since 34, was tried at the pavilion end, but there was not much sting in his bowling, although Abel refrained from hitting it, as, in his anxiety to get to the 100 – he was in the nineties – he exercised extreme caution. The partnership was nearing its end, for at 215 Leveson-Gower got over his crease to play M'Kibbin and was well stumped. It had been a profitable stand on an hour and a half's duration, during which 99 runs had been put on; of this number the Oxford captain had contributed 59 by admirable play all round the wicket. He hit five fours, three threes and ten twos. Walter Read stayed long enough to see Abel get his 100. The Surrey professional kept the crowd in suspense, as at 99 he played two maiden overs; but a huge shout went up when he at last reached his three figures, which had taken him three hours and a half to obtain, out of 217.

From this time the class of the Surrey batting degenerated. Read never played M'Kibbin well and was out to him for a single, while Smith gave mid-on an easy catch from the first ball sent him. The 200 had appeared with only three men out, and now six were down for 217. Abel was seventh out, easily caught at short-leg at 240 for 116. He was in four hours and ten minutes, and among his figures were nine fours, nine threes and 13 twos. Lockwood and Baldwin managed to put on 32 for the eighth partnership, and then the last three wickets went quickly, the innings, which had lasted five hours, coming to an end just before 6 o'clock for 283. M'Kibbin was the most successful bowler and his seven wickets cost only 80 runs. Going on a third time at 178, he bowled for two hours and took his last six wickets for 56 runs.

In the last quarter of an hour of the day the Australians made three runs. Richardson and Abel started the bowling, and afterwards Brockwell had an over.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 June, page 12)

The Australians are to be congratulated on their splendid cricket at Kennington Oval yesterday. During the first two hours play was dull and things went badly with them, but Mr Darling kept up his end, and after the missing of Mr Gregory in the slips everything went well for the visitors. The dashing cricket of Mr Sidney Gregory, who got his runs at the rate of one a minute, and the fine play of Mr Hill, Mr Trumble and Mr Kelly were the things that led the Australians from a losing to a winning position. The cricket became most interesting, and the 14,000 spectators, 10,417 of whom paid at the gate, followed the game with an impartial appreciation of its merits.

Mr Hill went in fifth wicket down at 122 and made 118 out of the last 245 runs with scarcely a bad hit. As is commonly known he is left-handed, and as he followed Mr Darling, who was second on the order, there was a left-hand batsman in from the time the first wicket fell. Surrey did not distinguish themselves in fielding; several catches were dropped and the ground work also was at

fault. In fact altogether there seemed a lack of keenness about their play.

Surrey are now in the position of having to fight a stern uphill game, for with two wickets lost in the second innings they are 72 runs behind. Lohmann's bowling was much missed, and what attack he had at his command Mr Read scarcely managed so well as he might have done. Lockwood was not put on until after 200 had been made. But the fine Australian score was largely due to the condition of the wicket, which was in first-rate order. Mr Trott, consequently, lost nothing by not winning the toss on Monday.

The wicket rolled out dry and true at the Oval yesterday morning, and every one was prepared for a good score by the Australians, who with all their wickets in hand had made three runs against Surrey's first score of 283. But the early cricket was extremely disappointing from a batting point of view. Richardson and Hayward were the bowlers, and from the latter's second ball Iredale was caught at slip, only three runs having been so far scored. Then followed a period of very slow play, and at last a good catch in the slips disposed of Donnan. Neither Giffen nor Darling could do much with the good bowling; indeed, a "yorker" from Richardson dismissed Giffen at 47, and three wickets were down. Soon after Trott came in the 50 was reached, followed very quickly by a beautiful off drive by the Australian captain for four. But with Abel on he was missed rather badly by Lockwood at cover-point, only to be bowled almost directly.

Four for 63 was a record that promised a fine position for Surrey on the innings, but their chances were quickly spoiled by Hayward's missing Gregory from a sharp chance in the slips. Directly he came in Gregory brightened up the play and, profiting by his escape, he scored quickly all round the wicket. Darling was playing a sturdy and defensive game, and at one time more than an hour and a half were occupied in making 60 runs. Fours came quickly from Gregory's bat, the cut and the leg hit being the chief strokes by which he scored. The 100 went up in two hours and a quarter and, with Richardson on again for Abel, Darling ran to his 50 at the end of two hours. Soon afterwards a ball from Richardson completely beat Darling, who had hit seven fours and four twos. Fifty-nine had been put on for the wicket in 40 minutes.

Hill and Gregory added 31 in 12 minutes before luncheon time; the latter made two cuts for five each from Richardson, and the first of these was increased to nine by an overthrow. Walter Read's lobs failed to keep down the runs and Gregory ran to his 50 in 50 minutes. He did not long survive the interval, for at 160, after an escape in the slips, he was bowled by Hayward. He made his runs in brilliant style in just over the hour, and his chief hits were two fives, seven fours, two threes and a two.

With six men out for 160 the Australians were still fighting an uphill game; but the care of Trumble and the beautiful cricket of Hill steadily changed the aspect of the game. The cricket was enlivened now and again by fine fielding. Subsequently Hill made many fine strokes on the leg side, but at 198 he lost the assistance of Trumble, who, after helping to obtain 38, played on. Kelly settled down and played a very careful game, while Hill scored quickly. The second 100 went up at a quarter to 4, soon after which Read changed his bowling at both ends, Richardson and Lockwood going on; in fact, the latter was tried for the first time in the innings at 226. From Lockwood there was another cut for five, this time by Kelly, and then Hill reached his 50, which he had secured in 100 minutes.

Both men scored rapidly after this, Hill's stroke on the leg side being of great frequency. General applause from the whole company recognized the passing of the Surrey score. Walter Read, whose lobs had been tried ineffectually at the pavilion end, had Richardson on again at 292, and from him

Hill put up a ball on the off side that any one of three men ought [to] have got to, but as each left it to the other the opportunity of the wicket was lost. In the same over Kelly played the ball towards short leg, and Wood threw Kelly's wicket down and easily ran him out. It had been a long and fruitful partnership, for in the 70 minutes of its duration 95 runs had been added. Jones went in for his customary vigorous play and met with much success, contributing 23 towards 46, put on very rapidly, before he skied the ball and was cleverly caught by Braund, fielding substitute for Holland, running from short slip to leg.

Nine men were out for 339, and when M'Kibbin came in Hill wanted only five to get to his 100. These he quickly secured, and there was a round of applause on the completion of this feat. Hill then punished the bowling severely; but eventually, at 367, M'Kibbin failed to stop a fast ball from Richardson. Hill took out his bat for a splendid innings of 116, for which he was in about three hours. He gave no real chance and hit a six (increased to eight by an overthrow), 16 fours, six threes and seven twos. Hayward had the best bowling record.

Surrey, who were 84 behind, had exactly half an hour's batting in their second innings in a bad light. In this time they lost Brockwell, caught at wicket, and Baldwin, and at the finish they were 72 in arrear with eight wickets to fall.

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

The Australians gained a victory over Surrey at Kennington Oval yesterday by seven wickets, thus maintaining their run of successes against the English counties, by none of whom have they been beaten.

One fine feature in yesterday's cricket was the stand and batting of Abel and Hayward. A misunderstanding, however, in going for a single caused their separation, and after this everything went against the county. The rest of their batting on the true wicket was simply execrable for a side of such tried ability as Surrey. The collapse was little less than astounding. Six men were got out in three-quarters of an hour for an addition of 24 runs, and with Holland absent the Surrey innings ended.

Surrey had been left with an uphill game to fight yesterday; but no one expected them to fail as they did. Once again the Australians have demonstrated their capacity, for few dared think of their success at a certain period of Tuesday's play. Mr Hill's 118 and Mr Jones's bowling in the second innings contributed much towards the victory. Although the Australians had the best of the wicket the fact should not detract from the merit of their performance. Surrey were themselves only at intervals, and there was an absence of that keenness which they usually show. About 5,000 people saw the concluding day's play.

Surrey, who had lost two wickets in the second innings for 12 runs, went on with their batting at 11.35, Abel, the not-out, being joined by Hayward. To Mr Giffen, who started the bowling with Mr M'Kibbin, Hayward gave a sharp return chance; but after this the batsmen settle down and played an nice free game, both driving and cutting with much success. The 50 was reached before mid-day and, with Mr Trumble and Mr Trott on, the arrears were rubbed off half an hour later. At the end of an hour's partnership the score stood at 75 and everything seemed to be going well for the county. Mr Jones came on for Mr Trott at 102, soon after which both batsmen reached the 50; but at 123 came the severance of the partnership. Hayward played the ball towards Mr Gregory at cover-point and called and started for a single. He got nearly half way up the pitch, and as Abel refused to go

Hayward turned to get back, only to be easily run out. It was a bad end to a splendid partnership, which in its 80 minutes' duration had yielded 111 runs.

Now began Surrey's misfortunes. Mr Leveson-Gower played on first ball, and Abel was fifth out at 124, having been batting two hours for his 63, in which were seven fours, a three and seven twos. The other wickets went quickly, the final catch at point which got out Mr Read being particularly good. The innings lasted only two hours and three-quarters for 147, which left the Australians 64 to get to win. Mr Jones had a fine analysis, his four wickets costing 13 runs.

In the fourth innings of the match the Australians started badly, losing Mr Iredale for four runs, while Mr Darling and Mr Giffen were out to fine catches in the slips and at point. Messrs Trott and Donnan, however, steadily hit off the runs, and the latter with a three by a drive won the match shortly after 4 o'clock for the Australians by seven wickets.

27 July: SUSSEX v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4619.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 July, page 10)

Middlesex came out well on the first day of their match with Sussex at Hove, Brighton, yesterday, when their innings lasted until nearly half-past 6 and produced 335 runs. The wicket was a trifle slow and the bowling and fielding of Sussex were very accurate.

Sir Timothy O'Brien played the finest innings of the side; he went in fourth wicket down at 167 and was ninth out, after a stay of two hours and a quarter, for 85. His driving and cutting were equally good and he hit 12 fours, two threes and seven twos. Mr Stoddart, Mr Warner and Mr Webbe all played fine cricket and there were several good partnerships. Mr Stoddart and Mr Warner put on 51 and the latter and Rawlin 509, and the fourth, fifth and sixth wickets each added over 40.

Mr Warner, who went in first, took some time in getting set, but eventually he played with vigour and was fourth out at 167, after a stay of two hours and a half. His chief hits were 10 fours, four threes and five twos. Fine weather prevailed and there were 3,000 people on the ground. Mr Webbe is giving Mr R W Nicholls, an old Rugbeian, a trial for Middlesex.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 June, page 12)

Sussex fared badly in their uphill fight at Brighton yesterday against Middlesex, and last evening they were in such a bad position that with six men lost in the second innings they were only two runs on. Much of their discomfiture was brought about by the fine bowling of J T Hearne and Rawlin. The former seemed quite himself and his five wickets in the first innings cost him little more than eight runs each. Indeed these men bowled without a change and got Sussex out in a couple of hours.

When the home side followed on against arrears of 234 Marlow played sound cricket, but in spite of his 63, which included 11 fours, five of the side were out for 127. Mr Arlington hit hard, making 35 of 46 added for the sixth partnership, after which Mr Newham and Mr Hartley played out time, having so far increased the Sussex score by 63. Fine weather prevailed and there was a large attendance of the public.

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

There was not much hope for Sussex when stumps were drawn at Brighton on Tuesday, and the easy win of Middlesex yesterday by nine wickets caused no surprise. The game was resumed with the home county two runs ahead, six of their wickets being lost; and in three-quarters of an hour the innings was finished with an addition of 38. The Newham-Hartley partnership yielded altogether 74. Mr Newham played very carefully for his runs and was in two hours and a half.

Middlesex got the 41 to win at the cost of one wicket. J T Hearne bowled splendidly on the hard, true turf and his double analysis gave him a record of ten wickets at an average cost of 13 runs each.

27 July: YORKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4620.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 July, page 10)

On a bowler's wicket, caused by the rain, at Sheffield yesterday, the Yorkshire eleven, in which Lord Hawke and Mr Ernest Smith were again found, had the better of the day's play. So difficult were runs to make that 24 men were dismissed for an aggregate of 286, and the highest individual innings was Mr F S Jackson's 30.

The last-named and Tunnicliffe secured 44 for the first Yorkshire partnership; but afterwards there was a steady downfall of wickets and the side completed their batting in two and a half hours for 141. Mr Townsend and Mr Brown, the latter a left-hand, medium-pace bowler, of Leys School, Cambridge, did very well with the ball for Gloucestershire; but Mr Jessop might have been tried a little more.

The visitors fared badly before the fine bowling of Peel, and in an hour and three-quarters they finished their innings for 79. Peel took six wickets for an average of seven runs each. Going in a second time, Yorkshire lost four men for 66, and at the drawing of stumps they were 128 ahead. There were about 5,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 June, page 12)

On the Bramall-lane Ground, Sheffield, yesterday, the Yorkshire eleven completely outplayed Gloucestershire, whom they beat by 266 runs. On Monday night the home side had established a big advantage, seeing that they were 128 on with six wickets to fall.

The best thing in the balance of their innings, which lasted well into the afternoon, was the fine cricket of Mr Jackson and Hirst, who put on 107 runs for the seventh partnership in about an hour. Mr Jackson, who was seventh out at 208, got the last 77 of his 91 at a very quick rate; he hit a five, nine fours, five threes and five twos. Hirst's 62 was also a quick innings, inclusive of a six and ten fours, while he and Lord Hawke put on 52 for the eighth partnership in half an hour.

Before the fine bowling of Peel, Schofield Haigh and Mr Ernest Smith Gloucestershire could make no headway, although Mr Jessop and Mr Rice played good cricket. They were out for 92. There were 4,000 spectators.

Tuesday 28 July, page 10: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

Mr C W Alcock, the secretary of the Surrey Club, asks us to state that his committee have in no way selected any of the eleven for the last of the test matches at Kennington Oval which begins on August 10, so that he wishes [officially to] contradict the rumours that have been spread alleging certain of the leading cricketers to have been omitted from the choice of the Oval executive.

Wednesday 29 June, page 12: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

Lilley has been asked to keep wicket for England at the Oval on August 10. He will therefore have the distinction of playing in all three test matches.

This week's matches have so far strengthened the position of Yorkshire at the head of the competition; but much depends on Yorkshire v Surrey, which begins at the Oval to-day and ranks as one of the biggest fixtures of the season. Results:-

	Proportion of Points						to	Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points			
Matches								
Yorkshire	20	13	2	5	11		.73	
Surrey	18	13	4	1	9		.529	
Lancashire	13	9	3	1	6		.5	
Middlesex	9	6	2	1	4		.5	
Nottinghamshire	9	4	3	2	1		.142	

The other counties' results are:

Essex	8	3	3	2	0			
Hampshire	10	3	5	2	-2			
Kent	11	4	6	1	-2			
Derbyshire	12	3	6	4	-2			
Sussex	10	2	6	2	-4			
Leicestershire	9	2	6	1	-4			
Somerset	12	2	7	3	-5			
Gloucestershire	12	2	8	2	-6			
Warwickshire	13	2	8	3	-6			

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

SURREY v YORKSHIRE

The return match between last year's champions and Yorkshire begins to-day at Kennington Oval, and upon this game the championship really depends. It is curious that the counties play far better cricket among themselves than they do against the Australians. The Surrey team will include Mr K J Key and Lohmann, who were absent from the Australian match, but neither side will be definitely made up until this morning.

It is George Lohmann's benefit match. Lohmann, who entered the eleven in 1884, has been one of the greatest cricketers Surrey ever possessed, alike in bowling, fielding and batting; and although his illness affected his game he is still a first-rate player.

30 July: EARL DE LA WARR'S XI v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4621.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 July, page 10)

The Earl de la Warr entertained the Australians yesterday at his picturesque place at Bexhill-on-Sea; but while the country about there is so beautiful, the turf on the cricket ground is scarcely true enough for important cricket. A good side, in spite of sundry disappointments, was got together to meet the Australians, and a cricket day of about three and a half hours was, amid all the bowlers' triumphs, marked by its evenness. Such was the smallness of the scoring that 21 wickets fell during the day for an aggregate of 213 runs.

The Australians, who were resting several of their best men, were got out in an hour and a quarter for 80. There was nothing worthy of mention in the batting. Both Pougher and J T Hearne made the most of the help given them by the pitch, and the latter had the analysis of six wickets for 38 runs.

Earl de la Warr's side began in a way that promised them a good lead on the first innings, but after Mr Stoddart and Mr Douglas had made 43 in half an hour a change set in. Mr Trott and Mr M'Kibbin bowled so well that, although the visitors' score was passed with only four men out, the whole side were dismissed for 102 – in fact the last five men added only 11 runs. In the end the Australians with nine wickets to fall finished nine runs ahead.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 August, page 13)

The Earl de la Warr's eleven yesterday beat the Australians at Bexhill-on-Sea by four wickets, a result that was largely due to the bowling of J T Hearne and Pougher and the fine batting of Mr J Douglas, the old Cambridge player. Hearne's full analysis in the match was 13 wickets for 97 runs. It was a bowler's pitch to the end, the turf not having been improved by the heavy rains in the early hours of yesterday.

When the Australians went in again Mr Darling played extremely well and made 41 out of 56 in an hour and a quarter. Earl de la Warr's side had to secure 117 to win, and these runs were obtained at the cost of six wickets. Mr Douglas played splendidly, getting his 68 in an hour and a half, and hitting four fours, four threes and 13 twos.

30 July: LANCASHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4622.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 July, page 10)

On a slow wicket at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, Lancashire did well to make such a fine score as 313. The credit of this was divided among a good many members of the side, more especially Mr Maclaren, Albert Ward and Tyldesley.

One of the best innings of the day was Ward's 42, in which were seven fours. Mr Maclaren, who went in first, was third out at 137. Soon after he began he trod on his wicket and broke it, but the umpire ruled that he had completed his stroke when this occurred. Still, the incident caused much discussion during the day, for, of course, it is a very nice point for the umpire to decide. Mr Maclaren and Ward put on 101 runs in the 70 minutes of their partnership, and the old Harrow boy's chief hits were six fours. Tyldesley made seven fours. Briggs and Baker obtained 51 for the seventh wicket and finally the score ran beyond 300.

Gloucestershire lost three men in a bad light for 14 runs, and then stumps were drawn. Rain afterwards fell heavily, so that the visitors' chances are not very hopeful.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 August, page 13)

Lancashire beat Gloucestershire yesterday at Manchester by ten wickets, a result that was not surprising after the way the game had gone on Thursday. Gloucestershire, who had lost three wickets for 14, completed their innings just after luncheon for 122.

In the follow-on against 191 the feature of the play was the dashing cricket of Mr Jessop, who made 81 in 75 minutes. He scored his 81 out of 130 put on during his stay, and hit 14 fours, a three and four twos.

30 July: SURREY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4623.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 July, page 10)

In these days, when county cricket with its championship competition secures to itself such a wide element of the public interest, there can be no doubt that Surrey v Yorkshire return at the Oval, bearing as it does such an important influence on the result of the great battle of the year, created something like a record in the amount of attention given in one particular game. On this issue Surrey most probably do risk their title so well earned last year, for Yorkshire are in the results ahead of them, and the southern shire must beat Yorkshire in this match to bring themselves on comparatively level terms with the northern county. And at present Surrey are in a position that exempts them from defeat and promises them a victory.

The Surrey eleven yesterday in a wonderful day's cricket scored 350 runs at the cost of only four batsmen, a result that was virtually the work of two men – Tom Hayward and Baldwin – who in a three-hours' stand actually added 221 for the third wicket. By this time Hayward's style of batting and his capacity all round the wicket are generally familiar; but he never played better cricket than he did yesterday on the best of wickets, against the truest of bowling and against something approaching perfect fielding. This last-named branch of the game was, however, marred by one bad mistake by Wainwright, whose missing of Hayward when the batsman had scored only 22 turned out an irreparable error. Hayward timed the ball with wonderful precision and his play on the off side in the way of the drive and the cut were wonderful to watch. He has done many fine things this season – only recently he got 100 in Gentlemen v Players – but he excelled himself yesterday.

The other batsman that helped to turn the game is not so much known in Surrey big cricket. Baldwin a couple of years ago did a lot of steady work for his side, but he was not considered class enough, and after getting his "cap" he was soon relegated to the second eleven. Yesterday his batting was thoroughness itself, and he showed a variety of strokes all round the wicket that was surprising to those who had reckoned him rather cheaply. This great stand naturally absorbed most of the merits of the play.

Away from this the best things were in the fielding and the bowling. Yorkshire possess a variety of attack far in front of any other county; but on the perfect pitch at the Oval it was in vain that Schofield Haigh, Hirst and Peel strove to check the run-getting capacity of the Surrey eleven. It was vastly different cricket to that seen in the Australian match at the beginning of the week, and no game was ever played more keenly. Yorkshiremen looked to Haigh for much, but though he bowled excellently – Hayward's catch was dropped off him – only one wicket fell to him.

Although the first hour passed away with only 35 runs scored, the rate of run-getting in the five hours and a quarter of actual play was about 65 an hour. Mr Leveson-Gower was unable to play yesterday for Surrey, and with Mr Key and Lohmann back in the side the eleventh place was given to Braund, while Marshall displaced Wood as wicket-keeper.

This is George Lohmann's benefit match, , and as 12,426 of the 15,000 people present paid for admission, and as £89 was collected on the ground for him during the afternoon, he may be said to have begun his benefit well. Lohmann is one of the greatest cricketers Surrey ever possessed, for, apart from his bowling, the chief source of his value to Surrey, he is a splendid bat, while before his illness, which necessitated his visit to the Cape and his absence from the eleven for a couple of

years, he was a good field and became quite famous by his catches at extra slip. Lohmann was out in Australia with Lord Sheffield's team – indeed he leapt into the highest class of cricket soon after his debut in 1884, and easily maintained his position until the time of his illness in the autumn of 1892.

As the news went round that Key had won the toss there was great cheering by the large company already assembled by midday and, soon afterwards, both the fieldsmen and batsmen were warmly applauded as they entered the playing ground. Abel, who received the first over from Peel, got four, all run, from a bad hit over the head of Brown at third man, while from Schofield Haigh, the bowler at the other end, Brockwell gave a sharp left-hand chance to Wainwright, fielding extra slip. Both batsmen played with extreme care. The runs came mostly in singles, and so accurate was Peel's length that seven of his first eleven overs were maidens. Abel seemed to give a chance to Wainwright in the slips when he had made ten, after which Brockwell secured a couple of fours from Haigh to leg. In rather less than an hour the score reached only 35, and then came the fall of the first wicket. Abel, in trying to cut, got under the ball and was well caught low down in the slips.

Hayward went in first wicket down, and for a long while there was no change in the character of the play. It was singles mostly, with an occasional four. One of these fours was a lovely drive by Hayward, which Hirst tried to stop at mid-off, but the ball broke right away from him. Then came some fine fielding by Denton, who, indeed, all the morning saved many runs at third man, and at 42 the Yorkshire bowling underwent its first change. Hirst, bowling for Peel, came along at a great pace, and in his first over he thrice beat Hayward. A quickening of the scoring now set in; both men made some fine cuts and the 50 was reached in an hour and a quarter. Ernest Smith soon after this took the ball but the wicket fell from the other end. Brockwell, from a hard cut, was out to a wonderful catch at point by Jackson, who leant sideways, and getting the ball with his right hand threw it up.

At half-past 1 Baldwin joined Hayward. From the time that he came in Baldwin settled down and played a steady and excellent game. He began with a nice cut from Hirst for four, and afterwards showed the position of a variety of good strokes all round the wicket. Among the many hits there was one four to square-leg by Hayward from Hirst that secured particular applause. Lord Hawke had his original bowlers, Haigh and Peel, back again before luncheon, and the score stood at 79 at the adjournment.

After the interval Hayward, when 22, was badly missed by Wainwright at extra slip off Haigh. Then Hayward, with a fine leg hit, brought up the 100 at ten minutes past 3. With things going so well for the batsmen, Lord Hawke put on Wainwright and Brown; but these changes were only fruitful of an increased rate in the scoring. Brown's slows seemed of a particularly harmless nature. From Wainwright there was a five run from a cut by Baldwin, and soon afterwards Hayward, with a rather bad hit through the slips, reached his 50 as the result of 90 minutes' cricket.

Although other bowling changes were tried, among which was Jackson for the first time at the gasometer end, the partnership at the end of an hour and a half had yielded 103 runs, and then Baldwin ran to his 50. Jackson just after this nearly bowled Hayward, but the batting generally was excellent. Ernest Smith had a turn at the pavilion end, but nothing would check the batsmen, and soon after the 200 was up Hayward reached his 100, for which he had been batting two hours and three-quarters. Peel and Haigh now bowled at different ends to what they had done originally, but by 5 o'clock the partnership had yielded 200. Just before this Jackson had gone on, and to him belonged the distinction of separating the batsmen, as at 274 he got Baldwin caught at wicket. The partnership has lasted precisely three hours, and Baldwin's share of the 221 put on at this time was

84; he had played very good cricket the whole time and coming down well on the ball made some very fine strokes. He gave no chance, and his best hits were a five and seven fours.

When Lockwood came in Hayward skied the ball over cover-point's head and Peel made a big attempt to pull off the catch. Hayward at that point had made 142. Lockwood drove the ball back and high up to Jackson. The old Cambridge captain in endeavouring to catch the ball split a finger of his right hand and had to retire. There was plenty of cheering, for both the 300 and Hayward's 150, after which fours became plentiful and 49 runs were added in the first half-hour of Lockwood's play. Ernest Smith and Wainwright took up the bowling and the former dismissed Hayward at 328. Hayward had for some time been showing many signs of fatigue and he lost the ball altogether. He had been batting four hours and a quarter, and he met with a warm reception as he retired after his grand innings; his chief figures were 22 fours, five threes and 12 twos. The fourth wicket had produced 54 runs.

Walter Read and Lockwood were rather severe on the worn-out bowlers; but with 350 on the board the game was stopped by the bad light and the umpires pulled up the stumps.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 August, page 13)

The weather, which is such an important element in cricket, yesterday favoured Surrey. Yorkshire are in a most unhappy position, seeing that the pitch is so much affected and that with only a wicket to fall in the first innings they are 285 behind. Their state might have been even worse had Marshall, the Surrey wicket-keeper, accepted either of the opportunities which Peel gave him of a catch.

So heavy had been the rain that in the regular hours of starting cricket was impossible; and the umpires, being the sole judges of the fitness of the turf, began by curtailing the cricket before luncheon by an hour and a half. While the pitch was yet easy – that is, while the ball came straight through the wet surface – Surrey still prospered, and when Yorkshire went in there were two fine attempts to rescue them from a position that held out no prospect of salvation; but Tunnicliffe and Peel (kindly treated as the latter was by the wicket-keeper) did their best.

In the balance of Surrey's innings yesterday the 54 of Lockwood was the best thing. Really good cricket marked his game and his success will be the more appreciated as Lockwood is a fine cricketer who is to a great extent off his "luck." Of course, to Surrey, with their huge score of 350 for four wickets overnight, runs were not of much account; but by their increased total they placed themselves beyond the danger of defeat. So, with the game practically in hand, they fought hard to do even better than they did. The keen fielding, the fine catches and the true bowling were all characteristic of a side playing a winning game.

But so soft was the pitch that Surrey could not wholly utilize the services of the greatest bowler of the day. It was bad enough for the weather to deprive Yorkshire of the chances of a good fight; but their ill fortune did not end here, for Mr Jackson, with his game affected by the injured hand of Thursday, had to go in late, and although he did his best it could be noticed that the jar of the ball as he played gave him much pain. Tunnicliffe, however, played very well, and Robert Peel, saving his escapes at wicket, never looked like getting out. To-day Yorkshire have a terrible uphill fight before them, but their cricket, if they play up to their own standard, is sure to be good. In spite of the weather about 15,000 were present, the actual number paying for admission being 11,121.

It was ten minutes to 1 when the Yorkshiremen renewed the bowling with Peel and Wainwright. The wicket was very soft, but as yet not difficult, for the ball cut straight through. The Surrey men went in for hitting, as they had every right to do in their own advantageous position. Walter Read made a couple of fine fours from Wainwright, in the second of which he showed his capacity for the pull. But at 371 he went forward to a ball from Peel and was cleverly caught low down at slip. He had made 33 of the 43 added for the fourth wicket.

Lohmann was caught in the long field from the second ball sent him, but with Key in Lockwood forced the game in fine style. There was a big cheer for him as he ran to his 50 at the end of an hour and 25 minutes, and soon afterwards there was more applause for the 400, which appeared at 1.25. Key might have been caught at wicket when he was 16. At 404 Lockwood was well stumped. He had been in an hour and a half, and in a very good innings he hit six fours, three threes and four twos. Braund and Marshall gave little trouble, but Richardson and Key carried the score to 439 before the bowling out of the Surrey captain completed the innings, which had lasted six and a half hours. Peel had bowled very effectively during the morning and his last spell gave him these figures – 16 overs and two balls (four maidens), 39 runs, five wickets. Jackson was still absent from the field and had a substitute in Mounsey.

With nothing but a draw to hope for, Yorkshire went in at a quarter past 3. The wicket was too soft for Richardson to find a foothold, so Lohmann and Hayward began the bowling to Brown and Tunnicliffe. Brown made a single off Lohmann, but in Hayward's first over he was well caught at cover point. Denton, who came in, started very well and got a very pretty four on the leg side, but the record was only 22 when he was completely beaten by Lohmann by a ball which he scarcely attempted to play. Meanwhile Tunnicliffe was playing very good cricket, and when Hirst arrived there was a fine leg hit by Tunnicliffe for which five were run. But at 29 Hirst played on.

So the score was 29 for three when, just before 4 o'clock, Peel joined Tunnicliffe. There were many false hits, but they fell wide of fieldsmen. After a time both batsmen got well set and there was much cheering as the 50 went up at a quarter past 4. Richardson took the ball at 52 from Hayward, and in his second over he ought to have had Peel out, but Marshall, standing back at wicket, dropped a comparatively easy catch. Abel and Lockwood both took at turn at Lohmann's end, but the batting was very good and among the hits was a five by Peel for a drive, all run. Sixty-four had been added in 75 minutes when Tunnicliffe was finely caught at point. He had played excellently for an hour and three-quarters and was warmly cheered.

With Wainwright in Hayward at once went on for Richardson, and from him the new batsman seemed palpably caught at short leg by Key, but the umpire's decision was "Not out." Then Peel had his second "life," Marshall missing him standing back at wicket off Lockwood. The 100 was reached at a quarter past 5 amid loud cheers. Runs were difficult to make from Lohmann and Hayward, but Peel at last completed his 50, for which he had been in an hour and a half. Directly afterwards the Yorkshire left-hand batsman gave Lohmann a hard return chance which was not held. Then came a fine catch in the long field by Abel who, running in, took the ball low down, while an equally good piece of fielding by Braund close to the boundary disposed of another man. Wainwright and Ernest Smith were the batsmen thus dismissed, and the score stood at 124 for six wickets.

Jackson, who went in late owing to his bruised hand, at once began to hit and made some fine drives. Lohmann fielded his own bowling very well, while Brockwell made a fine attempt to catch Peel off him in the long field. Meanwhile Richardson had resumed bowling at the gasometer end, and at 1.45 [?] a "break back" from him completely beat Jackson, and Yorkshire had seven men out

with a quarter of an hour to play. Brockwell had a turn with the ball at Lohmann's end when Lord Hawke came in; but the 150 was reached, and three runs later Lord Hawke was easily caught by Baldwin running from mid-off behind the bowler. Schofield Haigh, playing forward, put up the ball off the shoulder of his bat and was caught by the wicket-keeper, and then stumps were drawn, Yorkshire being 285 behind with a wicket to fall.

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

The great county match between Surrey and Yorkshire, which had such an important bearing on the championship, ended on Saturday at Kennington Oval, amid certain regrets that the conditions for the game should have been so uneven, in a victory for Surrey by an innings and 61 runs. Surrey had nearly the whole of that luck which is a strong element in the game; and what with winning the toss, having their chief scorer escape when 22, and then with the rain to spoil the pitch when they had finished their great innings, no one could deny that they had much more than their share of fortune in this match.

Surrey made the most of Yorkshire's kindness on Thursday and played an easy winning game to the finish. Even had the weather held good after the first day Yorkshire could scarcely have done anything more than draw the game against a score of 439. And on Saturday their case was hopeless, even though Surrey were deprived of the services of George Lohmann, who in trying to make a catch off his own bowling badly bruised his hand on Friday.

In their second innings Yorkshire had to face odds of 267, and although their play was marked by one or two pieces of excellent batting there was on Saturday never much chance of their saving the game. Nothing could have been finer than the hitting of Mr Ernest Smith, who retains all his old powers of cricket, which were developed at Oxford. The severity of his wonderful forearm stroke in driving was much felt by Richardson, who is not a bowler to be easily driven for four; but Mr Smith did it four times in one over, and how quick was his scoring is shown by the time of his innings, which lasted only a little over 35 minutes. The effort came too late to help his side out of their difficulty; but his 55 with the vigour of Lord Hawke, who in spite of a lameness made a lot of good hits, gave something like a bright ending to what had been since Friday morning a lost match to Yorkshire.

Surrey are to be congratulated upon their success over their formidable rivals for the championship, and the fight for this becomes once again remarkably keen between the two great cricketing shires. As Surrey have played two matches less than their opponents of the north their prospects are rather the brighter. Richardson worked as hard as ever for Surrey; he is a bowler who bowls for his side and not for his average, and the public will learn with pleasure that this famous professional on Saturday completed his aggregate of 200 wickets in important cricket this season.

The uneven character of the game on Friday night did not diminish the interest in the match, for over 12,000 people were at the Oval. During the three days the numbers paying for admission ran to about 32,000, so that what with this and the heavy subscription lists Lohmann should have had something approaching a record benefit. At the end of the match a large body of the public assembled in front of the pavilion, and Lohmann and the men who had done most to win the match for Surrey were very enthusiastically cheered.

If the weather remained fine the condition of the wicket and of the game held out small hopes for Yorkshire, who were 285 behind with only one batsman left in the first innings. Peel, the not out,

with 68, continued the cricket with Hunter. Lohmann's hand had been so badly hurt in covering his own bowling on Friday that he had to retire from the game, and in his absence Brockwell shared the bowling with Richardson. Between 11.30 and midday the Yorkshire innings was finished off for an addition of 18 runs, Peel, who was the last to leave, giving Richardson a return catch. He had been in about three hours and, although Marshall twice let him off, his cricket was very good, and he made a lot of capital strokes on both sides of the wicket. The bowling honours for Surrey were distributed among five of the six men put on.

The follow-on against arrears of 207 occurred at 20 minutes past 12. Jackson, in spite of a bruised hand, went in with Tunnicliffe; but he was bowled in the first over, and then, after some careful play and a few good hits, two more batsmen left, Brown and Tunnicliffe both falling to catches at the wicket by Marshall standing back to Richardson, who with Hayward shared the bowling. With Peel and Denton together the batting improved. Peel showed a very steady defence and Denton made several very fine strokes, notably a couple of cuts for four each from Richardson, whom Lockwood displaced when the score had been taken to 50 in as many minutes. The men were set and playing very well when Peel slipped down and strained his knee so badly that he had to have a man to run for him.

Meantime Richardson had taken a turn from the pavilion end; but at 70 the wicket fell from the other, Denton in hitting to leg putting the ball up and being caught by Braund running from short slip. The partnership in three-quarters of an hour having yielded 51 runs, and as the result of fine batting Denton's share of these was 35. four wickets were now down for 70, and before luncheon more misfortune overtook Yorkshire, Peel being caught at wicket and Hirst at mid-off, bringing the interval record to 92 for six.

Then came after luncheon the finest piece of hitting in the match by Ernest Smith. He was especially severe on Richardson, whom he drove four times in one over to the boundary, and got sundry other fours from the opposite end. Hayward came on again, and in his second over he got Wainwright caught in the long-field – a very well-judged catch. Wainwright had made 12 of the 58 added in 30 minutes. Smith ran to his 50 directly afterwards; but at 155, in hitting, he got under a ball and short-slip had an easy catch. Smith was warmly cheered as he went back to the pavilion; he was batting less than 40 minutes for his 55, in which were nine fours, two threes and four twos.

Only two wickets now remained; but Lord Hawke, by fine vigorous batting, gave some brightness to the closing part of the innings. His drives were very good; but both he and Haigh narrowly escaped being caught by Baldwin. Abel went on for Richardson, who crossed over. Then came a difficult catch from Haigh to Key at mid-off, which the Surrey captain failed to hold. However, at 185, Haigh played on, and, after the 200 had gone up, a well-judged catch in the long field by Brockwell dismissed Hunter and finished the innings, Surrey winning the match about 4 o'clock by an innings and 61 runs. After luncheon in a little more than an hour the last four Yorkshire wickets put on 114 runs.

30 July: SUSSEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4624.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 July, page 10)

After much excellence in the batting at Hove, Brighton, in the early hours of yesterday the play became so dull that in the course of the last 120 minutes on a true and easy run-getting pitch only 85 runs were made. Indeed, at one time Daft and Robinson were an hour adding 29 runs. This is not the kind of cricket expected from a side getting first innings on a ground like that at Hove when it is in splendid condition.

In the early stages of play there was much excellent batting by Mr Jones, Shrewsbury and Gunn, of whom the first-named carried off chief honours with 76. He went in first and was second out at 117, having given no chance; his best hits were 13 fours. With Shrewsbury he obtained 68 for the opening partnership, while the next best stand was that by Gunn and Mr Oscroft, who put on 56 for the third wicket. Notts, who were without Mr Dixon and Hardstaff, scored 286 for eight wickets during the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 August, page 13)

The cricket-day at Hove, Brighton, yesterday was shortened by the weather; indeed, there was no play until 20 minutes to 2. Then the last two Nottinghamshire wickets fell quickly and the side were all out for 289.

Sussex by their first venture of 177 occupied three and a half hours. The best thing of their innings was Ranjitsinhji's 52, made out of 80 in an hour and a quarter; he played excellent cricket and hit five fours and two threes. This was almost equalled by George Bean, who forced the game at a great pace and made 42 out of 45 in 25 minutes. Subsequently his play was quiet. He was missed in the deep field when only four, but otherwise his batting was free from fault, and he contributed nine fours. After 131 had gone up with four men out, the last six wickets added only 46 runs.

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

As the first two days of this match at Brighton had been absorbed by an innings to each side there was not much prospect of the game being played through on Saturday, and the result was a draw. It was left to the third afternoon to furnish the finest batting of the match, and this came in the way of another 100 innings by K S Ranjitsinhji, who, after starting carefully with Marlow so as to make the game safe, threw into his play all that brilliancy for which he has become famous.

Notts began their second innings in the morning with a lead of 112 and lost Mr Jones before a run was scored. Gunn and Shrewsbury, however, played beautiful cricket for an hour and three-quarters, during which time they put together 109 runs. Beyond a chance by Shrewsbury when he had obtained ten there was scarcely a bad stroke in either man's game and both left at the same total. Gunn's chief hits were ten fours, a three and six twos. Subsequently the character of the play changed and Notts with five men out were only 110; but Mr Wright and Daft stayed together 40 minutes, and eventually Notts closed their innings.

Sussex were left with 290 to make in two hours and three-quarters. They had Killick dismissed at four, and then came the great stand of 101 by Marlow and Ranjitsinhji. Its beginning was quiet, but the last 85 runs were made in three-quarters of an hour. Mr Murdoch was soon out and then Mr Newham and Ranjitsinhji stayed to the end, Sussex finishing 99 behind with seven wickets to fall. Ranjitsinhji reached his 100 in the last over of the day; he hit 17 fours, a three and six twos, and gave no chance. A large and enthusiastic company was on the ground.

30 July: WARWICKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4625.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 31 July, page 10)

In a day's batting at Edgbaston, Birmingham, yesterday, Warwickshire made a score of 294 for five wickets. The best thing of the day was William Quaife's second 100 for the county this season. He played very correctly and, quickening his pace of scoring towards the close, just reached the three figures before the drawing stumps. From the time he went in he never faltered in his steadiness, and beyond a sharp chance to point at 31 he made no mistake. His best partnerships were 60 with Mr Bainbridge and 77 and 47 with Law and Welford.

Mr Bainbridge, after escaping from an easy chance to mid-off at 18, played soundly, and during his stay of three hours for his 84 he hit 11 fours and four threes.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 August, page 13)

There was much good cricket yesterday in this match at Edgbaston, Birmingham. On Thursday evening Warwickshire had made 294 for five wickets; but yesterday the innings was finished for an addition of 41. William Quaife, who was last out, took five hours to get his 110, and beyond a mistake made when the side were 111, he gave no chance. Among his figures were five fours and 12 threes.

In the Hampshire innings the great thing was the stand for 142 by Barton and Captain Quinton, who added these runs in an hour and three-quarters. Barton, who played on at 214, obtained 112 by fine cricket. His innings was not wholly faultless, but he hit eight fours, six threes and 12 twos. Subsequently there came a collapse, and Forester got the last five wickets for an addition of 19 runs. Soar was hurt and could not go in.

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

On Saturday at Edgbaston, Birmingham, the Warwickshire eleven, by forcing the game well before luncheon and then closing their innings, strove hard to win the match with Hampshire. But the latter were saved by the fine batting of Captain Quinton and Webb, and the end was a draw.

The home side in two hours and 20 minutes on Saturday morning added 227 runs to their overnight score. Mr Bainbridge and Mr Glover made 79 in 50 minutes, and another quick partnership between the former and Diver yielded 70 runs. Mr Bainbridge was only an hour and a half getting his 85, and among his best hits were 15 fours, while Diver made six fours in his 54.

Hampshire were left with three and a half hours to play and 302 runs to get to win. They went for the draw; but, in spite of Barton's care, four of the side were out for 50. Then Captain Quinton and Webb stopped together an hour and three-quarters, adding 120 runs, and finally stumps were drawn and the match left unfinished . . .

Saturday 1 August, page 13: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

For this, the third of the test matches, beginning at the Oval on August 10, the Surrey committee have chosen the following nine of the eleven to represent England:-

Dr W G Grace, Mr A E Stoddart, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr F S Jackson, Richardson, Gunn, Hayward, Abel and Lilley.

The last two places rest between Lohmann, Peel, J T Hearne and Captain Wynyard.

Monday 3 August, page 11: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

In spite of their defeat at the Oval on Saturday Yorkshire still have a slight fractional advantage over Surrey under the proportional system laid down by the Marylebone Committee. Lancashire have a fine record for third position. The results up to the present work out as follows:-

	Proportion of Points						to Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points		
Matches							
Yorkshire	21	13	3	5	10	.625	
Surrey	19	14	4	1	10	.6	
Lancashire	14	10	3	1	7	.538	
Middlesex	9	6	2	1	4	.5	
Nottinghamshire	10	4	3	3	1	.142	

The other counties' results are:

Essex	8	3	3	2	0	
Hampshire	11	3	5	3	-2	
Kent	11	4	6	1	-2	
Derbyshire	12	3	5	4	-2	
Sussex	11	2	6	3	-4	
Leicestershire	9	2	6	1	-4	
Somerset	12	2	7	3	-5	
Warwickshire	14	2	8	4	-6	
Gloucestershire	13	2	9	2	-7	

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

The Kent executive, by getting one of the more famous counties for the opening match of the festival at Canterbury, have insured the attractiveness of the week from the point of view of cricket. Warwickshire is a good side; but there is no doubt it was not big enough for the county folk who had grown accustomed to see one of the old first-class shires appear at Canterbury. So to-day Lancashire will start the cricket programme of the week, while on Thursday the Australians will appear.

Since the St Lawrence ground has become the property of the county club, who bought it from Lord Sondes, many improvements have been made and there is much more provision for the general public to watch the game in comfort. The Zingari and the Band of Brothers will have their usual tents among the many others surrounding the playing enclosure.

Apart from the cricket, the Old Stagers have, as usual, issued a strong programme. Their play nights are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, when they will give D Boucicault's *My Little Girl*, Yardley and Stephenson's *The Passport*, Paul's *Hal the Highwayman* and T W Robertson's *Ours*. On Friday night there will be the usual original epilogue. The Dane John will be illuminated on two nights, there will be a cycle parade on Thursday and this evening prizes are to be awarded for the best illuminated and decorated houses in the city.

SURREY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE. – To-day at the Oval Surrey will be without the services of George Lohmann, who is suffering from an injured hand, and the side will not be definitely made up until this morning. Mr J A Dixon and Hardstaff will appear in the Notts eleven for Mr Robinson and Oscroft.

3 August: DERBYSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4626.html)

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

Derbyshire had rather the better of the day's play at Derby yesterday, seeing that they are within 43 of the Hampshire total and have yet six wickets in hand.

Going in first, Hampshire were batting about three hours, and at starting they did so badly that five of the side went for 39; but after this indifferent beginning the steady play of Mr Lacey and several later members of the team gave some respectability to the score. Mr Pillans and Mr Hitchcock made successful first appearances for Hampshire. Davidson bowled very well, although after taking the first four wickets at a cost to himself of five runs fortune forsook him.

Derbyshire were chiefly indebted to Mr Evershed for the capital total they put together in the last two hours of the day. There were between four and five thousand spectators of the day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 9)

Derbyshire did very well on their own ground yesterday in the game with Hampshire, for they increased their overnight score of 107 for four wickets to 304, which gave them a lead of 154. The chief contributions to this total were Storer and Mr Evershed, who added 97 for the fifth partnership, while the former and Mr Marsden put on 84 for the eighth. Mr Evershed played sound cricket and his best hits were nine fours, five threes and four twos. In point of excellence Storer's was the best innings of the side; there was not a bad stroke in him and he got his 98 in two hours and a half, hitting 11 fours and eight threes.

When Hampshire went in again Captain Wynyard batted splendidly, and after partnerships with Mr Ward and Captain Quinton of 70 and 56 respectively he was bowled. The best hits in his 80 were nine fours and seven threes. Hampshire are now 28 ahead with six wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 August, page 5)

It was only after three days' admirable cricket that Derbyshire beat Hampshire, at Derby yesterday, by eight wickets. The third morning opened with Hampshire only 28 ahead, with six men in hand.

Two more were quickly dismissed; but Mr F E Lacey, who batted in a manner worthy of his University days, found some useful partners in Mr Pillans and Baldwin, who stayed while 38 and 42 respectively were added. In the end Mr Lacey took out his bat for 75, made in two and a quarter hours by the best of cricket; he gave no chance and hit five fours, six threes and six twos.

Derbyshire made in an hour and a half the 143 necessary to win, the second innings being marked by the fine batting of Mr Evershed, Mr Wright and Bagshaw. Mr Wright hit seven fours.

3 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4627.html)

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

Dr W G Grace came out yesterday with one of his finest batting feats. With all his old judgment in placing the ball and with all his precision in timing he put together 193 and was still not out, this being his share of the 341 made by Gloucestershire at the cost of only three wickets. The crowd at the Bristol ground were naturally delighted by the champion's fine demonstration of batting; there were 10,000 people present, this being a record crowd for the Ashley-down enclosure.

The first symptoms of the big home score came yesterday after the first wicket had fallen. Mr Rice joined his captain, and the pair between them added 215 in three hours and a quarter. Mr Rice's 84 was a model of patience and soundness. Mr Hemingway hit very hard for his 30, made in 40 minutes, and then young Mr Townsend stayed to the end. Dr Grace has so far been batting about five hours. Mr R W Fox, of Oxford, kept wicket excellently for Sussex in place of Butt, whose hands were injured, and the Sussex fielding was good, while the bowlers did their best on the hard, true wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 9)

Dr W G Grace, for the third time in his long career of important cricket, has played an innings of over 300. He made 301 at Bristol yesterday against Sussex. Of course there is among his records the 400 in a match with odds at Grimsby, but his two highest scores in eleven-a-side games were the 344 and the 318 not out, both in 1876, which is generally reckoned to have been Dr Grace's greatest year.

Yesterday, when the game was resumed, wickets fell so rapidly that it seemed improbable that Dr Grace would have much opportunity of improving to any great extent his overnight score of 193. Five more batsmen were actually dismissed in some 25 minutes for 14 more runs; but at last Mr Kitcat aided his captain with a long partnership. The champion and Mr Kitcat for three hours played very sound cricket and in that time added 193 runs, advancing the score from 355 to 548. Then Dr Grace was the ninth out, being bowled by Mr Collins.

His 301 is the highest individual innings of the year, the previous best having been Mr L C H Palairet's 292. His stay at the wickets extended over eight and a half hours. There was scarcely an ill-timed stroke throughout this long spell of batting, which had for its characteristics all the power and all the skilful placing of his younger days. The chief hits were 29 fours, 16 threes and six twos. Mr Kitcat took out his bat for 77, and the company, closing in, shouldered him to the pavilion, so pleased were they with the assistance that he rendered his captain, besides which it was his biggest score for the county.

Sussex had an hour and a half's batting, and by the aid of Marlow and K S Ranjitsinhji did fairly well. To-day, of course, they have nothing but the draw for which to play.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 August, page 5)

Good bowling and fielding by the Gloucestershire eleven followed their fine score in the first innings, and within a few minutes of "time" last evening the Western shire beat Sussex by an innings and 123 runs. For a good while during yesterday at Bristol there was every prospect of a drawn match, Sussex making a sturdy fight on a pitch that had worn rather badly and which enabled the bowlers to get a good deal of work on the ball.

In the first two hours of the day Sussex increased their overnight score for 132 for three wickets to 250. Mr Newham played finished cricket and contributed 63 of the 142 added during his stay, while by these runs he ran into his four-figure aggregate for the season. He gave no chance and his game all round the wicket was very precise.

In the follow-on, against odds of 301, Ranjitsinhji was seen at his best. He played a powerful forcing game and was only out to a wonderful one-hand catch at mid-off, his 54 taking him only 40 minutes to put together. But after the first three wickets had produced 105, five more men were quickly dismissed for an addition of 28 runs. Much of this collapse was due to good bowling by Dr Grace. Tate and Mr Collins, in adding 44, absorbed so much time that the game looked like ending in a draw; but with less than a quarter of an hour to play Mr Fox was dismissed and Gloucestershire won a match which will be memorable for the great score of Dr W G Grace.

3 August: KENT v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4628.html)

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

The Kent eleven have begun the festival at Canterbury very well, and the fine batting of Mr J R Mason, the old Wykehamist, and the Rev W Rashleigh, who in his Oxford days with Mr Key, of Surrey, did great things at Lord's, was such as has not been seen on the St Lawrence ground for many a day.

Mr Mason has always been a good hitter, although he is at times apt to begin his forcing tactics before he is properly set; and Mr Rashleigh's batting caused greater comment, his educational duties at Tonbridge School allowing him little time for important cricket. Mr Rashleigh during the Tonbridge week against Middlesex showed that he had not lost his batting powers, and yesterday at Canterbury he again demonstrated that there is no batsman playing whose cut is more effected than his. In 55 minutes Mr Mason and Mr Rashleigh added 112.

Mr Mason, who earlier had been helped by Alec Hearne to put on 83 for the first wicket, was then out to a fine catch low down with the left hand by Mr Bardswell. He made no mistake until he had passed 90, and his 115 extended over three hours. He hit 16 fours, two threes and seven twos, and one of his singles was increased to five by an overthrow. Mr Rashleigh's 105 were put together in an hour and three-quarters; he gave two or three very difficult chances, but apart from those he timed the ball precisely and came down on it very hard. Among his figures were 14 fours, four threes and nine twos, while he also had a single increased to four by an overthrow.

Another notable point in the Kent batting was the fine vigorous play of Mr Marchant, who made eight fours in putting together a very rapidly scored 54. Kent's record at the end of the day was 384 for nine wickets. This successful start to the Canterbury week for Kent comes well after their recent successes in county cricket, which include a win over Surrey. The county were fortunate in securing such a great side as Lancashire to visit Canterbury for the first match after the somewhat dull experiences of their fixtures with Warwickshire; indeed they only obtained such a game through a disagreement between the two northern shires over the Bank holiday fixtures. This, with the Australian contest for the second part of the week, makes the cricket programme at Canterbury very strong.

Not only were the home county fortunate in their achievements on the field, but the weather and the pitch furnished remarkably good conditions for the festival. There were about 6,000 people on the ground. The city was decorated and the illuminations and the general social attractions, together with the theatrical efforts of the Old Stagers, who are inseparable from Canterbury, make everything augur well for the success of the 55th annual celebration of the festival.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 9)

The Lancastrians were engaged in a severe uphill game on the St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury, yesterday, and they acquitted themselves well, although they are still heavily weighted with 91 arrears and ten wickets to fall in the second innings. On this second day of the week the batting did not equal that of Monday; indeed, Lancashire were faring ill until Briggs, in his own courageous way, came to the rescue of the side with a vigorous 74.

In the early minutes of the morning Kent, who were 384 for nine wickets, finished their innings for the addition of a single. Lancashire's chances of fighting well against the big home score were not improved by the rain which had fallen, for the pitch just slightly helped the bowlers before luncheon. Up to the interval four good wickets had fallen for 114.#

Albert Ward, Mr Maclaren and Sugg all played successfully, but it was subsequent to luncheon that the visitors' position underwent much improvement. After three men had gone for 45 Sugg hit so hard that he contributed 41 to the 58 added during his stay. Mr Maclaren was very careful and occupied two hours in getting 31. Mr Bardswell made some good hits; but eight of the side were dismissed for 170. Briggs and Hallam, however, put on 56 at a quick rate. Kent did not accept all the chances given them. Hallam and Briggs were both missed at slip before they reached double figures. The kind of cricket Briggs played may be judged from the fact that he made 74 out of the last 107 in 90 minutes, and hit nine fours, three threes and seven twos.

Walter Wright bowled with the most success. Generally the fielding was good and Huish kept wicket well. The weather lacked some of the brightness of Monday, but the company numbered about 6,000.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 August, page 5)

Mr A C Maclaren, the old Harrovian, gave a splendid demonstration of his skill as a batsman at Canterbury yesterday which not only saved his side from defeat but left the regret that his scholastic duties should keep him out of important cricket for more than two months of the season. He had gone in on Tuesday evening and was still not out when stumps were pulled up and the match left drawn, his score being 226.

With Lancashire having nothing but a draw to play for he exercised more care than usual and took rather more than six hours to make his runs. But it was a great innings and one with which the few thousand people on the St Lawrence Ground – Wednesday is something of an off-day at Canterbury – were well pleased. In one or two instances the Kent fielding was at fault or he might have been out; his errors chiefly were an escape at third man (Wright) and another at cover-point (Mr Rashleigh) with his scores at 165 and 207. He was seen at his best in off-driving and in his stroke on the leg side, and his chief hits were 34 fours, two threes and 19 twos.

Albert Ward, with his characteristic steadiness, stayed with his captain while 88 were made for the first wicket, while Tyldesley forced the game well and had nearly a half share in 107 added in 90 minutes for the third. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon Lancashire were only 85 ahead with half the side out; but any chance that Kent had of winning was spoilt by Mr Bardswell, who stayed with Mr Maclaren 80 minutes and helped to put on 88 runs. At the finish Lancashire were 245 runs ahead with four wickets in hand, so that they came out well in an uphill fight.

3 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4629.html)

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

On a day, the cricketing hours of which were made brief by rain, Essex did fairly well at Leicester in this return match. Mr A L Gibson made a first appearance for Essex.

The best things in the batting were the 66 and 35 by Mr M'Gahey and Russell, who during their partnership put on 75 runs, this stand occurring after the sixth wicket had gone at 118. Mr M'Gahey's best hits were a five and four fours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 9)

Yesterday, at Leicester, the Essex eleven had the better of the day's cricket, which was witnessed by 5,000 people. Having completed their first innings for 216, the visitors got out Leicestershire in a little over three hours for 181. The best features of the home batting were Mr de Trafford's vigorous 64, a share of 79 put on while he was in, and the stand by Pougher and Knight who added 56 for the fifth wicket.

When Essex went in a second time Carpenter and Mr Perrin played very finely, and the closing position showed Essex 155 ahead with nine wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 August, page 5)

Had Mr Owen risked a little more the Essex eleven might now have been in the possession of a substantial victory as the result of the match, left drawn at Leicester yesterday. But Essex delayed too long in closing their innings, which they should have done before luncheon. When stumps were pulled up the home side were 115 behind with only three wickets left.

Yesterday Mr Perrin and Mr M'Gahey added 111 for the third Essex wicket in 80 minutes, Mr Perrin's cricket being of a very fine class; he hit eight fours and six threes. Mr M'Gahey was in rather more than two hours for his runs and contributed a five and nine fours. Leicestershire were left with 316 to make in three and a quarter hours. Mainly through the capital play of Tomlin and Geeson they were able to save the game.

3 August: SOMERSET v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4630.html)

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

Yesterday's cricket at Taunton, of which there were about 5,000 spectators, was marked by much excellence. The Somerset first innings absorbed most of the hours of the game. To begin with, Mr Lionel Palairet played well, making his runs out of the first 58, and then came the steady batting of Mr Challen, in whose good 51 were five fours and a three.

But, in spite of some kindness at the hands of Mr Bray, the Middlesex wicket-keeper, Somerset had five men out for 136. Then occurred some fine off-hitting by Robson, who, helped by Mr Woods and Mr G Fowler, much improved the home prospects, while Tyler helped him to add 38 in a quarter of an hour for the last wicket. Robson's best hits were six fours.

In the closing minutes of the day Middlesex lost Mr Lucas for 11 runs. Mr Webbe, for the first time this season, was able to have the services of those two fine old Cambridge men, Mr J Douglas and Mr C M Wells, and, indeed, both counties were well represented.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 9)

After a keen day's cricket at Taunton yesterday the game was left in a fairly even position, Somerset being 31 ahead in the second innings with nine wickets to fall.

Middlesex secured a lead of 41 on the first innings, but they had to fight very hard, and at one time the record promised nothing like such a good score, for they lost four wickets for 61. One of these was Mr Stoddart's, this great batsman being out to a wonderful catch at mid-off by Mr Woods. Rawlin and Sir Timothy O'Brien were the first to put Middlesex in a better position by an hour's partnership, which yielded 85. Both played very well, and while Rawlin hit six fours Sir Timothy made nine. Subsequently came stands of 57 and 39 by Mr Bromley-Davenport, with Mr Webbe and Hearne, and another of 46 by Hearne and Mr Bray. Mr Webbe scored his runs in three-quarters of an hour, but the closing feature of the innings was the dashing batting of Hearne, who, going in seventh wicket down at 204, made 52 and was last to leave. He hit eight fours.

In the second Somerset innings the brothers Palairet played excellently, and Mr L C H Palairet was able to complete his 1,000 aggregate for the season.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 August, page 5)

The match between these counties at Taunton was left drawn yesterday, Middlesex at the finish wanting 117 to win with only five wickets in hand. The position on Tuesday night promised little else but a draw, for Somerset were then 31 ahead with only one man gone in the second innings.

Yesterday the home side reached 257, the best thing in their play being the fine cricket of Mr W N Roe, the old Cambridge "blue." He went in second wicket down at 75 and was the eighth to leave at 255. His score of 106 was made in two and three-quarter hours, and he misjudged very few balls; his chief figures were 11 fours and six threes. Mr Lionel Palairet contributed an excellent 63, in

which were six fours, three threes and five twos. When, at the interval, seven wickets were down for 188, the visitors were winning the game; but Captain Hedley and Mr Roe saved the side.

With only two and a quarter hours left for play, Middlesex wanted 217 for victory. In their attempts to force the game they met with disaster, for Mr Douglas, Mr Lucas and Mr Stoddart were out for 42. Hearne and Sir Timothy O'Brien stayed together nearly three and a quarter hours, and finally Phillips and Rawlin played out time.

3 August: SURREY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4631.html)

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

The deterioration in Nottinghamshire cricket has not affected the public interest in the great August Bank Holiday match. This could be the only conclusion drawn from the animation of yesterday's huge crowd at Kennington Oval, for Notts, as a county eleven, are now far removed from the high standard of Surrey and Yorkshire cricket, though the years do not seem very long since the Shaw, Morley and Barnes days, when Notts used to come up to the Oval in August and beat Surrey with something approaching regularity.

But in those days the interest in county cricket was less extensive. Swollen by a large contingent of Bank Holiday folk, the company at Kennington Oval yesterday ran well over 30,000, and of these some 28,000 paid for admission. The Surrey officials were unable to arrive at an exact return in consequence of the money remaining unchecked with the turnstiles until this morning. This "gate" is not quite a record for cricket, as in 1892, for Surrey v Notts at the Oval, 30,760 paid on the first day. But a crowd such as this severely tests the capacity of the Oval; and after luncheon the mass of spectators had so encroached on the field of play that for a long while it was impossible to go on with the game. The police, assisted by the officials of the club and several members of the home eleven, were for a time quite baffled in their efforts to get the crowd back. Generally, however, good humour prevailed, and although the people after luncheon seriously interfered with the outfielding, the boundary in most parts became fairly reasonable.

In a day shortened by the extension of the luncheon interval and by the badness of the light towards the close, the all-absorbing features were the fine bowling of Richardson, which brought about the collapse of the Notts side, and the batting of Brockwell and Abel, who laid the foundation for Surrey's advantage – they are 93 ahead on the first innings and have seven wickets in hand. Nottinghamshire seemed to have some doubt about the policy of taking first innings, for the pitch was a little soft on the surface and was hard underneath, which meant a great aid to the bowlers, and especially to such a man as Richardson. How well the Surrey professional bowled a glance at the score will show. Seven for 22 was a wonderful analysis. The balls that got out Shrewsbury and Mr Jones would have bowled almost anyone.

The only respectable piece of batting for the visitors was that of Mr C W Wright, whose good cuts and drives were increased in their excellence by a comparison with the failures of so many members of the side. But 69 was a very bad score and the weakness of the present Notts team was glaringly exposed. They were seriously handicapped, however, by the absence of Gunn, who could not play owing to a chill contracted after a bath. The crowd seemed well pleased with the splendid piece of bowling by Richardson, and what wickets the latter did not take were accounted for by the slows of Abel. And in the afternoon there was no lack of enthusiasm for the splendid batting of Abel and Brockwell, the merit of whose play was enhanced by the condition of the ground.

Lohmann, through his injured hand, and Mr Leveson-Gower were absent from Surrey, and a place was found for a member of the Surrey second eleven in the person of Lees, a right-hand, medium-pace bowler, who, however, was not yesterday on long enough to furnish a test of his capacity in first-class cricket. All day the weather remained dull, and after stumps were drawn there was a little rain.

Soon after mid-day Jones and Daft began the batting to Abel and Richardson, a pair of bowlers that furnished two extremes of style and pace. Jones started well enough with a cut for four from Richardson; but in the latter's third over a break back settled that batsman's first innings, and the total was still only four. Shrewsbury began in a way that promised well for his side; but Daft, after giving a sharp chance to point, was beaten by a ball from Abel which he turned into his wicket. The Notts misfortunes continued, for at 16 three more wickets fell; a beautiful ball from Richardson bowled out Shrewsbury and another in the same over dismissed Attewell, while at the other end Dixon fell to a well-judged catch at long-off.

Five for 16 in 40 minutes was a sorry start for the visitors. Oscroft and Wright, however, played steadily and well, and their batting became so sound that Key thought it advisable to change his bowling and put on Lockwood for Abel and to give Lees, medium pace right hand, a trial. However, he soon had Richardson and Abel back again, and from the latter's first ball Read missed Wright at point. Directly afterwards Wright was caught by the wicket-keeper standing back for a very sound 21. Another good catch by Wood standing back to Richardson disposed of Oscroft, who had been in a great while for his 15, while a full pitch from Richardson got out Brown, and eight wickets were down for 58. Guttridge and Pike added six runs before the adjournment.

During the interval the crowd's picnics on the playing-field left the ground littered with paper, while the company, in their anxiety to get a view of the game, delayed the renewal of the match until 3 o'clock. The exhortations of the secretary of the Surrey Club and Mr Key and Mr Read were for a long while of no avail; but finally the police got the people back sufficiently for the players to go on with the cricket. There was nothing of note in the close of the innings. Guttridge profited nothing by an escape at the hands of Read at point, and Pike was bowled. It was a nice catch in the long field that got out Guttridge. Richardson bowled finely, and his seven wickets averaged only three runs each.

Surrey went in at 20 minutes to 4. After what had been seen of Richardson the Notts men, except Attewell, seemed very simple to play. And even Attewell sent down a bad ball now and again. So Brockwell and Abel scored at a quick pace, both men being very strong all round the wicket. Brown was tried for Attewell, who crossed over; but apart from the batting there was only one thing to notice and that was a very fine piece of fielding by Wright at third man. Fifty were scored in half an hour, and other things that did not escape the crowd's notice were a five (all run) by Abel and the passing of the Notts total. Jones's slows only increased the pace of run-getting and the score at the end of an hour was 91. Three runs later Brown, who had been bowling a nice length with some work on the ball, caught and bowled Abel; it was a good catch low down and Brown fell in making it.

Hayward and Brockwell both played very well, and in the course of half an hour took the score from 95 to 135, and then both were quickly out to Hardstaff, who had Hayward caught at slip and got Brockwell leg-before. Brockwell played beautiful cricket for his 81, made in an hour and three-quarters by 12 fours, two threes, six twos and singles. Three men were now lost for 136. With the light getting very bad Lockwood and Baldwin exercise great care. In 35 minutes 26 runs were added, and then, just before 6 o'clock, the umpires stopped the game owing to the darkness. There was no further play, and so Surrey continue this morning with a lead of 93 and seven wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 9)

Baldwin, who did much to establish Surrey's advantage on the first day of the Yorkshire match, has given another demonstration of his capacity as a batsman, and further of the strength of the reserve which Surrey are able to draw on in the ranks of the second team. Yesterday he played a beautiful innings of 111; his game marked by correctness and vigour, and he came down straight and hard on the ball.

The quality of his cricket quite surprised the Surrey people, for numerically and in style he played the best game of the side, whose stay at the wicket extended altogether over about five hours and a half. For a time yesterday Baldwin made runs when no one else could; but in the last two hours Notts had to pay dearly for a dropped catch that gave Mr Key a life when he had only a single. The fine hitting of Mr Key and Lees destroyed almost the last chance that Notts may be said to have had of making a fight, and in the end the visitors were left with arrears of 355 on the first innings.

The game was virtually lost to Nottinghamshire in the first half an hour of Monday, and throughout yesterday it went sturdily against them. Shrewsbury, Daft and Mr Jones all played well, but no one stayed long enough to hold out any hopes of a long score by the visitors in their second innings. On the improved wicket it had been expected that the side would do better, but arrears of 232 are yet left with only four wickets in hand. Richardson bowled very well and brought his aggregate in the match to ten.

In yesterday's big crowd, about 15,000 strong, there was much more of the genuine cricket element than on Monday, and no disorderly scenes occurred. The actual numbers paying for admission were 12,928, while a corrected return of Monday's gate was officially furnished as 28,200.

With the pitch dry and the weather fine there was every prospect of Surrey increasing the advantage possessed by them at the end of Monday, when they had made 162 for three wickets, this position giving them already a lead of 93 on the first innings. Brown and Hardstaff were the bowlers. Baldwin had not long the aid of Lockwood; but he himself settled down and forced the game in great style, cutting and driving all the bowlers with much power. Various changes were tried, but 34 were added in 25 minutes before one of Jones's slows dismissed Braund. Walter Read stayed some time while Baldwin hit; indeed, the former contributed only seven of the 47 put on for the sixth wicket.

After Key, who joined Baldwin, had been rather badly missed in the slips the Nottinghamshire bowling was completely mastered. For a long while Baldwin, playing fine cricket, continued to score the quicker, and there was great cheering when at last he reached his 100, which had taken him rather more than two hours to obtain. Dixon varied his bowling frequently, but all to no purpose, for the 300 went up at 1.25, and shortly afterwards Key made a fine hit off Dixon, the drive carrying the ball on to the top of the pavilion. Seventy-three had been added for the partnership in three-quarters of an hour, when at 321 Baldwin played on. His 111 was a splendid innings, extending over about two hours and a half, and containing no chance; the chief figures were 14 fours, seven threes and eight twos.

Key and Lees added 21 in 12 minutes before luncheon; but it was afterwards that the batting grew most vigorous. Lees devoted himself entirely to hitting and was very severe on Jones, whom he drove four times for four; one of the drives was almost a catch to Wright, who misjudged the ball in the long-field just in front of the pavilion. The Surrey captain was also playing strongly, and when he had been in an hour he reached his 50. For a time the best incidents were an overthrow for four, which enabled Lees to obtain a five, and a fine piece of fielding by Brown at mid-off. At 399 Lees in hitting at Attewell was clean bowled; he had made 48 out of 78 in three-quarters of an hour, and

28 of these were in fours.

Wood stayed for a few overs, but Richardson gave little trouble, and by 20 minutes to 4 the innings finished for 424. During the day Surrey had scored 262 at the rate of over 80 an hour. Mr Key's not-out 75 was the result of fine, vigorous hitting, and included eight fours.

Notts went in a second time at 4 o'clock against the heavy odds of 355. Shrewsbury and Jones made many good strokes and the batting was very fine to watch. The play on the off-side was particularly finished, and at a fairly quick rate the score reached 37, when Jones was clean bowled. Oscroft received a blow on the leg from Richardson which necessitated his having a man to run for him for a time; but he batted very steadily. Lees, who started the bowling with Richardson, met with no success, and at 50 gave up the ball to Abel, while Lockwood had a turn at the other end. It fell to Abel's lot, however, to get out Shrewsbury at 62, the batsman missing a ball that he was trying to hit to leg and being stumped. Daft and Oscroft stayed together some time, during which Oscroft got six and five by drives from Lockwood that were all run; but with Richardson back again Oscroft and Dixon were bowled, off stump in each instance.

Four men were out for 94; and Richardson without getting rid of Daft beat him repeatedly. Wright was bowled by Lees soon after the 100 had gone up and Lees also got Attewell caught at wicket in the last over of the day. Daft made various good hits; but at the finish Nottinghamshire, with only four wickets to fall, wanted 232 to save an innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 August, page 5)

Unless something very unusual occurred and if rain held off the defeat of Nottinghamshire at Kennington Oval yesterday was inevitable after the second day's play, the end of which found the Midland shire with only four wickets left and with arrears of 232. Yesterday morning the last stage of the game was played before a small company and in two hours the end was reached, Surrey winning by an innings and 115 runs.

However brief the cricket, there was still some excellence in it. The courageous batting of Pike and the steady defence of H B Daft, together with a fine piece of bowling by Brockwell, would have furnished no mean features to a full day's play. Daft was not out overnight and he continued his steadiness, while Pike went in for hitting. For 80 minutes all the attempts of the various bowlers failed to separate the batsmen; but Pike ought to have been easily caught at point by Mr W W Read when his figures were 29. He made much of his escape and 96 runs had been produced by the partnership when Pike was at last caught at wicket. He hit eight fours, a three and a two.

After this the end came quickly and Brown, Guttridge and Hardstaff were got out for an addition of 21 runs. Brockwell's last piece of analysis read thus – five overs (two maidens), 13 runs, three wickets. Daft played with every care and his 77 took him about three hours and a quarter to make; his chief hits were a five, nine fours, three threes and five twos.

Nottinghamshire were really outplayed from the start, and their disasters began with Richardson's deadly bowling on a pitch that helped him. With the wicket better and faster, the great Surrey bowler did not meet with so much success; still his average for the match was 11 wickets for less than ten runs each. The visitors missed the services of Gunn, the greatest batsman on the side, whose indisposition was a real hardship to the county, for Gunn this season is in splendid form.

Some injustice was done to Mr Key in yesterday's report by the statement that he was missed when only a single; it was stated yesterday morning that while the stroke was very bad the ball fell just in front of Mr Oscroft at short slip and was not quite a catch.

3 August: WARWICKSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4632.html)

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

The Australians have quickly shaken off any ill-effects of their loss at Bexhill-on-Sea, for yesterday at Edgbaston, Birmingham, they scored heavily. Last time they were at Birmingham they were defeated by a team chosen from the Midlands.

The great feature of yesterday's cricket was Mr Darling's 105, which is the third three-figure score of that batsman during the present tour. Going in first he began with extreme care and took over two hours to get to 50; but afterwards he infused more brightness into his game and the latter part of his score was made rapidly. His best hits were 17 fours and eight twos. Mr Giffen and Mr Trott both helped him substantially in increasing the Australian aggregate, and the former was in while the score was advanced from 38 to 124. It is worthy of note that Mr Trott yesterday completed his 1,000 runs for the season.

In the later stage of the innings Mr Gregory showed very good form and took out his bat for 59, in which were five fours and seven threes. Warwickshire bowled and fielded well. There were 10,000 people at the Edgbaston ground.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 9)

Warwickshire were decisively beaten at Edgbaston, Birmingham, yesterday, by the Australians by an innings and 60 runs. Although, from the fine score of the visitors on Monday, it was thought that they would ultimately win, no one expected the Warwickshire batting to collapse as it did. The causes were twofold – very moderate cricket on a good pitch and very fine bowling. Mr Jones wrought the most mischief among the home men and his double analysis gave him a record of nine wickets for 98 runs, while Mr Trumble's seven cost 85.

When the home side started in the morning things went fairly well for a time and 80 was up with only one man out; and then the Australians carried all before them. Diver, who was not in the collapse, played a dashing innings of 54 made out of 73 in less than an hour, and he hit seven fours, two threes and five twos. Mr Bainbridge batted steadily, and in the follow-on the side did rather better. But the Australians played a great winning game. About 5,000 people watched the cricket.

3 August: YORKSHIRE GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS OF YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/133/133499.html)

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

There was an excellent day's cricket at York yesterday in this match. The best things in the batting were Moorhouse's 61 and the 56 and 51 respectively by Mr F S Jackson and Mr Ernest Smith.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 August, page 9)

There was a lot of good batting at York yesterday in the Gentlemen and Players match, which ended in a draw. The professionals closed their innings when they were 220 ahead; but could get only five of the Gentlemen out.

Wednesday 5 August, page 9: YORKSHIRE v KENT.- Yesterday the Kent committee decided to alter this fixture from Catford-bridge to Tonbridge. The date of the match is August 24.

Thursday 6 August, page 5: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Surrey's victory over Nottinghamshire yesterday still leaves the Southern county a fraction behind Yorkshire in the championship. The results so far come out thus:-

Matches	Proportion of Points					to Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	
Yorkshire	21	13	3	5	10	.625
Surrey	20	15	4	1	11	.573
Lancashire	15	10	3	2	7	.558
Middlesex	10	6	2	2	4	.5
The other counties' results are:						
Nottinghamshire	11	4	4	3	0	
Essex	9	3	3	3	0	
Derbyshire	13	4	5	4	-1	
Kent	12	4	6	2	-2	
Hampshire	12	3	6	3	-3	
Leicestershire	10	2	6	2	-4	
Somerset	13	2	7	4	-5	
Sussex	12	2	7	3	-5	
Gloucestershire	14	3	9	2	-6	
Warwickshire	14	2	8	4	-6	

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

6 August: ESSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4633.html)

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

There were about 5,000 spectators of the Essex successful batting at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday. Surrey were kept in the field the whole day. After three wickets had gone for 65 Mr Fane and Russell put on 132 in an hour and a half. Mr Fane played fine cricket and gave no chance, his best hits being seven fours.

The other great thing of the day was Russell's 110. He went in third wicket down at 65 and was fifth to leave at 238. He was batting two and a half hours, and among his figures were 14 fours, six threes and four twos, while his only mistake was a sharp chance at mid-off to Richardson at 20. Mr Owen played steadily.

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

Bad cricket was the primary cause of the disaster that overtook Surrey at Leyton yesterday, when they had the novel experience of being got out twice in one day, and this led to their defeat by an innings and 119 runs. The result will be quite a shock to those friends of the county who had seen their recently fine cricket in the Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire matches and had looked with easy confidence to the issue of the game on the Lyttelton Ground.

One thing that handicapped Surrey was the fact of the wicket having been cut up at one end by the bowlers, and this enabled Mr Bull to get a wonderful break on his slows, and those Surrey men who went to hit them found Essex an unerring field. Mr Bull has been a great success this year for Essex, and his yesterday's record of 11 wickets for 89 runs is a high example of his skill. In this match Essex actually outplayed Surrey, batting, bowling and fielding in a manner full of brilliancy; and the eastern county demonstrated in a pronounced way that they are a vastly improved side. To beat both Yorkshire and Surrey at Leyton is a feat that will stand out as one of the best of the season. Mr H G Owen has now the command of a lot of young and skilful players, and the turn in the fortune of the county after many years of dullness will be very gratifying to that great cultivator of Essex cricket, Mr Charles Ernest Green, who himself was one of Cambridge University's finest cricketers.

There was a very big crowd on the Leyton ground, and when the end came a move was made to the pavilion and a scene of great enthusiasm occurred, all the chief contributions to the Essex success being called and cheered. The last time that Essex beat Surrey was in 1893, but on that occasion Surrey had nothing like their representative eleven.

Although Essex had put together such a fine score as 327, Surrey were thought well capable of at least saving the follow-on. But their misfortunes began early. Kortright bowled from the pavilion end with his well-known great pace and Bull's slows were on at the other. Two more distinctive styles of bowling could not well be imagined. Each bowler got a wicket at 19, and then came a stand by Hayward and Baldwin, who carried the score to 57, when the quick dismissal of batsmen set in afresh. Indeed, Hayward alone seemed able to make much headway; he certainly played sound cricket and was sixth to leave at 105. He hit four fours, five threes and three twos. Essex brought off many fine catches, notably those who got out Lees and Richardson in the long field, and

in the end Surrey were dismissed in a little over two hours for 126.

In the follow-on things went worse than ever with Surrey, who found Walter Mead and Bull very difficult to play, and this time their innings lasted only an hour and a quarter. Brockwell made a few good hits, but otherwise the batting was very bad. Fane and Carpenter each brought off a fine catch in the long field and the match was over by 4 o'clock.

6 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4634.html)

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

The Middlesex innings of 279 at Clifton, yesterday, extended over about four hours. After Mr Stoddart and Mr Douglas had made 92 in 75 minutes in fine style, the visitors had to fight hard for their runs. Hearne and Rawlin added 49 for the third partnership, while Sir Timothy O'Brien and Mr Webbe put on 46 for the fifth.

There was much good cricket by various members of the Middlesex team, but Sir T C O'Brien was the batsman who gave the home side most trouble. He got his 59 in a little over the hour and made seven fours and four threes. Gloucestershire went in for a while and the game was left as under . . .

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

Gloucestershire developed such fine batting in the closing stages of their innings at Clifton yesterday that they completely changed the aspect of the game, and at the finish had the better of the match, seeing that Middlesex have lost four good men and are only 19 runs ahead.

The batsmen who brought about this change were Mr Sewell, Mr Jessop, Mr Champain and Board; and the following partnerships were recorded for the seventh, eighth and ninth wickets – Russell and Jessop, 87; Sewell and Champain, 68; and Champain and Board, 58. Mr Sewell played excellently for his 88, made in 100 minutes and in which were 13 fours, and Mr Champain made a lot of good strokes, while Mr Jessop threw into his game his characteristic vigour. So Gloucestershire in the end secured a lead of 64.

Middlesex lost Mr Stoddart, Mr Douglas, Hearne and Rawlin for 46; but then Mr Webbe and Sir T C O'Brien played out time. A couple of showers slightly interfered with cricket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 August, page 11)

A very brilliant victory was gained by Gloucestershire over Middlesex at Clifton on Saturday, when, aided to some extent by the wet and easy ground, they got the 168 necessary to win in 95 minutes and with six wickets left. It had been arranged to play on till half-past six; but only the half-hour was left when Sewell made the winning hit.

The variety of phases through which a cricket match can pass was well demonstrated by this game. Here, on the opening day, were Middlesex getting a fine score of 279, and then at another stage dismissing the first six of their opponents for something over 100; but the prospect of a follow-on quickly dissolved before the efforts of the later batsmen, while finally the second day closed to find the game so changed that Middlesex were in a very bad way with four men out and only 19 runs on.

At one period of Saturday rain promised to save them, for there was no cricket between 12.20 and 2.55. Middlesex lost three more batsmen for 57 runs; but in the end the fine batting of Mr Webbe, Sir Timothy O'Brien and Mr Lucas contrived to set Gloucestershire a respectable task. Mr Lucas hit a five and nine fours, while Sir Timothy O'Brien also made nine fours.

When Gloucestershire went in for the last innings the visitors were rather handicapped in having to field and bowl with a wet ball. The foundation of the home success was laid by Mr Jessop, who going in first wicket down at 22 made 66 out of 113 added in 50 minutes, contributing 11 fours, three threes and four twos. He and Wrathall forced the game at such a pace that they added 67 for the second wicket in 35 minutes. The rest of the work was easily accomplished, and at 6 o'clock Gloucestershire won by six wickets amid a scene of great enthusiasm. Mr Townsend took 11 wickets in the match at a cost of 200 runs.

6 August: KENT v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4635.html)

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

In the annals of Kent cricket it will be found that this, one of the oldest of cricketing shires, has come out well in its matches with the Australians. But yesterday the Australians were at the wickets almost the whole day and put together a score that may almost defy defeat. Mr Darling and Mr Hill played very finely for their runs and to them belonged the honours of the day.

Kent's losing of the toss was something of a calamity; but Mr Trott's luck in tossing has become proverbial, and it was no novel experience to see the visitors go in first of a beautiful wicket. They stayed in till they had put together a score of 310. Complaints about the slowness of Australian scoring have become common of late, but yesterday there was nothing to take exception to, and those of the visitors who scored did well, and ladies' day at Canterbury proved once more a great success. There was an attendance of about 10,000, and although at one period of the day rain threatened the afternoon remained fine.

The new Press stand has been placed in a position that might well be examined by the authorities at Lord's, and no doubt Lord Harris has had a hand in the establishment for reporters of one of the best views of the cricket to be had on any ground in the country. The improvements in the ground have not interfered with that half of the playing field devoted to the tents, the holders of which include Lord Harris, I Zingari, Mr George Marsham, the Band of Brothers, the Corporation, the Cavalry Depot, the Country Club and Mr Hill Dean (the Mayor). Yesterday afternoon the Mayor had an "at home," and was assisted in receiving guests by Mr Henniker Heaton, M.P., Mr Mason and Mr Mount.

With the advantage of first innings on a good wicket, the Australians did well. Mr Darling played good cricket, but lost Mr Iredale at 14. Subsequently Mr Giffen made some good strokes; but Mr Darling, in playing forward to Mr Mason, was almost caught at third man. Various changes in the bowling were tried before Mr Shine got Mr Giffen easily caught in the slips. Mr Trott had an escape in the same position, but he stayed to see Mr Darling make 53 out of 87 in 80 minutes. At 90 Mr Trott gave extra slip an easy catch. Mr Gregory survived a bad stroke in the slips; but at 98 the fourth Australian wicket fell, Mr Darling being easily taken at extra slip. He had made his 59 in an hour and a half. Among his figures were 11 fours and three twos. It was a fine innings, marked by very good cutting.

In the afternoon there was much fine cricket by Mr Hill and Mr Gregory, the former's game being as much as ever noticeable for the clever stroke on the leg side. Mr Marchant made the most of his bowling; but the fifth partnership added 57 and the sixth 86. Mr Hill was in about two hours and his innings included ten fours. Subsequently there was some fine hitting by Mr Donnan and Mr Jones. The latter made his 40 in half an hour and hit seven fours.

Kent lost Mr Marchant in the last 20 minutes of the day for 18 runs. It will be noticed that the Australians, in view of the England match, are giving both Mr M'Kibbin and Mr Kelly a rest.

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

Mr C J Burnup, the brilliant batsman of this year's Cambridge eleven, saved Kent from collapse before the bowling of Mr Jones and Mr Giffen yesterday, and the splendour of his game gave the character to a long and excellent day's cricket. The Australians in the second innings had to fight very hard for their runs; but their big lead on the first enabled them to leave off with a good advantage, for they are 300 ahead with a wicket to fall.

Apart from Mr Burnup the Kent batting lacked both spirit and precision, and ten of them made only 89 in all, a wretched result from the efforts of so many fine cricketers. Mr Burnup this season has notoriously often run into the nineties without getting his 100; but yesterday furnished an exception to his general experiences. He began his innings overnight and yesterday he increased his score from eight to 101. The best points of his game were his cutting and his well-measured stroke on the leg side. He took only two hours to make his 101; he was seventh out at 165 and his best hits were 14 fours, two threes and 13 twos. This is only the third 100 scored against the present Australian side. Mr Patterson stayed with Mr Burnup while 78 were made in 50 minutes for the third partnership; but afterwards there came something of a collapse and the last seven wickets went down for 75 runs.

The Australians in the last three and a quarter hours of the day put together 186 at a cost of nine wickets. Their game was dull; but their steadiness was perhaps necessary against so much good bowling and fielding. Mr Trott played very soundly for his runs and going in first he was fourth to leave at 117, among his figures being five fours. Mr Iredale and Mr Gregory played pretty well; but after three men were out six more were dismissed for an addition of 82 runs.

There were about 7,000 people at the St Lawrence Ground and the weather kept fine. The Australians were entertained at luncheon yesterday by Mr Henniker Heaton, M.P., and apart from the Kent amateurs the following were among those invited:- Mr R A H Mitchell, Hon E Chandos Leigh, Mr George Marsham and the Mayor of Canterbury.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 August, page 11)

The Australians continued to triumph over the counties, and on Saturday they beat Kent by 176 runs. The one piece of batting that rescued the Kent eleven's play from insignificance was the splendid innings on Mr C J Burnup on the Friday. The Australians, with their usual fortune in tossing, got first innings and played something like a winning game from the very start. The position on Saturday morning held out little hope for Kent on their form of the first innings, for the Australians were 300 ahead and had still a wicket left.

Finally, the county went in to get 318 to win, and of this task they proved incapable. Mr Mason and Mr Hearne made 27 for the first wicket; but then came a collapse and seven men were out in an hour and a half to the bowling of Mr Jones and Mr Trumble for 77 runs. Mr Patterson strove hard to add to the score and was helped by Martin to put on 37 in half an hour. But by 20 minutes past 3 the end was reached and Kent were beaten. Mr Patterson was in two hours and took his bat out for 33.

If the second game of the week went sadly for Kent, the festival at Canterbury proved one of the most successful ever held. The decorations and illuminations of the city streets were more beautiful than for some years, while the social entertainments of the evening were all well patronized. As for the "Old Stagers," who are inseparable from Canterbury, they played to big houses on the four nights of the week. Their contribution to the festival was finished on Friday night, when the theatre

was crowded to excess for the hearing of the original epilogue . . .

The attendances at the St Lawrence Ground were extremely good all the week, in fact, on ladies' day it was a record crowd for Canterbury. Since the ground became the property of the county club extra provision has been made for the general public, and the various improvements, carried out under the direction of Captain Austin, have been widely appreciated, and by none more than by the reporters who attend the cricket.

6 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4636.html)

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

At Leicester, yesterday, there were about 4,000 spectators of an excellent performance by the home eleven who made 331 at the cost of only four wickets. Early in the day Mr de Trafford played brilliantly and with Knight put on 129. He hit a six, 16 fours and five threes, and he scarcely misjudged a ball in his long innings. Some further careful play occurred during the partnership of Pougher and Knight, which yielded 138, and the final score was as follows . . .

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

Lancashire came out well in the uphill game in which they found themselves involved after the big home score, at Leicester, yesterday. Leicestershire, who scored 331 for four wickets on Thursday, finished their innings for 399. Pougher played very steady cricket for his 86, in which were a five, three fours and ten threes.

The great thing in the rest of the day was the fine innings of 108 by Albert Ward and the 94 by Sugg. The former, whose first 100 it is this year, took two and three-quarter hours to make his runs and he hit a five, 12 fours, seven threes and six twos. Frank Sugg played his usual forcing game and during his innings he ran to his four-figure aggregate for the season. Lancashire, with half their wickets in hand, are now only 111 behind, so that there is every prospect of a good game to-day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 August, page 11)

Frank Sugg's splendid batting on Saturday enabled Lancashire to get within 14 runs of the Leicestershire big score; but when the home county were faring badly the weather became wet and the play had to be abandoned, and the match was drawn.

Sugg, who had gone in at Leicester on Friday when the score was 150 for three wickets, was the eighth to leave at 377, having been in three hours and a quarter, and he hit one five, 16 fours, five threes and 13 twos. Whiteside kept wicket excellently; he made five catches and did not give away a bye. Leicestershire, who were 14 runs ahead on the first innings, had made 63 at the cost of four wickets when the rainstorm broke over the ground. Pougher has reached his 1,000 aggregate for the season.

6 August: SOMERSET v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4637.html)

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

Yesterday at Taunton the Sussex eleven scored heavily, the feature of their play being the vigorous batting of Mr Newham and Killick, while the score reached 395 in five hours of actual cricket at a cost of five batsmen. The turf was beautifully true and the bowling was easy to play.

To begin with there was a fine piece of work by K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr Fry, who added 86 in three-quarters of an hour. Ranjitsinhji played on at 126, after having been in an hour and a quarter for 54, in which were nine fours. But the absorbing feature of the day was the play of Mr Newham and Killick. They became partners when four men were out for 144 and, in two hours and a half, put together 171 runs. Mr Newham, who was then leg-before, hit 13 fours and four threes. Killick, who forced the game well, might have been easily caught by Mr Lionel Palairet at third man when four, but otherwise there was no fault to find with his innings. Bean helped Killick to add 80 in the last hour.

K S RANJITSINHJI'S BATTING. – Yesterday the famous Indian batsman was the first to reach an aggregate of 2,000 runs in first-class cricket this season.

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

Heavy scoring again characterized the cricket of Taunton yesterday, for after the prolonged Sussex innings there was quite a delightful 100 from the old Oxford captain, Mr L C H Palairet, who with his brother added 174 in two hours for the second Somerset wicket. He forced the game in wonderful style and secured five fours in an over from Mr Fry in which there were two no-balls.

Somerset's attack was weakened by Tyler's injured hand and the indisposition of Nichols, but Sussex still took things very quietly yesterday morning. They increased their overnight score of 395 for five to 559, and Killick, who was 116 not out overnight, went to 191 as the result of six hours' batting. Killick had sundry lives, beginning with one to Mr L C H Palairet when he was only 4, but otherwise he played fine cricket, and his chief hits were 26 fours, nine threes and 12 twos. The present position of the game points to little else than a draw.

Day 3 (report from Monday 10 August, page 11)

Heavy scoring marked this match at Taunton to its end, which came abruptly through a rainstorm late on Saturday afternoon. In three days, 1,035 runs were recorded and only 16 wickets fell.

The Somerset innings was made remarkable by the brilliant batting of Mr Lionel Palairet and by the steadiness and success of his brother. The partnership for the second wicket between them lasted two hours and three-quarters and yielded 249 runs. Mr L C H Palairet was the first to go, Bean bringing off a fine running catch at mid-off to dismiss him. There was scarcely an ill-timed stroke in his long innings, while his chief hits were 26 fours, three threes and five twos. Mr R C N Palairet was in an hour longer than his brother, whose figures he exceeded by two. Soon after passing the

100 he gave a sharp chance to K S Ranjitsinhji at point; but generally a steady excellence characterized his game. His 156 included 22 fours, four threes and nine twos.

Rain prevented any play between 1.30 and 3.20, after which there was fine batting by Mr Roe, who was in with Captain Hedley when the follow-on was saved. At a quarter to 5 rain set in again and the match was drawn . . .

6 August: YORKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4638.html)

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

Yorkshire established an advantage in this match at Harrogate yesterday, for they finished the day with six wickets in hand and only 60 runs behind the visitors' score. Hampshire, on a soft pitch, fared badly; but Barton and Mr Lacey did well in spite of Wainwright's destructive bowling.

The great feature of the Yorkshire innings was the innings of Brown, who made 73 out of 116 in 100 minutes. Neither Lord Hawke nor Mr Jackson was able to play for Yorkshire.

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

Yesterday's cricket at Harrogate was marked by the fine batting of Brown and Hirst and the bowling of Schofield Haigh, who came out with a wonderful analysis. Going on in Hampshire's second innings, when the score was 50, Haigh took the last eight wickets for 35 runs; and the end of all this was that Yorkshire won the match by ten wickets.

The home side established their first advantage when Brown and Hirst became partners and put on 135 for the fifth wicket. Beyond an escape at 64 Brown made no mistake, and in the three hours of his play he hit 17 fours, two threes and ten twos. Hampshire paid dearly for missing Hirst – who among other hits made 12 fours – when that player was a single. This vigorous batting turned the game and, although Yorkshire were only 90 ahead in the first innings, they had but 32 to get to win. Hampshire batted one short owing to the illness of Hitchcock.

Friday 7 August, page 9: Melbourne, Aug. 6

The action of the Australian Cricket Council in ordering Trott's team to forgo their matches in New Zealand, Tasmania and Queensland, and to return to Australia on November 30, is strongly supported by local cricketers and the Press. Their refusal to submit is generally condemned, and the council are urged to disqualify them. – Our Correspondent

The fight for the championship continues very keen. Yorkshire have four more matches to play – namely, with Leicestershire, Middlesex, Sussex and Kent – and Surrey five, with Kent, Lancashire, Gloucestershire, Derbyshire and Somerset. Subjoined are the results up to the present:-

	Proportion of Points						to Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points		
Matches							
Yorkshire	22	14	3	6	11	.647	
Lancashire	16	10	3	3	7	.538	
Surrey	21	15	5	1	10	.5	
Middlesex	11	6	3	2	3	.3	
Essex	10	4	3	3	1	.143	
The other counties' results are:							
Nottinghamshire	11	4	4	3	0		
Derbyshire	13	4	5	4	-1		
Kent	12	4	6	2	-2		
Hampshire	13	3	7	2	-4		
Leicestershire	11	2	6	3	-4		
Somerset	14	2	7	5	-5		
Sussex	13	2	7	4	-5		
Gloucestershire	15	4	9	2	-5		
Warwickshire	14	2	3	4	-8		

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

Saturday 8 August, page 11: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

WITHDRAWAL OF ENGLISH PROFESSIONALS

The disaffection among the majority of the professionals chosen as members of the England side in the third of the great test match[es], beginning at the Oval on Monday, which has led to the refusal of Lohmann, Richardson, Hayward, Gunn and Abel to play, will produce a feeling of both anger and regret in all who take an interest in the game.

The usual professional fee for these matches has been £10 and expenses. Early this week the professionals named signed a written demand to the Surrey executive for £20. The Surrey committee, without discussing the merits of the case, naturally refused to be dictated to by professional cricketers who had played at Lord's and Manchester under the regular terms, and the consequence is that they have reconstructed the English eleven. Had the professionals shown more tact by approaching the Surrey Club in a less dictatorial manner, the committee would no doubt have discussed the matter with them and the difference that has arisen would probably have never occurred.

For some time there has been a lurking discontent among professionals that while the "gates" of late years have so vastly grown they have not been allowed to share in the increased profits of the game. The big attendances at the Australian matches have served to increase the desire for higher pay. But the professionals should have sought some other means than an attempt to force the hands of Surrey in the week preceding such a great test at cricket as England v Australia. And their action may lose them some of the sympathy which they would otherwise have had from the public.

The representative character of this last test match is much injured. Mere loyalty to the Surrey Club should have prevented the Surrey professionals from adopting the course they have chosen to follow. We are officially informed that the English eleven will now, as far as can be see, be constituted thus:-

Dr Grace, Mr Stoddart, Mr Jackson, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr Maclaren, Captain Wynyard, J T Hearne, Pouher, Lilley, Peel and either Mold or Hirst.

Monday 10 August, page 11

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

THE SURREY COMMITTEE AND THEIR PROFESSIONALS

Wise counsel prevailed with three of the Surrey professionals, who had refused to play without the doubling of their fees, and late on Saturday Hayward, Richardson and Abel, having reconsidered their position and its relationship to the county committee, unreservedly placed themselves at the service of the Surrey officials. Mr C W Alcock, the secretary, received this intimation on Saturday night; but nothing was done in the matter and the whole position will be discussed in committee this morning, when Sir Richard Webster, the president of the club, will be present.

The English professionals never dreamed of the trouble that their demand for extra payment would cause, but confidently hoped that the Surrey committee would fall in with their views. But it was

the clumsy and almost arrogant manner in which their demand was made which left the Surrey Club only one policy to adopt, and that was to reinvite the men to play on the £10 and expenses terms, and then, on their refusal, to look to other quarters for the completion of the England side.

The action of the Surrey Club in refusing to be dictated to by those whom they employ has been generally commended. In the interests of English cricket the Oval executive, having practically got their way, will be wise this morning if they take a liberal view of the situation and make the side as nearly as possible to agree with their original intentions. The condition of the ground will be a serious subject to consider and will, no doubt, influence them in once more reconstructing their side. With the prospect of a soft pitch the batting is the thing that must be strengthened; but no doubt Richardson will be brought back into the eleven.

The professionals, if they have erred in their method of ventilating what is certainly a grievance, have brought the subject of their cricket remuneration very prominently before the public. There has long been a strong feeling that the rates of payment should be revised since the "gates" and general profits of matches have in these last ten years so enormously increased; and the discontent is no longer hidden since the professionals see the amount of money the Australians are making in their tour through England. But it must be remembered that all counties have not the wealth possessed by Surrey, who are in the fortunate position of having the Oval from the estate of the Duchy of Cornwall at a peppercorn rent.

Surrey have invariably treated their professionals with much generosity. And the way they behave to George Lohmann when that player fell ill, and their sending Maurice Read as companion with him to South Africa, are still fresh in the memory of the cricket world. Various other instances could be mentioned of their generosity to their players. Such counties as Essex, Derbyshire or even Nottinghamshire could not in their present position increase their expenses very largely.

Whatever the outcome of the dispute that has occurred, and however beneficial to the professionals in the end, the "strike," as it has been termed, has been a great grief to the best lovers of the game. Loyalty to the Surrey Club and patriotism for English cricket should have been a sufficient incentive to the players to have practised self-denial a while longer.

Saturday's heavy rainstorm was followed yesterday by several severe showers and then a heavy rain, and if play is possible this morning the wicket will probably be slow and false. The Oval has wonderful recuperative powers; but the conditions for the third test match can scarcely be so fair as every one had hoped. Beyond the little holiday function at Bexhill-on-Sea the Australians have not lost a match since their last defeat by England at Lord's, and among their wins has been the one over England at Manchester. In the past week the side again showed form of a nature that makes the friends of England anxious as to the result of the game beginning to-day.

The committee at the Oval this morning will have to decide what change to make in their eleven published officially on Saturday – namely, Dr Grace, Mr Stoddart, Mr Jackson, Mr McLaren, K S Ranjitsinhji, Captain Wynyard, Pougher, Lilley, J T Hearne, Peel and either Hirst or Mold, now that they can command the services of Hayward, Abel and Richardson. As usual, the Australians will not make up their side until this morning.

10 August: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4639.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 August, page 9)

The regrettable strike of the professionals had scarcely been disposed of when the Surrey committee, presided over by Sir Richard Webster, had a fresh difficulty to encounter. Some irresponsible statements had been circulated on the subject of expenses paid to amateurs, and in consequence England was threatened with the loss of the services of both Dr W G Grace and Mr Stoddart. As a matter of fact, Mr Stoddart did decline to play in the end, as he was not quite himself, and he gave way to Mr Maclaren.

Dr W G Grace was much disturbed by the statements which had appeared in portions of the Press; but he was at last prevailed upon to captain the side, the Surrey executive at the same time issuing a declaration as to the amounts of expenses paid to Dr W G Grace on the occasions of his invitations to play at the Oval. The executive met soon after 10 o'clock and had a prolonged sitting. They had before them the letter from Richardson, Hayward and Abel, expressing regret that the county could not increase the fees for this match, but placing their services unreservedly at the disposal of the committee. All three players were brought into the side again, while Pougher, Hirst and Mold were left out.

Then it became a question of Mr Stoddart or Mr Maclaren, and the former at his own request did not play. So the Surrey committee, after great anxiety and trouble, at length completed their side. The committee felt very much the lack of gratitude shown by their professionals, towards some of whom they have behaved with a lavish generosity. The average lover of cricket, too, has been much pained that all this haggling about fees should arise on the eve of the great test match in which England's cricket reputation is at stake.

Other causes were at work, both on Sunday and yesterday, to destroy the value of the game as a true test of the merits of all England and Australia, and these were many rainstorms. And now the match looks like becoming a scramble on a soft and false pitch, which makes the practice of true cricket almost an impossibility. So the first day of this all-absorbing contest was limited to an hour and a half's play, beginning about 5 o'clock. In this time the Englishmen scored 69 at the cost of Dr Grace's wicket. With the turf easy and the ball cutting straight through the surface, they should have forced the game rather more than they did. Mr Trumble and Mr Giffen were certainly keeping a nice length, and so would most bowlers of that pace unless they were hit. Mr Jackson, however, showed once more what a good batsman he is on all wickets.

England, for once, won the toss – Mr Trott had been successful in both of the other representative matches – and it was an occasion when the choice of first innings was of inestimable worth. With the wind fresh from the north-east, the pitch, if no more rain falls this morning, may roll out fairly true; but it would take a long time to be well rid of the effects of the downpour which was experienced before luncheon yesterday and which simply swamped the ground.

To prevent the recurrence of such scenes as occurred in Notts v Surrey on Bank Holiday, the crowd was not allowed inside the enclosure; but there was a space of eight or ten yards allowed from the usual boundary of seats to the circular rope which kept the people back. The gates of the Oval were opened about 10 o'clock, and long before midday there were over 10,000 persons present. In spite of the rainstorm which came soon after midday the people still flowed freely into the Surrey

ground, and the full attendance ran to about 16,000, 13,411 of whom paid the shilling admission.

Altogether the crowd took this long spell of waiting for cricket extremely well, although there was a section here and there who, failing to understand the condition of the turf, shouted for play as soon as there was a ray of sunshine. Phillips and Hearn made sundry visits to the wicket; but it was with some diffidence that they decided there should be any play at all, for the ground was terribly soft at one end particularly, where the rain had settled. Under these conditions the bowlers and fieldsmen found considerable difficulty in getting a foothold, while things for the batsmen were not improved by a mist that came up from the ground.

It may be of interest to state that, excepting Captain Wynyard and Peel, all the English side had played in one or other of the previous test matches, which had left "honours easy," as, while England won at Lord's, the Australians were successful at Manchester. The visitors are leaving out Mr Eady, Mr Graham and Mr Johns from their team, and their record up to the present shows 16 wins, four losses and six drawn games.

The sun had been shining for a long time, when at half-past four the bell rang for play amid loud applause from the crowd, who had become weary of waiting and of viewing the vacant enclosure which they were not allowed to enter. Some 20 minutes were absorbed in marking the creases, but just before 5 o'clock a start was made, Grace and Jackson beginning the English batting. Giffen from the pavilion end opened the bowling with his field thus:- Kelly, wicket; Trott, point; Trumble, slip; Donnan, third man; M'Kibbin, mid-on; Gregory, cover-point; Jones, mid-off; Iredale, long-on; Darl, short-leg; Hill, long-off. Grace played the first over, which was a maiden.

Trumble placed his field for Jackson as follows:- Kelly, wicket; Giffen, slip; Trott, point; Iredale, third man; Gregory, cover-point; Jones, mid-off; Darling, long-off; Donnan, long-on; Hill, short leg; M'Kibbin, mid-on. It was left to Jackson to open the scoring with a very good single, the ball being well played wide of cover-point.

Both batsmen exercised much care, and with the pitch so dead it was a trouble to get the ball away at all. Grace made a lofty hit towards long-on that brought him only a single, and then from Trumble he obtained five in two hits from good strokes on the leg side. It was a case of singles mostly; the bowlers kept a nice length and were difficult to hit. Grace mistimed a ball from Giffen that hit his pads, but he was given not out on an appeal for leg-before. A drive for three by Jackson preceded a spell of great quietude, and 30 minutes passed away with only 15 runs made. Good bowling and fielding continued, and it was 50 minutes before Jackson secured the first four - a square-leg hit from Giffen.

The rate of run-getting increased after this, and there was a fine hit by Jackson, who got a full pitch from Giffen well away to the boundary. Then came a cheer as Grace, with a couple, sent up 50 at the end of 65 minutes. However, at 54, Grace, playing forward to Giffen, put up the ball to point, and Trott in making the catch low down fell over.

Ranjitsinhji had a hearty reception from the company. Knowing the ability of that batsman on the leg side Trott at once strengthened his field in that direction and put a short-leg on and brought mid-on more forward. Each bowler failed in an appeal for leg-before against Ranjitsinhji, and then by careful play the score was taken to 69, when stumps were drawn for the day . . . #

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 August, page 12)

The Australian eleven played the better cricket at Kennington Oval yesterday, and under conditions which had they utterly failed would have exempted them from blame – for they have much less experience of soft wickets than our cricketers – attained a position that almost promises success. England, with the first five batsmen on the side gone in the second innings, are only 86 runs to the good, and if there is no more rain the pitch is sure to improve, and will thus lighten whatever task the visitors may be set to perform to-day.

The Australian fielding as a whole was better than that of England and, apart from Hearne's and Peel's spell with the ball after luncheon, their bowlers seemed to make much more of the false state of the wicket than the home men, while, to crown everything, their share of that important element of the game – the luck – was, as usual, the larger. Naturally there must be a good deal of fortune on a pitch the condition of which makes it impossible to time the ball with any degree of certainty, so that the men who got runs yesterday often put the ball through the slips when they were playing to drive. And there was much of this seen in the stand for the first Australian wicket, which had such an important influence on the character of the match. Seventy-five on such a false piece of turf in 45 minutes, and against Peel, Hearne and Richardson, was simply wonderful, and Mr Darling, if he did make many "snicks," also made many fine drives. While these men were together things began to grow very ominous for England; but there was nothing much else done against the bowling of Hearne and Peel.

What started the Australian collapse was an ill-judged attempt for a fifth run. Dr Grace had put Hearne on at the right end after luncheon, and it was from that place that he bowled for nearly two hours and got the six wickets, while had he held two difficult return catches both Mr Iredale and Mr Trott would have fallen to him. Indeed, the bowlers were the chief figures in yesterday's play.

England's disasters in the morning only set in when Mr Trumble crossed over and went on at the pavilion end at 114, when only three wickets were down; and from that point he had this wonderful analysis –

9 overs (three maidens), 10 runs, 5 wickets.

So Mr Trumble once more proved his usefulness to the side. His beautiful pitch and break and his variation of pace make him a very dangerous man to batsmen if the wicket helps the ball. And England, after the capital start, did far less than was expected. With the pitch so bad and the bowling possessed of such a fine length the usual hitting game was not very profitable. It was a day when runs had to be made by hook or by crook; and it was a case of scraping them together all the time.

How triumphant was the ball may be demonstrated by the fall of 24 such wickets as those of yesterday for an aggregate of 255 runs. Some of the best strokes of the day were made by Abel and Mr Maclarens, while the latter's beautiful fielding at long-off saved his side many runs. Mr Trott placed his field with Remarkable judgment; indeed, he is a most excellent captain of a very good side. With first innings England ought certainly to have secured a better position; but the wicket was worse in the last hour and it seemed hard enough to keep the ball off the stumps without thinking of scoring. Hearne threw into his bowling after luncheon much of his old sting. He hit the wicket five times, and in other cases he got through the defence without dismissing the batsmen. But the handicap under which the defence laboured will, whatever be the result, leave a regret that the great game to decide the rubber of the three test matches could not have been played through on a good hard wicket.

Mr Chamberlain, who was accompanied by Mrs Chamberlain and Lord Ampthill, visited the Oval in the afternoon, and among the company there were also Lord James of Hereford, the Earl of Jersey, the Earl of Darnley and Sir Richard Webster, the president of the Surrey Club.

The prospect of an exciting struggle on the treacherous turf had increased the interest in the match, and the huge crowd was able to watch the game under very favourable conditions. Once or twice the sky became clouded, but the weather was mostly bright, and had there been longer spells of sunshine in the early part of the day the wicket might have been even worse. The company numbered nearly 29,000, of whom 25,367 paid for admission, and throughout showed a happy impartiality in their applause. There was some curiosity as to how the spectators would receive Hayward, Richardson and Abel, and it must be said that all three men were cheered as heartily as ever they were on the Oval.

The wicket was in a very bad way for batsmen when, shortly after half-past 11, the English innings, in which one wicket was down for 69, was resumed by Jackson and Ranjitsinhji. There were a few good hits by Jackson from Giffen and Trumble; but at 78 Jackson, in playing forward, put up a ball to short mid-on. The old Cambridge captain had played a fine innings of 45, the merit of which was greatly increased by the difficulties under which the batsmen was labouring.

England had not long to wait for another disaster, for Ranjitsinhji, in playing back to Giffen, was completely beaten and bowled, the score still being 78. Abel had received a hearty round of applause as he went in, and Maclarens was also warmly greeted. Both batsmen found the bowling extremely difficult, for the ball rose untruly from the bad pitch and broke badly. So there were sundry misjudged hits and the score advanced mostly by singles, but here and there was a good stroke. Trumble had his field placed in a way not often seen in these days of the off-bowling theory. There were five men on the leg side, while point was dispensed with altogether.

Twenty-one had been made in the first half-hour, and then Abel had an easy ball to hit from Giffen, and he promptly sent it to the leg boundary. Then the crowd had something to cheer in the way of fine hitting by Maclarens, who scored ten in one over from Giffen; eight of the runs were got by drives, the first carrying the ball among the members in the pavilion seats. Abel soon afterwards made four from a fine drive, and then Trott at 113 decided to change his bowling, bringing on M'Kibbin with his slow big break and giving Trumble a turn at the pavilion end for Giffen. This latter alteration was that which paid, for with the first and last balls of the over Trumble bowled out Maclarens and Hayward, who were both playing forward to him. The Abel-Maclarens partnership was full of brightness, and the 36 runs it yielded were made in as many minutes. Maclarens played particularly well for his 20.

Still, after the 100 had gone up with only three men out, five for 114 was a great change in the situation. The wicket grew worse every minute, and Abel at 18 gave Trumble a difficult return chance to the left hand. Wynyard made some good hits, one particularly fine off-drive to the boundary. But his attempts to force the game soon led to his dismissal, for he skied the ball to a great height and was well caught in the long field; while the score was still 132 when Peel put one up in the slips and the ball was turned by Darling into Donnan's hand.

Seven men were now out for 132, and with three runs only added Abel was dexterously caught by Trumble, the bowler, who stretched sideways and held the ball with his left hand. Abel had played excellently for his 26 and he had a good cheer as he returned to the pavilion. Lilley was well caught in the long field and a "yorker" on the leg stump disposed of Hearne, and the innings, which extended altogether over three and a quarter hours, came to an end at a quarter past 1 for 145.

Trumble carried off the bowling honours with a fine record of six wickets for 59 runs.

The Australians went in at 25 minutes to 1, Darling and Iredale being the first batsmen, while Peel started the bowling from the gasometer end with his field thus:- Lilley, wicket; Ranjitsinhji, slip; Hayward, third man; Grace, point; Jackson, cover-point; Hearne, mid-off; Abel, long-on; Maclarens, square-leg (deep); Richardson, mid-on; Wynyard, short-leg. Darling, who is left-handed, got Peel away to leg for four, and obtaining a single as well he reached the other end to take Hearne's first over.

To Hearne the field was:- Grace, point; Lilley, wicket; Ranjitsinhji, slip; Hayward, long-off; Jackson, cover-point; Wynyard, forward short-leg; Richardson, mid-on; Abel, extra slip; Maclarens, third man; Peel, mid-off. Darling snicked Hearne to leg for three, and then in the next over he was almost bowled, as also was Iredale. But the batsmen survived sundry balls that beat them, while Darling gave Peel a possible return chance.

Shortly afterwards Hayward was at fault through not starting soon enough to go for the ball from a big drive which should have been almost a catch to him. Iredale was the fortunate batsman. The best thing for a long time was a fine drive by Darling on to the pavilion, while when Richardson came on Iredale scored ten in his second over – four to leg and four by a drive; and by luncheon time the score had reached 43 as the result of 25 minutes' play.

After lunch Grace started his bowling with Hayward and Hearne, the latter being on at the opposite end to that from which he bowled in the morning. Lilley should have caught Darling from Hayward's first ball, while Hearne had a return catch from Iredale that he failed to hold. The ball went back low and Hearne fell in his attempt to hold it. Hayward was bowling rather poor stuff and Richardson soon displaced him. Darling got some lucky things through the slips, and then at 75, in attempting a fifth run for one of these snicks, Iredale lost his wicket. It was very bad judgment on the part of Iredale, whose share of the first partnership of 75 in three-quarters of an hour was 30.

Darling did not long survive Iredale, for only two runs were added when in attempting to cut he gave third man an easy catch. His 47 was a fine display of courageous cricket and his innings lasted only 50 minutes. With Trott and Giffen together Peel was, at 81, put on for Richardson, and in his second over he bowled out Trott, who had given a hard return chance to Hearne.

Disasters now fell thickly upon the Australians, who while the score was in the eighties lost four wickets. Trott had left at 82, Gregory was bowled at 83, Hill was run out our 84 and Giffen, after being in half an hour without scoring, was also dismissed at 85. Indeed, in the course of half an hour the game had undergone a wonderful change, for whereas 75 had appeared without any wicket having fallen six went in the next 30 minutes for an addition of ten runs.

Six for 85 was the record when Donnan and Kelly became partners. The former played very soundly and made several fine drives. Maclarens fielded splendidly and saved a lot of runs in the vicinity of long-off, his efforts being warmly cheered by the crowd. Meantime, Kelly was playing steadily but he made a lot of bad hits. It was a fine cut by Donnan that brought up the 100 after as many minutes' play, and then Kelly narrowly escaped being caught by Grace at point. At last Donnan in playing forward to Hearne was beaten and had his leg stump bowled down. It had been a partnership of three-quarters of an hour, during which 27 runs were added.

Seven men were now out for 117, and in another quarter of an hour the innings was finished off. Hearne bowled out Trumble and M'Kibbin, and Jones was well caught in the long field, the last

wicket falling at a quarter to 5 for 119. Hearne had bowled very well and his analysis gave him an average of less than seven runs for his six wickets.

With a lead of 26 runs the Englishmen began their second innings just after 5 o'clock. Grace kept to his original order of going in, and the bowlers were Trumble and M'Kibbin. There were a few good singles and twos; but at 11 Trumble bowled out Jackson, and a single later "W.G." in going forward to him was also beaten and bowled. The loss of these two great batsmen for a mere dozen runs cast something of a gloom over the friends of England. Trumble and M'Kibbin were both bowling splendidly, and Ranjitsinhji and Abel were beaten by the break time after time. There were many false hits before M'Kibbin sent Ranjitsinhji up a loose one that was promptly driven for four; but the latter was well stumped at 24, so that with three of the best men gone England were only 50 runs on.

There was still some three-quarters of an hour left for play when Maclaren joined Abel. The batting continued a little uncertain but there was a good stroke now and again. The bowling was very difficult to play and the fielding was very true. The batsmen exercised extreme care alike in their defence and their running. Maclaren was almost caught by Jones at mid-off, the fieldsman partially stopping the ball with his right hand. With a quarter of an hour still to play Jones was given a trial at the gasometer end, and when Abel had made seven by three cuts Jones dismissed Maclaren, whose leg stump he bowled. Twenty-six runs had been added in 35 minutes.

Hayward arrived and cut Jones for four, and at 56 Abel was cleverly caught high up right hand by Giffen at short mid-on. He had batted carefully for his 21. Five for 56 was a losing game for England; but Hayward and Wynyard prevented further disaster, and at the drawing stumps England, with five men left, were 86 runs ahead.

THE SURREY PLAYERS AND THE COUNTY COMMITTEE

At the Oval last evening the Surrey professionals, Lohmann, Richardson, Hayward and Abel, signed the following statement with a request that the Press would publish it as explaining their recent action in asking for increase of payment for the England v Australia match:-

"As we, the undersigned, have been blamed for waiting until the eve of the test match before approaching the Surrey committee on the question of remuneration we would like, with your permission, to state the facts. Abel, Hayward and Richardson were told on Friday night, July 31, that they had been selected to play, but it was the following day, August 1, that we received official intimation.

On the Monday following (August 3) all four of us, with Gunn, drew up a letter and sent it to the committee. This letter was received by Mr Alcock on the same day, and during the afternoon the secretary wrote to us acknowledging receipt of our letter and stating that its contents would be considered by the committee on the following Thursday (August 6). The public were made aware of our position on the Friday, and they apparently came to the conclusion that we had waited until the eleventh hour before making our application, whereas the fact is we asked to increased remuneration as soon as we received the invited to play, and our letter was received by the Surrey committee one week before the date of the match.

We would like to take this opportunity of saying that we have no grievance whatever against the Surrey committee, but we express the hope that, in future, professionals will receive a higher wage

in these important representative matches. We applied at Lord's after the first test match and were refused. At Manchester we asked for our expenses, which, up to the present, we have not received."

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 August, page 6)

The wonderful victory by 66 runs gained by England, at Kennington Oval, yesterday, decides for the present year, as far as any declaration is possible, the question of the superiority of English over Australian cricket. The rich resources of this country in a game so well fostered at the public schools and by the counties were well brought out on the eve of this great test match when the Surrey authorities, in disagreement with their professionals, had to reorganize the English side, which they made very strong without the refractory players.

Few would deny that the game as played in this country is of much greater brilliancy than that of our visitors. But the latter, by soundness and doggedness, and with the confidence that comes of always playing together, have been exceedingly successful in this tour; and although England won yesterday in a substantial manner, the true cricketer would rather have seen the deciding test match played through on a good hard wicket and with the conditions equal. Soft wickets are the exception in the colonies, so that Australian batsmen are at a greater disadvantage when such wickets have to be dealt with in England than our own men are.

The side indeed are to be congratulated on the fine fight they made in this third test match, and to say the better team won is no discredit to an eleven who are yet unbeaten by an English county, and who can lay claim to the distinction of having beaten England on a hard wicket at Manchester, although it was something of a scramble at the finish on that occasion. But in spite of all the fine successes of Mr Trott's team, those who remember the splendid 1882 eleven and the wonderful ability of Mr F R Spofforth, one of the greatest bowlers that ever played, will not change their opinion that the 1882 was the finest Australian team that has visited us.

After the incidents of the first two days there was a general feeling that England were in for a beating, and to support this opinion there was the apparent probability of an improvement in the wicket that would lighten the task of the Australians in the fourth innings. But what happened was that the wicket did not improve; in cricket language it remained "sticky" from the effects of the night's dew, and the game was played out before the turf had any time to rid itself of its dampness. Here, then, is the secret of all the batting failures; and all the wonderful triumphs of Trumble, Peel and Hearne.

It was actually well for England that the balance of their innings did yesterday morning collapse, for the pitch must have grown better as the day went on. The deadliness of the Australian bowling augured well for the English attack, although no one dreamed of the sensational dismissal of the visitors. Almost before the spectators could realize that England were easily winning a game that seemed against them overnight, seven Australians were out for 14 runs; but the efforts of the other men prevented the side from failing as they failed for 18 against the M.C.C. at Lord's, although the total of 44 fell nine short of their score in the first of the representative matches.

The wonderful pitch and break of J T Hearne, of Middlesex, was the first cause of the Australian collapse; he found his length at once, and by bowling out Mr Darling, the most dangerous bat on the side under the conditions, turned the game for England in his first over. Then he got two more wickets without a run being scored from him, while Peel afterwards, with his left-hand slows and

his ability to break either way, completed the discomfiture of the Australians, who were got out in an hour and a quarter for 44. The bowling of Hearne and Peel only added to the mystery that the visitors should have done so well in the first innings against them.

It is easy to play a winning game; yet nothing could have been more brilliant in cricket than the manner of the English bowling and fielding yesterday. The bowling figures of Mr Trumble, Hearne and Peel are all well worthy of study. It was never the wicket for the great Surrey player, Richardson, who in the few overs he sent down in the two days did not get out one batsman. How great was the triumph of the ball yesterday will be gleaned from the fact that 15 wickets went down for 68 runs. So the great match, to which additional attention was drawn by the regrettable action of various of the leading professionals, was won well for England, the result coming as something of a surprise after the position in which it had been left on Tuesday night.

When the game was over there was a remarkable scene of enthusiasm as the thousands of people made a rush for the pavilion; and the company before dispersing insisted on seeing and cheering the leading characters of both sides, a special outburst greeting both Peel and Hearne. The spectators had seen an exciting morning's play and were, of course, well pleased with the result; but it did credit to an English cricket crowd to see that they did not forget the side who had been worsted only after a hard fight. Lord James of Hereford and the Earl of Jersey again watched the play from the pavilion. During the three days over 48,000 paid for admission to the Oval, so that the match was very lucrative both to the Surrey Club and the Australians.

The critical position in which England stood at the end of Tuesday in no way, it would seem, affected the interest in the match, for there was a crowd 10,000 strong to see the home side resume their innings, in which the first five men in the eleven had been lost for 60 runs, so that England were only 86 ahead. Most people expected to find the wicket greatly improved; but it was still "sticky" and the heavy rolling it received in no way seemed to improve it. Wynyard and Hayward, the not-outs, went on with the game at 11.35.

M'Kibbin's first over was very fruitful. Wynyard got three from a leg snick and Hayward made a single and a pretty cut for three; and then to Trumble's bowling England's disasters were renewed. From Trumble's first ball Hayward gave short-leg quite a gentle catch, while his successor, Peel, in the same over was missed by Giffen at mid-off. The score remained at 67 for four overs while Wynyard was well caught at wicket wide on the off side and Peel played on, the latter having failed to score in each innings. Hearne made the only single that was recorded for some time, and then M'Kibbin bowled him, off stump, and nine wickets were down for 68.

Richardson and Lilley infused life into the batting with some well-run singles, and Lilley showed much judgment in managing generally to get the bowling. How closely the crowd watched the play may be gathered from the fact that there was a big cheer for the single that took the score to 74, which meant that England were 100 runs on. Another ten runs were scraped together, and then came Lilley's dismissal – caught at cover-point – and with it the end of the innings for 84, a total which had taken two hours to put together. During the morning the last five English wickets had fallen in half an hour for the addition of 24 runs. Trumble had again bowled splendidly, and his 12 wickets in the double innings were got for 89 runs.

For those who did not thoroughly understand the condition of the pitch 111 seemed much too small a task to set the Australians for the Englishmen to have much chance of winning. The visitors began the last innings of the match at 12.25, Trott adhering to his original order. Grace started the bowling with Richardson and Hearne, the latter at the Vauxhall end. The former sent down a

maiden over at a great pace; but the pitch was unsuited to him. Hearne, however, got his length at once, and his third ball broke across the wicket and bowled the top of Darling's off stump.

Not a run had been scored when Trott joined Iredale. The Australian captain was almost out in the same over; but he played the last ball correctly. Grace at once put on Peel for Richardson, and this proved a wise change. Iredale led the scoring by getting a ball from Peel that was too far up away to the off for three; but he reached the other end only to be caught easily at mid-on by Jackson. Two for three.

If anything was to steady the Australian game it was the partnership next existent – namely, Giffen and Trott. But the bowling was very deadly, and with Peel coming both ways and with Hearne getting a fine break from a beautiful length the times of the batsmen were not happy. Peel had not quite got his length and was overpitching the balls, so that seven runs were scraped together from him, during the accumulation of which, however, he nearly had Trott stumped. Hearne was bowling in a way that would have baffled the finest batting; his perfect length and his great break were wonderful. Twice he got through Giffen, and in the second instance the ball shot and Giffen touched it as it went into the wicket. The score was only seven, and Hearne's analysis at this point read thus:-

4 overs 4 balls (4 maidens), no runs, 3 wickets.

The crowd took to applauding the maiden overs, but they soon had something better to which to devote their applause in the shape of a great catch low down at mid-off by Brockwell, fielding substitute for Ranjitsinhji, who had injured his foot. Brockwell held a hard drive, leaning sideways, from Trott. Four for seven was the score as Hill arrived, when the innings was only 30 minutes old. Gregory, the other batsman, then made the first runs from Hearne's bowling; it was a lucky four past Abel at short-slip, and to a fieldsman of greater stature it would have been a catch. This brought the score to 11, so that the Australians were within 100 of their required total. But Hill was completely beaten by Hill's leg break, and five men were down for 11 runs.

Donnan joined Gregory, who managed twice just to scrape the ball from Hearne out of his wicket, and then the new batsman in hitting at Peel's off break have third man (Hayward was fielding very close in) an easy catch. With six men gone for 11 runs the memories of the Lord's 18 score were revived. Kelly, who has the reputation of steadiness, arrived, and two maiden overs were applauded by the crowd. The batsmen stole a single, and then Gregory cut Peel for two, only to be almost bowled by the next ball. Kelly in playing right back to Hearne nearly turned the ball into his wicket, after which came the dismissal of Gregory, who in hitting at Peel gave Richardson at short-leg the simplest of catches. Seven for 14. Trumble and Kelly were not long together, for after a cut for two by the latter and a similar stroke for three by Trumble Kelly was out to a very palpable case of leg-before to Peel, the ball pitching on his foot, which was covering the middle stump. Eight for 19.

Jones is a reputed hitter and both bowlers deepened their field for him. He began with a drive for two, which Jackson seemed slow in getting down to, while Trumble made a three from Hearne. But the score was only 25 when Jones had a good hard hit at Peel and, missing the ball, was bowled leg stump. M'Kibbin, the last man, arrived and at once began to hit at everything. This policy paid for a brief time; but both Hearne and Peel almost bowled him. Various twos and one four were recorded to him. A grand piece of fielding by Maclaren at long-on saved three runs and was loudly applauded. Then M'Kibbin got Hearne away to leg for four; but in the same over a fine right-hand catch by Abel at short-slip dismissed him, and England won by 66 runs.

The Australian innings lasted about an hour and a quarter. Peel took six wickets for 23 runs, while Hearne's double analysis gave him a splendid record for ten for 60.

LOHMAN AND THE SURREY COUNTY CLUB

The following letter has been received by the Surrey Committee from George Lohmann with reference to the recent dispute about the fees for playing in England v Australia, and, with Lohmann's consent, has been forwarded for publication:-

"Gentlemen – I beg hereby to express my sincere apologies for my refusal to sign the document placing myself unreservedly in the hands of the committee (in company with Abel, Hayward and Richardson) on Monday morning. At the time my colleagues signed the withdrawal of the position taken up, I expected William Gunn to be here, and, having associated myself with him, merely decided to wait until his arrival before taking any action. I would add that when the original letter was drawn up my idea was that a request was being preferred instead of a demand being made, and that the expression 'demand,' which I now see to have been so unfortunate, was inserted against my wish and better judgment.

"While tendering my apologies I wish to seize the opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Surrey Club for the many great kindnesses I have received at their hands both in times of health and sickness. My career as a cricketer has been so entirely bound up with the county of Surrey that I should regret if any action of mine caused a rupture with the club, with which my happiest days have been spent, and to which I am so much indebted.

"I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

"GEO. A. LOHMANN.

"P.S.- At the same time I should like to express my grateful thanks to the members and to the public for their hearty support of my benefit match."

10 August: LANCASHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4640.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 August, page 9)

The strength of Derbyshire as a batting side has often been demonstrated this season; but the midland shire have done few better things than that of yesterday, when they made 381 for three wickets against Lancashire at Old Trafford, Manchester. Lancashire were without Mold and Mr Maclaren, both of whom were away at the Oval.

After losing Mr Wright and Bagshaw for 26 runs in half an hour Derbyshire did wonderfully well, and only one other wicket was lost during the day. Chatterton and Davidson played fine cricket and in the course of three hours added 208 runs, while Davidson and Storer in the next two hours put on another 147 without being separated. Chatterton's 104 was an excellent display of sound cricket; he gave no chance and hit 13 fours, three threes and eight twos. The only catch dropped during the day was by Baker, who missed Davidson when that batsman was 78. There was a large attendance of spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 August, page 12)

Remarkable scoring by the Derbyshire eleven yesterday at Old Trafford, Manchester, occurred, with the result that Davidson and Storer, who were not out on Monday evening, made something approaching a record stand for the fourth wicket in important cricket. They were together four and a quarter hours and in this time added 308 runs. This partnership beats by three the highest ever recorded at Old Trafford, the previous best being that by Mr Walter Read and Mr W E Roller for Surrey v Lancashire, in 1887. The highest stand for the fourth wicket was 330 by Gunn and Barnes for M.C.C. v Yorkshire, in 1885, at Lord's.

Derbyshire increased their Monday's figures of 381 for three wickets to 577, the turf, in spite of the rain, remaining easy all day. The last five men, however, were dismissed in half an hour for 24 runs. Davidson, who was fourth to leave at 542, made the third best individual score of the season, the two higher being the 301 by Dr Grace and the 292 by Mr L C H Palairet. He was batting seven and a quarter hours, and beyond chances at 78 and 211, he made few bad hits. Among his figures were 37 fours, 16 threes and 20 twos. Storer scarcely made an ill-judged stroke in his long innings, which extended over four and a half hours, and he hit 18 fours. Lancashire went in for a little while . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 August, page 6)

Lancashire easily saved their match with Derbyshire at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, the game being drawn. Had the visitors fielded a little better in the early hours of the day they might have had perhaps a chance of winning; but any opportunity was lost by the dropped catches.

The home team, who had made 66 overnight for the loss of one wicket, did not complete their innings until ten minutes to 5. Mr Rowley and Paul each played very steadily and obtained the same number of runs. Frank Sugg threw plenty of life into the game; but he was not so good as usual and had sundry escapes. He took two hours and a quarter to make his 96, going in third wicket down at 82 and being sixth to leave at 233; his best hits were 12 fours. There was little time

left for cricket when Lancashire followed on, and the game was drawn . . .

10 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4641.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 11 August, page 9)

Splendid batting by Mr A O Jones and Arthur Shrewsbury, both of whom ran well over the 100, was the feature of yesterday's cricket at Trent-bridge, Nottingham. These players began the Notts innings by making 223 in the course of a three and a half hours' partnership. Although in its early stages the batting was not very productive and nearly two hours were absorbed in the scoring of 88, the cricket was always good to watch. Mr Jones went first through Mr Burnup's bringing off an easy catch at cover-point. Before the bad stroke that got him out he timed the ball beautifully, and he hit 21 fours, five threes and three twos.

After Mr Jones's dismissal four more wickets fell for an addition of 82, and then Gunn, who was suffered from a slight cold and went in late, stayed with Shrewsbury until the drawing of stumps. Shrewsbury played with all his well-known finish, but he made one bad mistake – namely, when at 59 he gave short slip an easy catch, which Alec Hearne failed to hold. There were about 1,500 spectators of the play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 12 August, page 12)

There were two striking features in a batsman's day at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, yesterday, and these were the long and correct innings by Shrewsbury and the brilliant cricket of the old Winchester captain, Mr J R Mason. The bowlers had the worst of the game throughout.

To begin with, Nottinghamshire, in spite of Gunn's illness preventing him from going on with his batting, advanced their overnight score of 326 for five wickets to 430. Shrewsbury went from 133 to 172, and gave no further chance beyond that mentioned yesterday – namely, the catch to Alec Hearne in the slips when 59. Steadiness and finish marked the whole of his seven hours' play and he hit 22 fours.

Then when Notts were all out there came a brilliant start to the visitors' venture, Alec Hearne and Mr Mason making 195 for the first wicket in two and a half hours. The amateur was caught from a skier behind the wicket-keeper. Splendid driving and cutting characterized his play, and in his 131 were 15 fours, four threes and 18 twos. Alec Hearne continued his steady cricket and, helped by Mr Patterson, put on 51 for the second wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 August, page 6)

As might have been expected from the position of the game on Tuesday night, this match at Trent Bridge, Nottingham, ended in a draw. But yesterday's cricket was much different from that of the first two days, for the bowlers had the upper hand.

Kent, who had made 251 for two wickets, completed their innings for an addition of 86; but Alec Hearne was unable to continue his batting owing to a strain. His 81 made on Tuesday was a very good innings and included five fours, six threes and eight twos. Mr Rashleigh played very well for his 33, but there was little else of merit in the balance of the venture.

Notts, who were 93 ahead, began badly and lost four men for 45; but Shrewsbury and Attewell added 51, and the former was only out through a fine piece of fielding by Mr Marchant in the slips. Eventually the home side closed their innings and put Kent in to make 196. Time, however, was too brief to finish the game. Mr Patterson, Mr Burnup and Mr Rashleigh all played good cricket. The game was drawn . . .

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions up to the present are as follows:-

Matches	Proportion of Points						to Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points		
Yorkshire	22	14	3	5	11	.647	
Lancashire	17	10	3	4	7	.538	
Surrey	21	15	5	1	10	.5	
Middlesex	11	6	3	2	3	.3	
Essex	10	4	3	3	1	.142	

The other counties' results are:

Nottinghamshire	12	4	4	4	0	
Derbyshire	14	4	5	5	-1	
Kent	13	4	6	3	-2	
Hampshire	13	3	7	3	-4	
Leicestershire	11	2	6	3	-4	
Somerset	14	2	7	5	-5	
Sussex	13	2	7	4	-5	
Gloucestershire	15	4	9	2	-5	
Warwickshire	14	2	8	4	-6	

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

Tuesday 11 August, page 9: DR W G GRACE AND HIS CRICKET EXPENSES

Mr C W Alcock, on behalf of the Surrey Club, asks us to publish the following declaration:-

"The committee of the Surrey County Cricket Club have observed paragraphs in the Press respecting amounts alleged to be paid or promised to Dr W G Grace for playing in the match England v Australia. The committee desire to give the statements contained in the paragraphs the most unqualified contradiction. During many years on the occasions of Dr W G Grace playing at the Oval at the request of the Surrey county committee in the matches Gentlemen v Players and England v Australia Dr Grace has received the sum of £10 a match to cover his expenses in coming to and remaining in London during the three days. Beyond this amount Dr Grace has not received directly or indirectly one farthing for playing in a match at the Oval."

13 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4642.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 10)

After a pretty good score by Gloucestershire at Bristol yesterday, there was a lamentable failure of the Notts batsmen, with the result that the [visiting] side were left last evening with arrears of 148 and only one wicket to fall.

To begin with, Gloucestershire fared badly on the slow pitch, and Mr Jones got out Wrathall, Mr Hemingway and Mr Sewell in his first three overs. Later on Mr Rice and Mr Townsend made a stand, but then Attewell was tried and met with great success. The chief merit of the home innings was the steady batting of Mr Rice, who went in at the fall of the second wicket for six and was ninth out at 153. He took two and a half hours to make his 68, a very sound display of batting. Mr Champain and Roberts put on 43 in 40 minutes for the last wicket.

With Nottinghamshire in, Mr Townsend bowled with great success and got down six wickets for 25 runs, while nine men were out altogether for 48. The visitors lacked the services of Mr Dixon, Shrewsbury and W Gunn.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 August, page 10)

Brilliant batting by Mr Sewell and Mr Jessop and the effected bowling of the latter and Mr Townsend led yesterday to Gloucestershire's easy victory at Bristol by 307 runs. Nottinghamshire cut a very sorry figure against the bowling of Mr Townsend and Mr Jessop, while their attack was completely beaten when Mr Sewell and Mr Jessop were in.

Gloucestershire, who had a lead on the first venture of 97, played their second innings through in two and a half hours for 262. Mr Champain gave Mr Jessop some assistance, but the latter got 71 off his own bat in an hour out of 106, and he hit eight fours, a three and eleven twos. Before his vigorous display was given Gloucestershire had lost three men, including Dr Grace, for 13 runs. Mr Sewell, who was a member of the South African team, never played a finer innings for Gloucestershire than this 104, made in 90 minutes yesterday; his chief figures were 16 fours, five threes and seven twos.

Notts, who had to get 360 to win, fared worse than ever in their second innings, and Mr Townsend and Mr Jessop got them out for 52. In the match Mr Townsend took 12 wickets for 87 runs and Mr Jessop six for 31.

13 August: HAMPSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4643.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 10)

The Warwickshire eleven were batting nearly the whole of the cricketing hours at Southampton yesterday and completed their innings for 312. Mr Bainbridge, the captain, had the chief share in this capital score. Going in first, he stayed until 283, when he was sixth to leave for 118. It was his first three-figure score for the side this season, although he has done very well for them in figures running from 50 to 90. Beyond a couple of sharp chances to point before reaching 50, he made few bad hits, and his chief contributions were a square-leg hit for six out of the ground, one five, seven fours, six threes and 13 twos, while he had a single increased to five by an overthrow.

There were sundry good partnerships. William Quaife helped his captain to make 72 for the first wicket, Diver stayed while 63 were added, and Lilley and Mr Glover were in during the increase of the score by 69 and 52. Generally the batting was very good.

In a quarter of an hour Hampshire lost one wicket for 21 runs. Mr Barrett, who has acquired a batting reputation at Cheltenham College, and Mr Mariner, of Cranleigh, Surrey, made their first appearance in county cricket for Hampshire.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 August, page 10)

Hampshire came out well in their uphill fight with Warwickshire at Southampton yesterday, and by the aid of Captain Wynyard and Captain Quinton after the follow-on they reached a position that was very credited considering that the arrears on the first innings were 144.

Captain Wynyard played splendid cricket for his 111, made in two and a half hours without a mistake, and his best hits were 16 fours, four threes and 11 twos, while Captain Quinton, who helped him to clear off the deficit after two men had gone for 48, contributed nine fours in a brilliant 53.

In the first innings Mr Robson found useful partners in Mr Barrett, of Cheltenham College, and Mr Steele. The latter was in while 65 were added in 25 minutes for the eighth wicket, and then Mr Robson left at 161; he got his 81 in an hour and three-quarters and hit 13 fours, three threes and six twos. It should be mentioned that Captain Wynyard yesterday completed his 1,000 aggregate for the season. Hampshire are now 71 runs on with four wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 August, page 5)

The ten wickets victory of Warwickshire at Southampton on Saturday was in every way merited by the fine form shown by the eleven in this match. On Friday the good batting of Captain Wynyard and Captain Quinton had in some degree rescued Hampshire from their bad position, and they were 71 ahead with four wickets to fall.

Mr Pillans and Mr Steele made something of a stand on Saturday; but in the end Warwickshire had only to get 110 to win, and as the wicket was in true condition this task they made light of. Mr

Bainbridge, who completed his four-figure aggregate for the season, and William Quaife got the runs in 70 minutes. Quaife hit nine and Mr Maidstone six fours, while the latter in the match scored 164 and was only once out. Pallett's double analysis gave a record of 14 wickets for 141 runs.

13 August: MIDDLESEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4644.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 10)

The batting of various cricketers engaged in this match at Lord's, yesterday, attained a high degree of excellence, and this with much fine bowling and fielding made the day's cricket particularly enjoyable to the 3,000 or 4,000 people who visited the Marylebone ground. Yesterday Mr Webbe was able to put a splendid side in the field, with the exception that neither Mr MacGregor nor Mr Bray was able to appear, so that the pos of wicket-keeper had to be given to J E West.

Middlesex were batting the greater part of the day, and nothing could be better to watch than the finished play of Mr Douglas, the driving powers of Mr Ford and the brilliant variety of strokes of Sir Timothy O'Brien. These were the men chiefly responsible for the good score of 229. Mr Douglas took about two hours to get his 41; Mr Ford made 77 out of 103 added during his stay of 65 minutes, a period of time that Sir Timothy O'Brien also took to contribute 58 of the last 85 of the score. Mold and Briggs bowled very well and had no difficulty from any other batsman but these three, and were backed up by much good fielding, notably by that of Mr Maclaren, the captain.

For a while Middlesex seemed likely to fare ill, but after three men had gone for 41 there occurred the brilliant stand of Mr Douglas and Mr Ford, who put on 103 in rather more than an hour. Mr Ford forced the game at a great pace and got most of his runs by drives, and 12 fours and three threes were among his figures. Both he and Mr Douglas were out at the same total – namely, 144. But when things seemed likely to go badly for Middlesex – six of the side were out for 147 – there came the fine innings of Sir Timothy O'Brien, whose cutting and leg strokes were the features of his game. Sir Timothy, who was ninth to leave, hit a five and eight fours in his 58. Middlesex were all out soon after 4 o'clock.

When Lancashire went in the bowling of Rawlin and Hearne was so good that four of the team were dismissed for 34; but Mr Maclaren, who had good assistance from Baker, kept the side together. Mr Maclaren's driving was exceptionally good. After losing Baker, who helped to add 42, Mr Maclaren went on with his fine batting, and at the close he had contributed 49 of the 93 credited to Lancashire. The visitors are 136 behind with five wickets to fall. Middlesex fielded very well, especially Mr Webbe at mid-off, Mr Stoddart at extra slip and Mr Bromley-Davenport at cover-point. It may be mentioned that the crowd did not forget to give Hearne a very warm greeting in recognition of his bowling in England v Australia.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 August, page 10)

The Middlesex eleven, who have quite outplayed Lancashire in this match at Lord's, last night reached a position that exempts them from defeat and makes their success very probable. Overnight they had already the better of the game, for Lancashire were 136 behind with only five wickets to fall, but at the drawing stumps last evening Middlesex were 386 ahead in the second innings with still two men in hand. Again did the home batting furnish the best thing of the day, although there was lacking from it some of the brilliancy noticed on Thursday. But two of the same men came off a second time and the others who contributed to the fine total of Middlesex were Mr Webbe, Mr Lucas and Mr Bromley-Davenport.

The steady rain that fell after 9 o'clock affected the pitch to some extent during the earlier play; but after a second application of the heavy roller between the innings the pitch steadily improved, and after luncheon the ball could be timed pretty truly. But before this occurred Lancashire completed their first innings and Middlesex made a bad start in their second. Mr Maclaren added only 10 to his overnight score, but he was very careful and stayed while Mr Bardswell made many good hits. Indeed, this partnership yielded 61, and then in quick succession Mr Bardswell was well caught in the long field and Mr Maclaren was bowled by a ball from Hearne that broke in and just took the leg bail. Mr Maclaren played beautiful cricket for his 59 made in two hours and his game all round the wicket was wonderfully strong. He hit six fours, four threes and five twos.

Briggs played steadily for a few overs, but the innings soon ended after the captain had gone, the last five wickets having added during the morning 60 runs in 75 minutes. Hearne and Mr Wells both bowled excellently and the Middlesex fielding remained good to the end.

When Middlesex went in a second time their 76 lead promised to turn out particularly useful, for no one could play Mold with much success. Mr Stoddart was in three-quarters of an hour for 13, and he was fourth to leave at 47. And then the game turned. Mr Ford forsook much of his forcing policy of the first innings and his comparative steadiness, if profitable to the side, was not so good to watch. Now and again he opened his shoulders and made a beautiful drive. Sir Timothy O'Brien still showed himself the great master that he has been so long and, whether cutting, driving or leg-hitting, there was always the same power and skill in his game. In the course of an hour and 20 minutes 123 runs were added, and then Sir Timothy was bowled by a lob, to hit which he had turned right round.

Mr Maclaren, having exhausted his usual bowling, had put on Sugg with lobs, and he actually bowled out nothing the men who had given so much trouble. Sir Timothy's 61 included eight fours, a three and nine twos, while Mr Ford made four fours, three threes and eight twos in his 61, the result of an hour and a half's batting. Having six men out for 173, Mr Maclaren kept Sugg on rather too long, and Mr Webbe and Mr Lucas played him pretty easily, although the latter in hitting was twice almost caught, while from Mold Mr Webbe gave a sharp chance at third man. Subsequently the Middlesex captain played in quite his old form, and Mr Lucas, too, made many powerful drives. In less than an hour these batsmen put on 81 runs, and then Mr Lucas was splendidly caught in the long-field.

Mr Webbe was playing very strongly and seemed well in for his 50 when a blunder by his partner, Mr Bromley-Davenport, caused him to be easy run out; his 46 was a very good innings. Mr Bromley-Davenport afterwards threw such power into his game that by the time stumps were drawn he had obtained 42 in half an hour. The weather was beautifully fine and a large company visited the ground.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 August, page 5)

The Lancashire eleven fought so well in their uphill game at Lord's on Saturday that they came near to saving the match, for it was within 20 minutes of time when their last wicket fell and left them beaten by 196 runs. Mr Webbe, when he declared the Middlesex innings at an end at midday, gave his side about five hours in which to dismiss Lancashire, who to win would in that time have had to make 433 runs.

Although the wicket was hard and true – Lord's shows great benefit from the early rain of last week

– there was not much hope for Lancashire; but the side set themselves resolutely to work to play for the draw, and their tactics not only yielded good cricket, but more than once promised to be successful. At ten minutes to five there were 70 minutes left and only five men out, while Mr Bardswell and Frank Sugg were both well set; but the latter directly after this badly ran out his companion, and then the game was rapidly lost to Lancashire.

Like each of the preceding days Lancashire furnished much splendid batting, and the cricket of Mr Maclaren, Tyldesley and Sugg, under conditions that held out little hope for their side, well compared with anything in the match. Indeed, from beginning to end, although Middlesex were almost invariably playing a winning game, the cricket attained a wonderful degree of excellence and was thoroughly appreciated by a large company each day.

Middlesex, when the game was continued on Saturday morning, had made 310 in their second innings at a cost of eight wickets. Wells and Bromley-Davenport added 46 in rather more than 20 minutes, bringing their full partnership to 82. Bromley-Davenport got his 69 in less than an hour, and he hit eight fours, three threes and ten twos.

It was midday when Middlesex adopted the closure, and 20 minutes later Lancashire started on their task of making 433 to win. The original order was maintained and Hearne and Rawlin were the bowlers. Rowley and Albert Ward made some good strokes before at 36 Hearne dismissed the professional, while at the end of an hour Rowley gave the wicket-keeper a catch, the score at this point being 50. Then came the partnership that promised to save the game. Maclaren and Tyldesley both played very finely. Various bowling changes were tried, and Hearne twice beat Maclaren without hitting the stumps; but the defence prevailed until an hour after luncheon. Maclaren then turned a ball from Stoddart into his wicket and retired for 53, made in a couple of hours, which brought his aggregate for the match to 112; his best hits were six fours and ten twos. The Lancashire captain had played a great game for his side and his off-driving was as good as ever. He and Tyldesley had added 94 for the third wicket.

Tyldesley did not long survive his captain, for at 147 a brilliant right-hand catch by Webbe at mid-off dismissed him for an admirably played 50, in which were four fours, a three and ten twos. Baker gave little trouble, and with five men out for 156 and more than two hours to play Lancashire seemed very unlikely to save themselves from defeat. Bardswell and Sugg made a fine effort to check the disastrous times that had come to the visitors. To play Hearne, Sugg generally left his crease, and these tactics were successful; but when Stoddart came on again the professional ran out Bardswell, who was playing very good cricket, and the game was at once almost lost. Bardswell had been in three-quarters of an hour, during which time 39 runs had been added.

Briggs, after narrowly escaping from a bad hit near cover-point, was beautifully caught (right hand) by Sir T C O'Brien at point at 208, and in the same over Smith fell to the wicketkeeper, while at 213 Stoddart bowled out Hallam. Mold ought soon to have been run out; but he stayed 20 minutes and was then well caught in the long field, the match being all over at 20 minutes to 6. Sugg took out his bat for 53, in which were seven fours. Middlesex had fielded brilliantly, while Wells had done excellently in bowling. This was the second defeat of Lancashire by Middlesex during the season.

13 August: SURREY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4645.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 10)

With the pitch at the Oval still not completely rid of the effects of the bad weather on the first two days of this week, and with their side weakened by the absence of Alec Hearne and Walter Wright, Kent had a troublesome time yesterday in the return match with Surrey, who at present seem to be on the way to avenge their defeat at Catford a little time ago. Last evening the game so much favoured the home side that with only one wicket down they have already passed the Kent score.

Up to luncheon time all seemed fair sailing for Kent, who had 100 up with only three men out; but such was the subsequent collapse that the balance of the innings produced only another 35 runs. Thus turning point of the innings occurred when Hayward went on to bowl at 95, and after luncheon he and Richardson seemed irresistible. Indeed, during the Kent innings of two hours and three-quarters the wicket was hit nine times, and Hayward, who kept a fine length, was so successful with his off break that he bowled out five batsmen at a cost of only 26 runs.

Mr Mason made some good hits; but the best batting for the visitors was done by Mr Patterson and Mr Burnup. Between them they added 69 in rather more than an hour for the third wicket, Mr Burnup's share of these being 49, in which were a five and six fours. The Cambridge "blue" played a fine game and Mr Patterson's defence was marked by all his well-known finish and care. Mr Patterson, who was seventh out, took two and a half hours to make his 47. The end of the innings was so rapid that four wickets fell for 134, and the last five altogether added only a single.

It was when Surrey went in that Kent so much missed the aid of Wright and Alec Hearne, for the only bowlers they had were Martin, Mr Shine and Mr Mason. These men, however, did their best and Kent fielded excellently. After a dull beginning – Brockwell and Abel were nearly an hour obtaining the first 40 – the Surrey batting became very attractive. Abel did most of the scoring, getting his 50 out of 93, and being 77 out of 136 at the close of the day. It will be noticed that Lohmann is back in the Surrey side and that another trial is being given to Thompson. About 5,000 people visited the ground.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 August, page 10)

The easy victory of Surrey by ten wickets at Kennington-oval yesterday was in no degree surprising after the way the game had gone on Thursday, when Surrey, with nine men in hand, had already passed the Kent score. In the day's cricket there was presented no remarkable feature. The play was sound without being out of the common. Most of Abel's excellence had been seen overnight; and Mr Walter Read's vigorous 41 and the fine bowling of Martin in an uphill fight were, perhaps, the best things of yesterday.

There had been some sharp showers in South London, and these served to keep the wicket in much the same condition as it was on the first day, so that the bowlers still had a little aid from the pitch. In the morning the partnership of Abel and Hayward soon ended, the former at 161 being caught at the wicket. The pair had added 121 in an hour and three-quarters. Abel had played extremely good cricket against a lot of really excellent bowling and fielding; the ball always required much watching and the bowlers generally kept a good length. The chief hits in the batsman's innings

were four fours, six threes and 15 twos. Hayward played with more care than usual and was third out, caught at short slip for 45, these runs having taken him more than two hours to make.

The rest of the innings had for its characteristic the 41 of Mr W W Read, who, going in third wicket down at 174, was seventh to leave at 244, his runs being very quickly scored. Mr Key made some good hits and in the end the score reached 290. Martin bowled well throughout and took the first eight wickets; but the only time that the stumps were hit was when Mr Shine got out Richardson. In the fielding there were two fine catches brought off – namely, those which got out Mr Baldwin and Mr Key.

Kent, who were 155 behind, did so well at first that a substantial score seemed probable. Mr Mason and Mr Burnup made 63 in three-quarters of an hour for the first wicket, and after three men had gone for 76 Mr Patterson and Mr Rashleigh added 50 for the fourth. But then occurred a collapse, and the last six wickets went down for 29 runs. Richardson and Hayward both bowled well and their respective records for the match were nine for 101 and eight for 70. Kent had only just saved the innings defeat, and a wide by Martin gave Surrey the necessary run to win. There were about 4,000 spectators and the weather was delightfully fine.

13 August: SUSSEX v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4646.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 10)

Steadiness was the greatest merit of yesterday's cricket at Hove, Brighton, under conditions very favourable to the game. The friends of Sussex must have been to some extent disappointed by the comparatively weak batting of their eleven, for it was left to Killick – who this year has proved himself to be a very good bat – and Tate, the tenth man on the "order," to give the county score something like respectability. With the advantage of first innings, the home side should certainly have done better. At present there is every prospect of the Australians, in spite of their losing the toss, getting an advantage, for they are within 132 of the Sussex score and have nine wickets left.

For a long time the county did so badly that five men were dismissed for 79. Then it was that Killick, by bright batting, much improved the prospects of his side, and later came the courageous efforts of Tate and Etheridge, the Horsham professional. Killick was in fourth wicket down at 50, and left eighth at 157; his best hits were eight fours, two threes and five twos. Sussex experienced a piece of ill-fortune in the injury sustained by George Bean, who was so badly struck on the arm by a ball from Mr Jones that he had to give up his innings, and it is doubtful whether he will take any further part in the match. "Extras" furnished an important item in the home score; but Mr Johns, who kept wicket, had a bruised hand. K S Ranjitsinhji seemed to be in for a good score and was batting in his best form when he fell to a brilliant catch at point.

The Australians were in during the last two hours, and managed to make 89 at the cost of Mr Darling's wicket. Mr Giffen and Mr Donnan got together at 8 and in an hour and three-quarters carried the record to 89. Etheridge, left-hand medium pace, bowled very well and had a spell of an hour and a half. The batting was very dull. Over 4,500 people paid for admission, and the full company ran to between 5,000 and 6,000.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 August, page 10)

For the greater part of the day at Brighton yesterday the batting was very dull as the Australians slowly established an advantage; but in the last 50 minutes the Sussex batsmen wrought a great change in the manner of the play and hit off 87 of their arrears on the first innings. A little rain delayed the renewal of the game until 20 minutes past 12.

Mr Donnan did not largely increase his overnight figures; but Mr Graham and Mr Giffen met with so much success that 200 went up with only two men out. But then several wickets soon fell to Killick's bowling, and in the end the score fell below the figures that were at one time probable. Mr Graham played well for his 60, in which were nine fours, while Mr Giffen, who showed great care in his batting, took something like three and a half hours to get his 84, hitting nine fours, four threes and six twos. Mr Trott and Mr Kelly, the latter of whom, by the courtesy of Sussex, was allowed to displace Mr Gregory, who was suffering from a cold, played steadily; but taken altogether the Australian batting lacked the brightness usually seen on such a ground as that at Hove.

Sussex went in a second time, and in half an hour 74 were made at the cost of Marlow's wicket, and finally the county finished with nine men in hand and 44 runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 August, page 5)

Another of the counties has lost to the Australians. On Saturday, at Brighton, Sussex suffered defeat by six wickets, the fine start made in their second innings not being followed up by the later members of the side, for after 200 had appeared with only three men out the whole team went for 248.

The great thing in the innings was the stand for the second wicket by Mr Fry and K S Ranjitsinhji, who in the course of 70 minutes added 123 runs. Ranjitsinhji played in his finest style for 74, in which were 11 fours, two threes and six twos. Subsequently Mr Fry continued to do well; but from 180 the batting failed badly. Mr Fry himself left seventh at 213, after a stay of two and a quarter hours for his 92; he gave no chance, and he hit 15 fours, three threes and four twos. Butt and Etheridge were together half an hour and put on 29 for the last partnership. Mr Trumble had again bowled extremely well and his record in the match was ten wickets for 144 runs.

When the Australians went in to make 118 to win about two hours remained for play. Mr Darling and Mr Donnan secured 63 in three-quarters of an hour; the former's 46 consisted of ten fours and six singles. Three wickets then fell quickly; but Mr Graham and Mr Trott were together until the game was nearly over, while the end finally came at a quarter past 6. There were about 4,000 spectators.

13 August: YORKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4647.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 August, page 10)

For the first county match at Scarborough the weather was rather unfavourable, as the rain had so affected the turf that cricket was not possible until 1 o'clock, while rain extended the luncheon interval until 20 minutes past 3. Subsequently the sun shone and the attendance reached about 3,000.

The Yorkshire innings occupied most of the day. Mr Ernest Smith, playing with his usual power, made 35 out of 50 in half an hour, while there was a steady partnership by Denton and Mounsey, who added 45. Afterwards Lord Hawke and Peel played pretty well, and Yorkshire's score reached 184 as the result of three hours' batting. Mr Jackson, Hirst and Schofield Haigh were absent from the Yorkshire eleven and Mr de Trafford was unable to assist Leicestershire.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 15 August, page 10)

Yesterday at Scarborough the cricketing hours were again curtailed by bad weather, and there was little of note in the play apart from the effective bowling of Wainwright and Geeson. The former had most to do with Leicestershire's cheap dismissal in two and a quarter hours, his analysis showing seven wickets at an average cost of six runs each. Yorkshire, who were 91 ahead, went in again and at the close they were 171 on with five wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 August, page 5)

Yorkshire beat Leicestershire at Scarborough on Saturday by 162 runs. The match was again interfered with by rain and the pitch seemed utterly ruined by it. No play occurred before 20 minutes to 1, and then Yorkshire, at the cost of three more wickets, added 50 runs to their overnight record of 80 for five. Lord Hawke, considering the ground and the weather, at this point decided to close his innings, putting Leicestershire in with 222 to get in four and a quarter hours.

Before the bowling of Wainwright and Peel, who made the most of the aid given by the turf, the Leicestershire innings collapsed and the home side were dismissed in an hour and a quarter for 59. Peel and Wainwright had fine analyses, while the latter's full record for the match was 11 for 81.

Saturday 15 August, page 10: THE SCARBOROUGH FESTIVAL

The Scarborough Festival, which extends over nine days, beginning August 27, promises to provide thoroughly good cricket.

For the South of England against Yorkshire the side will be: . . .

The defeat of Lancashire at Lord's on Saturday has had the effect of letting Surrey into the second position, and the results up to the present work out as follows:-

	Proportion of Points					to Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	
Matches						
Yorkshire	23	15	3	5	12	.8
Surrey	22	16	5	1	11	.523
Lancashire	18	10	4	4	6	.428
Middlesex	12	7	3	2	4	.4
Essex	10	4	3	3	1	.142
The other counties' results are:						
Nottinghamshire	13	4	5	4	-1	
Derbyshire	14	4	5	5	-1	
Kent	14	4	7	3	-3	
Gloucestershire	16	6	9	2	-4	
Hampshire	14	3	8	3	-5	
Leicestershire	12	2	7	3	-5	
Somerset	14	2	7	5	-5	
Sussex	13	2	7	4	-5	
Warwickshire	15	3	8	4	-5	

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

THE AUSTRALIANS v SURREY. – The Australians are again at the Oval to-day for the second match with Surrey, whom they beat in the first meeting at the end of last month. Mr K J Key will not finally decide upon the Surrey eleven until this morning.

CRICKET AVERAGES

The following are the averages of some of the leading batsmen whose figures up to the present are 30 and more:-

BATTING

	No. of Innings	Runs	Highest Innings	Not Out	Average
K S Ranjitsinhji	45	2148	171*	5	53.29
Captain E G Wynyard	22	1032	268	2	51.12
Mr L C H Palairret	23	1195	292	2	45.25
Abel	44	1917	231	2	45.27
Storer	32	1232	142*	5	45.17
Gunn	38	1383	207*	7	44.19
Dr W G Grace	48	1956	301	4	44.20
Mr A C Maclaren	17	672	226*	1	42
Chatterton	32	1145	111	4	40.25
Mr H D G Leveson-Gower	17	606	93	2	40.6
Hayward	42	1364	229*	7	38.34
Brown	49	1659	203	6	38.25
Mr W Newham	33	1116	201*	4	38.14
Sir T C O'Brien	25	902	137	1	37.14
Mr F S Jackson	35	1189	117	3	37.15
Mr C J Burnup	31	1071	101	2	36.27
Mr K J Key	35	807	75*	12	35.2
Shrewsbury	29	941	172	2	34.23
Mr J R Mason	31	1038	131	1	34.18
Frank Sugg	42	1314	210	3	33.27
Mr A E Stoddart	40	1217	121	2	32.1
Brockwell	39	1165	137	2	31.6
Mr A J Webbe	24	567	95	6	30.17
Hirst	35	971	107	3	30.11

*Signifies not out.

BOWLING

The averages of the chief English bowlers are:-

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Hearne, J T	1596.3	655	2923	210	13.193
Haigh	558.4	193	1200	84	14.24
Attewell	1215.3	669	1844	117	15.89
Richardson	1521.2	583	3687	225	16.87
Hayward	503.1	161	1173	70	16.53
Lohmann	544.2	198	1009	60	16.49
Alec Hearne	689.1	200	1209	69	17.36
Mold	1039.1	339	2456	134	18.44
Wainwright	761	243	1715	89	19.24
Peel	1050.1	392	1874	97	19.31
Briggs	1498	511	2828	135	20.128

Lockwood	559	146	1329	61	21.48
Martin	961.4	384	1708	78	21.70
Mead	873.3	276	2179	92	23.53
Pougher	913	325	1982	64	23.50

THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

Subjoined are the averages up to the present:-

BATTING

	No. of Innings	Runs	Highest Innings	Not Out	Average
Mr S E Gregory	40	1282	154	1	32.34
Mr C Hill	35	1027	130	3	32.3
Mr J Darling	46	1444	194	1	32.4
Mr F A Iredale	42	1186	171	3	30.16
Mr G H S Trott	44	1186	143	5	30.16
Mr G Giffen	41	1074	130	1	26.34
Mr H Donnan	35	881	167	1	25.31
Mr H Graham	28	531	96	2	20.11
Mr H Trumble	34	502	45*	7	18.16
Mr J J Kelly	30	400	45	7	17.9
Mr A E Johns	11	74	31*	6	14.4
Mr E Jones	33	398	40	6	14.20
Mr C J Eady	24	290	42	3	13.17
Mr T R M'Kibbin	25	134	28*	7	7.8

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble	942.4	308	1943	127	15.38
Mr E Jones	794.2	263	1696	111	15.31
Mr T R M'Kibbin	458.4	135	1043	59	17.40
Mr G H S Trott	314.4	60	869	44	19.33
Mr G Giffen	767.1	199	1996	101	19.77

17 August: DERBYSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4648.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 4)

Steadiness was the best merit of yesterday's play at Derby. Essex with first innings found it very difficult to get runs against the capital bowling and fielding; but they remained in until the last hour of the day. Carpenter played excellently and was fourth out at 75.

Mr Owen and Mr Lucas played beautiful cricket and added 74 for the fifth partnership. Both these men were out in successive overs to Storer, who bowled really well. After nine men had gone for 189, Pickett and Mead added 38 in 30 minutes, so that the visitors' score reached very respectable proportions. When Derbyshire went in Mr Kortright bowled with much success, and finally the game was left in the following even position . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 5)

After a capital day's cricket Essex left off at Derby last evening in a very strong position. They are 310 runs ahead with two wickets to fall.

Derbyshire found the pitch difficult in the morning and lost Chatterton, who was in long enough to complete his 1,000 aggregate for the season, Storer and Hulme very cheaply. Bagshaw played well and, aided by Mr Marsden, advanced the total from 76 to 127. No one else did much, however, and Essex were left with a lead of 72. Bagshaw, although labouring under the disadvantage of lameness, which necessitated his having a man to run for him, took out his bat for 45.

When Essex went in a second time the loss of four men for 67 reduced the game to evenness. But Mr Lucas and Mr M'Gahey played splendidly and put on 79; the latter was two and a quarter hours making his runs and he hit a six and nine fours. Mr Lucas also did exceptionally well and was only the sixth to go at 187. A large company witnessed the play.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 August, page 4)

Essex gained a brilliant victory over Derbyshire at Derby last evening, the game coming to an end within 40 minutes of the time for drawing stumps. On Tuesday night the position of the visitors pointed to their success, for they were then 310 ahead and had still two wickets left; while their chances were further improved yesterday by the rain affecting the turf.

In the end Derbyshire were left with 358 to win in three and a quarter hours. Three men were lost of 48 and, after a stand of an hour for 62 by Storer and Davidson, the rest of the side gave little trouble. The innings was all over for 156, Derbyshire being beaten by 201 runs. The Essex bowlers did very well and were backed up by much good fielding. In the early part of the day Mr Bonner had batted excellently for the visitors, and in his 59 were seven fours.

17 August: THE CHELTENHAM WEEK

GLOUCESTERSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4649.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 4)

Fine weather, a large company and splendid cricket left nothing to be desired for the opening of the festival at Cheltenham yesterday, and what pleased the spectators beat was the fact that Gloucestershire had the better of the day's cricket.

With first innings, Kent at one time promised to do exceptionally well; but in the end they were out in two and a half hours for 190, a total that would not have been reached had the home fieldsmen held all the catches, for both Mr Burnup and Mr Patterson were missed. Up to luncheon time Kent had made 144 for the loss of three wickets, while subsequently the fourth went at 168. Then came a collapse, and in less than half an hour the other six men were dismissed for an addition of 22.

Mr Mason and Mr Burnup obtained 54 for the first partnership, and the latter and Mr Patterson put on 68 in an hour for the second. Mr Burnup should have been caught at short leg by Wrathall when 10; but otherwise he made no mistake and in his 57 were four fours, a three and nine twos. Mr Patterson might have been stumped when only 25, after which he remained in until 177, when he was seventh to leave for 54, an innings in every way worthy of him in point of finish; his best hits were four fours, two threes and eight twos. Lord Harris played well and helped Mr Patterson to put on 42 for the fourth wicket. Mr Townsend bowled splendidly after luncheon, and his analysis from that point was seven overs, 24 runs, five wickets.

In a little over two hours Gloucestershire got within 39 of the visitors' score at a cost of three wickets. This fine position was almost wholly the work of Dr Grace and Mr Hemingway, who put on 117 for the second partnership in 90 minutes. Mr Hemingway hit with great brilliancy, and his chief figures were ten fours, a three and eight twos. Dr Grace played very soundly and gave no chance; among his figures were six fours, a three and seven twos. Kent, who were without Mr W Rashleigh, Walter Wright and Alec Hearne, had the assistance for the first time in seven years of Lord Harris, who would have played last season but for an injured hand.

DR W G GRACE'S BATTING.- Yesterday with his runs at Cheltenham Dr Grace completed his 2,000 aggregate for the season.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 5)

Gloucestershire, who on Monday evening had secured such a good position – they were only 39 behind the Kent score and had seven men in hand – had all the worst of yesterday's play at Cheltenham, and their present state gives them little hope of avoiding defeat, for with four wickets left 76 are still necessary to win.

It will be readily gathered that great progress was made with the game yesterday, while the play itself was quite exciting. The reason for the breakdown of Gloucestershire's batting in the morning was that the wicket had been affected by rain; indeed, the bowlers were able to get a great deal of

work on to the ball all day. In little more than three-quarters of an hour in the morning Mr Bradley and Martin got down the seven outstanding Gloucestershire batsmen for 51 runs, 28 of which were made for the last wicket, and the whole side were out for 202. Mr Bradley's fast bowling was very effected and his figures during the morning were four for 14.

Mr Mason and Mr Burnup made a fine start to Kent's second innings, scoring 65 in 45 minutes; but subsequent to Mr Burnup's dismissal, Mr Mason could get no substantial assistance. He himself left sixth at 156, and then the last four men went for an addition of 22. Mr Mason played superb cricket and, although beaten now and again by the ball, he gave no chance. Off-driving and cutting were his best strokes, and he got his runs in a little over two hours, contributing nine fours, a three and seven twos. Mr Townsend's slows again came off and he brought his record in the match to 13 wickets for 142 runs. Just lately Mr Townsend has been bowling in something like the form which won him so much fame last year. Board kept wicket excellently.

Gloucestershire in the last hour and a half of the day did so badly that they made only 91 of the 167 required to win, and lost six men. After a dull morning, the weather turned out fine and there was a good attendance.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 August, page 4)

Just while the ninth partnership – namely, that between young Mr Grace and Board – existed yesterday morning there seemed a chance of Gloucestershire's winning, but in the end the last two wickets fell quickly, and Kent gained a hard-earned victory by 25 runs. Yesterday's cricket lasted only 50 minutes.

The home team had been left overnight with 76 more runs necessary and only four wickets left, and two of these went in the morning for an addition of 23. Mr Grace and Board then carried the score from 114 to 140, when Board left, and a single later the dismissal of Roberts left the victory with Kent. Mr Bradley had a big share in the visitors' success, for his fast bowling in the double innings secured ten wickets at a cost of 115 runs. It was a wonderfully good match from beginning to end.

17 August: SURREY v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4650.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 4)

The Surrey eleven made a very good score against the Australians in their second match with them on the Oval yesterday, but, under the excellent conditions for batting, they ought almost to have done better. It is not unreasonable to expect more than four men to come off in such a fine side when the turf is perfectly true and when the advantage of first innings is with them. But yesterday, after Surrey had seemed to be in for an exceptionally large total – 200 went up with only three men out – there came sundry failures, and 295 were not out of the common in a batsman's year and under the best conditions of an English summer day.

And then the Australians, too, showed that the last half-hour of the day does not always bring disaster, and they finished with all ten wickets in hand and 256 behind. There are various instances when a side getting nearly 300 in a first innings have been beaten, so that because Surrey have scored 295 they must not think the game is theirs. As a matter of fact, they have a big task in store if they are to be the first county to beat the visitors. On the face of it they have the better of the game, but if the pitch remains true the Australians are sure to get a good many runs.

Altogether it was a fine day's cricket, most of its excellence coming from the bats of Hayward, Abel, Hayes and Mr Key, and from the bowling of Mr Giffen. The Australian fielding was perhaps scarcely up to its usual high standard, for Mr Jones was not so good as he generally is and Mr Giffen dropped a couple of catches. As to the batting, however, both could be better than that of Abel and Hayward. They, figuratively, made the running for Hayes, whose first appearance it was for the county. Abel, as usual, demonstrated his wonderful command of a variety of strokes all round the wicket, while Hayward's off-drive and cut were, as ever, the strong points of his play. Now and again Hayward became a little reckless in his game, and it was this want of thorough command over himself that made him lash out at a ball from Giffen and get caught in the long-field at a time when every one was hoping that he would reach the 100.

But apart from these well-tried men there was a feature in the Surrey innings that secured general admiration, and this was the batting of Ernest George Hayes, who acquired his cricket at Honor Oak and, being born at Peckham in 1876, plays under the best of all qualifications, that of birth, for Surrey. It is a severe test for a young cricketer to make his first appearance for his county in a match of the importance of yesterday's; but he came out of the ordeal in a way that not many would have done. Sixty-two in two and a half hours against all the good Australian bowling is a wonderful beginning for a young player. His attitude as he waits for the ball is a little stiff, but he keeps his bat pretty straight and he showed yesterday that he possesses a very good cut and a clean off-drive. It need hardly be said that he was a member of the Surrey second eleven, into which he was drafted last year, so that his success yesterday is another tribute to Mr W T Graburn, who manages what is perhaps the strongest second county eleven that ever played. Batting is Hayes's strong point, but he an bowl to some extent.

Thompson, who reappeared for Surrey, has been tried in sundry matches before. Lockwood was absent from the eleven, and so was Mr H D G Leveson-Gower, the Oxford captain, whom many people hoped to see soon in the side again. The Australians had their full strength, except that Mr Graham took Mr Gregory's place.

As this was the last opportunity of seeing the Australians in London and the interest in Surrey's second match was keen, the attendance at the Oval proved very large; there were about 14,000 spectators, of whom 10,600 paid for admission. The people had splendid weather and they showed their appreciation of Hayes's cricket by contributing £10 in a collection made for that player at the end of the Surrey innings. It is worth recording that Mr Trott, for the third time at the Oval this season, was beaten in the toss.

With the pitch beautifully true and dry Key certainly secured a great advantage in the winning of the toss. Brockwell and Abel, as they have mostly done this season, began the Surrey batting. Jones and Trumble were the bowlers; but both were easily scored from. Among a series of fine strokes perhaps the best were a cut and a leg hit by Abel and a four, square, by Brockwell. In this way the score ran rapidly to 42; indeed the runs were secured in half an hour, and then Brockwell mistimed a ball from Trumble and turned it into the hands of the wicket-keeper.

Hayward seemed to find his game at once and, playing very strongly, was rather severe on Jones, whom M'Kibbin succeeded at 57. The batting, however, continued excellent, and Hayward, turning the ball into the slips, ran a five. Abel, who had been very quiet for a long time, made a pretty cut for four from Trumble, and then early in the nineties Trott brought on Giffen, and a little later he had a trial himself. It was a fine straight drive into the stand by Hayward that brought up the 100 at half-past 1. Jones was warmly cheered for two or three clever pieces of fielding, after which Hayward from a rather bad stroke in the slips passed Abel at 49. Abel, however, had the distinction of first running to his 50, after which by much steadiness the score was advanced to 131 at luncheon time.

The first incident of note after luncheon was the missing of Abel by Giffen at mid-off, an easy catch. In Jones's third over Abel played on. The score was 148 and Abel's share 71, a characteristic innings by the Surrey professional, who in his two hours' stay had made ten fours and four twos. Two for 148 was a very fine start for the county. Baldwin, who came next, was never at home; he timed the ball very badly and Jones's fast bowling seemed particularly disagreeable to him. So after staying several overs without scoring he had his middle stump knocked out of the ground by a very fast ball from Jones. Three for 162.

When Hayes went in Hayward played two overs from Trumble very badly. He was nearly stumped once and almost bowled twice. Then he recovered his stroke and made some beautiful cuts and drives, while Hayes started pretty well. Giffen took a turn at Trumble's end at 191, and then Hayward with a fine square leg hit from Jones sent up 200 at 4 o'clock. Hayward went in to hit Giffen and was easily caught in the long field. Hayward had played beautiful cricket for two hours and a half, and in his 84 were a five, 12 fours, three threes and five twos. Four for 202.

Walter Read did not start well, but Hayes continued to be successful, and at 215 Jones, who had been bowling for an hour and a half at the Vauxhall end, was given a rest, Trott himself going on. A brief interval for refreshment preceded the dismissal of Read, leg before, and Lohmann, bowled first ball, so that six wickets were down for 221. Key and Hayes played very good cricket, while some amusement was secured by the crowd from three distinct overthrows which increased a single by Key to four. M'Kibbin came on for Trott; but Hayes reached his 50 amid warm applause, these runs having taken him about two hours to put together. By good cricket Key contributed 27 towards the 50 added during his stay, and then he was caught in the long field.

The end came quickly after this. Thompson gave mid-on an easy catch, Hayes was caught at point and Richardson bowled, the innings closing at ten minutes to 6 for 295. Hayes, who was ninth to

leave, made 62 in two hours and a half. He was missed just before his dismissal by Giffen at short slip off Trumble, but this was his only mistake. His chief hits were seven fours, a three and three twos. Giffen, whose second spell at the wicket began at 191, had a fine bowling analysis, his seven wickets costing less than 12 runs each.

The Australians went in at five minutes past 6, and Darling and Iredale made a good start against Richardson and Lohmann. Various fine drives were followed by Iredale getting a five, all run, on the leg side. Hayward had a turn with the ball, but fours continued almost plentiful, and there was one very fine hit by Darling which carried the ball over the ring near the score board. The score was raised to 39 in the 25 minutes that the Australians were in, and the record was left as follows . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 5)

Not a ball was bowled at the Oval yesterday. There had been heavy rain in South London in the early hours of the morning; but the weather cleared up and a start would have been made at the usual hour had not a drizzling rain set in. The weather mended sufficiently to create the hope of play after luncheon, and then it subsequently became much worse and about half-past 3 it was decided to postpone further cricket until this morning.

The pitch is quite spoilt, but to-day it may be too wet for the Australians to be twice got out. Surrey's chances of success rest largely upon the amount of sunshine this morning . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 August, page 4)

When the Australians saved the follow-on at the Oval yesterday afternoon the last prospect of a definite issue to the match disappeared, and the subsequent stages of the game had only a feeble interest for the crowd of eight or nine thousand spectators. So the game was drawn and the Australians remain unbeaten by any county.

They had much to be thankful for in their escape from defeat after Tuesday's rain, and the most potent factor in their preservation was the mildness of the sunshine, so that the surface of the wicket never "caked" and the turf never lent any very substantial aid to the bowlers. Instead of this it steadily rid itself of the effects of the wet and demonstrated in a marked degree the splendid recuperative powers of the Surrey ground. Yet the turf was in no sense fast and the Australians achieved a very good feat in making a score of so much substance as 224, or only 71 worse than that which Surrey had done on the perfectly true pitch of Monday.

Much of the merit of the game belonged to one of their old hands, Mr George Giffen, who played the right game in hitting, for had he gone quickly yesterday morning the subsequent course of the game might have been widely different. The actual score does not explain the value of his courageous piece of forcing at a critical stage, for the bare record merely shows that the first five batsmen all reached the thirties. Richardson finally came out well, but there is no disguising the fact that Surrey want some more bowling in the side now that neither Lohmann nor Lockwood is the bowler of other days. Young Smith's left-hand slaws of three years ago would have been invaluable yesterday to the county, and it is a misfortune for Surrey that this promising professional lost much of his pitch and break. Smith is still a member of the second eleven.

Apart, then, from Richardson there seemed yesterday no sting in the Surrey bowling, and the visitors were able easily to save the follow-on. When this became assured the spectators lost much of their keenness, and the cricket listlessly filtered through the last few hours, brightened perhaps near the end by the sterling batting of Abel, whose 50 made his aggregate in the match 121 for once out. Mr Key brought the closure rule into force when the Australians would have had to make 162 to win in about 40 minutes; but this piece of humour proved the wind-up of the match, for the umpires decided that the light was unfit for play and at 6 o'clock the stumps were pulled up. This was the Australians' last game in London, and they were warmly cheered as they left the ground. They have only three other counties to play – Gloucestershire, Somerset and Lancashire.

The pitch was slow without being to any great extent difficult when the Australians, who had made 39 without loss of wicket, went on with their innings at 25 minutes to 12. With the turf soft Key thought it inadvisable to start with Richardson, so Hayward and Lohmann were the bowlers. From the latter, who was on at the pavilion end, Darling gave an easy chance in the long field to Thompson, but the catch was dropped. To some degree the fieldsman atoned for this error soon afterwards by catching Darling in the same position, although by that time the batsman had put on 10 runs to his score.

Giffen and Iredale scored pretty freely; but the condition of the ground was not conducive to true hitting. Giffen made some very good drives from Lohmann and his forcing tactics altogether paid well. When Richardson went on at the top end for Hayward there came ten runs by on-drives by Giffen in an over from Lohmann. After Iredale had been absent for some time through an injury to his hand Lohmann had a possible chance of a return catch from Giffen, but it was a terribly hard thing, as may be imagined from the fact that the ball went for four after escaping the bowler's left hand. After this the chief incidents for a while were furnished by a leg snick by Iredale for four and another bad blow that the batsman got on his hand from Richardson. In the prospect of the follow-on every single was valuable to the Australians, and Giffen and Iredale took to "stealing" runs. It was a beautiful cut for four, however, that brought up the 100 at half-past 12; but directly afterwards Iredale just touched a ball from Richardson and Hayes brought off a clever catch low down at short slip.

Trott came next and Hayward at once went on for Lohmann, whom Giffen had severely punished. Richardson twice beat Giffen without hitting the wicket, and at 115 he got that batsman well caught by Wood standing back. Giffen had played a fine innings for his side, his 34 having been made in three-quarters of an hour. Hill at once played Richardson twice round to leg and Key soon strengthened the field on that side of the wicket. Trott, who had played an over from Hayward very badly, got to Richardson's end and obtained a couple of fours by bad hits through the slips. But the batsmen never let a chance pass of a single, and when an hour and three-quarters had elapsed 100 runs had been added to the overnight score.

Directly afterwards Brockwell hurt himself in fielding at this match and retired from the game. He was endeavouring to stop a cut from Trott, and the ball rose sharply and hit him on the inside of the leg. As runs continued to come rapidly Key gave Abel a trial for Richardson with immediate success, for Trott was out in his first over, a well-judged catch in the long field by Hayes dismissing him, and four men were disposed of for 142. Graham's stay was brief. He pulled the ball twice in an over from Hayward and got four each time; but in attempting a similar stroke he missed the ball and was leg-before. Donnan came in fifth wicket down at 161, and before luncheon 11 runs were added without further loss.

Thompson, who bowls medium pace, had a turn with the ball and sent down five maiden overs; but

after luncheon Richardson and Walter Read took up the bowling. The lobs were not very deadly and various runs were made from them. Richardson, however, soon had Donnan well caught at wicket on the leg side, six men being then out for 175. Kelly was in when the follow-on was averted. Abel missed a sharp chance from the new batsman at short slip; but after the 200 had gone up the end of the innings came quickly – Kelly was bowled, Hill splendidly caught low down at short leg by Lohmann, Jones caught from a skier at short slip and M'Kibbin bowled. Hill played extremely well and was in an hour and a half for his runs. When the last wicket fell it was 20 minutes to 4, so that only two hours and a half remained for play and no chance remained of a definite issue to the game. Richardson had bowled very well and his six wickets cost 13 runs each.

Surrey, who were 71 ahead, went in a second time just before 4 o'clock, Thompson beginning the innings with Abel. Kelly having hurt his hand could not keep wicket, and the post was taken by Hill, while Eady fielded as substitute. Thompson made one good cut for four from Trott before he was bowled by Trumble; but Abel played very well, and the people did not forget to notice the completion of that batsman's aggregate for the season of 2,000. Hayward met with only trifling success, and at 42 he was well caught at mid-off, while M'Kibbin easily beat Baldwin. Hayes played steadily for a few overs; but Giffen got the young Surrey professional at 68, a good length ball breaking in and completely beating the batsman. Four for 65.

Abel and Walter Read advanced the score to 90, and then, at 5.35, Key declared his innings at an end. Abel's excellently played 50 consisted of six fours, eight twos and singles. By the time the Surrey innings was declared closed the light had become very bad, and before 6 o'clock stumps were pulled up and the match was abandoned as drawn.

ABEL'S BATTING.- Yesterday at the Oval the Surrey professional reached his 2,000 aggregate for the season, and is the third cricketer to secure the distinction, K S Ranjitsinhji and Dr Grace being the other two who have accomplished the feat.

17 August: SUSSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4651.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 4)

On the good wicket at Brighton yesterday Sussex did badly, and Lancashire finished up the day with a lead of 20 runs and eight batsmen still in hand. Mold and Briggs met with so much success to begin with that half of the home side went for 77.

Then occurred the only bright cricket of the innings. Ranjitsinhji, who had gone in late owing to an injured hand, joined Vine, an Eastbourne professional, and, playing exceptionally well, made a large proportion of the 65 runs added to the score. Sussex's ill-fortunes then set in again and the last four wickets went for 11 runs.

Lancashire fared well. Mr Maclaren and Ward made 65 in a little over half an hour for the first wicket, and Ward, who was twice missed, left second at 143 – a total that had been put together in 100 minutes. After this Tyldesley and Paul played out time. A large company visited the ground and the weather was fine.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 5)

In the brief time that the weather allowed to cricket at Hove, Brighton, yesterday, the Lancashire team materially increased their advantage, adding 79 more runs to their overnight score in the course of 80 minutes at the cost of two further wickets. Lancashire are at present 99 ahead with six men in hand. The rain yesterday prevented cricket until after midday, and the drizzle which set in at half-past 1 lasted the rest of the afternoon.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 August, page 4)

K S Ranjitsinhji, with a brilliant innings of 165, enabled Sussex to escape defeat by Lancashire at Brighton yesterday, and the game was drawn. The visitors had closed their first innings when they were 192 ahead, and put Sussex in when four and a half hours remained for play; but Ranjitsinhji found his game at once, and with the aid of various members of the side he carried the score to 227, and then he was sixth out after a stay of three and a quarter hours.

All the bowlers were alike to him; he timed the ball with wonderful precision and his stroke on the leg side was as successful as ever. He had a couple of escapes – one of stumping and another from a sharp catch to third man, these chances occurring when he was 47 and 65. He hit 26 fours, two threes and six twos. This was his eighth 100 in important cricket this season. His best partnership yesterday afternoon was 71 with Marlow for the second wicket, while the fourth and fifth yielded 43 and 52. Finally Sussex, with two men left, were 67 ahead.

In the early part of the day Lancashire, who began with a lead of 99 and six wickets to fall, added 93 runs in 70 minutes without further loss. Paul increased his overnight score of 65 to 107, his innings being a model of patience, for he was four and a quarter hours getting the runs. He hit 12 fours, eight threes and three twos, while Baker made seven fours in a vigorous 51. Beautiful weather prevailed and there were between two and three thousand spectators.

17 August: WARWICKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4652.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 4)

The whole of the cricketing day at Edgbaston, Birmingham, yesterday was absorbed by the first innings of Leicestershire, who made 279. Knight bore off the honours of the day with 96, an innings full of steadiness; he was in actually five hours, and his best hits were six fours. Mr de Trafford helped him to make 40 for the first wicket, and he had subsequent partnerships of 67 and 95 with Pougher and Tomlin. The latter was twice missed in getting his 52, in which were eight fours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 5)

With the turf affected by the rain during the night Warwickshire found it difficult to get runs yesterday at Edgbaston, Birmingham, but by the exercise of much steadiness they came out well, and their innings, lasting until late in the afternoon, produced 224. William Quaife, who went in first with Mr Bainbridge, was third out at 137 for 50, a score that had taken him nearly two hours and a half to make, and in which were six fours. There was little else to note in the batting except the rather fortunate game of Diver, who had two escapes.

Leicestershire, who were 55 ahead, had a very bad time in their second innings and before the drawing stumps they lost six men for 30 runs, so that their position promises little else than defeat, seeing that they are only 85 on.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 August, page 4)

The rain at Birmingham yesterday prevented any definite issue from being reached in this match, and the result was a draw. Warwickshire had the stronger position, for their opponents were only 85 ahead in the second innings with six wickets lost.

17 August: YORKSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4653.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 August, page 4)

After a splendid start – Mr Stoddart and Mr Douglas scored 178 for the first wicket in a couple of hours – the Middlesex batting broke down badly at Bradford yesterday before the bowling of Wainwright and Mr Ernest Smith, and the result was that the game was left in a comparatively even position. Mr Stoddart made many splendid hits; but he was not quite as good as usual, and in addition to having a life at the hands of the wicket-keeper at 19 he might have been caught at extra slip by Mr Jackson. Still his 94 was a fine innings, and included 11 fours, four threes and eight twos.

With 200 up and only two men out the visitors' prospects were very bright; but after Mr Douglas had gone at 203 the collapse set in. Mr Douglas, who was third out, played in his characteristic manner, and in his 87 were nine fours, five threes and two twos. Rawlin hit hard; but nothing else of note occurred and the total reached 263. The last eight of the visiting side had added 85 runs in 80 minutes. Wainwright was first tried at 142 and getting his pitch at the first he bowled with great success, his six wickets costing in all 45 runs.

Yorkshire went in for 80 minutes and in this time there was fine batting by Mr Jackson and Brown, who in the course of three-quarters of an hour obtained 73 runs. When stumps were pulled up Yorkshire were 154 behind with nine men in hand. Except that Lord Hawke is away the home county have secured their full strength. There were 10,000 spectators, and after a dull morning the weather became fine.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 August, page 5)

In a splendid day's cricket at Bradford, yesterday, when there were some 12,000 people on the ground, the great feature was the batting of Mr F S Jackson, whose 115 will rank among the best things he has ever done. The old Harrow and Cambridge captain has a great variety of strokes, and yesterday his game possessed all his well-known robustness and skill.

He went in first on Monday night and, after a long partnership with Brown, during which 145 were added, and another of 49 with Denton, he was third to leave at 230. He was in a little over three hours, and beyond a very difficult chance to point he made no mistake; he came down very hard on the ball, which he invariably timed well. His chief hits were two sixes (drives from Mr Wells), 14 fours, eight threes and five twos. It was a very fine ball from Hearne that beat him. His stand with Brown was the thing that really turned the game for Yorkshire, who, however, would not have fared so well had the subsequent fielding of the visitors been a little more accurate.

Brown played very well and was not out till the score had reached 181, when a piece of stumping dismissed him. His share of the stand of 145 was 65, and he hit ten fours and six twos. Mr Bromley-Davenport afterwards bowled cleverly; but dropped catches spoilt his record. The serious errors in the Middlesex fielding were those which enabled Peel and Hirst to escape, for the batsmen added 62 in three-quarters of an hour for the sixth wicket, which went at 319. Mr Wells finished off the innings for an addition of 44 runs. So Yorkshire in the end carried their Monday's score of 109 to 363, which meant an advantage to them on the first innings of 100.

Middlesex were left an hour and a quarter to play, and they scored 99 for two wickets. Mr Stoddart and Mr Douglas both played finely; but at 57 the former left and at 77 Mr Ford was out. Rawlin and Mr Douglas then kept up their ends to the finish, Middlesex standing a run behind with eight wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 August, page 4)

After a splendid day's cricket, made remarkable by the batting feats of Sir Timothy O'Brien and Mr F S Jackson, the Yorkshire and Middlesex elevens drew their return match at Bradford yesterday. Some mistakes in the field turned out very serious for Yorkshire, not that Sir Timothy made any grace error, but his chief partner – Mr Lucas – was twice let off at the very beginning of his innings.

Middlesex had been left with a stern uphill game to fight on Tuesday evening, and yesterday the game looked very bad for them when, with four batsmen in hand, they were only some 40 runs on. It was at this critical moment that the O'Brien-Lucas partnership began and completely altered the course of the game. Sir Timothy O'Brien, who had gone in fourth wicket down at 118, was already "set" when Mr Lucas joined him, and the latter, after giving a difficult chance to cover-point (Mr Jackson) and an easy catch to extra slip that Wainwright failed to hold, soon played himself in. Then followed a period of beautiful batting, which yielded 100 runs in 65 minutes. Mr Lucas contributed a six and eight fours.

Sir Timothy O'Brien, after being helped by Mr Bromley-Davenport to add another 63, was then dismissed for a brilliant 94, in which were 13 fours, four threes and three twos. He played with his characteristic precision all round the wicket, and during his innings he reached the four-figure aggregate for the season. Beyond a very difficult chance to Brown at point when 62 he made no mistake.

In the end Yorkshire were set 233 to make for victory in two hours. The first hour furnished a splendid piece of batting by Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe, who in that time scored 127 runs. Tunnicliffe had been missed in the slips, but Mr Jackson played a wonderful game. In his 83 were two sixes (driven out of the ground), ten fours, two threes and six twos. Tunnicliffe also hit hard. As there was no prospect of a finish stumps were drawn at a quarter past 5. In this match Peel made his 1,000 runs and brought his aggregate of wickets to three figures.

ACCIDENT TO MR A J WEBBE. – While batting at Bradford yesterday, the Middlesex captain was struck on the left hand so severely that a bone was broken, and the injury will most probably keep him out of cricket for the rest of the season.

Tuesday 18 August, page 4: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

The Surrey Club yesterday voted J T Hearne and Robert Peel an extra £5 each in recognition of their splendid bowling which won the match for England last Wednesday at the Oval.

MR E JONES, THE AUSTRALIAN, AND SUSSEX

Negotiations between the Australian fast bowler and Sussex have fallen through, and Mr Jones will not now qualify for Sussex, as it has been generally understood that he intended to do.

Melbourne, Aug. 17.

A meeting of the New South Wales Cricket Association held to-day a resolution strongly disapproving the action of the manager of the Australian team in making engagements that would interfere with the duty of the New South Wales members towards their colony by preventing them from playing in the intercolonial match. It was agreed that a message should be sent to them appealing to their loyalty to resist any change in the programme that would endanger the cricket interests of the colony.

The association also decided to invite the Cricket Council of Australia to hold a meeting to consider the action of the manager in arranging matches with New Zealand and Queensland without the authority of the Council.

Melbourne, Aug. 18.

The South Australian Cricket Association have resolved to cable to their members in Trott's team regretting their action in arranging to play in Australia and New Zealand without the sanction of the Cricket Council.

Thursday 20 August, page 4

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Yesterday's results leave the positions of the counties as follows:-

Matches	Proportion of Points					to	Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points		
Yorkshire	24	15	3	6	12	.6	
Surrey	22	16	5	5	11	.523	
Lancashire	19	10	4	5	6	.428	
Middlesex	13	7	3	3	4	.4	
Essex	11	5	3	3	2	.25	
The other counties' results are:							
Nottinghamshire	13	4	5	4	-1		
Derbyshire	15	4	6	5	-2		
Kent	15	5	7	3	-2		
Gloucestershire	17	5	10	2	-5		
Hampshire	14	3	8	3	-5		
Leicestershire	13	2	7	4	-5		
Somerset	14	2	7	5	-5		
Sussex	14	2	7	5	-5		
Warwickshire	16	3	8	5	-5		

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

20 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4654.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 August, page 4)

On a bowlers' wicket at Cheltenham yesterday the play proved extremely interesting; but in the end the Australians established an advantage, for they led on the first innings by 71. For this they were chiefly indebted to Mr Gregory, who, going in at a time when things were looking ill for his side, played a fine forcing game and scored 71 off his own bat.

Fortune fluctuated very much during the day, for runs were always difficult to obtain and it was distinctly a day when there was only one policy to practise, and that was to hit. Gloucestershire, after holding their own until late in the day, finished off with the worst of the match. Rain had affected the pitch overnight, but not sufficiently so to justify the captain who won the toss putting his opponents in.

Gloucestershire's innings lasted about two hours and yielded 133 runs, and the chief cause of this small score was the slow bowling of Mr M'Kibbin with his big break. Dr Grace and Mr Rice put on 31 for the first wicket, but four of the side were out for 38. Things mended for the county by the aid of Mr Jessop, Mr Sewell and Mr Grace, the first-named of whom made 30 in half an hour, while Mr Jessop and Mr Grace with 32 secured the highest partnership of the innings. Mr M'Kibbin took six wickets for 48.

The Australians, who were batting the rest of the day, fared so badly at one time that, though Mr Darling and Mr Trott put on 47 while they were together, through sixth wicket went down at 64. Mr Townsend about that time took four wickets in three overs for three runs. Mr Gregory went in when Mr Darling had been dismissed. He played finely, and Mr Trumble and Mr M'Kibbin helped him to add respectively 64 and 47. Mr M'Kibbin was twice missed, and these chances most probably affected the position of the sides at the end of an innings each. Mr Gregory took out his bat for 71, made in an hour and a quarter by seven fours, five threes, eight twos and singles. Mr Townsend bowled with wonderful success and his eight wickets cost only 79 runs. Beautiful weather prevailed and there were 7,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 August, page 8)

There was heavy rain at Cheltenham yesterday and no cricket occurred until 20 minutes past 3. Then Dr Grace and Mr Rice began Gloucestershire's second innings, but only three runs of the 71 deficiency had been rubbed off when the rain again came down and no further cricket was possible. About 5,000 people visited the College ground.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 August, page 5)

On a false pitch at the College Ground, Cheltenham, last Saturday evening the Gloucestershire batsmen utterly collapsed before the bowling of Mr Trumble and Mr M'Kibbin, and in the course of three-quarters of an hour the whole of the eleven were got out for an addition of 14 to the three runs made overnight by Dr Grace and Mr Rice. It was an unfortunate wind-up for the county to what had been a pretty good week, and the 3,000 spectators of Saturday's play went away much

disappointed.

Mr Trumble began in the morning by getting out Mr Rice, Mr Hemingway and Mr Sewell with successive balls, while he caused Dr Grace to play on and got Mr Jessop taken at cover point. Thus far he had secured five wickets in five overs without having a run scored from him. Six wickets in all went to him for eight runs, while Mr M'Kibbin, after having seven made from him, got the last four wickets for nothing in two overs and a ball. It may be interesting to record the fall of the Gloucestershire wickets in the smallest innings ever played against Australian bowling in England:-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
-	-	-	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
5	5	5	10	10	10	11	11	17	17

The previous smallest scores in Anglo-Australian cricket were the 18 by this year's team against the M.C.C. and the 19 by the M.C.C. in the 1878 tour. Mr M'Kibbin in the match obtained ten wickets for 55 and Mr Trumble eight for 76. Although only 71 ahead on the first venture the Australians thus beat Gloucestershire by an innings and 54 runs.

20 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4655.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 August, page 4)

Yesterday, at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, the Middlesex eleven, as they had done on the first day of the Yorkshire match at Bradford, failed to maintain the high standard of batting set by Mr Stoddart and Mr Douglas for the opening partnership. In this instance Mr Stoddart and Mr Douglas made 158 for the first wicket, yet the whole side were out for 283.

Indeed, when at luncheon time no wicket had fallen and the score was 132, the home eleven, who were without Gunn, must have thoroughly resigned themselves to a full day in the field; but after the interval Mr Jones's slow leg breaks and Brown's good pitch wrought a wonderful change in the game and, once rid of Mr Stoddart, the Notts men steadily dismissed their opponents. Mr Stoddart played a great game for his side from the time he went in, his variety of strokes all round the wicket being richly demonstrated. He had the bad luck to miss the 100 by only seven. He got his runs in two and a quarter hours, and he hit eight fours, five threes and 12 twos.

Mr Douglas, who was third out at 172, played a graceful innings of 69, made without a chance; he contributed eight fours, six threes and four twos. The only other batting of note was that by Rawlin and Mr Ford, the latter of whom got his runs twice as quickly as Rawlin. Nottinghamshire's hour at the wicket was marked by the game of Mr Jones, whom Shrewsbury helped to make 46 for the first wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 August, page 8)

The best thing in a cricket day, made brief in the first place by rain and in the second by the failing life, at Trent-bridge yesterday was the fine batting of the old Cambridge blue, Mr A O Jones, whose innings of 70 went far to save Notts from any danger of following on. And this means now that there is only the prospect of a drawn game, for Notts, with eight men in hand, are within 125 of the Middlesex score.

Rain prevented any play until 3 o'clock, and although there was no rain afterwards little cricket was possible after 5 o'clock, because of the bad light. In the time allowed for the game Nottinghamshire increased their overnight score of 53 for one wicket to 158 for two. Mr Jones advanced his record from 43 to 70 before being well caught at extra mid-on. It was a splendid innings played in two hours; and how much he monopolized the run-getting will be gleaned from the fact that when he left the actual total was only 85. Among his figures were ten fours, a three and three twos. Subsequently Daft and Mr Oscroft kept up their wickets to the end and put on 73 runs. Few people were present.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 August, page 5)

In the drawn match at Trent Bridge, on Saturday, Nottinghamshire occupied the better position. Middlesex in their second innings were 127 for seven wickets, which, deducting the deficit on the first, meant that they were only 50 runs ahead.

Nottinghamshire, who started on Saturday morning with 158 runs and two wickets down, did not complete their innings until 10 minutes to 4, when they finished 77 to the good. There were sundry long partnerships, notably by Daft and Mr Oscroft, 79, and Mr Dixon and Pike, 91. Daft played with extreme care and was something like three and a half hours getting his 50; but Pike adopted quite a different method, making his 66 in 90 minutes and hitting a dozen fours. Mr Oscroft and Mr Wright both played wonderfully well and, taken altogether, the Notts men came out excellently in their batting.

Middlesex went in soon after 4 o'clock; but it had been decided to draw stumps at 5.30 if there was no chance of a definite issue, so that any other result than a draw was improbable. Mr Stoddart and Rawlin played well and the former got his 41 in as many minutes before being caught at short leg. Wickets then fell steadily and, as five men were down for 109, the game was carried on after half-past 5. Two other men were quickly out; but Mr Bromley-Davenport hit hard and at a quarter to 6 stumps were drawn.

20 August: SOMERSET v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4656.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 August, page 4)

Two famous old Oxford players and cricketers long associated with Kent were almost wholly responsible for the splendid Kent score of 405 for five wickets at Taunton yesterday. Mr W H Patterson is still not out with 176 to his credit, but Lord Harris, after helping to add 220 for the fourth partnership, received his dismissal.

It is remarkable that Lord Harris after his long absence from important cricket, an absence that was necessitated by his Indian appointment, should retain all his fine powers of hitting. But since his return from Bombay he has played considerable cricket with Zingari and the Band of Brothers, so that really he has kept himself in touch with good play. In his game yesterday he had some kind fortune at the hands of the Somerset fieldsmen; but he showed that all his fine strokes were yet preserved to him, and forcing the play well on a pitch that was not entirely rid of the effects of rain he scored 119 in two and three-quarter hours, this being his share of the 220 added with Mr Patterson for the fourth wicket. He was missed by Mr R C N Palairat before he scored, and again by Mr Lionel Palairat when 90; but these were the only errors in a good innings. The vigour of his game is best described by the constitution of his 119, in which were 19 fours, four threes and four twos.

Mr Patterson, who went in second wicket down at 24, was batting four hours and three-quarters for his 176. He, too, was kindly treated by the Somerset fieldsmen; but apart from his two or three errors he played excellent cricket, which left the regret that he is unable to play regularly for the county. Apart from the sundry catches dropped the Somerset fielding was remarkably good.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 August, page 8)

Kent's heavy scoring at Taunton on Thursday left Somerset an uphill game to play, and the severity of this was increased by the rainfall of yesterday morning, the pitch becoming slow and difficult. Somerset had, therefore, a good excuse for the comparatively poor show which they made in the first innings and for the losing position in which they found themselves at the finish – they have already followed on and are now deficient by 285 of the number that must save them from an innings defeat, and they have also lost one wicket.

The weather delayed the game yesterday until a quarter to 1, and then in three-quarters of an hour – luncheon was taken at half-past 1 – 45 runs were added to the Kent score at the cost of another batsman. After the interval the other four Kent wickets went without the addition of a run, Captain Hedley having a hand in the dismissal of each of these men. Mr Patterson obtained only five more runs and was sixth to leave at 435. He was batting in all about five hours, and in spite of sundry escapes he played excellently throughout his stay of five hours. The best hits in his 181 were 22 fours, nine threes and 12 twos. Mr Stewart, who had helped Mr Patterson to add 124 for the sixth partnership, played a fine vigorous game; he had some luck in the matter of dropped catches, but his runs were rapidly made and he contributed 13 fours.

When Somerset went in Mr Shine's fast bowling proved very effective. In fact there was nothing much of note in the Somerset innings, which was played through in about two and three-quarter

hours for 163. None of the batsmen stayed any length of time and the partnerships ruled small – 28 for the first wicket and 38 by Mr L C H and Mr R C N Palairet were the best. The two Palairets and Mr Challen all played very well. In the follow-on against odds of 287 Somerset lost one wicket for two runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 August, page 5)

The splendid batting of Mr Woods, Mr R C N Palairet and Captain Hedley saved Somerset from defeat at Taunton on Saturday, although at the finish Kent with ten wickets in hand were within 26 runs of victory.

Somerset on Saturday morning seemed to be in a hopeless position, for with one man out in their second innings they were 285 runs behind. But with the pitch rid of the effects of the rain of Friday the home batsmen came out well. Captain Hedley and Mr R C N Palairet added 109 for the second wicket, and then the former was well caught at slip, having hit nine fours in his brilliant 59. Neither Mr Lionel Palairet nor Mr Roe gave much trouble, and at 179 Mr R C N Palairet, when one short of his hundred, was bowled. It was a fine innings played through in the course of two hours, and in it were 14 fours, four threes and four twos.

Five men were out at luncheon time for 190 and eight were lost for 232, so that an easy victory seemed in store for Kent. Mr Woods, however, played a great game for his side and in two hours put on 108 with Nichols. The latter was missed by Mr Stewart at mid-off when only seven, and this proved a serious error for the visitors. Like Mr Palairet, Mr Woods just missed his 100; but he had the satisfaction of reaching the four-figure aggregate for the season. Among his best hits were 12 fours, three threes and seven twos, and he got his runs in two and three-quarter hours.

Kent were left to make 62 to win in 20 minutes, and 36 of these were scored by Mr Mason and Mr Burnup when stumps were drawn and the match left unfinished.

20 August: SURREY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4657.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 August, page 4)

There was no particular advantage in the winning of the toss at the Oval yesterday, for the pitch was in that transitory state when a captain dared not put his opponents in, although possessed of the knowledge that the wicket might gradually improve. And it turned out that on the first day of the match Surrey had the worst of the turf and Lancashire got rather the better of the cricket. But the visitors' advantage up to last evening was not very great, for, excepting Baker, all the good bats have gone and the three last wickets in the ordinary course would not be rated very high in value. The turf was always more or less slow and runs never seemed easy to make except in two instances; these were when Mr Key was in for Surrey and at the time that Baker and Mr Bardswell promised to lead Lancashire into an advantageous position.

From beginning to end the play was made wonderfully bright by the skilful bowling, the good fielding and the sundry pieces of fine batting. Mr Key's forcing tactics helped Surrey, whose affairs were in a bad way before he went in; and then Mr Walter Read played in a way that would have done him credit in his better days, and young Hayes in his second match for the county again came off. Lancashire were doing badly until the last hour of the day; but then it was that Baker, who is a good all-round cricketer, and Mr Bardswell changed the course of things.

This Lancashire and Surrey match has long been one of the most popular of the Oval fixtures, and, in spite of the amount of cricket there of late, the public would yet seem unwearied of the game, for the crowd yesterday was about 10,000 strong and the spectators were able to enjoy the game in fine, bright weather. Surrey made no change in their side from that which had played the Australians, so that with Lockwood out of form, they had pretty well their best team, except that Mr Leveson-Gower, the Oxford captain, was away. Lancashire, too, had their strongest eleven.

The wicket was slow from the overnight rain when Surrey went in at midday. Maclaren started his bowling with Briggs and Mold; but the softness of the turf quickly made him change his mind and he put Hallam on for Mold, an alteration that brought almost immediate success, for Abel, who had begun the batting with Brockwell, was bowled at 14, while at 20 a beautiful right-hand catch low down at short slip by Bardswell got out Hayward. The game continued to go against Surrey, for Brockwell hit the ball straight into the hands of mid-off, and the score was only 39 when Baldwin fell to a catch at slip. And thus were four men out.

Key put a different complexion on the game by a fine piece of forcing. His driving was very good and various fours came by it. Hayes was in with his captain during this rapid piece of scoring which caused the bowling to be changed at each end, and which yielded 43 runs in 25 minutes. Then Key's end came, a catch at point sending him back. The merit of his 35 on the soft pitch against the good bowling speaks for itself.

Another useful stand by Walter Read and Hayes gave the Lancashire bowlers more trouble. Hayes threw plenty of vigour into his game; but he had some luck, for at 19 Sugg dropped a catch from him in the long field. Lancashire had cause to regret this error, for Hayes made a lot of good strokes after this, while Mr Read played in a manner worthy of his younger days. He snicked a ball for which five were run, and this brought up the 100 at 1.35. After sundry bowling changes Hayes was at length beautifully caught by Tyldesley running from long-on. His 38 were the result of

sound and vigorous cricket.

Lohmann, in hitting at Mold, was quickly bowled and the bail was sent 63 yards and some odd inches. After luncheon Thompson had his leg stump bowled down by the first ball sent him; but Walter Read, profiting by an escape in the long field, made sundry more good hits until, at 149, he gave extra mid-off an easy catch and retired for a well-played 31. After a little vigour from Richardson and Wood the innings ended for the very respectable score, under the circumstances, of 172.

Maclarens and Ward made a good beginning of Lancashire's innings; but the majority of the well-timed strokes were by Maclarens, whereas Ward was a trifle fortunate in getting the ball through the slips. Rapidly the score rose to 27, and then Hayward, who had begun the bowling with Richardson, dismissed Albert Ward. Two other wickets fell at 31, Maclarens being well caught by the wicket-keeper standing back and Tyldeley bowled first ball. Sugg, however, played very well, forcing the game in his own vigorous way, while Paul was content to keep up his end. Thirty-one were quickly added, and then Paul was bowled; and when Lohmann went on he soon got rid of Sugg, whose 38 was a very good innings.

Half the side had now gone for 88, but with Bardswell and Baker together the 100 was quickly reached, and eight runs later Hayward had a turn at the pavilion end for Richardson. But by this time the batsmen had played themselves thoroughly in and the runs came at a fast rate. There were nine byes (one a five) in an over of Hayward's, and afterwards Baker made a couple of fives, one by a snick and the second by hitting a short ball in front of square leg. It seemed almost in vain that Richardson and Abel took up the bowling, for the batting continued excellent and vigorous until at 162 Bardswell went in to hit Abel; but the latter was shorter in his pitch than he had been, and the amateur was clean bowled. It had been three-quarters of an hour of the brightest cricket, for 74 runs had been added, and of this number Bardswell's contribution was 26.

A "yorker" on the leg stump from Richardson proved too much for Briggs; but Smith and Baker played out time, Lancashire finishing six runs behind Surrey with three wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 August, page 8)

The hour's cricket, which was all that the rain allowed on the Oval yesterday, saw an advantage gained by Lancashire which may serve them well if the wicket, as in all probability it will, should prove false to-day. When the game began yesterday morning the wicket had rolled out hard and true, and Lancashire's lead, had the conditions remained fair, was comparatively trifling; but when the wet came the advantage of 53 on the first innings grew at once into a matter of importance.

So Surrey are now in an uphill position brought about by the loss of Brockwell, one of the best bats on the side, and by the fact that they are still 20 runs behind. Again, this morning much will depend on the sun and its effect on the surface of the pitch. Lancashire on Thursday evening had slightly the better position, for with three men in hand they were only six runs less than the Surrey score. Baker, who was not out 45, played a fine game and, although neither Smith nor Hallam gave him much assistance, he found an able partner in Arthur Mold.

When the last-named went in nine men were out for 182. But this tenth wicket took 25 minutes to secure, and 43 runs had been added in that time, when Brockwell, running in from third man, caught Mold from a skier. Richardson and Abel had given way to Lohmann and Hayward, and it

was Lohmann who got the wicket. Baker had played fine cricket and gave no chance; he was in about two hours for his 83 (not out), and his chief hits were two fives, nine fours, two threes and five twos. Richardson came out with the best analysis.

Surrey hit off 33 of the 53 arrears in the course of half an hour, and 22 of these were made by Abel, whose first five strokes were all fours off Mold – namely, two by snicks and three by drives. Brockwell was completely beaten by Mold at 29, and Hayward was in with Abel when rain set in at 1 o'clock. Although the weather slightly improved, there was never much prospect of further cricket, and about 5 o'clock the umpires pulled up the stumps.

Baker, the Lancashire professional, for the first time in his cricket career, completed an aggregate of 1,000 runs in a season by his score at the Oval yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 August, page 5)

The last hopes of Surrey's retaining their championship title for another season was extinguished by their defeat at the Oval on Saturday by Lancashire, who for the second time this season beat them, the verdict in this instance being four wickets. This result was only reached on Saturday after one of those exciting bits of cricket that give to the game half its charm.

Lancashire had gone in to make 60 in the fourth innings, which on the face of it seemed a trifling task. But cricketers know the difficulty of scoring under the conditions of Saturday, by which the batsmen were heavily weighted, while the bowlers were given every aid for breaking. So after Lancashire had made 30 for the cost of two batsmen and seemed to be on an easy course to victory, a crisis occurred, as Hayward got out four more men with six balls and without the addition of a run.

Fortunately for Lancashire they had at this stage such an accomplished batsman and one possessed of such nerve as Mr A C Maclaren, whose game in no sense was disturbed by what had happened. His 32 was a wonderful piece of cricket that won the match for his team. Briggs, too, made a few good hits and ran well. So, just when Surrey seemed likely to snatch a victory, a quarter of an hour of Mr Maclaren and Briggs turned the game.

It was a fine match throughout, but the pitch was always helpful to the bowler. Surrey ought to have done better after getting the first innings. Abel on Saturday morning seemed quite himself, but the other Surrey batsmen came to grief in playing the correct game on such a wicket – namely, in hitting. The Lancastrians proved themselves to be unerring fieldsmen, and there were any number of good catches. In bowling Briggs and Hayward bore off the honours – indeed, the latter when he got his sixth wicket had only nine runs scored from him. The large company followed the play with keen interest, and their impartiality was shown by the way they cheered the winners at the finish.

There had been more rain overnight and the wicket was too soft for cricket at the regular time of starting, so that it was close upon mid-day when Surrey, who had made 33 for the loss of Brockwell, went on with their second innings. Mold bowled an over before giving way to Hallam, and Briggs was on at the other end. Abel and Hayward forced the game in the proper way with the turf so wet; but the latter might have been stumped off Briggs when his figures were only nine. The arrears of 53 were rapidly hit off, and then Hayward made a bad stroke in the slips. Bardswell struck the ball up in the air and Paul, closing round from point, held the catch. Two for 62.

After this the game went strongly for Lancashire, who quickly dismissed the Surrey batsmen. Baldwin left at 66, and with Mold on again Abel gave cover-point a pretty easy catch. He had played very well for his 47, made out of 76 in 60 minutes. Key contributed a few good hits and was only out to a fine running catch in the long field, while, just before, Maclaren had dismissed Hayes with a good catch at mid-off. Lohmann was the third batsman to leave at 90, by which time seven of the side had gone. Thompson was out at 99, and Read was caught by Maclaren running from mid-off to behind the bowler. Richardson was taken in the long field, and the innings, which had lasted about two hours and a half, was finished at 25 minutes to 2. Briggs had bowled splendidly and had been supported by much fine fielding.

Lancashire had to make 60 to win, and before luncheon eight of these were got by Albert Ward and Maclaren. Subsequently Hayward and Richardson renewed the bowling. The wicket was slow and difficult. Six runs were added and then in an over of Hayward's two men were dismissed: Ward put up a ball towards point and was well caught by Baldwin, who fell in making the catch, and Paul was taken at wicket. Tyldesley joined Maclaren, and by the aid of some snicks, byes and sharp singles the score was advanced to 30. Maclaren had been nearly run out, for he was striving to recover his crease after an attempted single when Lockwood, fielding substitute for Read, just missed the wicket, the ball going with great force against Richardson's foot, which it injured.

Then at 30 occurred a piece of sensational cricket which promised to give Surrey the victory. Hayward took four wickets in six balls. With the second and fourth of one over he got Tyldesley stumped and bowled down Sugg's middle stump, and with the first two of the next he had Baker well caught at mid-off and he bowled out Bardswell. Six wickets were now down for 30 runs, and with the "rot" established it seemed almost like Surrey's game.

But Maclaren was the stumbling block to Surrey's success. He played with great confidence, and Briggs, too, showed the value of experience at a pinch. Lohmann had meantime gone on for Richardson; but he bowled only two overs, during which Briggs got a lucky four through the slips from him, and there were two sharp singles. The score was taken to 37, when Hayward sent down several loose balls that Maclaren promptly punished by getting them away on the leg side. Reaching the other end the Lancashire captain got two and four by a drive and a square leg hit. These brought the scores even. It was left to Briggs to make the winning hit, which was a single on the off-side towards cover-point.

Thus Lancashire won by four wickets. There were about 9,000 spectators, and the crowd cheered the winners very heartily, nor did they forget Hayward for his wonderful piece of bowling.

20 August: SUSSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4658.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 August, page 4)

Mr F S Jackson had a great share in the batting triumph of Yorkshire yesterday at Hove, Brighton, which was the more remarkable, coming as it did after the two great innings of the old Cambridge captain in the Middlesex match at Bradford. Yesterday Yorkshire were batting during the whole of the cricket day, and made 313 at the cost of only five wickets.

From the time he went in Mr Jackson played a splendidly vigorous game, and in an hour and 50 minutes he contributed 102 to the 143 which he and Tunnicliffe put on for the first wicket. He made one bad mistake, and that was at 15, when Marlow dropped an easy catch in the long field; but this was his sole error, and he hit 12 fours, three threes and six twos. Tunnicliffe played very steadily, and he and Brown added 57 in an hour. After the 200 had gone up with only one man out, the record was carried to 213 for three. Peel, however, greatly profited by an escape which he had directly he came in, and then with Tunnicliffe he increased the score by 60. Steadiness was the great merit of Tunnicliffe's long innings, in which were 13 fours, three threes and four twos, and after that batsman had gone Peel and Moorhouse played out time.

Haigh and Hunter were absent from Yorkshire, and their places were filled by Moorhouse and Bairstow. Fine weather prevailed and there were about 3,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 August, page 8)

Yesterday's cricket at Brighton was spoilt by the weather; but in the brief time of play good progress was made with the game. The main feature yesterday was Peel's 106. On Thursday he had obtained only 43 by rather slow cricket; but yesterday he threw into his game plenty of vigour, and in an hour and a quarter he added 63 to his score. He played strongly all round the wicket and his best hits were 14 fours, four threes and ten twos. This was his third three-figure score this season for the county, one of his previous hundreds having been made in the first match with Sussex at Bradford.

Yorkshire, who had obtained 313 for five wickets overnight, completed their innings for an addition of 94. The second ball of the day dismissed Moorhouse, after which Peel and Wainwright put on 56 in 40 minutes. Neither Mr Smith nor Lord Hawke did much; but Bairstow stayed while Peel increased his figures from 88 to 106. The visitors were batting about six hours for their 413. Sussex, apart from Bean, did not field particularly well.

When the home side went in Mr Fry and Killick were out at 23, and the score was unaltered when at 1.30 rain stopped play for the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 August, page 5)

K S Ranjitsinhji gave another wonderful demonstration of his genius in cricket by achieving the rare feat of playing two innings of 100 in the same match at Brighton on Saturday, and, what is more remarkable, he made both his "centuries" on the same day.

As the season draws to an end the wonder grows that this remarkable player should preserve such a brilliant consistency in his batting, and his feats have now become comparable to those of Dr Grace in his younger days and also last year. Ranjitsinhji has now made ten 100's in important cricket this season, a performance that only Dr Grace has before accomplished. And on Saturday the Indian Prince enabled Sussex to draw the game with Yorkshire. As to the playing of two three-figure innings in important cricket, only Dr Grace, Mr Stoddart, Mr Brann and Storer have before done it.

Sussex were in a bad way on Saturday, for on a slow pitch they had lost two wickets for 23 runs against the Yorkshire score of 407. Ranjitsinhji was not out 0 and, playing very beautifully, he put together 100 out of 132 in an hour and a half; he went in second wicket down at 23 and was fourth out at 155. He gave no chance.

His second innings began with the score at 61 for one, and he made 125 out of the next 199, put on in about two and a quarter hours, and his batting, as before, was faultless. He played a splendid forcing game all round the wicket; but his dominant hit was that skilful short arm stroke on the leg side. In his first innings he scored 18 and in his second 23 fours. After he was out in the morning the short-pitched bowling of Mr Smith proved so effective that the last six Sussex men went for an addition of 36.

In the follow-on against odds of 216 the home county did so well that when the match was drawn they were 44 ahead with eight wickets to fall. Marlow and Mr Fry made 61 for the first partnership, Marlow and Ranjitsinhji 72 for the second, and Ranjitsinhji and Killick 127 in 80 minutes for the third. So Sussex accomplished a splendid performance in saving the match. Ranjitsinhji had an enthusiastic reception at the finish.

Friday 21 August, page 4

The dinner to K S Ranjitsinhji has been arranged to take place at Cambridge on September 29, when the Mayor (Mr William C Hall) will preside. The lord lieutenant of the county and Lord Hawke will probably be present, while Dr W G Grace and Mr A J Webbe had consented to join the committee.

Melbourne, Aug. 20

The Victorian Cricket Association supports the associations of New South Wales and Adelaide in protesting against the action of the manager of the Australian team in arranging matches in Australasia. They consider the disbanding of the team on November 30 to be obligatory. — Our Correspondent.

Monday 24 August, page 5: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The defeat of Surrey at the Oval on Saturday makes the position of Yorkshire at the head of the counties secure, for whatever happens at Tonbridge in the match beginning to-day Yorkshire will be the champion eleven on the proportional system of points to finished matches which has been adopted by the M.C.C. Surrey have three more games to play, but Yorkshire finish their county season this week with the fixture with Kent. The results so far work out as follows:-

Matches	Proportion of Points						to Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points		
Yorkshire	25	15	3	7	12	.6	
Lancashire	20	11	4	5	7	.46	
Surrey	23	16	6	1	10	.45	
Middlesex	14	7	3	4	4	.4	
Essex	11	5	3	3	2	.25	
The other counties' results are:							
Nottinghamshire	14	4	5	5	-1		
Derbyshire	15	4	6	5	-2		
Kent	16	5	7	4	-2		
Gloucestershire	17	5	10	2	-5		
Hampshire	14	3	8	3	-5		
Leicestershire	13	2	7	4	-5		
Somerset	15	2	7	6	-5		
Sussex	15	2	7	6	-5		
Warwickshire	16	3	8	5	-5		

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

CRICKET AVERAGES

The following are the averages up to the present of the leading batsmen:-

BATTING

	No. of Innings	Runs	Highest Innings	Not Out	Average
K S Ranjitsinhji	49	2579	171*	6	59.42
Captain E G Wynyard	22	1032	268	2	51.12
Abel	48	2095	231	3	45.25
Storer	34	1295	142*	5	44.19
Gunn	38	1383	207*	7	44.19
Mr L C H Palairret	30	1229	292	2	43.25
Dr W G Grace	52	2067	301	4	43.3
Mr F S Jackson	38	1469	117	3	42.29
Mr A C Maclaren	20	758	226*	2	42.2
W H Patterson	13	492	181	1	41.1
Mr H D G Leveson-Gower	17	606	93	2	40.6
Chatterton	34	1177	111	4	39.7
Brown, J T	52	1755	203	7	39
Rev W Rashleigh	11	424	163	0	38.6
Hayward	46	1477	229*	7	37.34
Mr C J Burnup	35	1174	101	3	36.22
Sir T C O'Brien	29	1022	137	1	35.14
Mr W Newham	38	1163	201*	4	36.11
Mr J R Mason	35	1184	131	2	35.29
Mr A E Stoddart	44	1481	121	2	35.11
Shrewsbury	30	950	172	2	33.26
Mr K J Key	38	850	75*	12	33.22
Mr S M J Woods	34	1077	153*	2	33.21
William Quaife	37	984	110	7	33.4
F H Sugg	45	1390	210	3	33.4
Davidson	37	1118	274	3	32.30
Diver	30	953	112*	1	32.25
Peel	40	1140	210*	3	30.30
Brockwell	42	1201	137	2	30.1
Hirst	37	1008	107	3	29.17
Mr A J Webbe	26	595	95	6	29.18
Mr H W Bainbridge	37	1055	118	1	29.11
Pougher	42	1050	114	6	29.6
Tunnicliffe	50	1328	99	4	28.40
Baker	40	1011	04	5	28.31
Mr A O Jones	36	1038	127	2	28.28

*Denotes not out.

BOWLING

The leading bowling averages of the season up to the present are:-

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Hearne, J T	1737.3	706	3201	217	14.163
Haigh	556.4	201	1289	84	15.29
Mr F G Bull	447.3	133	1175	74	15.65
Attewell	1253.3	686	1951	121	16.15
Richardson	1586.2	597	3853	236	16.86
Hayward	548	172	1298	78	16.50
Lohmann	572.3	206	1109	64	17.21
Alec Hearne	589.1	200	1209	69	17.36
Mold	1151	379	2694	150	17.144
Wainwright	821	263	1856	96	19.32
Peel	1122.1	428	2007	100	20.7
Briggs	1619.1	549	3055	148	20.95
Hulme	1019.3	412	1946	94	20.66
Martin	1053.3	421	1903	83	21.60
Lockwood	559	146	1329	61	21.48
Mr C L Townsend	750.3	126	2353	103	22.87
Mead	916.3	286	2262	98	23.28
Hirst	834	310	2143	89	24.7

THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

Up to the present the batting and bowling averages are as follows:-

BATTING

	No. of Innings	Highest Innings		Not Out	Average
		Runs	Innings		
Mr S E Gregory	41	1353	154	2	34.27
Mr J Darling	48	1501	194	1	31.44
Mr C Hill	37	1052	130	3	31.8
Mr G H S Trott	46	1235	141	5	30.5
Mr F A Iredale	44	1231	171	3	30.1
Mr G Giffen	42	1106	130	1	27.1
Mr H Donnan	37	889	167	1	24.25
Mr H Graham	30	548	96	2	18.11
Mr H Trumble	36	558	45*	8	19.66
Mr J J Kelly	31	415	45	7	17.7
Mr A E Johns	12	84	31*	6	14
Mr E Jones	35	403	40	6	13.25
Mr C J Eady	24	290	42	3	13.17
Mr T R M'Kibbin	27	160	28*	7	8

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble	1020.4	336	2199	137	15.54

Mr E Jones	829.2	273	1774	114	15.64
Mr T R M'Kibbin	520.2	159	1109	71	16.33
Mr G Giffen	808.2	210	2088	109	19.17
Mr G H S Trott	335.4	65	914	44	20.34

24 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4660.html)

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

There was heavy rain in the Bristol district yesterday morning, and with no prospect of the ground being fit for the game an early decision was arrived at to defer the start of the match on the Clifton College ground until this morning . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 5)

Excellent batting by Hayward and Baldwin for Surrey and the effected bowling of Mr Townsend and Mr Jessop may be said to have marked the play at Clifton yesterday. There had been no cricket on the first day; but yesterday Surrey's innings occupied most of the time of cricket.

The chief thing in this was the stand of Hayward and haw for the third wicket. They got together when Mr Jessop had dismissed both Brockwell and Abel for nine runs, and before the third wicket fell the score ran to 113 in 100 minutes. Both men played very good cricket. After their dismissal came something of a collapse, and the whole side were out for 180. Mr Jessop and Mr Townsend both bowled remarkably well on the slow wicket. In rather less than three-quarters of an hour Gloucestershire lost both Dr Grace and Mr Hemingway for 37 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 August, page 8)

As was generally expected, no definite issue was reached in the match at Clifton yesterday, and the day's play proved rather dull to watch. Gloucestershire, who had made 37 at the cost of two wickets against Surrey's score of 180, were thrice interrupted by rain during the rest of the innings, which in the end fell only 23 short of the visitors' total.

For the respectability of this record Mr Rice was mostly responsible. He was batting about two hours and 20 minutes for his 45, and his defence was marked by the most steadfast caution. He followed the ball with wonderful precision and there was scarcely an ill-timed stroke in his innings. Mr Townsend stayed with him upwards of an hour and carried the score from 30 to 79, and he had other assistance, notably from young Mr Grace. Going in very late, Wrathall hit hard, while Mr Champain also batted with some success. Lohmann bowled excellently and his five wickets were secured cheaply.

Surrey had about three-quarters of an hour to bat in their second innings, and after a little vigour by Baldwin the inevitable draw occurred, Surrey being 59 ahead with seven wickets to fall.

24 August: HAMPSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4661.html)

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

Hampshire did very well at Southampton yesterday, notwithstanding the absence of their fine bats Captains Wynyard and Quinton. The great thing of the day was the 100 of Mr H F Ward, a cricketer who has for some time been wonderfully skilled both in defence and in forcing tactics. He went in yesterday fourth wicket down at 105 and was ninth to leave. There was one sharp chance of his in the slips, but he played well and his 100 runs were made in a little over two hours. Among his figures were 14 fours, two threes and 12 twos. The longest stand was by Mr Ward and Soar, who added 102 in an hour.

In the early part of the innings Barton's vigorous batting was the thing of most note; he scored his 56 in 50 minutes, and hit eight fours, two threes and five twos. In spite of the aid Mr Barrett rendered to Mr Ward, eight of the home side were out for 181; but it was then that the partnership of Mr Ward and Soar completely change the aspect of the game. Hampshire's fine score of 296 places them almost out of danger of defeat, for the rain, which greatly hindered play, may affect the wicket to-day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 5)

Very little play was possible at Southampton yesterday, but late in the afternoon Essex, who had been in for a few overs in the morning, went on with their innings. At the close of the day the condition of the game offered little prospect of any definite issue to the match.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 August, page 8)

On a wicket ruined by the weather Essex fared ill yesterday at Southampton and late in the afternoon they were beaten by an innings and 113 runs. They were unfortunate in having to play on the false turf after their rivals had made a big innings while the pitch was more or less true.

Essex, who had lost two men for 43 runs, completed their innings yesterday in an hour and three-quarters for an addition of 55 runs. Carpenter again batted admirably and carried his overnight figures of 26 to 40, in which there was scarcely an ill-timed stroke. The visitors, of course, played for a draw, so that Mr Owen, exercising immense care, was in an hour and 25 minutes for eight. Captain Bradford, a comparatively slow bowler, met with much success, and getting a lot of break on the ball secured six wickets for 28 runs.

In the follow-on Essex were out for 85 in less than an hour and a half, this, too, in spite of the fact that 60 went up with only one man dismissed. Carpenter played on after a steady innings of 32. The last eight men added only 20 runs. Mr Perrin and Carpenter put on 51 while they were together. Captain Bradford again came off with the ball and brought his record in the match to 11 wickets for 68, and Baldwin also did extremely well.

24 August: KENT v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4662.html)

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

The various phases through which the game passed before it ran strongly for Yorkshire made yesterday's cricket at Tonbridge particularly interesting. Yorkshire, after a very bad start, mended their ways to such an extent that the score reached the respectable dimensions of 184, while Kent began brilliantly and then collapsed; and the drawing of stumps found Yorkshire with a lead of 86 on the innings. It was a bowler's day, for the bowling was helped by the pitch, which was rather soft on the surface and was hard underneath. The pace of the ball seemed mostly to beat the batsmen, several of whom were out to ill-timed hitting.

Unquestionably the best thing in the way of attack was the startling piece of bowling by Walter Wright. He went on first change at 14, and when the fifth Yorkshire wicket went at 39 his figures were – four overs (two maidens), eight runs, four wickets. He bowled very well, but he was fortunate in getting Tunnicliffe out with his first ball – a full pitch, which Tunnicliffe cut straight into the hands of Lord Harris at point.

There was something sensational in the way that Yorkshire began. The first five men on the "order" were got out for 39 runs, of which Brown, who made many fine drives, contributed 25. But when things were going very badly for Yorkshire Mr Ernest Smith brought about a check and forced the game in that powerful manner which first secured him fame in his Oxford days. Mr Smith, without apparent effort, hits very hard, and it was surprising that Kent showed some hesitation in strengthening the deep field for him. Nearly all his runs were made from drives; but at 34 and 36 he was missed at long-off by Mr Marchant and Mr Rashleigh respectively. The former eventually caught him in the same position for a dashing 45, contribution out of 55 in 35 minutes; he scored seven fours and five twos, and was the seventh to leave. Wainwright was in while 42 were secured for the sixth partnership.

The balance of the Yorkshire innings had for its feature the powerful game of Hirst, who went in sixth wicket down at 81 and was ninth out finely caught at short-leg at 173. Moorhouse and he put on 47 while they were together, and Lord Hawke helped to add 41 more. Hirst, who is a fine all-round cricketer, contribution nine fours, a three and six twos. Yorkshire were all out about half-past 3 for 184, the last 145 of which had been obtained after the fifth wicket had gone. Huish kept wicket well, making three catches and giving away only one extra.

Mr Mason and Alec Hearne forced the game at the beginning of Kent's innings; but after Mr Mason had been caught at cover-point there came a collapse. Lord Harris played on, Mr Burnup was caught at mid-on, Alec Hearne was bowled, and Mr Rashleigh, after making three fine fours, gave an easy catch to mid-off. Five wickets were down for 62 and, in spite of the steady batting of Mr Stewart, the other five went for 36 more, the innings closing just before 6 o'clock. The Yorkshiremen fielded and bowled exceptionally well.

Yorkshire had thus a lead of 86, and as the pitch, if there is no more rain, will probably roll out pretty true this morning, Kent are almost certain to have a big task set them for the last innings. Yorkshire were still without Schofield Haigh and Hunter, who are indisposed. Tonbridge profited by Catford's misfortune, for the return between Yorkshire and Kent was removed from Catford because of the bad wicket in the Surrey match.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 5)

The rain had made the ground so soft at Tonbridge yesterday morning that, although the weather had cleared, all idea of play was given up until about 1 o'clock. But before luncheon there were two very heavy showers, and eventually the game for the day was abandoned.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 August, page 8)

By a well-judged exercise of the closure rule Lord Hawke prepared the way for the brilliant success of his eleven over Kent at Tonbridge yesterday. Yorkshire thus wound up their county season with a victory of so much substance as 107 runs. The secret of their success lay in their lead of 86 on the first innings, which enabled them to secure a sufficient advantage yesterday to close their second venture pretty early.

After the blank day of Tuesday there was only one side which could win if the match were played out, and this was not Kent. Slow at the start, the pitch grew difficult as the afternoon wore on, and Mr Burnup's 57 was quite a wonderful feat against much fine bowling and fielding, and went near to saving the game for Kent, as the match finished within only 20 minutes of time. The Yorkshiremen in their second innings adopted the right policy in hitting, and it was largely the work of Tunnicliffe, Brown, Denton and Hirst that enabled the visitors to "declare" when the game had yesterday lasted about an hour and three-quarters. In this time 124 were scored for the loss of seven wickets, and Kent were put in to make 211 to win.

There were two slight interruptions by rain; but neither endangered the visitors' chance of success. When five men had been dismissed for 24 Yorkshire seemed likely to win very early. But Mr Burnup, who had gone in second wicket down at 2, found useful partners in Mr Stewart and Walter Wright, who were in while 30 and 32 were added. Finally, Mr Burnup left at 100, being ninth man out; his was a splendid innings and included seven fours, a three and five twos. Mr Ernest Smith and Wainwright bowled with great success. A large company witnessed the cricket.

24 August: LANCASHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4663.html)

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

The Lancashire eleven did extremely well yesterday at Old Trafford, Manchester, in making 284 in their first innings on a slow wicket. Their batting absorbed all the hours of a cricket day made short by the lateness of the start, the turf being judged unfit for play until 1 o'clock.

To Mr Maclaren and Tyldesley belonged the highest merit for the Lancashire success; but several other members of the side had a smaller share in it. Mr Maclaren played excellent cricket and with Albert Ward obtained 101 for the first wicket, while Sugg helped him to add 41 for the second in half an hour. The Lancashire captain then left. His game was marked by his well-judged placing on the leg side and by his hard off-driving; he gave no real chance and hit 11 fours, three threes and six twos.

Half the side went for 154; but Tyldesley and Bardswell put on 83, while towards the finish Mold threw plenty of vigour into his game. Tyldesley, who was the last out, had gone in second wicket down. He had sundry escapes after passing 40, but generally his cricket was very good. Seven fours and five threes were his best hits. The attendance fell much below the average and the weather was slightly cold.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 5)

Bad weather prevented the renewal of this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 August, page 8)

The continuance of wet weather at Old Trafford, Manchester, made it necessary that this match should be abandoned.

24 August: MIDDLESEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4664.html)

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

The wet condition of the ground in the early morning and subsequent delays by rain limited yesterday's cricket at Lord's to about 50 minutes, in which time Sussex with first innings made 60 at the cost of two wickets. In the brief time of play yesterday the turf was easy, the ball cutting pretty well straight through, and Marlow, K S Ranjitsinhji and Killick made sundry good hits. Rawlin bowled out Mr Fry at 19 and got Marlow cleverly caught at short slip at 40. Then after some rain K S Ranjitsinhji and Killick made the most of their chances with the wicket and the ball both wet. But the Indian Prince had some good fortune, for at 17 Mr Stoddart might have caught him in the slips.

In the absence of Mr A J Webbe and Sir Timothy O'Brien, Mr Stoddart had the captaincy of the home side, in which Mr Beldam, of the second eleven, finds a place. It may be mentioned that K S Ranjitsinhji was very warmly cheered for his Saturday's great batting feat as he went to the wicket yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 5)

What cricket occurred at Lord's yesterday certainly favoured Sussex, but the rain's delays of the first two days do not offer much chance of any definite issue being reached in this match. Slow to start with, the wicket offered opportunity to neither bowler nor batsman, while the intermittent showers kept the ball wet and the ground comparatively easy. The best thing of the day was the batting of Killick, who played extremely well and had the distinction of joining the many other players who have run to the four-figure aggregate this season.

A start was made to the game shortly before mid-day, Sussex, who had lost two men for 61, going on with their innings. K S Ranjitsinhji did not give much trouble, for he was easily caught at 65, while the score was unaltered when Mr Newham gave Mr Bray an easy catch at wicket. Mr Murdoch and Killick, by capital play, put on 69 for the fifth partnership; but the Sussex captain was twice missed by Mr Stoddart in the slips. Before Mr Murdoch was well stumped at 134 there had been an interruption of nearly half an hour by rain. Although George Bean made sundry good hits there was a collapse from this point, and the last five wickets added only 29 runs. Killick, who was sixth out at 140, played very well, and in his 61 were five fours, six threes and seven twos. Hearne bowled strongly but had no luck.

Middlesex, who went in at a quarter past 3, were much troubled by the weather; between the showers they lost three men for 49. Mr Stoddart played on at 13, Mr Douglas was leg-before, and at 45 Mr Ford was out. Middlesex at present are 114 behind with seven wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 August, page 8)

The cricketing hours of this match at Lord's had grown so limited by the weather's delays that there was never any real chance of the reaching of a definite issue, and last evening, after a good deal of play had been got through between mid-day and 6 o'clock, the game was drawn. Besides the

interruptions of Monday and Tuesday, rain caused two more delays yesterday, in addition to which it had left the turf so soft in the more as to make it unfit for the game until noon.

There were sundry points of interest in the play; but the inevitable draw dulled the general attention of the company, many of whom, no doubt, went up to Lord's to see the renowned Indian batsman at the wicket. Late in the afternoon they saw something like an hour of him, and in this time there was a demonstration of his skill on the leg side and of his cut. But Middlesex were kind to him, for he gave two catches that were dropped, probably because of the wet ball.

The best thing in the batting line occurred in the second Sussex innings between half-past 3 and 4 o'clock. In that period Mr C B Fry forced the game to such an extent that he scored 44 out of 58. Most of his runs were obtained by driving, an art in which Mr Fry was always well learned and the vigour of which the Australians not long ago felt at Brighton. He was finally caught and bowled, and his chief strokes were five fours.

Earlier in the day the vigorous cricket of Mr Bromley-Davenport rid Middlesex of any possible danger of defeat. Going in fourth wicket down at 50, he was seventh to leave at 131 for 44. Mr Warner played steadily and helped him to make 49 for the fifth partnership – the longest in the innings – while a few hard hits by Hearne preceded the close of the venture. Tate bowled extremely well and his seven wickets averaged only nine runs each.

Following in the wake of Mr Key at the Oval last week, Mr Murdoch adopted the closure at a stage when his action was only humorous, for there was little more than half an hour left for the game when Middlesex went in again, and with only a draw possible he might have given the spectators a little more of K S Ranjitsinhji's batting.

24 August: SOMERSET v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4665.html)

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

The unsettled weather at Taunton yesterday allowed of little more than two hours' play on the first day of this match, but the county did fairly well, and at one time they seemed in for a really big score, for the 100 was reached with only two men gone. What cricket did take place occurred between sundry interruptions by rain, which kept the ball wet, a fact which no doubt had something to do with dropped catches in the slips by Mr Trumble and Mr Giffen.

Somerset strove very hard to make the most of their fortune in winning the toss, and the dashing cricket of Captain Hedley, Mr Woods and Mr R C N Palairat was very profitable under the existing conditions. Captain Hedley was second out at 64, and then Mr Woods and the younger Palairat advanced the score to 118, when the latter was caught at wicket, while Mr Woods was fourth to go, taken at extra-slip at 126 – a fine one-hand catch. Stumps were drawn with the figures as under . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 5)

On a bowler's wicket at Taunton, yesterday, there was quite an exciting day's play, and it was last evening adjudged anybody's match, seeing that Somerset are 139 ahead, with four wickets in hand. There had been more rain overnight, and the pitch was terribly soft yesterday morning when the home county went on with their batting. Somerset, who had scored 156 for five wickets, advanced their record in rather less than an hour to 219. This addition of 63 was chiefly the work of Mr Roe, with some assistance from Mr Challen and Tyler.

When the Australians went in Mr Iredale and Mr Darling were out for 17; but Mr Giffen, profiting by a considerable share of luck, and Mr Donnan met with so much success that the score ran to 88 before the third wicket fell. Robson, a medium pace right-hand bowler, had gone on at 84, and he did so well that six of the last eight wickets went to him for 22 runs. Seven of the Australians were out before the follow-on was saved; but in the end the Somerset lead was reduced to 90.

Somerset had a bad 20 minutes at the start of their second innings and four wickets fell for one run. Mr Woods and Robson checked this course of disaster; but both were out at 27. Then Mr Challen and Mr Hill played out time, the score being 49 for six. There were about 4,000 spectators.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 August, page 8)

Bad weather prevented any cricket at Taunton yesterday, and the Somerset and Australian match was abandoned . . .

24 August: WARWICKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4666.html)

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

In about an hour's cricket late yesterday afternoon, at Birmingham, Warwickshire made 46 at the cost of Mr Bainbridge's wicket. Heavy rain in the morning delayed the play, and finally the bad light caused a further shortening of the time. William Quaife and Diver hit freely. The former had the distinction of completing his 1,000 runs for the season. Mr Fishwick, of Handsworth-wood, is making his first appearance for Warwickshire.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 August, page 5)

The best things in a day's cricket made brief by the wet weather at Birmingham yesterday were the fine batting of Mr Fishwick and the effective bowling of Davidson. Mr Fishwick made his runs for Warwickshire at a critical moment on a very slow wicket, scoring very quickly and hitting four fours, three threes and seven twos. Davidson's bowling yesterday yielded eight wickets for 41 runs, although his full record gave him 29 runs more. There was no play through rain in the latter hours of the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 August, page 8)

With no prospect of any definite issue being reached in the match at Birmingham, and as much more rain had fallen, an early decision was arrived at yesterday to leave the game drawn as follows .

..

Thursday 27 August, page 8

MIDDLESEX v KENT. – At Lord's to-day Sir Timothy O'Brien will take the place of Mr Beldam; but otherwise the home team will be unchanged from that against Sussex.

MR A J WEBBE. – The Middlesex captain, whose hand was seriously hurt in the match at Bradford last week, is making steady progress towards recovery.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

YORKSHIRE

Lord Hawke and Mr F S Jackson, and the other members of the Yorkshire eleven, will receive the sincerest congratulations of cricketers upon the attainment by Yorkshire of the highest position among the counties – a position that, amid all the controversies about the system by which the championship is ruled, was placed beyond contention by the splendid victory over Kent at Tonbridge yesterday. The fight for the chief place in the competition has been particularly keen this season; but although Lancashire were now and again dangerous, it has been mainly a contest between Yorkshire and Surrey. And now that the season has advanced nearly to its end there must be something like unanimity in the opinion that the worthiest of the county elevens has secured the chief honours.

There is a vein of general excellence running right through the Yorkshire eleven, and if the north countrymen were severely beaten on the Oval it must be borne in mind that their luck on that occasion was in gambling phrase “dead out,” for they began by having all the worst of the wicket. Yorkshire has been a better all-round side this year than Surrey, who really need an influx of bowling talent, for Richardson this season has stood alone as a great bowler in their side. The Yorkshire executive have been fortunate in finding such a splendid man as Schofield Haigh, and they were unfortunate in having him absent from some of the later matches through slight ill-health – a sharp attack of sciatica was the cause.

A glance at the averages, however, will show that consistency alike in batting and bowling has carried the eleven to the foremost place. There is a general improvement in the batting figures, which is not surprising when it is remembered what a season it has been for hard, true wickets; and this is the cause of the bowling averages coming out less good than last year. Schofield Haigh’s introduction into the side and Wainwright’s increase in the number of overs sent down took some of the burden off the shoulders of Peel and Hirst, both of whom last year secured 130 wickets.

But Haigh was the great “find” for the eleven, and his fast bowling with the delivery of a dangerous slow ball without change of action caused wonder that he was not thought of either by the Lancashire or Surrey executives for the English team to play Australia. Haigh played a little last year; but he only took part in three matches and only obtained eight wickets.

Brown, who did not come out so well as was expected on his return from Australia last year, rises again to first place in the averages; and Mr Jackson, who is second, demonstrated more than ever his splendid cricket ability as batsman and bowler on all wickets. Injuries prevented Moorhouse playing as much as last season, but he, too, did well for the side. How successful has been the batting will be gleaned from a mere glance at the county’s table, where it is shown that Mr Ernest Smith, the 12th on the list, has an average of over 20.

So the championship returns to the North of England after an interval of two years – Yorkshire won it last in 1893, the summer following the breakdown of George Lohmann’s health, which left Surrey in sore distress. The greatest feat of Yorkshire was the creation of a fresh record for first-class cricket in their first match with Warwickshire. Probably had they sacrificed this achievement for a win they might have had an even better position at the head of the counties. They won 16 out of 19 finished games, but seven drawn matches furnished the one unsatisfactory thing in their list of results.

[Note: 1000 runs were scored by J T Brown (1556 at 45.26), Mr F S Jackson (1030 at 42.22), Peel (1135 at 35.15), Hirst (1018 at 32.25) and Tunnicliffe (1222 at 29.34). 50 wickets were taken by Haigh (71 at 15.20), Wainwright (90 at 18.65), Peel (97 at 19.7) and Hirst (80 at 23.73).

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Three other counties finished the season yesterday. Gloucestershire have not done anything like so well as last year, when they were actually fourth on the list, with eight wins and six losses. Against this their figures are now five wins and ten defeats, leaving them *minus* five in the championship table.

They did very badly for a long time this season, but lately they have fared better, an improvement that may be traced in some degree to the bowling of Mr C L Townsend, who in the early matches met with no success. The hard wickets were of course unsuited to him; but the chief cause of his deterioration was an injured arm. Dr Grace, without maintaining his extraordinary form of last season, has again done immense work for the side.

[Note: 600 runs – W G Grace (1565 at 53.28) and Wrathall (605 at 20.5). 40 wickets – C L Townsend (101 at 21.84) and Roberts (42 at 23.9).]

ESSEX

The Essex eleven are to be congratulated upon their generally improved cricket this season, and the progress of the side is to be found in the tables. They have a lot of young and promising talent in the county team, alike in bowling and batting, and with a larger programme, which they should easily secure next year in the absence of the Australians, their play will be more closely followed. Among those to whom the successes of the season will be most gratifying is Mr C E Green, the old Cambridge “blue,” who for a long period has heartily devoted himself to the fortunes of the county.

Essex beat Surrey, Yorkshire, Warwickshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire, and lost to Hampshire twice and to Yorkshire and Surrey in the games away from home. They were the only side to beat both Yorkshire and Surrey, both of whom suffered defeat at Leyton. Their results show five wins, four losses and three drawn games.

[Note: 600 runs – P Perrin (655 at 29.17) and C M’Gahey (842 at 29.4). 50 wickets – F G Bull (70 at 15.44) and Mead (55 at 20.31).]

DERBYSHIRE

Derbyshire’s cricket year was chiefly marked by their many fine batting triumphs, but what they need is some more bowling. The results show four wins – over Hampshire (twice), Leicestershire and Warwickshire; they were beaten twice by Surrey and once each by Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Lancashire and Essex. Much of their success was brought about by two of the best cricketers of the day – Storer and Davidson. Six matches were left unfinished.

[Note: 800 runs – Storer (1091 at 57.8), Davidson (953 at 43.7) and Chatterton (890 at 40.10). 50 wickets – Hulme (77 at 21.73) and Davidson (58 at 22.5).]

The positions of the counties up to the present are as follows:-

Matches	Proportion of Points						to Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points		
Yorkshire	26	16	3	7	13	.684	
Lancashire	21	11	4	6	7	.46	
Surrey	24	16	6	2	10	.45	
Middlesex	15	7	3	5	4	.4	
Essex	12	5	4	3	1	.1	
The other counties' results are:							
Nottinghamshire	15	4	5	5	-1		
Derbyshire	16	4	6	6	-2		
Kent	17	5	8	4	-3		
Hampshire	15	4	8	3	-4		
Gloucestershire	18	5	10	3	-5		
Leicestershire	13	2	7	4	-5		
Somerset	15	2	7	6	-5		
Sussex	16	2	7	7	-5		
Warwickshire	17	3	8	6	-5		

According to the M.C.C. decision, “One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county.”

27 August: HAMPSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4667.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 August, page 5)

By the aid of a strong wind and much sunshine the United Services' ground, Portsmouth, rapidly rid itself of the effect of the rains of the early part of the week. But the pitch helped the bowlers to some extent, and Leicestershire, who had first innings, were soon in a bad way, six men going for 39.

Mainly through the efforts of Mr Stone an improvement was slowly wrought in their prospects. Mr Stone played sound cricket and, going in fourth wicket down at 21, he was ninth out at 128 for 55, an innings of 100 minutes' duration, in which were five fours, three threes and six twos. His best partner was Tomlin, who helped to add 51 at a quick rate for the seventh wicket, while the last two stands yielded 59 runs.

Hampshire sustained a loss through Soar, who had taken two wickets cheaply, renewing an old strain in his back and retiring. However, the home county had the better of the day's cricket, for in two hours they passed the visitors' total with four men in hand. Barton played a dashing innings of 57 in a little over an hour, and hit seven fours. There were about 2,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 August, page 5)

Although Leicestershire strove very hard in an uphill fight at Portsmouth yesterday they never got into anything like a winning position, and last night the closing score found them only 124 to the good with a solitary wicket left in their second innings.

The first 90 minutes of the day were occupied in the establishment of a strong lead by Hampshire, whose four outstanding wickets added 94 runs to the overnight score of 146. Webb increased his not-out 23 to 54, a bright innings in which were seven fours, while Wootton later on hit freely. Soar, who had a man to run for him, stayed 40 minutes and made 8 runs.

Leicestershire at one time seemed likely to do very badly; but after two men had gone for 36 Pougher played excellently and, stopping for over two hours, made 61 out of 136 added. He gave no chance and hit six fours and five threes. Mr Joyce also did well and aided Pougher in a stand of 62 for the sixth wicket. Mr Stone was cautious, and in the end the score was left as follows . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 August, page 8)

After the way the game had gone after the first two days at Portsmouth it was not surprising on Saturday that Hampshire won the match by six wickets. The visitors' last batsman stayed while six more runs were added, and then Hampshire were left to make 131 to win.

They began badly by losing Mr Bennett and Mr Robson for three runs; but Barton and Mr Barrett played so well that 85 were added in the next 70 minutes, while, after Mr Ward had gone at 105, Barton and Webb hit off the rest of the runs. The former's dashing not-out innings of 75 was played in 100 minutes and included nine fours and five threes. Barton scored 132 runs in the match

and Baldwin took 11 wickets for 121, so that these two men between them had a great share in the fine Hampshire victory.

27 August: LANCASHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4668.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 August, page 5)

After the way the game went at Liverpool yesterday on the false wicket the Australians ought to maintain their unbeaten record against the counties, for, under conditions supposed to be unfamiliar to the colonists, they simply outplayed Lancashire. Such was the sway that the bowlers held that between 20 minutes past 12 and a quarter to 6 two innings were got through, with the result that Lancashire obtained only half as many runs as their opponents.

Against all the fine Lancashire bowling and fielding the Australians did exceptionally well to make 124 in two and three-quarter hours. Mr Donnan played the best cricket, and next to him were Mr Gregory and Mr Hill. But the innings furnished no striking feature. Briggs bowled splendidly and got seven wickets for 63. The Lancashire fielding was unerring and every chance was accepted, Mr Bardswell and Tyldesley each making three catches.

Mr Maclaren's 20 in the home side was made up of a six, three fours and two singles. Mr Trumble and Mr M'Kibbin bowled unchanged, and the latter had the fine analysis of six for 27; he got on a wonderful break and with successive balls dismissed Baker, Mr Bardswell and Briggs, thus performing the "hat trick." About 5,000 people visited the Aigburth Ground.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 August, page 5)

The Australian batsmen came out very well yesterday on the slow pitch and against much good bowling and fielding, and unless the wicket rolls out firm and true this morning at Aigburth, Liverpool, Lancashire can scarcely expect to win, seeing that with two wickets gone they require another 236 runs.

There had been so much rain during the night that the umpires decided to defer the start until half-past 1, when the Australians, who were 62 ahead, went in again. Their innings extended over about three hours and yielded 183 runs, a score fairly well distributed among the side. Mr Gregory's 53 was the highest total, while his and Mr Hill's partnership furnished the best cricket of the day, yielding as it did 61 in three-quarters of an hour. Mr Gregory played very well, although he had some luck, and among his figures were four fours, two threes and five twos. Briggs and Hallam bowled with much effect, but they scarcely were so destructive as might have been expected on the bad wicket.

Lancashire were left to make 246 to win, and they obtained ten of these at the cost of two batsmen. There were over 5,000 spectators.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 August, page 8)

There was a collapse of Lancashire batsmen at Liverpool on Saturday, when, helped by the false condition of the pitch at Aigburth Ground, Mr M'Kibbin and Mr Trumble got down the last eight wickets for an addition of 18 runs to the overnight score. Sugg was out to the first ball of the day, and then eight of the side were dismissed for 17. Mr M'Kibbin's slow bowling with its big break

was altogether too much for the home men, and his seven wickets cost only 11 runs, while he took 13 in the match for 38. Mr Kelly kept wicket with much success in both innings.

Lancashire, who had gone in to make 246 to win, were beaten by 217 runs. This was the Australians' last game with the counties, so that they have preserved, their unbeaten record in their matches with them.

27 August: MIDDLESEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4669.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 August, page 5)

The cricket at Lord's yesterday derived most of its excellence from the splendid batting of Mr Warner and Mr Bromley-Davenport, whose stand was most opportune for Middlesex, for it occurred when the side seemed on its way to a dismissal for an insignificant score. Four wickets, including those of Mr Stoddart, Mr Douglas, Mr Ford and Rawlin, had gone for 40 runs when their partnership began; and in the brief space of an hour their batting wholly altered the complexion of the game. They added in that time, which was before luncheon, precisely 100, while in all 105 were put on by them in 70 minutes.

With the pitch a trifle soft on the surface they realized at once what was the proper game and forced the hitting in brilliant style. Driving was the stroke by which both men got most of their runs, and its vigour was most enjoyed by the spectators. Mr Marchant had exhausted all his best bowling before Mr Bromley-Davenport, in hitting at a good ball from Mr Bradley, was bowled, leg stump. In his 65 were six fours, two threes and five twos. Mr Warner stayed some time longer; but he steadied his game considerably after Mr Bromley-Davenport had left. He was seventh out at 178, beaten by Alec Hearne's leg break. His 74 is one of the best things he has ever done for the county, for whom his success has not been anything like so marked as it was for Oxford University. Mr Warner is an excellent bat to watch, and the two hours of his play yesterday were thoroughly enjoyed. Among his figures were nine fours, two threes and nine twos.

Mr R W Nicholls played steadily for his runs and was in a great time for 25; his partnership with Mr Warner yielded 32. Middlesex completed their innings soon after 4 o'clock for 206, an extremely good score considering the bad start. In the very early part of the innings Rawlin had hit vigorously. The Kent men fielded very well, and the only bad error committed was by Mr Burnup, who dropped a catch from Mr Bromley-Davenport off Alec Hearne when that batsman was only 23. Mr Bradley and Martin did most of the bowling; the former is very fast and with his length at times short he was yesterday much more expensive than Martin.

The pitch considerably improved after the morning. Kent were batting from half-past 4 until 6 o'clock; but there was a delay by a shower of nearly ten minutes near the finish. They made 55 at the cost of two wickets. Mr Mason and Hearne found runs very difficult to get against the fine Middlesex bowling and, after three-quarters of an hour's partnership, both were dismissed by dextrous catches at extra slip. Mr Stoddart secured Hearne very low down, while Mr Mason he caught at the third attempt, having jumped up and partially stopped the ball which afterwards almost escaped him. Rawlin closed on to Mr Stoddart as the latter finally held the catch, and it seemed likely that the collision would end in the chance being lost. Mr Burnup and Mr Rashleigh played to keep their ends up in view of this morning.

Lord Harris stood out of the Kent team through an injured foot, and Sir Timothy O'Brien was detained in Ireland and at the last minute could not help Middlesex.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 August, page 5)

The beautiful cricket of Mr Stoddart and Mr Douglas in the last three hours of yesterday's play at

Lord's raised the character of this match to the highest level of the game. Mr Stoddart, with his rich variety of strokes, was always a splendid bat to watch get runs, but he excelled himself in the glorious cricket by which he scored 127 in the closing hours of yesterday. No better demonstration of the cut could have been wished for, while the power of his drive and the skill of his stroke on the leg side were illustrated in a manner completely worthy of the great English cricketer.

The pitch had wholly recovered and, with the ball coming along easily, Mr Douglas and Mr Stoddart never seemed likely to get out. Their skill and vigour made the Kent bowling look very ordinary, as indeed much of it was, for they found their game immediately that they went in and they were partners for two hours. The product of this partnership was 166, this being the third three-figure stand that these batsmen have made for the first wicket within a fortnight. Mr Douglas, in his own finished style, played strongly all round the wicket, and in his 65 were ten fours and three twos.

Mr Stoddart made absolutely no bad stroke until he was 107, when Huish, the wicket-keeper, missed him off Mr Bradley – a bowler, however, who was destined to get him out in the last over of the day. He was about two hours and 35 minutes making his 127, and his best hits were 19 fours, four threes and ten twos. After making his 50 in an hour and a quarter he scored at a great pace, principally while Mr Stewart and Mr Burnup were bowling their “long hops” and full “tosses.” At one time 50 were put on in a little over 20 minutes. So Middlesex in the end scored 219 at the cost of three men in two hours and three-quarters, which leaves them 244 ahead, so that there is little chance of their losing the game.

Middlesex had finished very strongly on Thursday night, for they were 206, while two of their rivals had gone for 55. Yesterday the Middlesex men bowled and fielded so well on the true turf that although the Kent innings lasted another two and a half hours only 126 runs were added. Mr Rashleigh had partnerships of 51 and 48 for the third and sixth wickets with Mr Burnup and Mr Stewart; but the whole excellence of the Kent innings, which lasted until just beyond the luncheon interval, was contained in the game of Mr Rashleigh. This old Oxford batsman rather forsook his usual forcing tactics for a game of watchfulness, and he was nearly two and three-quarter hours getting his 70; it was a fine innings in itself, for Mr Rashleigh always precisely timed the ball and his batting all round was good. He went in second wicket down at 39 and was seventh out at 177, finely caught at long-on. Among his figures were eight fours, three threes and six twos.

With three men still left Kent seemed likely to get right up to the home score; but only four runs were obtained by the last three wickets, and Kent finished 25 behind. Hearne had a fine analysis but Rawlin was not well enough to bowl much. The score below will show that Middlesex, with seven wickets to fall, are 244 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 August, page 8)

The Middlesex eleven gained a brilliant victory over Kent at Lord's on Saturday afternoon by 149 runs. Their position on Friday night had been made strong by the batting of Mr Stoddart and Mr Douglas, and on Saturday, although the rest of the side did not give the Kent men much trouble, the visitors were set the very big task of making 313 in the fourth innings.

And against the fine bowling and fielding Kent proved quite incapable of getting these runs; indeed, they made only a few more than half of the requisite number. Here and there on Saturday there were some good points in the defence, but the batting fell far below the great standard of the

previous day. Almost the best thing in the cricket was the bowling of J T Hearne, who was on through the second innings of Kent, seven of whom he got out for 74 runs. Kent ought really to have scored many more runs, for the conditions were favourable; but the Middlesex fielding was very good. Mr Stoddart's catch at extra-slip that dismissed Mr Marchant perhaps carried off the chief honours in the field.

Middlesex thoroughly merited their success if only for the splendid batting of Mr Stoddart and the bowling of Hearne. Saturday's cricket took a good many people up to Lord's, and the crowd at the finish heartily cheered the leading players.

Middlesex were rather more than an hour finishing their second innings, in which Mr Stoddart, Mr Douglas and Mr Ford had gone overnight for 219. To this number 68 runs were added, and these were mostly the work of Mr Warner and Mr Bray. The former played with a great deal of care, and made 25 out of the 54 put on during his stay between the fall of the second and seventh wickets; while Mr Bray had a share of 27 scored very quickly for the ninth partnership. Mr Bradley had been the most successful bowler, and he brought his record in the match to ten wickets for 196 runs.

Kent had to make 313 to win, and in an hour before luncheon they lost four wickets for 68. Alec Hearne had gone at 13 and Mr Mason at 23; but Mr Burnup and Mr Rashleigh seemed likely to give much trouble, for they played carefully and well. When 45 had been added Mr Burnup returned the ball and Mr Marchant was cleverly caught by extra-slip. After the interval the game did not mend for Kent, who lost Mr Rashleigh at 83, this making five wickets down. Mr Livesay and Mr Stewart played very good cricket for three-quarters of an hour, during which 56 runs were added. But the bowling of Mr Livesay, who had shown a fine capacity for driving, at 139 preceded a collapse, for the other four wickets added only 24 runs. Mr Stewart was the eighth out at 159 for a careful 30; he was bowled in playing back to a good ball from Hearne, who had an aggregate of 12 wickets in the match for 137 runs. The game ended at a quarter past 4.

This was the last important match at Lord's this season; but to-day there is a match between the M.C.C. and Berkshire.

27 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4670.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 August, page 5)

The scene on the Notts ground yesterday was worthy of the more flourishing days of the great cricketing county, for on a cold, dull day a large crowd keenly followed the play.

Nottinghamshire's first innings of 253 absorbed most of the hours of the game, for beginning at midday it lasted until well upon 6 o'clock.

This was a very good performance on a slow pitch, and one, too, that was far in advance of that promised when the sixth wicket went at 143. At this stage Mr Wright, who had gone in at 136, settled down and played brilliantly, scoring well all round and contributing 69 out of 104 added during his stay of an hour and a half. He was ninth to leave at 240, having hit 13 fours, two threes and a two. This is one of the best innings the old Cambridge "blue" ever played for the side.

Earlier in the day Shrewsbury had done well and, helped by Mr Oscroft, had made 81 for the second wicket. In a failing light Sussex near the end of the day lost two men for nine runs.

Nottinghamshire, who are without Gunn, Hardstaff and Brown, are trying a new cricketer in Mr T Chambers, a left hand fast bowler.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 August, page 5)

Nottinghamshire had the better of the day's cricket yesterday at Trent-bridge, and last evening at the drawing of stumps they were 198 ahead and had five wickets left in the second innings. Fine weather prevailed and another large company took an enthusiastic interest in the play.

Sussex, who had lost two men overnight for nine runs, were batting until half-past 3; but there was little of merit in their innings apart from Mr C B Fry and K S Ranjitsinhji. The latter was cleverly caught and bowled at 78, after which Mr Fry continued his sound cricket until he was seventh to go at 161. His game was much more cautious than in some of his recent exploits. He got his runs in about two and a half hours and hit nine fours, five threes and ten twos, while he gave no chance. How little the visitors did apart from Mr Fry and K S Ranjitsinhji may be gleaned from the fact that these two batsmen contributed 132 of the 184. Mr Jones's slows were very effective and his six wickets cost only eight runs each.

In the last two hours of the day Notts made 129 for the loss of five batsmen. The best thing in their innings was the play of Flowers, whose fine cricket broke the spell of ill-fortune which has been so consistently with him this season.

ARTHUR SHREWSBURY'S BATTING.- Yesterday, at Nottingham, Shrewsbury completed his 1,000 aggregate for the season.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 August, page 8)

Flowers, who has not been a very fortunate batsman this season, came out in something like his old

form on Friday and Saturday at Trent-bridge, and his fine innings of 107 contributed much towards the Notts victory by 188 runs. His game was marked by both power and soundness, and among his figures were 14 fours, three threes and ten twos, while his stay at the wickets lasted about two hours and three-quarters. To show their appreciation of his batting the spectators contributed £11 for him.

Nottinghamshire were all out by 20 minutes past 1 for 280, which meant that Sussex, with their deficit of 69 on the first innings, would have to get 350 to win. Mr Fry and Marlow made 70 for the first wicket, while with K S Ranjitsinhji in the 100 went up when only one man had been dismissed. Ranjitsinhji did not play so well as usual and had some luck; but it was a fine catch that got him out. Beyond a chance at the wicket when 38 Mr Fry's play was faultless, and in his 65 were eight fours, a three and seven twos.

After this capital start the Sussex batting collapsed, for on a wicket that had worn a good deal Mr Jones and Attewell bowled so well that the last eight wickets added only 60 runs, and Nottinghamshire won by 188. There was again a large company on the ground and pleasant weather prevailed.

27 August: SOMERSET v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4671.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 August, page 5)

A vigorous innings by Mr Walter Read was the thing that chiefly helped Surrey to get the better of the day's cricket at Taunton yesterday, in conjunction with some generosity shown by the Somerset fieldsmen towards the visitors. Surrey are now 100 ahead on the first innings and have got out eight of their opponents.

The rains of the first few days of the week had left the turf favourable for bowlers, a fact which is almost corroborated by the actual score itself. With first innings Surrey to begin with did none too well, and although there were fairly good partnerships between Baldwin and Abel and Mr Read and Mr Key, the record was only 107 when the eighth wicket fell. Mr Walter Read had a fair share of luck, for he was missed by Nichols at short-leg, and by Mr Newton at wicket when his score was 20. But he played the right game in hitting and met with great success, and he made his 54 in 90 minutes. Wood was his most able assistant, for he stayed while 56 were put on. In the end the Surrey total amounted to 172 as the result of three and a quarter hours' play. Robson came out with the best analysis, but Mr Woods and Tyler bowled with very bad luck.

Somerset went in at a quarter past 4. Mr Lionel Palairet played very well; but there was no other batting worthy of the side, and so complete was the downfall of the home team that seven men were out before the "follow-on" was averted. Just before the close Richardson strained his side in bowling and had to retire. Uncertain weather prevailed and a heavy rain set in soon after the drawing of stumps.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 August, page 5)

There was never a more wonderful change in a game wrought by a ninth-wicket partnership than yesterday at Taunton. The stand of 65 minutes, which yielded 110 runs, by Mr V T Hill and Tyler, completely turned the tables on Surrey, who had overnight stood so well that they were 100 ahead and had got eight of their opponents out. It was this stand that led to the brilliant Somerset victory of nine wickets.

The heavy rain overnight left the wicket soft yesterday morning, but the ball at first cut straight through, and it was while these conditions existed that Tyler and Mr Hill made their wonderful stand. Tyler might have been run out by Wood when only six, for he left his ground to "pat" the wicket while the ball was yet in play. The failure of the Surrey wicket-keeper to grasp the opportunity proved irreparable. Tyler's share of the 110 for the ninth wicket was 66, the biggest score that he has ever made in important cricket; hitting was the characteristic of his game and he contributed 12 fours and four threes. Mr Vernon Hill, who has of late had little fortune for the county, played in his own particular style, and in his 61, made in 85 minutes, were 11 fours. The Somerset team thus managed to head the Surrey score by ten runs, and this, too, when on Thursday they lost seven men before the follow-on was averted.

Surrey were handicapped by the absence of Richardson, who was suffering from an acute attack of muscular rheumatism. The visitors, who had lost their promised advantage, had to go in again when the wicket had become difficult. Somerset played a brilliant winning game, their bowlers

doing well and everything coming off for them. Two men went for 14, and after luncheon six were out for 22 and seven for 33. Hayes and Lohmann added 25, but the side were dismissed for 69. Captain Hedley and Woods bowled splendidly.

Somerset had only 60 to get to win; but with the pitch false there was a bare chance for Surrey. Matters were soon settled by the vigour of Mr Lionel Palairet and Captain Hedley, who scored 56 in half an hour, and then Mr R C N Palairet filled his brother's place to see Captain Hedley make the winning hit. There was great enthusiasm at the finish, and a collection of £22 was made for Tyler and Robson.

27 August: YORKSHIRE v SOUTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4672.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 August, page 5)

In consequence of the heavy rains of the morning no cricket was practicable on the first day of the festival yesterday in a match between a South of England Eleven and Yorkshire. Mr C I Thornton, in selecting the South team, was much handicapped by the various county fixtures . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 August, page 5)

On the slow and difficult pitch at Scarborough yesterday two innings were played through with a slight advantage to the South, who, getting the first spell of batting, ought to have done better than they did. Mr C I Thornton had of necessity to draw almost wholly upon Gloucestershire and Essex for his South of England team; but it was worthy of note that Mr F R Spofforth emerged from his Hampstead retirement to [play once again] in important cricket, and his bowling seems to be as effective as ever.

With first innings the South made 161, the respectability of the score being mainly due to Mr Sewell, Mr Rice and Mr Perrin. Mr Sewell had partnerships with his friends of 49 and 54, and when 107 went up with only three men out the visitors seemed in for a fine total. But after Mr Sewell had gone at 107 the other seven wickets added only 54 runs. Mr Sewell made his 79 out of 103 between the dismissal of the first and third batsmen and, playing a strong, vigorous game, he hit a six, six fours, four threes and nine twos. Denton and Hirst bowled well.

Helped by the pitch, Mr Bull and Mr Spofforth soon reduced the Yorkshire prospects to an almost pitiable condition, for in an hour seven of the side left for 56 runs. Peel and Moorhouse saved the county from disaster by adding 54 for the eighth partnership. The bowling figures of Mr Spofforth and Mr Bull speak for themselves.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 August, page 8)

The first game of the Scarborough Festival remained a bowlers' match to the end, which was reached on Saturday, when, after two and three-quarter hours' cricket, Yorkshire won by five wickets.

In the second innings the dry and difficult pitch seemed exactly to suit Peel's bowling, for the South were got out in 80 minutes for 76. Mr Rice made some good hits; but there was little else of merit in the batting. Peel had the wonderful analysis of eight wickets for 27 runs; Yorkshire wanted 103 to win and they secured these runs in 80 minutes. Brown and Mr Smith made 28 while they were together for ten minutes. Mr Spofforth again bowled well and his record for the match was nine wickets for 82 runs.

THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

Melbourne, Aug. 27

The Australian Cricket Council have cabled Mr Musgrove, manager of the Australian team in England, that they expect the team to return at the end of November.- Our Correspondent.

Saturday 29 August, page 5

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

SOMERSET

The Somerset eleven finished the season brilliantly yesterday by repeating their last year's victory over Surrey at Taunton; but the side's record falls below that of 1895, when they won six matches and lost eight, whereas yesterday's was only their third win, while they have lost seven games.

They possess several cricketers who are in the highest rank – notably, Mr L C H Palairet and Mr S M J Woods; but the executive are not always able to command the services of the leading amateurs and in a hard and true wicket season as this has been their bowling showed a lack of sting. The all-round excellence of their robust captain, Mr Woods, is shown by his position in the batting and bowling; but the bowling figures ill compare with those of last summer, when Tyler took over 100 wickets and was second on the list with an average of 22. In themselves the bowling returns expose the weakness of the side.

In batting, Mr L C H Palairet has done better than ever, and his splendid average of 50 for 26 innings is as good a record as almost any of the leading batsmen have secured this season. After Mr R C N Palairet there is a big fall in the batting tables, the drop extending from 34 to 19. Somerset won three matches, lost seven and drew six.

[Note: 600 runs – L C H Palairet 1204 (av. 50.4), S M J Woods 953 (av. 36.17). 30 wickets – S M J Woods 34 (av. 26.16), Tyler 73 (av. 29.7).]

Monday 31 August, page 8

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The county season is near its close, for to-day begin the last two matches, Sussex meeting Surrey at Brighton, while Lancashire play Warwickshire at Manchester. Five of the clubs finished on Saturday, and the decision at Lord's enabled Middlesex to depose Surrey from third place, for even if the ex-champions should beat Sussex they will yet be inferior in the records under the proportional system laid down by the M.C.C.

MIDDLESEX

The Middlesex eleven are to be congratulated on the general excellence of their cricket during a severe season. For years they have always been a brilliant batting side, while they possess a bowler in J T Hearne whose wonderful pitch and spin have long since made him one of the greatest players of the day. His beautifully easy action enables him to do much more bowling than a good many; but just for a little time at one period of the season the severe work in a dry summer seemed to be affecting his skill. However, he recovered completely, and at Lord's on Saturday he once again showed the sting in his attack even on a good hard wicket. As last year, he has dismissed over 100 batsmen; but his record in this instance is better, for his wickets are 13 more and the cost two runs less each.

But Middlesex still want another good bowler, although towards the end of this season they have been strengthened by Mr C M Wells, who cannot play early in the summer because of his duties at Eton. Phillips has not played so much for the side as last year, while the introduction of Mr Bromley-Davenport into the team turned out to be more profitable to the batting than to the bowling.

A glance at the batting discloses the great secret of the fine position attained by Middlesex. Sir Timothy O'Brien and Mr A E Stoddart are both over 40 in the averages, and both have played splendid cricket right through the season. Sir Timothy has been such a consistent run-getter on all sorts of wickets that it was surprising that he was not asked to play in some of the representative matches with the Australians. More than once his splendid cricket turned the game, the most striking instance being in the first match with Surrey at the Oval, when he played his great innings on a part of the first and second days.

Now and again Mr Stoddart failed; but he, too, had many fine innings, and none better than his last on Friday against Kent. He is a batsman developed of late years, whereas formerly he got most of his runs by driving. Three such cricketers as Mr Stoddart, Sir Timothy O'Brien and J T Hearne would make any side strong.

But apart from these Middlesex have sundry other good cricketers, and Mr Webbe commands altogether, perhaps, the most brilliant side playing. Mr MacGregor kept wicket in quite his best form; but an injured hand necessitated his absence from various matches; while Mr Webbe himself met with an accident to his hand at Bradford. Mr Douglas was able to play for the county when the schools broke up, and running quickly into form he did well with Mr Stoddart, whom he thrice helped within the last fortnight to make over 100 for the first wicket.

Another member of the Middlesex eleven who had to give up cricket through an injury was Mr Hayman, a very fine bat, who had been well coached by Mr Stoddart and Mr F R Spofforth. Mr Hayman is of the Hampstead Club, which has become quite a nursery to Middlesex cricket, and his season was cut short by an accident in Gentlemen v Players on the Oval.

Like Yorkshire, Middlesex were only thrice beaten this season, but their programme was ten matches less than that of the champions. The exigencies of a heavy season made it necessary to drop the games with Essex, but their record of eight wins and three losses is a great improvement on that of last year, when they tied with Warwickshire for sixth place, with six wins and six defeats.

[Note: 600 runs – Sir T C O'Brien 952 (av. 41.9), A E Stoddart 1100 (av. 40.20); 50 wickets – J T Hearne 118 (av. 17.113), Rawlin 54 (av. 24.1).]

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

There has been a steady improvement in Nottinghamshire cricket, chiefly wrought by the old hands, if Mr Jones can be included in that category. Shrewsbury and Gunn, although not always able to play for the side because of ill-health, have met with much success, more especially William Gunn, who has shown over and over again his wonderful method of forward play.

But while Gunn, Shrewsbury and Mr Jones have all done so much fine work in batting and Attewell maintains his bowling skill, the friends of the county would be glad to see some fresh blood of a

high quality introduced into the side. Nottinghamshire will lose its traditional repute for the production of great bowlers unless a change soon occurs. But it must not be forgotten that many of their young players are drawn away by league clubs, mostly in Lancashire, where the positions are much more lucrative than in playing county cricket.

Hardstaff "came off" occasionally for the county; but, although a good bowler, he has not a very graceful action. What Notts require are some cricketers more of the type, for instance, of the late Fred Morley and Alfred Shaw. Still, it is gratifying to the county to find an improved record – the side only won three games and lost as many as ten last year – larger attendances at the home matches and brighter cricket. Mr Jones played better than he has done before in the eleven, and the promise given by him in his Cambridge days seems to be approaching a realization; his slow bowling, too, was often very useful. Mr C W Wright also did well; but Mr Dixon showed a falling-off in his game.

Nottinghamshire had the honour of being one of the three counties to beat the champions – a feat they accomplished at Huddersfield early in July. Five wins, five losses and six drawn games make up their record of 16 matches.

[Note: 600 runs – W Gunn 785 (av. 48.3), Shrewsbury 730 (av. 36.10), Mr A O Jones 764 (av. 29.10). 40 wickets – Attewell 86 (av. 14.55), Brown 43 (av. 21.13).]

KENT

Inability to play their best side regularly had a good deal to do with Kent's ill-fortune this season. To say nothing of the absence of various amateurs from their matches, Walter Wright, who was in fine bowling form, could not play in week-end fixtures because of a league club engagement in the North, and this perhaps was their more serious handicap.

After a very disheartening start – not a game won until July 7 – they had a spell of success, beating Sussex, Somerset and Surrey in successive games, while they finally wound up with five wins, nine losses and four drawn matches. Last year they were absolutely 14th in the championship competition; but now they are only *minus* four, instead of eight.

The great thing in their batting was the play of the old Winchester captain, Mr J R Mason, who has scored over 1,110 runs for the county and has an average of 37. Both Mr Patterson and Mr Rashleigh are in front of him in the actual averages, but neither was engagement in anything like so much cricket or did so consistently well as Mr Mason, whose off-driving and cutting make him a splendid bat to watch.

The averages are generally better than last year, and Mr Burnup, who secured so much fame at Cambridge, proved a pretty useful member of the side during the University vacation. Alec Hearne, Wright and Martin all bowled well; but Kent are sadly in need of additional skill in this branch of the game. Lord Harris, after an absence from the county ranks for seven years, reappeared in the side and his batting in the West Country showed that he retains much of his power of hitting all round the wicket.

[Note: 600 runs – Mr J R Mason 1117 (av. 37.7), A Hearne 707 (av. 28.7), Mr G J V Weigall 680 (av. 22.8), Mr F Marchant 691 (av. 22.8). 50 wickets – A Hearne 63 (av. 16.60), Wright 51 (av.

19.44), Martin 70 (av. 21.8).

HAMPSHIRE

As one of the younger members of the championship circle Hampshire have little cause for dissatisfaction with their results. Batting was the great strength of the side, and in Captain Wynyard they had one of the leading cricketers of the day. He did far better than last year and heads the table with a fine average of 50. Then Mr H F Ward and Captain Quinton met with much success, and Barton, too, did well. Of their bowlers Baldwin and Soar were very good, and in a batsman's year the records of these men came out excellently.

Hampshire's results are much the same as last summer for they have won and lost a match less, which leaves them still minus three. They had bad luck in not winning their home game with Yorkshire, whom time alone saved.

[Note: 600 runs – Capt E G Wynyard 705 (av. 50.5), Barton 789 (av. 31.14), Mr H F Ward 675 (av. 24.3); 40 wickets – Soar 50 (av. 23.6), Baldwin 70 (av. 25.65).]

LEICESTERSHIRE

Leicestershire, in spite of the presence of such a fine all-round cricketer as Pougher in their ranks, were unquestionably the weakest of the counties, and out of 14 matches they could win only two. Eight were lost and four drawn. Last season there were three wins for the side and ten losses. Pougher did a lot of good work both with bat and ball, and Mr de Trafford was rather more successful as a batsman than in 1895.

[Note: 600 runs – Pougher 847 (av. 32.15), Knight 626 (av. 25.1); 40 wickets – Woodcock 59 (av. 26.2), Pougher 50 (av. 28.27).]

The positions of the counties up to the present are as follows:-

	Proportion of Points					
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	to Finished Matches
Yorkshire	26	16	3	7	13	.684
Lancashire	21	11	4	6	7	.46
Middlesex	16	8	3	5	6	.45
Surrey	25	16	7	2	9	.391
Essex	12	5	4	3	1	.1
The other counties' results are:						
Nottinghamshire	16	5	5	6	0	
Derbyshire	16	4	6	6	-2	
Hampshire	16	5	8	3	-3	
Kent	18	5	9	4	-4	
Somerset	16	3	7	6	-4	

Gloucestershire	18	5	10	3	-5
Warwickshire	17	3	8	6	-5
Leicestershire	14	2	8	4	-6
Sussex	17	2	8	7	-6

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

CRICKET AVERAGES

The following are the leading averages up to the present:-

BATTING

	No. of Innings	Runs	Highest Innings	Not Out	Average
K S Ranjitsinhji	53	2733	171*	7	59.19
Captain Wynyard	22	1032	268	2	51.12
Storer	34	1295	142*	5	44.19
Gunn	38	1383	207*	7	44.19
Abel	51	2111	231	3	43.47
Dr W G Grace	53	2082	301	4	42.24
Mr W H Patterson	13	492	181	1	41.1
Mr F S Jackson	40	1511	117	3	40.31
Mr A C Maclaren	23	858	226*	2	40.18
Mr H D G Leveson-Gower	17	606	93	2	40.6
Mr L C H Palairret	34	1291	292	2	40.11
Chatterton	34	1177	111	4	39.7
Brown, J T	56	1850	203	7	37.37
Sir T C O'Brien	29	1022	137	1	35.14
Hayward	50	1560	229*	7	36.12
Mr A E Stoddart	47	1614	127	2	35.39
Mr C J Burnup	39	1295	101	3	35.35
Killick	39	1023	191	10	35.13
Rev W Rashleigh	15	528	163	0	35.3
Mr J R Mason	39	1242	131	2	33.21
Shrewsbury	32	1009	172	2	33.19
Mr W Newham	39	1164	201*	4	33.9
Bagshaw	24	695	121	3	33.3
Davidson	37	1118	274	3	32.30
Diver	31	936	112*	1	32.25
William Quaife	38	1016	110	7	32.54
Mr S M J Woods	37	1128	158*	2	32.8
Frank Sugg	48	1427	210	3	31.32
Mr K J Key	41	900	75*	12	31.1
Peel	44	1189	210*	5	30.29
Hirst	41	1099	107	4	29.26
Pougher	44	1121	114	6	29.19
Mr A J Webbe	26	596	95	6	29.18
Mr H W Bainbridge	38	1055	118	1	28.19
Brockwell	46	1224	137	2	27.36
Mr A O Jones	40	1050	127	2	27.24
Tunnicliffe	54	1363	99	4	27.13
Baker	43	1018	94	5	26.30
Albert Ward	43	1146	108	2	24.42
H F Ward	32	765	113	1	24.21
Denton	43	1028	113	1	24.20
Lord Hawke	35	683	166	6	23.16

*Denotes not out.

BOWLING

The leading bowling averages of the season up to the present are:-

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Hearne, J T	1903	760	3468	233	14.206
Schofield Haigh	556.4	201	1289	84	15.29
Attewell	1353.4	646	2062	131	15.97
Richardson	1619.2	606	3928	248	16.56
Mr F G Bull	503.3	145	1360	82	16.48
Hayward	594.3	186	1422	85	16.62
Lohmann	616.3	212	1223	70	17.33
Mold	1154	379	2710	150	18.10
Alec Hearne	640.1	213	1321	73	18.17
Peel	1202.4	463	2118	114	18.66
Wainwright	869.3	279	1959	101	19.40
Briggs	1697	571	3191	150	19.151
Martin	1163.3	451	2137	101	21.6
Mr C L Townsend	792	131	2444	111	22.2
S M J Woods	471.2	156	1143	51	22.21
Hirst	880.4	330	2223	98	22.57
Davidson	1126.1	547	2123	90	23.53
Mr G L Jessop	696.3	207	1773	74	23.71
Pougher	973	356	2114	88	24.2
Mead	964.3	307	2382	99	24.6

THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

The averages up to Saturday, inclusive, are as follows:-

BATTING

	No. of Innings	Highest		Not Out	Average
		Runs	Innings		
Mr S E Gregory	44	1432	154	2	34.4
Mr F A Iredale	44	1257	171	3	30.27
Mr J Darling	51	1531	194	1	30.31
Mr C Hill	40	1116	130	3	30.6
Mr G H S Trott	48	1242	141	5	28.10
Mr G Giffen	45	1175	130	1	26.31
Mr H Donnan	40	965	167	1	24.29
Mr H Graham	30	543	96	2	19.11
Mr H Trumble	39	575	45*	9	19.5
Mr J J Kelly	34	440	45	7	15.5
Mr A E Johns	12	84	31*	6	14
Mr C J Eady	24	290	42	3	13.17
Mr E Jones	38	422	40	6	13.6
Mr T R M'Kibbin	30	164	28*	7	7.17

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr T R M'Kibbin	569.1	179	1262	89	14.16
Mr H Trumble	1088.1	364	2233	148	15.13
Mr E Jones	855.2	275	1868	117	15.113
Mr G Giffen	818.2	212	2116	111	19.7
Mr G H S Trott	355.4	66	914	44	20.34

31 August: C I THORNTON'S XI v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4673)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 September, page 9)

From, the fine position in which they stood last evening the Englishmen were mainly indebted to the brilliant cricket of three of the leading amateurs of the day – Mr F S Jackson, Mr Lionel Palairet and Sir Timothy O'Brien, who between them contributed over 200 runs to the score of 289 for eight wickets.

Mr C I Thornton had got together a very powerful side to meet the colonists – indeed, one that would have been well capable of representing England in any of the test matches – and it was only the fine Australian bowling and fielding that kept the runs down. The weather remained fine until late in the day, when a fog stopped the game. There were between five and six thousand spectators.

The English innings was splendidly begun by Jackson and Lionel Palairet, both of whom were in their best form. M'Kibbin and Trumble were well punished and 50 were made in three-quarters of an hour. Jackson's many fine hits all round the wicket were warmly cheered. Giffen and Trott took up the bowling and subsequently Jones had a turn. But Palairet ran to his 50 amid loud cheers, while his partner much profited by an escape which he had in the long field when only 39 – Darling was the erring fieldsman. Palairet, who had been scoring the quicker, continued to do well until 119, when he was well caught deep in front of square-leg. His share of the runs, made in an hour and a half, was 71, and he hit eight fours, three threes and nine twos.

After luncheon Brown was quickly out and Jackson and Wynyard followed him back very soon. Jackson, who was bowled by Jones at 151, played fine robust cricket for his 67, in which were eight fours and seven twos. Four of the side went for 155, Wynyard, who never seemed at home, being bowled by Giffen. O'Brien found his game at once and made many splendid strokes, while Tunnicliffe played steadily. The partnership raised the score from 155 to 211 and then came the dismissal of the professional, who put up a ball to mid-on. Davidson was soon out, but Storer stayed while 37 were added; and then at 262 O'Brien fell to a catch at extra slip. He had been in 100 minutes for his 65, in which were eight fours, three threes and eight twos.

The light had become very bad, and in the end the cricket was stopped by the fog, the figures being 289 for eight wickets.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 September, page 6)

The splendid cricket of Monday must have had something to do with the increased interest aroused by the play at Scarborough yesterday, for the weather on the second day of the match was cold and dull, while the wet in the early hours of the morning left the pitch slow and false. Still, of the Australian innings there were about 5,000 spectators.

The Australians experienced what to them was almost the novelty of following on, although this occurred at Lord's in the first match with the M.C.C. – the occasion of their getting out for 18. Yesterday, as at the Oval, it was Peel and J T Hearne who had most to do with their dismissal, more especially the former, whose seven wickets cost only 53 runs. At one time they seemed likely to be out for much less than 100; but Mr Trott rescued the side from absolute disaster and was much

helped by Mr Kelly. They have begun their second innings and are still 151 behind, so that their fight is yet all up hill.

The Englishmen, who had lost eight wickets for 289, went on with their innings at ten minutes past 1. Peel and Smith, the not-outs, were quickly separated, the latter being finely caught low down at third man at 292, while two runs later a beautiful one-handed catch at mid-on disposed of Hearne. Thus the innings closed for 294.

At a quarter to two the Australians went in, but the bowling of Hearne and Peel soon wrought discomfiture among them. Darling skied the ball to mid-on and Iredale was caught at wicket before luncheon, while afterwards the course of ill-fortune to the batting side continued. There was a drizzling rain during the interval that prevented the renewal of the game until 3 o'clock.

Peel soon bowled out Donnan at 14, while nine runs later a catch in the slips sent back Gregory. Giffen made a fine drive into the reserved seats, but at 29 he was the fifth to leave, a good piece of stumping getting him out. Thus were half the side dismissed. The next few overs did not improve things, for a clever catch at extra slip disposed of Hill at 38. Then came a stand by Trott and Kelly, who made sundry good hits, and at 67 Jackson changed his bowling, bringing on Davidson for Peel, who crossed over to Hearne's end.

The alteration was quickly effective, Kelly being caught at mid-off after he had helped Trott to add 43 runs in three-quarters of an hour. Subsequently Jackson bowled an over in order to allow Hearne and Peel to go on at their original ends. Trott was then taken in the slips, and after the 100 had gone up both Jones and Trumble were quickly dismissed, the innings ending at ten minutes past 5 for 116. In the follow-on against 178 the Australians made 27 without loss of wicket before stumps were drawn.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 September, page 5)

The Australians were substantially beaten at Scarborough yesterday by Mr Thornton's powerful eleven by an innings and 38 runs. This success of the Englishmen was merited by their better cricket on a slow and difficult pitch. To a great extent it could be traced to the beautiful batting of Mr F S Jackson, Mr Palairet and Sir Timothy O'Brien on Monday; while on Tuesday and yesterday Robert Peel, the famous left-hand slow bowler, who found a wicket perfectly suited to his pitch and break, secured the fine record of 12 for 96.

The Australians have cause to remember Peel, for it was he who had such a large share in the disaster which overtook them in the third England match at the Oval. This was the colonists' sixth defeat of their tour, the previous losses being sustained against England (twice), the M.C.C., the Minor Counties and Earl De La Warr's team.

Unless the pitch underwent a wonderful improvement there was little chance of the Australians saving the game, for they had followed on against odds of 178, and yesterday the wicket remained slow and false. Mr Iredale came out well in a fine attempt to save his side; but the English bowlers made short work of most of the other batsmen. Mr Thornton's team fielded superbly, especially Captain Wynyard, who not only made a wonderful one-hand catch that dismissed Mr Giffen, but by his fine return brought about the running out of Mr Iredale, whom Mr Donnan had called for a sharp single.

Although the drizzle in the morning promised to interfere with the cricket, a crowd of 4,000 people went up to the ground, and the weather sufficiently improved to allow of a start soon after midday. For a while the ball cut straight through the surface, but the turf subsequently helped Peel. When Iredale and Mr Darling had been separated at 56 the Australians never seemed likely to save the game. Mr Donnan and Mr Hill were together for half an hour for the addition of five runs, and towards the close there was a vigorous piece of cricket by Mr Trumble. But by a quarter to 4 the Australians were beaten.

31 August: LANCASHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4674.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 September, page 9)

Bad weather allowed of very little play at Manchester yesterday, and at an early period of the day it was decided to adjourn the game until this morning . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 September, page 6)

In consequence of the bad weather and the soft wicket there was no play until late in the afternoon at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday. Warwickshire, who had a few minutes' batting on Monday, fared ill against the bowling of Hallam and Briggs, and the innings was played through before the drawing stumps for 110. The two Quaifes showed pretty good form for the visitors.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 September, page 5)

Bad weather completely ruined this match at Manchester, and early yesterday afternoon it was left drawn. During the day some progress was made with the Lancashire innings, five wickets falling for 129. Mr Bardswell and Tyldesley forced the game well and there was steady batting by Baker. After so much delay by rain on Monday and Tuesday the chances of a finish were remote and little interest remained in the match.

31 August: SUSSEX v SURREY

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

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 1 September, page 9)

After their rather checkered career of late Surrey came out in something like their true form yesterday on the county ground, Hove, when the great event in the day's cricket was a wonderful innings by Brockwell, who was never seen to better advantage than in getting this 107. The surface of the pitch was just a trifle slow from the morning's rain; but the ball came along easily and to its pace and the bowlers Brockwell seemed at home almost from the moment that he began his innings.

He at once set to work to force the game and his driving and cutting were powerful in the extreme, and without an ill-judged stroke and against much good fielding he ran to his 100 in the brief space of 90 minutes. He and Abel by making 156 for the first wicket in an hour and 40 minutes promised Sussex a whole day in the field; but when once rid of these two men Sussex had trouble only from two others and were able to begin their innings soon after 5 o'clock. In playing their quick forcing game Surrey were much more themselves than on many recent occasions, and their fine score of 308 places them in a strong position. In the previous match at the Oval this year they were beaten, though Brockwell then, too, made a hundred.

Surrey v Sussex is always an attractive fixture at Hove, and the first day passed away under the best conditions that could be afforded by fine weather and a true pitch, while the mere fact of this being the last county match in the South was sufficient to bring the game extra attention. So there was a crowd of 5,000 people, whose impartiality was well marked by the manner in which the efforts of the Surrey batsmen were appreciated.

In the absence of Mr W L Murdoch the duties of the Sussex captaincy were undertaken by K S Ranjitsinhji, who is always popular with the Brighton public, for the mere fact of his fielding an easy ball never escaped applause. Mr K J Key was absent from the Surrey eleven as well as Richardson, who has not yet recovered from the chill contracted by him at Clifton. Nice, a member of the Surrey second eleven and a native of Earlswood, Redhill, who had a trial last year, was given a place in the side.

Brockwell and Abel, who began Surrey's innings, forced the game at once; and both Tate and Hartley were severely punished. Brockwell got most of the runs, and his off-driving was particularly powerful, whereas Abel played a steadier game all round the wicket. Two of hit cuts to the boundary were, however, particularly good. Fours were plentiful and the pace of the run-getting will be gleaned from the fact that the 50 was reached inside 20 minutes. It was in vain that Ranjitsinhji changed his bowling, none of which made the slightest impression on the Surrey batsmen. Brockwell reached his 50 in 35 minutes and the 100 went up in an hour. All sorts of bowling changes were tried, but amid a long ringing cheer Brockwell completed his 100 out of 146 in 90 minutes. However, the separation was at hand, for at 156 Brockwell was caught by the wicket-keeper, standing back to Fry. He had made 107 in 100 minutes, and he hit 17 fours, three threes and ten twos.

Hayward was out before luncheon, and afterwards three more men were rapidly dismissed. Indeed, the record showed five for 177, which was a great change after the 150 had gone up with no one out. Arlington at wicket had been showing capital form, and it was he who stumped Abel at 173, this being the fall of the third batsman. Abel played in his own particular style for his 59, in which

were eight fours, a three and seven twos.

When Sussex seemed likely to keep Surrey's figures within ordinary limits there came a fine piece of vigorous cricket by Walter Read and Baldwin. Both adopted forcing tactics and within an hour they put on 80 runs. Read, who was caught at wicket, hit six fours in his 43. Baldwin, whose fault it was entirely that Lohmann lost his wicket, was himself run out at 294 through a splendid return by Ranjitsinhji in the long field when the batsmen were going for what seemed a good fourth run. His 59 were rapidly made and included five fours. Surrey were all out in rather more than three and three-quarter hours for 368. Fry and Hartley took seven wickets between them, but the latter was very expensive.

Sussex went in for 40 minutes, and after Lohmann had got Fry well caught at long-on, Marlow and Ranjitsinhji played out time, the home side at the finish wanting 134 more to save the follow-on.

K S RANJITSINHJI'S BATTING

With his innings at Brighton last evening Ranjitsinhji brought his aggregate for the season to the highest ever recorded in important cricket. The previous best was the 1871 return by Dr W G Grace, who made 2,739 runs and had an average of 78. Ranjitsinhji now heads Dr Grace's record by 18 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 2 September, page 6)

With the pitch at the Sussex ground, Brighton, made soft and false yesterday by the rain in the early hours of the morning, the match between Surrey and Sussex resolved itself into an uphill fight for Sussex, whose position at present holds out no promise of the saving of the game, for with six of the best bats gone in the second innings 34 runs are yet necessary [even to] make Surrey go in again.

The home county have had all the worst of the turf, so that their condition deserves some sympathy. For once yesterday K S Ranjitsinhji failed to make a big score, and it was left to the fine bowling of Lohmann to give the day's cricket its chief feature. In the first innings of Sussex Lohmann secured six wickets (five bowled) for 58, while in the follow-on he dismissed three more batsmen. After the wet morning the weather gradually became settled, although there was a shower at half-past 1 that prevented any cricket until about half-past 3. There were some 5,000 spectators and the play was closely followed.

So badly did Sussex do that their score of 55 for one wicket was increased by only 92 for the nine others, the balance of the innings extending over about an hour and three-quarters. K S Ranjitsinhji added 13 to his overnight total; but he might have been easily caught and bowled by Lohmann, although this escape profited him nothing. The best thing in this Sussex innings was the capital batting of Killick, who has been very successful this season.

Sussex had to follow on against 161, and such was the disastrous time they had that, although Mr Fry hit hard, six men were dismissed for 70, and the game seemed likely to be over last night, for at this stage there was still an hour for play. However, George Bean's clean and hard hitting gave the home score more respectability and, aided by Mr Collins, Bean took the record from 70 to 127 before stumps were drawn owing to the bad light.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 3 September, page 5)

Surrey wound up their season with a decisive victory of ten wickets over Sussex at Hove, Brighton, yesterday. The game had been left so uneven on Tuesday night that little interest remained in the cricket, and yesterday the match was finished in the course of rather more than an hour's actual play.

Most of this time was occupied by the addition of 39 runs by the last four Sussex batsmen. Bean, who had made the stand overnight with Mr Collins, was the seventh to leave at 143. His 56 was a fine display of robust cricket. He hit seven fours and two threes, and also had a single increased to five by an overthrow. One of the best things in the match was the bowling of Lohmann, whose double analysis gave him a record of 11 wickets for 125 runs. Surrey had only to get six in their second innings.

Thursday 3 September, page 5

THE HASTINGS FESTIVAL.- The annual cricket festival at Hastings begins to-day with a match between the South of England and the Australians. The South will have a good side, but the absence of K S Ranjitsinhji will be much regretted. Dr W G Grace, Mr A E Stoddart, Mr C L Townsend, Abel, Lohmann, Hayward, J T Hearne, Richardson, Butt, Brockwell and Killick will be included in the team.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The county season ended yesterday, when Surrey, showing something like their true form, gained an easy victory over Sussex, and Lancashire and Warwickshire were unable to finish their match owing to the bad weather. Neither of these results affected the position of those counties, who under the M.C.C. scheme of judging the championship, were credited with points; for Surrey's losses to Essex and Lancashire had completely put the great Southern Eleven out of the running for championship honours, and Lancashire were too far behind to endanger Yorkshire's title. It is satisfactory to the cricket world generally to know that the best side won the championship. Yorkshire, except when meeting the Australians, almost invariably played fine cricket and were a better all-round team than Surrey, by whom, however, they were beaten on the Oval.

Since the admission of Essex, Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Hampshire to the championship the number of matches played by the different counties varies considerably, and in another year when the Australians are not here an attempt should be made to arrange a programme so that each Eleven should play the other, and thus secure a complete tournament as existed in the later days of the "nine" first-class counties.

LANCASHIRE

Lancashire have done excellently this season, losing only four matches (these were their home and home games with Middlesex and Yorkshire) and winning 11 out of the other 17. Mr Maclaren's appearance in the side in the later fixtures made a wonderful difference; indeed, he certainly won the Surrey fight on the Oval a week or so ago. As is well known, his scholastic duties at Harrow prevent him from playing regularly through the season; but he gets a good deal of small cricket, and by this keeps himself in splendid form.

The Lancashire figures, both bowling and batting and the summary of results, bear the stamp of a consistent side. While Mr Maclaren has an average of over 50 for 15 innings, Frank Sugg, who is a fine batter, had scored over 1,000 and at 39 an innings. The bowling of Mold, Hallam and Briggs was very good considering the hard and true wickets. Lancashire were second to Surrey last year in the championship list.

[Note: 700 runs – Mr A C Maclaren 713 @ 54.11, Frank Sugg 1278 @ 39.90, Baker 923 @ 35.13, A Ward 925 @ 30.5. 50 wickets – Mold 130 @ 17.26, Hallam 58 @ 17.24, Briggs 122 @ 19.95.]

SURREY

After carrying all before them in May and June, Surrey seemed [quite to] lose their game, their batting and bowling both showing deterioration. But it was chiefly the bowlers who seemed to lose their sting. Richardson evidently suffered from the hard work of the first two months, while neither Lohmann nor Lockwood was able to get batsmen out as at other times. The real secret is that professionals are called upon to play too much cricket these days, and the strain of three such months as were May, June and July to a bowler of Richardson's pace was sure to make itself felt.

In spite of all this, however, the Surrey bowling comes out, on the whole, splendidly in the averages in such a batsman's year. Richardson falls 46 wickets short of his last year's aggregate, and to this fact alone may be traced some of the county's misfortunes. Lohmann did more work than in 1895, and Hayward, who heads the list, improved in a wonderful degree. He is a medium-pace bowler with a nice pitch and plenty of spin.

But Surrey must look to their bowling, which certainly needs strengthening. They have plenty of young talent in the second eleven, and such players as Lees and Nice may develop skill with the ball. The county were unfortunate in losing the services of Street, whose knee was injured; but there is no doubt that the real cause of their misfortunes after a wonderful beginning to the season was staleness from too much play.

Abel, as last year, heads the batting. His average, while excellent, falls much below his figures last season, when he scored 1,787 runs at the rate of 51 an innings. Hayward and Brockwell have both scored over 1,000 runs for the county, and Baldwin, who was once more tried in the later matches, came off and secured third place among the batsmen. Mr Key and Mr Walter Read have both done better than last year. What Surrey often lacked was a strong forcing player like Maurice Read, who should have been retained by the side after his fine batting last summer.

Surrey were beaten by Lancashire (twice), Middlesex, Sussex, Kent, Essex and Somerset. They won the same number of matches as in 1895 – namely, 17 – but they lost three more. Mr Leveson-Gower, the Oxford captain, will probably be found more often in the side next year.

[Note: 700 runs – Abel 1516 @ 42.4, Hayward 1182 @ 36.30, Brockwell 1161 @ 32.9, Mr K J Key 726 @ 29.1, Mr W W Read 758 @ 24.14. 40 wickets – Hayward 81 @ 14.68, Lohmann 73 @ 15.27, Richardson 191 @ 15.88, Lockwood 45 @ 22.37.]

WARWICKSHIRE

Warwickshire's cricket has been rather disappointing in spite of the capital batting of William Quaife, Mr Bainbridge and Diver. Pallett and Santall did some good work in bowling; but the record places them far down in the list of results.

[800 runs – William Quaife 860 @ 34.10, Diver 898 @ 32.2, Mr H W Bainbridge 942 @ 31.12. 40 wickets – Pallett 70 @ 25.5, Santall 67 @ 26.15.]

SUSSEX

All the wonderful batting of K S Ranjitsinhji for Sussex failed to save the side from finding the lowest place in the list. Two victories over Gloucestershire and Surrey were their only successes. The old disease, weak bowling, is still with them. Tate and Parris worked hard for them, but after the University match Mr Hartley's slow leg breaks were useful. But their averages are rather deplorable for a first-class county.

K S Ranjitsinhji easily bore away the honours of batting with an aggregate of 1,698 and an average of 58, which is 17 in excess of last year. Mr Newham played excellently all through the season, and Mr Fry and Killick also did extremely well.

[800 runs – K S Ranjitsinhji 1698 @ 58.16, Mr W Newham 1070 @ 36.26, Killick 849 @ 31.12, Marlow 844 @ 27.7. 40 wickets – Tate 73 @ 26.40, Parris 47 @ 27.46, Mr J C Hartley 40 @ 31.38.]

The positions of the counties are as follows:-

Matches	Proportion of Points					to Finished
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	
Yorkshire	26	16	3	7	13	.684
Lancashire	22	11	4	7	7	.46
Middlesex	16	8	3	5	5	.45
Surrey	26	17	7	2	10	.418
Essex	12	5	4	3	1	.1
The other counties' results are:						
Nottinghamshire	16	5	5	6	0	
Derbyshire	16	4	6	6	-2	
Hampshire	16	5	8	3	-3	
Kent	18	5	9	4	-4	
Somerset	16	3	7	6	-4	
Gloucestershire	18	5	10	3	-5	
Warwickshire	18	3	8	7	-5	
Leicestershire	14	2	8	4	-6	
Sussex	18	2	9	7	-7	

According to the M.C.C. decision, "One point shall be reckoned for a win and one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

THE COUNTIES' AGGREGATES

BATTING

	Wickets		
	Runs For	Lost	Average
Yorkshire	10761	359	29.840
Lancashire	7638	300	25.188
Middlesex	6529	259	25.54
Surrey	8306	352	25.6
Essex	4442	293	21.179
Notts	5755	254	22.167
Derbyshire	6202	227	27.173
Hampshire	5636	251	22.114
Kent	6770	308	21.281
Somerset	6380	275	23.55
Gloucestershire	6698	312	21.146
Warwickshire	6072	274	22.44
Leicestershire	4561	258	17.175
Sussex	7788	308	25.138

Innings:	(For)		(Against)	
	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest
Yorkshire	887	80	515	55
Lancashire	393	107	577	49
Middlesex	450	88	381	45
Surrey	512	45	291	55
Essex	395	55	430	83
Notts	426	52	450	90
Derbyshire	577	73	512	110
Hampshire	515	58	519	71
Kent	480	94	458	48
Somerset	519	78	559	69
Gloucestershire	551	79	450	52
Warwickshire	342	49	887	160
Leicestershire	399	55	660	129
Sussex	559	71	551	94

BOWLING

	Runs	Wickets	
	Against	Taken	Average
Yorkshire	9672	464	20.392
Lancashire	7415	374	19.309
Middlesex	6143	266	22.261
Surrey	8115	478	16.467
Essex	4231	186	22.95
Notts	5754	245	23.19
Derbyshire	6222	232	28.190
Hampshire	6439	242	26.167
Kent	6527	297	22.293
Somerset	6340	204	31.16

Gloucestershire	6830	273	25.5
Warwickshire	6983	248	28.39
Leicestershire	5488	188	29.36
Sussex	7679	240	31.239

THE FOLLOW-ON RULE

The notorious incident in Oxford v Cambridge this year and the subsequent discussion by many of the leading authorities have led, it is understood, to the Marylebone Club's taking action in the matter. The M.C.C. has asked the views of the counties as to the amendment of the follow-on – whether it shall be optional with the side possessed of the lead or whether it shall be abolished altogether; while their views are also asked as to a change in the closure rule, so that a side may end its innings before the last day of a match.

3 September: SOUTH v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4676.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 September, page 5)

Altogether the Australians may be said to have done excellently on the first day of their last match in England; but the merit of their very respectable score of 222 belonged largely to Mr Hill, a left-hand batsman with a faculty for playing strongly on the leg side, which inclination often leads him to "take" a ball off his middle stump and place it.

For a while yesterday the Australians were doing very badly on the slow pitch that helped the bowlers, and it was only after six of the side had gone for 95 that the disastrous course was checked by Mr Hill. As the day went there was not much to choose between the sides, for, if the Englishmen had to mourn the loss of Mr Stoddart, they had the gratification of knowing that many other excellent batsmen were with them.

The Hastings Festival has become an institution in the closing stages of the season, and has hitherto been remarkably well treated by the weather, which yesterday showed no signs of discontinuing its favourable patronage. The sun shone brightly and the attendance was larger for a first day than ever before recorded at Hastings – a fact for which, no doubt, the attraction of seeing the Australians and also the splendid side got together by the South were responsible.

K S Ranjitsinhji's absence was generally regretted, as was that of Mr Lionel Palairet, one of the finest batsmen of the day. Yet no fault could be found with the constitution of the South of England side which took the field under the captaincy of Dr Grace, who had the aid of such fine bowlers as J T Hearne, Richardson, Lohmann and Mr C L Townsend. Except that Mr Darling was absent the Australians put their best team in the field. In other years at Hastings the Australians have usually taken part in the second match of the festival; but a change this season became imperative by their arrangement to leave for America next Tuesday.

With the pitch soft and likely to improve there was no particular advantage attached to the winning of the toss; but the turf was not sufficiently bad for the successful side not to go in. So Mr Trott decided that the colonists should bat first. They began badly against the bowling of Lohmann and Richardson and, although sundry double figures were recorded, six of the best bats went for 95.

Then came a change. The pitch had been steadily improving, and after luncheon the ball came along much more truly. In fact, such was the change that the last four wickets yielded 127 runs, bringing the score to 222 at half-past 4. When the sixth man had gone Mr Kelly joined Mr Hill, and so prosperous was this partnership that in a little over half an hour 43 runs were added. And then after Mr Kelly had been dismissed another half-hour of Mr Hill and Mr Trumble produced 51 runs, while afterwards Mr Jones scored 26 out of 30 added in a quarter of an hour, among his figures being a six for a drive out of the ground off Mr Townsend.

Mr Hill, who went in fourth wicket down at 68, was the eighth to go at 189; his 65 were made without a mistake in the course of 90 minutes and his brilliant innings included 11 fours, two threes and five twos. Lohmann's bowling was very effective in the play before luncheon; but afterwards it was severely treated.

The South had about 35 minutes' batting and lost Mr Stoddart, who was bowled off his body, the

score at the finish being 31 for one wicket. Dr Grace made four boundary hits in his 22.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 September, page 6)

The tradition weather which has been associated with the cricket festival at Hastings was absent yesterday to such an extent that at one time there seemed small prospect of any cricket at all on the second day of South of England v The Australians. Rain had fallen heavily during the night and it continued for a long space of time yesterday morning, and, although things brightened up a little about noon, there was an intermittent drizzle. The authorities shared in the general opinion about the doubtfulness of cricket and the gates were not opened until well into the afternoon. Even when the rain did end the day remained cold and dull, and there was one interruption because of the failing light.

It was after 3 o'clock when the umpires decided to allow the match to proceed and, in all, the cricket day was one of about two hours. In this time the South of England advantage their overnight score of 31 for one to 154 for nine, and for the respectability of this total on the slow wicket and against the excellent bowling of Mr M'Kibbin and Mr Giffen Dr W G Grace was very largely responsible. He was fourth out, caught in the long field, at 96; his 53 was a vigorous innings and included seven fours, a three and a two.

Abel had helped his captain to take the score to 62, while Hayward forced the game so well that he made 21 out of 26 added for the third partnership before being taken at long-on. Brockwell, Killick, Lohmann and Hearne played the correct game under the circumstances; but none of them stayed very long, and the end was that, with a wicket to go, the South were 68 behind.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 September, page 8)

A wonderful piece of bowling by J T Hearne marked the closing stage of this match at Hastings on Saturday. On the soft and false pitch Hearne and Lohmann after luncheon actually got down the ten Australian wickets in the second innings for an addition of 41 to the 22 scored before 2 o'clock. Hearne, who did not go on until after the interval, secured six wickets for eight runs, four of which were in one hit by Mr Jones, while with eight men out his record showed 13 overs and 2 balls, 12 maidens, 2 runs, five wickets.

The Australian batsmen finished their tour in a rather ignominious fashion and time alone saved them from defeat, for at the drawing of stumps the South of England wanted only 49 to win and had eight wickets to fall. Dr W G Grace, however, would probably not have batted owing to a strained leg.

In the early morning Hearne and Richardson had made a useful stand for the last wicket by adding 38. When the Englishmen went in a second time there were only 45 minutes left for play and 94 were wanted to win, but runs came at the rate of one a minute. The ground showed a remarkable capacity for recovering, as so heavy was the rain on Friday night that the question arose as to the probability of any more cricket in the match.

3 September: YORKSHIRE v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4677.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 September, page 5)

Bad weather prevented any cricket at Scarborough yesterday in M.C.C. v Yorkshire, which is the last match of the festival . . .

As a token of the regard in which Yorkshiremen hold Lord Hawke, who has captained the eleven in the season of the championship honours, it has been suggested by Sir Cheshire Legard, supported by Mr M J Ellison and Lord Londesborough, that a testimonial should be presented to the Yorkshire captain. Nothing has been definitely settled, but there is a general feeling that some recognition should be taken of Lord Hawke's successful captaincy.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 5 September, page 6)

On a bowler's wicket at Scarborough yesterday the best things of the day were the fine, vigorous batting of Mr F S Jackson and Mr Maclarens and the effective bowling of Mr F R Spofforth, who, in spite of having sundry catches dropped off him, came out with the splendid analysis of eight for 74. So the great Australian has not lost the art of getting people out, for he has done extremely well in the few instances of his appearance in big cricket this summer.

The Marylebone fieldsmen developed quite a faculty for dropping catches yesterday, for Mr Maclarens, Mr Jessop, Mr Sewell, Mead, Hearne and Davidson all erred in this respect; and but for these mistakes the Yorkshire score would have fallen far below its proportions of 184. Yorkshire, with the advantage of first innings, were not out until 20 minutes to 4. Mr Jackson forced the game splendidly, making his 70 out of 111 in a little over 100 minutes. He had some generosity shown to him by several fieldsmen, but his batting was none the less excellent to watch. Six fours, five threes and seven twos were his best hits.

Tunnicliffe, who was missed before he had scored, stayed while 35 were obtained, while Lord Hawke helped Mr Jackson to put on 62 for the third wicket, taking the score from 40 to 102. At a later stage of the innings Moorhouse and Wainwright played well, and while they were together put on 43.

Marylebone went in for about two hours and made 100 at the cost of five batsmen. The feature of the innings was the dashing 44 by Mr Maclarens, whose runs were contributed out of the first 61. The weather was very fine and there were about 3,000 spectators.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 September, page 8)

The bad weather again interfered with the match between M.C.C. and Yorkshire at Scarborough on Saturday, and eventually it was decided to abandon the game . . .

Saturday 5 September, page 6

THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS

The Australians will leave Southampton on Tuesday next in the New York, of the American Line. They go from Waterloo Station on the same morning at 20 minutes to 10. In America their matches will be:-

Sept. 18, v Philadelphia.
Sept. 23, v New Jersey Athletic Club.
Sept. 25, v Philadelphia.
Oct. 2, v Philadelphia.
Oct. 7, v Chicago.

Two clear days will be spent in San Francisco, and then the side will leave in the Mariposa for Auckland.

Monday 7 September, page 8

THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS IN ENGLAND

The Australians' long programme, which began early in May at Sheffield Park and continued unbroken by any longer interval than was furnished by a match's decision in two days, came to an end on Saturday with the drawn game at the Hastings Festival.

Had all the summer been as August was, there would perhaps have been a far different tale to tell than that of a long series of brilliant successes over the counties, and in two or three instances against other teams. But the Australians through May, June and July found the wickets much after their own heart; the side had a wonderful share of good luck, especially in the matter of first innings, and the team batted and bowled in a way that caused astonishment both in England and among the critics in Australia, where many good judges had lamented the weakness of the eleven.

Here, then, were the things that yielded a record comparable to those of most of the teams that have before visited us. An element in their game – and one, too, that had a great influence in the fortunes of the side – that secured universal commendation was the captaincy of Mr G H S Trott. In the management of his bowling, in the placing of the field and in keeping the team generally well together Mr Trott developed quite a genius, and, without injustice even to Mr Murdoch, it may be said that this team was captained as well as, and perhaps better than, any of its predecessors. Mr Trott was captain of the side in the proper sense of the word, and his name will be worthily associated with the ninth Australian team in cricket history.

An analysis of the merits of the side brings out one great feature – steadiness, which in Australia, where there is unlimited time for big cricket, is recognized as the correct thing. But here in England a much higher style of batting is cultivated by the public schools and the counties. One looked in vain for anything in the Australian game that in the slightest degree resembled the Eton forward play or approached the style of the Harrovians Mr F S Jackson and Mr A C Maclarens, strong and powerful batsmen on all wickets. Many other brilliant types could be mentioned. But in this Australian side there was not a Stoddart, an O'Brien or a Palairet. And any comparison with K S

Ranjitsinhji would be quite impossible.

And then in bowling their skill was not of the nature of Richardson, J T Hearne or Robert Peel. But while lacking all this brilliant class the team was collectively strong – strong enough to beat England, in fact, on a hard and true wicket at Manchester, although it was something of a scramble to finish with. But while their soundness prevailed against the counties and in the England match at Manchester, it failed in nearly all the other big games. England outplayed the Australians on a hard wicket at Lord's and on one that was slow at the Oval, while the M.C.C. decisively beat them in the first match (this was the occasion of the now famous 18 score by the Australians) at Lord's, and were robbed by time of a victory in the second. Of the three other losses experienced by the side the most notable was at Scarborough, where Mr C I Thornton's eleven worsted them on a slow wicket.

As the honour of English cricket was thoroughly upheld by the winning of the rubber in the test matches, and as the leading club also demonstrated their capacity for beating the visitors, the friends of home cricket have not had much cause to complain at the results of the tour. But the most remarkable thing was the way that the colonists carried all before them when meeting the counties. Middlesex had no match; but Yorkshire, Surrey and Lancashire had seven between them. The Australians beat Yorkshire and Lancashire twice each and Surrey once, while with the first and last-named they also drew.

These were the surprising decisions in the county games, for no one expected many of the other clubs to beat them under anything like equal conditions. But from the great Surrey, Yorkshire and Lancashire sides with better was expected. Had the first Surrey match been in May or June it would have been much more interesting, for Surrey were just then at the "top" of their game, whereas their bad spell was already on them when the Australians visited them at the Oval. Somehow or other the county teams when engaging the Australians never seemed to throw into their game that terrible earnestness that marked their inter-county contests. There was at times noticeable in their play something akin to that leisurely feeling which smacked of exhibition rather than keenness.

Among the things most marked in the play of these county teams was their moderate scoring against the Australian bowling, which was scarcely ever collared. Indeed, it says much for the Australian bowling and fielding that in the whole 34 matches of the tour there were only two innings of over 300 and only three individual 100's made against them, and this in a summer which for the first three months was of remarkable dryness – in fact, 1896 must be classed among the batsmen's years. Yet only two cricketers did particularly well against Australia, and these were K S Ranjitsinhji and Abel.

The Indian Prince's inclusion in the England side was a subject of much discussion both in the colonies and at home. The Marylebone Club committee, which recognizing the wonderful ability of K S Ranjitsinhji, laid down a precedent that was not followed either at Old Trafford or the Oval, and it was well for England that it was not at Manchester, where the game was almost won by the Indian's batting. Ranjitsinhji, after receiving a courteous explanation from Mr Perkins for the M.C.C. committee of his exclusion from the Lord's match, made it a condition of his appearance at Manchester that the Australians should be asked if they had any objection to his playing for England. It would be well in future were the selection for the whole of the test matches left to the Marylebone Club, who by tradition and by the representative nature of their membership are the governing body in cricket.

Alike in batting and bowling have the Australians in this tour excelled. In batting some one almost

invariably came off, and no fewer than 18 hundreds were recorded for them. The most consistent player was he who had the only capacity to do much forcing – namely, Mr S E Gregory, who has a variety of strokes and for style and execution was the best bat on the side. And his place at the head of the averages was well merited.

Mr Trott's stolid methods of back play were mostly successful; but he struck a spell of misfortune now and again. However, he did some wonderful work for the side on the hard wickets, while his slow leg-breaks were often successful. For a few weeks, after a bad start, Mr Iredale proved the most wonderful batsman on the side. But he took some time to develop his game, and although possessed of a fine style often proved a very slow scorer.

Mr Darling, one of the left-hand batsmen, of whom there were four in the side, drove extremely well, and Mr Hill often came out strongly with that wonderful stroke of his on the leg side, to execute which he often takes the ball off the middle stump. Mr Giffen is getting quite a veteran at the game, but he still retains much of his steady batting power, and in bowling his pitch and break when the wicket suits him are as good as ever.

But the most remarkable individual work has been the bowling of Mr Trumble, who has not only vastly improved since he was here three years ago, but must have developed his skill during this tour, for there was quite an outcry against his becoming a member of the side by some of the Australian judges. Constant play in good cricket may have done much to make him the good bowler that he now is. He varies his pace from slow to rather beyond medium, and has a beautiful pitch and gets a lot of work on the ball. He has bowled consistently well right throughout the tour, and his return, if he does not come up to some of the great records of Mr Spofforth and Mr Turner, was one of the most potent factors in the success of the tour.

Of the other bowlers, Mr Jones and Mr M'Kibbin did best. The former, whose delivery is not of the style that fastidious judges of the game care for, did a lot of good work on the hard wickets, while Mr M'Kibbin, who was rather neglected in the early matches, came on with leaps and bounds afterwards with the wonderful break that he got on his slows. He actually heads the averages, although he took 47 wickets less than Mr Trumble.

But while the averages and records of the side convey the idea of splendid success, the team was not of the calibre of at least the 1882 side, when the bowlers included Mr Spofforth, Mr George Palmer and Mr H F Boyle, and the batsmen Mr Murdoch in his prime, Mr Bannerman, Mr Bonnor, Mr H H Massie, Mr T Horan and Mr M'Donnell, while there are some who think the 1884 side also stronger. The thing lacking in Mr Trott's team was the capacity for forcing the game. Those who remember such brilliant hitters as Mr Massie, Mr Percy M'Donnell, Mr Bonnor and Mr Lyons will readily understand the quarter in which the weakness of the side lay.

The interest in their tour was sustained to the end. Mr Kelly proved a good, hard-working wicket-keeper, making 37 catches and stumping 22 men, but he had to follow a master of the art in coming after Mr Blackham, who for the first time in the annals of Australian visits to England was absent from the eleven. Mr Blackham has been obliged to give up the game through an injury, and a testimonial is now being organized for him, to which Englishmen are asked to subscribe.

The recompense for the good cricket and exciting games that the eleven have given to English crowds must be of great substance. Huge gates have been the rule equally in London and the provinces, and the side were most fortunate in getting the long spells of fine weather and dry wickets. So no doubt when the profits of the tour come to be shared the honorarium for each man,

if it were known, would give the English professionals fresh cause for thinking that, as their play is quite as attractive as that of the Australians, they too should be better thought of by those clubs capable of giving them better pay.

Many interesting facts will be gleaned from the comprehensive statistics published below:-

{Note: This includes batting and bowling averages, etc.]

In the 34 matches the Australians scored 12,246 runs for the loss of 509 wickets, giving an average of 24.30 runs per wicket, while against them 10,064 runs were obtained for 583 wickets, or an average per wicket of 17.153.

The highest innings played by the Australians was 625 against Derbyshire, at Derby, while their lowest total was 18. For this latter score they were put out by the M.C.C. and Ground in the first match at Lord's. In the second M.C.C. and Ground match the Marylebone Club scored 367, this being the highest total hit against the Colonists during the tour. Gloucestershire, as in 1893, were dismissed for the lowest score, namely, 73 at Cheltenham. Seventeen is the lowest ever obtained by an English side against any Australian team.

The following are the chief English averages against the Australians:-

BATTING (over 20)

	No of Inns	Total Runs	Most in Inns		Times not out	Average
Abel	12	528	116	1	47.6	
K S Ranjitsinhji	12	492	154*	1	44.8	
Gunn	11	250	69	3	40.6	
Mr F S Jackson	12	427	95*	1	38.9	
A E Stoddart	11	322	61	1	37.2	
Pougher	13	252	51*	5	31.4	
Captain E G Wynyard	7	186	68	1	31	
Dr W G Grace	14	390	65	0	27.12	
Hayward	10	219	84	2	27.3	
Lilley	12	262	65*	1	23.8	

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
J T Hearne	446.2	193	732	55	13.17
Peel	149.2	50	314	22	14.16
Lohmann	93.2	29	212	13	15.4
Briggs	308	113	571	33	17.10
Richardson	297.3	96	713	38	18.29
Pougher	281.4	108	570	39	19
Mold	187.4	61	474	20	23.14

CRICKET AVERAGES (bottom, page 8)

BATTING

	No. of Innings	Runs	Highest Innings	Not Out	Average
K S Ranjitsinhji	55	2780	171*	7	57.44
Captain Wynyard	23	1038	268	2	49.9
Gunn	38	1383	207*	7	44.19
Abel	54	2209	231	3	43.16
Dr W G Grace	54	2135	301	4	42.35
Storer	36	1313	142*	5	42.11
Mr F S Jackson	42	1648	117	3	42.10
Mr L C H Palairat	35	1362	292	2	41.9
Mr W H Patterson	13	493	181	1	41.1
Mr H D G Leveson-Gower	17	606	93	2	40.6
Mr A C Maclaren	25	909	226*	2	39.12
Chatterton	35	1193	111	4	38.15
Sir T C O'Brien	30	1037	137	1	37.14
Brown, J T	58	1861	203	7	36.25
Mr C J Burnup	39	1295	101	3	35.35
Hayward	53	1593	229*	8	35.13
Rev W Rashleigh	15	528	163	0	35.3
Capt Quinton	19	593	76	2	35.1
Mr A E Stoddart	49	1628	127	2	34.30
Killick	42	1039	191	10	34.1
Mr J R Mason	39	1242	131	2	33.21
Shrewsbury	32	1009	172	2	33.19
Bagshaw	24	695	121	3	33.3
Mr J Douglas	15	493	87	0	32.18
William Quaife	39	1053	110	7	32.29
Mr S M J Woods	37	1128	158*	2	32.8
Diver	32	998	112*	1	32.6
Davidson	39	1124	274	3	32.4
Mr W Newham	41	1183	201*	4	31.38
Frank Sugg	49	1439	210	3	31.13
Mr K J Key	41	900	75*	12	31.1
Peel	48	1205	210*	6	30.8
Pougher	44	1121	114	6	29.19
Mr A J Webbe	26	596	95	6	29.18
Brockwell	48	1345	137	2	29.11
Hirst	42	1100	107	4	29.8
Mr H W Bainbridge	39	1059	118	1	27.33
Mr A O Jones	40	1050	127	2	27.24
Baker	44	1045	94	6	27.19
Tunnicliffe	56	1385	99	4	26.33
Albert Ward	49	1154	106	2	24.26
Denton	43	1028	113	1	24.20

*Denotes not out.

BOWLING

The leading bowling averages of the season up to the present are:-

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Hearne, J T	1991	793	3806	243	14.204
Schofield Haigh	556.4	201	1289	84	15.29
Attewell	1353.4	646	2062	131	15.97
Richardson	1643.2	621	3982	245	16.62
Lohmann	737.4	249	1456	89	16.32
Mr F G Bull	503.3	145	1360	82	16.48
Hayward	645	204	1541	91	16.85
Peel	1275.1	485	2259	127	17.80
Mold	1154	379	2710	150	18.10
Alec Hearne	642.1	218	1338	73	18.24
Wainwright	880.3	283	1984	102	19.46
Briggs	1741.2	582	3253	163	19.118
Hulme	1073.3	420	2013	96	20.93
Martin	1168.3	451	2137	101	21.6
Mr C L Townsend	813.2	133	2508	118	22.22
Hirst	890.4	335	2234	98	22.78
Mead	997.3	315	2457	101	24.33

DEPARTURE OF ALBERT TROTT. – Albert Trott, the M.C.C. professional, left Plymouth on Saturday in the Orient Company's steamer Oruba, for Sydney.

7 September: NORTH v SOUTH

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4678.html)

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

If not so strong as was at one time hoped, the elevens that took the field at Hastings yesterday were in every way worthy of the title bestowed on a match which in the past has been much abused by the unrepresentative nature of the sides often got together. But yesterday, in spite of the splendid batting talent in the teams, the bowlers held sway. Indeed, from first to last it was a bowler's day, and the aggregate of runs for the 17 wickets which fell amounted only to 178. On the soft false pitch the South managed to establish an advantage of some sort, for at the drawing of stumps they were 24 runs ahead and had yet three wickets to fall.

With a large company assembled under the best conditions of weather, there was must disappointment at the absence of Dr W G Grace, who, in consequence of a strained leg, was obliged to stand down from the South side. The spectators, however, had one or two pieces of batting over which to grow enthusiastic, and these occurred in the innings of the South.

With the pitch soft there was no advantage to be gained by winning the toss; but the North went in, and between 12.20 and 3.15 the side was out for 77. This was even a larger score than was at one time promised, for when eight men had gone the record was only 42. Wainwright and Attewell put on 27 during their partnership, and Mold also made a few good hits. J T Hearne bowled splendidly, and with his six wickets for 29 runs made his aggregate the highest of the season. He and Lohmann, who also bowled well, were unchanged during the innings.

When the South went in two men were out for 26; and then came the best batting of the day, by Mr Stoddart and Brockwell. On the slow wicket these men forced the game in brilliant style and promised to establish a very big advantage. But when 60 runs had been added Hirst was given a trial with the ball and his fast bowling wrought a wonderful change. With his first two balls he got out Mr Stoddart and Killick, and afterwards dismissed Brockwell and Ayres. When the seventh batsman went at 93 Hirst had taken four wickets for four runs. The South met with no further loss and the game was left as follows . . .

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

The bowlers had the upper hand in this match to the end. Yesterday the wicket was more than ever treacherous, and the result was the defeat of the North by five wickets. This would probably have been more severe had the South, when they went in to get the 28 necessary to win, preserved their original order; but as it was they began with the tail, and as all the men went in for hitting five of the side were got out by Albert Ward and Brown, who do not commonly bowl in important cricket.

The bad pitch and the uneven game rather spoilt the match; but with the weather fine a large company again assembled. Once more the feature of the play was furnished by Hearne's bowling. The famous Middlesex professional has had a wonderful time during the Hastings festival, for he followed up his professional on last Saturday against the Australians, when he took six wickets for eight runs, by getting out 14 men on Monday and yesterday for 64. Twenty wickets in three innings for 72 is a piece of bowling that has scarcely been equalled during the season. Hearne preserved a wonderful length, and from his bowling the ball came fast from the pitch and did the work quickly.

On Monday night the South had already established an advantage, inasmuch as with three wickets in hand they were 24 runs ahead. Mr Townsend and Hearne met with some batting success, and in the end the lead of the South amounted to 55. Hirst came out with the fine analysis of six for 14 runs.

The North fared so ill in their second innings that five were dismissed for 39. Then Lilley and Hirst remained some time and hit off the arrears, but when they were separated Hearne made short work of the rest of the side, and the innings realized only 82 runs. The South wanted 28 to win, and with this easy task on hand the order was reversed, while Brown and Albert Ward bowled. By half-past 4 the game was over.

During the luncheon interval there was a presentation of a service of plate and an address to Mr William Carless, who, as honorary secretary of the festival for ten years, has had much to do in securing for it its present position in important cricket. The Mayor of Hastings (Mr S T Weston) made the presentation, and among the other speakers were Dr W G Grace and Mr Stoddart.

Tuesday 8 September, page 8

THE REIGATE FESTIVAL.- The annual match at Reigate this year has been changed to Surrey v Gentlemen of England with Tate and Killick. It will be played on Friday and Saturday next.

A remarkable season, so far as concerns matches within a category of first-class, came to an end yesterday with the rather abrupt finish to the second game of the Hastings Festival, and below we publish the comprehensive batting and bowling averages for the summer.

Had August been as the previous three months were some extraordinary figures would, no doubt, have been recorded; but the day of the batsman ended with the breaking up of the long spell of fine weather which had given us so many beautiful wickets during May, June and July. Still, it was time that the bowlers should have a turn. They had grown stale in their efforts to get great batsmen out on the perfectly true pitches, when the most skilful of bowlers could scarcely make the ball turn in the slightest degree. But August helped the bowlers much to get back their own, especially those whose pace was about medium and under.

It has been a famous season, and the additional cricket afforded by the 34 matches of the Australians gave increased opportunity to those who wished to improve their averages. K S Ranjitsinhji's lead in the batting is not surprising after the consistent brilliancy which has marked his game through the season. He has achieved a feat which will secure to him perpetual fame in cricket history. He has tied Dr Grace's record of ten three-figure scores in one year of first-class cricket, and has beaten the champion's record aggregate of 2,739. But there is this to be said – that Dr Grace, when he put together this wonderful number of runs about 25 years ago, played in fewer matches. The Indian prince, with his wonderful precision and his great stroke on the leg side, has, however, become a prodigy, and cricketers will watch closely to see whether his powers will last. Ranjitsinhji is the only batsman to get into the fifties, and his 57 average for 56 innings is a wonder in itself.

In a season which was so much a batsman's the batting figures are generally high. Dr Grace has again done well, although his average falls far short of last summer – the year of his rejuvenescence – but his record of 2,135 runs in 54 innings is simply miraculous for a man in his 49th year. Robert Abel, of Surrey, shares with "W.G." and Ranjitsinhji the honour of getting into a 2,000 aggregate. Hayward, whose uncle was the finest batsman about the sixties, when Cambridge was a great county, and Peel have proved themselves the best all-round players; their figures in batting and bowling speak for themselves. The batting tables, indeed, give a remarkable demonstration of the good wickets that were quite common in the season.

In bowling, the two chief things were the performances of J T Hearne and Richardson. These are the two greatest bowlers of the year. Both at times suffered through the hard and true turf; but the soft and false pitches of August were much more helpful to Hearne than they were to Richardson, by reason of the difference in the paces of the two men. No member of the numerous Hearne family ever made a greater name than J T, of Middlesex, has done with his medium pace and his wonderful length and break; while Richardson is, beyond doubt, the finest fast bowler we have seen for many years.

Amateur bowling has been rather better this year than last. Mr Bull, of Essex, was the great "find" of the season, and Mr Townsend towards the end of the summer made amends for his early failures. Mr Cunliffe, of Eton and Oxford, also proved very good. Dr Grace's 301 was the highest score of the year, and Yorkshire established a fresh record in the aggregate of an innings.

[Note: full batting and bowling averages follow. These can be found through:

THE AUSTRALIAN CRICKETERS

The Australian cricketers left Waterloo Station early yesterday morning for Southampton, where they subsequently embarked on the American liner New York for the United States. Their programme in America has already been announced in *The Times*.

THE DINNER TO K S RANJITSINHJI. – Among those who have consented to join the general committee for the dinner to be given at Cambridge on September 29 to K S Ranjitsinhji are: . . . [list of Cambridge and Cambridge University dignitaries] . . . the Earl of Sheffield, Lord Harris . . . Lord Hawke . . . Mr Henry Perkins (sec. M.C.C.), Dr W G Grace, Mr A G Steel, Mr Frank Mitchell, Mr A J Webbe, Mr A E Stoddart, Mr K J Key, Mr W L Murdoch, Mr L C H Palairet and Mr C B Fry.

Mr H Musgrove, the manager of the Australian team, has written to the hon. sec., and after expressing regret that the team cannot be present, remarks, with regard to the guest of the occasion: - “As a cricketer we have the very highest opinion of his magnificent batting abilities and all-round excellence. We have been pleased to meet him during our tour, and if he can be induced to visit us in Australia he can be sure of the heartiest of welcomes and good wickets.”

11 September: SURREY v GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND (not first-class)

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

Day 1 (report from Saturday 12 September, page 11)

The wet weather prevented any play at Reigate yesterday, when the cricket festival should have opened with a match between the Surrey eleven and the Gentlemen of England, with professional assistance. All hope of starting was not given up until about 4 o'clock. Hitherto at Reigate it has been a match between elevens chosen by Mr W W Read and Dr W G Grace. At 11 o'clock this morning an attempt to start the game in the next fixture will be made.

Day 2 (report from Mon 14 September, page 9)

Potted score: GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND 180/5 dec (C L Townsend 66*, W L Murdoch 62; Richardson 3/57). SURREY 73/2 (Brockwell 27*, Wood 37). Match drawn.

The cricket festival at Reigate was utterly spoilt by the bad weather, which did not even spare the second day's play. Not a ball was bowled on Friday; and on Saturday there was a long interruption before luncheon. So all the interest was taken out of a game that had promised to be of much more interest than that of previous years, when the fixture was the scratch match between elevens captained by Dr W G Grace and Mr Walter Read.

What cricket took place on Saturday had for its feature the fine piece of hitting by Mr W L Murdoch, who in a little over an hour made 62 out of 107 added by him and Mr Townsend for the fifth wicket. This stand occurred after luncheon, when the ground was very wet. Mr Murdoch hit 11 fours and seven twos.

In the early part of the day – that was, for about 70 minutes from 11.20 – Mr Townsend succeeded in batting where such players as Mr Hewett, Mr Stoddart and Mr Fry had failed. He went in first and was not out at the adoption of the closure by the Gentlemen with 66 to his credit. He played very good cricket and eight fours were among his figures. Beyond the fine one-hand catch by Lohmann at short slip that got out K S Ranjitsinhji, there was no further incident of importance during the Gentlemen's innings, which was closed at 180 for five wickets.

More rain threatened to put an end to the game, but just before 5 Surrey went in, and in about 35 minutes scored 73 for the loss of two men. Wood hit brilliantly and made 37 out of the last 65 in half an hour, and then with his dismissal stumps were pulled up and the match was abandoned . . .

14 September: SURREY v RICHMOND AND DISTRICT (not first-class)

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

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 September, page 4)

The Surrey eleven, under the captaincy of Mr H D G Leveson-Gower, began a match at the recreation ground, Richmond, yesterday, with nineteen of the town and district. It was in no sense a cricket day. The weather was dull and the wicket was slow and false, while after luncheon the wind freshened and prevented a light drizzle from developing into serious rain.

The bowlers carried all before them, and there were some wonderful analyses by Richardson and Lohmann for Surrey, and by Mr Williams, the Old Harlequin footballer and Middlesex cricketer, for Richmond. The local side were all out before luncheon for 45. Richardson performed the hat trick by getting out Stoner, Mr Hobbs and Mr K E M Barker with successive balls, while six wickets fell at one time without the addition of a run. The bowling figures of Lohmann and Richardson were:-

	O	M	R	W		O	M	R	W
Richardson	11	5	22	10	Lohmann	11	3	19	8

Abel was the chief source of the comparatively respectable score made by Surrey. He had one life and was ultimately run out by the bowler who took advantage of the batsman's backing up by stopping in the act of delivering the ball and putting the wicket down, a practice which, although perfectly legal, savours rather of rural green cricket. Mr Williams was the bowler and his slow leg breaks secured the dismissal of seven batsmen for 35 runs.

When Richmond went in again Richardson began bowling them out; but the light was so bad that Mr Leveson-Gower took him off and tried Abel's slows, and when stumps were drawn the home side, with six men gone, were yet five runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 September, page 8)

The bowling of Lohmann and Richardson on the false pitch at Richmond yesterday against the local nineteen was very effective, and early in the day the match was brought to an end, Surrey winning by five wickets. After the manner of Monday's play such a result was not unexpected.

The remarkable bowling figures of Lohmann and Richardson in the double innings are worth giving in full. They were:-

	O	M	R	W		O	M	R	W
Lohmann	25.2	5	63	12	Richardson	22	12	57	16

Surrey found some difficulty in getting the 40 necessary to win; but they overcame their task by the aid of another good innings by Abel.

Tuesday 15 September, page 4: YORKSHIRE AND THE FOLLOW-ON RULE

The committee of the champion county yesterday at their meeting at Sheffield, under the presidency of Mr J B Ellison, discussed the circular, the substance of which has already been stated in The Times, issued by the M.C.C. relative to the proposed amendment of the follow-on rule. In regard to this the appended resolution was adopted:-

“That, in the opinion of this committee, the follow-on rule should be abolished, and that the captain of a side be authorized to close his innings at any time during a match.”

The suggested testimonial to Lord Hawke, the captain of the eleven, who has done so much for Yorkshire cricket since he left Cambridge, was unanimously approved, and in addition to voting 100 guineas to the testimonial, it was decided by the executive that the committee should become a general committee for the management of the testimonial.

Thursday 1 Oct, page 4: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AND THE FOLLOW-ON RULE

The Nottinghamshire committee at their meeting yesterday had before them the Marylebone Club memorandum asking for their views on the follow-on rule. After much discussion it was decided to recommend to the Lord’s executive that the follow-on should be optional with the side possessed of the lead and, further, that the closure rule should remain as it as present exists.

William Gunn will be given a benefit next summer, when half the profits of the Whit Monday match with Surrey at Trent-bridge will be set apart for him.

For the ground staff for next year the committee thought that most likely the number would be raised from five to seven, while, in order to make the staff efficient, a competent coach should be secured. The club and ground will, among other matches next year, play Northamptonshire and the Philadelphians.

Friday 9 Oct, page 4: THE KENNINGTON OVAL LEASE

The Surrey County Cricket Club’s lease of the Oval, which has been held on a comparatively peppercorn rental – namely, £99 – has only a few years to run. Any anxiety as to the future of the ground for some time will be removed by the news that the Prince of Wales has granted the Surrey Club a new lease of 30 years at an increased rental, quite small considering the present value of the property, and on the condition that a new pavilion, on plans approved by the agents of the Duchy of Cornwall, shall be built.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR C E GREEN

Yesterday, at the Great Eastern Hotel, Bishopsgate-street, a scheme, promoted by Colonel Lockwood, M.P., to present a testimonial to Mr C E Green, who has done so much for Essex cricket, was laid before a well-attended meeting of those interested in the county. Colonel Lockwood presided, and among those present were the Earl of Warwick, Messrs H G Owen, A P

Lucas, J J Read, C M Tebbutt (treasurer, Essex County Cricket Club), O R Borradaile (secretary, Essex County Cricket Club) and Frank Silcock, the veteran Essex professional.

In his opening statement, Colonel Lockwood said he had received promises of support from all the members of Parliament for Essex and other influential gentlemen. In accordance with the wishes of Mr Green, the subscriptions would be limited to 10s each, and a committee was appointed to carry out the arrangements, consisting of Colonel Lockwood, M.P. . . . [list of ten other names] . . . , with power to add to their number. Mr Edwards will act as treasurer and Mr Borradaile as secretary.

It was agreed to present the testimonial to Mr Green at a public dinner, to be held in London on Tuesday, December 15, on which occasion all the members of the Essex eleven will be invited. Either Lord Rayleigh or the Earl of Warwick will preside.

Monday 26 October, page 9

The M.C.C. have not yet fixed any date on which to deal with the question of the "follow on," as they wish to wait until they receive an expression of opinion from Australia. The meeting of county secretaries to arrange the programme for the season of 1897 is to be held at Lord's Ground on Tuesday, December 8.

In response to the Marylebone Club circular, Lancashire have expressed the opinion that, in the first place, the side which on the first innings in a three-days' match is 120 runs ahead should have the option of making their opponents follow on, and, secondly, that after the first day's play a side should have the option of closing the innings at any time.

Lancashire intend next year to meet the whole of the other 13 first-class counties. Last summer the Essex and Hampshire matches were not in their programme.

George Lohmann, the famous Surrey cricketer, left England for South Africa on Saturday. His object is to avoid the English winter, and he has announced his intention of being back in England at the end of April in order to be in time for next season's cricket. Lohmann seemed to be in the best of health and spirits.

Thursday 29 October, page 8

The Yorkshire County Club Committee met at Sheffield yesterday, under the presidency of Mr Ellison. It was decided to play next season's home matches at the following grounds thus:-

Bradford.- Lancashire (for Hunter's benefit), Derbyshire and Somerset.

Dewsbury.- Nottinghamshire.

Leeds.- Surrey, Leicestershire and Hampshire.

Harrogate.- Gloucestershire.

Halifax.- Kent.

Sheffield.- Middlesex, Sussex and Warwickshire.

Huddersfield.- Essex.

It was resolved that a grant of £2 a week be paid to the following players from September 1:- R Peel, J T Brown, E Wainwright, R Moorhouse, D Denton, G H Hirst, J Tunnicliffe, S Haigh, J Mounsey and D Hunter. A sub-committee was appointed to arrange work that each player should do for such remuneration.

Monday 16 November, page 11

The Hon Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane presided at the annual meeting of the Somerset County Cricket Club at Taunton on Saturday, when there was a large attendance. The accounts, which were presented and passed, showed an adverse balance of over £500, but this was chiefly owing to the exceptional repairs and alterations which have been carried out on the Taunton ground during the year. It was stated that more than £300 had been promised towards the deficit.

Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane was re-elected president and Mr S M J Woods captain, and Mr Murray-Anderdon and Mr Woods were re-elected joint hon. secretaries, with Mr Gerald Fowler as treasurer. [Note: four names added to the list of vice-presidents.]

At the meeting of the committee, which had previously been held, it was agreed that the follow-on rule ought to be abolished and that sides should be allowed to declare an innings closed whenever they liked. This declaration, however, was not unanimous.

Wednesday 18 November, page 7: MIDDLESEX AND THE FOLLOW-ON RULE

At their annual meeting yesterday the Middlesex committee discussed the question of the "follow-on." They found that the old law with 80 runs in arrear for the follow-on worked for many years satisfactorily, and it would be inadvisable to depart from the same lines except to suggest that instead of the present 120 the number of 150 be substituted. Unless such a change could be made the committee were of opinion that the "follow-on" rule should be abolished, and that the captain should be able to adopt the closure at any time after the first day. The committee were absolutely against the suggested optional rule.

Mr V E Walker presided at the meeting, when the accounts were, on the proposition of Mr H V L Stanton, adopted. J T Hearne was voted an extra £50 as a recognition of his splendid work for the county last summer and £200 was given to the M.C.C. for the use of Lord's for the matches. Rawlin's benefit fund ran to some £700. A vote of thanks was accorded Mr A J Webbe for his captaincy of the side.

Tuesday 8 December, page 13

THE PROPOSED REVIVAL OF THE COUNTY CRICKET COUNCIL

The Cricket Council, in which Lord Harris was one of the leading spirits, had some years ago a brief existence, but at a meeting at Lord's the council, in the winter of 1890, on the proposition of Mr A J Webbe, adjourned **sine die**. Yesterday, on the suggestion of the Oval executive, a meeting was held to consider the advisability of the Cricket Council's resuscitation, with the view of deciding upon such points as the payment of professionals, the qualification question &c. The proceedings were private but the representatives of the counties present were quick to make up their minds and to decide against the revival of the council as a regular institution.

There were present Sir Richard Webster, the Surrey president (in the chair); Lord Hawke, Yorkshire; Mr A J Webbe, Middlesex; Mr C W Alcock, Dr Blades and Mr K J Key, Surrey; Mr A N Hornby, Mr James Maclaren, Mr S H Swire and Mr Thornber, Lancashire; Mr Berkeley Delacombe, Derbyshire; Mr O R Borradaile, Essex; Mr Denzil Onslow, Surrey; Mr J B Wostinholm, Yorkshire; Mr C E de Trafford, Leicestershire; Mr F Marchant, Kent; Mr J Bonner, Leicestershire; Dr Russell Bencraft, Hampshire; Mr W Newham and Mr A C Odder, Sussex; Mr T Burdett, Leicestershire; and Mr W Ansell, Warwickshire.

The following decision of the meeting, signed by the chairman, Mr Richard Webster, was handed to the Press at the close of the meeting:-

“That it is not expedient to re-establish the County Cricket Council, but that, at the annual December meeting of county secretaries, the representative of any first-class county may give notice of any subject which, in the opinion of his county club, requires discussion; and, if the representatives of four first-class counties signify their desire in writing, a meeting of reps of first-class counties shall be called to discuss such questions.”

THE KENNINGTON OVAL LEASE

As announced in The Times of October 9, the Duchy of Cornwall council has granted a fresh lease of Kennington Oval to the Surrey County Cricket Club, under certain new conditions, for 31 years beginning last Lady Day.

Yesterday evening, at a special general meeting of the members of the Surrey Club, Sir Richard Webster, the president, said that the committee of the club felt that they ought not to wait until the annual meeting before making their members aware of the actual position of affairs. They were all agreed that so long as cricket lasted - and that would be as long as the world lasted (cheers and laughter) – the classic Oval ground should be with the Surrey Club, and he was confident in thinking that their august landlord, the Prince of Wales, shared in this opinion.

But this fresh lease question was in no sense new. A long time ago Lords Oxenbridge and Bessborough and General Marshall had striven to induce the council of the Duchy to extend the lease, but without success; but two or three years since the committee of the Surrey Club renewed their efforts to get an extended tenure for as long as possible, and when the old lease was so rapidly nearing the moment when it must be surrendered the Surrey Club's efforts were redoubled. The ground would have ceased to be held by the Surrey Club in 1905. They were met fairly by the Duchy, more than fairly considering the conditions of the old lease and the present estimate of the

value of the Oval, and the Duchy had now granted them an extended lease from last Lady Day for 31 years at a rental increased from £99 to £750. This was not for so long a term as Surrey had wished for, but it was as long as the council of the Duchy could grant under the circumstances except by special Act of Parliament.

Having secured such a lease and remembering the interests of the club and members generally the committee turned their attention to the new pavilion question. What they wanted was additional room for the members. The architects of both Lord's and Old Trafford pavilions had been consulted, and to make a pavilion worthy of the Surrey Club it was thought that the cost would be something like £20,000. Surrey had £12,000 in hand and the other money must be raised by debentures. Of recent years the net profit of the Surrey Club ran to about £1,000 a year, so that with the funds of the club almost exhausted it would be necessary when the time came to think of an increase of the present small subscription from members. Anyhow the increased rental, the loss of the interest on their funds and the debentures would absorb some £1,500 of their income, and this loss must be met in some way.

They intended to begin the new pavilion in the autumn of next year so as to have it ready for members in 1898. The committee were always mindful on the interests of members, and this was their reason for calling the present meeting for the explanation of the position. The meeting decided to approve of the committee's action in opening the Oval for practice on April 15 instead of May 1.

MEETING OF COUNTY SECRETARIES

The annual meeting of the secretaries for the arrangement of next season's programme will be held at noon to-day at Lord's.

Wednesday 9 December, page 9: THE MEETING OF SECRETARIES

The Tuesday in Cattle Show week has become quite an institution at Lord's, as for many years on that day the secretaries to the counties have met, not only to complete the arrangement of the summer cricket programme, but to discuss sundry questions arising in county cricket particularly, and in the laws of the game affecting county cricket.

Since the "follow-on" amendment agitation, it was thought that at yesterday's meeting some official announcement might be made; but the M.C.C. are, in their wise judgment, awaiting the opinion of the colonies on the subject, and the chairman yesterday was silent on the question. The suggestion of the resuscitation of the cricket council had been threshed out at the Oval on Monday, and this was another subject which was not publicly gone into.

In fact, the only decision of importance arrived at was that as to the number of matches requisite to qualify got competition in the championship. Provisionally last year the number was made 12, but this season things ought to have assumed the old order of 16. But had this been insisted upon Leicestershire would have gone out and their matches would have affected eight other counties, absolutely reducing those eligible for the championship to five. To get away from such a crisis as this it was unanimously agreed to reduce the limit to 14, so that the whole of the counties were qualified.

There is some change in the programme for next season from the arrangements of past years. Oxford v Cambridge is to be played on Monday, July 5, and this date rather interferes with Eton v Harrow, for as the schools do not break up until much later in the month old Oxford and Cambridge men would find much inconvenience in giving up practically the whole of the week to cricket. So as it stands at present Eton v Harrow, in spite of all the efforts of the M.C.C. committee, remains unfixed. No doubt some arrangement will be made to remove the difficulty.

To the Philadelphians, who are to visit England during the summer, belongs the novelty of the next season. They did so well against the Australians at the end of the last colonial tour, and their proposed trip was received with so much more enthusiasm, that in addition to meeting all the first-class counties except Nottinghamshire they secured fixtures with Oxford and Cambridge and the Marylebone Club and Ground.

Most of the counties depart very slightly from the programme of 1896. Lancashire, however, play Hampshire for the first time in the annals of cricket, and also renew their matches with Essex. The Essex Club, in fact, have much improved their list, and in addition to Lancashire they have fresh games with Sussex.

Yorkshire have followed Surrey in the institution of a second eleven, but, as is well known, the Surrey second team is a very fine side and really capable of meeting any county. For much of the success of the team Mr W T Graburn is responsible.

Surrey, Yorkshire and Lancashire all have good lists, but with their wealth they are of course able to do more than some of the counties. The Canterbury week with Lancashire and Yorkshire to meet Kent is a great improvement on some recent years; but Lancashire are still desirous of the revival of the Bank holiday games between themselves and Yorkshire. Generally the old cricket marks of other years are to be observed in the list of fixtures.

As for benefits, the chief are those devoted to Frank Sugg, William Gunn, Robert Henderson, David Hunter and Pickett, men who have all rendered their counties splendid service. Henderson has Surrey v Yorkshire, a match that, with subscription lists, yielded George Lohmann last year from £1,800 to £2,000.

There were present yesterday – Mr Henry Perkins, secretary of the Marylebone Club, in the chair; Mr A J Webbe, Mr I D Walker, Mr A E Stoddart and Mr C I Thornton, Middlesex; Lord Hawke, Mr M J Ellison and Mr J B Wostinholm, Yorkshire; Mr W Wright and Mr H Turner, Nottinghamshire; Mr James Maclarens, Mr A C Maclarens, Mr A B Rowley, Mr S H Swire and Mr H Thornber, Lancashire; Mr C W Alcock, Mr Walter Read and Mr K J Key, Surrey; Dr W G Grace, Gloucestershire; Mr Charles E Green, Mr H G Owen, Mr O R Borradaile and Mr C M Tebbutt, Essex; Captain Wynyard, Dr Russell Bencraft and Mr A J L Hill, Hampshire; Mr F H E Cunliffe, Oxford University; Mr C E M Wilson, Cambridge University; Mr F Marchant and Mr A J Lancaster, Kent; Mr W Berkeley-Delacombe and Mr Walter Boden, Derbyshire; Mr H Murray-Anderdon and Mr W H Fowler, Somerset; Mr W Newham, Mr H F de Paravicini and Mr A C Oddie, Sussex; Mr P J de Paravicini and Mr G R Ward, Buckinghamshire; Mr R H Mallett, Durham; Rev E W Walters and Mr F H G Clayton, Northumberland; Mr O Papworth, Cambridgeshire; Mr J Horner, Cheshire; Mr E Roper, Liverpool and District; Mr C E de Trafford and Mr T Burdett, Leicestershire; Mr W Ansell, Warwickshire; Mr H M Turner, Oxfordshire; Mr W O Nares, Berkshire; Mr D Howell, Cornwall; Mr J H Brain, Glamorganshire; Mr A Pigg and Mr A Butcher, Hertfordshire; Mr F Phillips, Monmouthshire; Mr E G Butcher, Norfolk; Mr P W Dale, Mr P Harton and Mr T H Vials, Northamptonshire; the Rev P Mainwaring, Staffordshire; Mr A M Miller and Mr Trevor Wheeler, Wiltshire; and Mr P H Foley, Worcestershire; Mr H T Hewett, M.C.C. and Oxford; and Mr T Worsley, North and East Riding.

Mr Perkins opened the meeting precisely at noon with the announcement of the fixtures of Oxford v Cambridge and Gentlemen v Players, and was followed by Mr C W Alcock with the official news of the visit of the Philadelphians and their wish for a representative programme.

Then the secretaries set to work with their fixtures, and nothing more in the way of open discussion occurred until late in the afternoon, when the question of the number of matches qualifying a county for the championship was raised by Mr Walter Boden, of Derbyshire. He said that from what could be learned nine counties would become disqualified from the competition unless Leicestershire's list was increased to eight home and home fixtures. This county had only seven, and if they were kept out they would affect four other clubs, who would in turn reduce another four, so that five counties only would be eligible under the old qualification. Last year the limit was reduced to six in consequence of pressure by Australian fixtures.

He moved that the Marylebone Club be requested to alter the rule from eight to seven. Mr Alcock seconded the resolution and, no one responding to Mr Perkins's suggestion that Leicestershire should be given another match, the chairman put the resolution, which was carried unanimously. Below is a complete list of the fixtures:-

[Note: the full first-class fixture list for 1897 can be found at:

http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/Seasonal_Averages/ENG/1897_f_Match_List.html]

THE MINOR COUNTIES' MEETING

Earlier in the morning the representatives of the minor counties assembled at Lord's Tavern, the gentlemen present being: - Mr W O Nares (Berkshire), Mr G R Ward and Mr P J de Paravicini (Bucks), Mr O Papworth (Cambridgeshire), Mr D Howell (Cornwall), Mr R H Mallett (Durham), Mr J H Brain (Glamorganshire), Messrs C Pigg and A Butcher (Hertfordshire), Mr F Phillips (Monmouthshire), Mr A Buxton (Norfolk), Messrs T Horton, C H Vials and P W Dale (Northamptonshire), Mr F G H Clayton and Rev E W R Walters (Northumberland), Mr H M Turner (Oxfordshire), Rev P Mainwaring (Staffordshire), Messrs A M Miller and Trevor Wheeler (Wiltshire) and Mr P H Foley (Worcestershire).

Mr R H Mallett (Durham) having been elected to the chair, Mr Foley (secretary of the Minor Counties' Association) stated that, so far as he knew, there was no resolution to be brought before the meeting, but he would like to mention that when the question of the "follow-on" was raised, and the Marylebone Club issued their circular, he wrote to Mr Perkins asking whether the opinions of minor counties would be received, as, owing to their matches being confined to two days, it was a matter that greatly concerned them. Mr Perkins's answer was to the effect that his instructions were only to invite the opinions of the leading counties, but he would be glad to receive that of Mr Foley's committee and that of the other counties. No action was taken in the matter, it being suggested that the question would be brought up at the secretaries' meeting.

On behalf of Durham, the Chairman spoke of the difficulty the northern counties had experienced in making enough fixtures to qualify them to compete for the championship, some being left out in the cold on this account, and he would like to know if the feeling of the meeting was that some better arrangement could be come to. The counties had originally combined, he said, to find out which was the strongest, but at present this object was not obtained. A way out of the difficulty, he thought, would be to include the second elevens of first-class counties in the competition.

After some discussion, Mr P H Foley (Worcestershire) proposed, and Mr G R Ward (Bucks) seconded, the following motion, which was carried unanimously:-

"That the question of grouping counties or any other arrangement whereby all counties might be able to compete be referred to a sub-committee of six, who should circulate a scheme among the counties and request them to vote thereon next December."

It was suggested that all parts of the country should be represented and agreed that the committee should consist of a representative from each of the following counties:- Durham, Berks, Glamorganshire, Northamptonshire and Devonshire, with the hon. secretary an ex-officio member. The most convenient time for the committee to meet was decided to be during the Oxford and Cambridge match.

Mr P H Foley was unanimously re-elected hon. secretary of the Association and, it having been left to him to call next year's meeting at 10 or 11 on the morning of the secretaries' meeting, according to the business to be transacted, the work of arranging fixtures was proceeded with.

Mr C E Green, who has done so much for Essex Cricket, will be entertained at dinner on Tuesday next, the 15th inst., at the Holborn Restaurant, when the Earl of Warwick will preside. The members of the Essex eleven have also been invited to the dinner.

Wednesday 16 December, page 6: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

We are officially informed that the committee of the M.C.C. have acceded to the application of the counties to reduce the number of matches requisite to qualify for the championship competition in 1897. Home and home fixtures, it is ordered, must be made with seven, instead of eight counties, in order to qualify.

THE ESSEX DINNER TO MR C E GREEN

Mr Charles Ernest Green, who has done so much for Essex cricket and the sport in the country generally since his great days at Uppingham and Cambridge, was entertained by the Essex Club at dinner last night at the King's-hall, Holborn, when a large gold cup was presented to him as a mark of the gratitude of the club and county generally.

The Earl of Warwick presided over a gathering of some 250 Essex men and those closely connected with the county. Among those present were . . . [23 names], Mr C M Tebbutt, Mr A P Lucas, Mr H G Owen, Mr C J Kortright and the other members of the county eleven.

In proposing the toast of the evening, Lord Warwick referred to Mr Green's successful mastership of the Essex Foxhounds.

Mr Green, in replying to the toast, regretted that the county should have thought fit to distinguish him in the way it had done. As Essex born and bred he had always sought to develop the game of cricket in the county, but he only wished he could give them the active help that he might have done in his Cambridge days, when there was no regular Essex eleven. But after many dark years the county club seemed at last to be thriving, and the work of the present eleven, in connexion with whom he wished to mention particularly the names of Mr A P Lucas and Mr H G Owen, had placed the county in a position never before reached by Essex.

He referred to the late Mr Cyril Buxton, who had played so well for the county, and also to that famous typical Essex cricketer, Frank Silcock. He was confident that in a few years the eleven would be somewhere at the head of the list, for the county must go on improving while it possessed such a fine set of skilful professional cricketers who were loyal to their club and their captain.

Lord Rookwood, in replying to the toast for the eleven and club, said that his early days were those of Alfred Mynn, Felix, Lillywhite and Fuller Pilch. At that time one was not allowed to bowl above the shoulder, but the cricket was still very good, and if Essex had not a regular side they had an eleven got up that actually beat Kent, the then champions.

Other speakers followed.

On the suggestion of Colonel Lockwood a subscription was made towards wiping out the Essex Club debt of £1,200. Colonel Lockwood started it with £50, and before the company separated over £300 had been promised.

Thursday 24 December, page 5

The balance-sheet of the Hastings Cricket Festival in September has now been published. Owing to bad weather, which, for the first time since the establishment of the Week, seriously interfered with the play, there was a loss of £82 12s 8d, but having a substantial balance in hand from former years the committee were, fortunately, in a position to dispense with making any call upon the guarantors.

After writing off the above-mentioned loss there is still a balance of £705 4s 11d to the credit of the Week, exclusive of the value of material in hand, purchased out of revenue, amounting to nearly £70. The Australians took as their share of gate money and weekly tickets £230 12s 9d, and the match expenses amounted to £385 11s 6d. On the first day of the match between the Australians and the South of England the takings at the gate were £247 15s.

The matches at Hastings next year will be North v South on September 9th, 10th and 11th, and Gentlemen v Players on September 13th, 14th and 15th. The Sussex committee have again allocated a county match to Hastings, Sussex and Notts meeting there on July 8th, 9th and 10th.

Saturday 26 December, page 4

“WISDEN”

The standard record of cricket, known familiarly to the cricket world as “Wisden,” but the precise title of which is “John Wisden’s Cricketers’ Almanack,” has reached its 34th annual issue. The present book maintains the excellence which has invariably marked the present editorship.

Important cricket matches have grown of late years to such an extent that the mere reviews with scores and averages of the counties, the Universities, the M.C.C., the Australians, the public schools &c absorb over 400 pages, while 80 more are taken up with special matter.

“Wisden” is always expected to discuss the question uppermost at the moment in the cricket mind, and the law of “follow-on” is the subject dealt with in this issue by the editor. Our cricket readers will remember the keen controversy that was carried on in the columns of The Times over the notorious action of Mr Frank Mitchell, the Cambridge captain, in interfering with the natural course of the game by “besting” his opponents for the third innings, with the attendant scene in the pavilion. This controversy became one of the most famous the cricket world remembers, and was entered into by many of the highest authorities of the game and the great lights of other days.

Mr R A H Mitchell, Lord Cobham, the Rev Edward Lyttelton and Sir Courtenay Boyle removed the question of the “incident” to the more pleasant discussion of the amendment of the follow-on rule. The editor of “Wisden” is on the side of Sir Courtenay Boyle – in reference to whom, by the way, he has forgotten the knighthood – whose letter appeared in The Times of July 10. After going thoroughly into the subject, the editor concludes that:-

“As Mr [Sir] Courtenay Boyle urged in a very able letter to The Times, the follow-on rule was originally framed with the object of saving time, and was never intended to benefit the side which had fallen 80 runs short of the opposing score. Indeed, when the rule was made, 80 was not a very bad total. As Mr [Sir Courtenay] Boyle pointed out, the state of things then prevailing has entirely passed away, and in discussing the question of the follow-on one must bear in mind the present development of the game.

"Rightly or wrongly, the majority of modern captains consider it a disadvantage – on hard wickets – to have their bowlers kept at work through two successive innings, and it is certainly contrary to the spirit of the game to penalize the side which has by superior cricket gained on the first innings a substantial advantage. Hence the desire for a change in the 80 runs rule, which found voice in Australia before the University match of 1893 made the question a burning one. Strong opposition to the optional plan comes from Middlesex, and as this means the opposition of Mr V E and I D Walker, one is bound to treat it with the utmost respect. The Middlesex committee favour the plan of extending the 120 runs to 150 and, failing any agreement to that, they support the total abolition of the follow-on."

The Marylebone Club has sounded the counties on the proposed change, and is now waiting only for an expression of Australian opinion before bringing the matter up at a general meeting.

The editor has also something to say on the Oval "strike" on the eve of England v Australia and on the general question of professional remuneration. That Barnes, Morley and Shaw were paid £20 each by the Surrey executive in 1880 for the first England v Australia is news to a good many people in cricket.

One of the best things in the book is Mr W J Ford's article on public school cricket, a subject that has never before been so well done in "Wisden." Suggestions for more second-eleven matches at schools and more attention to the coaching of bowlers, made by Mr Ford, are well worthy attention from those concerned.

Other features are the photographs of "five great cricketers" (Ranjitsinhji, Richardson, Lilley, Trumble and Gregory) and the records drawn up by Mr Alfred J Gaston, of Brighton. Should not J T Hearne have been included among the great cricketers? His bowling was better than that of any one else during the season.

Mr Sidney Pardon is to be congratulated on the production of a very good number of "Wisden," which is again published at 21, Cranbourn-street, Leicester-square, W.C.

Thursday 31 December, page 5

Mr Arthur Priestley's team for the West Indies sailed for Southampton yesterday in the R.M.S. Packet Company's boat Medway. The majority of the team left Waterloo Station by the 10 o'clock special train for Southampton docks, and a numerous company assembled to bid them farewell . . .

The Medway is due at Barbados on the 11th prox. Here about a fortnight's stay will be made and during this time three matches will be played – two against all Barbados and one against the Island of St Vincent. Then follows a couple of weeks' cruise among the northern islands, to be succeeded by a three weeks' visit to Trinidad, where there are five fixtures – two with combined elevens of the West Indian clubs. The team will take part in the festivities of the celebration of the centenary of the English occupation of Trinidad. After an 18 days' stay in Jamaica Mr Priestley's side will leave for England on March 39, and are due at Southampton on April 14.

Lord Hawke's team for the Indies will leave England early next month.