

1 January: AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND (Second Test)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4921.html)

Day 1 (report from Monday 3 January)

Melbourne, Jan. 1

The second of the five test matches between Mr Stoddart's team and All Australia began here to-day under the pleasantest conditions. Large at the start, the attendance went on increasing, till late in the afternoon there were 24,000 people on the ground.

It was feared at first that owing to a small abscess in the throat Ranjitsinhji would have to stand out of the England eleven. However, after consulting a doctor, he found himself able to play, so Stoddart made way for him. The other player left out was Board. With Stoddart away Maclaren captained the side.

Trott won the toss, and such a fine start was made by Australia that at the end of the day 283 runs had been scored for the loss of only three wickets.

McLeod and Darling opened the innings to the bowling of Richardson and Hirst. The early batting was slow and marked by great caution. Richardson bowled four maiden overs in succession and the fielding was superb. With the total at 17, Briggs went on in place of Richardson, off whom only one run had been made. Darling scored eight in Briggs's first over, and then, at 25, Richardson bowled at Hirst's end. Darling did nearly all the hitting, getting 23 runs out of the first 27. As the game proceeded, the play became freer in character, Darling's cutting being very clean and neat. At 43 the first wicket fell, Darling being caught at mid-off. So far cricket had been in progress three-quarters of an hour. Darling hit 5 fours in his 36 and gave no chance.

Hill followed in, and 50 went up at the end of the first hour. At 54 Richardson was displaced by Hearne, and off the latter bowler Hill, when he had made 11, was missed at the wicket by Storer. A further change was tried at 62, Mason going on for Briggs. At lunch time the total was 70 for one wicket, McLeod being not out 19 and Hill not out 13.

During the interval Ranjitsinhji visited the doctor to have a slight operation performed on his throat, and when the game was resumed Board fielded as substitute for him.

The company just after lunch was estimated at 16,000. Hearne and Mason bowled for some little time, but at 89 the latter gave way to Hirst. The 100 was reached when the innings had lasted two hours all but five minutes. The batting was now more attractive than before, McLeod's play on the on-side and Hill's driving being excellent. Out of 105 runs McLeod's share was 35 and Hill's 31.

At 117 Richardson bowled again for Hearne and Briggs for Hirst. McLeod continued his steady play and completed his 50 after having been at the wickets two hours and 20 minutes. Hill, more rapid in his methods, made 50 in an hour and 40 minutes. Ranjitsinhji on returning to his place in the field was loudly cheered. When the total stood at 155 Hayward was tried in place of Richardson. McLeod, with his score at 62, put up a ball from Hayward in the slips - a hard chance which Druce did not hold, one run being obtained for the hit. The batsmen were separated at 175, Hill being smartly caught at the wicket. He had made 58 in an hour and 55 minutes, his chief hits being a four and eight threes. His strokes on the leg side were as skilful as ever. Speaking generally, the fielding during this long partnership was excellent. When Hill left McLeod had made 73.

With Gregory in the bowling was again mastered. At 202 Hearne relieved Hayward, who had taken one wicket for 23 runs, and at 210 Richardson bowled once more for Briggs. McLeod reached his 100 with the total at 219, Gregory having so far made 18. In getting his hundred McLeod had been batting nearly three hours and three-quarters.

With the score at 237 Storer was put on in place of Hearne, Druce keeping wicket. The change quickly proved successful, as with the last ball of his first over Storer completely

beat McLeod and bowled him. The total at the fall of this, the third wicket, was 244. McLeod's 112 included four fours and nine threes. He was in for four hours and five minutes, and his innings, though not marked by excellence of style, was of enormous value.

Iredale joined Gregory, and Hayward, in fielding a hard hit at mid-off, injured his finger and retired, Board coming out to field for him. At 270 Hirst and Mason took up the bowling in place of Storer and Richardson, but no other wicket fell, the total at the close being 283 . . . The weather was pleasantly fine all day, and the wicket at the finish was in good condition.

The operation by which an abscess was removed from Ranjitsinhji's throat yesterday appears to have proved successful, and he expects to be able to play again in the match to-morrow.

Day 2 (report from Tuesday 4 January)

Melbourne, Jan. 3

The big match here was continued to-day and again proved an enormous attraction. When play began there were 10,000 people on the ground, and before the day's cricket ended the company had increased to 27,000. The weather all the afternoon was pleasant and cool. Great anxiety was felt in the morning about the wicket, which looked to have cracked very much; but it played admirably, and when stumps were drawn seemed to be lasting well.

Gregory fainted from weakness last night and Iredale stayed in bed the whole of yesterday. Both players suffered last week from the excessive heat. The Australians to-day carried their score of 283 for three wickets to 520, and Mr Stoddart's team lost one wicket for 22 runs.

Gregory and Iredale, the not outs, went on with Australia's innings, the bowling being shared by Richardson and Hearne. When 300 went up the innings had been in progress nearly four hours and three-quarters. Gregory had then made 62 and Iredale 21. At 310 Briggs displaced Richardson, and with his third ball, which kept very low, he bowled Gregory, the fourth wicket falling at 311. Gregory, who was batting for two hours and a quarter, played in very neat and finished style for his 71, an innings which included three fours. When he had made 34 he gave a chance of Storer's bowling to Hayward at mid-off.

Trott came next, and began so carefully that he was at the wickets ten minutes before he scored. Richardson was put on in place of Hearne, the latter going out into the deep field. Further changes were tried a little later, Storer going on for Briggs at 336 and Hirst relieving Richardson. For half an hour Trott's score remained at a single run. When he had reached 15 he lifted a ball from Storer which Hearne at long-on made a brilliant, but unsuccessful, effort to catch, the hit going to the boundary for four. At 369 Mason bowled for Hirst, and at 375 Richardson for Mason. When lunch time came the total was 379 for four wickets, Iredale being not out 59 and Trott not out 21. Despite its suspicious appearance the pitch was found to be playing well.

After lunch the crowd had increased to 15,000. On starting afresh the score rose steadily, Trott doing most of the hitting. Four hundred went up as the result of a trifle under six hours and a half's batting. At 404 Hirst bowled again for Richardson, who without taking a wicket had so far been punished for 106 runs. At 405 Storer gave way to Hearne. The two batsmen stayed together till the total reached 434, and then Iredale was smartly caught by Ranjitsinhji at point. The fifth wicket had added 123 runs. Iredale was batting just over two hours and three-quarters for his 89, his style of play being at once sound and attractive. His placing at leg was very skilful and his driving on both sides of the wicket hard. Among his hits were six fours and he gave no chance.

Noble came in, Richardson having in the meantime gone on at Hearne's end. Having made 17, Noble, who did not play Richardson at all well, was out to that bowler, the total with six wickets down being 453. Trumble joined Trott and a change of bowling was tried, Mason taking the ball from Hirst. Thanks to Trumble's free play the score was carried to 478, and

then the new batsman was well caught at cover point. Trott up to this time had made 66. With Kelly in, Briggs, at 481, bowled in place of Richardson.

When the game was resumed after the adjournment for tea the company had increased to 24,000. The wicket was now playing far better than had been expected, its condition being first-rate. Though Hearne bowled for Mason, runs came steadily and 500 went up, the innings having then lasted nearly eight hours and a half. However, at 509, Trott cut a ball hard over point's head and was finely caught by Wainwright. Trott in a very steady way had played splendid cricket. He hit 11 fours, but his innings of 79 extended over nearly three hours and a quarter.

After he left very little was done. At 513 Kelly was caught at mid-off, and Jones, after making seven, was smartly run out, Wainwright returning the ball from the slips. In this way the long innings came to an end for 520. The time occupied in getting the runs was eight hours and 52 minutes . . .

Maclaren and Mason opened the English innings to the bowling of McKibbin and Trumble. When he had scored two Maclaren was missed in the slips by McKibbin. Then, at ten, a wicket fell, Mason being bowled by McKibbin with a splendid length ball which broke in from the off. Wainwright followed, and at 17 Jones bowled in place of Trumble. At the close of play the score without further loss had reached 22. Only seven runs have yet been hit from McKibbin.

Day 3 (report from Wednesday 5 January)

Melbourne, Jan. 4

The weather was warm and the attendance large when the test match was resumed here to-day. It was noticed at once that the cracks in the wicket had widened.

In face of the Australians' total of 520, Mr Stoddart's team had yesterday lost one wicket for 22 runs. Maclaren and Wainwright, the not outs, went on with the innings, the bowling being shared by Jones and Trott. When he had scored 10, Maclaren drove a ball back very hard to Trott, who did not manage to hold it. Both batsmen played freely and ventured on some rather sharp runs. After being bowled several overs, Jones was no-balled by James Phillips for throwing. The incident caused a good deal of excitement. Jones then sent down three maiden overs in succession. Wainwright evidently preferred Trott's slows to the fast bowling and, jumping out at them, he scored eight runs in one over.

When the total had reached 52 Maclaren had made 21 and Wainwright 20. At 59 a change was tried, McKibbin going on for Trott. However, the new bowler only delivered one over before giving way to Noble. This change parted the batsmen, Wainwright driving Noble's sixth ball hard to mid-off and being out to a magnificent catch by Jones. The wicket fell at 60, Maclaren having so far scored 28. Wainwright played in dashing style for his 21 and gave no chance.

With Ranjitsinhji in, McKibbin bowled at Jones's end. Maclaren with his score at 34 was missed at the wicket by Kelly off M'Kibbin's bowling, but he did not profit by his luck as two balls later he was smartly taken in the slips. Apart from the chances he gave, Maclaren did not play so well as usual. He was out at 74.

Hayward came in, and about this time the fielding was particularly smart. When he had made 10 Ranjitsinhji had a narrow escape of being run out, Noble returning the ball wildly from the slips. Hayward at 13 also had a piece of luck, spooning a ball back to McKibbin, who slipped in trying for the catch. Even thus early in his innings Ranjitsinhji was scoring cleverly on the leg side and making some very pretty cuts. At lunch time the total was 100 for three wickets, Ranjitsinhji being not out 20 and Hayward not out 13.

Before the game was continued the attendance had increased to 10,000. It was thought unlikely that the wicket would last much longer. Ranjitsinhji stated during the interval that he felt well.

On starting afresh McKibbin and Noble bowled in first-rate form, both keeping a fine length. Twice in one over Noble beat Hayward with splendid balls that missed the wicket, but at 115 he had to give way to Trott. Noble had taken one wicket at a cost of 31 runs. Ranjitsinhji liked the change and punished Trott for 10 runs in one over. Hayward was playing in good form, when at 133 he was nicely caught at mid-off by Jones, whose brilliant fielding in that position had saved many runs. When Hayward had left Ranjitsinhji had made 41, the fourth wicket having added 59 runs.

Storer came next, and Ranjitsinhji completed his 50 after having been in exactly an hour and a half. At 151 Trumble bowled for McKibbin, and at 165 McLeod displaced Trott. Storer, who had made 15, drove McLeod's third ball back to him, but the bowler found it too hard to hold. Ranjitsinhji now played more freely than before. Storer's play was successful, but not attractive in character. At 203 Jones took the ball from McLeod and bowled from the end at which Bannerman was standing umpire.

When play was resumed after the adjournment for tea there were 14,000 people on the ground. Ranjitsinhji tried to pull the last ball of Trumble's first over, missed it and was bowled. In getting his 71 Ranjitsinhji was at the wickets two hours and 20 minutes, among his hits being four fours. He left with the total at 203, Storer having then made 40. The partnership for the fifth wicket produced 70 runs.

Hirst, the next batsman, had his off stump smashed by an extra fast ball from Jones, the sixth wicket going down at 208. Druce followed in, and had only made eight when he was missed being caught and bowled by Trumble. Two balls later Storer was caught at the wicket. His patient defensive innings of 51 lasted an hour and 25 minutes and included six fours. Seven wickets were down for 223, and with one run added Hearne was bowled. Bowling at a terrific pace, Jones since he last came on had taken two wickets for 16 runs.

Briggs became Druce's partner, and when the score had reached 248 McKibbin bowled in place of Jones. This proved an expensive change, 13 runs being hit from McKibbin in one over. With the total at 266 Druce's score was 29 and Briggs's 19. When stumps were drawn the two batsmen were still together and the score had been raised to 311.

Day 4 (report from Thursday 6 January)

Melbourne, Jan. 5

The big match came to an end this afternoon, Australia gaining a brilliant victory by an innings and 55 runs. Such a speedy finish was not expected, as Mr Stoddart's team had yesterday - in face of a total of 520 - scored 311 for eight wickets.

At the time of resuming play to-day the weather was gloriously fine and the attendance fairly good. The wicket seemed in much the same condition as before, and it did not look as if good length balls would be helped by the cracks in the turf. Druce and Briggs, the not-outs, went on with the first innings of the Englishmen to the bowling of Trumble and McLeod.

Druce was out leg before wicket to Trumble's fifth ball and left with the score still at 311. With four runs added Richardson was bowled by the first ball of Trumble's second over, the innings thus coming to an end for 315. It had occupied a little under five hours and a half. Trumble took four wickets for 52 runs . . .

Following on against a majority of 205 runs, Mr Stoddart's team began their second innings with Maclaren and Mason, the bowling being shared by Trumble and McLeod. At the start the batting was very correct and runs came slowly. Only ten had been scored when the third ball of Trumble's fifth over scattered Mason's stumps.

Ranjitsinhji went in first wicket down. He commenced with some vigorous driving, but was checked by Jones's superb fielding at mid-off. Maclaren showed great anxiety about the state of the wicket at the end to which Trumble was bowling. When the score reached 24

Maclaren had made 17. The two batsmen stayed together, and when lunch time came the total was 52 for one wicket, Maclaren being not out 30 and Ranjitsinhji not out 18.

On the game being continued 13 runs were added, and then a brilliant catch at point by Trott got rid of Maclaren. Two wickets for 65. In getting his 36 Maclaren gave no chance and played a safer game than in the first innings, but he was never too comfortable. Trott was loudly cheered for his catch.

Hayward came in next, and at 68 Trott, who had been bowling at Maclaren's end, gave way to Noble. This change quickly met with success, Ranjitsinhji being dismissed at 71. He played a ball slowly on to his wicket without removing the bails, but the next ball - a really splendid one - clean bowled him. Ranjitsinhji said afterwards that it broke back 9in. and completely beat him. Only the leg bail was dislodged. In his innings of 27 Ranjitsinhji combined steadiness with hard driving.

Noble soon took another wicket, Storer at 75 being smartly caught off him at slip. So far the new bowler's analysis showed two wickets for five runs. Hirst, who was leg-before-wicket at 80, was disappointed at being given out. Trumble had now taken three wickets and only 30 runs had been hit from him.

Hayward and Druce made a plucky effort to save a lost game, but after they had been got rid of the end soon came. Seven wickets were down for 128, and the remaining batsmen did so little that the team were all out for 150. Australia thus won the match by an innings and 55 runs.

It was obvious during the latter part of the innings that the wicket was assisting the bowlers. All the same, Noble and Trumble bowled in fine form. Druce was out sixth at 115 to a good catch at mid-off. Hayward, after an escape at long-on through Iredale misjudging the ball, was well caught at 128. He had played a good, free innings, his style being much admired.

Kelly has been advised by the doctor to take a rest, owing to his recent attack of sunstroke. Though he ventured to play in the match, he is still unwell. - Reuter's Special Service.

Friday 14 January

Yorkshire have nominated the following umpires to the M.C.C.: - A F Smith, L Hall, R Clayton, J Yeadon and J Littlewood. The annual general meeting of the Yorkshire County Club has been arranged for Wednesday, March 2, at Sheffield.

14 January: AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND (Third Test)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4924.html)

Adelaide, Jan. 12

In the third test match, which begins here on Friday next, the Australian eleven will be composed as follows:- G H S Trott, H Trumble and C McLeod (Victoria), F A Iredale, S E Gregory, J J Kelly, M A Noble and W Howell (New South Wales), J Darling, C Hill and E Jones (South Australia), with H Donnan (New South Wales) as emergency man.

The inclusion of George Giffen was not even considered by the selecting committee, who state that the side is fully representative without him.

Mr Stoddart will resume the captaincy of the English team, Wainwright and Board being omitted. - Reuter's Special Service.

Adelaide, Jan. 13

There is every likelihood of glorious weather for the great match to-morrow. The day is a bank holiday and the greatest excitement prevails. Throngs of visitors have arrived from the other colonies and special excursion trains are being run from all quarters. - Reuter's Special Service.

Day 1 (report from Saturday 15 January)

Adelaide, Jan. 14

The third test match between Mr Stoddart's team and All Australia commenced here to-day under conditions that could not have been better, the weather being gloriously fine and the wicket perfect. At the start of play there were 5,000 people on the ground.

Trott won the toss for Australia and, of course, took first innings. McLeod and Darling went in, the bowling being shared by Richardson and Briggs. McLeod cut the first ball of the match beautifully for three, and then played a maiden over from Briggs. In Richardson's second over Darling scored nine runs, getting them by cuts and skilful play on the leg side. Continuing to bat with great confidence, Darling made ten runs in one over from the fast bowler. In the meantime Briggs bowled four maidens in succession, and was much applauded. Soon, however, it was his turn to be punished, Darling lifting him on the on side for five, a sensational hit. McLeod played very steadily and had made only 14 when Darling's score stood at 33.

The first change of bowling was tried at 56, Hearne going on in place of Richardson. The immediate effect of this was to check Darling's run-getting. Hirst bowled for Briggs at 63, Darling having then, as the result of an hour's batting, scored exactly 50. At the luncheon interval the total was 69 with no wicket down, Darling being 53 and McLeod 16.

The attendance after lunch had increased to 10,000, the Governor and his suite being present. When he had made 21 McLeod gave an easy chance at point off Hearne's bowling, but, to the astonishment of the spectators, Ranjitsinhji missed the catch. With the total at 83 Darling's individual score was 60. The first wicket fell at 97, Briggs going on for Hirst and bowling McLeod with his second ball. In making 31 McLeod was at the wickets just upon two hours, his strictly defensive play being unattractive to look at. The fielding of the Englishmen so far had been fairly good, but not in any way remarkable.

Hill became Darling's partner and the great stand of the day was made. For some little time Briggs bowled in better form than on any previous occasion since the tour began, but at last Darling, among great cheering, drove him splendidly to the on for five. When the total had reached 131 Darling's score was 86 and Hill's 12. Just at this point Darling, with his

score at 86, was missed by Hearne at extra mid-off from Briggs's bowling. The chance, however, was a high and difficult one, and the hit went for three runs.

At 144 Richardson took the ball from Hearne. Having made 98, Darling was missed off Richardson by Ranjitsinhji at point, the crowd being quite jubilant at the batsman's escape. Darling then completed his 100 by hitting Briggs out of the ground for six. This is the first time that a ball has ever been hit out of the Adelaide Oval. The applause was prolonged and tumultuous. Darling's score stood at 104 out of a total of 157. Hayward was tried at Richardson's end at 169, but in his first over he was hit for eight runs. Mason then went on in place of Briggs, but by sound and correct batting the two batsmen held their own, and soon after 4 o'clock the total had been raised to 195. Darling had then made 117 and Hill 45.

When play was resumed after the adjournment for tea Hirst and Richardson took up the bowling in place of Mason and Hayward. So fast was the scoring that an hour's cricket produced 95 runs. Darling played a masterly game and Hill hit in superb style on both sides of the wicket. At last, however, with the total at 245, Hill was smartly caught by the wicket-keeper off Richardson's bowling, the partnership having produced 148 runs. Hill was batting an hour and 40 minutes, and gave no chance in his splendid innings of 81. Among his hits were seven fours. He was, of course, loudly cheered.

When Hill left Darling's score was 130. With Gregory in Briggs, at 252, was tried again, Hirst giving way to him. He led off with two maiden overs, but could not get a wicket.

With runs coming freely Richardson relieved Hearne at 270, but no change had any effect. Playing in dashing style, Darling scored 18 runs in two overs from Briggs, who at 295 was displaced by Mason. The two batsmen stayed together till the finish, the total at the drawing of stumps being 310 for two wickets. Darling, not out 178, was enthusiastically cheered . . . The weather remained fine all day and the full attendance numbered 12,000. The wicket is lasting well.

Day 2 (report from Monday 17 January)

Adelaide, Jan. 15

The third test match between Mr Stoddart's team and All Australia was continued here to-day in lovely weather. Some little discomfort was caused in the afternoon by the dust, but otherwise the conditions could not have been moiré favourable. At the start of play the attendance was fairly good, and as the day advanced the numbers went on increasing till there were 18,000 people on the ground. The wicket was in perfect order in the morning and remained good till the drawing of stumps. Staying in all day, the Australians carried their overnight score of 310 for two wickets to 552 for nine.

On continuing the innings, Darling and Gregory, the not outs, were quickly separated. Richardson bowled the first over, and after Gregory had made a single, Darling, from the fifth ball, was cleverly caught behind the wicket by Storer. In playing his great innings of 178, Darling was in for nearly four hours and three-quarters, his hits including one six, two fives and 26 fours. He was tremendously cheered as he went back to the pavilion.

With three wickets down for 311, Iredale joined Gregory. Briggs shared the bowling with Richardson, and began with a maiden. Eight runs were hit from Richardson in one over, but Briggs bowled four maidens in succession. When Gregory had made 32, he hit a ball from Briggs to mid-off, but was missed by Stoddart - an easy chance. After this the score rose slowly, Briggs keeping the batsmen to such a defensive game that at one point his analysis showed 13 overs for five runs. At 350 Hearne bowled for Richardson, who, owing to indisposition, had for a time to retire, Board fielding as substitute. Hirst went on in place of Briggs at 360, and off his third ball Gregory, who had just made a four and a two, was missed at the wicket by Storer. At the time of his second escape Gregory's score was 48.

With Iredale playing a steady, correct game, the two batsmen stayed together till just upon lunch time. Then, at 374, Gregory was caught at the wicket. The best feature of his innings was his pretty cutting. At the interval Iredale was not out 25.

When play was resumed the company numbered 12,000. Richardson was happily well enough to take his place in the field. Trott joined Iredale, but did not stay long, being bowled in Hearne's fourth over. Five wickets for 389.

Noble was the next batsman. After this an accident interrupted the game, Hirst in delivering the ball straining an abdominal muscle. He had to retire without completing the over, and the doctor advised him to take a complete rest. Briggs bowled in his place, the total being 394. When 400 went up the innings had been in progress seven hours.

Iredale reached his 50 with the score at 406. Runs then came freely, Iredale scoring the faster of the two. Hayward bowled for Hearne at 419, and Mason took the ball from Briggs, but neither change had any effect, the score rising at the rate of a run a minute. At 447 Storer was tried in place of Mason, Druce keeping wicket. Iredale made some powerful drives on both sides of the wicket, and Noble's free, graceful style of play was much admired. Richardson at 471 relieved Hayward, and his fifth ball, a slow off-break, clean bowled Noble. Six for 475. The partnership for the sixth wicket had produced 86 runs.

With Trumble in, Briggs bowled again for Storer. Ranjitsinhji injured one of his fingers and retired, Wainwright coming on to field for him. The total reached 493, and then Iredale played a ball from Richardson on to his wicket. His fine innings of 84, which lasted a little over three hours and a quarter, included eight fours and was entirely free from fault. He was greatly cheered.

Kelly, the next batsman, began with extreme care, being at the wickets 20 minutes before he made his first run. Five hundred went up, and at 506 Hearne and mason displaced Richardson and Briggs. About this time Wainwright's fielding at point was excellent. Trumble played a cautious game, but Kelly now became vigorous and even risky. Stoddart, at 528, went on himself at Mason's end, and with his first ball of his second over he got a wicket, Kelly being bowled in attempting a big drive. Eight wickets for 537.

Jones came in, and at 541 Richardson bowled once more, Hearne giving way to him. In turning for a run Jones accidentally tore up the pitch, a fact to which both Richardson and Storer drew attention. Having made eight Jones was foolishly run out, stumps being then drawn for the day, with the score at 552 for nine wickets . . .

January 16

The weather remains fine. Hirst's condition has improved, and he states that he will be able to bat for his side.

The members of the team were entertained by the Governor, Sir Thomas Powell Buxton, at his country residence to-day. - Reuter's Special Service.

Day 3 (report from Tuesday 18 January)

Adelaide, Jan. 17

The big match here was continued to-day, the weather being warm and the wicket still in perfect condition. With nine wickets down for 552, the Australians went on batting. Trumble, the not out, was joined by Howell, Richardson and Hearne sharing the English bowling.

Some startling play was seen, 21 runs being scored in eight minutes. Six were obtained from Richardson's first over and 11 from his second, this free hitting causing a good deal of excitement. However, with the first ball of his second over, Hearne bowled Howell, the Australians being all out for 573. The long innings lasted nine hours and 25 minutes, the

average rate of run-getting being the merest trifle over a run a minute. Richardson took four wickets for 164 runs and Hearne two for 94.

Maclaren and Mason opened the English innings to the bowling of Howell and Jones, the latter being up on at the end at which Bannerman was standing umpire. Extreme caution marked the early play, 20 minutes being occupied in scoring the first ten runs. The total reached 24 and then Mason was bowled by a splendid ball from Jones. Ranjitsinhji went in first wicket down and had a cordial greeting from the crowd. The fingers of his right hand were bandaged. After having made two he was missed by Trumble at slip off Jones's bowling. Maclaren was evidently troubled by Howell's bowling. At 30 Trumble was tried in place of Jones, and from his third ball Ranjitsinhji was caught at mid-off. The spectators, who now numbered 5,000, cheered frantically at the fall of the big wicket. At lunch time the score was 30 for two wickets.

On the resumption of play two more wickets fell in quick succession. Howell was put on to bowl and met with immediate success. With one of his first deliveries he clean bowled Maclaren, after the latter had added only one run to his previous score. Hayward, who was not out six when he lost Maclaren, was joined by Storer. The Surrey man played a sound, plucky game. He got little assistance, however, from Storer, who was bowled by Howell after making four.

Four of the English wickets were now down for 42, and it was not until Druce joined Hayward that anything like a combined resistance was offered to the Australian bowling. Forty runs were added to the score in as many minutes, and at 20 minutes past 3 the total had been taken to 84 without the loss of another wicket. Hayward was not out 31 and Druce not out 16. A separation was not effected until two or three minutes before the adjournment for tea, Druce being caught by Darling at mid-on off Noble's bowling for 24. Hirst was the next man in, and when play was suspended the total was 107 for five wickets, Hayward not out 44.

Hayward continued to play a sterling game, and as Hirst also set to work in businesslike fashion the English prospects improved somewhat as the afternoon advanced. Hayward passed his 50 and 20 minutes to 5, and a quarter of an hour later was not out 58. Hirst in the meantime had knocked up 23 and the English total was 149 for five wickets. Hayward was eventually bowled by Jones for 70, and Stoddart joined Hirst. At 20 minutes to 6 the total was 175 for six wickets, Hirst being not out 37 and Stoddart not out 2. At the close of play six wickets were down for 197 runs, Hirst being not out 50 and Stoddart not out 11.

Day 4 (report from Wednesday 19 January)

Adelaide, Jan. 18

The weather was sultry here to-day at the time for resuming play in the great match; a dust storm was blowing and the light was bad. Only a moderate company watched the early play.

In face of Australia's total of 573 Mr Stoddart's team had lost six wickets for 197. Hirst, not out 50, and Stoddart, not out 11, went on with the innings, the bowling and fielding being shared by Noble and Howell. Wainwright ran for Hirst. Seven runs were scored in the first over, but the last ball of Howell's over proved fatal to Stoddart, who was taken at mid-off - a hard catch. Seven wickets for 206.

Briggs, who came next, had only made five when Howell missed him at slip. After this Briggs obtained eight runs in one over from Noble, but at 223 he was smartly caught at the wicket. Hearne, without getting a run, was clean bowled by a splendid ball, the ninth wicket falling at 224. Hirst, however, who was playing under difficulties owing to his injured side, found such a good partner in Richardson that the last wicket added 54 runs.

At 250 Jones bowled in place of Howell. At last a catch in the slips got rid of Hirst, the innings ending for 278. Altogether the Englishmen were at the wickets for five hours and 25 minutes. Hirst was greatly cheered for his plucky display. He took a little over three hours to get his 85, and hit 11 fours. Howell took four wickets for 79 runs . . .

After lunch, with a majority against them of 295 runs, Stoddart's team followed their innings, Maclaren and Mason facing the bowling of Howell and Noble. Maclaren had only made two when Kelly missed him at the wicket off Howell. Mason also had an escape, as Noble might have caught and bowled him - a difficult chance. However, this second mistake had no bearing on the game, for, in the next over from Noble, Mason was easily caught at mid-off. One wicket for 10.

Ranjitsinhji joined Maclaren, the light by this time being better than it had been at the start of play. The attendance had increased to 4,000. Before Ranjitsinhji had scored there was a unanimous appeal against him for a catch at the wicket by Kelly off Howell's bowling, but the umpire decided in the batsman's favour. Ranjitsinhji then opened with a beautiful cut for four. Steady play followed, the bowling being splendid. The fielding was for the most part excellent, but when Ranjitsinhji had made 21 Darling missed him badly in the long field off Noble's bowling.

The score having reached 51, Trumble displaced Howell and began with a maiden. Runs came slowly but, as no wicket fell, another change was tried at 75, McLeod relieving Noble. About this time the batting was very correct in character, but Ranjitsinhji was evidently inconvenienced by his damaged fingers. At the adjournment for tea the total was 87 for one wicket, Maclaren having scored 43 and Ranjitsinhji 41. It appears that when Kelly appealed against Ranjitsinhji the ball got up off the batsman's pad.

When the game was resumed there were 6,000 people on the ground. Trott now put himself on at Trumble's wicket. With his score at 46 Ranjitsinhji was again let off, sending a ball back to the bowler, which McLeod failed to hold. The hundred went up when the innings had lasted an hour and 52 minutes. Out of the first 108 runs Maclaren made 54 and Ranjitsinhji 50. At 118 Trott, having proved ineffective, gave way to Howell. The batting was freer and faster than before, Ranjitsinhji by cuts, drives and pulls scoring all round the wicket. His wrist play was much admired. Maclaren, meanwhile, was playing a masterly game, getting most of his runs by powerful off drives. When 150 went up Ranjitsinhji had passed his partner, his score being 76 and Maclaren's 67.

However, at 152, the partnership came to an end, Ranjitsinhji in hitting a ball from McLeod skying it in the slips and being out to a good catch. He had a great reception at the pavilion. His innings of 77 lasted nearly two hours and a half, and included eight fours. Maclaren had so far scored 68. Hayward, who came next, was brilliantly caught and bowled at 154, McLeod falling and securing the ball with his elbows on the ground. The catch was greatly applauded.

Storer was caught in the slips at 160, and with Druce in stumps were drawn for the day, the closing score being 161 for four wickets. Maclaren, not out 70, was warmly cheered as he walked back to the pavilion . . . The weather was fine after the sultry morning and the wicket is still in good condition.

Day 5 (report from Thursday 20 January)

Adelaide, Jan. 19

The great match here came to an end this afternoon, the Australians winning by an innings and 13 runs. Pleasant weather previous and the pitch remained in good condition.

With four wickets down for 161 the Englishmen at the start of play wanted 134 runs to avoid a single innings defeat. Maclaren, not out 70, and Druce, not out 0, went on with the innings, Howell and McLeod sharing the bowling. From the third ball of the first over Druce got a four on the leg side. McLeod bowled a maiden and the game proceeded slowly. As no wicket fell Trumble, at 175, displaced Howell, who crossed over to McLeod's end. Both batsmen played a defensive game, the bowling being splendid. When 200 went up the innings had been in progress just under four hours. At 208 Noble bowled for Howell, and McLeod just afterwards took the ball from Trumble. The first of these changes parted the batsmen, Druce being bowled off his pad by Noble's second over. Five wickets for 213. Maclaren had at this point scored 92. Druce played in very attracted style for his 27 and gave no chance.

With Hirst in the batting was marked, as before, by great caution. When lunch-time came the total was 225 for five wickets, Maclaren being not out 99 and Hirst not out 5. On resuming play Jones was put on in place of Noble. The fifth ball of McLeod's second over was fatal to Hirst, who was out leg-before-wicket at 235. In the meantime Maclaren had increased his score to 209.

Stoddart came in, and Noble at once resumed bowling, Jones giving way to him. Slow scoring followed, till at 262 Maclaren's great innings was closed by a smart catch at the wicket. He had taken rather more than five hours and a quarter to make 124, his defence being extraordinarily good. At times he hit finely, among his figures being ten fours. He was greeted with tremendous cheers by the 3,000 people on the ground.

With Maclaren's departure it was useless to play carefully any longer, and Stoddart, on being joined by Briggs, hit out with some freedom. The score reached 278, and then Stoddart was caught at mid-off. Hearne, after getting four, was brilliantly caught and bowled with the left hand by Noble, the ninth wicket falling at 282. Noble was greatly cheered for his catch. Hearne, being doubtful whether he was out, appealed to the umpire, but the decision was against him. Richardson, the last man, was caught at mid-on without getting a run, and the match ended. McLeod took five wickets for 65 runs and Noble five for 84 . . . The takings during the match amounted to £2,200.

James Phillips said this morning that the bowling of Howell and Noble was vastly better than that of the Englishmen, and that if the superiority be maintained Australia must win the rubber.

Tuesday 18 January

The annual report of the Notts County Cricket Club, which was issued yesterday, states that the subscriptions during the past year amounted to £2,002, being an increase of 256 on the previous year. The match receipts amounted to £1,256, as against £1,782 in the previous year, the falling-off being accounted for by the bad weather, with unfortunately interfered with the Sussex, Lancashire and Surrey matches and the absence of an Australian match.

The committee have expended about £1,200 in much-needed improvements on the ground, where a bowling-green has also now been provided. Further covered accommodation is to be provided for 600 or 700 spectators.

Having regard to the diminution in match receipts, the outlay on improvements and the new expenditure of £251 on the club ground staff the committee express their gratification with the year's financial results. They appreciated the energy displayed by the team in endeavouring to improve the position of the club. Although not entirely successful in the attempt there had been some excellent performances.

Next year half the proceeds of the Notts and Surrey match at Trent-bridge are to be set aside for Attewell's benefit. The success attending the club and ground scheme has, the committee think, fully justified its establishment. The accounts show that the principal matches last year at Nottingham yielded the following sums in round figures:- Sussex, £59; Lancashire, £54; Kent, £48; Surrey, £379; Yorkshire, £193; Philadelphians, £52; Gloucestershire, £202; Derbyshire, £102; and Middlesex, £99. Including a balance at the bank of £1,312 the receipts from all sources during the year were £4,635. At the close of the year there was a sum of £670 standing to the credit of the club.

Thursday 20 January

The subscription organized by Lord Harris on behalf of the widow of the late William Martingell - for so many years associated with Kent and Eton cricket - is meeting with considerable success, and a sum of about £70 has already been received by Mr R A H Mitchell on Mrs Martingell's behalf.

Wednesday 26 January: NOTTS COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Notts County Cricket Club was held yesterday at Nottingham, under the presidency of Mr W Hall, who presented a very encouraging report. In moving its adoption Mr William Wright stated that the annual subscriptions amount to over £3,000, the total having doubled within the past three years.

Despite the heavy expenditure in the past season, there was now a balance in hand of nearly £700, and the club had never stood in so good a position finally as at present. Many extensive improvements in the accommodation on the Trent-bridge ground were intended and a bowling green was shortly to be opened.

Mr Dixon (captain of the county eleven) was heartily congratulated on his splendid performances during the season. Mention was made of the fact that Attewell was to receive a benefit this year, and the hope was expressed that all would endeavour to make the result worthy of his great services.

In supporting the motion Mr W E Denison referred to the financial aspect of the club, thanks to which the committee had been able to develop a club and ground scheme.

The career of the county eleven last season had been rendered unlucky by reason of the drawn matches and the bad weather. As to bowling strength, they were in the same position as for some time past. Attewell had rendered brilliant service and others had to a certain extent given valuable assistance, but what the county undoubtedly wanted was a good fast bowler.

Speaking of county qualification for cricket, Mr Denison urged that the more genuine it was made the keener would be the interest in the game. He would like to see the rule as to qualification made so that the man's county would be regarded as that in which he was actually living, whether he was playing cricket or not. Sir Henry Bromley was elected president for the ensuing year.

The Marylebone Club have sent out an important circular to the chief county clubs. They say that representations have been made to them that dissatisfaction exists with regard to the present rules of county cricket, and they express their readiness, if the majority of the counties are willing, to appoint a committee to draft another code. No doubt the feeling of dissatisfaction referred to arises over the question of the residential qualification, or, to be more exact, its abuse in recent years.

LANCASHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Lancashire County Club was held last evening in Manchester, under the presidency of Mr A N Hornby. The report submitted by Mr S H Swire, the hon. secretary, stated that it was 15 years since a more satisfactory statement was issued.

Throughout that period Lancashire had endeavoured to obtain the coveted honour of being champion county, and last year that honour was secured in face of numerous difficulties, and probably no one would begrudge the county's success, for since the tie with Surrey and Notts in 1889 Lancashire, out of seven seasons, had been second in five. For the first time Lancashire had met the other 13 counties and out of 26 matches had won 16, lost three and drawn seven.

Next season the second team, in addition to playing Surrey, would meet Durham and Staffordshire.

The gradual increase of membership which had long been noticeable was fully maintained. The membership now numbered 2,727, and in addition there were 58 life members and 674 lady subscribers.

The attendances at Old Trafford last season amounted in the aggregate to 189,638.

The balance-sheet showed that the surplus on the year's working was £1,370. The assets - consisting of cash at bankers and investments - amounted to £8,238, the value of the new pavilion, stands and property on the ground not being included. The liabilities were nil.

The committee reported that the ground and adjoining land had been offered to them, and they recommended to give them power to complete the purchase subject to satisfactory conditions and terms being arranged. A resolution was passed empowering the committee to complete the purchase.

Mr A N Hornby was re-elected president, Mr S H Swire hon. secretary and Mr J A Maclaren hon. treasurer.

An announcement that the committee had decided to take in hand the printing of the scoring cards led to considerable discussion, but the committee's action in the matter was upheld.

A suggestion that something better should be done for the professionals elicited the statement from Mr Swire that, without adopting the system introduced by Yorkshire, Lancashire had not been unmindful of the claims of the professionals.

29 January: AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4927.html)

Saturday 22 January: Melbourne, Jan. 21

The fourth test match, which was to have been here begun on Friday next, has been postponed till Saturday. - Reuter's Special Service.

Saturday 29 January (Reuter's Special Service)

Melbourne, Jan. 28

The Australian team selected to play against the English eleven in the fourth test match, which starts here to-morrow, is the same as that which was victorious in the recent match at Adelaide. Worrall is the emergency man. Board and Hirst will be omitted from the English side. The strain sustained by the latter at Adelaide is causing him considerable pain.

Day 1 (report from Monday 31 January)

Melbourne, Jan. 30

Great interest was naturally felt in the fourth test match, which began here to-day. Having already won two matches out of three, the Australians only want one more victory to secure the rubber. If the Englishmen win the present game, the issue will rest on the fifth match, which is to be played in four weeks' time at Sydney.

For the third time in succession, Trott to-day won the toss for Australia, but up to a certain point the side were far from profiting by the choice of innings. The wicket looked perfect, but in the course of preparation it had, at one end at least, been rather overwatered, and of this fact J T Hearne took full advantage. Only the splendid batting of Clement Hill, ably supported by Trumble, saved Australia from a collapse.

McLeod and Darling opened the innings to the bowling of Richardson and Hearne. A bad start was made, McLeod playing the last ball of Hearne's first over on to his wicket. One wicket for one run. With Hill in, the batting was marked by extreme caution. The score slowly reached 25, and then Darling was caught at deep slip. So far the fielding had been excellent. Gregory, who came next, was bowled first ball by a yorker, and at 26 Iredale was smartly caught at the wicket. Hearne had now taken two wickets for nine runs and Richardson two for 17. Noble did not stay long, being easily caught and bowled, low down, with the total at 32. Up to this point Hill had made 15.

On Trott going in, Hill had a narrow escape of being run out, Druce returning the ball finely from cover point. It had been noticed from the start that the end to which Hearne was bowling, though it did not play falsely, was slow. At 42 Hayward was tried in place of Richardson, but did not do well, six runs being scored in his first over. Briggs relieved Hearne at 55, and at lunch time the total was 58 for five wickets, Hill not out 34 and Trott not out seven. The attendance at the interval numbered 7,000.

On the game being resumed, Hearne bowled again, and from his second ball Trott was caught at the wicket. Six for 58. Hearne's bowling up to this point was remarkable, four wickets having fallen to him for 20 runs.

Trumble was Hill's next partner and a stand was made which put quite a new appearance on the game. Richardson bowled from his old end but neither he nor Hearne met with any further success. Hill scorer much faster than Trumble, his play on the leg side being very telling. With the total at 78 he completed his 50. Since luncheon the attendance had increased to 10,000. With some beautiful off-drives Hill scored ten runs in one over from Richardson. A little later, Storer appeared against Trumble for a catch at the wicket off Hearne's bowling, and some of the crowd hooted. Trumble then made a late cut for four. Briggs

displaced Richardson at 96 and, following some slow play, the 100 went up, the innings having lasted two hours and a quarter.

When Hill had made 65 Storer missed him at the wicket off Hearne. Another change was tried at 115, Hearne giving way to Hayward, and after this the scoring was painfully slow. Hill was enthusiastically cheered on getting his 100. He had then been at the wickets two hours and 50 minutes. Stoddart bowled for Briggs at 142, and at 144 Richardson was tried again in place of Hayward. About this time a change in the weather seemed impending. The attendance now numbered 15,000.

After the adjournment for tea, the run-getting was faster, Hill playing brilliantly. Among other hits he made one superb off drive which went to the boundary with a crash. Trumble, who was content to score steadily, batted in admirable form. With the total at 176, Hearne went on for Stoddart. He again had bad luck, Storer missing Trumble off him at the wicket. Trumble had then made 34. At 197 Storer took the ball from Richardson and Druce kept wicket. From Richardson's bowling 89 runs had now been scored. Storer's first over was an eventful one. Hill hit the first two balls for four each, from the fourth there was an unsuccessful appeal for leg-before-wicket, from the fifth Hill scored a single, and the sixth Trumble cut for two.

At 211 Stoddart displaced Storer, who crossed over and took Hearne's end. Nine runs were hit from Stoddart's first over, but at 223 the batsmen were parted, Trumble being out to a splendid catch in the long field by Mason, who ran in some little distance and secured the ball in the most brilliant fashion. Trumble was batting nearly two hours and 40 minutes for his 46 - a good innings- which included four fours. Hill's score when Trumble left was 152.

Kelly, the next batsman, began by banging Storer to the fence on the leg side. Hearne at 227 was tried once more in place of Stoddart and, with runs coming steadily, Briggs took the ball from Storer at 240. Hill then, amid great cheering, hit Hearne for 11 runs in one over, this punishment bringing on Wainwright for the first time at 257. When Hill beat Darling's score at Adelaide of 178, there was an enthusiastic demonstration.

At the drawing of stumps the total was 275 for seven wickets, Hill, not out, 182, and Kelly, not out, 22. Hearne, so far, has taken four wickets for 71 runs . . . the wicket improved as the day went on and the weather kept fine all the afternoon.

Day 2 (report from Tuesday, 1 February)

Melbourne, Jan. 31

Conditions were not altogether favourable for cricket when the match was resumed here to-day, clouds of smoke from bush fires enveloping the ground. The English players complained of sleeplessness and the great heat.

With seven wickets down for 275, the Australians went on with their innings, Hill, not-out 182, and Kelly, not-out 22, facing the bowling of Richardson and Hearne. The pitch remained in good condition. Hill added six runs to his previous score, and was caught in the slips from the first ball of Hearne's third over. His magnificent innings lasted nearly five hours and a quarter and included 21 fours. He was enthusiastically cheered. Eight wickets for 283.

With Jones in, the runs came rather freely, Kelly cutting Hearne twice in one over for four. Druce was cheered for a fine piece of fielding at mid-off, and just afterwards Hearne gave Jones four runs by throwing wildly at the wrong wicket. Briggs displaced return match at 303, and from his first ball Kelly was caught at the wicket. Jones and Howell indulged in some hard hitting, putting on 20 runs before the former was caught in the slips.

The innings thus came to an end for 323. It had been in progress six hours and seven minutes. Hearne took six wickets for 98 runs . . .

Storer had the misfortune to smash the forefinger of his right hand and it is feared that the injury will leave a permanent stiffness. At the end of the Australian innings there were 6,000 people on the ground.

The Englishmen then began their first innings, Wainwright accompanying Maclaren to the wickets. Less than half an hour remained for play before lunch, and just before the interval was taken Maclaren was bowled by Howell for eight. The first wicket fell with the score at 14, Wainwright being not out 6.

On the resumption of play Wainwright and Ranjitsinhji faced the Australian bowling. The second wicket was even less productive than the first, Wainwright only making two more runs before he was beautifully caught by Howell at point off Trott's bowling. Hayward then joined Ranjitsinhji and something of a stand was made. The batsmen scored at an equal rate and the 50 went up as the result of good all-round cricket.

Shortly afterwards there came a series of disasters. With the total at 60 Ranjitsinhji was caught by Iredale in the slips off Trumble. His contribution was 24, Hayward being not out 22. The next two wickets only produced seven runs. Ranjitsinhji was sent back at 3 o'clock, and before half-past Hayward and Storer were both dismissed. The former, after losing Ranjitsinhji, was joined by Druce, but with his score unchanged was caught by Gregory off Noble's bowling.

Druce and Storer then came together, but the latter was caught and bowled by Trumble for two, and five wickets were down for 67. Druce was not out five, and with him and Mason in partnership the collapse was stayed for a while. Another wicket, however, fell before the tea adjournment, the Surrey amateur, who had played with great care for 24, being given out leg before wicket to a ball from Jones. Mason, who also treated the bowling with much respect, was joined by Stoddart, and during this partnership the 100 went up. The batsmen were not separated at tea time, when the total was 106 for six wickets. Mason was not out 17 and Stoddart not out 3.

There was more life in the English play after the resumption, and except for Hearne all the remaining batsmen got into double figures. Stoddart was caught by Darling off Jones for 17 and Mason was partnered by Briggs. The score rose rapidly, and shortly before 5 o'clock had been taken to 145, Mason being not out 27 and Briggs not out 15. With the addition of three runs, however, two more wickets were disposed of. Mason was bowled by Jones for 30 and Hearne, who followed, was dismissed without scoring. He was caught at point by Trott off Jones's bowling.

With only one wicket in hand, therefore, the Englishmen were 175 runs behind their opponents, but a useful stand was made by Briggs and Richardson for the last wicket. Both played pluckily, and the English total had been raised to 174 before Richardson was bowled by Trott for 20. Briggs was not out 21.

Being 149 runs in arrears, the Englishmen followed on, and when stumps were drawn had lost one wicket for seven runs. Wainwright and Briggs opened the innings. The former was caught by McLeod at mid-on off Jones's bowling when he had made two.

Day 2 (second report, from Wednesday 2 February - delayed in transmission)

Melbourne, Jan. 31

Maclaren and Wainwright opened the first innings of the Englishmen, the bowling being shared by Howell and Trott. Both batsmen played cautiously. When Maclaren had made two he was missed by Kelly off Trott's bowling. With the first ball of the fifth over, however, Maclaren was clean bowled by Howell for eight, the first wicket falling at 14. The luncheon interval was then taken.

On the resumption of play Ranjitsinhji accompanied Wainwright to the wickets. The second ball of Trott's first over proved fatal to Wainwright, who in playing forward spooned the

ball to point, and Howell, falling forward, brought off a brilliant catch. Two wickets were now down for 16, Ranjitsinhji being not out two.

Hayward joined Ranjitsinhji, and a slightly better appearance was put on the game. At 57 a double change was tried, Noble relieving Trott and Trumble superseding Howell. With his fifth ball Trumble captured Ranjitsinhji's wicket, Iredale bringing off a catch in the slips. The outgoing batsman had made 24, Hayward being not out 22. Druce came in, but immediately lost Hayward, who was finely caught low down at extra mid-off. Gregory was loudly applauded. Four wickets were down for 60.

Storer, handicapped by his injured finger, was soon caught and bowled by Trumble who had now taken two wickets for four runs. So far the Australian fielding had been superb. Mason joined Druce, and at 89 Jones bowled in place of Noble. Nine runs were scored from Jones's first over; but at 103 he got Druce out leg-before-wicket. In scoring his 24 Druce played very finished and attractive cricket. Mason up to this point had made 17. Stoddart came in next and had a most cordial reception from the crowd.

On the game being continued after the adjournment for tea, Stoddart batted with considerable freedom, but at 121 he made a false hit and was caught at third man. With Mason and Briggs together the total was carried to 142, at which point Howell went on again for Trumble. Having played in careful and artistic style for an hour without giving a chance, Mason at 148 was bowled by Jones. Hearne was out to an easy catch at point from the second ball he received, but Richardson stayed with Briggs, an unexpected stand being made for the last wicket. Fourteen runs were hit in one over from Jones, who at 170 gave way to Trott. This change directly got rid of Richardson, the innings, which had lasted three hours and ten minutes, closing for 174 . . .

Being 149 runs behind, the Englishmen had of course to follow their innings. When they went in there was a haze over the ground which made the light very bad. Wainwright and Briggs started the innings to the bowling of Howell and Jones. When seven runs had been scored Wainwright was finely caught at mid-on by McLeod, who fell but managed to hold the ball. Stumps were then drawn for the day.

The weather was muggy and intensely hot, but at the end of the afternoon there were 16,000 people on the ground. The wicket remained in good condition.

Day 3 (February 1)

During the latter part of yesterday's play the weather was intensely muggy, and the light was very bad owing to a haze hanging over the ground. When the match was resumed this morning the heat was again oppressive, and the Englishmen were at a distinct disadvantage as compared with their seasoned opponents. The wicket had worn remarkably well.

Maclaren went in with Briggs, and the two Lancashire men remained together until about a quarter to 1. The score was taken to 63 before Briggs was caught by Darling off Howell's bowling for 23. Maclaren at this stage was not out 36, and the visitors were still 86 in arrears. Ranjitsinhji then came in and began to score fast, making 18 while Maclaren was raising his score from 36 to 45. The Lancashire batsman was then caught by Iredale at short leg. The score was then 94 for three wickets. Hayward followed and, playing steadily, carried the total in company with Ranjitsinhji to 147, when the Prince was clean bowled by Noble for a brilliant 55. Score, 147 for four wickets - two runs short of the number required to save the innings defeat.

Hayward, who was not out 16, was joined by Stoddart, but soon afterwards returned a ball to Trumble, having made a useful 25. Druce came in and the score advanced to 174, Stoddart not out five and Druce 12. The English captain, who had been playing very carefully, now began to hit more freely, and had put together 25 when he succumbed to a ball from Jones. Mason became Druce's partner, but soon lost him, the Surrey man being caught at point. Storer was the next man in, and he, in company with the Kent captain, ran up 43 runs, and they were still together when stumps were drawn, the Englishmen being 105 runs ahead with three wickets to fall.

Richardson got a slight strain yesterday, and it seem doubtful whether he will be able to bowl in the Australian second innings.

Day 4 (report from Thursday 3 February)

Melbourne, Feb. 2

The heat to-day was overpowering, there was not a breath of wind, and players and spectators alike underwent great discomfort from the beating sun. Although the wicket was in good condition on the resumption of play, the second innings of the Englishmen concluded very tamely, and only nine runs were added to the overnight score.

Mason and Storer were dismissed within a few minutes of each other. The former, who only made one run to-day, was bowled by Howell, and Storer with his score likewise at 26 was caught by Darling off McLeod. Nine wickets were down for 257, and five minutes later the innings came to an end, Richardson being caught by Trumble in the slips off McLeod for two. Hearne carried out his bat for four.

The Australians, therefore, had only 115 runs to make to win, and nearly half of them were obtained before lunch. McLeod and Darling went in first as usual. The partnership produced 50 runs. Darling was finally caught by Druce off Hayward's bowling for 29. McLeod, not out 21, was joined by Hill, who, however, was given out leg before wicket to a ball from Hayward without scoring. Gregory then came in, and the requisite number of runs was obtained without the loss of another wicket. McLeod was responsible for 64 and Gregory for 21.

Saturday 5 February

Melbourne, Feb. 3

In connexion with the result of the last test match, the Australian papers have all published articles on the merits and demerits of the English team. The general opinion expressed is that the visitors are decidedly inferior to the combined colonial eleven.

The Melbourne Argus says that the last Australian victory was crushing and decisive and constitutes the most brilliant page in Australian cricket literature. The paper admits, however, that the balance of luck was against the Englishmen. The weather was cruel, the wicket unkind and the atmosphere murky. The visitors played below their proper standard, whereas the Australians showed magnificent form.

The Sydney Herald remarks that the English team were conspicuously weaker than their opponents and were completely outclassed. Their defeats at Melbourne and Adelaide are fairly ascribable to the unexpected strength of the Australian bowling.

The Adelaide papers remark that the English batsmen were other overrated or have never been able to accommodate themselves to the altered conditions of the wicket. They have found it impossible to cope with the great variety of the Australian bowling, which is equal to that of the best days of cricket. The English bowling, on the other hand, is really weak and lacking in variation and sting. Mr Stoddart, the papers point out, has tried the experiment of bringing over a team including many new men. The result has been a failure. The newcomers were overweighted by their responsibility. - Reuter's Special Service.

5 February: NEW SOUTH WALES v A E STODDART'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4928.html)

Day 1 (report from Monday 7 February)

Sydney, Feb. 5

Mr Stoddart's team commenced to-day their return match with New South Wales. Owing to injuries sustained in the recent test match Richardson and Storer were unable to play. The weather was oppressive in the early part of the day but became cooler as the afternoon advanced. Small at first, the attendance steadily increased until there were 19,000 people on the ground.

Gregory beat Stoddart in the toss for innings, and New South Wales, with a good wicket to bat on, of course went in first. They did so well that at the drawing of stumps they had scored 297 with only seven men out.

Donnan and Iredale opened the innings to the bowling of Hearne and Briggs. In Hearne's first over Donnan made 12 runs, but with the score at 14 a wicket fell, Iredale being out to a catch at mid-on. With Noble in the cricket was slow, but at 40 a change was tried, Hayward going on for Hearne. From the new bowler Donnan, who had scored 29, was missed by Hearne at mid-off. Wainwright bowled at the other end and sent down three maiden overs in succession. At lunch time the total was 57 for one wicket, Donnan being not-out 32 and Noble not out 21. Donnan had been more vigorous than usual in his methods, some of his straight drives being especially good.

The company numbered 8,000 when the game was resumed. The second ball of Wainwright's second over proved fatal to Donnan, who was smartly caught at the wicket. His fine innings included six fours. The score for two wickets was 73, Noble being 28. McKenzie, who came in next, scored ten runs in one over from Hayward - all on the leg-side - and then made eight in the following over from Wainwright. However, at 97 the batsmen were parted, a magnificent catch by Maclaren in the slips getting rid of Noble, who had played a good attractive innings. Maclaren was much applauded for his catch.

Gregory joined, McKenzie, and at 108 Hearne relieved Hayward. McKenzie scored rapidly from both bowlers, his hitting being at once hard and safe. When he had made 56 he attempted an impossible run and would have lost his wicket but for a wild return from Hayward from mid-on. As it was, he struggled safely to his crease. Apart from this blunder of Hayward's the fielding had for some time been brilliant. Briggs took the ball from Wainwright at 146 and put his outfields deeper. Still the score rose, and at 166 Mason relieved Hearne. Before very long this change proved successful, as at 178 Gregory, in trying a pull, got the ball on the edge of his bat and gave the bowler the easiest of catches. Up to this point McKenzie had made 73.

After the interval for tea, the crowd had increased to 11,000. Trumper was the new batsman. When McKenzie had scored 86 he was missed at slip by Hirst off Mason's bowling. Then at 204 Mason bowled Trumper with a splendid ball. With Pye in, McKenzie had another piece of luck, Hearne missing him from Mason's bowling at mid-on. At the time of this second escape McKenzie had scored 99. The hit went for three runs,

Profiting by his good fortune McKenzie hit out finely, and twice made a couple of fours in succession from Mason. At 249 Hearne went on for Briggs, and at 257 Ranjitsinhji, amid a good deal of applause, was tried in place of Mason. Pye scored eight runs in Hearne's first over, but at 264 that bowler had the satisfaction of getting McKenzie out. The batsman attempted a big drive, mistimed the ball and was caught at slip. For his brilliant innings of 130 McKenzie was only at the wickets two hours and 25 minutes, among his hits being 21 fours. He was enthusiastically cheered.

Kelly came in, and at 285 a double change was tried, Stoddart going on for Ranjitsinhji and Hayward for Hearne. Stoddart bowled Kelly at 297, and then, with seven wickets down, stumps were drawn for the day . . .

Day 2 (report from Tuesday 8 February)

Sydney, Feb. 7

Cricket here to-day in the return match between New South Wales and Mr Stoddart's team was favoured with glorious weather. The wicket remained in good condition and the attendance, though only moderate at the start of play, increased steadily as the day advanced.

On Saturday New South Wales had scored 297 for seven wickets. Pye, not out 40, was joined to-day by Newell, the bowling being shared by Stoddart and Briggs. After making a single Newell skied a ball on the leg side between the umpire and the wicket. Board made a brilliant effort to secure the catch, but did not succeed. However, at 311, Newell, in trying to hit a full pitch, put the ball up in the slips and was caught. At this point Pye had scored 48. McKibbin, who came in next, scorecard ten runs in one over from Stoddart, causing the bowler to give way to Hearne at 327. The change out to have parted the batsmen, Hearne in his first over missing a chance offered him by McKibbin, who had then made 17. As it happened very little harm came of this, for at 334 McKibbin was out to a good catch at mid-off.

Howell, the last man, at once began to hit, but he had scored only 11 when Hirst missed him badly at extra cover-point from Briggs's bowling. Stoddart bowled again for Hearne at 368, and Hayward displaced Briggs. Other mistakes in the field followed, Pye, with his score at 74, giving a single chance to Hirst at mid-on from Hayward's bowling, and Hayward himself missing Howell off Stoddart at mid-off. When thus escaping for the second time Howell had made 32. Just afterwards he drove Stoddart for five, a splendid hit, which the English team heartily cheered. Altogether Howell scored 17 runs in one over, this punishment bringing on Mason at 404. In his second over Mason bowled Howell, the innings coming to an end for 415. Pye took out his bat for a finely played 80, which included 13 fours. Howell, in his 48, hit a five and seven fours. Both batsmen were warmly cheered, there being quite a demonstration in honour of Howell . . . The time occupied by the innings was six hours, the partnership for the last wicket lasting just upon three-quarters of an hour.

Mason and Wainwright opened the English innings to the bowling of Noble and Howell. Both batsmen began freely, Wainwright getting the larger proportion of the runs. The score reached 28, and then Mason was caught in the slips. By this time there were 6,000 people in the ground. Ranjitsinhji joined Wainwright, and at 35 McKibbin bowled in place of Howell. Batting in a very artistic style, Wainwright scored 11 runs in one over from McKibbin, but from that bowler he was missed with his score at 44 by McKenzie at mid-off. Ranjitsinhji was also in form, his crisp hitting being much admired. Six successive hits at this stage were fours. When the total reached 88 Wainwright had made 46 and Ranjitsinhji 30. At 92 the second wicket fell, Wainwright being brilliantly caught low down at mid-on. In his capital innings of 50, which lasted an hour and ten minutes, Wainwright hit nine fours.

Hayward came next, but at 99 he lost Ranjitsinhji, who was splendidly caught by Gregory at square leg. Another fine catch - this time by Newell at point - quickly got rid of Hirst, the total with four wickets down being 112. So far the New South Wales fielding had been superb. With Druce in, Pye bowled in place of McKibbin. Maclaren was unwell, or he would, of course, have gone in long before this. At the time Hirst left Noble had taken four wickets for 35 runs.

When play was resumed after the adjournment for tea, the attendance had increased to 8,000. The cricket for some time was slow, Hayward getting most of the runs. The score having reached 145, Newell relieved Noble, from whose bowling 51 runs had now been obtained. A further change was tried at 158, Howell going on for Newell and the latter crossing over to the opposite wicket. Runs then came steadily, the batting being excellent. Donnan and McKibbin took up the bowling at 198, and at 201 Noble went on again. Hayward cut Noble's first ball for four, but off the second he was caught at point. The partnership for the fifth wicket had added 93 runs. Hayward was batting an hour and 50 minutes for his 63 and hit nine fours. He played in most finished style and gave no chance.

On being joined by Stoddart Druce, with his score at 38, was missed in the slips by McKibbin off Noble. Stoddart's play was brief, for at 212 he was well caught at slip. With six wickets down Briggs became Druce's partner, and the two batsmen played out time, the total at the drawing of stumps being 227. When once firmly set Druce batted freely and in capital form.

So far Noble has taken five wickets for 66 runs . . . The weather was very pleasant all day and the full attendance numbered 9,000. The wicket remains in good condition.

Day 3 (report from Wednesday 9 February)

Sydney, Feb. 8

The weather was fine to-day at the time for resuming play, but the attendance was small. At the drawing of stumps yesterday the score stood - New South Wales, 415; Mr Stoddart's team, 227 for six wickets.

With the pitch still in good condition, Druce (not out 47) and Briggs (not out 6) continued the English innings to the bowling of Pye and McKibbin. Howell was absent from the field. He is suffering from an old strain to his leg and says it is improbable that he will be able to play in the final test match. Coningham fielded as substitute for him.

Druce made a beautiful hit for four off Pye and Briggs in McKibbin's first over made a couple of fine late cuts to the boundary. These three hits having carried the score to 239, Noble went on in place of Pye. Eight runs were added, and then Briggs in attempting a big drive skied the ball to mid-off, where McKenzie made a wonderfully good running catch. Seven wickets for 247.

Maclaren, better in health than he was yesterday, now came in, and some splendid batting followed. Druce was at last in his English form, his driving being magnificent, and Maclaren played a sound, attractive and masterful game. In one over from McKibbin Druce scored 12 runs, causing Newell to take the ball at 305. As he neared his hundred, which he completed in three hours, Druce played more carefully and, at the same time, Maclaren became slower than before. Another change was tried at 324, Newell giving way to Trumper. At lunch time the total was 329, Druce being not out 105 and Maclaren not out 28.

After the adjournment Maclaren became the mainstay of his side. Druce had only increased his previous score by four when he was caught by Noble off Trumper's bowling. A good stand was made for the ninth wicket, Maclaren hitting freely and Board also putting in some useful play. Finally the latter was caught by McKenzie off McKibbin for 14, and Hearne then joined Maclaren for the last wicket. When the Lancashire man was bowled by Noble for an admirable 61 the Englishmen were within 28 runs of their opponents.

New South Wales then went in for the second time. Donnan and Iredale opened the innings. The latter again made nothing of a stay and was bowled by Hearne for seven. McKenzie came in first wicket down, and he and Donnan took the score to 87 before tea time. At this stage Donnan was not out 37 and McKenzie not out 40. On the fresh start runs came steadily, until McKenzie, who was the faster scorer, was out for 52 to a catch off Mason. Pye came in and played out time.

(From Thursday 10 February)

From sections of the full descriptive report of Tuesday's cricket, which were delayed in transmission, the following points of interest have been extracted:-

Soon after luncheon Druce was out to a catch at point, cutting the ball straight into Noble's hands. In playing his brilliant innings of 109 he was at the wickets three hours and a quarter, among his hits being 19 fours. He was out at 344, he and Maclaren having put on 97 runs for the eighth wicket. Maclaren, who was bowled at 372, tried to lift a ball which swerved in the air and then broke back and beat him. Despite his indisposition he

batted very finely, hitting 10 fours in his 61. Altogether the English innings of 387 lasted six hours and a quarter. Noble took six wickets for 131 runs . . .

When New South Wales, with a lead of 28 runs, went in for the second time, Iredale was bowled at 19 in trying to pull a ball from Hearne. Ranjitsinhji started the bowling with Hearne, but gave way to Briggs just before the wicket fell. With Donnan and McKenzie together some brilliant cricket was seen, the hundred going up when the innings had been in progress only 69 minutes. Before this Maclaren, owing to weakness, retired from the field, Coningham acting as substitute for him.

Early in his innings McKenzie scored 15 runs in one over from Briggs, Maclaren in trying to field the hits being hampered by the bicycle track. McKenzie hit 11 fours in his 52 and gave no chance. He was out at 106 to a good catch at mid-on. Donnan and Pye added 34 runs.

Five thousand people were on the ground during the afternoon. The wicket remained in good condition. The English fielding was excellent.

Day 4 (report from Thursday 10 February)

The return match between Mr Stoddart's team and a representative eleven of New South Wales was continued this morning. Gregory's batting was the feature of the day. Neither Donnan nor Pye materially increased his overnight score. The former was dismissed after making four runs, being caught by Hirst off Hearne's bowling.

Gregory came in, and before lunch he lost two partners, Pye and Noble, both of whom were bowled by Hearne, the former for 31 and the latter for eight. Trumper then joined Gregory, and when the interval was taken the New South Wales total was 185 for 5 wickets. Gregory was not out 17 and Trumper not out 8.

On the resumption of play the 200 went up, and Gregory, becoming well set, did practically what he pleased with the English bowling. He obtained solid if not brilliant support from Trumper and later on from Newell. Hearne bowled Trumper when he had made 23, this being the Middlesex man's fourth success to-day. Kelly only contributed four before being caught by Hirst off Mason's bowling. Newell became Gregory's partner, and there two were together when play was suspended for tea. Gregory, who since lunch had made considerably over twice as many runs as his three partners together, was at this stage not out 94. Seven Australian wickets were down for 294.

After tea over 150 runs were added to the score for the loss of one more wicket. Gregory and Newell obtained complete mastery over the bowling. Several changes were tried, but Gregory punished all the bowlers alike. Newell played a steadier game. The 400 went up before a separation was effected. Gregory was dismissed with his score at 171. He was caught by Hayward off Briggs's bowling. An enthusiastic reception was given him on his return to the pavilion.

McKibbin then joined Newell and the ninth wicket was also very productive. The new-comer batted vigorously and before stumps were drawn had made 31. At the close of play eight wickets were down for 452, Newell being not out 54.

(from Friday 11 February)

From the descriptive report of Wednesday's cricket at Sydney - delayed in transmission - the following points of interest have been extracted:-

The weather was hot in the morning but became cooler and more pleasant as the day advanced. Meagre at first, the attendance numbered 4,000 before the end of the afternoon. The wicket lasted exceedingly well. Hearne's bowling up to a certain point showed a remarkable result. He began by taking three wickets for nine runs, at one time bowling ten maiden overs in succession. Maclaren was absent from the field owing to a wrenched ankle.

Early in the day the cricket was very tame, Gregory beginning his great innings of 171 with such excessive caution that he scored only 13 runs during the first hour he was at the wickets. Afterwards, however, he played most brilliantly. He was out at last to a catch in the slips from a false hit, the total when he left being 411 for eight wickets. His innings lasted four hours and included 23 fours. When he had made 35 he was missed by Briggs at cover-point off Hearne's bowling; but apart from this there does not seem to have been any fault in his cricket.

Newell and McKibbin finished up the afternoon with some vigorous hitting, but McKibbin was missed by Board at the wicket off Wainwright when he had scored 18. As the result of the day's cricket the New South Wales score of 149 for two wickets was carried to 452 for eight wickets. In taking five wickets Hearne had only 90 runs hit from him - a fine average in such a long innings. Gregory and Newell took the score from 242 to 411.

Owing to the interruption of the South Australian landlines, no telegrams from Sydney regarding yesterday's play in the cricket match at Sydney had reached Reuter's Agency up to a late hour last night.

Day 5 (report from Saturday 12 February)

Sydney, Feb 10 (delayed in transmission)

When play was resumed to-day the weather was dull and threatening, but the wicket remained in good condition. The attendance numbered 500.

New South Wales, whose overnight score stood at 452 for eight wickets, went on with their second innings. Newell, 54, and McKibbin, 31, faced the bowling of Briggs and Hearne. McKibbin did not stay long, as after adding eight runs he was clean bowled by Hearne. The ninth wicket fell at 465, Newell being not out 54.

Howell came in next, and although Briggs placed four men in the outfield for him, some remarkable hitting was witnessed. Howell's leg being painful, Trumper ran for him. Maclaren was fielding. Howell lifted Briggs twice for five, and then drove Hearne for the same number over the spectators' heads. At 490 Mason relieved Briggs. Soon afterwards Howell brought up the fifth hundred with a clean and powerful off-drive from Hearne. He rapidly hit up 54 runs while Newell was making nine. Newell was missed in the slips by Maclaren off Hearne, and Howell, when he had made 55, was also let off, Hirst missing him at cover-point off Mason. At 529 Hayward displaced Hearne but did not check the sensational hitting, as Howell immediately drove him straight for five and then drove Mason twice in succession to the boundary.

Druce relieved Hayward at 567, but seven more runs were added before a catch in the slips dismissed Howell. The innings thus came to an end for 574, the last wicket having added 109 runs in 50 minutes. Howell was tumultuously applauded for his brilliant hitting. Included in his 95 were four fives and 14 fours. Hearne took six wickets for 125 runs . . .

The Englishmen went in with 603 runs to get to win. The start was a most promising one. Maclaren, feeling much better, went in first with Wainwright, and the two, playing an admirable game, scored steadily and well. The hundred went up before tea, and at the adjournment the English score stood at 118, Maclaren not out 65 and Wainwright not out 43. The partnership came to an end with the dismissal of Wainwright, who had made 68.

Ranjitsinhji came in and, seconding Maclaren in brilliant style, carried the score beyond the second century. Maclaren was loudly cheered on completing his hundred. No separation he been effected when stumps were drawn.

(From Monday 14 February)

The display of cricket given by the Englishmen to-day was superb, and when stumps were drawn early owing to the failing light there seemed a prospect of snatching a victory.

Maclaren and Wainwright faced Noble and McKibbin, each of whom opened with a maiden. The batsmen were cautious at first. Especially Wainwright, who made 19 while the amateur was scoring 34. At 55 Pye relieved McKibbin and the rate of run-getting quickened. When he had made 26, Wainwright gave a rather difficult chance to McKibbin at point off Noble's bowling. The ball went past McKibbin and a run was got. Then Trumper threw in the ball wildly and four more were scored from an overthrow. Apart from this half-chance, the batting was most scientific, and when the telegraph showed 103, McLeod had made 58 to Wainwright's 35.

Six runs later, Trumper relieved Noble, off whom 55 had been knocked up. On the resumption after tea Howell came on to field (Coningham had been fielding for him) and at 120 went on to bowl in place of Trumper, but runs continued to come freely and evenly. With the score at 123 Newell took the ball from Pye. Maclaren appeared to like the change, for he hit him thrice in succession for 4. Newell soon afterwards gave was to McKibbin, and off his fifth ball the first wicket fell, Wainwright playing on in trying to pull it. His 68 had been made by stylish cricket and he was heartily cheered. The telegraph showed 172 for one wicket, Maclaren 94.

Ranjitsinhji joined Maclaren, who was playing a forcing game. He made a sensation by driving Howell magnificently for 5, and at 212 Noble took Howell's place. Ranjitsinhji soon settled down and scored fast in brilliant style, his beautiful cuts being especially effective. When he had made 126 Maclaren was missed by Newell. At 5.30 the score was 245, Maclaren being 129 and Ranjitsinhji 35. Trumper was substituted at 252 for McKibbin, who changed ends. The light was getting bad and the batsmen played with great caution until stumps were drawn, the score being 258 for one wicket.

. . . The sky this evening was lowering. The wicket played well, but looks worn at McKibbin's end.

Day 6 (report from Monday 14 February)

The return match between New South Wales and Mr Stoddart's team came to an unexpectedly speedy conclusion here to-day, New South Wales winning by 239 runs. Going in with 603 wanted to win, Stoddart's team had at the drawing of stumps yesterday scored 258 for one wicket, but to-day their batting, apart from Hayward's efforts, broke down completely. At first the attendance was moderate, but there were 5,000 people on the ground before the finish.

Maclaren (not out 135) and Ranjitsinhji (not out 42) went on with the English innings to the bowling of Donnan and Howell. Only four runs had been added to the score when Ranjitsinhji hit Howell hard to square-leg and was splendidly caught exactly as in his first innings. Two wickets for 262. Hayward came in, but at 271 a beautiful length ball from Howell broke back and bowled Maclaren. In playing his innings of 140, Maclaren was at the wickets three hours and a half. He gave a brilliant display, hitting one five and 20 fours. The cheering as he returned to the pavilion was enthusiastic.

Hirst became Hayward's partner. Complaint was made by the batsmen of Donnan's practice of running up the pitch after delivering the ball, and some of the spectators called out "Keep off the pitch, Donnan." It was not suggested, however, that he had any sinister motive; exception was merely taken to an objectionable habit.

At 278 Noble relieved Donnan, and off his fourth ball Hirst, from a wretched stroke, was easily caught at extra mid-off. With Druce in the game proceeded rather slowly till, at 306, McKibbin was put on in place of Howell. Then, at 312, Druce was easily caught at the wicket off Noble. So far Hayward had made 34. Mason only scored six before being caught from a feeble hit at mid-off, and with his departure the luncheon interval was taken, all interest in the game being at an end.

On starting again Stoddart played very uncomfortably, but contrived for a time to keep up his wicket while Hayward made runs. A change was tried at 343, Howell resuming for McKibbin. One run having been added, Noble bowled Stoddart with a full pitch. Seven wickets for 344. Briggs, the next batsman, softly played back into Noble's hands the second

ball he received. Up to this point Noble had to-day taken five wickets for 21 runs. Neither Board nor Hearne gave much trouble and, with the last wicket falling at 363, the match ended very tamely. Hayward took out his bat for 64.

In the whole innings Noble took six wickets for 117 runs . . . Only three wickets fell to-day at the end where Donnan had scraped the pitch with his spikes.

Wednesday 9 February

Five members of the Yorkshire county eleven - Lord Hawke, Mr F S Jackson, Mr F W Milligan, David Hunter and J Tunnicliffe - were present last evening of the annual dinner of the Scarborough Cricket Club. Captain Darley was in the chair and was supported by Sir Charles Legard and Sir George Sitwell.

Lord Hawke, in responding to the toast of "The Eleven," said that no doubt many people were disappointed that they did not come to the Scarborough Festival last year as the champion eleven. He was especially disappointed, but for all that he wished, as captain of the team, to give all praise to the players. They came through the ordeal of a trying season exceedingly well. The loss of the championship to Yorkshire only meant the loss of two matches. The batting of Yorkshire must be very fine when out of 11 men there were six capable of getting a thousand runs in county matches.

It was in bowling that they failed; he had taken the bowling analysis and found that not a single bowler for Yorkshire was able to gain wickets under an average of 20, whereas in previous years there were bowlers of the stamp of Haigh and Peel who took wickets at a much lower average. Peel, who for 17 years had done yeoman service for Yorkshire, could not always go on; he had done his best for Peel and as far as he was concerned he would say that Peel could no longer play for the Yorkshire eleven. He made this remark because so many questions had been asked as to whether he had thoroughly looked into the matter.

Thursday 17 February: YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The statement of accounts for 1897, which will be submitted to the annual meeting on March 2, shows a flourishing financial condition. The receipts amounted to £6,409 10s 6d and the payments to £5,381 12s, leaving a balance on the year's working of £1,027 18s 6d and raising the total of the county fund to £5,271.

Four of the 13 first-class matches played were, however, financially unsuccessful, these being against Leicestershire, Hampshire, Derbyshire and Kent, over which the total loss incurred was £253 3s 11d. All the extra matches played also resulted in loss to the extent of £442 14s 10d. The general expenses had largely increased, and amounted to £1,289 7s 8d, as against £748 5s during the previous year. This was largely owing to the amount of £655 for winter's pay to players as against £200 the year before.

Among other items in the agenda for the meeting is one in the name of Lord Hawke, who will propose that clubs upon whose grounds county matches are played shall receive 25 per cent of the receipts instead of 15 per cent as heretofore.

Friday 18 February: THE MARYLEBONE CLUB

A special general meeting of the club will be held at Queen's-hall, Langham-place, W., at 4/30 p.m., on Monday, February 28, notices of which have been duly advertised as required by Rule XX11. The following recommendations will be made by the committee:-

(1) That Mr F E Lacey be elected secretary. The committee have gone carefully into all the applications, over 50 in number, for the post, and have come to the unanimous conclusion that Mr Lacey is the most suitable candidate.

(2) That the Duke of Buccleuch be elected a trustee, in the place of the late Earl of Sefton.

(3) That in consideration of his long and faithful services, a pension of £400 a year be granted to Mr H Perkins, and that he be elected an honorary life member of the club. Mr Perkins is 65 years of age, he has been secretary of the club for 22 years, and the salary which he has received is calculated as being worth £600 a year.

(4) To alter the club rules as follows:- Rule XII. - After the words "All these must be members of the club," to add "except the secretary." Rule XII.- (5) To omit the word "secretary." Rule XII.- To omit the word "secretary." Rule XVII.- After the words "the committee shall have the entire management of the property, funds and affairs of the club," to add "including the appointment, dismissal and fixing the salary of the secretary."

The following are the rule referred to:- XII.- The officers of the club shall consist of a president, a treasurer, a secretary and not more than five nor less than three trustees, and three auditors. All these officers must be members of the club. (6) The offices of treasurer, secretary and trustees shall be vacated only by death, resignation or the vote of a majority of two-thirds of the members present and voting at a special general meeting. Vacancies shall be filled up at the annual or any special general meeting. Any trustee may, during his trusteeship, hold any other office of the club, except that of auditor.

XIII.- The committee shall consist of the president, treasurer, secretary and trustees, who shall be *ex officio* members, four of whom shall retire in rotation at each annual general meeting, when the vacancies on the committee shall be filled up. None of the four retiring members shall be eligible for re-election for the ensuing year.

XVII.- The committee shall have the entire management of the property, funds and affairs of the club, and shall have power from time to time to make, alter and rescind bye-laws and regulations as they may consider expedient, and shall decide all questions arising as to the construction of the rules, bye-laws, regulations or otherwise, as to the management and affairs of the club. Three members of the committee shall be a quorum. The committee shall also have power from time to time to appoint sub-committees from among the members of the club generally, for such purposes as they may deem expedient.

19 February: QUEENSLAND AND VICTORIA v A E STODDART'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4931.html)

Day 1 (report from Monday 21 February)

Brisbane, Feb. 19

Unpleasant conditions were associated to-day with the second appearance here of Mr Stoddart's team. All things considered, there was a good attendance, 5,000 people visiting the ground during the afternoon. With Stoddart and Wainwright standing out, MacLaren captained the English side. In the Australian eleven there was one change from the names announced, Long taking the place of Byrne. Stoddart says that he is not going to play at Sydney in the final test match.

MacLaren won the toss, and on a sodden wicket he and Mason faced the bowling of Hewitt and Giller. The batting was marked at first by a good deal of caution. MacLaren did nearly all the hitting and had scored 20 runs out of 22 when he was well caught in the slips. Ranjitsinhji joined Mason, and the total had without further loss been carried to 49 when rain came on and stopped the game. Up to this time the fielding had been poor.

On the restart nine runs were added, and then Mason cut a ball from Giller straight into Trott's hands at point. Two wickets for 58. Ranjitsinhji and Hayward were together for some little time, but at 75 Hewitt bowled Hayward with a splendid ball. With Storer in the game pursued a quiet course, but occasionally its monotony was relieved by Storer's hard hitting. The fielding was better than before, Trott at point being excellent.

A change was tried at 102, Worrall displacing Hewitt. Ten more runs having been scored, Ranjitsinhji snicked a ball, which flew off the wicket-keeper's hands to Hewitt at slip. In a failing light Storer, at 127, made a false hit and was caught at cover-point. Druce and Hirst then played out time, the score at the close being 133 for five wickets. Storer, in getting his 32, gave no chance. The wicket was in a bad state at the drawing of stumps, and the weather unsettled.

Heavy rains have been falling for the past 20 hours, and it is considered doubtful whether it will be possible to play to-morrow.

Day 3 (report from Wednesday 23 February)

Brisbane, Feb. 22

Owing to the continued downpour of rain the match between Mr Stoddart's team and a combined 11 of Queensland and Victoria has been finally abandoned.

Friday 25 February: THE MEETING OF THE M.C.C. ON FEBRUARY 28

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,- At the special general meeting of the Marylebone Cricket Club which is summoned for the 28th inst. at the Queen's-hall, Langham-place, W., at 4.30 p.m., the principal business proposed by the committee will be -

1. The election of a secretary.
2. The amendment of the rules of the club so as to provide that the election of the secretary and other officers shall in future be vested in the committee.

The committee, after considering the claims of other 60 gentlemen, unanimously recommend one of the candidates for election at the meeting.

It appears to be thought by many members of the club that no opposition to the recommendation of the committee is to be expected, but we understand that the friends of another gentleman intend to nominate him for election in opposition to the committee's candidate and to oppose the proposed amendment of the rules. It is naturally to be expected that special efforts will be made by those who take this course to gather all the support they can, and if no warning is given to the members of the club in general the committee may find itself overborne, contrary to what we feel sure is the real wish of the club as a whole.

We do not think it is in the interests of the club that the unanimous choice of the committee after careful inquiry should be set aside at a meeting where there is little chance of weighing the merits of rival candidates and which may be attended by only a small proportion of members. Moreover we do not think the committee should be exposed to the risk of indirect censure after the trouble they have taken in selecting a gentleman most admirably suited to fill the office of secretary.

We therefore desire, with your permission, to urge upon all members of the club who desire to support their committee the importance of being present at the meeting. We are,
&c.,

JAMES OF

HEREFORD [etc.]

26 February: AUSTRALIA v ENGLAND (Fifth Test match)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4933.html)

Day 1 (report from Monday 28 February)

Sydney, Feb. 26

The last of the five test matches between Mr Stoddart's team and Australia commenced here to-day under most favourable conditions, the weather being fine all day and the wicket perfect. So far from being affected by the fact of Australia's already having won the rubber, the attendance beat all records at the Sydney ground. Eight thousand people were present at the start of play, and before the end of the afternoon the company numbered 36,000. In choosing their eleven, the Australians gave Worrall the preference over Iredale, this being the only change from the team that won the third and fourth test matches.

MacLaren who, with Stoddart standing out, captained the English side, won the toss and went in himself with Wainwright. The bowling was intrusted to Noble and Howell. Six runs were scored from Noble's first over, but Howell's first was a maiden. MacLaren soon began to punish both bowlers, and chiefly by on-drives made 26 runs out of the first 30. The fielding from the first was excellent. The total having reached 40, Trumble displaced Howell, and at 52 Jones was substituted for Noble. It did not escape notice that Jones was tried at the end at which Bannerman was standing umpire.

With his score at 14 Wainwright was missed at slip by Trumble, the ball going to the ring for four. So free was the batting that at the end of the first hour the total was up to 69. Trumble, however, to some extent kept down the run-getting, his length being excellent. Both batsmen played Jones with ease, and when 22 runs had been hit from him the fast bowler gave way at 86 to Trott. At lunch time the score was 90 for no wicket, MacLaren having made 55 and Wainwright 33.

When play was resumed the attendance had increased to 15,000. The hundred went up as the result of 93 minutes' cricket. There was a roar of disappointment as MacLaren was caught at mid-on by Hill off a no-ball from Trumble. However, MacLaren only scored one more run and then played one of Trott's slows on to his wicket. His beautiful innings of 65, which lasted nearly an hour and three-quarters, included eight fours and was entirely free from fault. One wicket for 111.

This was a brilliant start, but a change quickly came over the game. At 117 Wainwright, who had played very attractive cricket, was caught in the slips and with two runs added Ranjitsinhji was got rid of. Trott sent up a high slow ball and Ranjitsinhji jumping in at it made a hard drive to forward cover point, where Gregory brought off a magnificent catch. Trott had now taken the best two wickets at a cost of only 12 runs. The Australian fielding all round was brilliant, Jones at mid-off being especially fine.

Hayward and Storer became partners, and while they were together there was an extraordinary influx of spectators. Both batsmen played well, but the cricket was not so bright in character as before, the rate of scoring being considerably slower. At 144 Howell displaced Trumble, who had taken one wicket for 46 runs, and Trott gave way to Noble. At the time he went off Trott had had 26 runs hit from him. With such caution did Storer bat that when he had been at the wickets an hour his score was only 15. The total having been raised to 160 another change was tried, McLeod going on for Howell.

After the adjournment for tea Jones was put on in place of McLeod, bowling this time at the end at which Phillips was standing umpire. Before very long he proved effective, dismissing Hayward with a splendid ball at 197. Hayward was batting just 100 minutes for his 47, a fine innings, not marred by a single chance. Up to this point Storer had scored 28.

Druce, who came in next, made ten runs in one over from Noble and caused Trott to go on again at 213. Storer cut Jones twice in succession for four, but at 230 that bowler sent him back. His patiently played and very steady innings lasted two hours all but six minutes. Still, he hit well at times, his figures including six fours.

Hirst having joined Druce, a double change was resorted to at 251, Trumble bowling for Jones and McLeod for Trott. The batsmen, however, who played free and faultless cricket, resisted every device and stayed together for the rest of the afternoon. Howell bowled again for Trumble at 281, but though he checked the run-getting he could do no more, so at 292 Jones took the ball. At the drawing of stumps the total stood at 301 for five wickets, Druce and Hirst being not-out with 43 each. All through the day the batting was very sound . . .

Day 2 (report from Tuesday 1 March)

Sydney, Feb. 28

The last test match was continued to-day, when the English batting collapsed in the most deplorable manner. With Druce and Hirst each not out 43 and only five wickets down for 301, a big score was looked for, but upon the resumption of play to-day the remaining wickets fell for the addition of only 34 runs.

With the exception of Druce, none of the batsmen could do anything against Jones, and the fast bowler carried everything before him. He was responsible for four out of the five wickets, three of them being clean bowled, and less than an hour sufficed to bring the innings to a conclusion. The fact that the match was continued in magnificent weather and on a wicket which remained perfect made the collapse of the batting the more remarkable.

Hirst was sent back after adding only one run to his previous score, and Mason joined Druce. The rest of the wickets fell in rapid succession, Druce alone offering anything like resistance to the bowling. He made 21, as compared with 11 jointly contributed by the others.

The Australians then went in, and at lunch time the score was:- McLeod, not out 15; Darling, not out, 2. The Victorian batsman was in capital form and knocked up 50 before the adjournment for tea. Darling was caught by Mason off Briggs's bowling for 14 and Hill was bowled by Richardson for eight. Worrall was the next man in, and he and McLeod were together when play was suspended. The Australian total at this stage was 99 for two wickets, Worrall being not out 26.

On the resumption of play Richardson displayed fine form. He clean bowled McLeod when his score had reached 64, and Worrall was caught by Ranjitsinhji off the same bowler without increasing his score. Gregory, after making 21, was smartly caught at the wicket by Storer off Richardson. When stumps were drawn for the day the Australians had lost five wickets for 184.

Day 3 (report from Wednesday 2 March)

Sydney, March 1

Like the Englishmen yesterday the Australians had five wickets in hand when they resumed their first innings this morning, and their innings came to almost as rapid a conclusion as that of their opponents. By 1 o'clock three additional wickets were down, and the whole side was out before lunch time.

Curiously enough, the play to-day was characterized by precisely the same features as yesterday's. Richardson, like Jones, captured all the remaining wickets but one, and Kelly, like Druce, was the only batsman who in some degree redeemed the collapse. The wicket had worn well, but was not quite in such perfect condition as on the previous days.

The game was resumed in fine weather. The two not-out men were speedily disposed of. Noble was dismissed without increasing his overnight score of 31, and Trott was caught by Ranjitsinhji off Hearne's bowling after making four. Trumble and Kelly then came together. When the former was sent back for 12 the Australian total stood at 221 for eight wickets. Kelly had raised his score to 27 and carried out his bat. Howell and Jones gave little

trouble and the innings closed at 25 points past 1, the Australian total being 239. The lunch interval was then taken.

With a lead of 96 runs the Englishmen went in for the second time. At the outset Jones's bowling proved deadly and the visitors made a disastrous start. After 40 minutes' play three wickets were down for only 30 runs. Jones was responsible for the dismissal of MacLaren and Ranjitsinhji. The English captain was caught without scoring and Ranjitsinhji was given out leg-before-wicket for 12. Noble captured Wainwright's wicket after the Yorkshireman had made six.

At the fall of the third wicket Hayward was not out six. He was joined by Storer, and the only stand of any consequence in the innings then ensued. When play was suspended for tea the two batsmen were still together, Hayward being not out 30 and Storer not out 28. At this stage the English total was 84 for three wickets.

Subsequently both Hayward and Storer fell to catches off Trumble's bowling. The former made 43 and Storer 31. With the exception of Briggs, who batted vigorously for 29, the succeeding batsmen made but a poor show. Hirst was caught by Trott off Jones's bowling for seven, and with Druce not out ten six wickets were down for 121. It was then a quarter past 5, and for the addition of 51 runs three more wickets fell before the drawing of stumps at 6 o'clock. Druce was caught by Howell off Trumble for 18, Mason was bowled by Trumble for 11 and Briggs was bowled by Howell for 29. Richardson has still to bat, and with one wicket in hand the Englishmen are 268 runs ahead.

The Australian team met here this evening to discuss the next visit to England. Major Wardill, in reply to a request to undertake the management, said he would like to accompany the eleven, but was unable to give a definite promise. George Lohmann's suggestion that the team should, at the finish of their English trip, visit South Africa was generally favoured.

Day 4 (report from Thursday 3 March)

Sydney, March 2

The fifth and last test match came to an end here this afternoon, the Australians gaining a most brilliant victory by six wickets. Twelve thousand people were on the ground at the finish.

The second innings of Mr Stoddart's team, in which nine wickets had fallen yesterday for 172, was quickly finished off for 178, Richardson being bowled by Howell. The innings lasted altogether three hours and a half. Trumble took four wickets for 37 runs . . .

Wanting 275 to win, the Australians began with McLeod and Darling to the bowling of Richardson and Hearne. A maiden was bowled from each end, and then Darling drove Richardson twice in succession for four, both magnificent hits. When he had made 17 Darling hit another four which was a chance to Briggs at cover-point. Directly after this Hearne bowled McLeod, the first wicket falling at 23. With Hill in Darling scored ten runs in one over from Richardson, again driving that bowler for a couple of fours. The total having reached 40, Hill tried to get a ball from Richardson away on the leg side, but it came in, beat him and took the leg stump. So far Darling had scored 33.

Worrall was the next batsman. Darling continued to play a splendid game, driving Richardson, amid great enthusiasm, three times for four in one over. When Worrall had made four he was missed by Storer at the wicket off Hearne. Darling went on with his vigorous play, but when he had scored 58 he was missed at long-off by Hayward from Richardson's bowling. About this time seven successive hits by Darling were fours. The English fielding was bad. Hirst displaced Richardson at 90. At lunch time the total was 92 for two wickets, Darling not out 68, Worrall not out 17.

On the resumption of play Richardson again shared the bowling with Hearne. With a splendid off-drive for four from Richardson Darling sent up the hundred, the runs having been

obtained in 62 minutes. Darling's hitting all round the wicket was superb. At 128 Briggs bowled in place of Hearne. With a drive for three Darling completed his hundred, after batting only an hour and a half. Up to this point the innings included 20 fours. He made 102 runs out of 131.

The rapid hitting continued, 150 going up as the result of a hundred minutes' cricket. Hirst took the ball from Richardson, and then, amid loud cheering, Darling hit Briggs for 11 runs in one over. England's second innings total was passed in two hours less four minutes. Mason displaced Briggs at 181, but nothing checked the free hitting. When the total stood at 202, Darling had made 147 and Worrall 45.

At 210 Hayward relieved Hirst. Darling got the new bowler's first ball to leg for three and Worrall drove the fourth ball for four. Having scored 51 Worrall skied a ball from Mason between point and mid-off. Ranjitsinhji ran for it, but missed the catch and rolled over amid roars from the crowd. Then, at 233, Worrall was smartly caught at mid-on. The partnership had added 193 runs and decided the match. At the fall of the wicket both batsmen were loudly cheered.

Gregory went in. Richardson bowled for Hayward. The score having been increased to 252, Darling was finely caught in the slips with the left hand by Wainwright. Darling was at the wickets only two hours and 48 minutes for his 160, and hit 30 fours. He had a great reception. With Gregory and Noble together the remaining runs were hit off, Australia winning by six wickets. The innings occupied three hours and nine minutes . . .

Mr Stoddart was presented to-day by the trustees of the Sydney ground and the Melbourne Club with a watch and chain, as a mark of esteem and an acknowledgement of the service he has rendered to cricket in Australia. In replying, Mr Stoddart complained that during the tour his team had been insulted by a section of the public and of the Press.

Tuesday 1 March: THE MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

The secretaryship of the M.C.C. possesses an importance that extends far beyond the limits of the 4,000 membership of the club, and since the impending resignation of Mr Henry Perkins became known late last autumn the extensive constituency of cricket has developed a keen interest in the chances of the many aspirants to the honour.

The question was definitely settled yesterday at the Queen's-hall, Langham-place, where there gathered perhaps the most representative company of cricketers ever assembled. The floor of the large hall was crowded to overflowing and the gallery had to be resorted to by many of the members. The full strength of the meeting was variously estimated at between 1,200 and 1,500. It may be at once stated that the first of the committee's recommendations, the text of which is given below, was carried unanimously:-

"That Mr F E Lacey be elected secretary. The committee have gone carefully into all the applications, over 50 in number, for the post, and have come to the unanimous conclusion that Mr Lacey is the most suitable candidate."

The executive of the club had been put to extreme trouble by a candidate whose claims had been passed over continuing to oppose the choice of the committee, and, in addition to a strong whip to the members generally, an appeal, signed, amongst others, by Lord James of Hereford, Lord Justice A L Smith, Sir R T Reid, the Hon Alfred Lyttelton and Sir Edward Gray, appeared in The Times of Friday urging the support of the committee. This action was taken in order to avoid the consequences of a snatch vote, but at the last moment the opponent of the committee withdrew his candidature. Had this been done earlier great inconvenience would have been saved to many members who had come from all parts of the country to support the committee.

Mr F E Lacey, the new secretary of the Marylebone Club, was a distinguished hard wicket batsman in his day at Cambridge, and there are many good judges who think that he should have been given his "blue" long before his last year. Since he came down Mr Lacey has played for Hampshire, but only intermittently.

The Earl of Lichfield presided at the meeting, and was supported by Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane, Mr Henry Perkins, Mr R Broughton, Mr V E Walker, the Earl of Dartmouth, Captain St J Frederick, Mr E Rutter, Mr John Shuter, the Earl of Jersey, Mr W H Long, M.P., the Duke of Buccleuch, Lord Harris, Mr A J Webbe, the Earl of Pembroke, Lord Wenlock, Mr E L Bateman and Mr M Turner.

Among the general body of members were Lord Justice A L Smith, Lord William Russell, Lord Chelmsford, Mr A N Hornby, the Hon Alfred Lyttelton, M.P., Sir Edward Grey, M.P., Lieutenant-Colonel J Spens, Earl Winterton, Lord Dalkeith, Colonel Marshall, Mr P M Thornton, M.P., Mr C I Thornton, Mr G MacGregor, Mr C F H Leslie, Mr W J Seton, Mr C W Wright, Mr G J Mordaunt, Mr H K Foster, Mr H D G Leveson-Gower, Mr H W Bainbridge, Mr F S Jackson, Mr J H Roberts, Mr Alan Rotherham, Mr Temple Gordon, Mr Ernest Smith, Mr H W Forster, M.P., Mr F G J Ford, Mr W J Ford, Mr S O Smith, Mr F H Browning, Mr F Marchant, Mr P H Foley, Mr Frank Mitchell, Mr M C Kemp, Mr H R Bromley-Davenport, Mr W W Read, Mr G Brann, Mr W N Roe, Mr H G Owen, Mr Wildman Cattley, Mr W E Denison, Mr J M Heathcote, Mr F E R Fryer, Mr G F Vernon, Mr P J de Paravicini, Mr G W Ricketts, Mr G J V Weigall and Mr E A Nepean.

After the election of the secretary, the Duke of Buccleuch was chosen as a trustee of the club in the place of the late Earl of Sefton.

The proposal that a pension of £400 a year should be granted to Mr Henry Perkins, the retiring secretary, was put by the president, who made appreciative reference to the 22 years' service Mr Perkins had given to the Marylebone Club. In the course of his speech he stated that when Mr Perkins became secretary the membership was under 2,000, and now it stood at considerably over 4,000.

The motion was unanimously agreed to, and Mr Perkins was elected an honorary life member of the club.

The committee withdrew their proposed alteration of the rules to the effect that the secretary should not of necessity be a member of the club.

On the question of rule 17, which turned upon the election of the secretary being in the hands of the committee or the general body of members, there was some discussion. An amendment proposed by Captain Bell-Smythe and seconded by Colonel Luard, to the effect that the committee's proposal should be subject to confirmation at the general meeting, was rejected. Mr Charles Marsham proposed as another amendment to leave out the words "dismissal and fixing the salary of secretary," which was also lost. Mr F C Milford and Lord Harris spoke on the point, and the committee's proposal was put to the meeting and carried.

A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the proceedings to a close.

Thursday 3 March: YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club was held last evening at Sheffield under the presidency of Mr M J Ellison. The accounts for the past year - showing a balance on the year's working of £1,027 18s 6d and raising the county fund to £5,271 0s 11d - were adopted.

Mr Edwin Barber, Sheffield, moved a resolution to the effect that Rule 25 be altered so as to allow clubs upon whose grounds county matches are played 20 per cent of the receipts instead of 15 per cent. This was seconded by Mr Dodworth, Sheffield. Lord Hawke moved an amendment to the effect that the allowance to clubs be 25 per cent, which was seconded by Mr Hesselton, Bradford. Considerable discussion followed, and the amendment ultimately received 105 votes and the resolution 50. As the amendment did not, however, receive the necessary three-fourths majority it was lost, and Mr Barber's proposition was adopted.

11 March: VICTORIA v A E STODDART'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4935.html)

Monday 7 March: Sydney, March 5

The date originally fixed for the return match between Mr Stoddart's team and Victoria, which was to have commenced at Melbourne to-day, has been altered, and the English cricketers will only leave here for Melbourne to-morrow. Prince Ranjitsinhji, however, is remaining here until Thursday for further treatment to his throat, which is expected to result in his complete recovery.

Day 1 (report from Saturday 12 March)

Melbourne, March 11

The return match between Mr Stoddart's team and Victoria began here to-day. Though the weather was gloriously fine, there was at the start only a meagre attendance. Stoddart himself and Briggs stood out of the English eleven, and the Australians made one change from the side expected to play, Rush being substituted for McMichael.

Trott beat MacLaren in the toss, and on a perfect wicket Victoria went in to bat, McLeod and Worrall opening the innings; Richardson and Storer shared the bowling. When Worrall had made six he was missed at point by Wainwright off Storer. The early cricket was slow, both batsmen being very cautious. Board's wicket-keeping was smartness itself. When the score had reached 25 a wicket fell, Worrall being stumped.

Trumble followed in, and from the first played a very pretty and effective game. He made a large majority of the runs. At 52 a double change of bowling was tried, Mason going on for Storer and Hearne for Richardson. Mason parted the batsmen at 60, McLeod, after a patient innings, being caught at the wicket. With Stuckey in play went on quietly, and at 74 Hirst bowled in place of Mason. At lunch time the total was 82 for two wickets, Trumble being not out 43 and Stuckey not out seven.

On play being resumed, nine runs were scored from Hirst's first over. When Trumble had scored 48 he was missed at slip off Hirst's bowling by Hearne. Runs came at a fairly good pace and at 112 Richardson relieved Hirst. Having made 65, Trumble was again favoured by fortune. He skied a ball from Hearne to square-leg, but Hirst missed the catch. Apart from the two blunders the fielding all round was smart. The defence of both batsmen was admirable and for a considerable time the bowling was mastered.

At 156 Storer bowled again in place of Hearne. Trumble completed his 100 after having been at the wickets an hour and 55 minutes, but when he had added seven runs he hit a ball from Storer straight to Hearne at cover-point. Altogether he was batting two hours and three minutes, his hits including 14 fours. His innings was a very good one to look at. When he left the total was 176 for three wickets. Stuckey had so far scored 35.

Rush, the next batsman, did not stay long, being well stumped at 178. Giller joined Stuckey, and 13 runs were scored from Richardson in one over, Giller getting 11 of them. However, at 199, in guarding his wicket with his legs, Giller softly spooned a ball back to Mason, who had again gone on.

With Trott in after the interval for tea ten runs were scored from Storer's first over. Then, at 218, Stuckey was bowled. His fine innings, which lasted two hours and ten minutes, included seven fours and was quite free from chances. Bruce, with the total unaltered, was bowled second ball. Mason had now taken four wickets for 27 runs. Laver joined Trott and the cricket became dull. The bowling underwent three changes. Hearne relieved Storer at 240, but at 246 he gave way to Richardson and crossed over to Mason's end. At 257 Laver was bowled.

Johns, who came in next, had only made a single when Ranjitsinhji missed him at point off Richardson. Trott, after playing a careful innings, was caught at mid-on at 274. Johns and Roche then played out time, the score at the close being 283 for nine wickets. Up to the present Mason has taken four wickets for 36 runs . . . The weather was fine all the afternoon, but the attendance never exceeding 2,000. The wicket remained in good condition.

Day 2 (report from Monday 14 March)

Melbourne, March 12

The return match between Mr Stoddart's team and Victoria was continued here to-day in fine weather. Though only moderate at the start of play the attendance increased during the afternoon to 11,000. The pitch is lasting well and was still in good condition at the drawing of stumps.

With nine wickets down for 283 Victoria went on batting, Johns and Roche, the not-outs, being opposed by Richardson and Hearne. However, after bowling three overs, Hearne gave way at 296 to Mason. Having made 24 Johns was missed at point off Mason's bowling by Ranjitsinhji - an easy chance. Storer went on at 312 in place of Richardson, and before very long he smartly caught and bowled Roche, the last wicket falling at 328. The innings altogether lasted a trifle over five hours and a half. Mason took four wickets for 53 runs . . .

MacLaren and Wainwright opened the English innings to the bowling of Trumble and Trott. Twenty-four runs were scored and then Wainwright was got rid of. In trying to hit Trott to leg he put the ball up and was caught by Trumble, who ran from short slip to behind the wicket-keeper. So far MacLaren had made 16. Ranjitsinhji, who went in first wicket down, was lucky, as after getting a single he was missed at mid-off by Worrall from Trott's bowling. At lunch time the total was 31; MacLaren, not out, 22.

On play being resumed MacLaren at 41 was brilliantly caught at the wicket. With Ranjitsinhji and Hayward together runs came steadily, and at 65 a double change was tried, McLeod going on for Trumble and Roche for Trott. The two batsmen kept very close together, as with the total at 89 Ranjitsinhji's score was 28 and Hayward's 24. When he had made 35 Ranjitsinhji had a second escape, Trott missing him at point off Roche's bowling. At 115 the bowling was again changed at both ends, Giller and Trumble taking the ball. For some little time the batting was good, but Ranjitsinhji, with his score at 47, was favoured a third time, being missed at slip by Giller. Just after this Hayward hit Giller for five. At the adjournment for tea the total was 147.

In Giller's third over, after starting afresh, Ranjitsinhji was caught at the wicket. His attractive but very lucky innings of 61 lasted just over two hours. The third wicket fell at 155, Hayward being not out 57. Storer came next, and Hayward drove Giller splendid for another five. Of the first 25 runs scored while he was in Storer made only two. Giller bowled four maiden overs in succession. At 185 Roche relieved Trott, who missed Storer at point whenever that batsman had scored four. The chance was given off Roche's first ball. Runs were freely put on and 200 went up when the innings had been in progress three hours. McLeod displaced Giller at 203. Then, before another run had been scored, Hayward was finely caught and bowled by Roche. Hayward gave no chance in his 96 - a most artistic display of batting. He was at the wickets two hours and 38 minutes, his hits including two fives and six fours.

After Hayward left there was a regular collapse, three wickets falling for 14 runs, all obtained by Storer. At 206 Druce played a ball softly back into McLeod's hands, at 209 Hirst was out to a good catch and at 217 Mason was bowled. Three of the last four wickets were taken by Roche at a cost of five runs. Board stopped the breakdown and scored while Storer kept on the defensive. Giller bowled for McLeod at 232, but the Englishmen sustained no further loss, the total at the drawing of stumps being 238 for seven wickets . . .

Day 3 (report from Tuesday 15 March, page 11)

The attendance was small to-day when play was resumed here in the return match between Mr Stoddart's team and Victoria. With seven wickets down for 238, the Englishmen went on batting, Storer and Board, the not-outs, continuing the innings. Roche bowled one over, and then rain stopped play for a quarter of an hour.

On starting afresh, Trumble, who was sharing the bowling with Roche, had his hand injured by a fast return from the field by Laver and was compelled to retire. Graham came out to field as substitute and Giller went on to bowl. Board hit in a haphazard style, till at 265 he was smartly caught at the wicket. Storer, after having been in an hour and 56 minutes for 31, was caught at long-on, the ninth wicket falling at 267. Richardson, the last man, hit up ten runs and the innings, which had lasted four hours and a quarter, closed for 257. Roche took five wickets for 77 runs . . . Only these three bowlers were on to-day.

Holding a lead of 50 runs, Victoria opened their second innings with McLeod and Worrall to the bowling of Hearne and Mason. After delivering two overs, however, Mason gave way to Wainwright. At lunch time McLeod was not out ten and Worrall not out five. When play was resumed the score reached 44, and then rain caused a second stoppage. At this point Worrall had made 29 and McLeod 15.

After a delay of half an hour the game was proceeded with, and at 46 Richardson relieved Wainwright. The score steadily rose, but Worrall, when he had made 38, was missed at slip by Hearne off Richardson. At last McLeod, after playing a steady innings, was caught at slip, and Worrall bowled by a full pitch, the total with two wickets down being 72. With one run added, Giller was finely caught at square-leg by Storer - low down with the left hand. Richardson had now taken three wickets for 14 runs.

At 77 Rush was foolishly run out and at 80 Stuckey was caught at the wicket. Then, at 89, Trumble was bowled by a yorker. Trott and Bruce became partners and the latter batsman, with his score at four, was missed at the wicket off Mason, who had gone on for Richardson at 91. Rain was falling when play ceased for the day, the closing score being 99 for six wickets. Richardson so far has taken five wickets for 21 runs . . .

The Melbourne Club entertained Mr Stoddart's team to-night at a banquet. Lord Brassey was present. K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr Druce and Mr Mason were made life members of the club and the professionals of the team were presented with £25 each.

Day 4 (report from Wednesday 16 March, page 11)

The match between Mr Stoddart's team and Victoria came to an end here this afternoon, the Englishmen winning in brilliant style by seven wickets. With six wickets down for 99 Victoria went on with their second innings in the morning, Trott and Bruce, the not outs, facing Hayward and Richardson. The weather was dull and the wicket soft.

From Hayward's second ball Trott was splendidly caught at mid-on, the seventh wicket falling at 99. With Laver in the score was hit to 116. Then Bruce had one of his fingers so badly hurt by a fast ball from Richardson that he retired. He was not able to resume his innings. Johns joined Laver and at 123 Mason relieved Richardson. Off the new bowler Laver, who had made 14, was missed by Ranjitsinhji. Johns was well caught at the wicket at 126 and Roche only stayed while six runs were added, the innings, which had lasted three hours and a half, closing for 132. Richardson took five wickets for 35 runs . . .

Wanting 183 to win, Stoddart's team opened with Board and Wainwright to the bowling of Roche and Trumble. Graham fielded as substitute for Bruce. From the start the scoring was fast, Wainwright getting 12 runs from Roche in one over. However, at 35 Board was caught at slip. Wainwright, who was playing in a free, graceful style, was joined by MacLaren, and at 37 Trott went on for Roche. At lunch time the total was 49 for one wicket, Wainwright being 28 and MacLaren four.

On starting afresh the score reached 63 before Wainwright was dismissed by a brilliant catch at long-off. Ranjitsinhji came in, and at 64 Roche bowled in place of Trumble. The change was ineffective, as MacLaren hit Roche twice in succession for four and got him away to leg for five, this punishment bringing Trumble on again. In stopping a hard hit on the leg side Worrall burst one of his fingers and had to leave the field, Board acting as substitute for him. Then at 82 MacLaren hit a ball straight into the hands of cover-point. By this time there were 2,000 people on the ground.

Hayward joined Ranjitsinhji, and at 98 Giller relieved Trumble, who crossed over to the other end. The hundred went up when the innings had been in progress an hour and five minutes. Runs came less rapidly after this, and at 128 McLeod displaced Trumble. In fielding a ball driven back very hard by Hayward, McLeod burst a finger and, like Worrall, had to retire. The batting about this time was at once safe and attractive. At 145 Giller gave way to Laver. By masterly play Ranjitsinhji and Hayward hit off the remaining runs without being separated, and so won the match. The innings lasted two hours and 25 minutes . . .

Mr MacLaren is to be married on Thursday.

Monday 21 March, page 13

The counties' representatives after passing the nominations of umpires last week at Lord's came to the following agreement:-

"At the conclusion of each first-class match a jointly-signed report by the captain of each eleven will be forwarded to the secretary of the M.C.C. as to the manner in which umpires have discharged their duties. These reports will be filed and upon the information thus conveyed the county representatives will make their selection of umpires for 1899."

CRICKET IN AUSTRALIA

19 March: SOUTH AUSTRALIA v A E STODDART'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4937.html)

Day 1 (report from Monday 21 March, page 13)

Mr Stoddart's team commenced here to-day the closing match of their tour - a return game with South Australia. The weather was delightful and the wicket in perfect condition. At starting the attendance was small, but there were 4,000 people on the ground after the luncheon interval. MacLaren and Briggs stood out of the English eleven.

Stoddart beat Lyons in the toss and sent in Wainwright and Mason. Jones and Evans started the bowling. Only 12 runs had been scored when Wainwright played a ball on to his wicket. Ranjitsinhji followed in and had a great reception. At 19 he lost Mason, who was bowled by a splendid ball. Hayward did not stay very long, being bowled at 27. So far Jones had taken all the wickets at a cost of only 11 runs.

With Storer in, the game for a time proceeded quietly. Ranjitsinhji was so cautious that when he reached double figures he had been at the wickets 40 minutes. Gradually the score rose, and at 59 a double change was tried, Hugo going on for Evans and Reedman for Jones. When Storer had made 26 he was badly missed at long-on by Green off Hugo's bowling. At lunch time the total was 89 for three wickets, Ranjitsinhji not out 35 and Storer not out 28.

On play being resumed Jones and Evans were the bowlers. From Jones's fourth ball Storer was caught at cover-point. Four wickets for 93. Druce came next, but at 105 he spooned a ball back to Jones and, with one run added, Ranjitsinhji was bowled for a careful innings, which had lasted an hour and three-quarters. Hirst and Stoddart now became partners. Stoddart had made only two when he escaped being caught and bowled by Jones. Hirst was dismissed by a smart catch at the wicket, the total, with seven men out, being 124.

Board, the next batsman, was soon busy, and by his vigorous though unattractive play helped Stoddart to put a better appearance on the game. Reedman relieved Evans at 163, but rapid scoring followed, so at 181 the bowling was changed at both ends, Lyons going on for Jones and Reedman giving way to Hugo. Lyons, however, at 185 was displaced by Evans. This last change ought to have been successful, but Lyons at point missed a chance of catching Board, who had then made 39. Stoddart left at 201 and, after the adjournment for tea, Board at 217 was bowled by a very fine ball. Richardson did very little, and the innings, which had extended over three hours and three-quarters, ended for 222. Jones took seven wickets for 80 runs . . .

Darling and Lyons opened South Australia's innings to the bowling of Richardson and Hearne. The first change was tried at 21, Hirst relieving Richardson. Both batsmen played vigorously, Darling, among other hits, lifting Hearne for five. This brought on Storer at 45. At the drawing of stumps the score was 54 and no wicket had fallen . . .

Day 2 (report from Tuesday 22 March, page 12)

There was but a small attendance to-day, when South Australia, who on Saturday had scored 54 without the loss of a wicket, resumed their innings to the bowling of Richardson and Storer. Lyons and Darling again batted in vigorous style, 11 runs being hit from Richardson's second over and 12 from his third. Hearne relieved Richardson at 94, and soon afterwards the 100 went up as the result of only 65 minutes' batting, Darling's score being 44 and Lyons's 52.

Two runs later some sensational hitting was seen, Darling twice in one over lifting Stoddart for five, while the whole over yielded 15 runs. At 131 Mason took Storer's place, but the two batsmen continued to play in magnificent form. Having made 81, Darling was missed at long-off by Hayward off Mason's bowling. The first wicket fell at 166, Darling being

bowled. His brilliant innings of 88, which included three fives and ten fours, had lasted an hour and 40 minutes. Lyons so far had scored 69.

Clement Hill came in, and Lyons when 71 was missed at point by Ranjitsinhji. The chance was given off Hearne, who with the next ball got Hill out leg before wicket. Two wickets for 177. With Reedman in, Lyon, who had added one to his score, was badly missed at mid-off by Hirst. Then at 180 Reedman was brilliantly caught and bowled, Mason securing the ball with one hand. Lyons did not stay much longer, being caught at the wicket at 185. Apart from the chances towards the close his innings was a sound one.

Board hurt one of his fingers so much that he had to retire, Briggs coming out as substitute. By this time the attendance had increased to 2,000. Jarvis and Walter Giffen stayed together for a little time, but at 209 Jarvis was smartly caught at the wicket by Storer. Giffen and Green played steadily, so at 222 a double change was tried, Hayward going on for Hearne and Hirst for Mason. By quite slow cricket the score was carried to 254, when Richardson and Storer took up the bowling, Druce keeping wicket. At 264 Giffen was bowled.

On the resumption of play after the adjournment for tea Mason relieved Storer. Green, who had played a careful innings, was out at 270 to a one-handed catch at point and, with the total unchanged, Evans was dismissed by a splendid ball. McKenzie was bowled first ball, but Jones, with Hugo as his partner, hit freely. The innings, which extended over four hours and a half, closed for 287 . . .

With a balance of 65 runs against them Stoddart's team went in for the Second Test, Wainwright and Mason facing the bowling of Jones and Evans. Runs came rapidly and at 26 Hugo displaced Evans. Stumps were soon afterwards drawn for the day, the score being 32 with no wicket down . . . The weather was fine all the afternoon and the attendance eventually reached 3,000. The wicket remains in good condition.

Day 3 (report from Wednesday 23 March, page 14)

The attendance was small this morning when Wainwright and Mason, the not-outs, resumed the second innings of the Englishmen to the bowling of Jones and Evans. Both batsmen scored rapidly, Wainwright giving an artistic display and Mason making some fine clean cuts. At 49 Jarvis relieved Evans, but at 92 he gave way to Hugo. When the hundred went up Wainwright's score stood at 63 and Mason's at 37. Two runs later Reedman was substituted for Jones, but the score continued to rise at a brisk pace, and at 111 Jones resumed at Hugo's end. Wainwright, drove him for two successive fours. The Yorkshireman was now batting in magnificent form, playing all the bowling with ease. At lunch time the score was 167 for no wicket, Western Australia being 97 and Mason 70.

When play was resumed Jones and Lyons bowled. Twenty runs having been added, Wainwright was out to an easy catch at mid-on. His brilliant innings of 105 lasted nearly two hours and a half, and included nine fours. The crowd gave him a great reception. When Wainwright left at 187 Mason had scored 81. Ranjitsinhji went in first wicket down, but at 194 he lost Mason, who closed a good innings by returning a ball softly to the bowler.

Hayward, who came next, had only scored a single when he was missed at the wicket by McKenzie off Jones. At 207 Evans was tried in place of Lyons. By slow, cautious batting the score was carried to 245, and then Ranjitsinhji played a ball on to his wicket. With Storer in, Jarvis bowled at Evans's end. At the adjournment for tea the total was 270 for three wickets, Hayward having made 24 and Storer 15.

On starting afresh Storer was caught at extra mid-off at 289, and with two runs added Hayward was caught at the wicket. Hayward had played in admirable style for his 40. Druce and Hirst now became partners, and together they played out time, the score at the drawing of stumps having reached 348 for five wickets . . . The weather was fine all day and, as the afternoon advanced, the attendance increased to 2,000. The wicket is lasting well.

Day 4 (report from Thursday 24 March, page 7)

Adelaide, March 23

Mr Stoddart's team brought their tour to a close here to-day, the return match with South Australia being left drawn. The weather was warm and the wicket still in good condition, but at the start of play there was only a scanty attendance.

With five wickets down for 348, the Englishmen went on with their second innings, Druce and Hirst, the not-outs, facing the bowling of Hugo and Jones. The third ball of Jones's second over proved fatal to Hirst, who was caught and bowled. He had played a vigorous innings and given no chance. Six wickets for 366. Board made a very brief stay, being bowled at 374, and with one run added Druce was out to a splendid ball. Stoddart was brilliantly caught at point with the left hand and Richardson only made four, the innings being rapidly finished off for 399. Jones took seven wickets for 157 runs . . .

Wanting 335 to win, South Australia began with Darling and Lyons, the bowling being shared by Richardson and Hearne. Lyons hit Richardson for five fours in one over, but at 34 Hearne bowled him. With Hill in, Mason was tried in place of Richardson at 40. When lunch time came the score was 58 for one wicket, Darling having made 17 and Hill 14.

On play being resumed Richardson again bowled with Hearne. By steady degrees the total reached 89, and then Mason for the second time relieved Richardson. No wicket fell, and at 118 Hirst was put on at Hearne's end. After this the batting became far more vigorous than it had been since Lyons left, and the score rose fast. At 166 Hayward displaced Hirst, and at 4 o'clock the total stood at 180, Darling's score being 76 and Hill's 74. Intense excitement was shown by the spectators when Hill beat Ranjitsinhji's average in the eleven a-side matches of the tour. Both Darling and Hill were now batting very finely. At last, with the total at 221, the two points were separated, Darling being caught at the wicket. He ought to have been caught at point by Ranjitsinhji off Richardson's bowling when he had made 27, but apart from this his innings was a splendid display.

Reedman joined Hill, a draw having long been inevitable. Board bowled for Mason at 251, and when the game had to be given up the total was 267 for two wickets. Hill played a superb innings without a chance and was enthusiastically cheered . . .

Tuesday 22 March, page 12

General Sir J Bevan Edwards, M.P., presided at the annual meeting of the Kent club yesterday at Willis's Restaurant, St James's-street. Among those present were Lord Harris, Mr W H Patterson, Earl Sondes and Mr Frank Marchant.

The report and accounts, the substance of which has already been published, were adopted. Mr F Marchant, on his retirement from the captaincy and who is succeeded by Mr J R Mason, was accorded a vote of thanks. Mr Mason and General Sir Bevan Edwards were elected on the committee. Viscount Falmouth was nominated for the office of president for 1898. The meeting decided to answer in the affirmative the question of the M.C.C. on the subject of qualification.

Wednesday 23 March, page 14

Mr R A H Mitchell, who has for very many years practically directed the interests of Eton cricket, has decided to give up his duties to a younger man. He will be succeeded by Mr Cyril Wells, the old Cambridge Blue and the international Rugby football player.

To-day the side captained by Mr Stoddart leave Adelaide for home in the Orient liner Ormuz, after a tour so full of disaster and failure that the prestige of English cricket in the Australian colonies will long be low.

When they left England last autumn it was generally believed that we were sending out to the colonies a side of greater strength than any which had preceded it. But now it must frankly be admitted that the tour from an English point of view has been a complete failure. This failure in so far as it is explicable was mainly due to two causes, to the ill-success of our bowlers and the inability of many of our batsmen, more particularly those fresh to colonial cricket, to adapt themselves to the Australian plodding batting system in which time is no object, as the matches are in most instances played out.

But the truth is that the side after the first few weeks of their tour was out-played in batting, bowling and fielding. Mr Stoddart wanted more body in his batting and more slow or medium pace bowling. Brilliancy is all very well in its way; but Australian methods of batting should be weighted in the choice of an English side to go to play under Australian conditions. Albert Ward, J T Brown (of Yorkshire) and Robert Abel were the kind of men who were wanted to vary the forcing strength which Mr Stoddart's team possessed.

And then as to bowling, with the wickets as hard as iron and perfectly true, Tom Richardson's great pace availed him little, for the ball rarely rose more than half-stump high. The Australians were constantly showing through Noble and Howell, and even Trott, that the slow to medium pace with an accurate pitch and some spin was much more efficacious than the wonderful strength of Richardson.

Time after time several of the best English bats were got out, after being well set, by their impatience to force the game, whereas men like Albert Ward or Abel are cricketers who would not be easily tempted after playing themselves in. Mr Stoddart in bowling wanted something better in the way of "slows;" and, although it is easy to be wise after the event, those who advocated young Mr Bull's claims on his Essex form of last summer have their opinion confirmed by results. The failures of Wainwright and Hayward in bowling became obvious as the tour progressed.

The result of the tour suggests the idea that the time has passed when the choice of representative cricket teams should be left to individual enterprise. The Marylebone Club executive ought long ago to have taken the matter in hand. Hitherto they have refrained from interference in the belief, perhaps, that money making was occasionally at the bottom of these tours; but the interchange of visits has become so important that some official recognition should be taken of it by the leading body in cricket.

With so many risks of illness and accident, 13 men were too few to undertake a severe tour in the colonies; and, considering the great profits of the matches, the Australian authorities ought to have at least allowed Mr Stoddart a couple more men.

Bad luck persistently dogged the Englishmen after the first few weeks of the tour; the winning of the toss became to them a novelty, the summer was the hottest experienced for years, and this particularly affected some of the younger members of the side. There was a good deal of indisposition, K S Ranjitsinhji being a great sufferer from a growth in the throat.

But when all is said, the fact remains that the Australians continually outplayed our men in batting, bowling and fielding. The batting of Darling and Hill was of a nature that completely equalled anything of which the Englishmen were capable. Socially, the Englishmen were very popular; but the no-balling of Jones and the public criticisms of some members of the English team on their opponents created at different places a certain degree of friction. English cricketers generally will regret that the failures of this tour will efface some of the splendid impressions left by both Lord Sheffield's and Mr Stoddart's previous trips.

Below are given the record and averages of the tour, and the figures may be left to speak for themselves. It will be seen, however, that after December 17 the Englishmen did not win an eleven-a-side match until the beginning of last week:-

RESULTS OF MATCHES

The Five Test Matches. - Played, 5; won, 1; lost, 4.

Eleven-a-side Matches. - Played, 12; won, 4; lost, 5; drawn, 3.

All Matches. - Played, 22; won 6; lost, 5; drawn, 11.

[Note: full averages for A E Stoddart's team in Test matches and all first-class matches in Australia can be found via:

http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Events/AUS/AE_Stoddarts_XI_in_Australia_1897-98/Team_Averages.html]

A RECORD SCORE

Melbourne, March 23

The world's record for a single innings at cricket has just been beaten in a match between Melbourne University and Essendon. The former made 1,697, this score including five individual scores of over a century.

THE NEW PAVILION AT THE OVAL

There has been a transformation at the Oval from the old irregular pavilion to the new palatial structure since Surrey towards the end of last August, playing perhaps their best cricket of the season, beat Lancashire, in spite of which result the subsequent course of events gave to Lancashire the championship. The old pavilion and the old tavern with all their cricket traditions have been swept away, and there now stands in their place a handsome red-brick pile of buildings which commands the admiration on all those who pass along the Harleyford-road to Vauxhall and the West-end.

Perhaps the disappearance most regretted by old stagers is that of the old players' room, with its rickety staircase, long ago turned over to the cricket reporters for use as a luncheon room, the walls of which could have unfolded many a tale of the great deeds on the Oval in the sixties and seventies. Of course, the pavilion tablet recorded how Surrey in one year long ago won the whole of its matches, including one against the champions of those times - Cambridgeshire - has been preserved, and will duly ornament the walls of the new big room. But apart from this everything has disappeared. And now the members of the Surrey Club have a palace wherein to dine and to watch and talk cricket.

The Surrey executive have adopted thoroughness as their watchword; and the cost of the change, instead of being rather more than £20,000, is likely to be considerably above £30,000. Their action under the new conditions of the 30 years' lease from the Duchy of Cornwall at an increased rental from £99 to £750 was to a large extent compulsory. The new red-brick building, with Bath stone facings, has a frontage of 300ft. It much surpasses in its imposing nature its model - the Lancashire pavilion at Old Trafford, Manchester - and also the handsome red-brick and terra-cotta work at Lord's.

Nothing has been allowed to interfere with the symmetry of the building; and perhaps the Press, who hitherto enjoyed on the Oval their best view of the game in the kingdom, will be the first to raise an outcry about their position. But even if their view is less excellent than it was their convenience has been well studied in the way of comfort and in the important matter for evening papers of getting the work to the telegraphic department. Both inside and out the buildings are in a very forward state; but the contractors - Messrs Foster and Dicksee, of Rugby - are greatly indebted to the openness of the winter for the advanced state of the works, for it is hoped that the place will be finished early in May. The first match (Surrey v Derbyshire) is not until May 19.

For the new tavern some 28ft of the space in front of the old building has been absorbed in order to provide a better way between the pavilion and the hotel than that which by its narrowness was a source of constant danger in the old days of a big match owing to its getting continually congested by visitors wishing to get from the west to the east side of the ground. This alteration still leaves a good approach to the Oval gates by the curve which has been made. The best places for following the game have been given, and quite rightly, to the gentlemen engaged in the cricket; their dressing and sitting rooms command an exact end-on view of the cricket pitch, while the professionals have almost an equally good position. The Surrey committee are to be commended for striking out a fresh line in their thought for the players' comfort. The old professional box tacked on to the pavilion at Lord's is always an eyesore to many of the Marylebone Club members.

On the ground-floor of the pavilion the secretary has a room commanding the whole of the ground, and immediately above him is the committee's place. The public have not been forgotten, and a spacious luncheon-hall has been constructed at the back of the hotel for their convenience. The only thing essential now is good cricket; and if this is not forthcoming this season it will be no fault of Apter, the ground man, whose keen interest in his work in looking after the turf has brought the Oval to better condition than it usually is at this season of the year. There is a fine growth of grass and not a weed is to be seen. In fact, only the last few days' severe weather has postponed the application of the mowing machine.

Friday 8 April: THE COMING CRICKET SEASON

With Easter comes a renewal of the interest in cricket, for if the first important match is yet a month away, practice must now begin, and the nets will be up at the Oval and at many other grounds next week. The wickets should then play pretty true, that is, if the spell of fine weather lasts.

The effects of the open winter are everywhere discernable, and the fact that the grass at Lord's was cut in January can have few precedents. But so much open weather is not always beneficial; the frost has its virtue, not only in killing grub, but as a preventive against rankness in the growth. The Oval and Lord's, however, are looking wonderfully well, and their condition is very creditable to the groundmen.

The season itself will again have for its chief feature the county championship. But the Universities get their fair share of the interest during the months of May and June which precede Oxford v Cambridge. Cricket interest has since last September been more or less kept alive by the ill-fated team in Australia, and at home among other incidents there has been a change in the secretaryship at Lord's.

The M.C.C. executive, too, have made a move, with what success is yet unknown, towards the amendment of the county qualification, which at present consists of either birth in the county or two years' residence therein, as laid down some 25 years ago at a county meeting at the Oval. This rule has been a wholesome check on the importation system, and it is to be hoped that it will not be so relaxed as to introduce into cricket the baneful traffic in professionals that is carried on in Association football. The competency of umpires is to be further inquired into, and at the end of each match the county captains will send a joint report on the matter to the Marylebone Club.

Amid the wreck of the neighbourhood brought by the new railway to London the cricket ground at Lord's survives in St John's-wood. The "little tunnel under Lord's" is now complete and the M.C.C. are in possession of the whole of the Clergy Orphans' School grounds, which were always something of a Naboth's vineyard to the club.

Tom Hearne, formerly in charge of Wellington College cricket, has succeeded Pearce as head groundman to the M.C.C. He is a son of the old Middlesex cricketer, Thomas Hearne, whose ill-health has made it imperative that he should relinquish the charge of the bowlers at Lord's. There are between 50 and 60 professionals attached to the club, and they will now have for their chief George Hay, the old Derbyshire player.

There is in the programme no change of importance from that of other years. Seven of the first-class counties meet the club; but the chief features of the matches at Lord's will be found in the engagements of Middlesex, in Oxford v Cambridge, Gentlemen v Players and Eton v Harrow.

The M.C.C. executive are still pursuing the policy of acquiring the freeholds of the houses which back the ground. No 3, Grove-end-road and 22, Elm-tree-road have both been secured since last season. It is intended to build a new tennis court on the site of the Grove-end-road premises immediately behind the pavilion, and then to sweep away the present court and the houses up to the cottage, for the purpose of making a huge mound for the spectators. The Press accommodation, however, is still overlooked, and the reporters, in spite of the increased attention given by the Press to cricket, are huddled up together in the same primitive place that may have been all that was necessary 20 years ago.

With a good deal of last year's talent available, neither Mr Cunliffe, of Oxford, nor Mr C E M Wilson, of Cambridge, should have much difficulty in getting together a strong eleven. The Oxford captain will be able to command the services of F H B Champain, R E Foster, E C Wright, F W Fox, F L Fane, A Eccles and G Bromley-Martin, so that, if these men all keep their places, there will be only three blues to distribute among the numerous Freshmen. Among the seniors there are the following:- F W Stocks, R H de Montmorency, E C Lee, G H Rowe, H R Parkes and A M Hollins, while in the list of good Freshmen are R E More, Westminster, L P Collins, Marlborough, F M Luce, Cheltenham, F H Mitchell, Eton, L H Dodd, St Paul's, J W Crawford, Merchant Taylors and R Joyce, Bedford.

In residence at Cambridge there will be apart from Mr Wilson, the captain, four old Blues - J H Stogdon, G L Jessop, C J Burnup, H W de Zoete and A E Fernie. H H Marriott and E B Shine are also available as they are only in their fourth year; but it is uncertain whether they will be able to get away for cricket. Of the seniors who stand most chance of getting some of the vacancies in the eleven there are E A C Druce, A T Coode, T L Taylor, H H B Hawkins and T Stanning. The Freshmen who will be up next term include T G O Cole, Harrow, A E Hind, Uppingham, E E Apthorp, Malvern, J A Campbell, Fettes, H V Spencer, Rugby, and W Prest, Marlborough.

THE COUNTIES

Lancashire are expecting the aid of all those men who helped them to win the championship last summer, and, when able to play, that wonderful batsman Mr Archie MacLaren will again captain the side. The ill-success of Briggs with Mr Stoddart's team in the colonies has been very disappointing to the county, but it is hoped that he will recover his form. The Lancashire club is in a very flourishing condition, and their ground at Old Trafford has been still further improved by the building of a new stand capable of holding 1,000 people. The members now number 2,800, while the lady subscribers have increased to 672. Like Surrey and Yorkshire, the Lancashire eleven play the whole of the other first-class counties.

The runners-up for the championship, Surrey, whose side have obtained chief honours so often, will have much the same eleven as last year, with Mr Kingsmill Key again as captain. Of late seasons the cricket resources of Surrey have been so developed that it must be often a question of difficulty to decide which promising youngster shall be given a trial when any vacancy occurs. And this rich reserve of talent mainly owes its existence to the wonderful second eleven and the great care and patience bestowed on it by Mr W T Graburn, who scours the village greens of Surrey in search of fresh men.

It is to be hoped for Surrey's sake that Tom Richardson and Hayward will find their form again on their return from Australia; but there is just the chance that their severe and too often unsuccessful work in the colonies may affect their early play. Under these circumstances, it will be welcome news to the members of the club to learn that Lockwood, one of the finest bowlers ever in the Surrey eleven, is completely restored to health, and the executive have every wish to see him back in his old prominent place in the eleven.

Last week an extensive notice of the palatial new pavilion and tavern on the Surrey ground was given in The Times, and attention was drawn to the advanced state of the works. The Surrey president, Sir Richard Webster, has been a constant visitor to the Oval during the progress of the buildings, which will cost over £30,000. It may be pointed out that Oxford University revisit the Oval after the lapse of some seasons.

It was natural that Essex, after their fine fight for the championship last season, should secure a much stronger programme, and fresh matches have been made with Kent and Gloucestershire. The county, with the aid of its increased "gates" and improved cricket, has shaken off those financial difficulties which so long retarded the progress of the club. Many improvements have been made on the Leyton ground both for the members and the general public. Mr H G Owen will again captain the eleven, in which a trial has been promised to W M Turner, a brother of A J Turner, who did so well in his first season for the county. Colonel Lockwood, M.P., will preside at the annual dinner at Leyton on May 4.

From Yorkshire comes the news that, with the exception of Robert Peel, all last year's men can be called on. Lord Hawke, who was absent from the team a good deal in 1897 through ill-health, hopes to play in most of the matches, and so, too, does Mr Jackson, the vice-captain. There are some colts spoken of as likely to be given a trial, particularly Rhodes and Cordingley.

Dr W G Grace writes that his eleven will be much the same as last year, with the addition of C O H Sewell and W Troup, who will be at liberty the whole of the season. Gloucestershire, whose captain is in extremely good health, have increased their list of matches by giving two games to Essex.

The great point in prospective Middlesex cricket is the qualification of Albert Trott, who had such a wonderful season for the Marylebone Club last year. Without question Albert Trott is a great bowler, capable of varying his pace from very fast to almost slow without apparent change of action, while he possesses the further skill of length and break. He and J T Hearne will make a pair the like of which Middlesex perhaps has never had in its ranks. Mr A J Webbe, who had a pretty good record last year, hopes again to captain the side and have the assistance of most of the team. The Middlesex programme is increased by two matches with Leicestershire and one with Cambridge University.

Kent, in addition to their renewed fixtures of 1897, will play Essex, a county they have not met since 1877, when they beat them twice in one week by a single innings. Mr J R Mason succeeds Mr Frank Marchant in the captaincy, but the latter will still be a pretty regular member of the eleven. Mr Stewart cannot play until August; but it is hoped that Mr Burnup, of the Cambridge eleven, will give the county much assistance, while Mr Norman Druce will appear for Kent under the residential qualification. Neither gentleman can play regularly. Mr Patterson quite hopes to figure once more in the side.

Kent have no new bowlers and must still depend on Martin, Wright, Alec Hearne and Mr Mason. Alec Hearne has been granted the first of the Canterbury week fixtures for his benefit, while it is satisfactory to record that the St Lawrence ground is now the sole property of the club, the balance of debt on the loan borrowed to complete the purchase having been entirely discharged.

Nottinghamshire hold their annual trial of colts on Easter Monday, and upon this test will largely depend whether any young players will be given a chance in the eleven. What the county still requires is more bowling, and some fresh Fred Morley or Alfred Shaw is still wanted to restore Notts to its former high place in cricket. There is plenty of batting. But, apart from the cricket, it is satisfactory to the club to know that the finances at Trent-bridge are in a very sound condition, and that there are signs of a revival of the old public interest in the county eleven.

Like many other places, the Hove ground is, even at this early period of the year, almost fit for cricket, such has been the beneficial nature of the open winter, and the headquarters of Sussex cricket promises to be as much as ever a batsman's paradise. Except that K S Ranjitsinhji will not be in England until late in the season the eleven will be drawn from the available men of last year. George Bean is to be given a benefit as an appreciation of his services to Sussex cricket, while it has to be recorded that many improvements have been made on the county ground both for the members and the public.

Mr Woods will again captain Somerset, who have two young fresh professionals qualified for the season and who will have a trial, together with two or three local men. Somerset are playing a week in Bath in May for the first time, when Yorkshire and Hampshire will be met. Otherwise the fixtures are the same as last year. The accommodation both for members and the public at Taunton has been much improved, and the club's finances are in a sound and satisfactory state.

Mr Lacey's appointment at Lord's will prevent him from playing for Hampshire this season; but the county have been promised assistance from Captain Poore, who was very successful abroad against Lord Hawke's team, while Maurice Read, the old Surrey professional, who since he left the Oval has been fulfilling an engagement with Sir Henry Tichborne, is now qualified for Hampshire.

From Warwickshire's team J F Byrne, the International Rugby player, will be absent; but a recruit has been found in Kinneir, a left hand batsman, who becomes qualified in July and will be given a trial. Otherwise the side will consist of most of last year's members.

Derbyshire have been unable to get any more fixtures than in 1897, but they play home and home matches with the same eight counties - viz., Surrey, Yorkshire, Notts, Lancashire, Essex, Warwickshire, Hampshire and Leicestershire - and one match at Lord's with the M.C.C. and Ground. All the old players will be available, and J Hulme, who was an inmate of the Derby Royal Infirmary last season, has now so far recovered that he hopes to be able to take his place in the team again. Unfortunately the gates last year showed a decrease on the previous year; but that may be attributed to the fact that Derbyshire did not win a single match. Towards the club debt of £400 over £300 has been already promised and it is hoped that the whole deficit will be cleared off before the cricket season begins. W Sugg has selected the Yorkshire match at Derby in August for his benefit.

ETON, HARROW AND WINCHESTER

With only two old choices at Eton the school's prospects are not very bright, for from what was seen of the form of the boys last summer there seems to be little bowling. H C Pilkington, the new captain, is a brilliant batsman, one of the best Eton ever had; but he is an indifferent field. C Marsham is the other old choice. Lord F Scott, N Bosanquet, S N Macnaghten, Findlay, Wormald, Longman, Devison, Trefusis, Howard Smith, Cator and Grenfell are the most promising boys for the eleven. Eton v Winchester will this year be at Winchester.

From Harrow it is reported that the prospects are good. There are nine of last year's choices left with Dowson, the skilful bat and bowler, as captain. With him and Wyld, Robertson, Studd and Rattigan the batting should be very strong, but another steady defensive player is wanted. Robertson will keep wicket and the bowling should be quite deadly with Hurt and Wyld to support Dowson, who will probably find no difficulty in getting together a very fine eleven.

Winchester have eight of last year's eleven left, and among these are the two bowlers who did so well against Eton in the Playing Fields last summer - namely, F D H Joy, fast left, and L M Stevens, medium right. For the three vacancies in the eleven the best chances are possessed by Bonham Carter, J Younger, R C Weatherby, G Marshall and G J Bruce. A Reynolds, the captain, will himself keep wicket.

11 April: THE NOTTS COLTS MATCH

Potted score: THE COLTS 70 (S Dickinson 19; Attewell 10/22, Riley 9/28). THE COUNTY ELEVEN 212/9 (A O Jones 29, A Shrewsbury 34, J A Dixon 45, W Attewell 44; S Dickinson 4/23). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 April, page 8)

The weather at Nottingham yesterday told heavily against the Notts colts match, which is annually played at Trent-bridge on Easter Monday and Tuesday. After little more than an hour's cricket rain drove the players from the field, the colts having then scored 38 for four wickets. After lunch two attempts were made to proceed with the game, but the rain was too heavy to admit of much being done, and at a quarter past 4 stumps were drawn for the day. Some good batting was shown by Dickinson and Mr Hodgson, the former - who appeared in last year's match - maintaining a steady defence for over an hour.

Since last year a new stand has been put up at the north end of Trent-bridge, excellent accommodation being provided for scorers, telegraph officials and the Press.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 13 April, page 5)

At no time yesterday was there the least chance of finishing the Colts' match at Nottingham. It is always limited to two days, and on Monday play, owing to heavy rain, had been cut down to an hour and a quarter. With the ground too wet to admit of an early start, the Colts yesterday gave a very feeble display against Attewell and Riley, the overnight score of 42 for seven wickets being only increased to 70.

Very different was the batting when the Eleven went in. Shrewsbury and Mr A O Jones scored 62 in just over an hour for the first wicket, and Mr Dixon and Attewell 61 in three-quarters of an hour for the fifth. Shrewsbury and Attewell played particularly well, but Mr Dixon was twice missed. A Wass was thought to be the best bowler among the Colts, but Dickinson (right-hand medium pace) was the most successful.

Wednesday 13 April, page 5: THE SUSSEX COUNTY CLUB

The Duke of Norfolk presided over the annual meeting of the Sussex County Club at Brighton yesterday afternoon. In moving the adoption of the report he congratulated the club upon the place obtained in the County Championship competition. The financial position was, on the whole, satisfactory. The report was unanimously adopted.

Earl Winterton was elected president for the coming year, the Duke of Norfolk being cordially thanked for his services. In reply the Duke expressed the hope that Sussex would ultimately get to the top of the tree.

Tuesday 19 April, page 12: AUSTRALIAN CRICKET

Sydney, April 18

The Sydney Cricket Association has asked the council to intimate to the M.C.C. that the Australian team to visit England in 1899 will be financed by the council.- Reuter.

18 April: DR W G GRACE'S TEAM v Mr W H LONG'S TEAM

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/256/256585.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 19 April page 12)

A twelve-a-side match was begun yesterday at Trowbridge when the team got together by Mr Long, M.P., were kept in the field the whole day.

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

This match was left drawn yesterday at Trowbridge.

Friday 29 April, page 7: CRICKET

Mr A E Stoddart, with Mr Norman Druce, Mr J R Mason, Mr A C MacLaren and Board, members of his Australian cricket team, arrived at Plymouth yesterday by the Orient liner Ormuz. Mr MacLaren disembarked and proceeded to Reading by train, and Board also left the ship and went to his home in Gloucestershire. The other members of the party continued their voyage to London.

In reply to questions as to the tour, Mr Stoddart said it had been very enjoyable and they had been treated hospitably. In spite of their difficulties perfect good fellowship prevailed among the team. As to the cricket, the Australians had played magnificently, while his team did their best and could do no more. They held their own in batting, but in bowling the Australians were far superior. He thought that when the accounts were made up the tour would prove to have been a great success financially.

With regard to the suggestion that the next team should be sent out by the M.C.C., Mr Stoddart said he had always argued that the Melbourne Cricket Club and the M.C.C. should be brought together on the matter, and thought such a plan should be carried out.

The annual meeting of the Gloucestershire County Club was held in Bristol yesterday, Mr H Beloe presiding. The accounts showed a balance of £2,330, which the chairman said was very satisfactory, seeing that four years ago the club had only the small balance of £258. The improved cricket shown had caused the attendances to be larger and the subscriptions also had increased. Roberts's benefit realized between £400 and £500.

Saturday 30 April, page 13: THE SURREY CLUB

The annual report of the Surrey Club committee shows that, including £1,287 14s 6d from the stands, the match receipts at the Oval last year amounted to £8,416 13s 6d. The August Bank Holiday match with Notts drew £1,198 13s 6d and the Lancashire match £1,195 9s. Next to these came the Yorkshire match, for Henderson's benefit, which brought in a trifle over £935.

During the year 633 new members were elected to the Surrey Club. [Partially to] defray the heavy cost of the new pavilion and tavern the committee have realized on securities a sum of over £11,000, and they hold securities, at present unrealized, of the value of about £5,000. As premium on renewing the lease of the tavern the club will receive £14,000. A dinner is to be held to commemorate the building of the new pavilion, but the date is not yet fixed.

A sum of over £470 has been collected for the Alcock fund, and it has been decided that the testimonial in recognition of Mr Alcock's long service as secretary shall take the form of a silver bowl and a purse of money. The committee, in concluding their report, expressed the deepest regret at the death of Lord Oxenbridge, for many years president of the Surrey Club.

2 May: THE FRESHMEN'S MATCH AT CAMBRIDGE

MR C E M WILSON'S SIDE v MR J H STOGDON'S SIDE

Potted scores: MR J H STOGDON'S SIDE 144 (W Prest 60; A C Norman 6/40) and 250 (T G O Cole 46, J Daniell 51, W Prest 44, G C Glenny 32; A E Hind 4/40, A C Norman 5/52). MR C E M WILSON'S SIDE 100 (H S Keigwin 32; C H Clarke 6/34) and 286 (G G Heslop 35, H S Keigwin 48, H J Symons 29, C J T Robertson 84; E F Penn 8/49). Mr J H Stogdon's Side won by 8 runs.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 May, page 13)

Among the cricketers who began their trial on the University ground at Cambridge, yesterday, were several already possessed of big reputations from the public schools - notably Symons and Hind, the best all-round players at Wellingborough and Uppingham last summer; Cole, who made 142 for Harrow against Eton at Lord's, and who also bowls very well; Apthorp of Malvern, Keigwin of St Paul's and Daniell of Clifton. Campbell, the batsman from Fettes, was selected, but did not play.

An even day's cricket on a slow wicket brought the game to the following position . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 May, page 9)

There was a pleasant change in the weather at Cambridge yesterday and the cricket was quite attractive. Both in bowling and batting some good performances were recorded.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 May, page 11)

After the weather had delayed the game until late in the afternoon the first of the Cambridge trials was finished yesterday, when Mr Stogdon's team won by eight runs. The feature of the play was the batting of Mr Robertson, who, in a fine forcing innings of 84, made 13 fours.

Tuesday 3 May, page 13: Mr G L Jessop, the Gloucestershire and Cambridge University cricketer, playing for Christ's College against Sidney Sussex College at Cambridge yesterday, bowled with deadly effect, taking nine wickets for 12 runs.

2 May: THE OXFORD SENIORS' MATCH

Potted scores: MR M D BANNON'S SIDE 93 (B D Bannon 23; G B Scobell 3/35, R H de Montmorency 4/3) and
MR J W STRATTON'S SIDE 181/6 (H R Parkes 25, H F Morres 26, A S Crawley 34, J W Stratton 22, F Symes-Thompson 30*). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 3 May, page 13)

The Seniors' match at Oxford between two teams captained by Mr J W Stratton and Mr B D Bannon should have been begun yesterday, but owing to rain not a ball was bowled. (If possible a start will be made this morning.)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 4 May, page 9)

After a day's delay through rain, the Seniors' trial match was begun yesterday at Oxford on a slow wicket. Mr Bannon's side fared badly and were outplayed at all points. The feature of the afternoon's cricket was Mr Montmorency's successful bowling. Going on as second change he took four wickets and had only three runs made from him.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 5 May, page 11)

There was no play at Oxford yesterday owing to the bad weather and the Seniors' trial was therefore abandoned.

There was a large attendance of members at the 111th anniversary meeting, held last evening in the pavilion at Lord's. Lord Lichfield was in the chair, and among those present were Lord Winterton, Lord Wenlock, Lord Jersey, Lord Pembroke, Lord Harris, Mr W Nicholson, Mr A J Webbe, Mr K J Key, Mr John Shuter, Mr V E Walker, Mr W E Denison, Mr A N Hornby, Dr W G Grace, Mr H T Hewett, Mr C I Thornton, Mr Round, M.P., Mr A Appleby, Mr M Turner, Mr Edward Rutter, Mr Harvey Fellows, Mr H D G Leveson-Gower, Mr Arthur Wilson, Mr Denzil Onslow, Mr J M Heathcote, Mr W J Seaton, Mr Henry Perkins, Mr C W Wright, Mr V T Hill, Mr C F Vernon, Mr C E Farmer, Mr F Marchant, Mr J R Mason, Mr J M Mellor and Mr F E Lacey, secretary.

The president moved the adoption of the report and the resolution was carried unanimously. The report showed that in 1897 the club consisted of 4,287 members, an increase of 90 over the previous year, of whom 3,817 paid, 205 were life members and 265 were abroad.

During last season 180 matches were played by the club, of which 123 were won, 25 lost and 32 drawn

The vacancy on the committee, caused by the appointment of the Duke of Buccleuch as trustee in the room of the late Earl of Sefton, was filled by the election of Mr H D G Leveson-Gower. The Earl of Dartmouth, Captain J St J Frederick, Mr Edward Rutter and Mr John Shuter retired by rotation from the committee, and they were succeeded by Lord Lichfield (the retiring president), Mr W E Denison, Major W E Hardy and Mr W H Patterson.

The committee, after considering the best means of providing more accommodation for the public, decided that it will be necessary to pull down the existing tennis and racquet courts and the two houses Nos. 43 and 45, St John's-wood-road. It will then be possible to provide on the site accommodation for about 10,000 more spectators than at present, and in addition the line of seats will be thrown back and a considerable addition to the area of the cricket ground thus obtained. In the last report mention was made that the freehold of No 3, Grove-end-road had been bought; since then the leasehold interest in that property has also been secured, and it is proposed to utilize the site, which is immediately behind the pavilion, for a new tennis and racquet court connected with the pavilion by a bridge over the roadway. The committee also reported the acquisition of the leasehold property No 22, Elm-tree-road.

The existing rules as to the qualification for county cricket do not give general satisfaction, and the committee are still in consultation with the county cricket clubs with a view to the compilation of another code of rules.

As announced last year, the whole of the catering has been undertaken by the club, and a special refreshment department has been organized, with Mr Sherwill as manager; a large capital outlay, amounting to nearly £7,000, has been incurred, and in preparing the balance-sheet the department has been debited with interest on this sum at 3½ per cent, and also with the same rent as that paid by the last tenant.

The balance sheet circulated with the club accounts sets forth the true results of the trade done, and shows a loss of £644 12s 5d. The committee, from the skilled advice which they had taken previously to embarking on this enterprise, had been led to anticipate a loss; but they are hopeful that with longer experience better results will be shown in the future.

Thomas A Hearne, for many years groundman at Wellington College, has been appointed head groundman in the place of P Pearce. Tom Hearne has, to the great regret of the committee, after 40 years' service, been compelled through ill-health to resign his post of head bowler, which he had held for 26 years; a pension of £30 a year has been granted him in recognition of his long and faithful services to the club. George Hay has been appointed head bowler in Tom Hearne's place.

The tanks of the club are due to His Highness the Maharajah of Cooch-Bihar for a valuable buffalo head, and to Mr G F Watts, R.A., for eight original sketches.

At dinner in the evening the Hon Alfred Lyttelton, M.P., was nominated as the new president of the Marylebone Club.

THE ESSEX COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

The Essex County Cricket Club held their annual meeting at Leyton last evening. Mr C E Green, the chairman, said one of the most remarkable features of last season had been the consistently good all-round play of the county eleven, who stood third in the championship list, a position of which the whole county are proud.

In addition to the old fixtures, home and home matches had been arranged with Kent and Gloucestershire, so that supporters of the club would, he hoped, have the opportunity of seeing Dr W G Grace bat for the first time at Leyton in the County Championship.

The club had never been in so good a financial position at Leyton, and they were very pleased to state that the revenue had very materially exceeded the expenditure. This was chiefly due to the remarkable improvement in the gate receipts for cricket and a continued increase in the membership.

It was decided that on and after January 1, 1899, there should be an entrance fee of one guinea for new members joining the club, in addition to the annual subscription of one guinea. Subsequently the members dined under the presidency of Colonel Lockwood, M.P.

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

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

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

It was singularly appropriate that Dr W G Grace should have made such a great beginning to the season as he did yesterday, when on a slow wicket at Lord's he scored 65 in a fine forcing innings, for this is Dr Grace's jubilee year, to be celebrated by the Gentlemen v Players at Lord's on the birthday of the great cricketer. The Marylebone Club executive delayed their test between Gentlemen and Players with the avowed object of Dr Grace's celebration.

The wicket yesterday was slow, the timing of the ball was difficult, for it came from the pitch at various paces and the bowlers generally kept a nice length. The wonder is that such a fine innings was played by the Club eleven. Dr Grace laid the foundation of the good score of 218, and his chief supporters were Mr Sewell and Albert Trott. But the honours of the day belonged to Dr Grace. He was rather lucky in snicking the first ball somewhere to leg for a couple; the ball beat him, and Tate, the Sussex bowler, could well complain of the ill-luck which deprived him of the great cricketer's wicket with the first ball of the season.

After this Dr Grace played with all his old robustness. He got most of his runs in front of the wicket and his batting on the off-side was particularly strong. But he showed all his old skill in dealing with a loose ball and he came heavily down on Bland, who sent him down some "long hops" when he was in his forties. An over from Bland about this time gave Dr Grace his chance, and four times in succession he hit a ball round to the leg boundary. But having made 65 out of 115 in 90 minutes, Dr Grace was bowled in trying to drive; he hit ten fours. Although Mr Sewell and Albert Trott played very good cricket there was nothing in the innings to compare with Dr Grace's batting.

Marylebone's good side were in during the whole of the three hours that cricket was possible. The wind came from the north-west and brought with it so much rain about noon that there seemed before luncheon small chance of any cricket whatever; but subsequently there was little to complain of, and except for one brief shower things proceeded amid much brightness. Tom Hearne, jun., the new groundman at Lord's, has got the turf into splendid condition; and had the weather been a little less unfavourable there would have been one of the easiest wickets possible for the match.

As it was the Sussex bowlers were able to get some work on the ball, the timing of which was uncertain, particularly when Tate and Parris were bowling. Sussex fielded and bowled well; and Vine at third man and long-on was particularly good. He wound up the day with a fine running catch.

Day 2 (report from Friday 6 May, page 12)

Those familiar with Lord's Ground were, after Wednesday's experience, not unprepared for the course of yesterday morning's cricket, for, as Wednesday's weather had presaged, it was a veritable "sticky" wicket; and those great Middlesex bowlers, Jack Hearne and Albert Trott, knew only too well for Sussex how to make use of it. Hearne came near to being unplayable with his wonderful pitch and spin, and in getting six wickets for 29 runs he hit the stumps five times. There was nothing very exhilarating about the batting; and it took Sussex nearly 90 minutes to struggle to 61.

The follow-on against 157 was begun just before luncheon, but afterwards there was no more cricket, for the wind, which had since Wednesday gone back from north-west to south-west, brought more rain than ever, and the game was left to be continued to-day . . .

Day 3 (report from Saturday 7 May, page 9)

There was no improvement in the condition of the wicket at Lord's yesterday; it was treacherous when rain came on Thursday and it was worse yesterday. Sussex were in an extremely bad way at the end of an innings each. Their misfortunes really began with the losing of the toss, and from this they never recovered.

Mr Brann's patience - he was in 70 minutes - and the good hits of Bean and Bland never gave Sussex any chance of avoiding defeat. The wicket was sticky, and Jack Hearne and Albert Trott made the most of it. Sussex, who had an innings to play, were before the luncheon interval all out for 99, and the M.C.C. won the match by an innings and 58 runs. Jack Hearne's 11 wickets for 72 runs furnished a remarkable record for the beginning of the season.

5 May: THE FRESHMEN'S MATCH AT OXFORD

Potted scores: MR F H B CHAMPAIN'S SIDE 366 (W H Follett 46, F H Mitchell 71, R Joyce 82, T Roberts 51, C E L Johnston 21; F H E Cunliffe 3/21). MR F H E CUNLIFFE'S SIDE 157 (L P Collins 55, L T Dodd 27; W H Follett 4/57, H White 3/26, C F Ryder 3/12) and (following on) 173/8 (F H Hollins 43, J F A Swanston 27, J W Crawford 41; F M Luce 3/26). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 May, page 12)

Little play was possible in the Freshmen's trial at Oxford yesterday; but before the rain finally stopped the game there was a fine piece of hitting by W H Follett, who is up from Lancing, where last year he was head of the school averages with 19.

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

With an improvement in the weather at Oxford yesterday, there was a full day's cricket, and it was possible to gain an idea of the form of the Freshmen. The wicket was decidedly slow, but, there being no sun, it dried without becoming sticky, and three batsmen did remarkably well.

F H Mitchell, of Eton, showed the best form. He maintained a sound defence and at times hit with effect, his 71, which occupied two hours and a half, including three fours, nine threes and seven twos. R Joyce, an old Bedford Grammar School boy, played more freely, scoring 82 in an hour and 25 minutes by means of nine fours, six threes and six twos, and he helped Mitchell to put on 135 runs for the fourth wicket. Cunliffe himself had to go on to part these batsmen, and he was the only bowler to meet with any marked success.

Cunliffe's side had 20 minutes' batting and fared badly against Payne, a right-hand medium-paced bowler, and Follett, right-hand, rather slow.

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 May, page 14)

Bright weather was associated with the cricket at Oxford on Saturday, and there was a large company in the Parks to witness the concerning stages of the Freshmen's match.

Mr Cunliffe's side, who last lost three wickets overnight for 10 runs, only made a moderate show, finishing off their innings in two hours and ten minutes for the addition of 147 runs. Mr Collins, the Marlborough batsmen, played a bright, vigorous innings, but with the exception of Mr Dodd the batting of the others was poor.

Following on in a minority of 209, Mr Cunliffe's side did much better, Mr Hollins and Mr Crawford being seen to advantage, for when half-past 6 arrived 173 runs had been scored for the loss of eight wickets. As with four wickets in hand Mr Cunliffe's side still required 36 runs to avoid being beaten in a single innings, the draw was all against them. Of the bowlers on Mr Champain's side the best form was shown by Mr Follett, of Lancing.

5 May: THE SENIORS' MATCH AT CAMBRIDGE

Potted score: MR E A C DRUCE'S SIDE 180 (E W Tate 22, C R Worthington 67, G B Norman 25; H H B Hawkins 6/74, K E M Barker 4/43) and 174/10 (G B Norman 43*, C L Alexander 28; H H B Hawkins 5/43). MR L J MOON'S SIDE 206 (H J Davenport 30, T L Taylor 49, H H B Hawkins 20, S P Bell 35*, A C Miller 21; O W Wright 3/61, F J Peers 4/43). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Friday 6 May, page 12)

The second of the Cambridge trials at Fenner's was spoilt in its first stage, yesterday, by the bad weather.

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

Rain again interfered with yesterday's cricket at Cambridge. Mr Worthington increased his previous score of 50 not out to 67, and was at the wickets altogether for two hours and 50 minutes. He showed good defence and also hit well, his chief figures being five fours, three threes and six twos. He was fortunate, however, in being missed when he had made 25. Mr Hawkins and Mr Barker both bowled effectively.

Mr Moon's side had an hour's batting at the close of the afternoon. Two wickets were lost for 47 runs, the captain being run out through a smart piece of fielding.

Day 3 (report from Monday 9 May, page 14)

After the serious delays caused by rain on Thursday and Friday there was never much chance of any other result than a draw to the seniors' match on Saturday; but the weather was pleasantly fine and some fairly good form was shown both in batting and bowling. For Mr Moon's team Davenport and Taylor played steadily and well, the latter's 49 being the highest and best innings on the side.

But the best thing of the day was the bowling of Mr H H B Hawkins. When Mr Druce's team went in a second time the old Whitgift boy met with such success that he made his record for the match 11 wickets for 117 - a remarkably good performance. At one time six wickets were down for 77, but Norman and Alexander made an opportune stand, which realized 57, and when play ceased Mr Druce's team, with one wicket in hand, were 146 runs to the good. Peers, a slow right-hand bowler, did good work earlier in the day.

Yesterday, at Bedale, prior to the commencement of a match between the Yorkshire County Eleven and a local eighteen, Lord Hawke opened a new pavilion on the ground. In the course of his speech he said that with regard to the Australian cricketers, another team was to visit this country and they had asked the different clubs whether they would be welcome. He could assure the Australians that they were always welcome.

Doubtless, they were keen to meet a full England eleven, and English cricketers should be as keen to regain their lost laurels; but he thought that as these Australian test matches had come to such a pitch of excitement it was time they were undertaken by the cricket associations of Australia and by the Marylebone Club for England. The test matches should be absolutely in the hands of the Marylebone Club, which was above suspicion. The M.C.C. should select the teams and not allow the Oval and Manchester to take over these matches.

They had a ground in Yorkshire second to none and capable of holding 30,000 people, and it was only fair that Yorkshire cricketers should have a look at these matches. The payment should be in the hands of the Marylebone Club. Each professional player should be paid £20 and the club on whose ground the match was played should receive 20 per cent, the balance being divided amongst the counties with representatives playing for England. Unless these matches were played under the Marylebone Club he was sure Yorkshire would take a strong stand and now allow their players to appear.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4947.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 May, page 13)

The rain of Sunday had left the wicket soft and difficult at Cambridge yesterday, and 15 batsmen were got out at an average cost of less than 16 runs each. Cambridge entered on the match under a disadvantage, for a touch of influenza kept Mr G L Jessop out of the eleven, and with Mr Fernie incapacitated by a badly-injured finger only four old Blues went into the field - Mr Wilson (the captain), Mr Burnup, Mr Stogdon and Mr de Zoete. Of the seven places thus left open five were filled by Seniors, the Freshmen in the team being Mr T G O Cole, of Harrow, and Mr A E Hind, of Uppingham.

Going in first, Cambridge up to a certain point did fairly well, the score at lunch time being 84 for three wickets. Subsequently Richardson carried all before him, taking six wickets in 16 overs and four balls at a cost of only 26 runs, and finishing off the innings for 140. Mr Worthington, who did very well last week in the Seniors' match, was batting for just over two hours and a half for his 42. he went in first wicket down with the score at three and was seventh out at 115. Watchful defence and skill in scoring on the leg side were the chief characteristics of his innings. Mr Burnup and Mr Stogdon also played well, though the slowness of the ground made the former batsman far more cautious than usual.

When Mr Thornton's eleven went in some admirable batting was shown by Hayward and Mr Leveson-Gower, but at the drawing of stumps five wickets were down for 97. Mr Hind's bowling created a most favourable impression. He is left-handed, and with a good pitch he seems to get considerable spin on the ball.

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

The Cambridge eleven met with a severe reverse on the University ground yesterday, Mr Thornton's Eleven beating them by seven wickets. All through the day Cambridge, who were without Mr de Zoete, were playing an uphill game, and only during the opening part of their second innings did they seem likely to make much of a fight.

9 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4948.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 May, page 13)

The honour of scoring the first hundred of the season at Lord's has fallen to one of the youngest members of the M.C.C., but one who comes from a thorough-going cricket stock, for Mr Sewell's father was a Middlesex county player in those days unknown to the present generation of cricketers - the old Cattle Market-ground days of Middlesex.

Mr C O H Sewell made his mark in England with the South African team in 1894, and subsequently he became associated with Dr W G Grace and the Gloucestershire eleven. The death of his father kept him away from the English cricket grounds last summer; but he has made a distinguished reappearance. Last week his excellent 42 for the club against Sussex at Lord's was over-shadowed by the greater feat of his captain; but yesterday the best honours easily fell to him.

On a wicket that gave much help to the bowlers - a remark applying particularly to the afternoon, when the sun came and caked the surface of the pitch - Mr Sewell played a splendid innings of 111 against much good bowling and fielding. From the moment he went in he timed the ball with great precision; nothing in the circumstances could have been better than his back play. He came down on the ball heavily and well, and any loose stuff that came along was treated in the way that most good bats observe. Some of his off-drives all along the splendid Lord's turf were among the best things of the day.

Cuttell and Mold, the most skilful bowlers of the afternoon, were played by him with every certainty, and it was only in the last over of the innings that in having a "go" at Mold he was beaten. He went in second wicket down at 88 and made his 111 in about two and three-quarter hours; his fours numbered 10, but he hit many threes and twos.

Captain Poore, of the 7th Hussars, batted extremely well; he is something of a stranger to important English cricket; but he has made a good many fine scores for his regiment in South Africa. He has quite a style of his own; but he stands up well, makes the most of his fine stature and comes down on the ball with a pretty straight bat. Captain Poore and Mr Sewell were the men who gave all the trouble to the Lancashire eleven. Mold hit the wicket five times and there were some fine catches, particularly one low down at short slip by Mr Hornby and a well-judged catch in the long-field by Frank Sugg.

When Lancashire went in, the wicket, in spite of an application of the heavy rollers, helped the bowlers more than ever, and Jack Hearne was quite deadly. The ball had done "something" all day; but in the afternoon it did that "something" much too quickly for most of the batsmen. Albert Ward, however, with his characteristic watchfulness, managed to keep up his wicket for an hour and a half, and in that time scored 11 runs. Seven for 53 is a record that leaves Lancashire with a terribly uphill task for to-day.

Play will be continued to-day at 11.30.

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

The defeat of Lancashire at Lord's yesterday was presaged by the course of Monday's cricket, and even its substantial nature - an innings and 25 runs - caused no surprise. In the closing stages the match had for its features some fine batting by Tyldesley and more deadly bowling by Jack Hearne, who has shown in the first two games at Lord's that, whatever his Australian experiences, he has lost neither his pitch nor his spin, and is little less than unplayable on a wicket of any considerable aid to the bowlers. His share in the two victories with which the M.C.C. have begun the season is well illustrated by the figures of his analyses, which come out thus:-

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Against Sussex	40	17	72	11

9 May: WARWICKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4949.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 May, page 13)

Beyond the fact that it marked the opening of the annual struggle for the county championship yesterday's cricket in the match between Warwickshire and Leicestershire was not of great interest. Recent rains had left the ground rather soft, but not especially difficult yet. With scarcely an exception the batsmen played an overcautious game, and as the result of more than five hours' cricket only 221 runs were obtained for the loss of 16 wickets.

Going in first, Leicestershire enjoyed a slight advantage, but beyond some steady batting by Mr Wood and some fairly free, if somewhat lucky, play by King, there was little to praise. Whitehead bowled very successfully at one time, but his figures were not so good as those of Pallett.

At the beginning of the Warwickshire innings some rather bright cricket was shown by Mr Bainbridge and Walter Quaife, but subsequently, although W G Quaife batted well, the play turned very full again. Warwickshire left off 57 runs behind with four wickets to fall.

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

At Birmingham, yesterday, the weather was so unfavourable for cricket that comparatively little progress could be made with the match between Warwickshire and Leicestershire. The ground was unfit for cricket until noon, and shortly after half-past 3 the weather turned wet again, preventing any further play.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 12 May, page 11)

No cricket was possible at Birmingham yesterday owing to the bad weather, and this match was abandoned. The score, details of which have already appeared in The Times, was:- Leicestershire, 139 and 49 (for two wickets); Warwickshire, 171.

9 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY TRIAL MATCH

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

Potted scores: MR F H B CHAMPAIN'S SIDE 112 (L P Collins 37, E C Lee 30; F Good 4/27, F H E Cunliffe 5/27) and 151 (A S Crawley 42; B J T Bosanquet 3/34, G M Billings 4/17). MR F H E CUNLIFFE'S SIDE 169 (B D Bannon 49, B J T Bosanquet 20, G M Billings 24*; H White 5/42, R E More 3/59, E C Lee 4/28) and 85/1 (B D Bannon 31, F H Hollins 49*). F H E Cunliffe's Side won by eleven wickets.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 10 May, page 13)

Following the precedent set by Mr Bardswell last year, Mr Cunliffe arranged, at Oxford, a trial match between mixed teams of Seniors and Freshmen, and the game - 13 a side - was commenced in pleasant weather yesterday, Mr Cunliffe captaining one team and Mr Champain the other.

Against the bowling of Mr Good, an Old Carthusian, Mr Champain's side began very badly, but Mr Collins followed up his success in the Freshmen's match with a score of 37, and was well supported by Mr Lee, the Hampshire batsman. Mr Cunliffe took five wickets for 27 runs and Mr Good four for 27.

Some resolute cricket was shown by Mr Bannon, the old Tonbridge boy, when Mr Cunliffe's side went in to bat, and it was thanks mainly to his efforts that at the drawing of stumps the Oxford captain's team left off 20 runs to the good with three wickets in hand.

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

Yesterday, at Oxford, the best things in batting were Mr A S Crawley's vigorous 42 and the form shown by Mr Bannon and the Eton Freshman, Mr F H Hollins. In bowling Mr G M Billings, a Senior, did pretty well. The trial ended in the defeat of Mr Champain's side by 11 wickets.

Thursday 12 May, page 11: THE SURREY COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Surrey Club was held last evening in the grand hall of the new pavilion at the Oval. Sir Richard Webster, the president, was in the chair, and others present included Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane, General Sir Frederick Marshall, Major Sir Francis Marindin, Mr R S Whalley, Mr Wildman Cattley, Mr K J Key, Mr John Shuter, Mr Fred Gale, Mr W E Roller, Dr Blades, Mr W Burrup, Mr Denzil Onslow, Mr L A Shuter, Mr C E Horner and Mr C W Alcock, secretary.

Sir Richard Webster congratulated the members of the club on the eminently satisfactory condition of their finances. With regard to the expenditure on the new buildings, most of the £37,000 which had to be laid out would be met by the realization of club securities, the premium (£14,000) of the new lease of the tavern and the current balances of the club. The club had the option of borrowing from their bankers any sum up to £15,000, but little more than a few hundreds would be required to balance the elastic resources at the command of the club. They had spent more, perhaps, than they originally intended to; but on going carefully through the plans and estimates the executive had felt that they had the large majority of the members behind them in having everything thoroughly well done. The Surrey Club, who had a position in cricket second to none, except, perhaps, in the case of the Marylebone Club, now possessed a pavilion surpassing in size, usefulness and excellence of workmanship anything on any other cricket ground.

The adoption of the report was seconded by General Sir F Marshall and agreed to. In reply to some questions, Sir Richard Webster mentioned that the membership of the club was only a few hundreds short of its limit of 4,000.

The question of storing bicycles for those visiting the Oval was a subject which the committee would go into.

As for Lord Hawke's recent remarks about England v Australia matches, Sir Richard said that the Surrey executive could be trusted to see that their rights in the management of their own affairs were not infringed.

Sir Richard Webster was re-elected president, General Sir Frederick Marshall vice-president and Mr Wildman Cattley hon. treasurer. Before the meeting separated the president, on behalf of the executive and members of the club, presented Mr C W Alcock with a silver bowl and a cheque for 450 guineas to mark the esteem of the club and their appreciation of Mr Alcock's 25 years' work as secretary.

The first match on the Oval is fixed for Thursday next, when Surrey play Derbyshire.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY CRICKET

A match between the First twelve and Next Sixteen will be played on Monday next. The Light Blues will meet Middlesex on May 19, 20 and 21, instead of May 26, 27 and 28, and they will play Mr A J Webbe's XI on May 26, 27, 28, instead of May 19, 20 and 21.

12 May: HAMPSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4950.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 May, page 7)

A good deal of rain fell at Southampton yesterday morning, and no doubt the unsettled look of the weather had something to do with the small attendance. Hampshire had a fine eleven available, and Elisha Light, a left-handed slow bowler, who played for the county about five years ago and has since earned a considerable reputation in one of the Northern League clubs, reappeared and made a favourable impression. The form he has been showing lately at Southampton points to his being a great acquisition.

There was no particular advantage in batting first yesterday, but with the weather so uncertain Mr Hornby on winning the toss preferred to let his side go in. The last Lancashire wicket went down about half-past 4 with the total at 153. Cuttell was very badly missed at extra mid-off when he had made 21, and gave besides a couple of hard chances, but his innings of 49 was marked by some fine driving.

When Hampshire went in Captain Wynyard and Barton scored 37 together in about as many minutes, but at the drawing of stumps three wickets were down for 62. Captain Wynyard, in getting his 41 not out, was seen at his very best, his defence and hitting being equally fine.

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

So much was the ground at Southampton affected by rain yesterday that no cricket was practicable after luncheon. Even before the interval rain caused three interruptions, and altogether the game was in progress for less than an hour and a half. A heavy downpour set in soon after 2 o'clock and quite ruined the wicket. After waiting till half-past 4 it was agreed to postpone further cricket.

During such cricket as there was Hampshire increased their overnight score of 62 for three wickets to 132, and Lancashire, on going in for the second time, made seven runs without loss. Mr A J L Hill played very finely for 40 not out, and hit a six to square leg, out of the ground, five fours and two threes. He showed strong defence against Mold and freely punished the other bowlers.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 May, page 13)

Owing to the saturated wicket it was found impossible to resume cricket at Southampton on Saturday until after luncheon, by which time all hope of arriving at a definite result had been abandoned. Between ten minutes to 3, however, and half-past 5, Lancashire, who had scored 7 without loss overnight, completed their second innings for 152, and the game was drawn.

12 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4951.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 May, page 7)

Rain greatly interfered with the cricket at Lord's yesterday, when Yorkshire began their first match of the season by playing the strong side of the Marylebone Club. In all the game was in progress only two hours and three-quarters. In the visiting eleven a place was given to Rhodes of Kirkheaton, a young professional who is engaged at Bramall-lane, Sheffield. He is a right-hand bat and slow left-hand bowler, who met with some success with the ball for the Yorkshire colts against the Notts colts.

The feature of the day was the bowling of J T Hearne, who again did an excellent performance by taking eight wickets for six runs each. In the three matches in which he has bowled for the Club he has secured 29 wickets for less than seven runs apiece, but the turf of course has been slow and difficult.

With the exception of Brown, the Yorkshiremen did badly on the soft pitch. Brown hit with a good deal of power and scored 46 out of the first 51 runs. His style was in marked contrast to that of Tunnicliffe, who was in 65 minutes for nine - in fact at one period he was batting three-quarters of an hour without scoring.

The Club, who began their innings at half-past 4, made a disastrous start, for Haigh bowled Mr Murdoch and A Hearne in his first over, but after about 20 minutes' batting rain again came on and further play was impossible.

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

Although there was nothing in yesterday's play at Lord's to equal J T Hearne's performance on Thursday, the cricket was always interesting. The bowlers again held the upper hand, but not to such an extent, as the wicket under a drying wind played easier. With the ball Wainwright and Haigh were most successful, but the latter, almost immediately after he had bowled Dr Grace at 47, ricked his side and was unable to continue. J T Hearne by taking four wickets in Yorkshire's second innings brought his aggregate to 33 wickets for just over eight runs apiece in the three matches played at Lord's.

There was nothing of note in the Club's innings, although Storer made a very useful 36, which included some good drives, while Mr J R Tufton showed good form in his not-out innings of 33, being especially strong on the off-side.

On going in a second time Wainwright batted well for the visitors; he took some time to settle down and was at the wickets for nearly an hour and a half, while his innings included nine fours and a five increased to six by an overthrow. Lord Hawke and Brown made several good hits, while Rhodes showed considerable promise. Owing to a slight strain Storer was unable to keep wicket in the 25 minutes' batting which Yorkshire had before lunch, and Mr C W Wright took his place, but after the interval Storer resumed.

At the close of play the Club with six wickets in hand required 124 to win, so that to-day there is every promise of a good finish.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 May, page 13)

After a match in which the bowlers had almost always the upper hand the M.C.C. were beaten by Yorkshire at Lord's on Saturday by 99 runs. Some such result as this was expected when at the close of Friday the Club with four men gone had still to make 124 runs.

The pitch was more false than ever, and in the course of about three-quarters of an hour Mr Jackson and Rhodes dealt with the remaining six batsmen. The new Yorkshire bowler, Rhodes,

made a distinguished first appearance; but he was of course fortunate in having the wicket to help him so much. His aggregate figures were six for 63.

12 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY - FIRST TWELVE v NEXT SIXTEEN

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/253/253939.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 13 May, page 7)

The eight old blues eligible for this year were included in the first twelve at Oxford yesterday, and the other four places were filled by seniors - Bannon, Lee, Stocks and Billings. The cricket on the slow wicket was not particularly good.

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

Though there was one interruption through rain yesterday, a considerable amount of progress was made with the last of the trial games at Oxford. Mr Cunliffe, the Oxford captain, came out with the splendid bowling record of five wickets for 18 runs, and the analysis would indicate that he was not anxious to bowl himself too much and that he wanted to give a fair trial to the other members of his team.

The second innings of the First Twelve was rendered remarkable by a brilliant display of batting on the part of Mr F H B Champain, the old Cheltenham boy. The total only amounted to 138, but of this number Mr Champain secured no fewer than 73, playing in fine style and scarcely making a mistake. Among his figures were four fours, five threes and 12 twos. A feature of the day was the fielding of Mr de Montmorency in the slips.

The Next Sixteen were left with 105 runs to get to win, and before the call of time one batsman had been dismissed for 12.

Day 3 (report from Monday 16 May, page 13)

The Next Sixteen on Saturday at Oxford gained a decisive victory over the First twelve by seven wickets. The position at the drawing of stumps on Friday evening had left little doubt as to the result.

Rather less than an hour and a half's cricket proved sufficient to bring the game to a definite issue. Some good batting was shown by Mr F H Hollins and Mr Montmorency, but before the necessary number could be hit off seven more wickets fell, Mr Cunliffe, the Oxford captain, bowling with remarkable success. Mr Cunliffe took six wickets, four of them clean bowled, at a cost of 30 runs, and brought his full record for the match to 11 wickets for 48 runs.

16 May: ESSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4952.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 May, page 7)

The cricket at Leyton yesterday was attractive and was watched with close attention by a big crowd. When the game was over for the day Essex, with five wickets in hand, were 80 runs behind Surrey. The turf was not rid of the effects of Sunday's rain, the ball "kicked" a good deal in the morning, and after luncheon the bowlers were able to get some work on.

The batsmen who came off were certainly worthy of their runs. Nothing could have been better than the finished batting of Tom Hayward. The pitch was at its worst during his innings; but he played beautiful cricket, timing the ball well and making many fine off-drives, while his stroke on the leg side was as strong as ever. Before he had been in many minutes Surrey lost their second wicket and the score was only nine. But when he was caught at the wicket an hour and three-quarters later the score stood at 118. His 64 was the best thing in batting during the day.

Mr Jephson was the other man who was of the greatest service to Surrey. On the whole he played remarkably well and generally came down hard and straight on the ball; but he never was quite at home with Bull's slows. He was in with Hayward while 62 runs were put on for the fourth wicket, and when seven men had gone for 121 he found a useful partner in Lees.

Mr V F S Crawford has secured a trial in the Surrey eleven by reason of his fine school reputation. In style and stature he is a very striking player; but a fast "yorker" from Kortright prevented the public seeing much of the young cricketer yesterday. Walter Mead bowled the longest and bowled the best; his excellent length, his break and the quickness with which the ball came from the pitch gained the respect of all the batsmen. His five wickets cost only 46 runs.

Essex found the Surrey bowlers so difficult to play that the game went much against them, and at the end of an hour the score was 43 for four. But the next few men discarded the defensive tactics of their predecessors and forced the game with much profit, as the figures will show. Mr A P Lucas gave us a brief glimpse of his old Cambridge form, particularly when he drove a ball from Richardson all along the ground for a four, and then the plucky hitting of Mr Turner and Mr Street put Essex on something like terms with their opponents.

There was a crowd of 3,000 on the ground but, though the weather was bright, the keen north-east wind was disagreeable.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 May, page 10)

A wonderful innings by Mr A J Turner at Leyton yesterday established for Essex a big advantage against Surrey. Indeed, Surrey will have an uphill battle to fight to-day if they are to save the match.

From the time he went in Mr Turner played a sound and skilful game all round the wicket, while after nine men had gone he gave a demonstration of fine hitting the like of which has rarely been seen on the Essex ground. He got his last 50 in 35 minutes, and his full innings occupied three hours, while his best hits were a six (all run) and 12 fours. Mr Turner got his first hundred last year for the county against Yorkshire at Huddersfield, when Essex won by a single run, and his subsequent experience of important cricket has enabled him [greatly to] develop his game. It was the stand for 87 by Mr Turner and Mead that turned the match against Surrey in the last half-hour before luncheon.

Tom Hayward played another splendid game for the visitors, but was badly missed in the slips when he was 26. The wicket helped the bowlers all day. There were 7,000 people present. The light was bad and stopped the play soon after 5 o'clock. Surrey are 27 runs on with six wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 May, page 13)

The match between Surrey and Essex, after furnishing three days' cricket of wonderful interest and of much excellence, came to an end yesterday in the victory of Essex by six wickets. Cricket is most attractive to watch when the turf, without being particularly bad, just helps the bowlers enough to make run-getting difficult and when the greatest skill in batting is necessary for success in scoring; and this is the condition that existed at Leyton. Essex won on their merits, and their excellent start to the season will no doubt still more increase the patronage which has come to the county club since it passed the stage of mediocrity. The company on each of the three days must have exceeded 7,000.

Generally speaking, the Surrey cricket was lacking some of that "go" which marked the Essex men; but, then, Essex had had some practice in club matches, whereas Surrey had been relying mostly on the nets for their work. Apart from Lockwood the Surrey bowling lacked sting and the fieldsmen some of their usual smartness in gathering the ball and in their return.

The Essex win was largely the work of Mr Turner and Mead, and yesterday Mr McGahey played vigorously at a time when, with three men out for 35, his side seemed likely to have to fight hard to get the 100 runs to win. Hayward again batted well and was only out to a wonderfully fine catch in the slips.

16 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4953.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 May, page 7)

The ground at Nottingham yesterday was favourable to run-getting, and Derbyshire, taking full advantage of first innings, were batting the whole of cricketing hours, and their score of 322 for five wickets was made at the rate of a run a minute.

The honours of the day rested with William Storer. The famous wicket-keeper was the fifth man out at 286, having made 109 out of the 193 put on during his stay of rather more than three hours. He did not make the slightest mistake and, while maintaining a strong defence, missed few opportunities of scoring. Among his hits were six fours, 13 threes and nine twos.

Apart from Attewell the Notts bowling looked comparatively harmless on the good wicket, and it must have been very disappointing to the committee that the new men, T Wass, Henson and Riley, did not between them get rid of a single Derbyshire batsman.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 May, page 10)

There was very little cricket at Nottingham yesterday owing to the bad weather. The last five Derbyshire wickets were steadily got down and the innings was completed for 390. Wass, the new Notts bowler, kept a much better length than on Monday.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 May, page 13)

Some very skilful batting, on a slow and sometimes treacherous wicket, by Shrewsbury and Dench was seen yesterday at the Trent-bridge ground, and it was largely due to their efforts that Notts easily succeeded in drawing their match against Derbyshire.

After the rain of Tuesday, which prevented any cricket after luncheon, it seemed quite likely that the ground would become very difficult, but, drying steadily under the influence of a strong wind instead of being baked by a hot sun, the pitch never afforded the bowlers that assistance that might otherwise have been the case.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4954.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 May, page 7)

Mr A J Webbe took down to Oxford yesterday a strong team to play the University, and his side left off with a good deal the better of the opening stage of the game. Delightful weather favoured the match, but owing to the recent rains the ground was in a state which placed batsmen at a disadvantage, and during the day 22 wickets went down for 254 runs.

Of the Oxford team eight were "Old Blues," the other four places being filled by Seniors - Messrs Stocks, Lee, Bannon and Bosanquet, while Mr Webbe, in order that the match might be 12-a-side, availed himself of the services of Mr F H Hollins, the Eton Freshman.

Mr Webbe won the toss and put his opponents in to bat - a course of action which was completely justified, Hearne and Trott getting down the 11 wickets in two hours and 20 minutes for 94 runs. Mr Fane, the Essex cricketer, batted well for an hour and a quarter, but his colleagues were in great difficulties with the Middlesex bowlers, of whom Hearne, following up his recent successes, took seven wickets for 39 runs.

When the visitors went in Mr Mitchell was let off before he had scored, and for this mistake Oxford had to pay dearly. Mr Stock bowled with marked success and received invaluable support from Mr Foster, who made five catches at slip. There were nine men out for 100, but Mr Vernon and Hearne gave a lot of trouble, and the close of the innings left Mr Webbe's team with a lead of 66 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 May, page 10)

At Oxford, yesterday, the University team improved very much upon their form of the previous day, and batted so well as to reach quite a hopeful position when rain brought the afternoon's cricket to a close.

The wicket, which improved as time went on, was slow and difficult in the morning, and Oxford, on going in a second time, found it a hard matter to get runs. However, there was some splendid batting by Mr Foster, Mr Eccles and Mr Fane. The University are 182 ahead with two wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 May, page 13)

The advantage gained by the University team at Oxford on Tuesday was greatly increased by the weather, rain, after cutting short the afternoon's play, continuing for a considerable time and rendering it certain that the wicket yesterday would be difficult.

From the start in the morning the Oxford team were always playing a winning game, and at 20 minutes to 4 the match ended in their favour by the substantial majority of 99 runs. Fortune was on their side, but their cricket was most creditable. Mr Eccles played with great patience and contributed more than anyone else to the victory of the side. Mr Webbe's team wanted 226 to win but, with the soft ground playing very treacherously under the influence of bright sunshine, there was never any likelihood of such a number being obtained.

16 May: SOMERSET v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4955.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 May, page 7)

On a wicket made slow and difficult by a heavy fall of rain much progress was made at Bath yesterday with this match. An innings was completed on each side and Yorkshire gained a lead of 59 runs.

The start was most flattering to the supporters of Somerset, Tyler and Mr Fowler bowling with such effect that it seemed as if Yorkshire would benefit very little by the opportunity afforded them in winning the toss. However, when matters were at their worst, Lord Hawke and Haigh played brilliantly and put on 83 runs in 50 minutes. Tyler and Mr Fowler bowled well; but their figures suffered a good deal at the hands of Lord Hawke and Haigh.

Somerset went in to bat shortly before 4 o'clock, and a fairly good start was made by Mr L C H Palairt and Robson, who put on 25 runs for the first wicket. From that point the batting broke down completely and the whole side were out for 104. Mr Jackson took the first three wickets, but the collapse of Somerset was practically due to the fine bowling of the colt Rhodes, who, replacing Haigh at 42, dismissed the last seven batsmen and had only 24 runs hit from him.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 May, page 10)

In what little time the weather allowed for cricket at Bath yesterday, Yorkshire made an excellent start to their second innings, and they are now 160 ahead with eight wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 May, page 13)

At Bath, yesterday, Yorkshire beat Somerset by 198 runs. It was a fine victory, but fortune favoured the winners, the Somerset eleven having to play the last innings on a dreadful wicket. When rain put a stop to Tuesday's cricket the Yorkshiremen had already secured a big advantage, as with two wickets down for 101 in their second innings they held a lead of 160.

The downpour that stopped play on Tuesday afternoon lasted for about 12 hours, reducing the ground to such a condition that, despite the influence of bright sunshine, play could not begin yesterday until five minutes past 12. The pitch was then too soft to be as difficult as it afterwards became, and the Yorkshiremen, making good use of their time, increased their score in an hour and a quarter to 174. Lord Hawke declared the innings closed at the fall of the seventh wicket.

Somerset, with 234 to get to win, had to bat one man short, Mr Newton's hands being so badly bruised that he could take no part in yesterday's cricket. With the wicket doing everything they could wish, Rhodes and Haigh bowled with such effect that in an hour the innings was finished off for 35. In the whole game Rhodes, whose first county match it was, had the wonderful record of 13 wickets for 45 runs.

16 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY - FIRST TWELVE v NEXT SIXTEEN

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

Potted score: NEXT SIXTEEN 173 (C J T Robertson 25, A H Hornby 22; F A C Druce 4/55, A R Hind 4/27, E F Penn 3/45, C E M Wilson 3/7) and 242 (A H Hornby 33, K E M Barker 22, F D Cautley 28; E A C Druce 4/55, E F Penn 6/52). THE TWELVE 272 (C J Burnup 20, A T Coode 101, E A C Druce 41, A E Hind 34; O W Wright 7/68) and 110 (C J Burnup 29, G G Heslop 31; O W Wright 6/47, G E Winter 5/32). Next Sixteen won by 33 runs.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 May, page 7)

Cricket at Cambridge yesterday was not particularly interesting, and with only two "Old Blues" playing - Mr Wilson and Mr Burnup - the game was scarcely worthy of its title. The ground had not recovered from recent rain and the bowlers had an obvious advantage. During the whole day the best individual score was only 25.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 May, page 10)

Yesterday's cricket and Cambridge was remarkable for a fine batting performance by Mr A T Coode, whose innings of 109 did much to help his side recover from the bad position in which they had left off on the previous day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 19 May, page 13)

At Cambridge, yesterday, the Sixteen gained a surprising victory by 33 runs. The Twelve had 144 to make to win, and Mr Burnup and Mr Heslop apparently put the result almost beyond doubt by scoring 50 for the first wicket. Then, however, such an astonishing breakdown occurred in the batting that the whole side were out for 110.

16 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE COLTS' MATCH

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 May, page 7)

The form of the colts at Bristol yesterday was generally poor. Wood and Baldwin in their batting were the most prominent of a moderate lot. Mr F C Weaver secured six wickets for the county for 19 runs. Dr W G Grace was in great form; he got two wickets without having a runs scored from him and scored 61 not out.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 May, page 10)

Dr W G Grace made 146, not out, for the county team against the colts at Bristol yesterday. The scores were:- Colts, 118; county, 306 for two wickets.

16 May: SUSSEX YOUNG PLAYERS' MATCH

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 17 May, page 7)

A trial of young Sussex players was begun yesterday at Brighton, with Mr Newham and Mr A F Somerset as the captains. J Vine (41), G Cox (42) J W Callow (43), J Bean (35) and E G King (29) came out best in batting. W Humphreys, jun., Etheridge and A Seal did well in bowling.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 18 May, page 10)

J Vine's not out innings of 105 and G Cox's six wickets for 14 runs were the best things in yesterday's cricket at Brighton and led to Mr Somerset's team beating Mr Newham's team by 116 runs.

19 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4956.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 May, page 14)

Very little progress could be made at Cambridge yesterday. In bitterly cold weather, with drizzling rain, play was found practicable up to 2 o'clock, but a heavy downpour came on during luncheon time and at half-past 4 stumps were drawn for the day.

In the time at command Cambridge, who won the toss and went in first on a slow wicket, scored 63 runs and lost six of their batsmen. Something far better than this seemed in prospect at first. Mr Burnup and Mr Heslop - the latter a Freshman from Norwich - opened the innings well, staying together for about 50 minutes and causing, J T Hearne, who started the bowling with Albert Trott, to give way to Rawlin. Rawlin bowled with great effect and found several easy victims. Mr Burnup played finely for an hour and a half, being the fifth man out.

Owing to recent accidents, Mr de Zoete and Mr Fernie are not playing for Cambridge, and Mr Stoddart, who has not yet been seen in the cricket field since he returned from Australia, is absent from the Middlesex eleven.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 May, page 14)

The rain prevented any cricket yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 May, page 10)

The outlook at Cambridge on Saturday morning was far from hopeful, but the condition of the wicket was far better than might have been expected, considering the large quantity of rain that had fallen during the night, and at 20 minutes to 12 it was found possible to get on with the game. After lunch the weather turned out pleasantly fine, but, a draw being always inevitable, there was nothing very interesting in the cricket.

Cambridge's first innings, in which six wickets had fallen on Thursday for 63 runs, ended for 109, and was chiefly remarkable for the steady batting of Mr Coode, who altogether was at the wickets an hour and 40 minutes for his 25. Just after the start of play Mr MacGregor hurt his hand and retired, his place as wicket-keeper being taken by Mr Wells.

Middlesex began badly, four good wickets going down for 38, but Mr Head and Mr Wells - not without a little luck to help them - made matters look far better. Mr Head played by many degrees the freest and most attracted cricket of the day, his innings of 43 including four fours.

At the close of the afternoon Cambridge had 70 minutes' batting in their second innings. Five of the best men on the side were out for 26, but Mr Coode and Mr Wilson stayed together and no other wicket had fallen when at 6 o'clock stumps were finally pulled up.

19 May: ESSEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4957.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 May, page 14)

Yesterday, at Leyton, the weather allowed of little more than an hour's cricket, but in this time Essex made an excellent start, Carpenter and Mr Owen batting freely.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 May, page 14)

The rain prevented any cricket yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 May, page 10)

The following matches in which there had been no play since Thursday were given up early on Saturday, the turf being too heavy to allow of further cricket . . .

19 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4958.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 May, page 14)

Taking full advantage of the opportunity afforded them by going in first on a firm and true wicket at Bristol, yesterday, the Yorkshiremen accomplished a fine performance, scoring 263 runs and only losing three batsmen. The conditions were most depressing and the Gloucestershire bowlers were quite unable to do themselves justice.

The honours of the day rested with Tunnicliffe, who, going in first, was not out at the close with 107 to his credit. He made his 50 in an hour and 35 minutes and his 100 in two hours and 50 minutes. Not a single mistake could be urged against him. Mr F S Jackson, who also played finely, helped Tunnicliffe to put on 108 runs for the second wicket in an hour and 20 minutes. His chief hits were ten fours and seven twos.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 May, page 14)

The rain prevented any cricket yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 May, page 10)

The following matches in which there had been no play since Thursday were given up early on Saturday, the turf being too heavy to allow of further cricket . . .

19 May: LANCASHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4959.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 May, page 14)

A full day's play was enjoyed at Old Trafford, where Leicestershire appeared against Lancashire. They were without their University players, Messrs Marriott, Stocks and Joyce; but, after losing three wickets for 68, the Midland county succeeded in putting together a total of 305 for the loss of nine wickets.

The honours of the day were borne off by Tomlin, who, going in at the fall of the third wicket, was ninth man out at 259. He batted for two hours and a quarter without making a mistake, and hit 13 fours, seven threes and seven twos. He found a valuable partner in Brown, who helped him to put on 118 runs for the sixth wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 May, page 14)

Manchester enjoyed several hours' play yesterday, the rain holding off until a quarter-past 5. The Leicestershire eleven, who had lost nine wickets on Thursday for 305 runs, were all out for 318, and Lancashire played an innings of 219.

The feature of the cricket was the exceptionally fine batting of Albert Ward, who went in first for Lancashire and was out seventh, the total when he left being 200. In getting his 115 Ward was batting for three hours and a half, and he did not make a mistake. His chief hits were 14 fours, five threes and six twos. He was out at last in trying a short run, his wicket being thrown down from cover-point by Knight.

Baker helped Ward to score 89 runs for the first wicket, and Tyldesley and Mr Tindall assisted him in adding 49 and 32 for the third and sixth wickets. Had all the catches been held Lancashire would very likely have had to follow on; but, as it is, Leicestershire will start to-day's cricket with a substantial lead of 99 runs. Woodcock's 62 not out is the highest innings he has ever played for Leicestershire.

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 May, page 10)

Cricket at Manchester on Saturday was in progress from a quarter to 12 until ten minutes to 4, between which times the Leicestershire eleven for the loss of five wickets scored 90 runs in their second innings.

As they went in for the second time with a lead of 99, their obvious game was to force the hitting and give themselves a chance of victory; but the batsmen entirely failed to rise to the occasion, playing with as much care as though they had had the whole three days before them. The light, without being very bad, was defective, and on two or three occasions play was adjourned on the batsmen appealing to the umpires. After the last of these stoppages rain set in at 4 o'clock and, much to everyone's relief, the match was abandoned as a draw.

19 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4960.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 May, page 14)

Very little progress was made at Lord's yesterday in the opening day's play against Nottinghamshire. In fact only three-quarters of an hour's cricket was possible. A start was made shortly after 1 o'clock, but rain came on just before the luncheon interval, and as there were no signs of the weather's clearing up, the game was abandoned for the day at half-past 3.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 May, page 14)

The rain prevented any cricket yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 May, page 10)

The following matches in which there had been no play since Thursday were given up early on Saturday, the turf being too heavy to allow of further cricket . . .

19 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4961.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 May, page 14)

Cricket at Oxford yesterday was possible for less than two hours, rain delaying the start in the morning and causing stumps to be drawn for the day at about 4 o'clock.

A heavy downpour overnight had made the ground very slow, but Oxford, on going in to bat, started in a fashion that suggested a much better score than was ultimately obtained. Mr Fane and Mr Bannon played with great skill together for over an hour, and caused two changes of bowling to be made before they were separated. After Mr Fane left, however, there were several failures, only Mr Bromley-Martin being able to cope with Mr Bosanquet's bowling.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 May, page 14)

The rain prevented any cricket yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 May, page 10)

The following matches in which there had been no play since Thursday were given up early on Saturday, the turf being too heavy to allow of further cricket . . .

19 May: SOMERSET v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4962.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 May, page 14)

The weather at Bath yesterday was bad. A keen wind blew in the early part of the day and at a quarter to 4 rain fell so heavily that further play was impossible. Altogether cricket was in progress only two hours and 20 minutes.

On a wicket that had not recovered from the drenching it received on Tuesday, Hampshire went in first and seemed likely, up to a certain point, to do very well, 67 runs being obtained with only two wickets down. At 67 Robson went on to bowl, and by doing the "hat trick" completely changed the character of the game. He took five wickets at a cost of only 14 runs, the other five wickets falling to Tyler. In two hours the innings was all over for a total of 97.

Captain Poore, who is playing for Hampshire for the first time, carried his bat right through the innings, his play being a model of steadiness. At one point he hit Mr Fowler for three fours in one over, but apart from this he played a rigidly defensive game. Somerset had 20 minutes' batting before the rain came on, and scored 30 runs without the loss of a wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 May, page 14)

The rain prevented any cricket yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 May, page 10)

The following matches in which there had been no play since Thursday were given up early on Saturday, the turf being too heavy to allow of further cricket . . .

19 May: SURREY v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4963.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 20 May, page 14)

The weather prevented any play at Kennington Oval yesterday, and the members who assembled had to be content with viewing the fine new buildings of the pavilion and tavern, upon which nearly £40,000 has been spent. To-day the following sides will take the field . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 21 May, page 14)

The rain prevented any cricket yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 23 May, page 10)

. . . not a ball was bowled on any of the three days allowed for the fixture.

23 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4964.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 May, page 12)

Showing admirable form at all points, the Yorkshiremen yesterday, at Cambridge, gained a great advantage over the University and led by 153 runs on the first innings. Owing to a slight injury, which occurred while practising in the morning, Mr C E M Wilson, the Cambridge captain, was prevented from playing, and with Messrs H W de Zoete and A E Fernie still disabled, Cambridge were severely handicapped.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 May, page 14)

Being again outplayed at all points at Cambridge yesterday, the University suffered defeat by Yorkshire in a single innings with 22 runs to spare.

23 May: DERBYSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4965.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 May, page 12)

So soft was the Derby ground yesterday that the match could not be commenced till 20 minutes past 1. A start having once been made, however, cricket went on without interruption, the afternoon being bright and fine.

In the absence of Mr Hornby, Mr S M Crosfield captained the Lancashire eleven, and on winning the toss decided to take first innings. Lancashire stayed at the wickets for nearly three hours and a quarter, and in that time they contrived to score 137.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 May, page 14)

On a ground affording the bowlers material assistance much cricket was got through yesterday at Derby. The Lancashire team gained a material advantage and left off with every prospect of success.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 May, page 12)

It was felt at Derby yesterday morning that the Derbyshire eleven had little chance of making the 99 runs which they required to win the game, the pitch being still in a condition that materially helped the bowlers. The five outstanding wickets went down in 50 minutes, the overnight score of 76 being carried to only 109, and the match came to a very tame conclusion, Lancashire winning by 65 runs.

Mold put the result beyond doubt by getting rid in two overs of Walter Sugg, Hulme and Ellis. The eighth wicket fell at 88, and at 92 Wright was run out. Bestwick, the last man, stayed some time with Davidson, the two batsmen making a plucky effort to save a lost game. Seventeen runs were put on, and then Davidson, who had been batting an hour and ten minutes for his 19, was smartly stumped. Mold yesterday took three wickets at a cost of only 13 runs.

23 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4966.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 May, page 12)

In a keen day's cricket at Lord's yesterday the bowlers had most prominence. Marylebone had only a weak batting side, and their captain, hoping for an improvement in the condition of the pitch, adopted the always dangerous course of putting his opponents in. It worked out badly yesterday, and the county, with no prospect of the turf becoming true, secured quite a strong position, for with eight wickets left in the second innings they are already 160 ahead - a very considerable advantage with the ground so much favourable to bowlers.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 May, page 14)

The bowlers triumphed almost from first to last in this match at Lord's, and yesterday Kent won by 180 runs, a result that was something of a satire on the cricket judgment of the Marylebone captain, Mr C P Foley, who having won the toss on Monday put the county in. It turned out that the M.C.C. were fated to have the worst of the wicket at every point of the game. To the side going in first the match proved a gift. There were a lot of catches dropped yesterday and the cricket as a whole was unworthy of that on Monday.

The best thing in batting was Mr Mason's 80. The Kent captain had a good deal of luck, but played a fine forcing game at the right moment, and got most of his runs in front of the wicket. Alec Hearne bowled with great effect, and he with his captain carried off for their side nearly all the honours both in batting and bowling.

23 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4967.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 May, page 12)

Though deprived of the services of Mr A P Lucas, Mr C MacGregor and Mr A J Turner, the Essex eleven did wonderfully well at Oxford yesterday and had all the best of the day's cricket, the call of time leaving them with a big advantage.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 May, page 14)

Following up the advantage which they had obtained over the University on Monday at Oxford, the Essex Eleven yesterday gained a decisive victory by seven wickets. Mead accomplished a remarkable bowling performance, taking in the two innings 13 wickets at a cost of 125 runs.

23 May: SUSSEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4968.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 May, page 12)

At Brighton yesterday Mr J A Dixon, the Notts captain, did not allow for the quickness with which the Sussex ground recovers after rain. There can be little doubt that if on winning the toss in the morning he had taken the risk of putting Sussex in first the side at the close of play would have been in a better position.

As it turned out the Sussex eleven left off with all the best of the match, for after dismissing Notts in two hours and a half for the modest total of 112 they scored, in about the same time, 173 and lost only five wickets.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 May, page 14)

A great batting feat was accomplished yesterday at Brighton by Shrewsbury and Gunn, by whose efforts Notts entirely recovered from the unfavourable position in which they had been left on Monday evening. The batting of the home side yesterday contrasted very badly with what had been seen on the previous afternoon.

Notts had to face a majority of 80. Shrewsbury and Jones made a good start, putting on 61 for the first wicket, and then for the remainder of the afternoon Shrewsbury and William Gunn, seen quite at their best, resisted all the efforts of the Sussex bowlers. Gunn was missed at mid-off when he had scored six, but apart from this incident the batting was practically faultless. The partnership lasted three hours and ten minutes, during which time 176 runs were added.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 May, page 12)

After having on Monday and Tuesday undergone some startling changes of fortune, the match at Brighton between Sussex and Notts ended yesterday afternoon in a draw. The two famous batsmen Gunn and Shrewsbury were together another hour and a half, Gunn being at last caught at the wicket at 1 o'clock. The total when he left was 302, the long partnership having lasted four hours and 35 minutes and produced no fewer than 241 runs. Gunn was missed at mid-off on Tuesday with his score at six, but apart from this one blemish, his innings of 125, which included eight fours, nine threes and 15 twos, was an admirable display of sound and stylish batting.

At luncheon time the Notts innings was declared closed, the score being 338 with only four men out. Shrewsbury made 154, not out, his chief hits being 13 fours, 12 threes and 13 twos. During a stay of nearly seven hours he played wonderfully well in his characteristic fashion. So free from fault was his innings that, except for a very easy chance at cover-point when his score had reached 115, he made no mistakes.

23 May: WARWICKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4969.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 24 May, page 12)

The ground at Birmingham was practically under water yesterday as a result of the rain of last week and a heavy thunderstorm on Sunday night. It was quite impossible to play cricket, and about noon it was decided to postpone the beginning of the Warwickshire and Surrey match until this morning.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 25 May, page 14)

Rain again fell early yesterday morning in Birmingham, and the ground at Edgbaston remained in such a bad state that it was again found impossible to make a start in the Warwickshire and Surrey match.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 26 May, page 12)

Although the weather at Birmingham yesterday was pleasantly fine, the ground remained unfit for cricket. The turf might possibly have recovered sufficiently to admit of the game being started in the afternoon, but it was felt that no good purpose would be served by waiting, and at a quarter past 12 a decision was arrived at to abandon the match. Thus two Surrey fixtures in succession have had to be given up without a ball being bowled.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4970.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 May, page 10)

At Cambridge yesterday the University had all the best of an interesting afternoon's cricket, dismissing Mr Webbe's Eleven in rather less than three hours and a quarter for 185, and then scoring 163 for the loss of only three wickets. The all-round found they showed was all the more creditable as they had only three of their half-dozen old Blues playing, Mr C E M Wilson, Mr H W de Zoete and Mr A E Fernie being kept out of the game by injuries.

The wicket was in better condition than in any previous match of importance this year at Cambridge, and as a natural consequence runs came at a much quicker rate. Up to a certain point it seemed as if Mr Webbe's team would make a far better score than 185, but the last four wickets went down for 21 runs. Mr Mason made the most runs for his side and played the best cricket. He was stumped off one of Mr Winter's lobs, and two other good wickets fell to the same bowler. Mr Hawkins's analysis of three wickets for 13 runs was remarkable.

Mr Burnup and Mr Coode started Cambridge's innings in splendid style, scoring 93 runs before they were parted. Mr Burnup's admirable innings of 56 lasted 70 minutes and included seven fours. Towards the close of the afternoon Mr Worthington and Mr Jessop put on 55 runs for the third wicket in less than half an hour. Mr Jessop, who in getting 35 showed all his old dash, drove Martin clean out of the ground for six.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 May, page 9)

Some interesting cricket was witnessed yesterday at Cambridge, under very pleasant conditions, the University eleven maintaining the advantage they had gained. Mr Bromley-Davenport, for the visitors, came out with the fine bowling record of seven wickets for 91 runs.

At the start of the second innings of Mr Webbe's team there looked a prospect of a very good match, but the early promise was far from being fulfilled. Playing splendid cricket, Messrs Mason and Foley put on 84 runs for the first wicket, but, despite their brilliant efforts, four batsmen had been dismissed before the arrears could be wiped off. At one time there seemed a chance of the match being over before the appointed hour for drawing stumps; but Mr Hayman played a strong game. With two batsmen to be got rid of Mr Webbe's eleven are only 65 to the good.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 May, page 5)

Less than two hours' cricket proved sufficient to finish off the match at Cambridge on Saturday, the University gaining a decisive victory over Mr A J Webbe's eleven by ten wickets. The Cambridge men were left with 70 runs to get to win, and these were hit off by Messrs Burnup and Coode. They began cautiously, but after getting set made a number of fine hits.

26 May: HAMPSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4971.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 May, page 10)

So wet and soft was the Southampton ground yesterday that at 12 o'clock it was decided to postpone the commencement of this match until to-day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 May, page 9)

Some remarkable cricket was seen at Southampton yesterday, the game, which began at 12 o'clock, being finished off at five minutes past 6. The result was a victory for Yorkshire by an innings and 79 runs.

As the state of the ground had prevented a ball being bowled on the previous day, small scores were expected, but no one was prepared to see Hampshire did for totals of 42 and 36. The Hampshire batsmen, however, were quite unable to cope with Haigh's wonderful bowling. Only one of them got into double figures, and he had the luck to be missed.

With the ground dry on the surface and wet underneath Haigh found a pitch that suited him to perfection, and he made the most of it. He kept a capital length, varied his pace with great skill and got so much spin on the ball as to be almost unplayable. He took eight wickets for 21 runs and six for 22, thus securing in all 14 wickets at the cost of a fraction over three runs each.

Hampshire had no one who could take the same advantage of the condition of the ground, their bowling as a matter of fact being very erratic. All the same, Yorkshire did wonderfully well to score 157 on such a treacherous wicket.

26 May: LANCASHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4972.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 May, page 10)

As the result of a keen day's cricket at Liverpool, Warwickshire had the satisfaction of leaving off yesterday evening with a distinct advantage over Lancashire. In nearly three hours and three-quarters Warwickshire, who were favoured in batting on a wicket which grew more difficult under a hot sun as the day advanced, completed an innings for 178; and then Lancashire in an hour and a half lost seven men for 67, so that they are 111 runs behind with only three wickets to fall.

W G Quaife played one of his most patient innings, staying for two hours and 50 minutes for 45, and Lilley scored 41 in admirable style out of 65 put on during his stay with Quaife. But the features of the cricket were the bowling performances of Mold and Santall. The Lancashire man was in wonderfully good form, dismissing five men (four of them clean bowled) for 20 runs, and Santall has already gained almost as good an average. He seemed to bowl rather faster than is his custom and, maintaining a splendid length, he took five of the seven wickets that fell at a cost of 29 runs.

Mr W B Stoddart, who is included in the Lancashire eleven, is the International Rugby Football forward.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 May, page 9)

At Liverpool yesterday the Warwickshire Eleven played admirable cricket at every point of the game, and at the drawing of stumps they held a very big advantage, Lancashire, with only eight wickets to go down, requiring 313 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 May, page 5)

Warwickshire had the satisfaction of beating Lancashire, the champion county, by 142 runs at Liverpool on Saturday. Some such result had been made almost certain by the excellent all-round play of the visitors during the previous two days, and their success was in every way well deserved.

Lancashire were in a thankless position on Saturday morning, wanting 313 runs to win with only eight wickets to fall, and even with the pitch faster than before they never had any prospect of victory. Albert Ward and Tyldesley made a plucky effort by adding 62 runs for the fourth wicket, but after they were separated wickets fell fast and, except that Frank Sugg and Cuttell put on 47, no serious resistance was offered and the side were all out for 175.

Hopkins, whose first appearance it was for the county, bowled with marked effect, his four wickets costing only nine runs apiece. Bowling right hand, medium pace, with a good easy action, he kept an accurate length and created a very favourable impression.

26 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4973.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 May, page 10)

Although there was nothing brilliant in the opening day's play between Leicestershire and the Marylebone Club at Lord's, yesterday, the cricket was always interesting. Mr Wood, the chief scorer, played very carefully, and was batting two hours and 20 minutes for his 52. He received valuable assistance from Knight and Pougher, while later in the innings Brown showed good defence. The catch with disposed of Mr De Trafford was a very good one, for Chatterton in the long field, after running some distance, had to take the ball sideways.

The Club had two hours' batting; but with the exception of Chatterton, who made some very pretty strokes, fared none too well against the bowling of Coe and Pougher. Just before the close Mr Peacock from the first four balls he received from Woodcock hit two fours, a two and a five. Alec Hearne received a nasty hit on the head from a return by Woodcock, and had to retire. The Club are now 60 runs behind with four wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 May, page 9)

After being in slightly the better position at the close of the opening day's play, Leicestershire yesterday at Lord's fared none too well for a time, and it was only the batting of Knight and Coe which enabled them to make a fair score.

The club's last three batsmen gave them considerable trouble and added 105 runs. This was due to the good batting of Dr Thornton and J T Hearne, who, during a partnership of three-quarters of an hour, put on 75 runs. Dr Thornton, apart from an easy chance of stumping before he had scored, played good cricket, making the majority of his runs on the leg side. Altogether he was batting two hours, and showed excellent defence, while at times he hit with great vigour. His innings included 14 fours. Alec Hearne was still unable to bat.

Leicestershire made a bad start on going in a second time, and lost five wickets for 106. At this period Knight, who had been playing very steadily, was joined by Coe, and in just over an hour and a half they added 108 runs. Knight's play was the more creditable, seeing the defective light that existed during most of his innings. He was at the wickets for three hours and 50 minutes and was ninth out. He hit 15 fours.

J T Hearne in the match took 11 wickets for 136 runs. The club require 182 to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 May, page 5)

Leicestershire beat the M.C.C. at Lord's after a close finish by 22 runs. When Marylebone went in a second time on Saturday the pitch was not so easy as it had been and the ball every now and then got up awkwardly. Leicestershire thoroughly deserved their victory, and so far this season they have shown a decided improvement on last year's form.

There was little of note in the closing stages of the game. When Mr Gifford and Mead were partners the club seemed to have a chance of winning, but after the latter's dismissal the innings was soon brought to a close. Whiteside kept wicket remarkably well and made four catches.

26 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4974.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 May, page 10)

The last of the matches at Oxford this season began yesterday, the weather, after a dull, chilly morning, proving bright and pleasant. A large number of people visited the ground in the parks and the cricket seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed.

Unfortunately Somerset did not take down their best eleven, Messrs L C H Palairt, R C N Palairt and Gerald Fowler being all away. Peculiar interest attached to the presence in the county team of the Rev A P Wickham, who was the Oxford wicket-keeper 20 years ago. A place was given to Captain Hill, a brother to Mr V T Hill. It is not long since Captain Hill returned from India, and up to yesterday he had never appeared for Somerset.

As will be seen from the score below, the day's play was very even in character. Somerset, on going in first, stayed at the wickets till a quarter past 4, their total reaching 193. Messrs Woods and V T Hill scored 38 together for the first wicket, but when lunch time came there were five men out for 88. Mr Stanley and Captain Hill then offered a strong resistance to the Oxford bowling, but their cricket was in the strongest contrast, for while Captain Hill hit freely Mr Stanley kept to such rigidly defensive methods that it took him an hour and 50 minutes to get nine runs.

The sixth, seventh and eighth wickets all went down at 123, but Gill hit with great style and received excellent and timely assistance from Mr Wickham and Cranfield. Gill scored his 40 in three-quarters of an hour by 14 hits - two sixes, four fours, four twos and four singles. Most of the Oxford bowling was excellent, but Mr Mitchell proved very expensive.

When the University went in Mr Bannon played splendid cricket. He was at the wickets an hour and three-quarters, and obtained his 69 without a mistake of any kind. Up to a certain point he did not receive much support, but Mr Bromley-Martin helped him to put on 50 runs for the fifth wicket. As the game stands now the Oxford eleven with five wickets to fall are only 44 runs behind their opponents' total.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 May, page 9)

There was a long and interesting afternoon's cricket yesterday at Oxford in the second stage of the match between the University and Somerset. Except for a fine display on the part of Mr Bromley-Martin, the Oxford batting broke down before the bowling of Gill and Cranfield, the last five wickets falling in the course of 50 minutes for the addition of 61 runs. In this way Oxford were all out for 210, and so only led by 17 runs.

Mr Bromley-Martin increased his not-out score of 28 to 65, playing in faultless form. His stay extended over an hour and a half, and among his hits were eight fours, five threes and five twos. Considering how his companions were failing, his achievement was remarkable.

Against Somerset in the second innings Mr Mitchell bowled with very great success, taking five wickets for 32. The University had 227 set them to win . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 May, page 5)

Rain fell at Oxford during Friday night, and on a wicket which afforded them considerable assistance the Somerset bowlers did so well on Saturday that the county won the match by 100 runs.

Oxford had overnight scored 65 of the 227 set them to win for the loss of two wickets; but with the conditions against them the batsmen offered such a poor resistance that in 70 minutes the innings closed for an additional 61 runs. Gill, who made the ball get up

awkwardly, again bowled with effect, and his record for the match was remarkably good - ten wickets for 87 runs.

26 May: SURREY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4975.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 27 May, page 10)

For the most part the cricket at the Oval yesterday was dull and uninteresting. The Gloucestershire batsmen, with two or three exceptions, showed an incapacity to play the Surrey bowlers on a slow wicket; the wicket was only slow and all day the ball came along pretty easily.

Lockwood alone seemed difficult to play. He kept a fine length, varied his pace and managed to secure a fine analysis. Six wickets for 56 runs made up an extremely fine record, and this might have been even better had Dr Grace not been missed behind the wicket off Lockwood when the great batsman had scored only two. Surrey are fortunate in the recovery by Lockwood of his bowling, for this season he seems quite the Lockwood of old.

Good batting was scarce. Dr Grace was in nearly 90 minutes for his 18. The best things, indeed, in the Gloucestershire innings, which extended from mid-day until nearly 5 o'clock, were the 33 by Mr Sewell and the 60 by Hale. Mr Sewell played a fine forcing game full of good strokes; but in spite of his success five men were out for 82 when the luncheon interval arrived. The seventh wicket went at 103; but Hale arrived at this point and, playing a good, hard game, he got 60 out of the last 102. He was fortunate in some of his strokes; but he made many fine cuts and drives, six fours and three threes being among his figures.

Surrey had only half an hour's batting before the bad light stopped the game. Brockwell made many fine hits, but Mr Crawford was missed twice in one over from Mr Townsend, and the finish was that Surrey had all their wickets in hand and were only 164 runs behind. Although the weather was dull and depressing the spectators numbered about 6,000.

Sir Richard Webster, the Surrey president, inspected the new pavilion during the afternoon, and visited the Press room to receive various suggestions for still further improvement of the new arrangements for the cricket reporters.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 28 May, page 9)

Yesterday was a day of batting triumphs for the Surrey eleven on the Oval, and the home team are now 245 ahead on the first innings with still six wickets left. This position promises them only success, for no doubt to-day Mr Key will declare his first innings closed after Abel has been given the chance of running to 100.

The best thing in yesterday's cricket was Brockwell's 105. Nothing could have been better than the way he got his runs in front of the wicket. On both sides his driving was strong and well-timed, while now and then he cut brilliantly. This was certainly one of the best innings ever played by Brockwell on the Oval. There was scarcely a mistimed ball in it, and the fact that he got his runs in a little over two hours, out of 198, will show how quick was his scoring. He hit 14 fours. With Crawford, the newest amateur in the team, he made 145 for the first wicket. Crawford has a fine, commanding style, but is apt to hit too much at good-length bowling. Thus was his score of 73, although mostly excellent, secured by the aid largely of luck.

It was after four men had gone for 244 that the stand of the day occurred. Abel and Jephson for two hours and a half played sound cricket and put on 206 runs. The early periods of their partnership were dull, but after the first hour they made light of the Gloucestershire bowling. Jephson, although not an attractive bat to follow, comes down on the ball pretty straight and he possesses many strokes. Abel, on the other hand, plodded on carefully and was content to wait for the loose ball.

It will be noticed that Dr Grace took three of the four wickets that fell. The brightness of the early part of the day exhausted itself before luncheon and the weather became so dull that there was a delay of an hour in the game.

Day 3 (report from Monday 30 May, page 5)

The Surrey eleven gained a brilliant victory over Gloucestershire at the Oval on Saturday by an innings and 103 runs. Some such result was presaged by the position of the game on Friday evening; and the only question then was whether Gloucestershire had the capacity to stay in the whole of the cricketing hours against the Surrey bowlers. Such a feat was made the more improbable by the slow wicket, for even if the bowlers get only a little work on the ball it is always rather more difficult to play a wholly defensive game on a dead than on a fast pitch.

However, Gloucestershire on Saturday fought pluckily against the odds of 295, the bequest of a first innings. Dr W G Grace played a superb innings of 51, and was never in difficulty except with Jephson's lobs. It is strange how even our greatest batsmen nowadays are so often "all at sea" with a good lob bowler. The efforts of the Gloucestershire batsmen to play Jephson were ludicrous; and by these lobs three of them were bowled and a fourth easily stumped. "W.G." took two hours to get his 51; he played admirable cricket and his manner of placing the ball against a fine field was worthy of his younger days. Wrathall, Mr Sewell and Murch all played pretty well; but after the first wicket had gone the match seemed always an easy one for Surrey.

As had been expected, Mr Key, the Surrey captain, in the morning gave Abel a chance of running to the much-longed-for 100, and then closed his innings. Abel and Mr Jephson had added together 256 runs for the fifth wicket when the closure was put in force. Jephson hit 24 fours in his dashing 166 - by far the best thing he has ever done for the county - but Abel's batting was marked by wonderful steadiness. He never took any liberty with the bowling and was always content to wait for the loose ball from which to score.

One of the most gratifying things to Surrey cricketers is the return to form of Lockwood, who in this match certainly bowled with all his old sting. Seven or eight thousand people were present at the finish and the weather in the last two hours was very bright.

30 May: ESSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4976.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 May, page 9)

The slowness of the scoring on the Essex ground at Leyton yesterday may have occasionally made the cricket seem dull to the large element of Bank Holiday folk in the crowd of 10,000 spectators, but to good judges of the game, capable of appreciating the skill required in getting runs on a pitch helpful to bowlers, it was a sterling day's play.

Essex were batting from midday until a quarter to 5 for their score of 228. Mr H G Owen, the captain, set his side a fine example by the thoroughness of his batting. He had one life late in his innings, but he made 51 out of the 77 recorded before the second wicket fell.

The great feature of the day was the batting of Mr McGahey. He varied his careful defence with some very fine drives; but the bowling required a lot of watching and Mr McGahey was now and then beaten by a ball that just missed the wicket. When he was at last brilliantly caught at point he had been in two and a half hours and his best hits were five fours and five threes.

Mr Lucas made two or three fine off-drives during his brief stay, and Mr Bull, the last man, developed a fine capacity for cutting. The Leicestershire fielding was bordering on the slovenly and two catches were dropped by Mr Wood. Before the light had grown too bad for cricket Leicestershire had made 45 runs at the cost of one batsman.

Wednesday 1 June, page 9: THE ATTENDANCES AT THE ESSEX GROUND, LEYTON

It was officially announced, yesterday, that the attendance of the public who paid for admission on Whit Monday was 10,724, figures which beat all previous records for cricket at Leyton.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 June, page 9)

There was no play either at Lord's or Leyton yesterday owing to the rain storms. The scores thus remain as already detailed in The Times . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 June, page 9)

The wet weather prevented any cricket yesterday in the following matches, and they were therefore drawn in the positions already set out in The Times . . . Essex v Leicestershire, at Leyton . . .

30 May: HAMPSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4977.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 May, page 9)

In meeting Derbyshire yesterday, at Southampton, Hampshire lacked the services of Captain Wynyard, Captain Quinton and Major Poore, three of their most dangerous run-getters, and gave a disappointing exhibition, having all the worst of the afternoon's play. Fine weather had prevailed at Southampton on Saturday and Sunday, but last week's rain had so saturated the ground that until the last hour yesterday the ball came along very slowly and runs were hard to obtain.

Under the conditions that prevailed it was no advantage to go in first, but the Hampshire men in being dismissed for 141 had largely themselves to thank, three wickets being literally thrown away owing to bad judgment in running. The innings of the team lasted just over two hours and 35 minutes, the only good batting being shown by Webb, Mr Steele, Mr Heseltine, Mr Hill and Mr Bennett. Derbyshire tried six bowlers, Davidson being by far the most effective.

At the start of the Midland county's innings play was very slow and the bowling wanted careful watching, but after 53 runs had been scored for the loss of three wickets Chatterton and Storer got together and put an entirely different aspect on the game. Scoring with great freedom and making a number of fine strokes, they added 155 runs in an hour and three-quarters before, just on time for drawing stumps, Chatterton was bowled off his pads. His beautifully played 93, which extended over two hours and ten minutes, included 11 fours, three threes and 13 twos.

Storer when ten and 48 respectively should have been stumped, but on the whole his cricket compared very favourably with that of Chatterton. The score at the close stood at 208 for four wickets, so that Derbyshire, with six batsmen to be got rid of, already hold a lead of 67 runs. The weather was always dull but 5,000 spectators put in an appearance.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 June, page 9)

The Hampshire cricketers yesterday at Southampton gave a much better exhibition than they had done in the previous afternoon, but they could never recover the ground they had lost, and after a long and eventful afternoon's cricket were defeated by Derbyshire by the substantial margin of ten wickets. Derbyshire, who never gained a single success in the championship competition last year, well earned their victory, but they might have been pressed much harder had the Hampshire fielding been up to its usual standard.

Rain delayed the resumption of play until ten minutes past 12, and afterwards there were two stoppages of ten minutes each, but the weather became bright and pleasant in the afternoon. The attendance only numbered about 500, many people probably being kept away by the one-sided character of the game. At the drawing of stumps on Monday Derbyshire had, against their opponents' total of 141, scored 208 for the loss of four batsmen, being thus 67 runs ahead with six wickets to go down. As it turned out these six wickets put on 116 in an hour and a quarter, the total being carried to 324.

Storer increased his overnight score of 79 to 104 and was the [sixth] out at 256. He gave two chances of stumping and might also have been run out, but, on the whole, his innings was one of great merit. It extended over nearly two hours and a half and included 13 fours, six threes and eight twos. A creditable score of 53 not out was made by J Wright, who in the course of 50 minutes made his runs by nine fours, two threes and singles.

Going in a second time against a majority of 183, Hampshire fared very badly for a time, losing four wickets for 60 and having seven men out for 118. At that point, however, a great improvement took place, Mr Steele hitting with much vigour and receiving excellent assistance from Baldwin. During their partnership the two men put on 62 runs in half an hour. Mr Steele's 62, the result of an hour and a quarter's brilliant batting, included ten

fours, three threes and three twos. In the early part of the innings Webb played finely for 58, a score which included five fours, four threes and eight twos.

Derbyshire were left with 34 runs to get to win, and the number was easily obtained by Messrs L G Wright and Evershed in the course of 20 minutes' cricket. The winning hit was made at half-past 6.

30 May: LANCASHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4978.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 May, page 9)

Owing to heavy rain yesterday at Manchester only 25 minutes' cricket was possible in the first match of the season between these counties. This Whit Monday fixture is usually one of the most attractive on the Lancashire programme, and even amid the most depressing surroundings close upon 6,000 people ventured up to the ground.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 June, page 9)

So far the weather has been most unfavourable for the match at Manchester between Lancashire and Kent. On Monday only half an hour's play was possible and yesterday progress with the game was limited to an hour and a quarter. On the opening day 14 runs were scored by Lancashire without loss, and yesterday rain prevented any cricket until after lunch.

Shortly after 4 o'clock a storm burst over the ground and put an end to the day's play, stumps being pulled up shortly after 5. During the time the players were in the field Lancashire on a very slow wicket fared badly, adding 24 runs and losing three batsmen, all of whom were bowled by Alec Hearne.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 June, page 9)

The wet weather prevented any cricket yesterday in the following matches, and they were therefore drawn in the positions already set out in The Times . . . Lancashire v Kent, at Manchester . . .

30 May: MIDDLESEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4979.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 May, page 9)

Middlesex, which is generally one of the last of the counties to open the cricket season, began its first match in the county championship yesterday at Lord's. As in former years, Somerset had been given the Whitsuntide fixture.

Additional interest was lent to the match as the proceeds are to be devoted to G G Hearne's benefit. Hearne first played for Kent in 1875 and joined the ground staff at Lord's two years later. In 1890 his long services to his county were rewarded by the Kent committee setting apart on his behalf the match against Surrey in the Canterbury week. By an arrangement with the Middlesex committee, the club are giving him this match as a fitting tribute for services rendered to that body. At one time he was one of the best all-round players in Kent, and many good judges aver that he was too soon discarded by the county.

Both teams were strongly represented, although Middlesex were without Mr A J Webbe and Albert Trott, the latter of whom has not yet recovered from the injury he sustained to his right hand at Cambridge. Mr Stoddart made his first appearance in first-class cricket since his return from Australia. Somerset again played Gill, who bowled so well against Oxford University.

The feature of the day was the brilliant batting of Mr F A Phillips and Robson, who between them made no less than 144 out of a total of 194. Their performance was all the more noteworthy as the remaining nine batsmen could only score 37 between them. Mr Phillips, who with cut and drive proved equally proficient, played very pretty cricket. He was batting an hour and 40 minutes and hit 11 fours, three threes and three twos.

Robson, although lacking the finish of Mr Phillips, hit with great vigour and played an invaluable innings for which he was batting an hour and 20 minutes, and included in which were one 5, eight fours, five threes and five twos. He ran more risks, but both played the forcing game to great advantage, which undoubtedly was the right game under the circumstances, as the pitch was on the soft side.

There was very little of note in the Middlesex innings, as Rawlin and Mr Ford, who, as usual, hit very hard, were the only batsmen to offer much resistance to the bowlers. Tyler, who did not go on until 72, came out with the best analysis, taking four wickets for just over six runs apiece.

Somerset started in very unpromising fashion, as in Rawlin's first over both Mr L C H Palairet and Mr W N Roe were dismissed without a single run having been scored. With Mr Hill and Mr Phillips together the total was taken to 32, when Mr Hill fell to a beautiful catch in the long field by Mr Head right on the boundary.

Two additional wickets soon went down and half the side were out for 39. But on Robson joining Mr Phillips the game took a decided turn in favour of the batsmen and runs were put on at a great pace. Both Webb and Mr Bromley-Davenport came in for severe punishment and during the partnership, which lasted 65 minutes, 123 runs were added. Mr Phillips was sixth out at 162. Robson eventually ran himself out, through a misunderstanding with Mr Fowler, Mr Bromley-Davenport returning the ball from cover-point to the wicket-keeper. After his dismissal the innings was soon brought to a close.

Middlesex went in at 25 minutes to four, but soon lost three good wickets, Mr Warner, Mr Stoddart and Mr Hayman being out for 11 runs. Mr Head stayed with Rawlin until the score was 48, when he was bowled. Mr Ford soon hit up 22 before he was caught in the long field by Mr Phillips in Tyler's first over; while for the addition of another 11 runs Dr Thornton was caught at 83. Shortly afterwards Rawlin's useful innings was brought to a close, for he was caught at short-leg by Mr Hill, who ran from slip. Mr Bromley-Davenport was then badly missed by Mr Woods at third man, but directly after sending up the 100 Mr MacGregor was

beautifully caught by Robson at the second attempt from his own bowling. The innings closed for the addition of 13 runs.

Having a useful lead of 80 Somerset had about 25 minutes' batting when rain stopped play at 20 minutes past 6. They are now 115 runs to the good with eight wickets still in hand. The number of people who paid at the gate was 11,371, so that, including ticket-holders and members, there must have been close on 15,000 spectators. G G Hearne ought therefore [materially to] benefit from the day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 June, page 9)

There was no play either at Lord's or Leyton yesterday owing to the rain storms. The scores thus remain as already detailed in The Times . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 June, page 9)

The wet weather prevented any cricket yesterday in the following matches, and they were therefore drawn in the positions already set out in The Times:- Middlesex v Somerset, at Lord's . . .

30 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4980.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 May, page 9)

Following the precedent of last year, when William Gunn was given as his benefit one-half of the takings of the Whitsuntide match with Surrey, the Notts County Club this season agreed to present William Attewell with a similar proportion of the receipts of the one game which nowadays draws a large company to Trent-bridge.

The match was duly commenced yesterday, and although, unfortunately, scarcely any cricket was possible after lunch, the meeting between two such old rivals proved a great attraction and nearly 10,000 people were present. Attewell's subscription list is, fortunately, very good, so that it seems probable that he will receive a substantial sum as a reward for his 17 years' splendid service as a bowler to Nottingham.

Surrey had the luck to win the toss yesterday, and made very good use of their opportunity, running up a score of 111 for the loss of only one wicket. Brockwell, who went in first with Abel, was dismissed at ten, and subsequently, with Abel as Hayward's partner, the bowling was so good that only 29 runs were made in the first hour. Afterwards the character of the play underwent a complete change, runs coming so freely that at lunch time the total had reached 100. There was only ten minutes' cricket afterwards, rain setting in at 3 o'clock, and, though the players waited until after half-past 5 in the hope of further cricket, no more play was possible.

Both Abel and Hayward played exceedingly well, the only blemish in either innings being a bad stroke by Hayward in the slips when he was 18. Dench is kept out of the Nottinghamshire team by an attack of influenza, and Holland appears in the Surrey eleven instead of Baldwin, who injured his hand last Saturday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 June, page 9)

Rain at Nottingham yesterday not only prevented any cricket in the match between Notts and Surrey until a quarter to 4 in the afternoon, but, setting in again shortly after 5 o'clock, limited the time during which the players were in the field to an hour and 25 minutes.

In this period, however, Surrey fared exceedingly well, increasing the score of 111 for one wicket, which they had made when the weather turned wet on Monday, to 201 for five wickets. Hayward (65) and Abel (44) were the not-outs, and they added 24 runs to the overnight total before a good ball disposed of Abel for an admirable innings of 51. The partnership for the second wicket, extending over two hours and a quarter, had produced 125 runs.

Crawford did not get a run, and Holland, although he assisted to raise the score from 139 to 186, was somewhat lucky. Hayward, after playing splendid cricket for three hours and a quarter, was dismissed by a catch from mid-off for 126. He might, when 13, have been taken at cover-slip, and yesterday at 119 he was palpably missed at forward short-leg, but otherwise his innings, which included 14 fours, six threes and nine twos, was a display of the highest skill.

Directly Hayward was out the rain came on again and, after waiting for more than half an hour without the slightest prospect of further cricketing, stumps were pulled up shortly before 6 o'clock. Considering how long the commencement of play was delayed, a fair number of people witnessed the game.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 June, page 9)

The wet weather prevented any cricket yesterday in the following matches, and they were therefore drawn in the positions already set out in The Times:- Nottinghamshire v Surrey, at Nottingham . . .

30 May: SUSSEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4981.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 May, page 9)

There was some curiously uneven cricket at Brighton yesterday in the first match of the season between these counties, Gloucestershire making a remarkably good start and afterwards breaking down so badly that before the drawing of stumps the team lost all their advantage. The game, as usual, proved a great attraction with the Brighton public, the attendance being well up to the average. Perhaps the piece of cricket that most delighted the spectators was the tremendous hitting of Mr Gilbert Jessop.

After some rain in the morning the ground was slow and heavy before luncheon, the bowlers being able to get some work on the ball and making good use of their opportunity, but after the interval, when the wicket had dried, runs came at a much more rapid rate. In an hour and 50 minutes' play before luncheon Gloucestershire, who won the toss, scored 77 runs for the loss of two wickets, Dr W G Grace being kept so much on the defensive that it took him an hour and a half to score 36 out of 48.

On the resumption there was some cricket of a totally different character, Mr Townsend playing with great skill and judgment and receiving capital assistance from Wrathall and Mr Jessop. Indeed the partnership between Mr Jessop and Townsend yielded 43 runs in 20 minutes.

At a quarter-past 4 the total had reached 187 for four wickets and Gloucestershire looked like leaving off in a favourable position, but a shower of rain stopped the game for half an hour and on the resumption matters took an entirely different turn. The last six batsmen were actually dismissed for the addition of 42 runs, and at 25 minutes to 6 the side were all out for 228. Mr Jessop scored six fours and four twos in his 36, while the chief figures of Mr Townsend's admirable 60 were seven fours, three threes and three twos. Bland was by far the most successful bowler for Sussex.

The light was becoming defective when Sussex went in to bat, but Mr Brann and Marlow played exceedingly well, scoring 49 runs in 35 minutes, and with all ten wickets to fall Sussex are now within 179 runs of their opponents.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 June, page 9)

Despite the boisterous weather and the frequent showers which interrupted the progress of this match at Brighton yesterday, the cricket was always bright and interesting, and the attendance proved much larger than might have been expected. There were several delays, extending in all over 75 minutes, but for all that a good deal of progress was made with the match.

At the drawing of stumps on Monday Sussex looked to hold a strong advantage, their score standing at 41 for no wicket, against Gloucestershire's total of 228; but, at the outset yesterday, there was nothing at all exceptional about the batting, and though Mr Brann, Marlow, Mr Murdoch, Vine, Mr Newham and Killick all reached double figures, the sixth wicket went down at 141. At this point the chances looked in favour of Gloucestershire leading on the first innings, but the last few batsmen, playing with excellent vigour and determination, put a very different appearance on the game and actually added 165 runs.

Parris and Cox added 45 in 25 minutes for the seventh partnership, and afterwards Cox and Butt scored 114 in rather over an hour for the eighth, the hitting being exceptionally brilliant. In this way the Sussex total was carried to 306, or 78 to the good. Cox, in the course of an hour and 25 minutes, made 61 by four fours, fours threes, 11 twos and singles, while Butt, who was in just over an hour for 69, not out, hit eight fours, four threes and two twos. Neither man gave a chance until just before the close. The most successful bowler for Gloucestershire was Mr C L Townsend, who, up to yesterday, had been altogether ineffective this season.

In the last hour of the day Gloucestershire scored 79 for the loss of one wicket, Mr Sewell playing in particularly fine style for his 49. As will be seen from the score below, Gloucestershire are now one run ahead with nine wickets to go down.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 June, page 9)

At Brighton yesterday a tremendous storm broke over the ground shortly before 1 o'clock and so saturated the wicket that no further progress could be made after that hour with the match between Sussex and Gloucestershire. Overnight the game had been left in a fairly even condition, Gloucestershire, who were 78 runs behind on the first innings, having at their second attempt fared so well that, with only one man out, they had cleared off the arrears and were one run to the good.

A lot of rain fell during the night, and the wicket yesterday when the game was proceeded with in threatening weather gave the bowlers a good deal of assistance. Bland proved so difficult that in 35 minutes he disposed of Board, Townsend and Troup for the addition of only 15 runs. At that moment, of course, the visitors were in a very anxious position, but during the next half an hour the cricket underwent a great change, Jessop hitting so hard that he made 37 out of the 51 scored before rain put a stop to the day's play.

At that point Gloucestershire's score had reached 145 for four wickets, so that with six wickets to go down they were 67 runs to the good. Stumps were pulled up at half-past 4 and the game was abandoned as a draw.

30 May: YORKSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4982.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 May, page 9)

At Leeds, yesterday, on the first occasion of the Yorkshire eleven being seen within the limits of the county this season, rain caused two long interruptions, and at the drawing of stumps the progress made with the match had merely resulted in Warwickshire scoring 187 for the loss of nine batsmen. This was a performance upon which the Midland team could scarcely be congratulated, for the ground was in fairly good condition, and after the showers the Yorkshiremen laboured under the disadvantage of a wet ball.

At the start there was some very slow cricket by Bainbridge, Walter Quaife and Diver, the third wicket falling at 52. Then came an excellent stand by Lilley and William Quaife, who, in a little more than an hour and a half, put on 98 runs for the fourth wicket. Lilley, who is batting consistently well this summer, was seen to great advantage in scoring his 62, the only blemish in it being a sharp chance at the wicket when 12. William Quaife, as usual, played very carefully, being at the wickets nearly two hours for his 28. After the partnership for the fourth wicket came to an end the visitors' batting broke down so badly that with eight men out the score was only 161.

Mr F S Jackson is not playing for Yorkshire, Moorhouse filling the vacancy, while Hopkins, despite his success against Lancashire on Saturday, is displaced in the Warwickshire eleven by Forester. There was a large attendance of spectators, the official figures being given at 11,956.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 June, page 9)

At Leeds, yesterday, the weather was so unfavourable that the match between Yorkshire and Warwickshire was only in progress for 35 minutes. No commencement could be made until 20 minutes to 1, and after ten minutes' cricket a shower caused an interruption of more than half an hour, while rain fell so heavily shortly before 3 o'clock that, despite the sunshine an hour afterwards, the wicket was found to be quite unfit for further play, stumps being drawn for the day at half-past 4.

During the little while the players were in the field, the Warwickshire innings, in which on Monday 187 runs had been obtained for the loss of nine wickets, was finished off for 218. Devey and Lord, the not-outs, gave the Yorkshire bowlers a good deal of trouble and altogether put on 34 for the last wicket before the former was dismissed by Wainwright. The Warwickshire innings came to an end at ten minutes to 2, and as already stated no further play was possible. Of the five Yorkshire bowlers tried Rhodes, the new addition to the team, was by far the most successful.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 2 June, page 9)

Leeds yesterday escaped the rain that so interfered with cricket on most of the other important grounds where matches were to be played, and the game between Yorkshire and Warwickshire went on without interruption under pleasant conditions from ten minutes past 11 until a quarter to 6. However, despite the large amount of progress made, it was impossible to arrive at a definite conclusion, the match in the end having to be left drawn.

Still there was plenty of interest in the cricket and it afforded evident enjoyment to over 5,000 spectators. Rain had so curtailed the early stages of the contest that up to the drawing of stumps on Tuesday only one innings had been completed, Warwickshire's total amounting to 218. With the ground certain to afford the bowlers assistance there was just a chance that Warwickshire might get their opponents out twice and so snatch a victory, but when Yorkshire averted the follow-on a draw was almost inevitable.

Brown and Tunnicliffe made a good start for Yorkshire, putting on 43 runs for the first wicket in 65 minutes, but a sad error of judgment in running cost Brown his wicket, and after this matters went so badly that the score only reached 78 when the seventh batsman left. Two more wickets fell at 96, and a chance of running out Hunter was not taken advantage of. Had this been taken Yorkshire might have had to fight hard to save the match. Lilley made a blunder at a critical moment, but apart from this his wicket-keeping was brilliant in the extreme. He made three catches; did not allow a single bye; and helped to run out two batsmen.

Yorkshire's total amounted to 112, so that Warwickshire entered upon their second innings with a lead of 106 runs. In their attempts to force the hitting the Warwickshire batsmen lost five wickets in getting 50 runs before the closure rule was put in force.

An hour and 50 minutes remained for play when Yorkshire went in with 157 to get to win, but as the ground by this time had vastly improved there was little prospect of the Warwickshire bowlers getting their opponents out in time to win the match. As it turned out, they were far from achieving this object, Brown and Tunnicliffe playing so finely that they had scored 85 runs without loss when the game was given up at a quarter to 6. It should be mentioned that stumps were drawn a quarter of an hour earlier than had been agreed upon when it had become absolutely certain that no result could be arrived at.

30 May: SURREY SECOND ELEVEN v LANCASHIRE SECOND ELEVEN

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/99/99530.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 31 May, page 9)

The famous Surrey Second Eleven, who have not been beaten for five years, had considerably the worst of the play at the Oval yesterday against the Lancashire Second Eleven.

This result was chiefly due to the batting of Paul, an old first eleven man, and the good all-round play of Mr Stoddart. The latter, besides scoring 39 not out, was responsible for the fall of Surrey's six wickets. At the close of play Surrey were 140 runs behind with four wickets in hand. There was a good attendance.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 1 June, page 9)

The famous Surrey second eleven were most probably indebted to the weather for their escape from defeat in the match which was left drawn yesterday on the Oval. They had gone in a second time and had lost six wickets for 72, while their arrears were still 55 when rain put an end to the game.

The most remarkable thing in the match was the feat performed by W B Stoddart, who took the whole ten wickets in the Surrey first innings for 75 runs. Stoddart is a right-hand slow bowler with a fine leg break and an excellent length.

2 June: ESSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4983.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 June, page 9)

The cricket hours at Leyton yesterday were brief; but in the 140 minutes that play was possible such was the progress in the match that Essex ran through an innings of 78 and Yorkshire lost three wickets for a mere eight runs.

After all the rain there was, of course, a bowler's pitch, and the only game to adopt was really to hit. It might have been thought that at first the ball would cut through the soft surface, but the start was delayed too long to allow of this, and from the very first the ground was helpful to the bowlers. Carpenter adapted himself to the circumstances at once and was very successful until a wonderful piece of fielding at mid-off by Hirst cost him his wicket, and McGahey too made some good hits. But as a whole the Essex eleven failed as the best eleven might have failed under the circumstances, and were out in less than two hours.

From the time that he was at Harrow and subsequently during the development of his game in his Cambridge days Mr F S Jackson has been a great cricketer; and yesterday he showed that he could bowl with as much skill as ever. He started the bowling and got five wickets, and except for a good many snicks his analysis would have been much better than the excellent record of five for 46.

Since they lost Robert Peel, Yorkshire have been very fortunate in the discovery of a new and native county bowler, of the type of Peel and the great Edward Peate, in Rhodes, who again came off yesterday. He varies his slows with an occasional fast one, and the ball with which he bowled out Mr Turner yesterday was remarkable alike for its pace, length and break. His analysis speaks for itself. Rhodes has met with a great run of success for a first year man; but the turf has been mostly kind to him and he has still to win his spurs on a good hard ground.

When it came to Yorkshire's turn to bat there were only twenty minutes of the cricket day left; but in this time there was a wonderful right-hand catch at short slip by Mr Kortright and an almost equally fine catch by Carpenter at short-leg, and these with Tunnicliffe's playing on led to what may be termed an even position at the close of the day. The fact may be recalled that Essex twice beat Yorkshire last year, once by a single run at Huddersfield, and that Essex have already defeated Surrey this year. Thus is the interest keen in the match and a large company yesterday waited until nearly 4 o'clock for the beginning of the game.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 June, page 13)

The fine batting of Denton and Wainwright at Leyton in the first half-hour of yesterday morning's cricket not only rescued Yorkshire from the bad position of Thursday night, but placed them in a position that almost commanded success. Such is the uncertainty of cricket, however, that although the Essex total was passed with only five men lost, Yorkshire at one time looked like finishing with many fewer than 40 runs ahead on the first innings.

The secret of the change was soon apparent. First of all, the pitch rolled out well; but at the end of half an hour the hot sun began to bake the surface, and Mead's fine length and spin, and Bull's slows, ruined Yorkshire's chances of a very big lead on the innings; indeed, had it not been for Mr F S Jackson, Yorkshire would have fared badly. He went in at the fall of the fourth wicket for 56 and took out his bat for an innings that was of far greater value than its mere numerical strength as set out in the record of runs.

Before he arrived on the scene Denton and Wainwright had made the most of their opportunities while the ball yet came along at all easily, and their partnership of 53 in 35 minutes for the fourth wicket was full of good cricket. Denton is a very fine bat and some

of his cuts and drives yesterday were beyond praise, while the fine stroke on the leg side by which he sent a ball from Bull out of the ground was very good.

At the beginning of the Essex innings the Yorkshiremen were kind to Mr Owen, who had two lives from the first two balls of the innings. But few chances were subsequently thrown away. Essex had an uphill fight on a bad pitch; but as often happens under such conditions, their batsmen made many false hits. For a long time the home side did well, and during the Lucas and Turner partnership there was every promise of their securing a winning position. Four wickets had gone for 90 when the stand of the innings occurred, and for nearly an hour and ten minutes Mr Lucas and Mr Turner played sound cricket. Neither of them seemed to like Rhodes's fine length slows with their mixed pace and break. The batsmen were separated at 149, and the other five wickets went for 19 runs. Hirst bowled well and hit the stumps three times.

When Yorkshire went in to get 129 to win Bull bowled out Brown, and unless the wicket mends there should be some interesting cricket this morning. With a blustering wind blowing the fielding was as a whole not up to the usual standard; but from this general remark Hirst, of Yorkshire, must be excepted. With his left hand at mid-off he saved a great number of runs, while the catch with which he got out Mr Turner was one of the best incidents in the match. There was also a remarkable catch by Mr Lucas at mid-on, when he held a hard drive low down with his left hand. Between 6,000 and 7,000 persons visited the ground yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 June, page 9)

The Essex eleven were beaten on Saturday at Leyton by three wickets; but Yorkshire owed their victory more to the generosity of the Essex fieldsmen in the second innings than to any particular skill on their own part in batting on a false pitch. The Essex fielding on Saturday was lamentable. Six easy catches were dropped, and even under such a handicap as this the county was beaten by only three wickets. To miss such fine batsmen as Mr F S Jackson and Tunnicliffe is ruin to any side; the catches were not difficult but went slowly to the fieldsmen, and yet were unheld.

Saturday's cricket hours were brief; but the play was quite unworthy of the first two days. The batting, with the exception of Denton's, was bad, and the fielding worse; and it is questionable whether in a great match so many errors have ever occurred in a fourth innings. With the wicket cut up and false, the mis-timing of the ball was excusable, and it may be laid down that Essex deserved to lose. In fact, the Yorkshire eleven seemed to have victory thrust on them. Only 129 runs were necessary to win, and these were secured, but over 60 of them were made by men after they had received a life.

The best thing by far in the rather unsatisfactory cricket was the courageous batting of Denton, who went in at the fall of the third wicket at 38 and made 40 out of 49. He cut splendidly, and among other strokes of his there was a leg hit out of the ground from Bull and a five from a short ball which he hooked away to leg from Mr Kortright. Denton is certainly one of the best bats in the Yorkshire eleven. Tunnicliffe was the backbone of the side in this innings. He went in first and was last out; he had some luck, being missed at 10, but he kept the side together, and there was only admiration for his steadiness during the two and a half hours that he took to make his 44.

Mr Bull missed three catches, Mr McGahey one, Mr Kortright one and Russell one - all at critical points of the game. This victory of Yorkshire has an important bearing on the county championship, for they have now won three matches and drawn two, both of which were spoiled by rain, whereas Lancashire, last year's champions, Surrey and Essex have now been once beaten. Saturday's result has given further importance to the match between Yorkshire and Surrey, which begins to-day at Bradford.

2 June: LANCASHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4984.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 June, page 9)

The rain storms prevented any cricket in the following matches, which were to have begun yesterday:- Manchester.- Lancashire v Hampshire.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 June, page 13)

On a wicket rendered soft and difficult by the recent heavy rains considerable progress was made yesterday at Manchester with this match, an innings being completed on each side, and the northern county gaining the valuable lead of 85 runs.

No cricket was possible on Thursday, and yesterday the ground was not pronounced fit until just after 11 o'clock. Had the sun shone out with any power, probably the bowlers would have carried everything before them, but as it was the ground dried gradual under the influence of a strong wind and steadily improved as the afternoon wore on. Under these circumstances it was no advantage for Mr Robson to win the toss, but on doing so he did not care to take the risk of putting in his opponents.

Hampshire's start was disastrous, five wickets going down for 34 runs, and even this state of things should not have been so good, for three chances were missed. When matters were at their worst Mr Steele hit pluckily for 20, while after the fall of the eighth wicket at 65 Barton and Baldwin put on 45 runs in half an hour.

Lancashire's innings was of an uneven character, the score being 141 before the third wicket fell, while the last seven batsmen were dismissed for the addition of 54. Ward and Paul made a good start, scoring 64 for the first wicket, and Ward, who was the second man out at 82, took an hour and 50 minutes to obtain his runs. Some attractive cricket was witnessed on the part of Tyldesley and Cuttell, who in less than three-quarters of an hour put on 59 runs, but after Tyldesley's departure the character of the game changed.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 June, page 9)

Only one over was bowled on Saturday at Manchester before rain caused the match to be abandoned . . .

2 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4985.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 June, page 9)

Although the weather was very showery yesterday at Leicester, rather more than three hours and three-quarters' cricket was found possible in the first match of the season between Leicestershire and Surrey, and on a pitch considerably affected by rain a good deal of progress was made, 14 wickets going down in the course of the afternoon for 194 runs.

Surrey had to take the field without Mr D L A Jephson, Hayward and Baldwin, and were consequently placed at a disadvantage. Hayward had contracted a cold at Nottingham and Baldwin had not recovered from the injury to his knee, received in the match against Gloucestershire last Saturday at the Oval. Leicestershire had about their full strength.

Surrey went in first, and though runs were always difficult to obtain the innings lasted just three hours, the total reaching 158. The chief credit of this performance rested with Brockwell, who went in first and carried out his bat for 76. His batting on the whole was remarkable under the conditions that prevailed, but he had one great piece of luck, being badly missed at cover point before he had made a single run. Later on, however, his cricket was irreproachable and Surrey would indeed have fared badly without him. His chief hits were four fours, eight threes and seven twos. Pougher and King were the most successful of the Leicestershire bowlers.

Rather more than three-quarters of an hour remained for cricket when Leicestershire went in to bat, and during this time matters went so badly that four good wickets fell to Lockwood's bowling for 36 runs. As the game stands now, therefore, Leicestershire with six wickets in hand are still 122 runs behind their opponents. This state of things on a soft wicket naturally leaves Surrey with a big advantage.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 June, page 13)

The weather allowed of only a couple of hours' cricket at Leicester yesterday. In this time the home side lost three more batsmen and increased their overnight score from 36 to 102. The play was dull and uninteresting.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 June, page 9)

Unsettled weather at Leicester on Saturday made a draw almost certain before lunch, but with a little more time Surrey would doubtless have gained a victory. So much rain fell before 2 o'clock that Leicestershire at that hour had only been able to increase their overnight score of 102 for seven wickets to 122. But afterwards play proceeded without interruption.

The innings soon closed for 134, and then Surrey increased their lead of 24 runs to 104 for the loss of three wickets, and closed their innings. Abel and Brockwell forced the game as much as possible and secured 47 for the first wicket, but Leicestershire only had 50 minutes' batting. In that time, however, they lost five wickets for 27 on the treacherous pitch. Lockwood and Lees both bowled splendidly.

2 June: MIDDLESEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4986.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 June, page 9)

The rain storms prevented any cricket in the following matches, which were to have begun yesterday:- Lord's.- Middlesex v Gloucestershire.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 June, page 13)

Great progress was made with the match at Lord's yesterday, for during the day 23 wickets fell for 277 runs, or an average of just over 12 runs a wicket. After all the rain that had fallen during the last few days it was apparent that the pitch was in favour of the bowlers.

Of this Mr C L Townsend took full advantage, and none of the Middlesex batsmen, with the exception of Mr P F Warner, could play his bowling at all. But for sending down a good many loose balls his analysis would have been much better. As it was he achieved a wonderful feat in taking nine wickets for just over five runs apiece. He also caught the remaining batsman from Roberts's bowling; it was an excellent catch, for he had to run from slip to fine short-leg and took the ball low down with the left hand.

Mr Warner, who carried his bat through the innings, played very good cricket and his 46 not out is all the more worthy of note as the rest of the side could do almost nothing. He was in an hour and a half and scarcely made a bad stroke, except when he was missed by Mr de Winton at 41; but this was the only mistake. Apart from Mr Warner and Mr Head the remaining nine batsmen only added 13 runs between them, while five of the side entirely failed to score. Mr Hayward and Mr Stoddart were dismissed by the first two balls in the match, the former being bowled by a full pitch.

When it came to Gloucestershire's turn J T Hearne bowled remarkable well; but with rather bad luck. Still, he took seven wickets for just over seven runs each, an analysis which speaks for itself. There was very little worth mentioning in the batting. Board hit hard, but should have been caught by Mr Philipson when 17 had been scored, while Wrathall was missed twice from consecutive balls with his score at 8. All these lives were off Hearne's bowling. The longest partnership in the innings was when Mr Brown and Board were together, the score being taken from 43 to 86.

When Middlesex went in a second time the brightest batting was shown by Mr Stoddart and Rawlin. Owing to a shower, play had been delayed for 40 minutes, and this made the pitch much easier and they were able to put on runs at a fair pace. Rain came on again, and the game was stopped at 10 minutes past 6 with Middlesex 49 runs on and seven wickets still in hand, so that the game is left in a very interesting position.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 June, page 9)

Gloucestershire gained a well-merited victory over Middlesex at Lord's on Saturday by eight wickets, a much more decisive result than was at one time expected. Friday's play had left the game at a most interesting stage, for Middlesex in the second innings were 49 runs on with seven wickets in hand.

But the remaining batsmen, on an improved pitch, with the exception of Mr Stoddart, gave a very poor display against the bowling of Mr Townsend and Murch. Mr Townsend again bowled remarkably well, and in the match took 15 wickets for just under nine runs apiece. He has not bowled so well perhaps since his famous year of 1895, when he was more talked about than any amateur bowler since A G Steel's days.

The feature of the Middlesex innings was the batting of Mr Stoddart, who showed all his old skill, and during the two hours that he was at the wickets did not give a semblance of a chance. Throughout he played very sound and attractive cricket, some of his off-drives

especially being good. He hit ten fours, three threes and six twos. With the exception of Rawlin, who added 11 to his overnight total, he could get no one to stay with him. Again the scoring was most uneven, seven batsmen being responsible for only ten runs between them, which, to say the least of it, was a very moderate performance for so strong a batting side as Middlesex.

When Gloucestershire went in to get 126 to win, the pitch had almost entirely recovered and probably played easier than at any other period of the game. If there had been any doubt of their achieving their object it was soon dispelled. With plenty of time before them, however, the batsmen did not run the least risk, and three hours were necessary before the match was won. Dr W G Grace set a good example to his side by playing a sound defensive game, and he received excellent support from Mr De Winton and Mr Troup.

2 June: SUSSEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4987.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 June, page 9)

The rain storms prevented any cricket in the following matches, which were to have begun yesterday:- Eastbourne.- Sussex v Somerset.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 June, page 13)

A fine innings of 118 was played at Eastbourne yesterday for Sussex by Mr George Brann. Reverting to the brilliant style of play which first made him famous in the Sussex eleven, he scored 100 out of 161 in two hours and 20 minutes, and was batting altogether for just under three hours, the Sussex total when he left - sixth wicket down - being 190. His chief hits were 18 fours, five threes and seven twos. Thanks to his splendid play, Sussex had a lead on the first innings of 69 runs, but in the last quarter of an hour of the afternoon this was reduced to 51, Mr V T Hill and Mr Stanley making a good start when Somerset went in for the second time.

Mr Woods in winning the toss in the morning was in doubt what to do, and as it turned out he gained nothing for his side by taking first innings, the ground after luncheon improving rapidly.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 June, page 9)

After a most exciting afternoon's cricket Somerset defeated Sussex at Eastbourne on Saturday by 108 runs. The victory was almost entirely due to the efforts of Mr S M J Woods, who not only scored 143, but when a draw seemed certain got rid of three of the last five Sussex batsmen at a cost of ten runs. This piece of bowling by the old Cambridge captain absolutely won the match, as half an hour before time Sussex had five wickets to fall, and at the end there were ten minutes to spare.

Though the weather was again beautifully fine and the wicket had largely recovered, Mr Woods deserved great credit for his wonderful innings, the merit of which may fairly be gathered from the fact that during the day the next highest score was 36. Going in first wicket down at 36, he hit with such vigour that in two hours and a quarter he scored 143 runs out of 173, his strokes including 18 fours, eight threes and 11 twos. He left at 209, and after a brief stand by Trask and Nicholls the batting broke down so badly that the whole side were out for 287. Mr Woods's only chance was a catch to Cox in the slips when 36.

When at 6 o'clock Sussex, who required 219 to win, had scored 83 for five wickets in an hour and 20 minutes they seemed safe; but then came the startling bowling of Mr Woods which settled matters, and Somerset gained a sensational victory, for which they were heartily cheered by the crowd. Mr Brann and Mr Newham both played finely, but some of the men attempted forcing tactics which were quite useless and only helped the visitors to win. Tyler again took five wickets, which made his record for the match ten for 108.

2 June: WARWICKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4988.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 3 June, page 9)

The rain storms prevented any cricket in the following matches, which were to have begun yesterday:- Birmingham.- Warwickshire v Kent.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 4 June, page 13)

After a whole afternoon lost to rain the first match of the season between these counties was begun yesterday at Birmingham, and on a wicket affording the bowlers assistance a good deal of progress was made with the game. Though the weather in the morning was bright and fine the ground was not pronounced fit until 1 o'clock, and from that time until the finish the match went on without interruption.

Warwickshire found run-getting a matter of such difficulty that though they were at the wickets nearly three hours and a quarter their total was only 112. William Quaife played a remarkable defensive game, stopping a lot of fine bowling and remaining in two hours and a half for his 44.

About an hour and a quarter remained for cricket when Kent went in to bat. After a promising start an extraordinary change was brought about by the colt Hopkins, who went on to bowl at 25. The young professional met with such startling success that before the call of time five Kent wickets had fallen - all of them to his bowling - for 62 runs. In addition to keeping a fine length he got a lot of work on the ball. So far he has taken five wickets at a cost of only ten runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 6 June, page 9)

The weather prevented any cricket at Birmingham on Saturday and this match was abandoned . . .

Friday 3 June, page 9: COUNTY QUALIFICATION

The M.C.C. have not yet appointed a committee to deal with the question of county qualification, the replies of some of the counties to the first circular sent out having been rather late in coming to hand. The county committees have now been requested to favour the M.C.C. with their opinion as to whether the existing county qualification requires (1) greater stringency or elasticity; and (2) whether amateurs and professionals should be treated alike.

THE PROPOSED VISIT OF THE AUSTRALIANS NEXT YEAR

In connexion with the proposed visit of the Australian team next year the M.C.C., if requested to do so, in the interests of cricket, by a majority of the counties, will agree to control the arrangements for the test matches.

6 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4989.html)

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

There were 12 players on each side in the match which commenced yesterday at Cambridge. The fixture, however, lost some of the importance which ought to have belonged to it, for the M.C.C. team was unusually weak in batting. Heavy rain set in about 11 o'clock and it was not until just upon 3 that a start could be made.

Of the seven old Blues available at Cambridge this year the only one absent yesterday was Mr G L Jessop. Mr C E M Wilson (the captain) and Mr de Zoete reappeared after having been kept out of recent matches by accidents, and Mr Marriott and Mr Fernie were seen on the side for the first time this season. Mr Fernie has been suffering from a badly injured hand.

Winning the toss, Cambridge went in first, and up to a certain point seemed likely to do very well on the wet ground. So excellent a stand was made by Mr Burnup and Mr Winter that while together they put on 104 runs for the third wicket. Mr Burnup was steadiness itself, taking an hour and a half to get 22, but Mr Winter hit out with the utmost freedom, scoring with ten fours, six threes and ten twos in his brilliant 86, which occupied only an hour and a quarter. After the two batsmen were separated, the game completely changed in character, the last eight wickets falling before the bowling of Davidson and Roche for 35 runs.

Twenty minutes remained for play when the M.C.C. went in, and in that time one wicket was lost, Mr Worthington running some little distance from long-on and making a wonderful catch.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 June, page 13)

Some interesting cricket was seen at Cambridge yesterday. In face of Cambridge's score of 147 the M.C.C. had on Monday lost one batsman for ten, and on going on with their innings yesterday morning they found it such a hard matter to get runs that when their last wicket went down the total had only reached 102.

Mr C W Wright played with great patience for an hour and 40 minutes; Mr Bardswell took 40 minutes to make 12; and Davidson in playing his little innings of 19 was at the wicket while 24 overs were delivered. Mr de Zoete made a successful reappearance as a bowler after his accident last month, taking four wickets at a cost of only 23 runs, and Mr Winter at the close bowled his lobs with such effect that three wickets fell to him for two runs.

On Cambridge going in for the second time a splendid start was made by Mr Burnup and Mr Worthington, who scored 81 before they were separated, both playing admirable cricket. Mr Burnup was batting altogether for an hour and a half and, except for a hard chance in the slips when he had scored 37, made no mistake of any kind. The later batsmen, however, did not follow up with any success the excellent example that had been set them and, with Mr Wilson unable to go in, the innings was finished off for 156, Thompson taking five wickets for 16 runs.

The M.C.C. were left with 202 to get to win, and had lost one wicket for 11 runs when time was called.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 June, page 11)

After a fine finish at Cambridge yesterday the University beat the M.C.C. by 17 runs. With 202 set them to get in the last innings, the M.C.C. at the close of Tuesday's play had lost one wicket for 11 runs. On starting again yesterday morning they fared rather badly, and when their fourth wicket fell the score had only reached 60.

Then, however, a remarkable change came over the game, Davidson and Mr Bardswell putting on 89 runs. When Mr Bardswell left the chances seemed all in favour of the Club, but the

position underwent another alteration, three more wickets being quickly lost. Davidson was batting three hours for his innings of 93, the chief hits in which were five fours and 12 threes. The two remaining wickets did not add a run, Mead being caught off the first ball he received, while Mr Lewis was soon bowled.

The victory was mainly due to the good bowling of Mr Hawkins, who took seven wickets at a cost of only 45 runs. He is to play for Cambridge to-day against Surrey.

6 June: KENT v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4990.html)

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

Since their return home the members of Mr Stoddart's Australian team have shown that they have lost none of their cricket. Jack Hearne has carried all before him in bowling; and hundreds have been scored by Tom Hayward, Storer and Mr J R Mason.

It was Mr Mason's turn at Gravesend yesterday in the match against Gloucestershire; and although the new Kent captain has done many fine things for his side he never played better than he did yesterday, when Kent achieved a great batting feat. Since he made his mark in the Winchester eleven Mr Mason, with his free style and the capacity to make the most of his fine stature in an easy position at the wicket, was always a great batsman for the spectators; and yesterday he found himself on an easy and slow wicket and opposed by very poor stuff in the bowling line.

From the time he went in he played a brilliant forcing game, getting most of his runs in front of the wicket, chiefly on the off-side by the drive, and making in all 152 out of 265 in three hours and a half. Towards the finish he tired a little and his timing of the ball grew uncertain; but the closest observers of his batting had nothing but excellence to record of his play. He got his 100 out of 149 in rather more than two hours. Mr Mason has certainly celebrated his election to the captaincy of the county by some wonderful batting for Kent.

Mr Mason's partner yesterday while 211 runs were being added for the third wicket was Mr W H Patterson, the famous old Oxford batsman. Mr Patterson is not much known to the present generation of cricketers; but he is a great bat and his fine finish in strokes all round the wicket yesterday could only create the regret that he is not more seen in these days of big county cricket. On the slow and simple pitch of yesterday the Gloucestershire bowlers were extremely easy to play and when once the second wicket had gone at 54 there never seemed much chance of getting anybody else out.

The Gravesend pitch made a wonderful recovery from the morning's heavy rain, and after luncheon the ball came along as easy as possible. This is Gravesend's only Kent match this year, but the arrangements for the large company and other important offices in connexion with the match were well carried out under the direction of the local secretary, Mr W G O Willcocks.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 June, page 13)

The cricket at Gravesend yesterday was extremely interesting; and in the end Gloucestershire were left in the midst of a severe uphill fight, for with half the side gone they were still 95 runs behind the number necessary to save the follow-on.

In the early hours of the day the Kent score fell far short of the dimensions promised by the position of things on Monday night. The eight outstanding wickets were got down for an addition of 120 runs. The Mason and Patterson partnership was quickly severed, and both batsmen were out in the first ten minutes. They had been together rather less than three hours and in this time had put on 213 runs. Mr Mason played a fine forcing game and hard driving was the best characteristic of his innings; whereas Mr Patterson, who was always a batsman of many strokes, showed perhaps nicer judgment in his cutting and his general back play. This three hours' cricket of theirs was particularly enjoyable, for in it were to be had all the fine points of the game. Some vigour by Mr Weigall and Martin preceded the close of the Kent innings.

Then in the last three hours and a half of the day Gloucestershire played their soundly defensive game. The Kent bowlers kept a fine length and were difficult to hit; but Mr Mason had a bad blunder when he dropped a catch at short-slip that gave Dr Grace a life before luncheon. The champion had then made only four. Even in his 50th year Dr Grace is a

dangerous bat to trifle with; and so yesterday, after his escape, he gave the field no other chance for three hours and a half. In this losing game Dr Grace had a lot of fine bowling to play; but he never lost a run and placed the ball between the fieldsmen with all his old skill. He was fourth out at 165, caught from a "kicking" ball to which he was playing forward.

Perhaps the feature of the day was the stand of Dr Grace and Mr Sewell, who were together from 4 o'clock until a quarter past 6, and added in this time 121 runs. Mr Sewell played a splendid game all round the wicket, and in one instance he drove a ball from Martin out of the ground - an extremely fine hit. Towards the close Gloucestershire had rather a bad time, for while 150 had gone up with only two men out Alec Hearne went on and got three more wickets at a cost to himself of only 12 runs. There were several thousand spectators and the weather was brilliant.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 June, page 11)

After three afternoons of good batting and fairly interesting cricket, the match between Kent and Gloucestershire at Gravesend had last evening to be given up as a draw. With pleasantly fine weather prevailing a numerous company assembled on the Bat and Ball ground, but the play distinctly suffered in interest from the fact that directly Gloucestershire had averted the follow-on it became practically certain that no definite result could be arrived at. Indeed in the last hour or so the game proceeded in tame fashion, and no one seemed sorry when the end was reached.

At the drawing of stumps on Tuesday Gloucestershire, against Kent's total of 385, had scored 171 for the loss of five wickets. Consequently 95 runs were still needed to save the follow-on. Two more wickets went down for the addition of 18, but Messrs Rice and Brown settled all doubts that might have existed, giving a fine display of cricket and putting on 70 runs in rather less than an hour. The innings came to an end at five minutes to 1 for 273, or 112 to the bad.

Kent, at their second attempt, made an unfortunate start, Alec Hearne failing for the second time in the match, but Mr Mason and Easby, by some free and vigorous hitting, scored 62 in about half an hour. From that point, however, the batsmen went on very steadily, never attempting to force the game, and it occasioned some surprise that Mr Mason did not put the closure rule into force earlier than he did. It was not until five minutes past 4, when the total had reached 143 for three wickets, that the innings was declared closed.

Gloucestershire were left with 256 to get to win and, as a brief shower prolonged the interval until half-past 4, only an hour and a half remained for play when the western team went in a second time. It should be mentioned that an arrangement had been agreed upon to begin yesterday at 11 o'clock and draw stumps at 6. Before time was called and the match given up as a draw Gloucestershire had obtained 67 for the loss of three batsmen . . .

6 June: MIDDLESEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4991.html)

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

The weather again greatly interfered with the cricket at Lord's yesterday, and only some three hours' play was possible. The wicket was not sufficiently dry to allow of a start before 25 minutes to 4; but Notts gave a very creditable display on the soft pitch. Shrewsbury, who was batting nearly half an hour before he scored, played in his usual finished style, not taking the slightest liberty, and although rather tedious to watch, his placing on the leg-side was as good as ever. Altogether he was at the wickets for nearly two hours.

The most attractive innings, however, was that of Mr Dixon. From the first he met all the bowlers with equal confidence, and the feature of his batting was his splendid play on the off-side, both the cut and drive being equally well executed. He hardly made a bad stroke until just before the close of his innings, when Mr Bromley-Davenport missed him at cover-point, his score then being 52, while a run later Mr Philipson had a possible chance of stumping him. But these mistakes hardly detract from his excellent display. He hit six fours, three threes and seven twos.

Gunn, after beginning none too well, also played good cricket and scored much faster than usual. He was dismissed by a well-judged catch in the long-field by Mr Warner. Mr A J Webbe, the Middlesex captain, made a welcome reappearance in the team, while Dench was able to play for Notts. When the Notts total was 76 Webb, who was bowling at the time, had to leave the field through indisposition.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 June, page 13)

When the game was resumed at Lord's yesterday Nottinghamshire followed up their excellent batting display of the previous day on a soft wicket by gaining a very substantial advantage, which should enable them to secure a victory to-day.

It should be stated that Middlesex so far have had decidedly the worst of the wicket, for when they went in to bat the sun had affected the pitch and made it very treacherous. Of this Attewell took full advantage and bowled splendidly, taking seven wickets for just three runs apiece. Throughout he kept a beautiful length and proved very difficult to play, the batsmen having to act entirely on the defensive, for he was enabled to get a considerable amount of spin on the ball. Towards the close of the innings Attewell received valuable support from J Gunn, who, going on to bowl at 73, secured two wickets without a run being scored from him.

Overnight Nottinghamshire had lost half their side for 150, but the remaining batsmen gave considerable trouble and added 87 runs. There was nothing of note in their batting, however. Attewell soon hit up 23, while Pike made several good strokes on the leg side from Rawlin. Mr Bromley-Davenport proved most successful with the ball, taking three wickets for just under seven runs each. Webb had no sufficiently recovered from his indisposition to bowl, although later he went in to bat.

With Middlesex in it soon became apparent that runs would be difficult to get, and at no time during their innings, which lasted two hours, did they look like saving the follow-on. Going in a second time with a deficit of 156 they gave a better display, as the pitch after the rolling played a little easier.

The best partnership was that between Mr Ford and Mr Stoddart, who put on 57 runs. Mr Stoddart, who was missed at slip before he had scored and again at the wicket later, played entirely a defensive game for a time while Mr Ford scored the runs, but after being in 20 minutes for two he made a very fine hit off Daft's bowling, the ball dropping in the balcony of the pavilion. But for their mistakes Nottinghamshire would have been in an even more

favourable position. As it is Middlesex at the close of play were still 47 runs behind with six wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 June, page 11)

After being in an almost hopeless position Middlesex, yesterday, at Lord's, succeeded in playing a drawn game with Nottinghamshire. For this result they were largely indebted to the weather, as the rain made the pitch play very easy in the closing stages and the bowlers had to bowl with a greasy ball, while dropped catches had a considerable bearing on the game, and had the chances been accepted Nottinghamshire would probably have won.

Mr Stoddart was missed at slip before he had scored, and this proved a very serious blunder, but he gave several other chances before completing his 50. After these strokes of fortune, however, he settled down and played in quite his old form, driving on both sides of the wicket with equal power, while he made some beautiful strokes to leg. In fact it was a masterly display of good all-round cricket and proved of the greatest service to his side. Altogether he was batting for three hours and three-quarters, and his 22 fours, four threes and nine twos.

He received valuable assistance from Mr Webbe at a critical period, as half the side were out for 118. Mr Stoddart had then scored 28, but during a partnership of two hours and a quarter 141 runs were added. It must be pleasing to all lovers of the game that so keen a cricketer as Mr A J Webbe should have so materially assisted his side on his reappearance in the team, as it was entirely due to this partnership that Middlesex were saved from defeat.

The only other point of note in the innings was the catch by Mr Jones which dismissed Mr Bromley-Davenport. Mr Jones took the ball high up, with his right hand, on the boundary. Dench, who was not tried until 256, was the most successful bowler. He took three wickets for just over six runs apiece.

Only some 35 minutes' play was possible before lunch. At ten minutes past 12 the light was too defective for cricket, but rain shortly coming on prevented the game from being resumed before 20 minutes to 3, and later there was another interval of 45 minutes. As there was no chance of bringing the game to a definite conclusion, the stumps were pulled up at the close of the Middlesex innings just before 6 o'clock.

6 June: YORKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4992.html)

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

The match at Bradford yesterday could not be begun on account of bad weather . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 June, page 13)

Full compensation was found at Bradford yesterday for the fact of the opening day of the Surrey and Yorkshire match having been a blank. Though the sun only shone at intervals, play went on without interruption from rain from 20 minutes to 12 until half-past 6, and between these times considerable progress was made, Surrey playing an innings of 139 and Yorkshire scoring 142 for eight wickets.

The fortunes of the match fluctuated in a remarkable way, Surrey, though they left off with a trifle the worst of the position, holding at two points of the afternoon a very decided advantage. With the probability of the wicket's becoming more and more treacherous as the day went on, it was much in their favour to win the toss, and at lunch time their score stood at 100 with only four men out.

Abel and Brockwell opened the innings by scoring 42 together in rather less than an hour, but after Brockwell, who had given a chance to Hirst at mid-off, was bowled the game underwent a change, Hayward, Baldwin and Mr Jephson being got rid of in such quick succession that at the fall of the fourth wicket the total was only 56. Mr Jephson was brilliantly caught and bowled by Wainwright - high and wide with one hand from a very hard return. After he left Mr Key became Abel's partner, and the most attractive batting of the day followed. Abel's batting, though he sometimes seemed in difficulties, was watchfulness itself, and Mr Key made some splendid drives, one of which pitched on the roof of the cricket pavilion.

After lunch three wickets fell at 111, Mr Key being caught at deep point, Street caught at slip and Abel easily stumped. There was nothing in the rest of the batting, except a little resolute play by Lees, and at 20 minutes to 4 the innings terminated.

Yorkshire's innings opened in quite a sensational fashion, Lockwood bowling Brown in his first over and getting Mr Jackson caught by the wicket-keeper in his second. Tunnicliffe and Denton made things look better, but five wickets were down for 44 runs. Then, however, there came some fine, steady batting Hirst surpassing himself and finding excellent supporters in Moorhouse, Rhodes and Haigh. Moorhouse, staying in for 50 minutes, helped Hirst to put on 26 runs for the sixth wicket, this partnership being the turning point of the innings. Hirst and Rhodes afterwards added 27 for the eighth wicket, and towards the close of the afternoon Hirst and Haigh batted with such determination that just before the drawing of stumps Surrey's total was passed without further loss.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 9 June, page 11)

There has been nothing half so remarkable in cricket this season as the finish at Bradford yesterday of the Yorkshire and Surrey match. From the state of the score overnight - Surrey, first innings, 139; Yorkshire, 142 for eight wickets - it seemed certain that the game would be closely fought out to the end, but so superbly did the Yorkshiremen play, that at a quarter-past 4 the match ended in their favour by an innings and 121 runs. There were 10,000 people on the ground and the result, as may be imagined, made them very enthusiastic.

It would be difficult to say whether Yorkshire's batting before lunch or their bowling afterwards was the more admirable. Hirst, not out, 45, and Haigh, not out, 19, went on batting soon after half-past 11, and obtained so complete a mastery that it was not until five minutes to 2 that they were separated, the total in the course of two hours and 20

minutes being increased to 297. When at last Haigh fell to a catch at slip Lord Hawke declared the innings closed.

The partnership of the two batsmen began on Tuesday afternoon with the score at 105, and thus produced in all no fewer than 192 runs, the full time occupied in obtaining this number being two hours and 50 minutes. The play was the more creditable, as the wicket yesterday was still rather soft and might have been expected to help the bowlers. Curiously enough, however, Lockwood alone among the Surrey men seemed difficult. Only two real mistakes occurred during the long stand, Haigh being nearly caught and bowled when he had made 47 and Hirst at 83 gave a rather awkward chance to Brockwell at deep square leg.

Haigh, in his 85 - the highest score he has ever made for Yorkshire - hit nine fours, one three and eight twos, while Hirst's great innings of 130 not out included 11 fours, ten threes and 11 twos. Hirst's defence for two hours on Tuesday was mainly instrumental in saving Yorkshire from disaster, and yesterday, as the score gradually rose, he hit with the utmost vigour and judgment. It is quite safe to say that he has never played more finely.

After lunch the Yorkshiremen were in such a happy position, that, while they had an excellent chance of winning the match, there was no possibility of losing it. Sunshine during the interval affected the ground to some extent, the ball coming off the pitch more quickly than it had done in the morning, but for all that no one was prepared for the collapse of Surrey that followed. Wainwright and Rhodes shared the bowling, and from the first they seemed almost unplayable. In less than an hour and a half the innings was finished off for the paltry score of 37.

Wainwright got rid of Brockwell, Hayward and Baldwin, these three wickets going down for ten runs, and the last seven wickets fell to Rhodes. An even more ignominious total than 37 seemed at one time in prospect, for at the fall of the ninth wicket only 23 runs had been scored. Then, however, Mr Key and Richardson contrived to put on 14 runs together, Richardson being very lucky in the fact that several balls from Wainwright that beat him missed the wicket.

It was altogether an astounding termination to the game. Whatever the difference in the condition of the ground after luncheon, it was not sufficient to account for the change in the cricket. To five players belonged the honours of Yorkshire's triumph - Hirst and Haigh for their batting, Rhodes and Wainwright for their bowling, and Hunter for his wicket-keeping. Rhodes and Wainwright took between them the whole 20 wickets, Rhodes obtaining 12 for 70 runs and Wainwright eight for 53, while Hunter stumped six batsmen and caught two others.

6 June: SURREY SECOND XI v GLAMORGANSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/96/96981.html)

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

In this match at the Oval yesterday, Surrey made 157 and Glamorganshire 53 and 42 (for two wickets). The feature of the day was the bowling of Kersley for Surrey. Kersley, who kept a fine length and with his medium pace got a good break from the off, took six wickets for six runs. He has been on the Oval ground staff some two or three seasons, but by birth he is of Kent. Mr V F S Crawford was the highest scorer for Surrey with 53.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 8 June, page 13)

After outplaying their opponents from start to finish, the Surrey Second Eleven at Kennington Oval yesterday gained a fine victory over Glamorganshire by nine wickets.

The competition at present stands as follows:-

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

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "One point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have in finished matches obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

9 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4993.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 June, page 11)

At Cambridge, yesterday, the cricket went very much more in favour of the bowlers than one is accustomed to see on the University ground in fine weather, 15 wickets going down in the course of the afternoon for 201 runs. The appearance of the Surrey eleven proved a great attraction, there being a capital attendance in the afternoon and the progress of the game being followed with keen attention.

Surrey made three changes from the team so badly beaten by Yorkshire at Bradford, Smith, Marshall and Mr V F S Crawford playing in the places of Lees, Wood and Street. For Cambridge, Mr C E M Wilson, the captain, and Mr A E Fernie did not appear, but Mr G L Jessop and Mr A T Coode once more assisted the side.

Winning the toss, Surrey went in first, and their innings, without presenting any remarkable features, lasted just three hours, the total amounting to 136. Even this number would have been reduced had the Cambridge fielding been up to its usual standard, three distinct chances being missed when two wickets had fallen for three runs. Abel and Baldwin, by some good batting, put on 65, but each man was missed. Mr Jephson rendered Baldwin useful assistance, but after the luncheon interval there occurred a complete breakdown, the last six wickets going down for the addition of 30 runs.

Mr Jessop and Hind bowled with startling success, and Mr Stogdon did some capital work, bringing off three catches at slip. Mr Jessop did better as a bowler than in any previous match this summer, his six wickets being obtained at a cost of 45 runs.

The Cambridge men had rather less than an hour and a quarter's batting towards the close of the afternoon, and fared so badly against Lockwood and Smith that five good wickets fell for 65. Mr Winter put some life into the game just before the end by hitting Lockwood for four fours and a five. As will be seen from the score below Cambridge with five wickets to go down are still 71 behind their opponents' total.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 June, page 14)

So much rain had fallen in Cambridge on Thursday night and during the early hours of the morning that no cricket could take place yesterday until just after 5 o'clock, the actual time of play being therefore reduced to less than an hour and a half. The rain ceased about 1 o'clock, but the ground being in such a saturated state it was allowed some four hours to dry before the umpires announced the conditions fit for cricket. Even while the game was in progress the wicket was very slippery and the Cambridge men found it hard to make runs on the heavy ground.

Against Surrey's total of 136 the University had scored 65 for the loss of five wickets, and yesterday this number was increased to 109 before the innings closed. Mr Winter, who had hit so brilliantly on the previous evening, was soon dismissed, and the best batting yesterday was shown by Taylor, Hind and De Zoete. Smith signaled his reappearance in the Surrey team by taking five wickets at a cost of 41 runs, while Lockwood dismissed four batsmen for 45 runs. As will be seen from the appended score Surrey hold a lead of 27 runs on the first innings.

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

There was some eventful play on Saturday afternoon at Cambridge on a wicket rendered soft and treacherous by heavy rain. The Surrey men gave a capital account of themselves at all points and beat Cambridge University in handsome fashion by 102 runs. The progress of Friday's cricket had been much curtailed and at the drawing of stumps only an innings had been got through on each side, with Surrey leading by 27 runs.

After some capital bowling by De Zoete and Hawkins, five of the best Surrey wickets went down on Saturday for 49 runs. From this point, however, the character of the game changed, Mr Key playing with splendid nerve and judgment and receiving most valuable assistance from Mr Jephson, Smith and Richardson. Both the Surrey captain and Richardson hit very freely, but the latter was twice let off in the field. The Surrey total amounted to 160, which left Cambridge with 188 to get to win.

With the ground affording the bowlers much help, this proved to be a task far beyond the powers of the University. Mr Burnup played sound cricket, being at the wickets nearly an hour and a half for 30, while Mr Taylor also showed good form, but the others could do next to nothing against Smith, Lockwood and Richardson, the side being all out for 85. Frank Smith, the left-hand medium-pace bowler, again proved most effective, taking six wickets at a cost of 34 runs. This gave him a record for the match of 11 for 75.

9 June: ESSEX v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4994.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 June, page 11)

The Essex eleven were batting throughout yesterday at Leyton, but their rate of scoring was rather slow. Nine wickets were lost in rather more than five hours in making 307 runs.

Mr Owen, the captain, and Carpenter put on 140 before the first wicket fell; and then seven of the side had gone by the time the score reached 230. The record was improved by the 70 minutes' partnership of Mr Lucas and Russell, who added 72. The finest cricket of the day was shown by Mr Owen and Mr Lucas. Mr Owen made some superb strokes on the leg-side and was always extremely happy in dealing with a short ball. As for Mr Lucas, nothing could have been better than his timing of the fine-length bowling, and his mastery of the ball revived memories of his great cricket days at Uppingham and Cambridge.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 June, page 14)

The wicket became very false at Leyton yesterday, and Warwickshire, in going in against the big Essex score under bad conditions, had a terribly uphill game to play. F G Bull's slow bowling was very difficult to meet, while Walter Mead's medium pace and fine length were equally effective against Warwickshire.

Diver made a lot of big hits; but the best batting of the day was certainly that by W G Quaife, who was in for an hour and a quarter - namely, between the falls of the second and sixth wickets at 20 and 103. He has already won some fame on London grounds for his steady cricket, particularly at the Oval - it was against Surrey that he really made his mark as a county player - and yesterday his batting was characterized by his usual fine back play.

Warwickshire followed on, and to-day they have yet arrears of 203 to face with eight wickets left. There was no play at Leyton yesterday before half-past 1; but the weather became very fine towards the close of the afternoon.

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

There was never any doubt as to the result of the match at Leyton on Saturday, and shortly before half-past 3 Essex had won by an innings and 34 runs. This was a much more decisive victory than at one time seemed likely, H W Bainbridge, W G Quaife and Lilley playing so well that at lunch time the overnight score of 29 for 2 wickets had been carried to 170 for six. Then only 53 of the arrears of 232 against which Warwickshire had had to follow on remained; but as it proved the remaining wickets realized only 19 runs.

Mr Kortright, who previously had taken three of the four wickets which had fallen, was the cause of this collapse, and his bowling proved quite the feature of the match. On a wicket that had become much faster under the influence of the summer weather, Kortright proved even more deadly than F G Bull had done on the slow pitch of Friday. Bowling very fast, he rarely sent down a bad length ball, and the excellence of his work may be shown by the fact that on four occasions he terminated a useful stand. After lunch his bowling was quite sensational, the last four wickets falling to him at a cost of only seven runs, while altogether he took seven of the last eight wickets and only had 60 runs hit from him.

Following a partnership of 45 minutes by H W Bainbridge and W G Quaife, Lilley played admirably. He made his 58 in an hour and 50 minutes quite faultlessly and hit four fours, four threes and six twos. It is worthy of note that this is the first defeat Warwickshire have suffered in the county championship this season.

9 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4995.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 June, page 11)

Delightful weather was experienced at Bristol yesterday, and a large number of people watched the cricket at the county ground, Ashley Down. They had good reason to be satisfied with what they saw, the Gloucestershire eleven, who had the luck to win the toss, giving a very fine display of batting. They went in just after 12 o'clock, and when the time came for drawing stumps had scored 321 for the loss of only three wickets. The pitch was in capital condition and every batsman who went in did well.

A wonderfully good start was made by Dr Grace and Mr Rice, who in the course of two hours and 20 minutes scored 106 for the first wicket. They were very cautious in their methods, only 85 runs being obtained before luncheon, but as to the quality of their play there could not be two opinions. Dr Grace was the first out, a catch at the wicket sending him back for 63. His fine innings, quite free from mistakes, included two fours, five threes and four twos.

Mr Rice left in the next over, but after this Mr Troup and Mr Sewell obtained so complete a mastery over the Notts bowling that their partnership for the third wicket produced 162 runs. At first neither batsman was quite at his ease, but after a time the cricket was admirable. Mr Sewell played much more freely than his partner, and when once set was seen at quite his best. His cutting was especially good, but not till his innings was somewhat far advanced did he do much in the way of driving. He only took an hour and three-quarters to get his 108.

Mr Troup, who was playing a good, steady game, found another excellent partner in Mr Townsend, and at the call of time these two batsmen were still together. The Notts fielding was good but the bowling looked rather harmless.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 June, page 14)

The Gloucestershire eleven succeeded at Bristol yesterday in carrying their overnight score of 321 for three wickets to 634, this being the highest total they have ever obtained. The long innings came to an end at 6 o'clock, having lasted altogether ten hours and 50 minutes. It was a remarkable achievement, but one cannot help suggesting that the Gloucestershire players would have given themselves a better chance of winning the game if they had been content with a score of about 500 and finished their innings earlier in the afternoon. Their last 100 runs were clearly superfluous.

Mr Troup and Mr Townsend, the not-outs of Thursday, were separated yesterday just after the luncheon interval, their partnership for the fourth wicket having produced 225 runs. Out of this number Mr Townsend, who was the first to go, made no fewer than 134 - an exceptionally good innings, which lasted three hours and a half and included ten fours, eight threes and 19 twos. So far as was noticed, he gave only one chance, and that not till his score had reached 127.

Mr Troup, who had gone in first wicket down on Thursday with the score at 106, was out ninth at 609 - no fewer than 503 runs being thus made during his long stay. He was in eight hours and ten minutes for his 180 - so far the highest individual score of the season in first-class matches. He hit 11 fours, 15 threes and 18 twos and, except for a chance in the slips off Daft's bowling when he had scored 176, his wonderfully careful display was quite free from fault. Towards the close of Gloucestershire's innings Murch hit with a good deal of vigour. Attewell had to do a lot of bowling, being on for nearly three hours without a change, and it will be seen that he took six wickets at a cost of 143 runs.

After their long outing Notts went in for a few minutes, and had scored two runs without loss when stumps were drawn. There was again a capital attendance.

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

With the wicket at Bristol in excellent condition there was never much chance of finishing this game on Saturday, for the Gloucestershire bowlers were not likely to get out Notts twice in one day. And so Notts easily saved the game. Mr Dixon, Mr Jones, Shrewsbury and William Gunn all batted excellently, and their steadiness placed the result of a draw beyond question before the luncheon hour.

9 June: KENT v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4996.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 June, page 11)

On the Private Banks' Ground at Catford yesterday Kent gained a decided advantage over Sussex in the opening day's play, for, after dismissing Sussex for the small total of 151, they made 103 without loss, and are now only 48 runs behind with all their wickets in hand. To some extent they have to thank the Sussex fieldsmen for being in so favourable a position, as Mr Mason was twice missed. When he had made 30, Mr L de Montezuma failed to hold a very easy catch in the slips, while in the last over he gave a chance to Tate in the same position.

Kent are playing Mr E A C Druce, the Cambridge senior, and Mr B D Bannon, who still has a chance of gaining his Blue at Oxford this year; but Mr Marchant is absent, while Sussex are practically at full strength.

Owing to rain a start was not made until ten minutes past one, but in the 50 minutes' batting before lunch, during which 61 runs were made without loss, Sussex gave promise of a good score, as both Mr Brann and Marlow were playing very confident and attractive cricket. But when the game was resumed the pitch for a time did not play nearly so easily and the bowlers held the upper hand. Martin, going on at 94, proved very successful, taking four wickets for six runs each.

The scoring was uneven, as Mr Murdoch, Mr Brann and Marlow between them made 118. Mr Murdoch's steady innings proved of the greatest value to the side. He was batting for an hour and a half without giving a chance, and hit seven fours. Mr Brann and Marlow both displayed good form in their responsible styles, for whereas Mr Brann made most of his runs by drives and leg strokes, Marlow's chiefly came from cuts. Mention should be made of Mr Druce's fielding at slip, for he brought off three good catches.

When Kent went in, with an hour and a half left for play, Alec Hearne batted excellently and scarcely made a bad stroke; and, while playing a patient game, he did not fail to hit the loose balls. Mr Mason, apart from the chances alluded to, also showed very good form.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 June, page 14)

Rain greatly interfered with the second day's play in this match on the Private Banks' ground at Catford. The pitch was not sufficiently dry to admit of a start being made before ten minutes past four. But during some two hours and 20 minutes' cricket Kent considerably strengthened their position, and are now 101 runs on with six wickets still in hand.

Again was the Sussex fielding at fault. Mr Mason received two additional lives, Bland missing him at mid-off when he had scored 68 and Killick at extra cover-point at 74, making four chances in all, while Mr Brann failed to hold an easy catch from Mr Bannon when 24.

The best cricket yesterday was shown by Alec Hearne, who continued to play very steadily. He met all the bowling with equal confidence and during his stay at the wickets of three hours and 50 minutes was seldom in difficulties. He received valuable assistance from Mr Bannon, and between them the score was increased by 71 runs during an hour's partnership, of which Mr Bannon's share was 50. Apart from the chance referred to, Mr Bannon gave an excellent display and hit six fours, two threes and seven twos.

After his dismissal Mr L J Le Fleming, who batted in good form, helped Alec Hearne to add 42 for the fourth wicket before he fell to a splendid catch by Mr Fry off his own bowling. Mr Fry ran more than half way up the pitch and took the ball low down with his right hand.

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

Lack of time prevented Kent from beating Sussex at Catford on Saturday, for at the finish, with an innings to play, they had only 21 runs to make to win.

When the game was resumed A Hearne, after completing his century, and Easby put on runs at a great pace, 48 being added in just over a quarter of an hour. At 310, however, A Hearne's innings ended. Altogether he had been batting four hours and ten minutes, during which he had scarcely made a bad stroke. He hit eight fours, seven threes and ten twos. Easby continued to play very vigorous cricket, and when the total had been raised to 351 without further loss Mr Mason declared the innings closed.

With five hours still left for play Sussex wanted 200 runs to save a single innings defeat, so that their only hope lay in a drawn game. This they succeeded in accomplishing after one or two exciting moments. They were largely indebted to Mr Brann, who was batting four hours and a quarter and was seventh out at 195. He played with great steadiness and had substantial aid from Marlow, Mr Newham and Mr L de Montezuma.

As the innings did not close until 20 minutes past 6, Kent had no time to get the 21 runs required to win the match. The Catford wickets have hitherto had a bad reputation for lasting, but under the care of the veteran George Hearne they have much improved.

9 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4997.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 June, page 11)

Yesterday, at Lord's, Derbyshire established a very big advantage over the M.C.C. After a fine bowling performance by Davidson, who took six wickets for 30 runs, there was some splendid batting by Mr L G Wright and Chatterton. With four wickets in hand Derbyshire are already 152 runs ahead.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 June, page 14)

Derbyshire gained a decisive victory over the Marylebone Club at Lord's, yesterday, by an innings and one run, a result which was chiefly due to the splendid bowling of Davidson, who did the "hat trick" in the Club's second innings, and took 12 wickets in the match for 83 runs.

9 June: YORKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4998.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 June, page 11)

The Yorkshire eleven are in such remarkable form just now that it was not to be expected that Hampshire - with Captain Wynyard and Captain Quinton away - would make much of a stand against them yesterday at Huddersfield. The game, however, proved even more one-sided than might have been expected.

Yorkshire in rather less than three hours and a half ran up a score of 226, and Hampshire, as the result of an hour and a half's batting against Wainwright and Rhodes, could only make 45. This, of course, involved a follow-on, and at the drawing of stumps Hampshire in their second innings had made ten runs without the loss of a wicket.

Yorkshire's innings was started in very brilliant style by Brown and Tunncliffe, who, by dint chiefly of splendid driving, scored 85 runs together in 75 minutes. Tunncliffe was the first out, his innings of 50 - free from anything like a chance - including nine fours and four twos. Mr Jackson, Denton and Wainwright did so little that four wickets were down for 120, but Brown went on playing in capital form till, at 178, he was rather unluckily caught at extra mid-off, one fieldsman knocking the ball up to another. Brown was the sixth man out, his innings of 88 having lasted two hours and 40 minutes. Though at times in difficulties during his first hour, he was entirely himself afterwards, his success, after a run of ill-luck, giving great satisfaction. His innings included 13 fours and 13 twos.

Yorkshire had 200 on the board for seven wickets, but by a quarter past 4 the innings was all over for 226. Tate, a new right-handed slow bowler - born in Hampshire but professionally engaged at Beckenham - made a successful first appearance for his county, taking five wickets for 83 runs.

Of Hampshire's innings there is little or nothing to be said. Webb kept up his wicket for an hour, but no one else could cope with the bowling. Wainwright, with seven wickets for 24 runs, had exactly the same average as Rhodes obtained on Wednesday against Surrey at Bradford. Rhodes yesterday might with advantage have bowled more at the wicket instead of trusting so much to the "off theory."

As the game stands now, Hampshire, with all ten wickets to fall, require 171 runs to avoid a single innings defeat. About 6,000 people yesterday watched with keen interest the fine all-round play of the Yorkshiremen.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 June, page 14)

An hour and a half's cricket proved sufficient at Huddersfield yesterday to finish off the match, Yorkshire winning in the easiest fashion at five minutes past 1 by an innings and 98 runs. The ground was still in a condition to help the bowlers, and Rhodes, Wainwright and Haigh got so much work on the ball that there never seemed the least chance of Hampshire making much of a stand.

As a matter of fact they carried their overnight score of ten for no wicket only to 83, the most productive partnership being that of Messrs Steele and Heseltine who put on 21 runs for the seventh wicket. Before that the best batting was shown by Mr Hill and Barton, who carried the score from 31 to 48, both being out at the latter total. Wainwright, who at the start shared the bowling with Rhodes, hurt his hand slightly in stopping a hard return and at 47 gave way to Haigh. The change proved highly successful, Haigh getting two wickets in his first over and taking altogether four wickets for 21 runs. Rhodes finished up a week of wonderful success by securing four wickets for 35 runs.

The weather was delightfully fine but, the result being inevitable, the attendance was naturally small, only a few hundred people being present.

9 June: SURREY SECOND XI v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/135/135082.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 10 June, page 11)

The Surrey second eleven had the assistance of Lees, Holland and Street in yesterday's match on the Oval. During the afternoon some capital cricket was seen. Northamptonshire batted first, but after a bad start Thompson and Colson came together, and between them carried the score from 30 to 154 before the third wicket fell. Both men made 57 and played throughout in excellent style. Later on Mr Eales hit vigorously, and the total in the end reached 221.

Surrey had a little more than an hour's batting, and in that time made 91 for the loss of three wickets. Hayes was not out at the close with 33. As the game stands at present, Surrey, with seven batsmen still to be disposed of, are 130 behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 11 June, page 14)

Rain curtailed the day's play to such an extent at Kennington Oval yesterday that there never seemed much prospect of finishing this game, and ultimately it had to be given up as a draw. No cricket was possible before 20 minutes to 3. Surrey went on with their innings and raised their overnight score of 91 for three wickets to 189. Hayes made 65 and played throughout in admirable style.

At their second attempt Northamptonshire lost two wickets for 16 runs, but then Thompson and Colson came together and were still in at the close, by which time the score had been taken to 126. Colson was not out 63 and Thompson not out 44.

Friday 10 June, page 11: LORD HAWKE AND THE AUSTRALIAN TEST MATCHES

Lord Hawke has received replies from 11 first-class counties to his letter suggesting that the Marylebone Club should call a meeting of the counties to consider his proposal that next summer the whole control of the test matches should be in the hands of the M.C.C. The replies are all favourable to the idea of a meeting and that the M.C.C. should appoint a chairman. The letters have all been forwarded to the Marylebone Club, who have a committee meeting next Monday.

Saturday 11 June, page 14: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

The Players' eleven for this match at the Oval on Monday will be selected from:- Shrewsbury, W Gunn, Abel, Hayward, Brockwell, J T Hearne, Mead, Storer, Richardson, Davidson, Chatterton and Lockwood.

So far no one can possibly take exception to Yorkshire's position at the head of the counties either on the merits of their cricket or according to any conceivable system of reckoning. Yorkshire's figure of merit reaches the *maximum* - that is, they have won all their finished matches. Essex are second with one point in three finished matches, and this gives them a figure of merit of the value of 3. Below is the record of the competition brought up to date:-

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

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "One point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have in finished matches obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

THE CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY TEAM.- Mr A E Fernie, the Cambridge bowler, who took part in the match against Oxford last year, has been forbidden by his doctor to play cricket again during the present season. Mr C E M Wilson, the captain, who has been suffering lately from a strain, hopes to be able to play against Sussex at Brighton.

13 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/4/4999.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 June, page 12)

On a wicket still suffering from the effects of the heavy rain on Friday, fast bowlers had matters all their own way at Cambridge yesterday. At such a disadvantage were the batsmen placed that 27 wickets fell and only 256 runs were scored.

The policy of putting their opponents in turned out fairly well for Cambridge, but they did not secure such a big lead as might have been expected when the county were dismissed for 72. G L Jessop was mainly responsible for Cambridge leaving off in such a satisfactory position. Bowling unchanged through the first innings he took eight wickets for 34 runs, and in the second he got rid of four men while only 15 runs were hit from him, making his record for the day the remarkable one of 12 wickets for 49.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 June, page 14)

The University beat Hampshire at Cambridge, yesterday, by five wickets, but a much closer finish than this seemed likely when, with 87 runs required to win, five men were out for 36. At that point Mr G L Jessop was joined by Mr G E Winter and the remaining runs were hit off without loss. Mr Jessop's hitting was brilliant in the extreme, his 55 not out only occupying 45 minutes and including 11 fours. his dashing cricket at a critical moment gave his side an easy victory when they looked like being hard pressed, so that altogether he had a very large share in his side's success.

Mr E M Sprott played a capital innings of 56 not out for Hampshire, his chief hits during his stay of two hours and a quarter being one five and five fours.

13 June: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5000.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 June, page 12)

Sides of small pretensions to be described as representative, a keen north-east wind and an absence of sunshine were the conditions against which this match which is fast decaying in popularity had to contend yesterday in its appeal for the continued support of the public. And so it was surprising to find such a large company as six or seven thousand on the Oval for the first day's cricket.

Gentlemen v Players, in these days when the line between amateurs and professionals is so fine, has lost much of its old interest. With most of the leading amateur bowling talent away from the Gentlemen's eleven it was well for the amateurs that they had first innings on an easy wicket, and of this they retained possession nearly the whole of the day. They were kindly treated by the professionals, who dropped sundry catches, or else the record last evening might have read very differently.

The best batting for the Gentlemen, who were in from midday until 6 o'clock, came from Mr Sewell, Mr Murdoch and Mr Jones; and then there were the steady and unattractive innings of Mr Townsend and Mr McGahey. Mr Murdoch's 57 was frequently brilliant, but it was his own fault that he was run out. Mr A O Jones, the old Cambridge blue, who might have been put in earlier with advantage, made the most brilliant strokes of the afternoon. Going in seventh wicket down at 242, he made 49 of the last 59 in a little over half an hour, and he hit ten fours. Lockwood bowled extremely well and had all the catches been held he would have had a far better analysis.

The Players had only 20 minutes left for cricket, and putting in their tail they lost two men before a run was scored, while an easy dropped catch in the slips by McGahey let off Davidson with the record only a single.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 June, page 14)

The cricket at the Oval yesterday showed a strong similarity to that of Monday, with the same unfavourable conditions, the wind still coming keenly from the north-east and there being never a vestige of sunshine. The Players were batting nearly the whole day and managed to get a lead on the innings of 51. At one time the Gentlemen looked like securing a lead on the first innings, and it was only the tenth partnership of 96 by Storer and Lockwood that established an advantage for the professionals.

In the earlier part of the innings Jack Hearne, whose capabilities as a bat are generally underrated, played fine cricket and with Davidson put on 86 for the third wicket. For the fifth wicket there was another long stand by Shrewsbury and Abel, who added 104, and then four more men were out for another 60 runs. Shrewsbury played in his own finished style, waiting mostly for the absolutely bad ball from which to score, while with Abel there was thoroughness without the elegance of style.

The most robust batting of the day was that of Storer's. He got his 86 in about an hour and a half, and hit a five, 13 fours, five threes and a two. Storer always had a fine, clean stroke in the way of the "pull" and, timing the ball yesterday with accuracy, made many a brilliant four. The Oxford man Stocks bowled well and varied his pace with advantage; while among the best things of the day was the fielding of Captain Wynyard, who made an excellent catch at short-slip to get out Brockwell, to say nothing of three other men well caught by him.

The Gentlemen in the closing moments of the day scored 33 of the 51 arrears at the cost of two wickets.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 June, page 11)

The Players beat the Gentlemen at the Oval yesterday by eight wickets. Very little interest was taken in the closing stages of the match, although there was a great improvement in the weather and the sunshine made the surroundings much more congenial for the spectators. The only wonder is that the Gentlemen made so good a fight, for their bowlers had small pretensions to anything like the standard which is usually associated with Gentlemen v Players. In fact, it is doubtful if one of their bowlers would be included in a thoroughly representative side.

Apart from the batting of Dr Grace and Mr Murdoch, the Gentlemen in their second innings gave a disappointing display on a pitch which was still easy, and it soon became apparent that they had no chance of warding off defeat. Dr Grace, who was in nearly two hours for his 50, was the fifth to leave, the total then being 81; and with his dismissal all hopes of making a respectable score vanished. Mr Murdoch played a pretty innings of 33 in quite his best form, and it included some fine strokes on the off side. Lockwood again bowled excellently and proved difficult to play. Throughout he kept a good length and took five wickets for ten runs apiece. Occasionally a ball popped up, but the pitch gave him really no assistance.

Going in a second time with 105 to win, the Players soon lost two wickets; but Abel and Chatterton then found no difficulty in hitting off the runs, the match being over at half-past 4. Chatterton's innings included seven fours.

13 June: WARWICKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5001.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 June, page 12)

In dull, cold weather the return match between Warwickshire and Lancashire was begun yesterday at Birmingham, and though Warwickshire had won the first match at Liverpool there was only a small company present. The day's play went in favour of Lancashire, who after completing a first innings for 208 got down four of their opponents' wickets for 67.

Lancashire began badly, losing Ward and Tyldesley for 18 runs, but then Hallows and Baker made a valuable stand, adding 70 runs in as many minutes. Santall bowled very finely, taking six wickets for 41 runs; but Lynes, the fast bowler from Coleshill, did not meet with any success.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 June, page 14)

Cricket was played at Birmingham yesterday under cheerless conditions, the weather being dull and cold and very few people visiting the Edgbaston ground. The game went all against Warwickshire, who showed to little advantage in any respect.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 June, page 11)

As was only to be expected from the state of the score on Tuesday night the Lancashire eleven beat Warwickshire in the easiest fashion at Birmingham yesterday, their victory being gained by 204 runs.

13 June: YORKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5002.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 June, page 12)

The Yorkshire eleven seem to have a special faculty this season for doing surprising things, and yesterday, at Sheffield, in their match with Kent, they almost surpassed themselves. At something after 4 o'clock they had lost nine wickets for 141 runs, but an extraordinary change then came over the game, Lord Hawke and David Hunter staying together for two hours and in that time putting on no fewer than 148 runs. Hunter was out to a catch at mid-on in the last over of the day, Yorkshire's innings closing for 289.

Lord Hawke, whose success gave the greatest satisfaction to the 8,000 or 10,000 people on the ground, took out his bat for 107 - a really splendid display of hitting. He was at the wickets two hours and 20 minutes - having made 13 when Hunter joined him - his chief hits being 14 fours, four threes and seven twos. Hunter, who for some time was content to keep up his wicket while his captain was hitting, gave a palpable chance in the slips when he had made 25, but otherwise played capital cricket. Included in his 47 were six fours and five threes.

Not often has a day's cricket been marked by a more startling contrast, the Yorkshire batsmen up to the time the ninth wicket fell finding it such a hard matter to get runs that three hours and ten minutes were occupied in scoring 141. Tunnicliffe and Brown opened the innings very well by making 37 together, but for some time after that the only batsman who obtained any mastery over the bowling was Mr Jackson. That admirable cricketer went in first wicket down and was out [seventh] at 126, being caught at third man in reaching out at a ball that was wide of the off stump.

The Kent bowling rapidly declined in quality when Lord Hawke began to hit, and the fielding left a good deal to be desired, a couple of easy catches being dropped and many runs thrown away. The weather was very gloomy, and at one period of the afternoon the light became so bad that play had to be suspended for 20 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 June, page 14)

In the early part of the day at Sheffield, yesterday, the Kent players did exceedingly well and seemed likely to make a capital fight with their formidable opponents, but after the luncheon interval fortune went all against them and at the close of the afternoon Yorkshire held an overwhelming advantage.

Mr Mason and Alec Hearne made an excellent start in the Kent innings, staying together for nearly an hour and a half and scoring 82 runs. Then Hearne, who had played in his best style for 43, fell to a good ball from Hirst, that bowler having only been on for three or four overs. A very clever catch at slip by Tunnicliffe - who overbalanced himself, but managed to keep hold of the ball - soon got rid of Mr Knowles, but Mr Mason found a valuable partner in Mr Bannon and together these two batsmen carried the score from 85 to 134. At this point Mr Mason was caught and bowled for 65. He was batting for two hours and a quarter, among his hits being eight fours, three threes and eight twos. In front of the wicket his hitting was less vigorous than usual, but his play on the leg side was very strong and he made some beautiful cuts.

With only three wickets down at lunch time for 143, Kent had by no means the worst of the match, but after the interval their batting broke down rather badly, the seven remaining wickets falling in an hour and three-quarters for an addition of only 75 to the score. As the game stands now, the Yorkshiremen are 167 ahead with nine wickets to go down.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 16 June, page 11)

At Sheffield, yesterday, the Yorkshire eleven beat Kent by 129 runs. The wicket was so much faster than on the previous days that it was just a question whether Yorkshire would be able to close their innings sufficiently early to leave themselves time to get Kent out.

The Yorkshire batsmen wasted no time, as in just under two hours they increased their previous score of 96 for one wicket to 229 for three wickets, Lord Hawke being thus enabled to put the closure rule in force at 1 o'clock. Tunncliffe played extremely well, his defence being always strong and his off-driving most brilliant. He was batting altogether for three hours and a half, his 108 not out including 13 fours, four threes and four twos.

Kent were left with 301 to get to win and about four hours to get them in. They had not much hope of winning the game, and their best chance of saving it disappeared when Haigh's first ball - a slow one - bowled Mr Mason.

13 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v MINOR COUNTIES

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/114/114698.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 14 June, page 12)

A novelty has been introduced into the Marylebone Club programme this season in the shape of a match between the club and an eleven selected from the counties outside the first-class circle. Although Mr R E Foster and Mr L C V Bathurst were absent, the Minor Counties were strongly represented; but the club had a very weak batting side. Still the day's play left the elevens in a very even position.

There was nothing of special note in the Minor Counties' innings, although Mr F G H Clayton, Mr G E Bromley-Martin, the Oxford Blue, and Thompson batted well. Mr Clayton was at the wickets for an hour, and his 47, made without a mistake, included seven fours.

When the club went in to bat at one time it seemed probable that they would be dismissed for a small score, as four wickets fell for 40 runs. But at this period Lees Whitehead was joined by Mr Hoyer Millar, and during a partnership of 55 minutes 94 runs were added. Lees Whitehead played vigorous cricket, but had a certain amount of luck, as he ought to have been stumped when at eight, while again at 33 he was badly missed by Mr Clayton in the long field. He was batting an hour and a half, and hit ten fours, three threes and six twos. The Minor Counties' total was passed for the loss of seven wickets, but at the close the club only had a lead of 19 runs.

Going in a second time for three-quarters of an hour, the Minor Counties hit up 58 for the loss of two batsmen, so that at the close they were 39 runs on with eight wickets in hand. The pitch played wonderfully true and is probably the best there has been at Lord's this season.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 15 June, page 14)

After a wonderful day's cricket the Marylebone Club beat the Minor Counties, at Lord's, yesterday, by five wickets. During some six hours' actual play 593 runs were scored for the loss of 13 wickets, or an average of over 45 runs a wicket.

The feature of the day was the brilliant hitting of Mr Milligan, who in an hour and 40 minutes made 134 not out. Naturally scoring at so rapid a pace he ran some risk, but his innings was marked by some splendid, well-timed and fearless batting. He treated all the bowlers with equal severity, as can be judged from his figures, which included no fewer than 23 fours, two threes and eight twos.

Mr Cobb, who plays for Buckinghamshire, also gave a grand display of free cricket. He batted in taking style and hit all round the wicket with equal skill. Altogether he was in two hours and hit 16 fours, three threes and six twos. He did not give a chance until he had scored 94, when Mr Ramsay missed him in the long field.

After being 314 runs to the good at the close of their second innings, it seemed probable that the Minor Counties would win, but such was not the case, for not only did the Club get the runs for the loss of five wickets, but they made them in the brief time of two hours and 50 minutes. This was chiefly due to Mr Milligan and Mr Ford, the latter of whom has at last given a glimpse of his true form. Mr Ford was only batting 70 minutes for his runs, and he hit 11 fours.

Mention should be made of Board's wicket-keeping in the Minor Counties' second innings, as he caught four batsmen and stumped two. During the two days 1,012 runs were scored, which must be something of a record for important cricket.

Tuesday 14 June, page 12: LORD HAWKE AND THE AUSTRALIAN TEST MATCHES

The committee of the Marylebone Club at their usual Monday meeting in the pavilion yesterday at Lord's considered Lord Hawke's proposal that the club should take the initiative and have control over the test matches between England and Australia, but no definite decision was arrived at. It was decided to discuss the matter again next Monday. In the meantime the secretary was requested to write to the different counties, asking them each to appoint a representative with power to act on their behalf.

16 June: HAMPSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5003.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 June, page 8)

Good batting and fielding led Hampshire to a very favourable position at Southampton yesterday. The feature of the day was the innings of 110 by Barton, who went in first and was ninth out at 255. Driving was his strong point, and he was particularly severe on the Leicestershire fast bowler Woodcock. He hit 13 fours and seven threes. Captain Wynyard, in addition to batting well, brought off two brilliant catches near the close of the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 June, page 14)

Captain Wynyard carried off the batting honours at Southampton, yesterday, and his fine innings enabled Hampshire to leave off for the day with every prospect of success. With ten wickets in hand Leicestershire want 381 to win.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 June, page 13)

At Southampton, on Saturday, Hampshire gained their first victory in the county championship, defeating Leicestershire very easily by 145 runs. The position of the game at the drawing of stumps on Friday was that Leicestershire, with all ten wickets to fall, required 381 to win. The best thing in the Leicestershire batting on Saturday was the 65 by Knight, who played very strongly on both sides of the wicket and got his runs out of 140 put on during his stay.

16 June: LANCASHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5004.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 June, page 8)

Yesterday was a bad day for Surrey at Old Trafford, Manchester, for they were in the field the whole of the day and only managed to get down the last Lancashire wicket just before the drawing of stumps. On the easy pitch their bowling seemed very moderate; but what helped most to bring about their discomfiture was the frequently of dropped catches.

The Lancashire batsmen showed fine powers of scoring. Ward and Hartley made over 100 for the first wicket, while after luncheon Tyldesley hit so hard that 91 were added in an hour. Both Hartley and Tyldesley had some luck in the way of dropped catches; but apart from this they batted brilliantly. Hartley was very strong on the off side; but Tyldesley made many strokes all round the wicket and hit 14 fours. Hayward is absent from the Surrey ranks owing to disposition.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 June, page 14)

Surrey's fine score at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday was almost wholly the work of two men - Abel and Holland. Abel, the highest scorer in the match, was missed by Tindall in the slips off Mold when he had made only three; and there were subsequent escapes by both him and Holland. However, their partnership for the second wicket extended over three hours and three-quarters and carried the score from seven to 244, or 237 for the wicket.

After an extremely cautious first hour both batsmen developed a fine game. Surrey fared badly after this partnership, and in the end they were still four runs behind with two wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 June, page 13)

The match at Manchester had to be abandoned on Saturday as a draw, rain coming on soon after the game had been resumed and effectually putting a stop to any further play. As it was left Surrey, with two wickets to fall, were 15 runs ahead.

16 June: MIDDLESEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5005.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 June, page 8)

The Yorkshiremen batted splendidly at Lord's yesterday, and last evening reached a position that, in the ordinary course of cricket, commands success, for with a wicket still left the side, whose innings occupied the whole of cricketing hours, have made 398.

In this unseasonable summer there have not been many days to equal the warmth and brightness of yesterday, so that the crowd of 8,000 people had the dual enjoyment of brilliant cricket and good weather. The new groundman at Lord's has not had the chance of showing his skill in the preparation of good wickets; but he has at last had an opportunity and has embraced it, and yesterday's was about the best batsman's pitch that we have had at Lord's this season, and this the Middlesex bowlers found to their cost. Indeed, Lord's generally is just now looking at its best; the hoarding on the south side to shield the demolition of the houses in the St John's-wood-road for the extension of the ground is perhaps a necessary eyesore.

Yorkshire have become such a great side this year, and have so constantly proved that their batting extends right through the side, that their big score could have surprised few after it had become known that choice of innings was with them. The great thing of the day was the innings of Mr F S Jackson, who, going in first wicket down at 18, stayed three hours and was fifth out at 250 for 133. He showed a wonderful strength of stroke all round the wicket; but the thing most admired perhaps was his off drive along the ground. Now and again he momentarily dropped his game, and as he neared his 100 grew a little fidgety and mistimed several balls; but any trifling errors in timing were quickly forgotten in the general brilliancy of his batting. Mr Jackson has been a cricketer of mark ever since for Harrow he bowled out, and got a lot of runs against, the Eton boys at Lord's. The century, his first this year, included 18 fours.

Wainwright, who was Mr Jackson's partner while 149 runs were rapidly added for the fifth wicket, played remarkably well, showing to most advantage in the cut and the leg hit. Then, after eight wickets had gone for 291, there was some fine hitting by Mr Milligan and Rhodes, who between them put on 97 runs in a little over three-quarters of an hour. In forcing the game so vigorously they ran some risks, but their tactics were very profitable.

Jack Hearne and Webb bowled extremely well before luncheon and their bowling required much batting skill to be properly met; but afterwards their pitch and spin were not so good, while the pace of the turf was against the ground fielding, as fieldsmen have become this season so accustomed to the slowness of the ball. Middlesex have a big uphill task before them, but with the wicket so good they should get plenty of runs.

Albert Trott's absence through an injured hand is naturally a great loss to the county. It may be mentioned that the boys of the Yorkshire Society's School witnessed the cricket at the invitation of the M.C.C.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 June, page 14)

For a long time yesterday at Lord's the Yorkshire eleven pursued an easy course to victory. The balance of their great innings produced another 47 runs for the outstanding wicket from Thursday.

Middlesex wholly failed in their first spell with the bat to play with any success Schofield Haigh's fast bowling, and two more wickets went in the follow-on against 327 for 84. Then came a check, and in the last hour the best batting of the day was seen. Mr F G J Ford was quite himself, which is saying a great deal for the brilliant nature of his not-out innings of 66, and Mr Warner, too, got his runs by much good batting on both sides of the wicket. But it was Mr Ford's powerful driving that won the hearts of the 7,000 or 8,000 spectators. He had played the only respectable cricket of the 1u, and the crowd had not had anything

else that was comparable with Yorkshire's batting of Thursday when he arrived for the second time yesterday about half-past 5.

But even the score of 182 for two wickets in the second innings leaves Middlesex in a bad way, for the arrears are yet 145. The first Middlesex innings was played through in about an hour and three-quarters, and Haigh, who hit the stumps six times, had the splendid analysis of seven for 60.

The Middlesex batsmen pulled themselves together in the second innings and their cricket was much more worthy of them. Mr Stoddart seemed to have played himself well in, when, just as everybody was expecting a long innings of his, he was out to a fine catch at short slip. Tunnicliffe, who made this, had got out Rawlin by a marvellous effort in the other innings when he fell and held a low, fast catch wide out with his right hand. By his play in this match he has thoroughly substantiated his claim to be the first slip at present in big cricket.

Rhodes in the early morning gave a further illustration of his usefulness as an all-round cricketer for Yorkshire; he bats in good style, but naturally after the success of his predecessors he adopted the right game of forcing the play and taking its risks. In consequence of a strain Hirst was unable [either to] bowl or field after luncheon.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 June, page 13)

The victory of Yorkshire by an innings and nine runs at Lord's on Saturday was more decisive than might have been expected, considering the fine effort Middlesex made in the closing hours of Friday to save at least defeat in a single innings. But of the runs still required for this purpose only 136 were secured; and the batting, apart from Mr Ford's fine effort, was not particularly good.

The 2,000 or 3,000 spectators who went up to Lord's early, however, must have thoroughly enjoyed the play of Mr Ford. They saw another three-quarters of an hour or more of this brilliant left-hand batsman, who increased his overnight score of 66 to 127, and then in trying to pull a ball from Milligan turned it on to his leg stump. Mr Ford got his runs in about an hour and 50 minutes. The stroke which gave most character to his innings was his powerful off-drive, by which he got nearly all of his 18 fours.

Mr Warner, the other overnight not-out, added only five, but his 70 was a very good innings, and he had a share in the 107 which he and Mr Ford put on in an hour for the third wicket. The Yorkshiremen bowled and fielded brilliantly to the end, and Tunnicliffe followed up his success at short-slip by making his fifth catch from the last ball of the match. George Hirst, the Yorkshire left-hand cricketer, did not field on Saturday owing to the slight strain in his side, but he hopes to be well enough to play to-day at Leeds.

The Yorkshire eleven are to be congratulated on the fine cricket which they showed from beginning to end in this match. Their next visit to London will not be until August, when they play Surrey on the Oval.

16 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5006.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 June, page 8)

The cricket public has grown accustomed to the big scores of Nottinghamshire against Sussex, and the results of yesterday's play at Trent-bridge will not cause much surprise. Arthur Shrewsbury was in his best form and stayed at the wicket for some four and a half hours, his share of the 260 then recorded being 126. He timed the ball perfectly on the easy wicket and gave no chance, except a possible one to mid-on at 59. His partners were Jones and Gunn, and the stands for the first and second wickets were 126 and 134. Mr Jones and Gunn both played fine cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 June, page 14)

The chief feature of the cricket at Nottingham yesterday was the batting of Mr Brann and Mr Murdoch, whose partnership lasted two hours and a half and yielded 266 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 June, page 13)

No definite result was reached in this match at Trent-bridge on Saturday. The third stage of the game was at first full of interest, but when once Sussex had saved the follow-on there was little chance of anything but a draw. Mr Murdoch, who took out his bat for 121, played admirable cricket from first to last, and his chief hits were eight fours, seven threes and 12 twos.

Mainly through the vigorous hitting of Guttridge and Mr Dixon Nottinghamshire were able to close their second innings and make a bid for victory, but Mr Murdoch and Mr Brann played so well that Sussex were never in danger of losing.

16 June: WARWICKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5007.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 17 June, page 8)

Derbyshire were fortunate in batting first on a splendid wicket at Birmingham yesterday, and very fair use was made of the opportunity, the team staying in nearly the whole of the afternoon and running up a total of 266.

Storer played a splendid innings of 94, made without a chance, including seven fours, six threes and 12 twos. Warwickshire had half an hour's batting and in that time lost one wicket for 20 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 18 June, page 14)

Warwickshire established a big advantage at Birmingham yesterday, and last night they were 137 runs on with three wickets to fall in the first innings. Lilley and Walter Quaife played fine cricket, and it was chiefly owing to their efforts that the home county finished up so well.

Day 3 (report from Monday 20 June, page 13)

Even had not rain put an end to cricket at Birmingham on Saturday at half-past 4 it is doubtful whether any definite result would have been obtained, seeing that with only two hours left for play Derbyshire were within 58 of clearing off the arrears on the first innings. The best batting on Saturday was that by Mr Evershed and Mr Wright, who made 85 for the first Derbyshire wicket . . .

The following is the record of the championship competition up to date:

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

The matches between Surrey and Derbyshire on May 19 and Surrey and Warwickshire on May 23 were abandoned without a ball having been bowled, and are, therefore, not included in the above table.

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "One point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have in finished matches obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

20 June: ESSEX v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5008.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 June, page 14)

The day at Leyton yesterday was more or less favourable to the bowlers, for even though Essex passed into three figures with only one man out their total in the innings was only 191, and Derbyshire lost nine of their side in getting to within 63 of this total.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 June, page 14)

The victory of Essex by 129 runs at Leyton yesterday was perhaps deserved by the better batting of the county; but the pitch bumped a good deal, and to this fact could be traced the ill-success that befell many of the best cricketers on either side.

Apart from Carpenter the Essex batting was of a very poor class, although one or two of the side went into respectable figures. George Davidson for the second time in the match kept an excellent pitch and made the most of a bad spot which he found. He took in all 15 wickets for 116 runs; he kept a wonderfully fine length and none of the batsmen played him at all well.

When Derbyshire went in to play the fourth innings of the match 250 runs were wanted to win. Storer and George Davidson played fine cricket for their runs and were together an hour and a quarter for the fifth wicket, which yielded 59. No one else except Bagshaw did much, and by extending the game to nearly 7 o'clock a definite result was arrived at.

20 June: KENT v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5009.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 June, page 14)

The annual cricket week at Tonbridge was opened yesterday and the play was watched by a large company. As so often happens in the Tonbridge matches, the Kent eleven were seen to great advantage and, staying in the whole of the day, scored 401 for the loss of only six wickets.

Mr Mason and Alec Hearne started the innings most successfully, remaining together until after the luncheon interval and putting on 169 for the first wicket. Hopkins, the new Warwickshire bowler, was no-balled just before lunch by Titchmarsh for throwing. Hearne scored from the no-ball and so it does not appear on the score-sheet.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 June, page 14)

The Kent team, yesterday, in their match with Warwickshire, at Tonbridge, had the satisfaction of increasing their overnight score of 401 for six wickets to the remarkable total of 571 before the innings, which had been begun shortly after mid-day on Monday, came to an end at ten minutes to 2 yesterday.

Mr W H Patterson added 28 runs and, having left off the previous evening not out 89, he brought his score to 117. His innings included six fours, nine threes and 13 twos. He went in first wicket down at 169 and was seventh out at 449. Mr Weigall, who hit ten fours in his 86, enjoyed a good deal of luck, being missed three times. Martin and Wright each stayed with him while 60 runs were added to the total.

A big score was expected from Warwickshire; but, to the general surprise, the visitors were dismissed in less than two hours for 96. Mr Mason, Wright and Martin followed up Kent's heavy scoring by bowling finely; but there was no adequate excuse for the Midland county's failure.

Following on, Warwickshire made a wretched start, losing two wickets for five runs, and, although matters went better with them afterwards, the visitors, as the game was left last evening, had three men out and still wanted 406 runs to escape a single innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 June, page 11)

The Kent eleven won this match at Tonbridge yesterday very easily by 201 runs with an innings to spare.

23 June: SOMERSET v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5010.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 June, page 14)

Considering that the ground at Taunton yesterday was in very good order the majority of the batsmen engaged in the match between Somerset and Lancashire met with surprisingly little success. In the course of the day an innings was completed on each side, Lancashire, although they were generally regarded as having scored only moderately in making 216, being left with an advantage of 81 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 June, page 14)

Some astonishing cricket was seen at Taunton yesterday in the second stage of this match, Albert Ward and Frank Sugg in Lancashire's second innings becoming partners at 51 for two wickets and staying together until the score had reached 329. They thus put on 278 runs, making 78 in an hour before lunch and 200 in two hours after the interval.

The play of both batsmen was in striking contrast, Sugg being as brilliant as Ward was cautious. Sugg, whose big score was all the more remarkable as he has lately had to stand out of the Lancashire team on account of ill-success, has seldom played a finer innings than this one of 169, his hitting in front of the wicket being marked by the utmost cleanness and power. Among his figures were one six - a square-leg hit out of the ground - 23 fours, eight threes and 12 twos. He left at 329, and Ward was out fifth at 384.

Batting altogether for four hours and 40 minutes, Ward gave no chance except a difficult return to the bowler when he had made 112. He took two hours and a half to get his first 50 runs, but played far more vigorously afterwards. The chief hits in his very fine innings of 135 were 16 fours, five threes and 13 twos. Baker hit up 50 not out in an hour and ten minutes, and it was not until 10m past 6 that the Lancashire innings, which had lasted from the start of play in the morning, came to an end for 458. Again taking seven wickets, Tyler had a record for the whole match of 14 wickets for 235 runs.

Somerset were left with 540 to get to win, and at the drawing of stumps had made three runs without loss. The weather, as on Monday, was delightful.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 June, page 11)

At Taunton, yesterday, Lancashire defeated Somerset by 260 runs.

20 June: SURREY v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5011.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 June, page 14)

With the University match so close at hand at the 30th inst., a good deal of interest is naturally taken in the performances of the elevens. Neither side this year, however, is up to the standard of last year, although both teams contain a large percentage of Old Blues. In the case of Oxford, who began their first match away from home yesterday at the Oval, the falling off is in a great measure due to some of the Old Blues, who are considerably below last season's form. In fact, the only Old Blue who has played consistent cricket thus far is Mr Fane; but with every prospect of a few fast pitches there is no doubt that the majority will show considerable improvement.

A notable absentee from the University side is Mr F H B Champain, who is in the schools, while Surrey are without Mr Key, Hayward, Baldwin and Wood. Mr Leveson-Gower reappears in the team. Mr Cunliffe gave Mr Bannon his Blue before the match.

The chief features of the day were the batting of Brockwell, Lockwood and Mr Crawford, and the bowling of Mr Bosanquet. Brockwell was at the wicket two hours and 20 minutes for his 119, and hit two fives, 15 fours, three threes and ten twos. Throughout he played very attractive cricket and made some beautiful strokes on the off-side. He received valuable assistance from Abel (who ought to have been caught in the slips by Mr Stokes before he had scored) and Holland.

But the best partnership was that between Lockwood and Mr Crawford, for they put on 143 in an hour and a half for the fourth wicket. Lockwood played in quite his old form, without giving a chance. His innings included 15 fours, three threes and two twos. Mr Crawford displayed considerable vigour in his 83, which was made in good style. He hit 12 fours.

Considering the large total, Mr Bosanquet's figures are excellent, as the pitch was true and fast. After going on at 386, he had a wonderful analysis of eight overs, four maidens, six runs, five wickets, a performance which ought to increase his chance of his colours, for Oxford are none too strong in bowling. The University fielding at the start was several times at fault, but afterwards there was a great improvement.

Oxford had a quarter of an hour's batting before the close, but made a disastrous start and will now have to fight hard to avoid defeat.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 June, page 14)

Surrey beat Oxford University at the Oval yesterday by an innings and three runs, and from the position of the game at the close of play on Monday everything had pointed to a victory for them.

Oxford gave a very feeble batting display in their first innings, as the pitch was still in good order; but Lockwood every now and then got up awkwardly. With the failure of their best batsmen, it was left to Mr Cunliffe and Mr Stocks to carry off the batting honours. Mr Cunliffe was at the wickets for two hours and a quarter, and hit one five, eight fours, two threes and five twos. Throughout he played the bowling with plenty of confidence and seldom seemed in difficulties - a fact which makes Oxford's small score almost inexplicable. Mr Cunliffe and Mr Stocks between them scored 103 out of 151 from the bat.

Going in a second time 270 runs behind, the University gave a much better exhibition and at one time looked like saving the single innings defeat; but Richardson's bowling proved too good and the match was finished three minutes before time. Richardson, going on at 184, dismissed five of the last six batsmen for 27 runs, four being bowled.

The brightest cricket was shown by Mr Foster, who scored his 65 in as many minutes without giving a chance. He made his runs by good all-round play and hit eight fours. Mr Bannon

also played in good form and as unlucky to get out, as in trying to stop the ball with his pads it cannoned on to his wicket. Mr Bromley-Martin showed excellent defence with his patient innings, for which he was batting nearly two hours. The Surrey fielding was in and out, and the return at times was much at fault. Mr Bosanquet has been given his Blue by Mr Cunliffe.

20 June: SUSSEX v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5012.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 June, page 14)

The Cambridge eleven were seen at their best yesterday at Brighton, playing an innings of 313 and then in an hour getting four Sussex wickets down for 45. Mr T L Taylor, the Cambridge wicket-keeper, has been given his blue.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 June, page 14)

At Brighton, yesterday, this match came to an unexpectedly speedy end, Cambridge University winning at a quarter to 5 by an innings and 26 runs.

Though the county team, in face of a total of 313, had on Monday lost, in a very bad light, four wickets for 45 runs, there was no reason to expect that they would bat so badly yesterday. The chief cause of their downfall was the successful lob bowling of Mr Winter, who followed up his innings of 80 on Monday by taking ten wickets at a cost of only 93 runs. In recognition of his fine performance as batsman and bowler Mr Winter was yesterday given his "Blue" by Mr C E M Wilson, and will consequently appear at Lord's next week against Oxford.

An hour and a quarter's cricket in the morning proved sufficient to finish off the first innings of Sussex, the score only reaching 127. Mr C B Fry, who had gone in overnight at 31 for two wickets, was out fifth at 84, his innings of 42 being in every way excellent.

Sussex had to follow on against a balance of 186 runs, and when lunch time came two wickets had fallen for 51, Mr George Brann and Mr Fry being together. On starting afresh these skilful batsmen took the total to 98, at which point Mr Brann was caught and bowled. With ten runs added Mr Fry, in trying to hit a ball to leg, slipped on to his wicket, and with his downfall disappeared the last chance of Sussex making anything like a fight. Five more wickets fell for 34 runs, and after a few overs of free hitting for the last wicket by Mr Montezuma and Bland the team were all out for 160, Sussex thus suffering a single innings defeat.

There was a fairly good attendance and the weather, allowing for the absence of sunshine, was quite pleasant.

20 June: YORKSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5013.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 21 June, page 14)

The wonderful achievements of the Yorkshire eleven this season are naturally having the effect of making their matches exceptionally attractive, and yesterday at Leeds, when they began their first engagement of the season with Notts, the number of spectators could not have been far short of 15,000. The wicket was not at all easy and the afternoon's cricket proved slow, only 272 runs being scored in five hours and a quarter for the loss of 12 wickets. Attewell, who was seventh out at 179, made 80 out of 118 put on during his stay.

Yorkshire up to nearly the close of play looked like leaving off with a great advantage, but in the last five minutes of the day Tunnicliffe and Moorhouse were dismissed.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 22 June, page 14)

Cricket at Leeds yesterday was only in progress for three-quarters of an hour, rain delaying the start till after half-past 12, and setting in so heavily at 20 minutes past 1 that nothing further could be done. So persistent was the downpour that at half-past 3 it was agreed to draw stumps for the day, rain at that time falling in torrents.

While play was possible Yorkshire, despite the double disadvantage of bad light and a very faulty pitch, increased their overnight score of 57 for two wickets to 102 for three. Brown, as on Monday evening, played extremely well. He lost Mr Jackson at 84, that brilliant batsman being bowled in attempting a drive. Denton then went in, and he and Brown were together when the rain came on. Despite the unpromising morning 2,000 people were on the ground.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 23 June, page 11)

The great Yorkshire eleven had literally a scramble to save their game with Notts yesterday at the Headingley Ground, Leeds; but the end was a draw, Yorkshire at the finish, with really only three men left - Hunter was *hors de combat* - being 121 behind.

With the wicket ruined by the rain of Tuesday Mr Dixon, the Notts captain, might have closed his innings earlier; but he left Yorkshire with two hours to play and 178 to get in the fourth innings. Perhaps he feared the batting of Mr F S Jackson, who is, as a rule, something of a genius on false wickets.

At the beginning of the day Brown and Denton played finely; but when once they were separated the batsmen went out with a run, and in 70 minutes the Yorkshire innings was completed for an addition of 41. The cricketer who saved Yorkshire from defeat was Wainwright, who, if he did not get many runs, kept up his end for a great while on a wicket that had a caked surface as the result of the sunshine on the wet turf.

Tuesday 21 June, page 14: LORD HAWKE AND THE AUSTRALIAN TEST MATCHES

The committee of the Marylebone Club yesterday fixed Monday, July 18, for the meeting of county representatives at Lord's to discuss Lord Hawke's propositions with regard to the test matches next season between England and Australia. As there are no county matches on July 18 - the first day of the Gentlemen and Players match at Lord's - the date is the best that could possibly have been selected.

The meeting will be held at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The M.C.C. were asked to appoint a chairman for the meeting, and it was arranged yesterday that the Hon Alfred Lyttelton, the president of the club, should preside.

Wednesday 22 June, page 14

In addition to Mr B D Bannon, who was given his "blue" on Monday, Mr B J T Bosanquet has also been awarded his colours. It is understood that all of last year's team who are available, with the exception of Mr E C Wright, will again play against Cambridge, so that the Oxford eleven for the inter-University match will be:- Mr F H E Cunliffe, Mr F H B Champain, Mr B D Bannon, Mr F L Fane, Mr A Eccles, Mr R E Foster, Mr G Bromley-Martin, Mr B J T Bosanquet, Mr R W Fox and two others.

23 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5014.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 June, page 12)

This match at Gloucester yesterday was attended by over 2,000 people.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 June, page 16)

Gloucestershire yesterday morning in this match, at Gloucester, had a formidable task before them to reach Lancashire's total of 262, especially as Grace and Sewell had been dismissed overnight and only 64 runs had been made. Thanks, however, to some magnificent batting by Townsend they obtained a lead of 43 runs.

The young Gloucestershire amateur had gone in second wicket down at 18, and was not dismissed until the total reached 273, increasing his score from 29 to 159. His innings is the highest he has ever played in first-class cricket. It extended over four hours, and the only serious blemish was a chance behind the wicket at 59. He hit 17 fours, seven threes and 15 twos. Troup batted with extreme caution, helping Townsend to put on 92.

When Lancashire began their second innings Ward and Paul were dismissed for 18 runs, but Tyldesley and Baker made a brilliant stand, putting on 88 runs in little more than an hour. As the game was left last evening Lancashire, with seven wickets to go down, led by 78 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 June, page 13)

There had appeared every prospect of a capital finish to the match at Gloucester on Saturday. Lancashire, who, 43 to the bad on the first innings, had scored 121 at their second attempt for three wickets, were thus 78 runs on.

However, not a ball could be bowled on Saturday. There were several showers in the morning and a heavy downpour shortly after noon. The wicket was completely ruined, and at a quarter to 3 it was decided to abandon the match as a draw.

23 June: HAMPSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5015.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 June, page 12)

The wicket at Southampton yesterday, though dry and fast, was by no means perfect, the ball all through the afternoon kicking up a good deal. Hampshire put a stronger eleven in the field than in any previous match this season, and Essex, apart from the absence of Mr A J Turner, had all their best players available.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 June, page 16)

The weather prevented any cricket at Tonbridge, Southampton, Brighton and Lord's yesterday. The scores thus remain as already detailed in The Times . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 June, page 13)

Essex beat Hampshire at Southampton on Saturday by 126 runs, the result being brought about mainly by the wonderful bowling of C J Kortright. When only 35 minutes remained for play Hampshire had six wickets in hand, but these fell in 25 minutes, and Essex won the game with ten minutes to spare. Bowling his fastest, with an occasional slow ball, Kortright completely upset the Hampshire batsmen. He went on at 75, when only three men were out, and took six of the last seven wickets for ten runs.

Early in the day, when the home side were struggling to save the follow-on, and again when their lot was even more unhappy, the wicket was drying under a hot sun after showers, so that the conditions were all against them. But, allowing for that, their batting caused much disappointment, A J L Hill, who scored 63 not out and 32, alone showing any ability to overcome the difficulties of the situation.

When Essex wanted runs rapidly H G Owen batted splendidly, hitting 12 fours in his 63, and F G Bull and Mead, by their capital bowling, shared with their captain and Kortright the honours of a wonderful victory.

23 June: KENT v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5016.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 June, page 12)

Kent yesterday, at Tonbridge, obtained a considerable advantage over Somerset, disposed of the western county for 235 and then scoring 184 for one wicket, so that, with nine wickets in hand, they left off last evening only 51 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 June, page 16)

The weather prevented any cricket at Tonbridge, Southampton, Brighton and Lord's yesterday. The scores thus remain as already detailed in The Times . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 June, page 13)

The Kent team brought a highly successful week's cricket at Tonbridge to an end on Saturday, when they followed up their triumph against Warwickshire with a victory over Somerset by seven wickets. Rain had prevented a ball being bowled on Friday, but on the opening day Kent, after dismissing Somerset for 235, had scored 184 for the loss of only one wicket.

The credit of this performance belonged to W H Patterson and Alec Hearne, who had become partners with the score at ten, and on Saturday raised it to 230 before they were separated. Hearne, who was then dismissed, gave two chances - one when only five - but his 112 was an exceedingly fine display of batting, including 15 fours, two threes and six twos. Patterson, who was third man out at 254, scored 117 - his second hundred during the week. Like Hearne, he gave two chances, the first early in his innings. Still, he played admirable cricket, and in his score were ten fours, three threes and ten twos. The remainder of the Kent batting was not remarkable, and with the total at 296 for nine wickets Mason declared the innings closed.

Somerset lost four wickets before the arrears were cleared off, but Robson and Woods looked like saving the game. After Woods's dismissal, however, five wickets fell for seven runs, and the innings closed for 102, Hearne following his splendid batting by disposing of six batsmen for 34 runs. Kent had only 42 to get to win, and obtained this number at a cost of three wickets.

23 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5017.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 June, page 12)

Journeying on from Leeds where they had on Wednesday so narrowly escaped defeat at the hands of Notts, the Yorkshire team gave a brilliant display of batting at Leicester yesterday, remaining at the wickets until just before the time for drawing stumps, and putting together the formidable total of 449. The visitors lacked the services of Hirst and Hunter, while Leicestershire, although, of course, without Marriott and Stocks, had the assistance of Pougher.

Mr F S Jackson carried off the honours of the day, putting together in two hours and 40 minutes an innings of 143. He gave no chance, although he scored so freely, and included in his score were 20 fours, 11 threes and six twos. Tunnicliffe, who played very steadily for 57, assisted Jackson to out on 154 runs for the second wicket. Of the other batsmen Denton, although once missed, also batted in very attractive form and made 99, in which were a five at 17 fours, in an hour and a half. Lord Hawke and Mr Milligan were also seen to advantage.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 June, page 16)

At Leicester, yesterday, the local eleven were the victims of extremely hard luck. On Thursday, with the ground in capital order for run-getting, they had fielded through an innings of 449, and though of course they had no chance of winning the game, it is likely that if the conditions had remained unchanged they would have made a fair number of runs. Unfortunately for them heavy rain fell during the night, and with the sun shining yesterday the wicket helped the Yorkshire bowlers. In the result Yorkshire won easily by an innings and 266 runs.

Leicestershire were batting for a little over an hour and a half in their first innings, their score only reaching 57, but on following on they did better. Pougher and King put on 38 runs together for the fourth wicket, and Mr de Trafford during his short stay treated the spectators to some lively play. After the fall of the sixth wicket, however, nothing was done, the innings being quickly finished off for 126.

23 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5018.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 June, page 12)

In their last match before the University contest, Cambridge yesterday at Lord's gave a very moderate display against the Club on a batsman's pitch, which was in marked contrast to the form they had shown against Sussex earlier in the week.

With the exception of Mr Jessop, Mr Coode and Mr Wilson, the side could do little with the bowling of Roche, who was unchanged throughout the innings. Mr Jessop made his runs in his usual vigorous style and there were nine fours in his 47, including a magnificent drive to the top seats in the pavilion. Mr Bray ought to have stumped him when 18, while he was badly missed by Mr Crawley at mid-off when 32. Both Mr Coode and Mr Wilson, however, played stylish cricket without giving anything like a chance.

When the Club went in to bat, a very different display was given, as Mr Wright and Mr Mitchell met all the bowlers with equal confidence, and during a partnership of some two hours and a half put on 208 runs for the first wicket, when Mr Wright left. His innings included 12 fours. Mr Mitchell remained until the score had reached 250, at which total he was caught in the slips. Altogether he was batting nearly three hours and a half, and hit one five (four for an overthrow), 22 fours, four threes and eleven twos. The feature of his innings was his brilliant off-drive. Mr Taylor kept wicket excellently and only gave away two byes, while the fielding all round was good.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 June, page 16)

The weather prevented any cricket at Tonbridge, Southampton, Brighton and Lord's yesterday. The scores thus remain as already detailed in The Times . . .

THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN

Mr A T Coode has received his "blue" and will play against Oxford next week at Lord's.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 June, page 13)

In their last trial match on Saturday Cambridge University met with a severe defeat from the M.C.C. at Lord's, being beaten by an innings and 13 runs. The Club in the first stages of the game had gained such a commanding advantage that some such result was anticipated, although at one time it seemed probable that rain would bring the match to a premature close.

No play was possible on Friday, but when a start was made at ten minutes to 1 on Saturday Mr Mordaunt and Davidson brought the Club's total to 325 without further loss before the innings was declared closed. The wicket during this period was too wet to be very difficult.

Cambridge went in a second time 183 runs behind with four and a quarter hours still left for play. On a drying pitch, however, which towards the close became very treacherous, the batsmen were at a great disadvantage and considerable difficulty was experienced in timing the ball. Attewell, who bowled splendidly, caused the batsmen great trouble and the ball was frequently in the air just out of the reach of the fieldsmen. Although meeting with a good deal of luck in this respect they could hardly be blamed in the circumstances.

Mr Burnup and Mr Coode made a good start, scoring 61 for the first wicket, but for the addition of nine runs half the side were out. Afterwards Mr Jessop, Mr Wilson and Mr Hind gave some trouble, but Cambridge were all dismissed shortly after 6 o'clock.

THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN

At the close of play at Lord's on Saturday Mr Wilson gave Mr Hind and Mr Hawkins their "blues" . . .

23 June: SURREY v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5019.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 June, page 12)

The cricketing hours at the Oval, yesterday, were wholly occupied by Surrey's batting, and even when time ran out the home side had yet two wickets left and possessed a score of 385. It was a pitch on which any eleven of batting pretensions should have scored well. Webb and Jack Hearne bowled with great excellence, and the former, in a fatiguing day, met with much success. The fielding of Middlesex was very good; and nothing could have been better than the work of Mr MacGregor at wicket.

There were two great partnerships in the Surrey innings - 100 by Brockwell and Abel, and 141 by Brockwell and Holland. When 240 went up with only one man out it seemed as if the Surrey batsmen would never be got rid of; but the Middlesex bowlers and fieldsmen were keen to the end. Amid a great variety of batting the feat of Brockwell stood out prominently. Brockwell's fine forcing game in front of the wicket and his strong stroke off his legs were the things of chief admiration; when he was third out, cleverly stumped, for 135, the score was 259, and his chief hits were 16 fours, five threes and 14 twos.

Of the others Lockwood played the most attractive cricket. It was a glorious June day and there were about 9,000 people on the Oval.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 June, page 16)

In consequence of the rain yesterday the wicket at Kennington Oval was not in a fit condition for cricket until shortly after half-past 3 o'clock. Subsequently two hours and 35 minutes' play took place, and during that time Surrey, who had been batting all the previous day, making 385 for the loss of eight wickets, completed their first innings for 468, and Middlesex lost three good wickets for 73 runs.

The overnight not-outs in the Surrey innings - Hayes and Wood - ere not separated without considerable difficulty. The Middlesex bowlers failed to secure a proper foothold on the wet turf and the batsmen put on 60 runs in three-quarters of an hour before Wood was easily caught at mid-off for an excellent 41. Subsequently Richardson, assisted by some luck, quickly hit up 16 before the long innings, which extended over six hours and a half, closed for 468.

When Middlesex went in the wicket was rather slow and the light most indifferent, but Hayman and Warner played admirably under the circumstances, and took the score to 40 in 50 minutes before Hayman was caught at the wicket. Afterwards Brockwell bowled with some success, and as the game stands now Middlesex require 276 runs to avoid following on with seven wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 June, page 13)

Unfortunately for Surrey's chance of a victory over Middlesex rain admitted of only about three hours and a quarter's cricket at Kennington Oval on Saturday. Heavy showers descended during the morning and so saturated the wicket that it was found impossible to resume the game until after lunch, and then no time remained to bring the match to a defensive conclusion.

The previous stages of the game had gone altogether in favour of Surrey, and Middlesex required no fewer than 276 runs to avoid a follow-on with seven wickets to fall. When cricket was proceeded with, before a splendid attendance considering the unsettled state of the weather, Stoddart and Ford, with a draw in view, played very carefully together, and by keeping in for 70 minutes practically made the game safe for their side. Subsequently Trott hit with remarkable freedom and scored 45 out of 56 runs in 35 minutes, and, with MacGregor

having to retire hurt owing to being hit on the hand while batting, the innings, which lasted four hours, closed for 209.

Middlesex had, of course, to follow on in a minority of 259 runs, but less than an hour remained for cricket, so that it was impossible to finish the match. In 50 minutes Warner, who played delightfully free cricket before being well caught at cover-point, and Hayman scored 60 runs, and the stumps were pulled up, leaving the result a draw. Middlesex required 199 runs at the finish to save a single innings defeat, and had nine wickets to fall.

23 June: SUSSEX v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5020.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 24 June, page 12)

Some capital batting was witnessed at Brighton yesterday, 399 runs in all being obtained during the afternoon and 11 wickets going down. Towards the close of play Mr Fry was put on to bowl, and was no-balled by James Phillips for throwing.

THE OXFORD ELEVEN

Mr Bosanquet and Mr Stocks have received their "blues" and will play against Cambridge next week at Lord's.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 25 June, page 16)

The weather prevented any cricket at Tonbridge, Southampton, Brighton and Lord's yesterday. The scores thus remain as already detailed in The Times . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 27 June, page 13)

There never seemed much chance of finishing this match at Brighton on Saturday, and it was eventually drawn.

The results of the county matches up to Saturday last are given below:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	11	8	0	3	6
Essex	7	4	1	2	3
Lancashire	10	3	1	6	2
Kent	7	2	1	4	1
Gloucestershire	7	1	1	5	0
Notts	7	0	0	7	0
Derbyshire	5	1	2	2	-1
Sussex	6	0	1	5	-1
Surrey	7	1	2	4	-1
Leicestershire	6	0	2	4	-2
Middlesex	5	0	2	3	-2
Somerset	6	1	3	2	-2
Warwickshire	8	1	3	4	-2
Hampshire	8	1	4	3	-3

The matches between Surrey and Derbyshire on May 19 and Surrey and Warwickshire on May 23 were abandoned without a ball having been bowled, and are, therefore, not included in the above table.

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "One point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have in finished matches obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages for the season are given below:-

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in Inns.	Times not out	Average
Shrewsbury	13	608	154*	4	67.55
Mr W H Patterson	7	332	117	1	55.33
Mr J R Mason	13	707	152	0	54.38
Abel	15	649	148	2	49.92
Mr C L Townsend	11	515	159	0	46.31
Storer	15	590	109	2	45.38
Brockwell	14	551	135	1	42.37
Mr A E Stoddart	8	293	138	1	41.85
Tunnickliffe	19	662	108*	3	41.37
Mr S M J Woods	11	451	143	0	41.00
Alec Hearne	14	484	112	2	40.33
Mr C O H Sewell	15	555	111	1	39.64
W Gunn	13	386	125	3	38.60
Hayward	10	383	126	0	38.30
Dr W G Grace	15	491	71	2	37.76
Mr F S Jackson	17	575	147	1	35.93
Lord Hawke	16	342	107*	6	34.20
Mr D L A Jephson	10	270	166*	2	33.75
Mr H G Owen	13	393	74	0	30.23
Mr F G J Ford	10	300	127	0	30.00
Albert Ward	18	537	135	0	29.83
Mr C J Burnup	17	498	77	0	29.29
Mr G Brann	17	595	118	0	29.11
Mr J A Dixon	10	232	56	2	29.00
Mr G L Jessop	14	320	55*	2	26.68

Mr W L Murdoch	21	504	121*	2	26.52
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BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	413.3	170	690	71	9.71
Mr F S Jackson	319	130	536	48	11.16
Roche	162.4	55	414	37	11.16
Wainwright	222.2	92	378	33	11.45
Haigh	387	155	736	58	12.63
Davidson	448	208	680	51	13.33
J T Hearne	798.2	347	1331	95	14.01
Mr C J Kortright	170.1	46	428	29	14.75
Tyler	290	67	696	46	15.13
Lockwood	348	118	698	45	15.51
Martin	349.2	126	637	41	15.53
Mead	444.1	155	857	55	15.58
Mr F G Bull	304	94	662	38	17.42
Mold	305.1	145	813	45	18.05
Mr F H E Cunliffe	242	74	596	30	19.68
Mr G L Jessop	196	49	415	21	19.76
Attewell	528.1	226	678	34	19.94
Richardson	315.1	83	766	37	20.70
Mr J R Mason	238.1	83	550	25	22.00

27 June: DERBYSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5021.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 June, page 14)

In the three hours to which cricket at Derby was curtailed yesterday, owing chiefly to the rain but partly to the bad light, the home county made good use of their opportunities in scoring 161 for the loss of five wickets. Bagshaw aided his captain to score 65 for the second partnership and Storer 57 more for the fourth.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 June, page 14)

At Derby yesterday the Derbyshire eleven gained a brilliant victory over Leicestershire by an innings and 31 runs.

27 June: LANCASHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5022.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 June, page 14)

Although no cricket was possible at Manchester yesterday in the morning, the game between Lancashire and Middlesex was begun shortly after 3 o'clock, and went on afterwards without interruption until half-past 6.

The wicket was soft and slow, but in the absence of sunshine it did not become very difficult. Still, Lancashire, in putting together a score of 202 for the loss of three batsmen, accomplished a very fine performance, under the circumstances. There was some admirable batting by Tyldesley and Ward, who withstood the Middlesex bowlers for more than two hours, their partnership realizing 145 runs. Although he made some lucky strokes, Tyldesley, after a quiet beginning, hit remarkably well and put together his highest score of the season. Included in his 96 were 13 fours, four threes and 11 twos.

Middlesex were not, as had been hoped, able to command the services of Sir T C O'Brien, owing to illness, and Mr A J Webbe will complete the team. Lancashire were handicapped by the absence of Mold and Cuttell, both of whom were prevented from playing, the vacancies thus created being filled by Lancaster and Taylor.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 June, page 14)

With bright sunshine at Manchester, yesterday, following upon the large amount of rain that had fallen during the few previous days, the turf was very treacherous, and so completely did bowlers get the upper hand that between half-past 11 and half-past 6 26 wickets went down for an aggregate of 306 runs. Lancashire, however, having on the previous day scored 202 for the loss of three batsmen, possessed an advantage of which they could not be deprived, and at the close of the day, the northern team, with a wicket to fall, were 214 runs to the good.

Some startling work was accomplished by Hearne in the morning, the Middlesex professional in such splendid form that in eight overs he dismissed six batsmen for 16 runs, the seven outstanding Lancashire wickets going down on three-quarters of an hour for the addition of only 26 runs. Hearne's analysis for the full innings was nine wickets for 68 runs.

Middlesex, on going in to bat, found Briggs very difficult and lost three wickets for 29. Ford and Stoddart, however, staying together for three-quarters of an hour, added 44 runs. Still, when the eighth wicket went down, 15 runs were required to escape a follow-on, and five when the last man came in. Foley, luckily for the visitors, had been missed, and he and MacGregor, by vigorous cricket, increased the total from 104 to 147 before the innings closed, Briggs having eight wickets for 63 runs.

In the second innings of Lancashire Hartley and Ward put on 35 runs before a wicket fell, and Sugg batted steadily, but there were nine men out for 133 at the drawing of stumps. Hearne, taking six wickets, brought his aggregate in first-class cricket for the present season to 110 wickets.

J T HEARNE'S BOWLING.- J T Hearne, who bowled with such marked success at Old Trafford yesterday against Lancashire, has now taken 110 wickets in first-class matches this season.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 June, page 11)

There was a capital finish to the Lancashire and Middlesex match in Manchester yesterday, the result being in doubt, after each county had secured an advantage in turn, until the end. Lancashire's second innings, in which 9 wickets had fallen overnight for 133,

terminated for 143, which, with their lead on the first attempt, enabled them to put the visitors in to get 225 to win.

Though better than before the ground was not in perfect condition, but when, following a fine start by Hayman and Warner, the 100 went up with only two men out fortune appeared to be favouring Middlesex. However, at luncheon there were five wickets down for 123, and Lancashire looked to be in the better position then. After the interval Webbe and Foley improved matters again, and 175 went up with four wickets still standing before Lancaster was out on once more and with a remarkable piece of bowling finished off the innings in extraordinary fashion - only five more runs being added - and the champion county being left with a well-earned victory by 44 runs. Lancaster took seven wickets for 35 runs, the last four of them for three, and he had a great share in the triumph.

27 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5023.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 June, page 14)

The only cricket at Lord's yesterday was for 25 minutes after 5 o'clock, and then the M.C.C., going in first, made 15 runs for no wicket. Rain had fallen in the morning and afterwards it came down heavily.

Marylebone have a fairly good side; but Mr Cunliffe is resting two of his "Blues," Fox and Champ. The eleventh place in the Oxford team rests between Lee and Wright.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 June, page 14)

After an extremely long day at Lord's yesterday - cricket was in progress from 11.30 until nearly 7 o'clock - Oxford wound up their trial games with a fine win of nine wickets in a 12 a side match with the M.C.C.

Until it came to Oxford's turn to play the fourth innings and to get 73 in an hour to win, the bowlers carried all before them on a pitch made false by the hot sunshine on the soft turf. Various good analyses were recorded, and both F W Stocks and E C Lee were particularly effective with their medium pace. Indeed, the latter was fortunate in getting a wicket to suit him in a trial that was to decide his chance of his "blue," which his captain gave him at the finish of the match. Handford, the Notts professional, came off for the M.C.C.

By far the best batting of the day was shown by F H B Champain, whose 22 and 28 were scored altogether in less than half an hour by some fine driving on the most false of wickets. Late in the game yesterday, and after the M.C.C. had finished an innings, it was agreed to bat 12 men, a decision at a middle period of a match which rather destroyed any interest as to the actual result.

OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE

Mr Cunliffe, the Oxford captain, completed his side last night at Lord's by deciding to play the Old Wykehamist E C Lee, and we are now able to publish the two elevens for to-morrow's match at Lord's:-

OXFORD	CAMBRIDGE
*Mr F H E Cunliffe	*Mr C E M Wilson
*Mr F H B Champain	*Mr C J Burnup
*Mr A Eccles	*Mr G L Jessop
*Mr R E Foster	*Mr J H Stogdon
*Mr G E Bromley-Martin	*Mr W H de Zoete
*Mr R W Fox	*Mr H H Marriott
*Mr F L Fane	Mr T L Taylor
Mr B D Bannon	Mr G E Winter
Mr B J T Bosanquet	Mr A T Coode
Mr F W Stocks	Mr A E Hind
Mr E C Lee	Mr H H B Hawkins

*Old Blues

We are asked to draw attention to the fact that, for the convenience of the general public at this match, the M.C.C. have had built a public stand in the south-west corner of the ground to hold 1,000 people. This is to be wholly unreserved and admission gained only on the day by payment of a small fee.

27 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5024.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 June, page 14)

The Kent eleven, fresh from their triumphs over Warwickshire and Somerset at Tonbridge, gave a poor display of batting yesterday in their match with Notts at Trent-bridge. Going in a few minutes after 1 o'clock - rain having prevented an earlier start - they stayed at the wickets till a quarter past 5, but their total only reached 136, this number being obtained in just under three hours and a half.

While most of the team failed, however, there was one splendid display of batting, Mr Rashleigh being seen at quite his best. Going in second wicket down with the score at six, he was out eighth at 113, his share of the 107 runs put on during his stay being 74. He was in for two hours and 35 minutes and, apart from a difficult left-handed chance to Mr Dixon at mid-off when he had made 63, there was not the slightly blemish in his cricket. He hit seven fours, six threes and eight twos, his driving being particularly fine. He and Mr W H Patterson added 45 runs together in an hour and a quarter for the third wicket. For the first time in county matches the new Notts bowler Wass met with a large measure of success, five wickets falling to him for an even better average.

Notts at the end of the afternoon had 55 minutes' batting and scored 35 runs. In making this number, however, they lost Shrewsbury, who played a ball from Mr Mason on to his wicket. The Kent captain would not have gone on to bowl so soon but for the fact that a slight attack of illness had compelled Alec Hearne to leave the field.

An unfamiliar name will be noticed in each team. Kent are trying Mr H Willson, a young fast bowler, and Notts are playing Anthony, a professional engaged with the Lincoln Lindum Club.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 June, page 14)

Yesterday's cricket at Trent-bridge was interesting, and it was anybody's match when stumps were drawn with Kent 175 in and three wickets to fall in the second innings. Mr A O Jones's 60 was the best thing in the Notts batting; he was fourth out at 107 and his brilliant forcing game included seven boundary hits. Alec Hearne played beautiful cricket in Kent's second innings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 June, page 11)

At Trent-bridge yesterday, the Nottingham team obtained their first victory this season in the competition for the county championship, defeating Kent in brilliant style by seven wickets. All through the match they showed themselves the better side and thoroughly deserved their success.

Kent overnight had scored 175 in their second innings with three wickets to go down, and yesterday, playing carefully, they were not all out until play had been in progress for nearly an hour and a half; but they added only 52 runs, the ten wickets falling at 227. Alec Hearne, who had gone in first, was the last man out. He played in faultless style for rather more than five hours and scored 117 - his second hundred in two successive matches. Although his batting was more remarkable for defence than hitting, his innings included nine fours, 16 threes and nine twos. Much of the Notts bowling was excellent, Attewell, with five wickets for 34 runs, particularly distinguished himself.

The home side wanted 221 to win, and the result was practically determined before a wicket fell, Shrewsbury and Jones putting on 121 before they were separated. Jones, when four, gave a chance to Mason in the slips, and Shrewsbury should have been caught and bowled by Wright for eight. After the interval, however, the batting of the two men was of the most admirable description. Jones, in a brilliant 69, hit six fours, ten threes and four twos.

With Gunn in, the score was increased to 154 before Shrewsbury was dismissed for an excellent 61, in making which he had been at the wickets nearly three hours.

After three wickets had fallen for 158, Dixon and Attewell hit away in fine free style and obtained 65 runs in 40 minutes, winning the match at ten minutes to 6. The weather was very pleasant and a fair number of spectators visited the ground.

WILLIAM ATTEWELL.- William Attewell. Who played so well in yesterday's match at Trent-bridge, has ricked his side and probably will not be able to appear for Notts against Lancashire to-day at Old Trafford.

27 June: SURREY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5025.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 June, page 14)

Rain prevented a start being made in this match at the Oval yesterday until ten minutes past 5. The light then as very defective, and as it got worse play was abandoned for the day after an hour's cricket. During this time Surrey lost one wicket, Brockwell being caught at third man from a short-pitched ball on the off-side, which he ought to have left alone. Owing to a strain Lockwood was unable to play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 June, page 14)

The conditions at to yesterday were for once quite pleasant and a full day's cricket was possible. Overnight Surrey had made 56 for the loss of Brockwell's wicket.

When they renewed their innings they gave a very consistent display, as with the exception of Mr Jephson and Hayes all the side made double figures. The best piece of batting was shown by Abel, who throughout played his usual watchful game. He was in two hours and a quarter and hit 12 fours, three threes and five twos, and was third out at 172. Holland made his runs in good style and with Abel put on 92 for the second wicket.

Later in the innings Mr Key played vigorous cricket and hit one of Tyler's slows on to the covered seats; but Hayward, although making no mistakes, did not show that freedom which is usually expected of him. He was out to a good catch at third man by Mr L C H Palairet, who jumped up and took the ball with his right hand. With Richardson and Wood together considerable trouble was given for the last wicket, and 44 runs were added in 22 minutes.

Somerset gave a very poor display against the bowling of Richardson. Mr L C H Palairet at the start scored freely, but with his dismissal wickets fell fast, and at no time during their innings did they look like saving the follow on. The light was occasionally very bad; but against this, when 97 had been scored for eight wickets, Mr Woods appealed to the umpire unsuccessfully.

The light had very little to do with Somerset's small total, and had the chances been accepted their score would have been considerably less. Tyler in particular played a very lucky innings. The Surrey fielding was very in and out. Brockwell made a pretty catch in the slips when he dismissed Mr R C N Palairet, taking the ball high up with the left hand.

Going in a second time 175 runs behind, Somerset made 29 without loss, so that they still require 146 to save a single innings defeat. There was a good attendance.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 June, page 11)

After an exceptionally exciting finish Surrey beat Somerset at the Oval yesterday by nine wickets, the winning hit being made four minutes before time. For this result they are greatly indebted to Abel and Holland, who by their fearless hitting towards the close turned what looked like a certain drawn game into a victory.

Overnight Somerset, after having to follow on 175 runs behind, had made 29 without loss. When they continued their innings yesterday they gave a fine display. Mr Newton and Mr Stanley took the score to 64 by steady cricket, but three wickets went down for 106 before Mr Woods and Mr L C H Palairet came together. Then some very bright cricket was shown, as during a partnership of 70 minutes no fewer than 136 runs were added, when Mr Woods was out to a remarkable catch by Hayward, who held a hard return low down with his left hand. Mr Woods made several strokes up in the air just clear of the fieldsmen, but otherwise batted well, and he hit nine fours, three threes and five twos.

Mr Lionel Palairet played a fine innings without giving a chance, and his splendid achievement was far in advance of anything he had accomplished this season. His fine off-drive was constantly executed and was quite worthy of his Oxford days, when he first became famous. He was ninth to leave at 296, having been in two hours and three-quarters, and hit 15 fours, three threes and seven twos. As time was a great object, a useful stand was made for the last wicket by Mr Daniel and Gill, who put on 31 in half an hour.

With only an hour and three-quarters left for play Surrey required 153 to win. Abel and Brockwell made a good start by putting on 60 runs in 40 minutes, but at the end of an hour's cricket the score had only been carried to 64, while with half an hour left 65 runs were required to win. At this period Abel and Holland began to hit out, but 15 minutes before time 36 were still wanted. These, however, were obtained in the short space of some ten minutes, and Surrey gained a sensational victory just on time. Naturally, scoring at so fast a pace, the batsmen ran some risks, but the chances given were very difficult. Abel's innings included seven and Holland's eight fours.

27 June: YORKSHIRE v ESSEX

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

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 28 June, page 14)

The weather was showery yesterday at Bradford and with the ground already very soft it was found impossible to make a start with the match between Yorkshire and Essex. Tunnickliffe, who was hurt at Leicester, is not playing for Yorkshire, and Bairstow will keep wicket in place of Hunter. Essex have their best side, Mr A J Turner being able to get away from Woolwich for the match.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 29 June, page 14)

Yesterday's cricket at Bradford was of the most surprising character. Play having been impracticable on Monday, it was thought that both sides would have yesterday to fight very hard for their runs, but, while the Essex team failed in batting, the Yorkshiremen gave a most brilliant display. The extraordinary difference in the totals is difficult to account for.

When Essex went in at 12 o'clock the ground was very slow, but no one imagined that the team would be out for such a score as 64. Keeping a capital length, however, and making the ball break both ways, Rhodes had the batsmen at his mercy, only Mr Owen and Mr A J Turner being in any way able to cope with him. Mr Turner could not hit, but he kept up his wicket for an hour. Rhodes took six wickets and only 24 runs were scored from him.

When the time came for Yorkshire to bat the ball came faster off the pitch and Mr Bull, in particular, got in a lot of break; but, for all that, the batsmen triumphed. Brown and Lord Hawke scored 100 runs together for the first wicket, the Essex total being passed in 55 minutes. Brown was out first for a faultlessly-played 42, and at 127 Lord Hawke, who had batted finely, after a somewhat uncertain start, was bowled by a tremendous break-back.

After this Mr Jackson hit in capital form, and a little later Denton and Wainwright put on 54 runs in 40 minutes. After Wainwright was out, however, the bowlers got the upper hand to such an extent that, though over 200 runs had been scored for four wickets, there were eight wickets down for 242. Then, however, Haigh and Rhodes stayed together and at the call of time the score had reached 268, Yorkshire being 204 runs ahead with two wickets in hand. The afternoon was delightfully fine and the cricket was watched with obvious enjoyment by 12,000 people.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 30 June, page 11)

Yorkshire, in scoring 268 for eight wickets against the Essex total of 64, had gained such an enormous advantage at Bradford that there was very little interest left when play was resumed yesterday, but the prospect of seeing the home side secure their ninth victory in the county championship proved, with the addition of a fine day, sufficient to attract about 5,000 spectators to the Horton-park-avenue ground.

Yorkshire's innings was finished off for 278, and the southern county, with five hours and three-quarters' cricket ahead, wanted 214 to avoid a single-innings defeat. With nothing to hope for but a draw, the Essex batsmen played with the utmost caution, and it took them three hours to make 100, Perrin and Turner being in 80 minutes each to score 14 and seven respectively, and McGahey stopping for 40 minutes for his few runs. Lucas, who batted better than any one else, obtained his 49 in an hour and three-quarters, and then, when all hope of saving the game had departed, Russell and Mead indulged in a little free batting which was extremely refreshing to the spectators, who had the satisfaction of seeing Yorkshire victorious at 20 minutes to 5 by an innings with 38 runs to spare. Rhodes had the splendid bowling record in the match of 11 wickets for 92 runs.

30 June: DERBYSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5027.html)

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

What would have been the return match between Derbyshire and Surrey had not the fixture between the two counties at the Oval in May been abandoned without a ball being bowled was commenced yesterday at Chesterfield, where an excellent wicket had been prepared. Surrey, who played Mr Crawford and Lees in place of Mr Key and Smith, had the good fortune to win the toss and were batting all day, scoring 326 runs and losing seven wickets.

Abel for the third time during the week was seen to great advantage, going in first and, after a stay of three hours and 40 minutes, being fourth man out for 88. When 62 he gave a chance at point, but otherwise his batting was of the most skilful description and he hit a five, five fours, five threes and nine twos. Holland assisted him to put on 89 runs for the second wicket, and Hayward stayed while 76 were added for the third. Holland batted with great freedom, but he was missed when 20, and should have been run out for 29. Later in the innings Baldwin played in fine form and Mr Jephson was also seen to advantage, the latter in company with Hayes scoring 49 for the seventh wicket. With the dismissal of Mr Jephson, stumps were drawn for the day.

Great interest was taken in the game, the attendance amounting to between 4,000 and 5,000 pro. Derbyshire lacked the services of F Davidson, and were further handicapped by the inability of Storer, who had injured a finger, to keep wicket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 July, page 14)

Surrey had all the better of the day's cricket at Chesterfield yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 July, page 18)

Assisted as they were by rain falling overnight, Surrey gained a victory over Derbyshire at Chesterfield on Saturday by an innings and 43 runs. When play ceased on Friday the home county had no chance of saving the game, being still 109 runs behind, with four of their best men out, and their score of 97 was raised to only 163, 70 minutes' cricket sufficing to finish the game.

L G Wright, who increased his overnight 43 to 73, played finely for two hours and 40 minutes, making 11 fours, two threes and three twos, but none of the others could do anything with Hayward and D L A Jephson. The amateur again bowled his lobbs with conspicuous success, and in the match took nine wickets for 55 runs.

30 June: LANCASHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5028.html)

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

In meeting Notts at Old Trafford yesterday Lancashire had the services of Mold and Cuttell, these two players having sufficiently recovered to resume their places in the eleven. On the other hand, Lancaster, whose bowling brought about the defeat of Middlesex on the previous day, was not available.

Notts were less fortunate than their opponents, Mr J A Dixon being kept away by business and Attewell by a sprain. On the strength of some good bowling this season for the M.C.C., Handford, who played for the county some few seasons back, was again given a trial, and a place was found for Mr W B Goodacre, who batting admirably about a month ago against Staffordshire.

Some rain had fallen in Manchester during the night and early morning, but Mr Tindall in winning the toss for Lancashire decided to take first innings. A splendid start was made by Albert Ward and Mr Hartley, and so long as these two batsmen stayed together a big total seemed in prospect. By means of almost perfect cricket they scored 116 runs, but as soon as they were parted a great change came over the game, the pitch perhaps getting rather treacherous under the influence of the bright sunshine. Anyway, the last nine wickets went down for 108 runs, the only notable stand being made by Baker and Cuttell who added 51 together in 40 minutes.

Mr Hartley, whose hitting on the off side was most brilliant, was batting two hours and 20 minutes for his 70, and was out third at 126. Among his figures were nine fours, six threes and three twos. The Lancashire innings ended at 20 minutes past 5 for 224.

With 50 minutes left for cricket Notts began with Mr A O Jones and Shrewsbury, and it seemed as if these two batsmen would play out time. Just on half-past 6, however, Mr Jones, who had made some splendid drives, was clean bowled, and with his downfall stumps were drawn. There were about 4,000 people present, the weather, after a dull morning, turning out charmingly fine.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 July, page 14)

In Manchester yesterday the afternoon's cricket went steadily in favour of Lancashire, and at the drawing of stumps they had obtained a great advantage.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 July, page 18)

Heavy rain on Friday night ruined the chances of Notts' making anything of a struggle, and Lancashire, after declaring their second innings closed with five wickets down, gained an easy victory on Saturday, in Manchester, by 254 runs. Lancashire held such a commanding lead at the end of the second day's play that they only troubled to increase their score of 248 for four wickets to 278 before applying the closure.

And then Notts, with five hours left for play, had no chance of saving the game, much less of winning, wanting as they did 352 runs. As the wicket dried under a hot sun, the difficulties of the batsmen increased, and in two hours the whole side were out for 97. William Gunn was batting an hour for his 25, but no one else offered much resistance to Cuttell and Briggs, who bowled unchanged. Cuttell bowled particularly well.

Albert Ward, who was batting the whole of the four hours and ten minutes during which the Lancashire innings lasted, played faultless cricket and hit 11 fours, ten threes and four twos. Notts had not previously suffered defeat this season in the county championship, and earlier in the week had gained their only victory, having beaten Kent.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5029.html)

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

The long innings of Cambridge at Lord's yesterday was mainly the work of two men - Mr C E M Wilson, the captain, and Mr T L Taylor; but if the former made more runs his was not intrinsically the better innings. Taylor, having played himself in, drove splendidly and never once let off a half-volley; he came down on the ball with great power and the vivacity of his style must have impressed every one. With far less robust health, Mr Wilson did a good deal of plodding and he was constantly in difficulties with the bowling; but his caution paid well in the end, for he kept his side together and was the last to leave when the score had reached the respectable dimensions of 273.

Almost every Oxford and Cambridge match has some particular incident by which it is recalled, and, unless something greater occurs, this will no doubt go down to posterity as "Wilson's year," for not only has he played a fine innings of 115, but in his fourth season of this match he has beaten K J Key's aggregate record of runs. Mr Wilson has this season suffered from an old strain which he originally sustained in his school days at Uppingham, and early in his innings yesterday he broke down and had Coode to run for him.

Ever since he went up to Cambridge Mr Wilson has been a fine bat; but he was never thoroughly himself during his long innings yesterday. Cambridge were going to pieces when the Wilson and Taylor partnership began, for Burnup, Marriott and Jessop, upon whom so much reliance was placed, had all comparatively failed. With the exception of Wilson and Taylor, the Cambridge batting was poor.

The wicket, being just soft on top, helped the Oxford bowlers a good deal before luncheon, but, drying gradually, it caused the ball to come along much more easily, and the shower about 4 o'clock still further improved the batsmen's chances. The cricket of the fielding side was superb; their bowling was good, some fine catches were made and for the most part the ground work could scarcely have been better. The Cambridge men had to fight hard for their runs and their rate of scoring was below the average.

Cunliffe, the Oxford captain, worked wonderfully hard; now and again he lost his length, but as a rule he kept a fine pitch and always took a lot of playing. He ought perhaps to have bowled Lee more than he did. The old Wykehamist only got his "blue" by his success in the M.C.C. match at the beginning of the week, and yesterday he had a fine analysis of five wickets for 31. Lee sends down a very good "yorker" and the Cambridge men found it very difficult to meet. Altogether it was a very interesting day's cricket and if the wicket remains good the match should be well fought out.

The trial matches were much interfered with by the wet of May and June, and it was only in the last fortnight that the public has to any extent turned its attention to it. But, when every one was talking of a walk-over for Cambridge, the Oxford men, after a long abstention from big matches, took the field again and both at Brighton and at Lord's proved themselves to be a capable and well-balanced side. They had seven of last year's eleven again playing, against the six of Cambridge.

That the old-fashioned interest had been at last aroused by the match was patent from the crowd of 16,000 or 17,000 people assembled yesterday, when, except in point of weather - there was only sunshine in the last two hours - Lord's presented a scene worthy of the best traditions of the match. There was a larger number of vehicles than usual, and the Four-in-Hand and Coaching Club members were allowed the privilege of driving on and off the ground each day, whereas nearly all the other carriages and coaches are allotted stationary places for the whole three days.

The pavilion was as crowded as ever, and among those present were the Hon Alfred Lyttelton, M.P., the president of the M.C.C., Lord Harris, the Earl of Lichfield, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Earl of Pembroke, Lord Wenlock, Mr Long, M.P., Mr Percy Thornton, M.P., the Earl of Jersey, the Hon Chandos Leigh, Mr V E Walker, Mr A J Webbe, Mr H Philipson, Mr H D G

Leveson-Gower, Mr C E Green, Mr E L Bateman, Mr E T Gordon, Captain Wynyard, Mr V F Royle, Mr F S Jackson, Mr K J Key, Mr R A H Mitchell, Mr Norman Druce, the Hon Ivo Bligh and Mr W W Read.

The Lord's new groundman - Tom Hearne, jun. - had made the most of two fine days and had prepared an excellent pitch; but the rain shower about 7 o'clock yesterday morning softened the surface of the turf just enough to make the ball bump, so that the winning of the toss possessed, at least to begin with, not all the advantages usually attached to taking first innings. The spin of the coin favoured Cambridge, and at midday the match was opened by the batting of Burnup and Coode. Cunliffe, with his left-hand medium pace, began his own bowling with Bosanquet, who is rather fast, at the other end.

The bowlers at once found their length and were backed up by smart fielding. For a long time the only score was a single got by Burnup towards short leg. Burnup played strongly on the leg side; but could not get the ball much away from the fieldsmen, while the score was only four when Coode just touched a short fast ball from Bosanquet and was caught by the wicket-keeper standing back. Marriott and Burnup started scoring rapidly and batted with that confidence that comes only from experience in the University match; but the partnership was brief and the score was only 17 when a fine length ball bowled Marriott, who played right outside it.

With Wilson in the runs came mostly in singles; Cunliffe's fine pitch kept the score down at one end, while Bosanquet's fast short bowling in the dull light and with the black background of the pavilion troubled the batsmen a good deal. The Oxford fielding was very keen and Fox was in fine form at wicket. Forty minutes were taken to make 30 runs; but the keenness all round made the play very good to watch. Wilson strained himself in turning and had Coode out to run for him.

The game proceeded very quietly. At 41, which had taken nearly an hour to make, Stocks with his left-hand medium pace took up the bowling at Bosanquet's end, while Lee, a quicker bowler, went on for Cunliffe. Nothing could have been better than the Oxford fielding and the short-legs at each end had plenty to do. There was a very fine cut for four by Wilson; but then at 48, Burnup, after having been in an hour and a quarter for 15, was beaten by a "yorker" from Lee, who had just before nearly got out the Cambridge captain with a similar ball.

The crowd looked with great expectations to Jessop, who was at once busy with a four through the slips. But Cunliffe gave him no chance of punishing Stocks, a bowler rather after Jessop's heart, as he at once went on himself. Jessop gave a very feeble show; he made a false hit for a single from Cunliffe and then got only half hold of a ball and gave Bosanquet, deep on the off side, an easy catch. Four for 61 was a very poor start for Cambridge.

Taylor, who went up from Uppingham with a pretty big batting reputation, but who only got his blue in his second year, joined his captain. The scoring was very slow, for the bowlers kept a fine pitch and the fielding was brilliant. Cunliffe, however, changed his bowling at both ends again, and Bosanquet and Stocks came on. At luncheon the score stood at 75 without any further wicket having fallen.

There was a 50 minutes' interval and then the game was resumed. Cunliffe and Stocks kept down the runs and each more than once beat Wilson. The best batting was by Taylor, who had three half-volleys from Cunliffe, and these he promptly hit to the boundary. It was chiefly through him that the 100 went up at 3.15; the three figures had taken two hours and 25 minutes' actual play to put together. Wilson, who had been playing a very poor game since luncheon, gave a difficult chance to Lee at extra slip; the ball went high up to the fieldsmen's right hand. Taylor played a strong game and his off-drive was particularly good. Indeed, his cricket altogether was better than anything else that had so far been seen. Cunliffe who lost his pitch put on Bosanquet at 116. More half-volleys and more fours took the score along quickly, and there was a big cheer for Taylor as he ran to his 50 in a little over the hour. The light had by this time grown very bad, and with the score at 129 the rain which had been long threatening came down so heavily that the game was adjourned.

The players were away rather less than half an hour, and it was still drizzling, and continued to do so, when they were out again. The ball came along pretty easily and runs were scored at a fair rate. Bosanquet was tried at the nursery end and Cunliffe went on again at the pavilion; but still no wicket fell and Wilson received plenty of cheers when he reached his 50, a number that had taken him two and three-quarter hours to score. Without any remarkable incident the score ran on to 173, when the long partnership, which had lasted about two hours, was ended by a brilliant left-hand catch low down at extra slip which got out Taylor. He had played excellent cricket after the luncheon interval; driving was perhaps his strong characteristic, but he cut well and hit to leg. For the fifth wicket 111 runs were added, and of these Taylor's share was 70; his chief figures were nine fours, five threes and three twos.

Winter gave little trouble, for he scooped a ball up over point's head and Champaign, running from cover, made a very pretty catch. Six of the side had now gone for 173. Lee quickly got out Stogdon and De Zoete, and eight were dismissed for 186. Wilson and Hind were together some time, and the score reached 200 when the innings had lasted four hours. Wilson made a lucky snick that just escaped the leg stump and then went for four; but he soon afterwards made a beautiful cut for four and at ten minutes to 6 he reached his 100, the total at that time standing at 233. The partnership had lasted three-quarters of an hour and had yielded 65 runs when Hind was caught by the wicket-keeper standing back.

Hawkins was last man, and he and Wilson seemed likely to play out time, but in the last minute of the cricket day Wilson was caught low down at extra slip. His 115 had taken him four and three-quarter hours to make; he had gone in second wicket down at 17 and had thus scored his 115 out of 256. Except for the difficult chance at 35 he was not missed, and his chief hits were 16 fours, three threes and five twos. With the close of the Cambridge innings stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 July, page 14)

The fine position of the Oxford eleven at Lord's last night, when Cambridge had three wickets down in their second innings and were still 40 behind, was a complete change from the state of the game at the close of play on Thursday. Oxford now hold a commanding advantage, which is strengthened further by the uncertain weather.

It was Mr A Eccles who turned the game with an innings that in brilliancy and finish surpassed everything yet done in the match. Nearly all his runs were got in front of the wicket; but he showed considerable strength on the leg side and the way he "glanced" anything that rose at all in this direction was a credit to his Lancashire professional coaches. R E Foster, one of the famous Malvern cricket and racquet family, preceded Eccles with a fine innings; but neither Foster's innings nor the good work by Cunliffe and Bosanquet was worthy to be compared with the wonderful form of Mr Eccles, who completely held the spectators until about half-past 4, when he was the third victim of ill-judged running in the Oxford innings.

It must not be forgotten that the wicket was wholly rid of the effects of the early rain on the first day, and that from the moment of the start yesterday morning it played fast and true. So that after all Cambridge had really been unfortunate to win the toss, considering how the ball bumped on Thursday before luncheon.

Ill-fortune pursued Cambridge, for after a long day in the field they had to play for an hour in declining light. Burnup in his last year has been very unfortunate in his batting, but it is questionable if he did not err in departing from his usual forcing game for one of patience. Cambridge have various good batsmen left and they may yet make a fine fight to get out of their present bad position.

Lord's presented a much more brilliant spectacle than on Thursday, for there were four or five hours of sunshine, although towards the close of the day the weather became dull, and the attendance, according to official estimate, ran to 18,000 or 19,000. The members in attendance included Mr Balfour, who, however, spent some time in the tennis court, where

Oxford v Cambridge singles match was being played. Sir Edward Grey, M.P., and the Archdeacon of London were also present.

Oxford began their innings at half-past 11 with Fane and Bannon. The bowling offered a great contrast in Jessop's pace from the pavilion end and Winter's lobs at the nursery. The batsmen started carefully; but very soon some good drives were executed and the score ran on to 20 when Fane was caught at short slip, while Champain after making four was taken by third man, fielding close in. Both were fine catches, the ball in each case going from the bat at a great pace.

Two men were out for 24 runs when Cunliffe joined Bannon. The latter played very good cricket, but Cunliffe never seemed to like the lobs. Hind was tried in place of Winter, and in his first over an error of judgment led to the running-out of Bannon. He had started for a cut by himself to third man - Burnup - when Cunliffe sent him back; but he was out by a yard, the fieldsman returned the ball easily and well. Bannon had been showing such very good form that this seemed almost an irreparable blunder. Three wickets were down for 42.

Foster began well by driving Winter, whose lobs had been again tried, to the boundary, and in just over the hour 50 went up. Cunliffe and Foster played so well that Wilson again changed his bowling, this time at each end, bringing on Hind and Hawkins. Foster made some very fine drives and hit one half-volley from Hawkins with great power to the pavilion rails. A point in the cricket which did not escape the crowd's notice was the fielding of Jessop at cover-point.

The batting continued good and Jessop again took up the ball at 92. Fine fielding and batting secured an equal amount of applause and there was general cheering as the 100 went up at 20 minutes past 1. De Zoete, who had had a trial with the ball, gave way to the lobs again at 112; but the score still mounted, and a nasty rising ball from Jessop was well dealt with by Foster, who chopped it down on the ground and it went away through the slips for three. With a pretty stroke on the leg side Foster ran to his 50 in 70 minutes, after which the record went on to 124, when from a very bad stroke Cunliffe was cleverly caught and bowled, Jessop taking the ball almost on his toes. The Oxford captain had played a careful innings of an hour and 40 minutes, and had been assisted by Foster in putting on 82 for the fourth wicket.

Foster was out soon afterwards in attempting to cut a ball from Jessop, which gave an easy catch to extra slip. Foster had played splendid cricket and his chief hits were five fours, three threes and five twos. Half the side were out for 137, and then before luncheon there was a quarter of an hour's batting by Eccles, whose driving was very fine. Bromley-Martin was bowled by a no-ball from Jessop, which went to the boundary; he was playing forward but misjudged the ball altogether, and it was taken as a bit of bad luck by Jessop that he should have just got over the crease. The luncheon score stood at 165 for five wickets.

When play was resumed the bowlers were Winter and Hind; but Eccles scored so freely from each end that 20 were added in eight minutes, and then at 190 Jessop took up the bowling and Hind was tried at the other end. Eccles continued his brilliant batting and ran to his 50 when he had been in as many minutes; but at 206 another run-out occurred, Bromley-Martin being the victim. It was a case of starting for an unwise run and then of Eccles's sending his companion back. Sixty-nine had been made for the wicket.

After Lee had been let off in the slips by Stogdon there was some grand driving all along the ground by Eccles off Jessop. Hawkins came on again at 239 and De Zoete was further tried. The Cambridge fielding here and there was a little slack, but Burnup was always very good, and the way he stopped some things just in front of the pavilion elicited general applause. Forty-one had been added for the seventh wicket when De Zoete bowled out Lee; but Bosanquet, if he did not meet with much success, kept up his end while Eccles made the runs. From Jessop he scored four by a pretty leg glance, and then with a two by a drive he made the scores all even.

Soon afterwards Oxford went ahead. Bosanquet had a humour for hitting and, getting most of the bowling, kept Eccles a long time in the nineties. Eventually Eccles ran to his century, which he had made out of 175 added since he went in. He was warmly cheered for this feat,

while there was more applause when 300 went up. A couple more bowling changes were tried; but once again it was ill-judgment in running that proved fatal to Oxford. This time it was Eccles who was out. Curiously, the dismissal originated in the misfielding of a ball by Wilson on the leg side; the batsmen tried for a second run and Coode made amends for the error of his captain by a fine return, and Eccles was easily out. Eccles had a splendid reception as he returned to the pavilion. He had made his 109 inside two hours, and his chief hits were 16 fours, three threes and six twos.

Eight wickets were now down for 309. The ninth was not taken until after some vigorous hitting by Stocks, who was eventually caught in the slips at 340, while Fox stayed long enough for Bosanquet to complete his 50, the innings coming to a close at ten minutes past 5. Bosanquet had made a lot of good hits in his not-out innings of 54. Of the bowlers Jessop was by far the most successful. He did a great deal of work and his six wickets cost 21 runs each.

Cambridge had arrears of 89 to begin their second innings against and there was about an hour of the cricket day left. Cunliffe and Lee bowled very well and were backed up by good fielding; but Burnup and Coode, although beaten now and again, scored steadily until 32, when Burnup, who had been very cautious, was well caught at wicket. When Stocks came on for his captain he quickly caused Coode to play on, while Bosanquet in the declining light bowled out Hind. With the latter's dismissal stumps were drawn and Cambridge finished up with three wickets down and still 40 in arrear.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 July, page 18)

The Oxford eleven beat Cambridge at Lord's on Saturday by nine wickets. Had the conditions remained the same as existed on Friday the result would no doubt have been less decisive; but fortune was against Cambridge from the start and the rain on Friday night completely ruined any chances that remained for Cambridge to make a hard fight.

With the wicket made rapidly treacherous by the baking of the pitch, the ball bumped and turned to such an extent that it was not such a very discreditable performance to carry the score in the second innings from three for 49 to 140; but there was a good deal of scraping in the batting during the hour and a half that Cambridge took to make these last 91 runs. Cunliffe bowled remarkably well; he found a fine pitch and made the most of the false turf.

Only once was there a slight check in the steady downfall of the Cambridge men, and this was when, for the eighth wicket, Stogdon and Taylor put on 26 runs. Otherwise the Light Blues' batting broke down badly, and the men were given no quarter by Oxford, who bowled and fielded with great skill. The catch in the slips by Foster which got out Marriott and the piece of stumping that dismissed Jessop were among the best things in a brief cricket day.

The 52 runs necessary to win were made by Oxford in the space of 35 minutes, and were productive of fine batting by Bannon and Champain, the latter finishing up the match in an over from Hawkins, off whom he hit three fours and a single. It was a fine right-hand catch that got out Fane.

The weather on Saturday was beautifully fine and the several thousand spectators were not to be deprived of their picnicking by the early finish, for it was nearing 5 o'clock when the ground was actually clear. A survey of the cricket during the three days confirms the opinion that Cambridge were an over-rated side. The loss of Wilson's bowling was a source of much weakness, and then, apart from Hind and Jessop, their other bowlers were poor. Oxford, by their all-round excellence, completely deserved their victory.

The following are the averages of the University Elevens:-

[Note: these have been reduced to show only players with 200 runs or 20 wickets.]

OXFORD BATTING

Most in Times

	Inns	Runs	Inns.	not out	Average
A Eccles	12	283	109	0	23.58
F H E Cunliffe	14	250	70	3	22.72
R E Foster	12	272	65	0	22.66
F L Fane	15	300	41	1	21.42
G E Bromley-Martin	13	245	65	1	20.41
B W Bannon	15	257	69	1	18.35

OXFORD BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
E C Lee	179.3	56	359	21	17.09
F W Stocks	190.4	73	400	21	19.04
F H E Cunliffe	323	102	747	33	19.65
B J T Bosanquet	221.4	62	503	25	20.12

CAMBRIDGE BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Inns.	Most in Times not out	Average
C J Burnup	19	521	77	1	28.94
G E Winter	12	310	86	1	26.18
G L Jessop	14	273	55*	1	21.00
A T Coode	17	256	39	2	17.05
T L Taylor	17	253	70	0	14.88
Also:					
C E M Wilson	10	180	115	1	20.00

CAMBRIDGE BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
A E Hind	385.1	145	627	35	17.91
G L Jessop	214.2	51	492	26	18.92
H H B Hawkins	232	72	522	25	20.88

From the list of results in "Wisden" it appears that Cambridge have won 32 matches to 29 by Oxford. Only three matches in 64 years have been left unfinished and these were in 1827, 1844 and 1888, when rain each time prevented any definite issue from being reached.

30 June: YORKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5030.html)

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

In the course of the game at Dewsbury yesterday, extending over five hours of actual cricket, no fewer than 24 wickets went down, Yorkshire first dismissing their opponents for 56, then scoring 178 themselves, and finally getting rid of four more Leicestershire batsmen for 18 runs. On a pitch that rendered them some assistance Rhodes and Wainwright were at their best, and in the visitors' first innings only Knight, who was batting an hour and ten minutes for 17, and Woodcock reached double figures, the end coming just after luncheon.

For Yorkshire, Lord Hawke played a brilliant game and made 57 out of 131 in an hour and 35 minutes. Save for one extremely difficult chance of catching and bowling to Geeson he made no mistake and his figures included nine fours, three threes and three twos. Denton and Wainwright rendered their captain valuable assistance, but after he left no one did very much against Pougher, who, on being put on a second time, took four of the last five wickets for 13 runs.

As the game stands now, however, Leicestershire are in an almost hopeless position, for with four of their best batsmen out in the second innings they still require 104 to avert a single innings defeat.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 July, page 14)

Yorkshire won another match yesterday, this time beating Leicestershire at Dewsbury by an innings and 24 runs.

The results up to the present are as follows:

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	13	10	0	3	10
Lancashire	12	5	1	6	4
Essex	8	4	2	2	2
Surrey	9	3	2	4	1
Gloucestershire	7	1	1	5	0
Kent	8	2	2	4	0
Notts	9	1	1	7	0
Derbyshire	7	2	3	2	-1
Sussex	6	0	1	5	-1
Warwickshire	8	1	3	4	-2
Somerset	7	1	4	2	-3
Middlesex	6	0	3	3	-3
Hampshire	8	1	4	3	-3
Leicestershire	8	0	4	4	-4

The matches between Surrey and Derbyshire on May 19 and Surrey and Warwickshire on May 23 were abandoned without a ball having been bowled.

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages so far this season are set out below:-

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in Times		Average
			Inns.	not out	
Abel	18	882	148	3	58.80
Shrewsbury	17	721	154*	4	55.46
Mr J R Mason	15	709	152	0	47.26
Mr C L Townsend	11	515	159	0	46.31
Mr W H Patterson	9	351	117	1	43.87
Alec Hearne	16	601	117	2	42.92
Mr S M J Woods	13	538	143	0	41.38
Tunnicliffe	19	662	108*	3	41.37
Storer	18	650	109	2	41.25
Mr C O H Sewell	15	555	111	1	39.64
Mr A E Stoddart	10	348	138	1	38.66
Brockwell	17	618	135	1	38.62
Lord Hawke	18	461	107*	6	38.41
Hayward	12	446	126	0	37.16
A Ward	22	766	135	1	36.47
Mr F S Jackson	18	608	147	1	35.76
Dr W G Grace	17	528	71	2	35.20
W Gunn	17	469	125	3	33.50
Mr L C H Palairret	10	279	112	1	31.00
Mr F G J Ford	12	357	127	0	29.75
Mr H G Owen	15	414	74	0	27.60
Mr W L Murdoch	21	504	121*	2	26.52
J T Brown	21	487	88	1	24.35
Mr A Eccles	12	283	109	0	23.58

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	538.3	227	835	89	9.38
Wainwright	312.3	132	505	47	10.74

Mr F S Jackson	365	151	610	54	11.29
Haigh	403	162	757	59	12.83
J T Hearne	866.2	377	1445	111	13.01
G Davidson	601	282	909	66	13.77
Lockwood	348.3	118	698	45	15.51
Mead	487	166	918	59	15.55
Attewell	592.1	260	751	43	17.46
Tyler	340.4	76	857	49	17.48
Mr F G Bull	341	105	752	43	17.48
Richardson	391.3	102	989	52	19.01
Mold	419	156	952	50	19.04
Briggs	442.4	151	927	48	19.31
Mr F H E Cunliffe	323	102	747	38	19.65
Mr G L Jessop	247.2	58	553	27	20.48

4 July: DERBYSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5031.html)

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

The opening stage of the return match between Derbyshire and Essex at Derby yesterday went greatly in favour of the Essex eleven, who dismissed their opponents for 166 and then, without losing a wicket, got to within 20 of that number. Derbyshire had not the best of luck, several of the batsmen losing their wickets in an unfortunate fashion, while the team had to play a man short, owing to the unexpected absence of Bagshaw.

The chief feature of the Derbyshire innings was the fine play of Storer, who, going in when two wickets were down for 11 runs, carried out his bat for 80. Essex had rather more than two hours' batting at the end of the afternoon, and Mr Owen and Carpenter, who opened the innings, gave a splendid display, scoring 146 and being still together at the call of time.

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

At Derby, yesterday, the Essex eleven gave a fine display of batting. With 146 on the board and no wicket down they went on with their innings in the morning, and when the time came for drawing stumps they had carried the score to 497 and had still five wickets to fall.

The honours rested in the first place with Mr Owen and Carpenter, and afterwards with Messrs Perrin and McGahey. The partnership for the first wicket, which had opened so brilliantly on Monday, came to an end with the score at 194, Carpenter being at last caught at the wicket. Still finer play was seen during the stay of Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey, runs coming at a much more rapid rate than in the previous part of the innings. These batsmen carried the score from 218 to 413, and then Mr Perrin was bowled.

Day 3 (report from Tuesday 7 July, page 11)

Having on Tuesday at Derby obtaining a lead of 331, the Essex eleven, as might have been expected, did not trouble yesterday morning to get any more runs, Mr Owen declaring the innings closed with the score at 497 for five wickets. Thus, to save the game, Derbyshire would have had yesterday to keep up their wickets for the whole of the day. They never looked like doing anything of the kind, and shortly after the luncheon interval the match came to an end, Essex winning in the easiest fashion by an innings and 172 runs.

Three wickets were lost for 20, but Storer and Chatterton played well together and in the course of their partnership carried the score to 73, Storer being the first to go. George Davidson left with the score unaltered, and though Walter Sugg proved a useful assistant to Chatterton - the two batsmen raising the score from 73 to 110 - the total at lunch time with seven men out was only 141.

On resuming play Chatterton was out at 152, his admirable innings, which included two sixes, four fours, one three and three twos, having lasted two hours. J Wright also played very well. Derbyshire's innings occupied two hours and 40 minutes and came to an end for 159. Mr Bull bowled wonderfully well, taking six wickets at a cost of only 76 runs. This was an exception piece of work, as the ground did not in any way help him.

4 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5032.html)

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

The fine weather and the novelty of the Middlesex team playing at Leicester attracted a large crowd to the Aylestone Ground, and the spectators had the pleasure of witnessing one of Leicestershire's best performances this season. The home county were fortunate enough to win the toss and they were batting the whole afternoon, completing an innings just before half-past 6 for 312 runs.

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

The great feature of the cricket at Leicester yesterday was the batting feat by Mr A E Stoddart, who in making 157 scored his highest innings since his tour in Australia in 1894-95. It was an excellent piece of work, and all the more meritorious in consequence of its being begun when the game was going against Middlesex.

On resuming in the morning against Leicestershire's innings of 312 the visitors lost three wickets in obtaining 48. Then Rawlin joined Mr Stoddart and the pair contributed 124 in an hour and 25 minutes. Sir T C O'Brien and Mr Foley subsequently gave their captain some valuable assistance before Stoddart was sixth out at 306. In making 157, the great batsman was at the wickets three hours and three-quarters, and hit two fives, 19 fours, five threes and 13 twos. Towards the close of the innings there was some vigorous batting by Trott, the total ultimately reaching 347.

Leicestershire, going in against a majority of 35, lost two wickets for 28, so they are still seven runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Tuesday 7 July, page 11)

At Leicester yesterday the Middlesex eleven gained their first victory this season, beating Leicestershire in very handsome style by nine wickets.

So finely did J T Hearne and Albert Trott bowl that Leicestershire's second innings, in which two wickets had fallen on Tuesday for 28, was finished off for 127. This was a very poor total, there being nothing in the condition of the ground to excuse the failure of the batsmen. Brown, maintaining a stubborn defence for two hours and ten minutes, played fine cricket, but for the rest of the team the bowling was much too good.

Middlesex wanted only 93 to win, and after Mr Hayman had been got rid of the remaining runs were hit off in brilliant style by Mr Warner and Mr Stoddart, neither of whom gave a chance. So rapid was the scoring that the 93 runs were obtained in 70 minutes. Mr Warner hit two fives, five fours, two threes and two twos, and Mr Stoddart seven fours and a two.

4 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5033.html)

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

In their return match with Notts at Trent-bridge yesterday the Lancashire eleven were seen to great advantage, as, having first chance on a splendid pitch, they remained in nearly the whole time cricket was in progress and ran up a fine total of 324.

Chief honours in this capital performance were carried off by Mr C R Hartley and Frank Sugg, who, after two wickets had fallen for 31, stayed together for an hour and a quarter and added 98 runs before being separated.

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

At Trent-bridge yesterday the Notts eleven stayed in all the afternoon and ran up a total of 219. Chief honours in this performance were carried off by Shrewsbury and Mr Dixon, who by some very steady play put their side in a better position than at one time appeared probable.

Mr Dixon and Shrewsbury came together when one wicket had fallen for 18, and in the course of three hours carried the score to 134. After Mr Dixon left Shrewsbury went on playing in very skilful style, and when the last wicket fell he was not out with 92. Altogether he was batting five hours and 20 minutes, and in that time did not give the semblance of a chance.

Day 3 (report from Tuesday 7 July, page 11)

After three full days' cricket, the match between Notts and Lancashire at Trent-bridge ended last evening in a draw, the home team, when stumps were finally pulled up, having six wickets to fall and wanting 173 to win.

As only one innings on each side had been completed during the previous two days, there was never much likelihood of the game being brought to a definite issue; but, as Lancashire possessed a lead of 105 runs, they could well have afforded to play a free game. So far from scoring at all rapidly, however, the visitors batted during the first hour for 35 runs, and at lunch time when the game had been in progress for two hours and 20 minutes, had only made 106. Not until a quarter to 4 in the afternoon did the Lancashire captain feel himself justified in closing the innings with the score at 165 for three wickets, and, as Notts subsequently had only to stay in for two hours and a half on a good wicket, a draw was rendered practically certain.

For Lancashire, Ward and Hartley put on 52 runs for the first wicket, and the former, with Sugg as his partner, added 71 more for the third. Ward, when the innings was declared closed, had scored 75 and was still not out. He made during his long stay only one really bad stroke but, correct as his cricket was, the interests of his side demanded far more vigorous methods.

When Notts went in to bat Shrewsbury was speedily dismissed and William Gunn was in some difficulty at starting, but the latter, in company with Jones, put on 49 runs in 50 minutes, and subsequently Gunn and Dixon stayed together for nearly three-quarters of an hour longer. For wickets had fallen for 98 at a quarter past 6, and then, as no object could have been served by more cricket, stumps were pulled up. Pleasant weather favoured the game, but there was only a small company present.

4 July: YORKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5034.html)

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

At Bradford, yesterday, the Yorkshire team gave further proof of their splendid form this season, dismissing Sussex in less than three hours for 189 and then scoring 139 for the loss of only three wickets. For the first time for a week they were able to command the services of Tunncliffe, and Mr F S Jackson also resumed his place in the eleven, so, except for the absence of David Hunter, the home county had their full strength.

During the first hour the condition of the ground gave the bowlers some assistance, and Sussex lost three good men for 26 runs, but Fry and Newham made a splendid stand and at lunch time had carried the score to 129 without further loss. Afterwards the visitors' batting broke down very badly and the seven outstanding wickets fell for the addition of 60 runs, Haigh dismissing five batsmen after the interval for 19 runs. Fry, whose partnership with Newham realized 111 runs, made his first 48 runs in half an hour and his finely hit 67 included a five, ten fours, a three and four twos. Newham was twice missed before scoring 20, but afterwards played excellent cricket.

Brown and Tunncliffe opened the Yorkshire innings in fine form, putting on 62 runs in 50 minutes. Tunncliffe was third man out at 83, and then Denton and Wainwright in rather less than an hour added 56 runs without being separated.

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

Rain at Bradford yesterday curtailed the day's cricket by rather more than an hour, but during such time as the game between Yorkshire and Sussex was in progress the south country team were seen to considerable advantage. Yorkshire entered upon the second stage of the game only 50 runs behind the Sussex score of 189, with seven wickets to fall.

Wainwright was out to the first ball sent down, but then Denton and Lord Hawke added 58 runs and Hirst assisted his captain to put on 53 more, the total reaching 250 with only five men out. Subsequently Bland and Tate bowled with so much effect that the innings was finished off for 282. Lord Hawke played splendid cricket, hitting eight fours, his 52 being his third successive score of over 50.

Sussex on going in to bat after lunch were 93 runs behind, but Brann and Fry put on 50 runs for the first wicket in 40 minutes, and then Brann and Murdoch made a splendid stand and the arrears were cleared off in an hour and a quarter at the cost of only one wicket. Altogether the two batsmen put on 114 runs in 80 minutes by admirable cricket, the score being up to 164 when Brann was dismissed for a brilliant innings of 85, which included a six, ten fours and eight twos. Sussex were then 71 runs on with eight wickets to fall, but afterwards they fared badly against the slow leg-breaks of J T Brown, and when rain stopped play for the day at 25 minutes past 5 there were five men out for 178. Although the weather proved dull, about 8,000 people assembled to witness the play.

Day 3 (report from Tuesday 7 July, page 11)

At Bradford, yesterday, the wicket was not nearly so difficult as had been expected after the rain which fell on Tuesday evening, and the Yorkshiremen, playing much better cricket than they had done on the previous afternoon, gained a decisive victory over Sussex with seven wickets to spare, about two hours and a quarter sufficing to bring the contest to a conclusion.

As the game had been left when rain stopped play on Tuesday Sussex in their second innings had made 178 for the loss of five batsmen, and 93 behind when they went in were 85 runs ahead at the close of play. There seemed a prospect that they would set Yorkshire a fairly difficult task, but their batting broke down very badly before Brown and Haigh, and the

innings was finished off in 35 minutes for the addition of only 40 runs. Murdoch, who was seventh man out at 204, played a splendid innings of 90, making during his stay of two hours only two really faulty strokes and hitting 19 fours. Brown followed up his bowling success of the previous day, and for the whole innings had the remarkable record of six wickets for 52 runs.

Yorkshire had only 126 to get to win, and made so light of the task that the runs were hit off in an hour and 40 minutes. A capital start was made by Brown and Tunnicliffe, who in little more than half an hour put on 53 runs for the first wicket. Brown, who was second out at 79, played particularly well for his 45, and though Tate, who bowled exceedingly well, dismissed Denton at 99, Jackson and Wainwright then won the match without further loss. The amateur gave a chance behind the wicket at 27, but for the most part hit finely and carried out his bat for 49. The weather was delightful and about 3,000 people were present.

4 July: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/251/251300.html)

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

The feature of the cricket at Lord's yesterday was the fine innings of Alec Hearne [112 not out overnight] for the Club.

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

Yesterday at Lord's the M.C.C. won this match by an innings and 74 runs. Alec Hearne, in addition to his successful batting, proved very effective with the ball when the county went in a second time, and his five wickets cost only 40 runs.

4 July: LIVERPOOL AND DISTRICT v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/129/129032.html)

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

The Cambridge eleven gave a fine display of batting yesterday at Liverpool in their annual match with Liverpool and District. Having the good fortune to win the toss, they went in first and, as will be seen below, scored exactly 400.

In different styles two capital innings were played, Mr Coode making 117 and Mr Winter 142. Mr Coode was batting nearly three hours, but Mr Winter hit up his runs in an hour and 40 minutes. The Liverpool team made a very fair start at the close of the afternoon.

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

The Liverpool team, at Aigburth, last evening, finished up badly, and with an innings to play Cambridge have only 58 to make to win.

Day 3 (report from Tuesday 7 July, page 11)

In about 25 minutes, at Aigburth yesterday, the Cambridge team got the runs necessary for victory and won the match by ten wickets. Mr Frank Mitchell hit brilliantly and there were 11 fours in his 51.

7 July: ESSEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5035.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 July, page 12)

Dr Grace's first appearance at Leyton since Essex had been included among the first-class counties was attended with marked success, for yesterday not only did he make his first century, but also accomplished his finest bowling performance this season. It was almost entirely due to his magnificent play with bat and ball that Gloucestershire were able to claim such a substantial advantage at the close.

The breakdown of the Essex batsmen against Dr Grace's slows seemed rather inexplicable. The majority played him in a half-hearted fashion and were often caught in two minds. It was this indecision that cost several of the side their wickets; in fact, Mr Lucas and Mead were the only batsmen who played him with any confidence. Mr Lucas batted very steadily for his 31, while Mead hit out with considerable vigour for his 34, which included six fours.

Dr Grace had the splendid bowling figures of seven wickets for 44, an analysis which would have been even better but for Mead, who scored pretty freely off him towards the close. He went on at 24 for one wicket and bowled through the innings, while of the next six wickets that fell he took five for 14 runs, the total at the fall of the seventh being 66.

When Gloucestershire went in to bat, Dr Grace gave one of his best displays, scoring 53 out of the first 64 and 102 out of 153. He was fifth to leave after having been at the wickets for three hours and ten minutes, during which he hit 19 fours, four threes and eight twos. Throughout he had played in quite his old form, making very few bad strokes, while his placing on the leg-side was as well timed as ever. He received valuable assistance from Mr Townsend, for during a partnership of some hour and three-quarters 131 runs were added, when Mr Townsend played on. Mr Townsend batted very well, making some good on-drives and cuts. He hit nine fours.

Mr Kortright dismissed the last three batsmen rather cheaply, but when stumps were drawn Gloucestershire had a lead of 102 runs, with two wickets still in hand. There were nearly 10,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 July, page 9)

Gloucestershire yesterday, at Leyton, followed up the advantage they had gained in the opening stages of the game, and at the close were left in even a more favourable position. Less than two overs sufficed to bring the Gloucestershire innings to a close, and Essex, going in a second time 103 runs behind, gave a much better display, although, provided that the weather keeps fine, they will still have to fight very hard to avoid defeat.

The finest cricket was shown by Carpenter, who played a very pretty innings. He made his runs in quite his best style, both the cut and the off-drive being equally well executed. With Mr Perrin he put on 93 for the second wicket in an hour and a quarter, when he was tempted by one of Wrathall's lobs and was well caught at mid-off. Mr Perrin was the fifth to leave at 182, having been at the wickets for some two hours and three-quarters. He hit seven fours, four threes and seven twos. In the early part of his innings he had a considerable amount of luck, being twice missed in the twenties and again at 40, when Mr Troup failed to hold an easy catch in the long-field. Afterwards he played good cricket, his best strokes being his placing on the leg-side and his on-drive. He found a valuable partner in Mr Turner and 84 runs were added for the fourth wicket.

Gloucestershire went in with 148 to win and made a disastrous start, as Board and Mr Troup were dismissed in Mr Kortright's first over. Dr Grace and Mr Sewell then added 70 for the third wicket in just over an hour. Dr Grace was missed by Mr McGahey in the slips, but otherwise he showed all his well-known skill. At the close Gloucestershire required 67 runs to win, with seven wickets in hand.

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

After one of the most exciting finishes ever seen on the Essex county ground at Leyton, on Saturday, Gloucestershire beat Essex by one wicket. From the position of the game overnight everything pointed to a Gloucestershire victory, but so well did Mr Kortright and Mead bowl that Gloucestershire only just managed to win after some exciting moments; in fact, had Mr Owen taken off Mr Bull earlier, who had been hit pretty freely, there was just the possibility that the verdict might have been reversed. For the result the western county are greatly indebted to Dr Grace, who not only took seven wickets in the first innings of Essex at a small cost but also made 175 runs. At the same time Essex deserve great credit for their plucky fight under adverse circumstances, for luck was certainly against them.

When play was resumed Gloucestershire still required 67 to win. Dr Grace only added 13 to his score when Mr Kortright bowled him, and half the side were out for 129, while Mr Champain, who had played very free cricket for 24, which included five fours, left at the same total. Mr Jessop and Wrathall then took the score to 145, or three to win, when Wrathall was out, and for the addition of a single Mr Brown and Mr Wright were dismissed by Mr Kortright by consecutive balls.

When Roberts, the last man, came in, the excitement was intense, as two runs were still required to win; but after Roberts had made a single Mr Jessop jumped out and hit Mr Kortright to the off boundary and won the game for his side. During the match Mr Kortright took 12 wickets for 98 runs, a splendid performance. This is the third defeat of Essex in the county championship, they having been previously beaten twice by Yorkshire.

7 July: HAMPSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5036.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 July, page 12)

In meeting Surrey on the United Service ground at Portsmouth yesterday Hampshire were at a disadvantage in the absence of Captain Wynyard and Mr A J L Hill, the former being prevented from playing by the review at Aldershot.

Going in first, Hampshire found Richardson in very good form and lost four wickets for 51 runs. Richardson, at a cost of 76 runs, disposed of six batsmen, all of them being out to catches behind the wicket.

Surrey made a wretched start, Abel being out first ball and Holland with the score at six, but the Brockwell played brilliant cricket, and in company with Lockwood put on 119 runs in 70 minutes. Brockwell batted in splendid form, making 109 out of 159 in less than two hours and hitting 16 fours, three threes and 13 twos.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 July, page 9)

Surrey had not much difficulty in gaining a victory over Hampshire at Portsmouth yesterday, the game terminating shortly after 6 o'clock in the defeat of the home county by seven wickets. Overnight the visitors had been left with a considerable advantage, as with four wickets in hand they possessed a lead of 32 runs. Thanks to the bowling of Steele, the Surrey innings was quickly finished off yesterday for the addition of 43 runs.

In the second innings of Hampshire Major Poore and Colonel Spens made a very fair stand, and Captain Quinton batted in fine form, going in second wicket down at 53 and being the last man out. He found a useful partner in Robson, who it up 37 out of 47, but much of the Hampshire batting against Richardson and Lees was very poor and the innings closed for 170. Lees obtained four wickets very cheaply and Abel brought off five catches, two at mid-off and three in the slips.

Surrey had only 96 to get to win, and obtained this number in an hour and 20 minutes for the loss of three batsmen, Brockwell hitting up 42 out of the first 81 in less than an hour. Charming weather favoured the game and there were about 4,000 people on the United Service ground.

7 July: LANCASHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5037.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 July, page 12)

A drizzling rain set in at Manchester at 5 o'clock yesterday morning and continued so long that it was not until 20 minutes past 1 that the match between Lancashire and Sussex could be commenced. Play, however, once started, was not interfered with, the afternoon turning out bright and pleasant.

With the ground naturally affected by rain, batsmen were a good deal handicapped and, though Mr C B Fry and Baker scored well, 19 wickets went down for an aggregate of 267 runs. At the drawing of stumps Lancashire, with a wicket in hand, were 33 runs behind, so that the finish of the match promises to be highly interesting.

It was a decided advantage to Sussex to bat first, but if all the catches had been held they would not have made 150. The 100 went up with only three men out, but after that there came a change, Briggs and Cuttall proving very difficult as the pitch began to dry in the sunshine. Mr Fry was out fourth at 100, his innings of 57, though disfigured by two chances, being a very creditable effort. He hit nine fours and three threes.

When Lancashire went in three wickets were lost for 13 runs; but Baker saved the side from disaster, hitting up 58 in splendid style in a trifle over an hour. He was out seventh at 116.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 July, page 9)

A keen and interesting struggle was witnessed at Manchester yesterday and the Lancashire eleven succeeded in leaving off with the better chance of success.

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

Whatever chance the Sussex men possessed of beating Lancashire at Manchester on Saturday was destroyed by the fact that the wicket, which in the previous stages of the game had assisted the bowlers, was quite favourable to batsmen. Under the improved conditions but little doubt could be felt as to the ability of Lancashire to obtain the 68 runs they required to win with six wickets in hand. As a matter of fact, in accomplishing this task they only lost one more wicket, and thus won the game comfortably by five wickets.

Tyldesley and Cuttall, who overnight had come together with the score at 73 and carried it to 113, were not separated until the total was 167, their partnership for the fifth wicket thus producing 94 runs. Tyldesley, who left at that point, played an exceptionally fine game for his side, his innings of 83 being quite a brilliant affair. He obtained his runs in two hours and a quarter, and among his hits were 12 fours, two threes and eight twos.

After he left Cuttall and Stoddart soon hit off the remaining runs, the game being all over by 20 minutes to 1. Cuttall took out his bat for 57, but he was fortunate, as with his score at two he was missed by Hartley in the slips, and after completing his 50 he gave two more chances. Had the first catch come off Sussex might easily have won the match, but on Saturday morning, with the wicket so much better, the odds were always against them.

KENT v MIDDLESEX

Friday 8 July, page 12: In consequence of the death of Mr I D Walker, Mr A J Webbe has asked the Kent committee to postpone the match with Middlesex which is fixed to commence on Monday at Catford.

Saturday 9 July, page 9: The match between Kent and Middlesex at Catford arranged for Monday next has been postponed on account of the funeral of Mr I D Walker.

The results of the championship competition are at present as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	14	11	0	3	11
Lancashire	14	6	1	7	5
Surrey	10	4	2	4	2
Gloucestershire	8	2	1	5	1
Essex	10	5	3	2	2
Kent	8	2	2	4	0
Notts	10	1	1	8	0
Derbyshire	8	2	4	2	-2
Middlesex	7	1	3	3	-2
Warwickshire	8	1	3	4	-2
Somerset	7	1	4	2	-3
Hampshire	9	1	5	3	-4
Sussex	8	0	3	5	-3
Leicestershire	9	0	5	4	-5

The matches between Surrey and Derbyshire on May 19 and Surrey and Warwickshire on May 23 were abandoned without a ball having been bowled, and are, therefore, not included in the above table.

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "One point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have in finished matches obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages up to the present are set out below:-

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in Inns.	Times not out	Average
Shrewsbury	19	813	154*	5	58.07
Abel	19	882	148	3	55.12
Mr A E Stoddart	12	540	157	2	54.00
Mr J R Mason	15	709	152	0	47.26
Storer	20	777	109	3	45.70
Mr C L Townsend	13	531	159	0	44.69
Mr W H Patterson	9	351	117	1	43.87
Alec Hearne	16	601	117	2	42.92
Brockwell	19	760	135	1	42.72
Mr S M J Woods	13	538	143	0	41.38
Dr W G Grace	19	703	128	2	41.35
Tunnicliffe	21	716	108*	3	39.77
Lord Hawke	19	513	107*	6	39.45
Mr F S Jackson	20	670	147	2	37.22
Mr C O H Sewell	17	694	111	1	37.12
Hayward	14	470	126	1	36.15
Ward	28	859	135	2	35.79
Mr C McGahey	17	503	115	2	33.66
G Brann	21	702	118	0	33.42
Mr D L A Jephson	13	360	166*	2	32.72
W Gunn	19	509	125	3	31.81
Mr A J Turner	12	285	102*	3	31.65
Mr L C H Palairret	10	279	112	1	31.00
Mr W L Murdoch	25	663	121*	2	28.82
Mr H G Owen	18	516	92	0	28.66

Mr F G J Ford	13	361	127	0	27.76
Lockwood	13	258	103	3	25.80
J T Brown	23	558	88	1	25.36
Wainwright	22	446	76	4	24.77
Mr G L Jessop	18	370	55*	3	24.66
Mr R E Foster	12	272	65	0	22.66
Mr R H E Cunliffe	15	252	70	3	20.91
Mr W Newham	17	329	52	1	20.56

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	587.3	241	947	92	10.29
Wainwright	323.3	133	530	48	11.04
Mr F S Jackson	390	158	662	55	12.29
J T Hearne	952.3	430	1543	119	12.96
Haigh	448	172	857	66	12.98
G Davidson	666	318	984	67	14.68
Mr C J Kortright	252.1	75	743	48	15.47
Mead	557	186	1058	68	15.70
Martin	383.2	139	703	44	16.09
Lockwood	372.3	125	731	46	16.32
Attewell	676.4	303	881	52	16.93
Tyler	340.4	76	857	49	17.48
Richardson	434.3	111	1126	62	18.16
Mr F G Bull	435.1	134	972	53	18.33
Briggs	505.3	172	1063	56	18.98
Cuttell	682.4	417	996	51	19.52
Mr F W Stocks	325	123	687	35	19.62
Mold	612	194	1077	53	20.32
Mr G L Jessop	267.3	63	631	30	21.03
Mr F H E Cunliffe	359.4	110	854	40	21.35
Trott	353.3	118	826	38	21.73
Mr J R Mason	288.2	105	644	29	22.20
Mr C L Townsend	373	65	1107	39	28.38

ETON CRICKETERS AND MR R A H MITCHELL

In the pavilion at Lord's on Saturday, Mr Mitchell, one of the greatest of Eton and Oxford cricketers, was presented with a silver bowl by the captains at Eton from 1866 to 1897 upon the occasion of his retiring from the position of principal adviser and coach of Eton cricket.

Lord Harris, on behalf of the subscribers, drew attention to the fact that all the past captains during this period were living with one exception - namely, Mr E O H Wilkinson, who was captain in 1872, and who was killed in the Zulu war, "like a good cricketer and good Englishman giving his life for his side."

The others had gladly come forward to give proof of the appreciation of Mr Mitchell's services to Eton cricket and their personal affection for himself. Lord Harris briefly reviewed the events of the past 32 years, illustrating Mr Mitchell's untiring zeal in discovering promising cricketers and bestowing on every one with whom he was brought in contact the benefit of his unrivalled experience. Lord Harris also alluded incidentally to the former services of Mr Dupuis.

Mr Mitchell, in thanking Lord Harris and the subscribers, explained that he had resigned the position he held so long only because he believed it to be in the interests of Eton cricket that his work should be entrusted to a younger man. He felt that in Mr Wells he was making way for a very competent successor, and whilst desiring that there should be no divided authority, he hoped still to take an active interest in the game, with special reference to the school grounds, in which direction much has recently been achieved. He had ceased to be

headmaster of cricket but would aspire to the post of provost of cricket. After referring with much feeling to the death of Mr Wilkinson, Mr Mitchell spoke warmly of his appreciation of the good feeling evinced towards him.

Amongst those present were Mr Edgar Lubbock, who was captain in 1866, and besides Lord Harris, such well-known cricketers as Mr C I Thornton, Mr C T Studd, the Hon Alfred Lyttelton, Mr Walter Forbes, Mr Freeman Thomas, Mr de Paravicini, Mr H W Bainbridge, Mr H R Bromley-Davenport and Mr H J Mordaunt.

The silver bowl bore the inscription, "Presented to Mr R A H Mitchell by the captains of the Eton XI, 1866-1897." . . .

The funeral of the late Mr I D Walker will take place this afternoon at Southgate Church at 4.15. The M.C.C. committee will in consequence defer their usual Monday meeting until Wednesday.

11 July: DERBYSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5038.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 July, page 14)

The wicket was in such excellent condition at Derby yesterday, when the return match with these counties was commenced, that on Notts winning the toss it was thought probable they would stay in all day. For a long time this idea seemed likely to be fulfilled, as, after Shrewsbury had been dismissed at seven, Mr A O Jones and William Gunn played so well together that it was not until the total had reached 136 that they were separated, Mr Jones being then out for an innings of 70, which included seven fours and two threes. He had some luck, but, on the whole, his display was an admirable one.

Gunn was third out at 164, after playing faultless cricket for his 69, which had occupied him two hours and 40 minutes.

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

Some interesting, though not very eventful, cricket was seen at Derby yesterday, and at the close there seemed reason to fear that the game would be left unfinished, Notts, with only one wicket down in their second innings, holding a lead of 49 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 July, page 7)

Some extremely interesting cricket was witnessed at Derby yesterday, but after each side had seemed to be winning the game was left drawn. This result was unfortunate, and it was somewhat of a pity that the teams did not go on to a finish, as when stumps were finally pulled up Derbyshire, with two wickets in hand, wanted 20 runs to win.

In the morning there was some further admirable batting by Shrewsbury and William Gunn, who overnight had raised Nottingham's score from 22 to 100, and who yesterday took the total to 179 before being separated, their partnership lasting for two hours and 50 minutes and producing 157 runs. Gunn made 71 of the number and gave a masterly display. He gave no chance and hit eight fours, two threes and three twos.

With the termination of this stand the batting of Notts deteriorated, and after Shrewsbury left - fifth out at 202 - there was quite a collapse, the whole side being out for 238. Shrewsbury, who contributed a splendid 103, was batting for three hours and three-quarters, and hit 13 fours, four threes and eight twos. Though not quite faultless, his innings was one of great merit. This was Shrewsbury's third score of over a hundred in first-class cricket this season.

Derbyshire were set 188 runs to get to win and were left with a little over three hours in which to accomplish their task. Thanks to some admirable batting by Evershed and Storer the 100 went up with only one man out, and at that point Derbyshire seemed to be well on the road to victory. Directly afterwards, however, the game veered right round, the batting breaking down so badly that the score was only 125 when the sixth wicket fell. Notts then appeared to hold the superior chance, but Charlesworth and F Davidson offered a good resistance, adding 40 runs. At the finish Derbyshire had scored 168 for eight wickets, and in that position the game was left drawn.

11 July: HAMPSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5039.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 July, page 14)

A week's cricket at Bournemouth opened yesterday with the return match between Hampshire and Somerset. Except for the absence of Captain Wynyard, the home county were very well represented, but they gave a disappointing display of batting and deservedly left off with much the worst of the game.

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

There was a long and interesting day's cricket at Bournemouth yesterday and more than 2,000 people followed with keen attention the varying fortunes of the game. The Hampshire eleven made great efforts to recover the ground they had lost on Monday, but at the drawing of stumps they had a very poor prospect before them, Somerset, with seven wickets to go down, requiring only 64 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 July, page 7)

Hampshire beat Somerset at Bournemouth yesterday, after a remarkable match, by nine runs. At the close of play on Tuesday a victory for the home county appeared out of the question, their opponents having scored 64 out of the 128 runs necessary to win for the loss of three wickets. But on a pitch that had crumbled a lot and had some bad spots in it Tate carried all before him, dismissing all the last seven Somerset batsmen and winning the game for his side in most sensational fashion. In his first over he clean bowled Hickley, Woods and Trask, and in another over sent back Fowler and Gill, his average at that point being five wickets for seven runs.

Stanley, who played steadily all through, received useful assistance from Tyler, who hit up 20 in a quarter of an hour; and Newton helped to add 22 for the last wicket, but these efforts were unavailing and after an hour's cricket Hampshire gained the victory. Their success was quite extraordinary, seeing that after going in a second time 115 behind they had lost four wickets for 16 runs.

11 July: SUSSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5040.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 July, page 14)

George Bean, the Sussex batsman, for whose benefit the match which commenced yesterday at Brighton is being played, was fortunate in the weather that attended the opening stage of the contest, but the attendance - about 3,000 - was scarcely so large as might have been expected.

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

At Brighton yesterday Sussex, until late in the day, made a fairly good fight against their formidable opponents, but matters went badly with the home team in their second innings, and at the close of the day they were, with six men out, only 17 runs to the good.

Surrey overnight had scored 62 for the loss of one wicket, and yesterday, staying at the wickets for three hours and three-quarters, they raised their total to 283, thereby gaining a lead of 67 runs. Brockwell and Holland, the not-outs, took the score to 111, their partnership realizing 76 runs. Brockwell was lucky in making his 55, but Holland made his runs in very good style.

Abel and Hayward, who became partners when four wickets had fallen for 121, put on 73 runs by sound and steady cricket, while Key, who went in when six men were out, played a capital game, except for a chance at 31, and took out his bat for 55. Sussex were materially handicapped in bowling by the absence of Parris, who, having been badly hurt by a ball from Richardson on Monday, did not take the field yesterday.

When Sussex went in again Fry played a spirited game and helped to put on 43 runs for the first wicket, but then Richardson completely changed the aspect of the game, dismissing Brann, Murdoch and Newham with successive balls, and so performing the "hat trick." The arrears were cleared off with seven wickets in hand, but at the close Sussex found themselves in a very bad position.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 July, page 7)

At Brighton yesterday Surrey rapidly followed up their great advantage and easily defeated Sussex by ten wickets.

The home county had left off on Tuesday evening in a very bad position, having lost six of their best wickets in their second innings for 84 and being only 17 runs on. The remaining batsmen could only add 21 more runs, the side being all out for 105. Fry, who had played so brilliantly on Tuesday, was finely caught at long-on at 96, and with his dismissal the last hopes of Sussex disappeared. Fry hit nine fours in his 58.

Surrey required only 39, and Brockwell and Jephson hit off the number in half an hour without loss, the former making some capital strokes. Lockwood took seven wickets in the match for 81 runs.

11 July: WARWICKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5041.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 July, page 14)

The Gloucestershire team at Birmingham yesterday accomplished a highly creditable batting performance, keeping the Warwickshire players in the field for the whole of the day and scoring 361 runs for the loss of eight batsmen.

Mr Townsend, who had already made over a hundred for his county on two previous occasions this season, was batting for three hours and a half and, without giving a single chance, hit up a score of 139. He had a narrow escape from dismissal at 81, but this was the only blemish in a splendidly-hit innings, which included a five, 18 fours, ten threes and six twos. Townsend found an invaluable partner in Sewell, who, in little more than two hours, assisted him to add 161 for the third wicket.

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

Batsmen had again very much the best of it in the match between Warwickshire and Gloucestershire at Birmingham yesterday, 425 runs being obtained for the loss of seven wickets. Gloucestershire overnight had lost eight batsmen for 361 runs, but the remainder of the innings was rendered notable by a splendid stand by Brown and Wrathall, who in an hour and a half put on 156 runs for the ninth wicket.

The Gloucestershire amateur gave a palpable chance at the wicket at 44, but his 106 was a most brilliant display, including 20 fours, a three and five twos. The total in the end reached the formidable score of 504. Field, in taking eight wickets for 144, accomplished a remarkably fine bowling performance.

Walter Quaife and Devey opened the Warwickshire innings well, making 57 before the first wicket fell, and Lilley helped to add 53 in 40 minutes for the fourth wicket, but the best work for the home side was that of William Quaife and Diver, who in 70 minutes increased the score by 94 runs. Diver hit brilliantly, while Quaife batting in admirable form for more than three hours and was not out 110 at the drawing of stumps, when Warwickshire with five wickets to fall wanted 103 more runs to escape a follow-on.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 July, page 7)

At Birmingham, yesterday, the Gloucestershire eleven, thanks in great measure to the all-round play of Mr C L Townsend, gained a very notable victory, beating Warwickshire, just after half-past 5, by ten wickets. From the position of the game at the drawing of stumps on Tuesday a draw had seemed highly probable, Warwickshire, in face of Gloucestershire's huge total of 504, having scored 282 for the loss of only five wickets.

Yesterday, however, the batting was for the most part poor, the general feebleness being only remedied by a very fine display from Walter Quaife. The first innings was finished off in the morning in 65 minutes, and the previous total was only carried to 331. This involved a follow-on against a majority of 173. William Quaife, who had played so finely on Tuesday, took out his bat for 130. During a stay of four hours and 20 minutes he did not give the slightest chance, his play, alike as regards neatness of style and strong defence, being quite a model. His chief hits were 15 fours, two threes and 14 twos.

Up to a certain point things went fairly well in the second innings, but though 69 runs were scored for two wickets, there were five wickets down for 123. William Quaife was out to a wonderful catch at the wicket, Board, who fell down full length, securing the ball - wide on the leg-side - at the third attempt. Walter Quaife, who was out eighth at 152, played faultless cricket for nearly three hours and ten minutes, his innings of 72 including six fours, four threes and six twos.

Thanks to some good hitting by Forester the single innings defeat was saved, but Gloucestershire had only nine to get, and they obtained this trifling number without losing a wicket.

11 July: LANCASHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5042.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 12 July, page 14)

Meetings between Yorkshire and Lancashire are always invested with a lot of interest, and with the former county so far unbeaten this season, while the latter are their most formidable rivals, the match commenced at Bramall-lane, Sheffield, yesterday.

The company was estimated at nearly 30,000 and, as more than £700 was taken at the gates, there is every prospect that Edward Wainwright, for whose benefit the proceeds of the game are to be set apart, will receive a substantial reward for his services to Yorkshire cricket during the last ten years. Wainwright, it may be mentioned, first appeared for his county in 1888, and soon took rank as one of the best all-round players in the team. Apart from his work for Yorkshire he has appeared for the Players against the Gentlemen and for England against Australia in this country, while last season he was chosen as one of the team Mr Stoddart took out to the colonies.

Yesterday's cricket resulted in a capital performance on the part of Yorkshire, who, having the good fortune to win the toss, kept their opponents in the field for the whole of the day and ran up a score of 316. The early play did not foreshadow so satisfactory a performance by the home side, Brown and Tunnicliffe taking 40 minutes to make the first 24 runs. After Tunnicliffe left, however, Jackson batted in capital form and assisted Brown to put on 68 for the second wicket.

At lunch time there were two men out for 106, but on resuming matters for a time went so badly with the batting side that when the sixth wicket went down the score was only 134. At this point Milligan joined Brown, who so far had batted with great care and skill. The play then underwent a remarkable change, both batsmen hitting so hard that 115 runs were actually added in an hour and a quarter. Milligan's share of this number was a most brilliant 62, which included ten fours. Later on Rhodes helped Brown to put on 48 for the ninth wicket.

The Drifffield professional was not dismissed until 302, when a superb innings of 144 was closed by a catch behind the bowler. Batting for five hours Brown made no mistake, and he hit two fives, 15 fours, seven threes and 18 twos in his first hundred of the present season. With the close of the Yorkshire innings stumps were drawn for the day.

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

Considering that they had to go in against the formidable total of 316 which Yorkshire had put together on Monday, the Lancashire team accomplished a highly creditable performance at Sheffield yesterday. Going in to bat at 20 minutes to 12, they were not all dismissed until half-past 4, when they put together a total of 288.

For a time the visitors fared none too well, for both Hartley and Tyldesley had been disposed of by the time the score reached 29, and had Tunnicliffe, who caught each of these batsmen, not blundered afterwards, Yorkshire would have found themselves in a highly satisfactory position. For once, however, Tunnicliffe was at fault, missing both Ward and Sugg, and these two raised the score to 83. Baker threw away his wicket in attempting a second run for a hit by Sugg. The latter, who hit up 70 out of 115 in an hour and a half, had 12 fours, two threes and three twos.

After lunch Stoddart and Tindall were quickly dismissed, and Lancashire found themselves with seven men out for 183. At this critical point, however, Briggs joined Cuttell, and these two added 86 in less than an hour. When the last wicket fell Cuttell was not out 85, this innings, which included 15 fours and six twos, being at once the biggest and best he has ever played for his county.

Yorkshire, going in 28 ahead, had not been batting for an hour when bad light stopped play for the day, the home team being 73 ahead with nine wickets in hand. Sixteen thousand

people were on the ground and the gate money amounted to £498. Deep regret was expressed on all sides at the news of the death of Mr Michael Ellison, who had been president of the Yorkshire County Club since its foundation.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 14 July, page 7)

At half-past 4 yesterday afternoon Lancashire found themselves in great danger of defeat from Yorkshire, but they played up very skilfully during the next hour and saved the game in highly creditable style, having five wickets still to go down when stumps were finally pulled up and the match left drawn.

The morning's cricket produced some splendid batting on the part of Jackson and Tunnicliffe, who, having overnight increased the score from 30 to 45, raised it yesterday to 236 before Tunnicliffe played a ball on to his wicket. The partnership thus realized 206 runs and each batsman succeeded in making over a hundred. Tunnicliffe gave a difficult chance behind the wicket at 38, but otherwise his play was practically free from blemish. He scored 102 - his third hundred this season - in three hours and a half, and hit a six, 14 fours, three threes and eight twos.

Jackson, like Tunnicliffe, scored his third hundred since the opening of the season. He played a most brilliant game for three hours, giving no chance and carrying out his bat for 134, in which were 14 fours, eight threes and 14 twos. Lord Hawke declared the innings closed at 253 for two wickets, setting Lancashire 282 to win in three hours.

Ward and Hartley put on 36 runs for the first wicket, but in little more than an hour and a half there were half the side out for 84 and Yorkshire appeared sure to win, but at this critical moment Cuttell and Stoddart became partners, and these two batsmen, playing with great care and skill, successfully resisted the Yorkshire bowlers for an hour and raised the score to 140 without further loss. As no object could have been served by prolonging the game stumps were then pulled up - half an hour earlier than had been agreed upon - and the match left drawn.

Pleasant weather favoured the game, but the attendance fell to about 7,000. During the three days, however, £1,366 were taken at the gate, so with subscriptions and the money taken for the sale of tickets, Wainwright will doubtless receive a handsome sum of money from his benefit.

Tuesday 12 July, page 14: FUNERAL OF MR I D WALKER

The remains of the late Mr Isaac Donnithorne Walker, the famous Harrow and Middlesex cricketer, were interred in the family vault at Southgate Church yesterday afternoon in the presence of a very large number of friends. In the church the service was conducted by the Rev J Beardall, the vicar, assisted by the Rev H Payne, while at the graveside the Bishop of Manchester completed the burial ritual.

The coffin was carried from the Walkers' family residence by the servants on the estate and the chief mourners were Mr V E Walker and Mr R D Walker, the surviving brothers. Among the many others who followed were the Rev J E C Welldon, Headmaster of Harrow, Lord Harris, the Hon Alfred Lyttelton, M.P., president of the Marylebone Club, Mr A J Webbe, Mr P M Thornton, M.P., Mr A C MacLaren, Mr A N Hornby, Sir Timothy O'Brien, Mr Henry Perkins, Mr M C Kemp, Mr W E Denison, Mr H T Hewett, Mr C E Green, Mr Harvey Fellowes, Mr Gregor MacGregor, Mr A B Stoddart, Mr A P Lucas, Mr R A H Mitchell, Mr R J Lucas, Mr Charles T Studd, Mr E J C Studd, Mr Denzil Onslow, Mr H E Crawley, Mr Charles Wright, Mr C W Alcock (representing the Surrey Club), Mr F G J Ford, Mr Stanley Scott, Mr F J K Cross, the Rev V F Royle, Canon McCormick, Mr A Rutter, Mr E Rutter, Mr E E Bowen, Mr John Murdoch, Mr G F Hearne, Mr J T Hearne and Mr George Hearne, sen. Many leading cricketers and most of the leading clubs sent floral tributes.

Thursday 14 July, page 7: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

The sides for this match at Lord's next Monday will be as follows . . .

This is Dr Grace's jubilee celebration match, for on Monday he completes his 50th year; he was only 16 when he played in his first Gentlemen and Players match at Lord's, and in the 34 years which have passed he has not once missed the game on the M.C.C. ground. On Monday evening he will be entertained at dinner by the M.C.C.

14 July: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5043.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 July, page 12)

Heavy scoring was witnessed on the Bristol ground yesterday, Gloucestershire remaining in the whole of the time and running up a total of 431 for the loss of only five wickets. For two men, at least, the afternoon's play was a great triumph, Messrs Troup and Charles Townsend carrying off the honours of their side.

Coming together when Grace's wicket had fallen with the score at 32, they played in fine style, and when separated no fewer than 236 runs had been added. For the second time within a week and the fourth since the season began Mr Townsend scored an innings of over 100, and his cricket throughout was almost without blemish. He only made one bad stroke, and this fell quite out of harm's way, and among his figures were 11 fours, four threes and 13 twos.

Mr Jessop hit in characteristic style for his 65, and when half-past 5 arrived Mr Troup was still not out and had scored 164. So far he has been batting five hours and a quarter. His cricket yesterday was not quite free from fault, for he might have been caught when he had made 38 and again when he had made 149. Despite their long outing the Somerset men right up to the finish fielded excellently.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 July, page 14)

Since his Oxford days, when he was twice captain of the eleven, Mr Lionel Palairet has done many fine things with the bat, and his 179 for Somerset at Bristol yesterday will rank among his best. Most county teams have felt the vigour of his play and, not for the first time, it was Gloucestershire's turn yesterday.

With his wealth of strokes, his easy style and his fine wrist power, Mr Palairet is easily among the first few amateur batsmen of the day, and the wonder is that his capacity should have been so persistently overlooked at Lord's in the choosing of Gentlemen and Players sides. His 179 yesterday was a beautiful innings and included 29 fours, but apart from Mr Fowler, who was in while 123 were made, he had little aid from his side.

In the balance of the Gloucestershire long innings there was little of merit. Mr Troup was in six hours for his 176 and was a model of patience. He waited mostly for the very loose ball from which to score and made 24 fours. Dr Grace bowled with great effect and took the first six wickets at a cost to himself of some 20 runs, while his analysis altogether came out well. Somerset still have a big uphill battle to-day.

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

At Bristol, on Saturday, the match between Gloucestershire and Somerset was won by Gloucestershire at 20 minutes past 3 by an innings and seven runs.

Following on in the morning against a balance of 186, Somerset seemed at first almost certain to avoid a single innings defeat, Mr L C H Palairet and Mr Stanley starting the innings by getting 58 runs together for the first wicket. At this point Palairet played on, and then Mr Stanley, Mr Trask and Mr Spurway were out in such quick succession that four wickets were down for 59. Mr Woods - fortunate in being twice missed - hit up 49 in three-quarters of an hour, but he was out before luncheon, the total at the interval being 138 for seven wickets.

On resumption of play the end was soon reached, the innings closing for 179. Keeping up the remarkable bowling form he has been showing lately Dr Grace took five wickets for 53 runs, which gave him the fine record for the whole game of 12 wickets for 138. He thus divided with Mr Troup and Mr Townsend the honours of the victory. The weather was delightful on Saturday and a large number of people watched the closing part of the game.

14 July: KENT v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5044.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 July, page 12)

The visit of the victorious Yorkshire eleven to Maidstone yesterday proved a great attraction, the attendance on the Mote-park being the largest ever seen there. The weather was delightful. To the disappointment of the spectators the Kent men rendered a poor account of themselves, but they had largely themselves to thank, their fielding leaving a good deal to be desired.

Yorkshire had first innings, and in three hours and 50 minutes put together 199, but the total would have been smaller had the home team accepted all their chances. Mr Jackson took an hour and three-quarters to make his 38 runs, the highest individual score, but he was lucky in being missed when only five and he should have been run out when 21. Brown, who contributed 29, played sound cricket and helped Jackson to put on 54 for the second wicket in 70 minutes. Wainwright hit up 32 in three-quarters of an hour, and afterwards Rhodes contributed a useful 31. Wright bowled very well, and it was unfortunate for Kent that he split a finger and was absent from the field for a long time.

Kent went in at five minutes to 5 and made a disastrous start, Alec Hearne being run out and Burnup being leg before in Hirst's first over. Bannon hit out with resolution, quickly making 23, but he was out at 30 and just on time Mason was dismissed. At the drawing of stumps Kent had four wickets down for 34 and were thus 165 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 July, page 14)

The Yorkshire eleven were placed in danger of defeat last evening at Maidstone, for stumps were pulled up with Kent wanting only 100 to win and all ten wickets in hand. Most batsmen are distrustful of Mote Park pitches, for, apart from the slope, the turf as a rule does not wear well. The game has certainly been against the batsmen.

Kent were indebted to the courageous play of the last six men for their fine position yesterday, and to tie Yorkshire on the first innings was a remarkable feat after the four best bats had gone overnight for 34.

No one in Yorkshire's second innings could make much headway except David Denton, and he really rescued his side from a complete breakdown. He played splendid cricket, particularly on the off-side. Kent had to make 125 to win, and the odd runs beyond the 100 were hit off last night without loss of wicket.

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

Kent have the distinction of being the first side to beat Yorkshire this season, the match at Maidstone, on Saturday, ending in a victory for the home county by six wickets. By splendid bowling and fielding on Friday Kent had dismissed their opponents for 124, and it was their failure in this second innings which lost Yorkshire the game. For, although the pitch could not be compared to those found on big county grounds, there was nothing in the condition of the turf at Mote-park to arouse any great feeling of doubt as to the ability of the Kent men to hit off the 125 runs necessary to win.

On Friday evening 25 of them had been obtained without loss, and an hour and 35 minutes sufficed for the remainder to be got for the loss of four wickets. Burnup, who scored 69 not out, had a very large share in his side's success, and his batting aroused much enthusiasm among the 1,500 spectators who saw the finish. He scored the majority of his runs by absolutely safe strokes along the ground and, apart from a chance when at 19, his batting appeared to be quite faultless. His one mistake was an easy catch to Hirst at mid-off, and had that catch been held Kent might have been struggling for victory instead of securing it quite comfortably.

Burnup, who hit nine fours, three threes and four twos during his stay of two hours, received useful support from Alec Hearne and J R Mason. The professional made 22 out of the first 42 in 50 minutes, and the Kent captain, who was second out at 87, stayed until the result was beyond doubt.

14 July: LANCASHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5045.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 July, page 12)

A thoroughly good day's cricket was witnessed at Manchester yesterday in the opening of the match between Lancashire and Essex. Both sides were strongly represented, Essex having their best team, while Lancashire gave places to Mr A Eccles, of the Oxford eleven, and J Ellis, the left-handed cricketer from Bolton.

Mr Eccles failed yesterday, but he did so in very good company. Lancashire started by losing two wickets for 37, and then Tyldesley and Frank Sugg, completely mastering the Essex bowling, added 169 runs in two hours and 20 minutes. Of this number Sugg contributed 104 by brilliant cricket. His innings was quite free from fault and included 13 fours, three threes and seven twos. Tyldesley, who was fifth out at 220, played a fine innings of 85. He obtained his runs in three hours and hit a six, seven fours, three threes and 11 twos.

At one point Lancashire had 200 on the board with only two men out, but after the third wicket fell at 206 there was a complete collapse. The last seven wickets only added 48, the side being all out for 254. After the big stand for the third wicket Mr Bull and Mr Kortright bowled extremely well and Russell kept wicket admirably, having a hand in the dismissal of six batsmen.

Essex had 80 minutes' batting, and in that time scored 93 runs for the loss of four wickets. Carpenter hit up 38 in 12 minutes [?], but afterwards the bowlers met with success. As the game stands Essex have the inferior position, being 161 behind with six wickets in hand. There was a large crowd at Old Trafford and the cricket was followed with much interest.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 July, page 14)

The Lancashire eleven further strengthened their position in this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, and yesterday evening Essex were left with the formidable task of making 336 in the fourth innings for victory. To Mr McGahey belonged chiefly the merit for Essex of saving the follow-on, but there is a feeling among cricketers that this batsman does not make the most of his fine height and reach, and yesterday he was in two hours for his 48.

Lancashire's second innings was characterized by the fine batting of Mr Hartley, Tyldesley and Frank Sugg. Tyldesley had the distinction of being the first to make his 1,000 runs this season; and Frank Sugg, after a bad May and June, seems to have found his game, and he played beautiful cricket for his runs. He hit 11 fours in the 70 with which he followed up his three figures of Thursday.

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

A great feat was accomplished by the Essex batsmen at Old Trafford on Saturday. Overnight they were set 336 runs to win, and Mr Owen and Carpenter made 34 of the number before the drawing of stumps, so that, on continuing, though they had all their wickets in hand, they still wanted 302 runs.

The batsmen just named set their successors an excellent example, but were both dismissed at 88. then Messrs Perrin and McGahey became partners, and by as fine a piece of batting as has been witnessed this season they gradually placed the victory of their side almost beyond doubt. They were together for two hours and 35 minutes, and in that time added no fewer than 191 runs. Mr Perrin made 61 without a fault, and Mr McGahey, who was out at 313, was batting for three hours and a half for 145, his figures including 13 fours.

One other wicket was lost before the finish, but in the end Essex won at 25 minutes past 5 by four wickets, amid a scene of considerable excitement. The weather was fine and a large crowd witnessed the cricket.

14 July: MIDDLESEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5046.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 July, page 12)

An even day's cricket was seen at Lord's yesterday between these counties, who met for the first time this season. Middlesex gave a consistent display, as seven of the side scored double figures; but the best feat was achieved by Bland, who took seven wickets on an excellent pitch for just over 14 runs apiece.

Mr Warner and Mr Hayman made a good start by scoring 60 runs for the first wicket, 50 being put on in 25 minutes, when Mr Hayman was bowled, while for the addition of a single Mr Warner ran himself out, the wicket being thrown down by Mr Brann from cover-point. Mr Warner had played free and attractive cricket, making the majority of his runs by clean on-drives. It was left to Mr Stoddart and Rawlin, however, to make the best stand of the innings, for during a partnership of an hour and a quarter 82 runs were added for the fourth wicket. Rawlin played a vigorous game, driving both sides of the wicket with equal power.

Mr Stoddart was the seventh to leave, being caught by the wicket-keeper standing back. There was an absence of his old forcing tactics in his play, but, with the exception of a chance in the slips to J Bean when 30, he showed excellent defence, though he seemed to treat Killick's leg breaks with too much respect. Altogether he was batting two hours and 20 minutes, and hit seven fours, two threes and four twos. Towards the close Mr Bray played free cricket for 22.

There was very little of note in the Sussex batting, with the exception of the innings of Mr Fry, who made his runs in excellent style. He scored 50 out of 83, and with Killick put on 44 runs for the fourth wicket in half an hour. At the close Sussex were 141 runs behind with six wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 July, page 14)

All the excellence of yesterday's cricket at Lord's was with Middlesex, with the one exception of the batting of Mr C B Fry, who, going in first, carried his bat through the Sussex innings for a faultless 104.

Mr Fry has been recently in good form, but yesterday's feat must rank as his best this season. He made his runs by fine all-round cricket and scored his 100 out of 172 from the bat. Altogether he was in two hours and 40 minutes, and hit one five, 13 fours, five threes and six twos. Vine helped him to add 42 for the fifth wicket in 25 minutes; but afterwards Trott bowled so well that the last five batsmen scored only 13 runs between them. Trott, who had bowled unsuccessfully overnight, went on again at 157 and had the remarkable analysis of five overs and three balls (one maiden), 18 runs, five wickets, the last three of which he took in eight balls for no runs.

When Middlesex went in just before 1 o'clock with a lead of 61 runs they gave a very different display, for they kept Sussex in the field until the close. For this innings they were chiefly indebted to the individual excellence of Mr Hayman, Mr Ford, Sir T C O'Brien and Rawlin, all of whom exceeded the 50. Fine driving was once more the characteristic of Mr Ford's cricket, while Sir Timothy showed all his old strength on both sides of the wicket and hit 11 fours. In the end Middlesex was secure from defeat, for they are already 438 runs on with a wicket in hand.

Another case of the infringement of law 10 of the game was taken official notice of during the Middlesex innings, when Sherwin joined in the umpires' crusade against unfair bowling. Mr C B Fry, the old Oxford player, was again the delinquent, for he was no-ball for throwing.

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

As was only to be expected from the position of the game overnight, Middlesex easily beat Sussex at Lord's on Saturday by 235 runs. Having the very substantial lead of 438 runs Mr Stoddart declared his innings closed the first thing in the morning, consequently Sussex had either to get the runs or keep in all day to avoid defeat. Both proved far beyond their capabilities, as some three hours' cricket proved sufficient to bring the match to an end.

Although they gave a more consistent display in their second innings, there was nothing of special note in the Sussex batting with the exception of Mr Murdoch's 42, which was made by fine free cricket in 40 minutes. He was particularly severe on Trott's bowling and he made some beautiful cuts and off-drives. Marlow's innings was not one of his best, for, although he gave no chance, he was often beaten by the ball, and there was an absence of the cut, a stroke which he is very proficient in. Trott again bowled with marked success, taking six wickets for 12 runs each, while, going on after lunch at 176, he took four for ten runs. In the match he had the splendid figures of 11 wickets for 108.

The pitch played well up to the finish and Sussex ought to have made more runs, but this season they possess a long tail, which on this occasion was strongly in evidence. During the three days 1,035 runs were made, of which the large proportion of 110 were "extras".

14 July: SURREY v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5047.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 15 July, page 12)

The cricket on the Oval yesterday was bright and interesting and finished up rather favourably to Surrey, who got to within 70 of the Leicestershire total at the cost of only three wickets.

With first innings on a true, fast pitch, it might have been thought that Leicestershire would make a better score than 226; but even this was far in advance of the promised figures about luncheon time, when seven of the side had gone for 119. But an hour or more of Mr Stocks and Agar after the interval brought an addition of 107, and then the last three wickets fell. Mr Stocks got his runs by fine hitting; but Agar and King both played very correctly, although the latter was quite a quick scorer.

Surrey fielded brilliantly, in which connexion Lees, at mid-off, should be particularly mentioned; while the fine fast bowling of Lockwood, the insidious lobs of Jephson and the skill of Harry Wood at wicket all contributed to the general excellence of the cricket. Richardson, who was first change, bowled out De Trafford with a very good ball; but subsequently he was a good deal hit and he is unquestionably out of form. The Surrey executive must have been long regretting that they did not induce the great fast bowler to remain in England last winter instead of going to Australia and working so hard.

Lockwood's merits yesterday were not exhausted by his bowling, for when it came to his turn to bat he scored 52 runs, by a fine forcing game all round the wicket, in about 40 minutes, and he is still not out. There were about 6,000 spectators of the play on one of July's brightest days.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 16 July, page 14)

There have been few better innings on the Oval this summer than the brilliant 100 which Lockwood finished yesterday, and which did so much to advance Surrey to the fine winning position occupied by them last night - Leicestershire having now 55 to make to avoid the innings defeat.

Lockwood's return to form has been most opportune for Surrey, particularly in bowling; and just now he is batting better than ever he did. In getting this 100 yesterday he timed the ball with wonderful accuracy, and while he got much power into his strokes in front of the wicket there was great delicacy in his execution of the late cut and the leg place. He made his 100 in rather more than two hours between the fall of the second and fifth wickets, and he hit a five, 14 fours and five threes.

Other good things in Surrey's big score were Mr Jephson's 60, in which there were a few errors in the timing of the ball, a brilliant 42 by Mr Key, the Surrey captain, and a studiously careful two and a quarter hours' innings of 51 by Baldwin. Against all this heavy Surrey scoring the Leicestershire men bowled and fielded well, and scarcely a catch was dropped.

When Leicestershire came to face the odds of 183 they did fairly well up to a certain point, and the 100 went up with only three men out; then came a collapse which not all the care of Knight could check, and seeing that only two moderate bats were left to Leicestershire the game might reasonably have been played out last evening. There were 5,000 or 6,000 people on the Oval and the day was gloriously fine.

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

The cricket at the Oval, on Saturday morning, was confined to a quarter of an hour, during which Richardson bowled out the last two Leicestershire batsmen and enabled Surrey to win

the match by an innings and 43 runs. Except perhaps in fielding Leicestershire were outclassed in their cricket.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The results up to the present are as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	16	11	1	4	10
Gloucestershire	10	4	1	5	3
Lancashire	16	6	2	8	4
Surrey	12	6	2	4	4
Essex	11	6	3	2	3
Kent	9	3	2	4	1
Notts	11	1	1	9	0
Middlesex	8	2	3	3	-1
Derbyshire	9	2	4	3	-2
Hampshire	10	2	5	3	-3
Warwickshire	9	1	4	4	-3
Somerset	9	1	6	2	-5
Sussex	10	0	5	5	-5
Leicestershire	10	0	6	4	-6

The matches between Surrey and Derbyshire on May 19 and Surrey and Warwickshire on May 23 were abandoned without a ball having been bowled, and are, therefore, not included in the above table.

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "One point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have in finished matches obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

THE AVERAGES

The averages of the leading cricket are at present as follows:-

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in Times		Average
			Inns.	not out	
Shrewsbury	21	920	154*	5	57.50
Mr C L Townsend	15	842	159	0	56.13
Mr A E Stoddart	14	625	157	2	52.08
Abel	21	928	148	3	51.55
Storer	22	865	109	3	45.57
Mr W Troup	13	484	180	2	44.00
Mr W H Patterson	9	351	117	1	43.87
Brockwell	22	876	135	2	43.80
Mr J R Mason	17	732	152	0	43.05
Mr L C H Palairot	14	509	179*	2	42.41
Mr F S Jackson	24	850	147	3	41.90
Mr C McGahey	19	698	145	2	41.05
Dr W G Grace	21	747	126	2	39.32
Alec Hearne	18	623	117	2	38.93
Tunnickliffe	25	842	108*	3	38.27
Lord Hawke	20	523	107*	6	37.35
Lilley	15	544	112	0	36.25
W Gunn	21	649	125	3	36.05
Hayward	16	538	126	1	35.86
Mr S M J Woods	17	600	143	0	35.29
Mr D L A Jephson	16	445	166*	3	34.23
J T Tyldesley	30	1022	96	0	34.05
Mr C B Fry	18	663	104*	1	33.11
Albert Ward	30	914	135	2	32.64

C J Burnup	21	590	77	2	31.05
Lockwood	15	365	103	3	30.50
Mr J A Dixon	16	395	65	3	30.46
G Brann	25	760	118	0	30.40
F Sugg	26	757	169	1	30.28
Mr F G J Ford	15	444	127	0	29.60
Carpenter	22	604	95	1	28.76
Mr H G Owen	20	573	92	0	28.65
J T Brown	27	741	144	1	28.50
Mr W L Murdoch	29	748	121*	2	27.70
Mr P Perrin	20	517	104	1	27.21
Mr K J Key	14	275	55*	3	25.00
Denton	26	607	99	1	24.28
Wainwright	25	485	76	4	23.09

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	657.3	279	1056	97	10.88
Wainwright	337.3	136	559	49	11.51
Mr F S Jackson	453.4	176	817	62	13.17
J T Hearne	1007.4	447	1661	123	13.50
Haigh	530.2	197	1060	73	14.52
G Davidson	734	349	1097	71	15.45
Mr C J Kortright	316.1	93	873	56	15.58
Lockwood	441	141	908	58	15.65
Martin	429.2	154	783	50	15.65
Mead	591	197	1137	68	16.49
Richardson	506.1	129	1328	75	17.70
Attewell	739.4	332	999	55	18.16
Mr F G Bull	500.2	143	1151	61	18.85
Dr W G Grace	320.3	114	590	31	19.03
Trott	331.1	128	934	49	19.06
Tyler	440.4	93	1182	61	19.53
Mr J R Mason	329.2	120	749	35	21.40
Briggs	592.3	203	1246	58	21.48
Mr F H E Cunliffe	398.4	121	942	43	21.90
Mold	654	238	1496	63	23.74
Mr C L Townsend	504	97	1419	51	27.42

Monday 18 July, page 13: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

So that there should be an appropriate celebration of Dr Grace's 50th birthday, the M.C.C. deferred their big test game of the year at Lord's until to-day, and they have chosen the following teams to play the match:-

Gentlemen.- Dr W G Grace, Mr F S Jackson, Mr A C MacLaren, Mr A E Stoddart, Mr J R Mason, Mr S M J Woods, Mr G MacGregor, Mr C L Townsend, Mr J A Dixon, Mr C J Kortright and Captain Wynyard.

Players.- Shrewsbury, Gunn, Abel, Brockwell, Lockwood, Storer, Lilley, Tunnicliffe, Haigh, Alec Hearne and J T Hearne.

With so much talent to command the task of choosing two elevens in necessarily very difficult; but the absence of that fine left-hand bowler, Mr F H E Cunliffe, the Oxford captain, Mr Lionel Palairet and Hayward from the lists has not escaped strong comment in influential cricket circles. Rhodes, the Yorkshireman, will appear for the Players if the weather should change.

18 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5048.html)

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

Three years ago the whole cricket world was talking of the wonderful rejuvenescence of Dr W G Grace, who had then completed his 100 "centuries," and every one rushed in to contribute to something like a national testimonial to the greatest cricketer of all time. The three summers which have passed since then have dealt kindly with Dr Grace. The champion, as he is familiarly called, is still the cricketer of the day, and it was his 50th birthday and his 34th appearance in Gentlemen v Players at Lord's that the thousands went to the M.C.C. ground yesterday to celebrate.

Only the other day "W.G." almost beat Essex off his own bat and by his skill with the ball; and his form generally has been very good. Every one familiar with cricket must have Dr Grace's great achievements at his fingers' ends; how he played in Gentlemen v Players at the age of 16, how he almost broke the hearts of the big fast bowlers in the seventies, how he has thrice achieved the feat of getting two 100's in the same match, and how he has more than once taken all ten wickets in an innings. It may almost be said that in Dr W G Grace's career for the last quarter of a century or more is to be found the history of the game.

And yet on his 50th birthday, not out of compliment, but simply because he was indispensable, he was playing for the 34th year in succession in the Gentlemen's team at Lord's. In order [appropriately to] celebrate the jubilee of Dr Grace the M.C.C. committee decided to defer their big test match until his birthday, and so loyally were the Marylebone Club supported by the counties that no first-class fixture in any part of England was arranged for the first three days of this week.

Everything was favourable for the match; the weather was worthy of July and the wicket hard and true, and the elevens, if open to some criticism in the selection, were full of fine talent. It was therefore not surprising to find the crowd run to 20,000, for the public paying for admission alone was officially returned at 17,423. This record was, of course, exclusive of members - and the pavilion was very crowded - and others with the privilege of admission to Lord's.

There is nothing of the social picnic element about a Gentlemen v Players crowd at Lord's; everybody is earnest attention to the game, and yesterday the huge company was enthusiastic in its reception of the great cricketer, though somewhat disappointed that the luck of the toss prevented them from seeing him at the wicket.

The cricket day was absorbed by the batting of the Players, who had not completed their innings at half-past 6, when, with a wicket to fall, they were 328 runs on. That the Players had to fight hard for their score was beyond doubt; but, though Dr Grace made the most of his bowling, which was backed up by much excellence in the field, he could well have done with either Mr Cunliffe, the Oxford captain, or Mr Bull, of Essex, one of whom should surely have been give a place. But Mr Kortright's great pace, the slows of Mr Townsend and the variable length and pace of Mr Woods were quite enough for a majority of the Players.

Gunn was really the stumbling block against the Gentlemen's triumph in bowling; and in his first half-hour he played neither Mr Kortright nor Mr Townsend very well, but when once set the great Nottinghamshire batsman was superb to watch. His lovely style, the fine wrist and forearm power which he got into the drive and the cut, and the delicacy of his placing on the leg side were worthy of the master that he is in batting.

Then for those who liked it there was the more robust work of Storer, and later on came a dashing innings by William Brockwell, of Surrey. The keenness of the fielding kept the runs down as much as anything, and Mr A C MacLaren deserves especial commendation; he had most to do and he did his work exquisitely. Gunn's 139, it ought to be pointed out, is the highest individual score ever made in the Lord's match for Players v Gentlemen.

When the Players went in just after midday Shrewsbury and Abel found great difficulty in making runs from Jackson and Kortright, and the fifth over was in progress before the score began. MacLaren did some superb fielding at third man and, indeed, so close was the fielding all round that only 25 runs had been made in three-quarters of an hour, when Abel, in playing forward to Kortright, quite lost the ball and had his leg stump bowled down.

With Gunn in the play was still quiet. Townsend's slows from the nursery end troubled the batsmen repeatedly, while Kortright's great pace often beat Gunn. With the score up to 29 in 70 minutes, Shrewsbury, in trying to cut, got right under a ball from Townsend and short slip had the easiest of catches.

With two such men out for 29 the Gentlemen had certainly begun well. But trouble was in store for them and no other wicket fell for an hour and three-quarters. Gunn and Storer, who were partners during this time, were a long time in playing themselves in; but the batting in the early stages of their partnership soon became brighter. Gunn was content to wait for the bad ball, which he never failed to punish; but Storer generally had a go at most things and was often lucky. Neither batsman played Townsend very well, and when Grace went on Storer was more than once in two minds what to do. Woods had a turn at bowling; but at luncheon time the score was 85 and still no third wicket.

After the interval the quicker scoring gave more brightness to the game. Gunn played superbly, and nothing could have been better either for power or finish than his strokes on the off-side. Townsend and Grace, and then Jackson and Mason bowled, but still the score mounted up. Dr Grace left the field for a time to attend the meeting of county delegates on the question of test matches, but when he returned no wicket had fallen. Eventually Storer, who had helped Gunn to put on 113 in about the same number of minutes, was easily caught at extra mid-off. Soon afterwards came the dismissal of Tunnicliffe, well caught at wicket, and four of the Players had gone for 178.

Brockwell and Gunn were partners for a long time. There were many bowling changes, much fine fielding and no lack of fine batting. The 200 was reached in two and a half hours, and Gunn completed his 100 at 10 minutes to 5. With 96 added for the wicket, Brockwell was caught at mid-off, after which the play favoured the Gentlemen, for while 300 went up with only five men gone, nine had been dismissed at the close for 328.

Woods, going on at 302, bowled out Alec Hearne at once, and then at 311 he got out Gunn, whose leg stump he hit when the batsman was trying to play to leg. Gunn's wonderful innings of 139 had occupied some four hours; its strongest feature was the off-drive, which constantly passed between cover-point and mid-off, and next to that stroke the cut was most profitable to the Notts man. There were 24 fours in this innings of Gunn's, who was heartily cheered as he returned to the dressing room.

Two other wickets quickly fell, and then at half-past 6 stumps were drawn. It was stated on the official cards that 7 o'clock was the hour for drawing, and before the groundmen had time to rope off the centre of the playing field the crowd had swept into the enclosure and were all over the pitch.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 20 July, page 14)

The Gentlemen are to be congratulated on their fine performance at Lord's yesterday, when on a wicket made favourable to the bowlers by the rain early in the morning they ran to within 32 of the big score which the Players had made against them while the pitch was fast and true, and, what is more, they made their runs at a much quicker rate under the severe handicap.

With the turf soft on the surface and hard underneath the ball kicked badly, and no one with any cricket knowledge would have been surprised had the Gentlemen followed on. But Dr W G Grace, if fortunate enough to be missed when he had only made a single, played well though the ball came to him in a manner most difficult to time; and later there was some fine batting by Mr F S Jackson and Mr MacLaren, both of whom have the reputation of being great cricketers, not only on true but on bad wickets. Mr MacLaren quite realized the situation and forced the game at a fine pace; he brought tremendous power into his drive, and his drives from Lockwood and Jack Hearne reached the boundary at a wonderful pace. All the Gentlemen did something for their side and, in spite of the break-backs from Hearne and the pace of Lockwood, the Players were kept in the field from midday until half-past 5.

The cricket all day was worthy of the great occasion. In the last three-quarters of an hour the Players lost two wickets for 42 runs, so that, as they have 74 on and eight men in hand, the third day's cricket should prove very interesting. The weather yesterday was for the most part dull and rain often threatened, but there was little or no wind until the last hour. If not equalling the numbers of Monday, the crowd was very large and its numbers must have run to fully 17,000 or 18,000.

Gunn, who injured his hand on Monday, had a substitute to field for him throughout the Gentlemen's batting, and Dr Grace in the second innings of the Players was also absent from the field through a bruised heel.

In the course of ten minutes the Players completed their innings, in which nine wickets had fallen overnight for 328; for with only seven runs added Jack Hearne, in playing forward to Woods, was easily bowled, and the last wicket went at 335. Woods and Jackson came out with the best analyses, but Kortright was very expensive and his one wicket cost 90 runs. He bowled with a good deal of bad luck, for after beating Gunn several times he only just missed the stumps, and he ought also to have had Storer caught in the slips.

It was just on midday that the Gentlemen went in. Dr Grace began the batting with Stoddart, but neither player was able to time the ball with any accuracy, for it rose at all sorts of paces and angles from the pitch. Lockwood was extremely difficult to play, and Lilley, standing back to him at wicket, ought to have caught Dr Grace when he had scored only a single. This proved an expensive error, for the champion after this escape, although often in difficulties, was soon making many fine hits, mostly in front of the wicket. Stoddart, on the other hand, was a long time before making any stroke of consequence, and on the kicking pitch he too was often in difficulties with both Jack Hearne and Lockwood.

When Haigh took up the bowling at Hearne's end Stoddart came out with two lovely strokes - one a very fine four placed to leg and the other an off-drive. With Grace getting a couple of fours rather luckily through the slips the score ran on to 50 in 40 minutes. Then, at 56, came the dismissal of Stoddart, who touched an off-ball from Lockwood and turned it into extra slip's hands.

Jackson joined Grace, who was running rather lamely owing to a bruised heel. The Yorkshireman, having survived a confident appeal for a catch at the wicket, settled down and played with all his old robustness, showing much strength all round the wicket. Grace made sundry good hits; but just when the spectators were thinking of his 50 he was caught at

wicket. Townsend was soon out; but Jackson and MacLaren, perhaps the two finest players on a bad wicket in England, were together at luncheon, when the score stood at 99. Lockwood had thus far bowled for two hours at a stretch, and his pace and spin had puzzled the batsmen tremendously.

After the interval 38 were added before the fourth wicket went, Jackson being then caught by Lilley off J T Hearne. MacLaren, who had made only three at the adjournment, forced the game in brilliant style after luncheon. His driving was wonderfully powerful and he made three fours in an over from Lockwood, who went off for the first time in the innings at 176. Alec Hearne, who had meantime taken up the bowling at the pavilion end, was hit by MacLaren into the pavilion and also to the off boundary; but at 197 MacLaren, in going in to drive Haigh, skied the ball a great height and was caught at cover-point. MacLaren's 50 runs were made in an hour and a quarter, and he had an enthusiastic reception as he returned to the pavilion. Five of the side had gone for 197.

Mason played a lot of fine cricket before that most remarkable of short slips - Tunnicliffe - held a catch from him high up with his right hand. Woods and Wynyard each made some big hits, and the steadiness of Dixon kept the side together so well that when the last wicket fell just before half-past 5 the score stood at 303. Jack Hearne and Lockwood carried off most of the bowling honours, and between them they were responsible for nine of the ten wickets.

In the last three-quarters of an hour of the day, the Players made 42 for two wickets. Kortright and Woods bowled out Abel and Shrewsbury, so that to-day the Players start with eight wickets in hand and 74 runs on.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 21 July, page 12)

By an extension of the usual hours for drawing stumps the Gentlemen v Players match was finished last evening at Lord's, the Players winning on the stroke of 7 o'clock by 137 runs.

For some hours yesterday a draw seemed the most probable result, but the Players, after a very fine second innings, bowled and fielded in a way that almost commanded success. Jack Hearne, bowling perhaps rather slower than usual, found a couple of bad places and often "came back" at least half a foot, and his length and spin repeatedly confounded the batsmen. Nothing could have been better than the superb batting of Gunn and Storer.

When the Gentlemen were set 296 to get in the fourth innings and only three hours in which to make them the chances were against them, although the wicket was hard and true and the ball came along at a nice pace. The Players were winning in the easiest of ways until the ninth wicket went at 80, but Dr Grace and Mr Kortright kept up their ends so well that although the hours of play were extended the match was finished only a few minutes before 7 o'clock. Gunn for the Players had shown superb cricket; but there were few things to equal the form of the last two Gentlemen's wickets. The weather, after varying in the morning, turned out beautifully fine and the attendance ran to some 15,000.

Tuesday night had found the Players 74 on with Shrewsbury and Abel out in the second innings. Storer and Tunnicliffe played fine cricket and the score was up to 127, or 106 for the wicket, when Tunnicliffe left. Storer was fourth to go at 147; he was batting about two hours and a quarter for his 73, a very robust innings, in which there were 11 fours, two threes and five twos.

Subsequently the great thing in the innings was the play of Gunn. He went in third wicket down at 127 and, playing in superb style, he was seventh to leave, caught at the wicket, at 226. Gunn has been rarely seen to better advantage on Lord's ground; he timed the ball superbly and his chief hits were ten fours. After this there was nothing much in the batting and the side were all out for 263. Mr Woods had bowled very well in the closing hour, and his pace and pitch were equally trying to the batsmen.

Jack Hearne, keeping a fine pitch and getting a lot of break on, was very destructive in the fourth innings. Dr Grace and Mr Kortright made a brilliant attempt to save the match. Many

changes were tried, and the score was up to 158 when at last a clever catch at extra cover-point got out Kortright, who had helped to add 78 for the wicket. Jack Hearne, who took 11 wickets for 152 runs in the match, was among the first yesterday to congratulate the losing eleven. Before the crowd separated they insisted on giving Dr Grace a most enthusiastic call.

Tuesday 19 July, page 12: LORD HAWKE AND THE TEST MATCHES

The meeting of county representatives to discuss the points raised by Lord Hawke in connexion with the future matches between England and Australia in this country was duly held in the pavilion at Lord's ground yesterday afternoon. The Hon. Alfred Lyttelton, M.P. (president of the Marylebone Club) was in the chair, and the others present were Dr W G Grace (Gloucestershire), Mr John Shuter (Surrey), Lord Hawke (Yorkshire), Mr S H Swire (Lancashire), Mr W Wright (Notts), Mr A J Webbe (Middlesex), Mr F Marchant (Kent), Mr C E Green (Essex), Mr H T Hewett (Somerset), Mr H F de Paravicini (Sussex), Mr C E de Trafford (Leicestershire), Mr Walter Boden (Derbyshire), Mr W Ansell (Warwickshire) and Dr Russell Bencraft (Hampshire).

The meeting was strictly private, but the following official statement was issued:- The first resolution - unanimously carried - was that the M.C.C. should appoint a board to govern future test matches between England and Australia at home. It was afterwards agreed:- "That such board be comprised of the president of the M.C.C., five of its club committee, and one representative from six of the first-class counties selected by the M.C.C. to send a representative. The president of the M.C.C. to have a casting vote."

It will be seen that yesterday's proceedings were for the most part formal in character, all details as to financial and other arrangements in connexion with the test matches next year being left to the newly established body. Lord Hawke, however, clearly carried his point in getting the test matches places under the control of a specially constituted body.

Wednesday 20 July, page 14: THE CRICKETERS' FUND FRIENDLY SOCIETY

During the past year the Cricketers' Fund had many calls upon it owing to deaths and sicknesses among the members, the result being that at the annual general meeting, held at Lord's, yesterday evening, Mr W L Denison, the president, had to announce a slight loss on the 12 months' working as against a gain on the previous year of over £100. The expenditure was increasing, and to meet the growing necessities of the fund Mr Denison suggested that a public appeal should be made.

Lord Harris, who with Mr Henry Perkins, late secretary of the Marylebone Club, and many prominent professional cricketers supported the chairman, endorsed this proposal. His lordship said that the Australians, who would be with us next year, might be able to assist, and he and Mr Denison would do their best by approaching the committee of the Marylebone Club to further the interests of so deserving a society.

21 July: ESSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5049.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 July, page 12)

It is long ago since Mr C J Burnup, of Malvern and Cambridge, made his mark in cricket as a batsman and a field; but in a season of sundry failures he has played one innings in which he has exhibited the highest art in batting. This was his 131 at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday, when Kent and Essex were renewing their fixtures after a lapse of 11 years.

Playing first with extreme care, and afterwards, when wickets were falling rapidly, with easy brilliancy, Mr Burnup went through the innings and was the last out to a well-made catch at third man. Timing the ball with remarkable precision, he came down on it very heavily and, if strong all round the wicket, he got a majority of his runs by the drive. There was not an ill-judged stroke in his innings, and he hit a five and 18 fours during the four hours of his stay. This, by the way, was Mr Burnup's first three-figure score in important cricket this season.

He and Mr Mason, who played in his own powerful way, made 117 for the second Kent wicket; but after 200 had gone up and only two of the side dismissed the batting broke down before the fast left hand bowling of Young, who "went with his arm" a good deal and who, in his third spell with the ball, took five wickets for 29 runs. Young seems a very good "find" for Essex; he is only just in his twenties and was until recently in the Royal Navy. He is a bowler of good length and spin.

After the big start by Kent their score of 280 fell far below expectations. Then in rather less than an hour and a half Essex made 76 at the cost of a wicket, so that everything points to a fine game. There were over 5,000 spectators at Leyton yesterday and the conditions for the match were generally excellent.

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

The heavy rain which set in about 1 o'clock yesterday limited the cricket time at Leyton to 90 minutes, during which Essex increased their overnight score from 76 for one wicket to 137 for three. In this hour and a half the batting was dull and uninteresting, and with all the advantages of height and reach Mr Perrin played very poor cricket and could make at one period only 13 in an hour, in spite of the true turf.

The best thing in the cricket was the catch in the long-field that got out Mr Owen; Mr Le Fleming made the most of his fine turn of speed and with arms extended just held the ball from a low hard drive. From the present state of the score the prospect of reaching a definite issue in this match is not very hopeful. With seven wickets left and only 24 necessary to save the follow-on Essex are not likely to be called upon to play the third innings of the game.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 July, page 13)

The full cricketing day at Leyton on Saturday was not sufficient to compensate for Friday's loss of time through rain, and the end of the Kent and Essex match was a draw with the record in an even position, for Kent, although 54 behind on the first innings, were 120 in the second with only one man out.

Saturday's play was mostly dull; but when the draw was inevitable and Kent were leisurely using up the last two hours the big crowd had something good to see in the form of Mr C J Burnup, in whose 62 there was a repetition of all the skill by which the Cambridge Blue had got his runs in the first innings. This may well be said to have been Burnup's match, for he made 193 runs and was only once out, and his usefulness to Kent has thus been twice

demonstrated, since with 69 not out he helped them to beat Yorkshire rather more than a week ago.

Mr Perrin, of Essex, played a great innings for his side, for, going in first wicket down at 63, he stopped five hours and a half and took out his bat for 106. His plodding patience secured its share of admiration; but when there are two hundreds in one match it is natural to think of the two styles by which the feats were achieved. For Kent Burnup played a powerfully-finishing innings and got nearly all his runs in front of the wicket by the cut and the drive; with Perrin all was care and "stone-walling." Now and again he came out with a fine drive, but he occasionally erred in his timing, and so slow was his scoring that he took three hours and a quarter to make his first 50, while there were 45 singles in his innings, and his biggest hits were one five and five fours.

Mr A P Lucas, as usual, batted beautifully for his 37, and there was a good deal of vigour about Russell and Kortright. Saturday's bowling had for its feature a fine piece of work by Walter Wright, who, going on for about the sixth time at 309, took the last four wickets at a cost to himself of nine runs.

25 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5050.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 July, page 12)

Lancashire had the good fortune to win the toss at Leicester yesterday, and made splendid use of their opportunity, remaining at the wickets for the whole of the day and running up a score of 460 for the loss of seven batsmen.

Everybody who went to the wickets met with some measure of success, but the great feature of the day was the batting of Mr Eccles, the young Oxford cricketer, who in this, his second county match, put together a splendid innings of 139 in three hours. Although he scored so rapidly he gave no chance, and he drove admirably, whilst also making plenty of other strokes. His figures included 19 fours, ten threes and ten twos.

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

Although the weather was very threatening at Leicester yesterday and cricket was twice interfered with by rain, Lancashire, having on Thursday put together 460 for the loss of seven wickets, went a long way towards winning the game.

The visitors' innings was finished off in less than half an hour for the addition of 24 runs, and then Leicestershire failed so badly against Mold and Cuttell that half the side were out for 41 runs. At this point Coe joined Brown, and these two in an hour and a half put on 106 runs for the sixth wicket. Coe played with confidence and skill, and his 61 was quite free from serious blemish. Brown, who carried out his bat for 59, was at the wickets for two hours and a half, and gave only one chance. After they were separated the batting broke down again and Leicestershire, when the innings closed, found themselves 312 behind.

Following on, the home side fared indifferently against Stoddart's bowling, although Brown again batted steadily, and when play ceased for the day, with seven wickets to go down, they still wanted 259 runs to escape a single innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 July, page 13)

Although beaten by an innings and 24 runs at Leicester on Saturday the home eleven came out well in their uphill fight on a pitch which had been affected by rain. The renewal of the game in the morning had found them with three wickets down in the second innings for 53 runs.

It was Brown who was chiefly responsible for Leicestershire's fine score of 288. He went in third at 12 and was the sixth to leave at 236, when Mold bowled him. In his 110 there were 12 fours and four threes, and during his stay of three and a half hours he played steadily and well.

21 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5051.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 July, page 12)

Dr W G Grace enjoyed a great personal triumph at Nottingham yesterday, the great batsman going in first for Gloucestershire, remaining at the wickets all day and when stumps were drawn being not out 143. Run-getting at Trent-bridge is generally much slower than anywhere else in fine weather, even visiting teams finding difficulty in scoring at their usual rate; and yesterday, although there was nothing the matter with the wicket, Gloucestershire, against the steady bowling of Notts, could make only 262 runs for the loss of seven batsmen.

Late in the day Grace obviously tired, but until then the slowness of the scoring was mainly due to his various partners. The Gloucestershire captain scored 50 out of 77 in an hour and 35 minutes, and 100 out of 164 in three hours and a half. Some of his hits were a little lucky, but he gave no chance, and his presence at the wicket all day, tedious as the cricket sometimes became, provided plenty of interest for about 4,000 people.

Troup helped Grace to put on 106 in two hours and a quarter, his own share being only 37. Sewell stayed while 79 runs were added, and Jessop hit up 21 in 20 minutes; but taken as a whole, the Gloucestershire batting proved disappointing. Wass could not bowl for Notts, and Gloucestershire played Wreford-Brown in preference to either Murch or Roberts.

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

The cricket at Trent-bridge yesterday suffered considerably from heavy showers, and play altogether was only in progress about three hours and a quarter. On Thursday Gloucestershire had batted all day and scored 262 runs for seven wickets, Dr Grace's share being 143 all out.

He stayed in for another 65 minutes yesterday before being ninth out at 303, having carried his overnight score to 168. He was batting for six hours and a half and did not give a chance. Among his hits were ten fours, nine threes and 24 twos. If for nothing else, his performance was remarkable as a test of endurance, for throughout he was suffering from lameness.

The Gloucestershire total in the end reached 307, and then, when Notts commenced their innings, the rain came on. Between the showers they scored 103 for two wickets before play had finally to be abandoned at 20 minutes to 6. As the game stands Notts are 204 behind with eight men still to be dismissed.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 July, page 13)

Dr W G Grace's runs in the second innings, by which the champion ran to his 1,000 aggregate for the season, may be said to have been the feature of Saturday's play at Trent-bridge, Nottingham. Apart from this the cricket was singularly dull, and with no prospect of finishing the game there seemed little keenness either among the elevens or the spectators. William Gunn played in his own precise manner for his 74, 41 of which had been scored on Friday, and most of the other batsmen did something towards advancing the Notts' score to within 16 of that of Gloucestershire.

When Gloucestershire batted a second time Dr Grace and Mr Brown made 53 and then four wickets quickly fell, after which the weather grew bad and the game was abandoned at 6 o'clock as a draw.

21 July: SURREY v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5052.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 July, page 12)

When the return match between these counties was begun yesterday at the Oval the conditions favoured the batsmen, and Hampshire, on winning the toss, took full advantage of them, for they kept Surrey in the field for nearly the whole day. For their large total they were mostly indebted to Mr A J L Hill, who played a grand innings of 199, which is the highest individual score this season, the previous best being Mr W Troup's 180.

Going in first Mr Hill made his 50 out of 82 and his 100 out of 186, and he was ninth to leave at 365. Throughout he played with great confidence, and during some four and a half hours' batting he never gave a chance, and was really unlucky not to reach his second hundred. All the bowlers seemed to come alike to him and he made the majority of his runs in front of the wicket by fine, clean driving, while he proved equally proficient on the leg-side. He hit 27 fours, five threes and 12 twos.

Mr Hill received valuable assistance from Soar and 64 runs were added in an hour, while with Mr Barrett 45 were put on; but the best partnership was between Mr Hill and Mr Lee for the fourth wicket. Mr Lee was missed in the slips by Brockwell off Richardson from the first ball he received and, profiting by this mistake, he hit out with some effect, and while he and Mr Hill were together 95 runs were put on in less than an hour. His innings included nine fours.

Afterwards Mr English helped Mr Hill to add 77 for the sixth wicket, the total then being 342. Lockwood was by far the most successful bowler. Going on at 325 he took the last five wickets for 27 runs, a splendid feat considering the excellence of the pitch. Hampshire were batting altogether four hours and three-quarters. The Surrey fielding was very in and out, the return often being very inaccurate.

During less than half an hour's batting Surrey lost Brockwell's wicket, so that at the close they required 226 to save the follow-on.

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

The weather greatly interfered with the game at the Oval yesterday, and only a little over three hours' play was possible, but in this period the cricket was always bright and attractive, and 246 runs were made for the loss of three wickets.

This was chiefly brought about by the batting of Abel, who went in first wicket down at 36, and was not dismissed until the score had been taken to 266, when he was the fourth to leave. Recently Abel has been somewhat out of form; but yesterday his play was marked by all his old precision, the timing of the ball being very accurate, while, as usual, he got his runs by a great variety of strokes. He did not give a chance, and he hit one six, one five, 16 fours and six twos. By his innings he reached his 1,000 runs aggregate for the season in first-class cricket.

Holland also batted extremely well, making some fine off-drives, and with Abel added 129 runs for the third wicket during a partnership of an hour and 40 minutes. He was third out at 203, being well caught at deep square-leg by Major Poore off one of Mr Hill's lobs, a full-pitch. The Hampshire fielding was very smart all round; Major Poore in particular saved a lot of runs. At the close Surrey were 99 runs behind with six wickets in hand.

ABEL'S BATTING.- With his score of 111 at the Oval yesterday Abel completed his 1,000 runs in first-class matches this season. He is the third batsman to reach the number, the other two being Tyldesley and Mr F S Jackson.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 July, page 13)

In their return fixture with Surrey at the Oval, Hampshire on Saturday played a drawn game. Some such result was expected from the position of the match overnight, although at one period Lockwood and Richardson bowled with such effect in Hampshire's second innings that there was just the possibility that Surrey might win.

Going in with arrears of 56, Hampshire had lost four wickets for 21 runs when Mr English and Webb came together and entirely altered the aspect of the game, as during a partnership of some two hours and a half 164 runs were added. At the close Hampshire were left in a creditable position, as they were 125 runs on with five wickets in hand.

When Surrey continued their innings on Saturday Lockwood, who has probably never been in better form than this season, again batted extremely well. Altogether he was in for three hours, and he hit one six, 11 fours, four threes and ten twos. He did not give a chance and made his 109 out of 194. Hayward helped him to put on 91 for the fifth wicket, but this accomplished batsman seems for the moment to have lost his freedom, for his 29 took him an hour and 20 minutes to make. With the exception of Baldwin, who played his usual steady game for 45, the rest gave little trouble.

The only item of note in Hampshire's second innings was the grand batting of Mr English and Webb. Mr English has only once previously played for Hampshire (against Lancashire at Manchester), so that his performance is all the more noteworthy. He showed considerable nerve at a critical period and he should prove of considerable assistance to his county. He is qualified for Hampshire by residence and he plays for the Alton Club. If there had been more time he would probably have made his 100, for he was out through trying to make the necessary two runs. He hit one five, 11 fours, five threes and five twos.

The Surrey fielding was again at fault, Brockwell, who is usually very safe, being the chief offender by missing two easy catches in the slips, one from Mr English when 30.

21 July: YORKSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5053.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 22 July, page 12)

After a lapse of a year the experiment of playing a county match at Scarborough was repeated by the Yorkshire committee, whose action seemed well appreciated by the town, for there were 4,000 or 5,000 spectators of the cricket. Yorkshire established an advantage on the day, as with only three men out they stand within 52 of their opponents' score.

Somerset had the good fortune to win the toss, and in the course of about three hours and a quarter put together a total of 208. This was a pretty good score, for owing no doubt to its having been rather freely watered the wicket kicked, and two or three batsmen received bad blows from the bowling of Mr Milligan and Mr Jackson. The first four Somerset batsmen played exceedingly well, and when the interval arrived the score was 111 for three wickets. Afterwards when the ninth wicket fell the record was only 173, but some vigorous play by Tyler and Mr Wickham improved things.

Yorkshire had about an hour and three-quarters' batting at the end of the day, and did very well. Brown and Tunnicliffe scored 58 in 35 minutes, and then Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe obtained a complete mastery over the bowling, and in an hour took the figures to 149. In his 55 Tunnicliffe hit seven fours and four twos, but he ought to have been caught by Mr Palaret when 38.

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

The Yorkshire eleven played a fine winning game at Scarborough yesterday, and Somerset were last night left in the unenviable position of wanting 104 to save defeat by an innings with only five wickets to fall.

Yesterday's feature in the cricket was the play of Mr F S Jackson; he had sundry lives, but he played in his own robust fashion and was strong all round the wicket. He hit 14 fours, five threes and 14 twos. Mr Milligan also hit hard and, with Mr Jackson, put on 140 runs in 85 minutes.

Somerset were left in a minority of 189 and, going in a second time, they fared very badly. They lost four wickets for 79 in about 70 minutes and then rain came on and stopped play for nearly an hour. Another eight minutes' cricket was then possible and in that time Somerset lost another wicket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 25 July, page 13)

Yorkshire's success at Scarborough on Saturday was gained by six wickets, a result that was scarcely so decisive as the state of the game on Friday evening promised. Somerset were then in their second innings, and with only five men left were still 104 behind.

Mr S M J Woods, however, came to the rescue of his side with one of those remarkable efforts with which the cricket world is not unfamiliar. Mr Woods, who was not out overnight with 16, played a fine forcing game and, as he received some assistance from the other members of the team, the innings defeat was soon averted. In the Somerset captain's 95 were 14 fours.

The 54 wanted by Yorkshire were not made without some difficulty, and on the wet wicket four batsmen were lost before the winning hit was recorded. During the Somerset innings Rhodes, the Yorkshire bowler, completed his 100 wickets for the season, a wonderful feat for a cricketer in his first year for his county.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The list of results is now as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	17	12	1	4	11
Gloucestershire	11	4	1	6	3
Lancashire	17	7	2	8	5
Surrey	13	6	2	5	4
Essex	12	6	3	3	3
Kent	10	3	2	5	1
Notts	12	1	1	10	0
Middlesex	8	2	3	3	-1
Derbyshire	9	2	4	3	-2
Hampshire	11	2	5	4	-3
Warwickshire	9	1	4	4	-3
Somerset	10	1	7	2	-6
Sussex	10	0	5	5	-5
Leicestershire	11	0	7	4	-7

The matches between Surrey and Derbyshire on May 19 and between Surrey and Warwickshire on May 23 were abandoned without a ball having been bowled.

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "One point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have in finished matches obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

THE AVERAGES

The averages of the leading cricket are at present as follows:-

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in Times		Average
			Inns.	not out	
Shrewsbury	24	955	154*	5	50.78
Abel	24	1051	148	3	50.04
Dr W G Grace	25	1027	168	4	48.90
Mr C L Townsend	18	868	159	0	48.22
Storer	24	997	109	3	47.50
Mr A E Stoddart	16	650	157	2	46.42
Mr F S Jackson	27	1100	147	3	45.83
Mr W H Patterson	9	351	117	1	43.87
Mr J R Mason	21	877	152	1	43.85
W Gunn	24	918	139	3	43.71
Mr W Troup	14	521	180	2	43.41
Holland	14	551	126	1	42.38
Brockwell	25	946	135	2	41.13
Mr C McGahey	20	708	145	2	39.33
Mr L C H Palairot	16	545	179*	2	38.92
Mr C J Burnup	23	783	131	2	37.28
Tunncliffe	29	956	108*	3	37.15
Mr C O H Sewell	21	739	111	1	36.95
Cuttell	27	726	85*	7	36.30
Lord Hawke	21	542	107*	6	36.13
Lilley	17	571	112	1	35.68
Hayward	17	557	126	1	35.43
Alec Hearne	22	698	117	2	34.90
J T Tyldesley	31	1072	96	0	34.58
Mr S M J Woods	21	722	143	0	34.38

Mr D L A Jephson	16	445	166*	3	34.23
Ward	31	965	135	2	33.27
Mr C B Fry	18	563	104*	1	33.11
Mr P Perrin	21	623	105*	2	32.78
Lockwood	18	485	109	3	32.33
Mr A J L Hill	18	477	199	3	31.80
Mr G Brann	25	760	118	0	30.40
F Sugg	27	786	169	1	30.23
Mr H G Owen	21	624	92	0	29.71
Mr J A Dixon	19	474	65	3	29.62
Mr F G J Ford	15	444	127	0	29.60
Mr A Eccles	15	431	139	0	28.73
J T Brown	29	781	144	1	27.89
Mr W L Murdoch	29	748	121*	2	27.70
Mr A J Turner	14	290	102*	3	25.36
Mr K J Key	15	275	55*	3	22.91

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	709.3	295	1151	101	11.39
Wainwright	349.3	139	600	50	12.00
J T Hearne	1067.4	467	1813	134	13.52
Roche	152.4	48	421	30	14.03
Mr F S Jackson	527.4	204	954	66	14.45
G Davidson	734	349	1097	71	15.45
Haigh	601.4	219	1229	79	15.65
Lockwood	553	172	1160	74	15.67
Mr D L A Jephson	126.4	23	361	23	15.69
Martin	465.2	165	867	52	16.67
Mead	631	209	1246	70	17.80
Mr C J Kortright	411.4	117	1123	61	18.40
Richardson	553.2	141	1461	78	18.73
Hirst	169.4	47	431	23	18.73
Attewell	823.4	369	1109	59	18.79
Trott	391.1	128	934	49	19.06
Dr W G Grace	337.3	117	630	32	19.68
Mr F G Bull	513.2	150	1227	62	19.79
Alec Hearne	466.1	194	780	38	20.52
Tyler	464.4	94	1287	62	20.75
Cuttell	873.3	473	1391	66	21.07
Mr J R Mason	390.2	146	882	41	21.51
Briggs	635.3	225	1313	60	21.88
Mr F H E Cunliffe	396.4	121	942	43	21.90
Bland	566.3	160	1370	59	23.22
Mold	696.3	247	1606	69	23.27
Mr S M J Woods	197.1	48	573	23	24.91
Mr G L Jessop	349.3	89	776	31	25.03
Mr C L Townsend	582.4	123	1640	63	26.03

25 July: DERBYSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5054.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 July, page 11)

Everything else in yesterday's cricket at Derby was dwarfed by the batting of Mr S H Evershed, who can rarely have been seen to better advantage. Going in first for Derbyshire, he completed his 100 after being at the wickets only two hours and ten minutes, and in all scored 153. He was caught at last from a lofty hit off one of Lilley's slows. Altogether he was batting for two hours and 50 minutes, his chief hits being one six, sixteen fours, nine threes and 11 twos.

STORER'S BATTING.- Yesterday W Storer, with his innings at Derby, completed his 1,000 aggregate for the season.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 July, page 12)

When bad light caused play to be given up at Derby on Monday afternoon the score was:- Derbyshire (first innings), 285; Warwickshire, 19 for no wicket.

On going on with their innings yesterday morning the Warwickshire eleven up to a certain point did very well. Devey played fine cricket and when lunch time came he was 81 not out, the total being 164 for four wickets. Soon after the resumption of play, however, Devey was dismissed, and such a small measure of success rewarded the later batsmen that the innings was finished off for 217. Devey was batting three hours and 20 minutes without giving a chance.

Holding a very useful lead of 68 runs, Derbyshire went in for the second time and, after a bad start, Mr Wright and Storer played admirably. At the drawing of stumps the score stood at 121 for four wickets.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 July, page 7)

After a day of very quiet cricket the match at Derby between these counties was yesterday left drawn. At the close of Tuesday's play Derbyshire with four wickets down in their second innings led by 189 runs, and thus stood in a strong position.

On going on with their innings yesterday, however, the batsmen showed unnecessary caution, and when lunch time came the overnight score of 121 for four wickets had only been carried to 219 for eight. Chatterton played good cricket of its kind for 66, but he took a long time to get his runs. Soon after luncheon the innings was declared closed, the total being 224 for eight wickets.

This left Warwickshire 293 to get to win - a task quite beyond their powers in the three hours that remained for play. After a moderate start some fine batting was shown by William Quaife, Lilley and Diver, and, as will be seen from the full score below, Warwickshire easily averted defeat, the final score being 173 for four wickets.

25 July: ESSEX v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5055.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 July, page 11)

For those who like fine, free cricket nothing could have been better than the play of Major Poore and Mr A J L Hill at Leyton yesterday, when for the third Hampshire wicket they made 183 in a couple of hours. With the pitch giving some aid to the bowlers, for the reason that it was damp on the surface and very hard underneath, and thus made the ball occasionally kick, it was natural that the batsmen should occasionally mistime the ball and in playing forward "edge" it away through the slips. But both men got their hundred and there was no lack of good, hard batting in their scores.

Mr Hill, with the honours of his big feat at the Oval still on him, made another fine score for his county. He possesses no lack of strokes; but his best is the drive, and it was by this that he and Major Poore mainly distinguished themselves yesterday. Major Poore, who hit a five and 15 fours, got his 100 in two hours; but Mr Hill changed his game in his anxiety to run into three figures, and his last 20 runs were made by a lot of vacillating back play. Captain Quinton played steadily; but Hampshire, after getting 200 up with only two men out, finished their innings for 296.

That good little Essex bowler, Walter Mead, with his nice length and spin, did a fine piece of work after luncheon, for when Major Poore had gone at 200 he took the last seven wickets at a cost to himself of some 50 runs. He had bowled a good deal before without success. The light got so bad when Essex went in that at the end of an hour of their innings stumps were pulled up.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 July, page 12)

There was no lack of incident in the cricket at Leyton yesterday, but after promises of evenness the game took a decided turn after luncheon in favour of Essex, and when stumps were drawn last night Hampshire had five wickets down in their second innings and were 62 behind.

The hours of play before luncheon scarcely promised anything like this strong position for the home side, for, although McGahey and Turner had put on 128 for the fourth wicket, five of the side were gone for 224. In the two hours or so after the interval there was some wonderfully robust batting by Russell, the Essex wicket-keeper. He went in fifth wicket at 224 and, getting some aid from several members of the side, took out his bat for 122.

With the ball coming at a nice easy pace from the pitch and with the Hampshire bowling very ordinary stuff at its best, Russell was just the kind of batsman at this stage to make his mark. He went forward to the bowlers and hit them all over the field, and he got his 122 in two hours and a quarter, the chief figures of his innings being two fives and 15 fours. Forcing the game at this pace meant naturally that some risks were run in the matter of timing; but the only catch he gave that was dropped was when, at 75, Captain Quinton might have caught him at extra slip. So much did the Essex crowd of 5,000 people appreciate his innings that when the "hats" taken round were summed up there was the substantial compliment to him of £22.

Hampshire had a bad final hour and lost half their side for 67; but it should be mentioned that Mr Hill was rather unnerved by a very bad blow which he received in the side from a short ball from Kortright. In the closing minutes of the game there was a very fine catch in the long field by Carpenter.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 July, page 7)

Tuesday's cricket had left Hampshire in such a bad way that it was not surprising to find them beaten by Essex at Leyton yesterday very early before luncheon time. The result was a nine-wickets victory for Essex.

Mr Barrett played some robust cricket for Hampshire. One of the best things in the match was the bowling of Walter Mead, whose full analysis gave him a record of 12 wickets for 161 runs.

25 July: KENT v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5056.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 July, page 11)

Kent may be said to have had slightly the better of the cricket on the Rectory-field, Blackheath, yesterday. Most of the batsmen contributed something towards the respectable score of 277, against plenty of good bowling and fielding on a nice, easy pitch.

Mr Patterson played a beautiful game; he never made a bad stroke and, although not scoring at the same pace as either Mr Marchant or Martin, his game was marked by much more finish. Always possessing a great variety of strokes, he utilized them to advantage, the cut and the placing to leg being well executed. Mr Patterson was batting an hour and a half and, with Mr Bannon, put on 70 for the fifth wicket, when both were out at the same total - Mr Patterson caught at the wicket and Mr Bannon in the long field.

Mr Marchant and Martin then came together and during a partnership of an hour added 90 runs, the fastest piece of scoring during the day. Martin was the last to leave, caught at point. He showed a great liking for Hayward's bowling, and in one over cut him for three fours in succession. Richardson bowled Wright and Mr Bradley with consecutive balls. Alec Hearne's bad luck still seems to pursue him, as in his last three innings he has been run out.

On Surrey going in they made a wretched start, Mr Crawford being caught at the wicket at five and Brockwell bowled at 12. Holland and Lockwood, by some vigorous batting, then took the score to 64 without further loss. At the close Surrey were 213 runs behind with eight wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 July, page 12)

After having slightly the worse of the opening day's cricket, Surrey yesterday, on the Rectory Field, Blackheath, batted so well that they were able to claim an advantage of 13 runs on the first innings, and Kent, going in a second time, gave such a feeble display that at the drawing of stumps Surrey were left in a strong position.

For their score Surrey were chiefly indebted to Hayward, who played a fine innings of 101 without giving a chance. After rather a slow start, Hayward settled down and made some beautiful strokes on the off-side; in fact his play throughout was worthy of his great reputation. He went in when three wickets were done for 84 and was sixth [?] out at 239, having scored 101 out of 155. Altogether he was batting three hours, and his chief hits were 11 fours, three threes and nine twos. Lockwood also played well for 46, and with Holland put on 72 for the third wicket; but Holland, although making some good strokes, was several times at fault in timing the ball.

With half the side out for 117 it seemed probable that Surrey would be dismissed for a comparatively small score, but Mr Jephson kept up his end for 70 minutes and helped Hayward to add 62 runs for the sixth wicket. With Baldwin and Wood partners the Kent total was passed with two wickets still to fall. Baldwin carried out his bat for a very patient 39, which had taken him two hours to make. Throughout the innings runs never came very freely and Surrey were in five hours and a quarter for their 290.

With the exception of Mr Burnup, who played free and stylish cricket for 45, no one could do anything with the bowling of Lockwood and Brockwell, and at the close Kent were only 61 runs on with five wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 July, page 7)

Rain interfered yesterday with the closing stages of the game on the Rectory Field, Blackheath, to such an extent that no definite result could be arrived at, and spoilt what otherwise promised to be an exciting finish.

From the position of the game overnight everything pointed to an ultimate victory for Surrey, as Kent in their second innings had lost half their side for 79; but such a stubborn resistance did Mr Marchant, Wright and Martin offer that the score reached the respective dimensions of 213. When Mr Marchant came in Kent were in a critical position, six wickets being down for 89, but by some beautifully free cricket he made 49 out of 67 in an hour for the next wicket. Martin then helped Wright to add 40 runs, when Wright was out for a very patient 44, which had taken him two hours and a half to make but which proved of the greatest value to his side. Martin carried out his bat for a rather lucky 34.

Going in a second time, with three hours and ten minutes still left for play, Surrey had to get 201 to win. Brockwell and Abel put on 72 runs in less than an hour for the first wicket, but the light was very defective and three men were out at 96. It was certainly very bad luck for Surrey that the conditions should have been so adverse to them at a period when they had a good chance of gaining a victory. Owing to the bad light the ball was very difficult to follow, and it was owing to this that Hayward lost his wicket.

Rain came on just before 5 and made further play impossible for some time, and as there was no chance of finishing the match stumps were pulled up at a quarter to 6. Surrey at the close required 105 to win with six wickets in hand. Brockwell just missed his 1,000 aggregate, for he now only requires three more runs.

25 July: LANCASHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5057.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 July, page 11)

After making a good but unsuccessful fight against Yorkshire at Scarborough on Saturday the Somerset eleven journeyed to Liverpool and began on the Aigburth ground their return match with Lancashire. With the luck to win the toss they got on remarkably well, staying at the wickets the greater part of the afternoon and running up a score of 314.

At the beginning and towards the end of the innings the batting was admirable, but there were some failures in between. Mr Palairt hit 11 fours in his brilliant 71 and was the fourth man out. It looked as if the side would be got rid of for quite a moderate score, but Mr Fowler and Gill played finely together and put of 75 for the ninth wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 July, page 12)

In face of a total of 214 the Lancashire eleven had at the close of Monday's play at Liverpool scored 49 for one wicket. On going on with their innings yesterday morning they gave a capital display of batting, staying in until after luncheon and carrying their total to 297, or only 17 runs to the bad.

Despite some admirable batting on the part of Tyldesley, they did not up to a certain point seem likely to do nearly so well as this, five wickets being down for 153. Cuttell and Baker, however, made a very useful stand at this point, and after the fall of the seventh wicket Baker found an invaluable partner in Briggs. The latter batsman was out just before lunch time, the score at the interval being 254 for eight wickets.

Somerset, on batting for the second time, did not start well, Mr L C H Palairt being bowled with the score at 22. Other disasters followed, but Mr Woods came to the rescue of his side and with a finely hit 51 put a more hopeful appearance on the game. Despite all that the Somerset captain could do, however, the innings was finished off at 25 minutes past 6 for 131. Stumps were then drawn for the day, Lancashire being left with an innings to play and only 149 runs wanted to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 July, page 7)

With an innings to play at Liverpool yesterday Lancashire only required 149 runs to win, and this task they accomplished readily enough, beating Somerset at half-past 1 by five wickets.

Just at first they seemed likely to be hard pressed, Albert Ward being bowled when only two runs had been scored and Mr Hartley falling to a wonderful catch at mid-on at 26. Tyldesley and Frank Sugg, however, made a capital stand together and put their side on the high road to victory. Sugg hit in his most vigorous style, scoring 43 in 40 minutes. Still, despite his exertions, there were five wickets down for 104. After this Mr Eccles and Baker finished off the game in 20 minutes without being separated, Mr Eccles playing a very brilliant innings.

From first to last the match was a most interesting one, Lancashire's victory, in face of the score of 314 obtained on Monday by Somerset, being one of the best things the northern team have done this season.

25 July: SUSSEX v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5058.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 July, page 11)

With Mr George Brann, Mr Newham and Mr Montezuma all away, Sussex found places in their eleven at Brighton yesterday for Messrs Arlington and Fisher and Walter Humphreys, the younger. Mr Arlington has often played for the county before, but Mr Fisher is a new comer.

Sussex won the toss and gave such a good display of batting that when the time came for drawing stumps they had scored 354 for nine wickets. The great feature of the game was the batting of Mr C B Fry, who, for the second time within less than a fortnight, played an innings of over 100 against Middlesex. Going in first he was out at 177, his splendid innings of 108 having lasted three hours. He hit 13 fours, three threes and ten twos.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 July, page 12)

At Brighton yesterday morning the Sussex innings, in which nine wickets had fallen on Monday for 354, was quickly finished off, only three runs being added to the previous total. Killick, who hit ten fours and gave no chance, took out his bat for 76 - a capital display of batting.

Middlesex went in at about 12 o'clock, and up to a certain point seemed likely to make a very big score. Unluckily, however, fog spoilt the light and the batting suffered a breakdown. Messrs Warner and Hayman made 63 runs together in less than an hour, and after Mr Warner left Mr Hayward and Mr Stoddart played so finely together that at lunch time the score had reached 143 with only one wicket down.

Play had not been resumed very long when the fog made the light so defective that for a few minutes the game had to be suspended. The two batsmen carried the score to 175, and then Mr Hayman left. After his departure a complete change came over the cricket, Mr Ford, Mr Stoddart and Sir T C O'Brien being dismissed in quick succession without the addition of a single run. The last few batsmen tried hard to retrieve these disasters, but, though Hearne and Webb put on 49 in half an hour, the innings was all over for 283, or 74 runs behind. Once during the innings the bad light caused a stoppage for 20 minutes.

Sussex on going in for the second time lost two wickets for 35 before the drawing of stumps.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 28 July, page 7)

At Brighton yesterday the match between these teams had unfortunately to be left drawn. The interest in the cricket centred on the batting of Mr C B Fry, who, for the second time in the game, made over 100 runs. In accomplishing this feat of getting two separate hundreds in a first-class match Mr Fry joins a select group of batsmen, which comprises Dr Grace, Mr Stoddart, Mr George Brann, Storer, Ranjitsinhji, Tyldesley and Mr A C MacLaren. The last-named cricketer made his two hundreds at Sydney in November last for Mr Stoddart's team against New South Wales. Dr Grace, always in the front rank where cricket records are concerned, has three times made two separate hundreds in a first-class match.

Mr Fry, who was not-out 24 at the drawing of stumps on Tuesday, went on batting yesterday morning and at lunch time was not-out 107, the Sussex total then standing at 207 for seven wickets. On starting afresh 17 runs were added by Mr Fry and Parris without further loss, and then the closure rule was put in force. Mr Fry's splendid innings of 120 not out, the result of three hours and 25 minutes' batting, included 16 fours, four threes and 11 twos. He gave no chance that went to hand and his faulty strokes were few and far between.

Middlesex were left with 299 to get to win, but as only three hours remained for play the task, even on the Brighton ground, was practically an impossible one. A bad start was made, Mr Hayman being bowled without getting a run and Mr Warner leaving at 27. After this,

however, Mr Stoddart and Mr Ford played finely together, the game during their partnership being delayed 20 minutes by rain.

Mr Ford was caught at the wicket at 80, and when, at ten minutes to 6, there were six wickets down it seemed quite possible Middlesex would be beaten. Rawlin and Mr Nicholls, however, stayed together for over half an hour and saved the game. When stumps were finally drawn the total stood at 150 for seven wickets.

25 July: YORKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5059.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 26 July, page 11)

The meeting of Yorkshire and Gloucestershire at Sheffield yesterday proved a great attraction, but the match lost much of its importance through Dr Grace's inability to play. He was on the ground and, though he did not go out to field in the morning, it was not until the game had been in progress some little time that it became known he had decided to stand down. All last week, though he batted so well at Lord's and Nottingham, he was much handicapped by a bruised heel and rest has become imperative.

Yorkshire, fully represented, won the toss and stayed in till nearly 6 o'clock, their total reaching 331. The team as a whole did nothing out of the common; but a superb display of batting was given by Mr F S Jackson, who, with a score of 160, beat all his previous performances this season. He went in first wicket down at 31 and was out seventh at 302, his stay having extended over three hours and three-quarters. He made a few risky strokes; but so fine was his cricket that he gave no real chance till he had scored 149. His chief figures were 20 fours, three threes and nine twos.

Yorkshire lost two wickets for 49 runs and at lunch time three were down for 127. Starting afresh Wainwright was caught in the deep field at 147, he and Mr Jackson having put on 65 runs. Hirst did not do much, but Lord Hawke stayed, and before the seventh wicket went down 116 runs had been added, this being the great stand of the day. At the end of the afternoon Gloucestershire had lost 1w for 16 runs. Mr Jackson's 160 is his fifth hundred for Yorkshire this season.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 27 July, page 12)

Feeling very much the absence of Dr Grace, the Gloucestershire Eleven suffered a severe defeat yesterday at Sheffield, Yorkshire beating them by an innings and 12 runs. Under the circumstances, they never had any hope of winning, but they probably expected to make a better fight. When stumps were drawn on Monday Yorkshire had completed their first innings for 331 and Gloucestershire had lost one wicket for 16 runs.

In charming weather, Gloucestershire went on batting yesterday morning, and shortly before lunch time their innings ended for 192. Four wickets were down for 61; but Messrs Hemingway and W McG Hemingway played brilliantly together and put on 92 runs in 55 minutes. Of the later batsmen, however, only Wrathall made any stand against the excellent bowling. Rhodes - not very successful lately - took six wickets in the innings.

After luncheon Gloucestershire followed on against a balance of 139 runs. The innings started fairly well; but a sudden collapse resulted in five wickets going down for 53. Mr Sewell, who had gone in first, made a great effort to avert the single innings defeat, but without success. He could get very little help and was not out when the match ended. He made his first 50 runs out of 75 in an hour and a quarter, and among his hits were 12 fours, seven threes and five twos. The end was reached at a quarter to 5.

Wednesday 27 July, page 12: THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

A meeting of the committee of the Yorkshire County Club was held yesterday at Sheffield, Lord Hawke presiding. A vote of condolence was passed to the bereaved family of the late Mr M J Ellison, for 35 years president of the club, Lord Hawke being requested to convey the resolution.

Grants of £5 each were made to the benefit funds of the following cricketers:- Attewell, W Sugg, Baldwin, Bean and Baker.

The committee elected Mr M J Dodworth, of Sheffield, treasurer of the county club *pro tem*. The vice-presidents, together with Messrs Brooks, Rhodes, Dodworth and Bower, were appointed a committee for the purpose of considering and reporting as to a suggested revision of the rules of the county club.

KENT v MIDDLESEX.- The postponed match between Kent and Middlesex - put off owing to the funeral of the late Mr I D Walker - will be played at Catford on August 29 and following days.

28 July: LANCASHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5060.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 July, page 12)

Dr W G Grace, who had been compelled by lameness to stand out of the match at Sheffield at the beginning of the week, reappeared in the Gloucester eleven at Manchester yesterday. Lancashire put into the field exactly the same team that had on Wednesday beaten Somerset in such capital style at Liverpool.

Owing to rain in the morning, the game was not commenced until 20 minutes to 1, at which time Lancashire, having won the toss, went in to bat. When Mr Hartley's subsequent had been lost for six runs a heavy shower came on, and nothing more could be done until after luncheon.

On the game being proceeded with Lancashire, up to a certain point, did extremely well, Albert Ward and Tyldesley making a capital stand. Ward, who had the satisfaction of completing his thousand runs in first-class matches this season, was as steady and watchful as Tyldesley was brilliant. The score had reached 90 when Ward was caught in the slips off a short-pitched ball from Jessop. Tyldesley was out third at 122, and then such a remarkable change came over the game that the innings was finished off soon after 5 o'clock for 148.

Mr Jessop had a record of eight wickets for 54 runs, seven falling to him for 32 after he went on the second time. Tyldesley in his splendid 72 - an innings which lasted an hour and 40 minutes - hit 11 fours, a three and five twos. The pitch, which was helping the bowlers a good deal during the latter part of Lancashire's innings, became more and more difficult as the afternoon advanced, and Gloucestershire had a disastrous experience, losing six wickets in an hour at the end of the day for 25 runs. Dr Grace was out to an easy catch at short slip.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 July, page 14)

Gloucestershire again had all the worst of the cricket at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, and in the ordinary chances of the game, their defeat to-day seems very probable, seeing that with six wickets left they are still 309 runs behind in the second innings. In the morning the four last batsmen added only 19 runs, and the side were out in an hour and a half for 44 runs. Cuttell and Mold had each a fine analysis.

With the turf greatly improved Lancashire went in again and made 273. The batting of the team was very consistent and throughout the innings forcing tactics were adopted. Baker and Sugg were especially brilliant, adding 62 in three-quarters of an hour for the fourth wicket before Sugg left at 137. Later on Mr Eccles, the Oxford cricketer, and Briggs hit out freely and in 28 minutes put on no fewer than 54 runs. Briggs was very fortunate in his innings of 47, being missed three times.

When Gloucestershire went in a second time an hour and 25 minutes was left for play, and in that time they made 68 for four wickets. Dr Grace again failed to score many runs, but Jessop hit up 29 out of 36 in 35 minutes.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 August, page 11)

The last Gloucestershire batsmen were in such excellent form on Saturday at Manchester that Lancashire won by only 66 runs. Set 378 runs to win, the visitors had on Friday evening lost four wickets for 68 runs and thus had little chance of victory, but after their failures on the previous two days their performance of scoring 311 in the last innings gave them all the honours in the final stage of the match.

To Mr F H B Champain belongs chief credit for such a fine total. Going in when half the side were out for 82, the young Oxford batsmen scored 113 in rather more than two hours and a half and was still not out when the match ended. Missed by Eccles before scoring, Champain for a little while failed to time Mold's fast bowling perfectly, but he gave no other chance, and considering the rate at which he scored his faulty strokes were very few. The brilliancy of his batting may be gathered from his figures - one five, ten fours, seven threes and 16 twos, most of which were for big hits saved on the boundary.

Mr R W Rice, who played steadily and well, scored 51 in about two hours and a quarter, helping Champain to add 97, while Wrathall and Board forced the game with such success that they respectively assisted to put on 52 runs in half an hour and 78 in 40 minutes. This stand by Champain and Board was for the last wicket, an escape which the professional had when 11 enabling his partner to reach his hundred. Cuttell bowled with good judgment on a pitch which had become quite favourable to batsmen and took eight wickets for 105 runs.

28 July: SURREY v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5061.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 July, page 12)

The Surrey and Essex engagements have taken quite a foremost place among the big matches of the season, and although the conditions at the Oval yesterday were a little unfavourable, the crowd must have been well over 10,000 strong. The fact that Essex had beaten Surrey on the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, quite early in the season gave additional interest to the return game. Apart from this the result will have a considerable bearing on their responsible positions in the county championship. The cricket yesterday, although greatly interfered with by rain, was always interesting and every ball was keenly followed.

Winning the toss under the circumstances was really of no advantage, and Mr Lucas, who acted as captain in the absence of Mr Owen, being successful in the spin of the coin decided to go in. Although giving the bowlers some assistance, the pitch was not entirely responsible for the poor display of the earlier batsmen, who under the prevailing conditions should certainly have made more runs. To lose six wickets for 61 on a pitch which had not been affected by the sun was a feeble performance.

Carpenter and Mr Perrin were out for two runs, and at 12 Mr M'Gahey was bowled. Mr Turner put a little life into the game and in half an hour made 25 out of 33 for the fourth wicket. With ten runs added Mr Fane was caught at third man after being in nearly an hour and a half for 16, while at 61 Mr Lucas was deceived in the pace of a ball from Lockwood and was bowled. Rain then prevented further play before lunch.

When the game was resumed about 3 o'clock the remaining batsmen met with a certain measure of success and put on 86 runs, so that the total reached larger proportions than the earlier stages of the innings had promised. This was chiefly due to Mr Kortright and Russell, who put plenty of vigour into their play; Mr Kortright twice drove Brockwell out of the ring in one over; the first pitched in the members' seats and the second on the top of the pavilion. Mr Bull and Young gave unexpected trouble for the last wicket.

Surrey went in at half-past 4, but owing to the weather they had less than an hour and a half's batting. This proved sufficient to leave them in a favourable position, as when the game was abandoned for the day they were only 56 runs behind with seven wickets in hand. Recently Abel has given one the impression that he does not like fast bowling, but yesterday he played Mr Kortright with confidence and scored freely off him. He batted in quite his best form without making a bad stroke, and played with more freedom than usual. He made 34 out of 50 and 50 out of 75, and was still not out at the finish. The light throughout was rather defective.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 July, page 14)

In face of a total of 147 Surrey had scored 91 for three wickets at the close of play on Thursday, and on continuing their innings yesterday at the Oval they gave such an excellent display that they were not dismissed until their score stood at 314, which secured them the very useful lead of 167.

For this substantial advantage they were chiefly indebted to the fine play of Abel and Hayward, and later to Mr Jephson. Abel was batting for some three hours and a quarter, and throughout played in quite his best style, making his runs, as is his custom, by a great variety of strokes. With the ball coming along at a nice easy pace he showed more freedom than usual and scored his 100 out of 158, and was fifth to leave at 243. From the first he had timed the ball with excellent precision and he never made a bad stroke - in fact, his play all round the wicket was marked by much brilliancy; the way he either "killed" or scored off a rising ball was remarkable for a man of his stature. His chief hits were two fives, 20 fours, eight threes and eight twos.

Hayward also batted extremely well and with Abel put on 164 runs in two hours and ten minutes for the fourth wicket. The only stroke approaching a bad one was a lofty hit in the long-field to Mr M'Gahey just before the close of his innings. Mr Jephson's play was marked by great caution; but the pitch was then giving the bowlers some assistance and was more difficult than at any other period. He was unlucky in his dismissal, as in trying to cut a ball wide of the wicket he turned it on to his leg stump. Altogether Surrey were batting four hours and three-quarters. Russell kept wicket well and gave away only four extras, while he stumped two batsmen.

When Essex went in a second time at 4 o'clock it seemed probable that they would have some difficulty in avoiding the single-innings defeat; but the pitch showed considerable improvement after the rolling and at the close Essex were only 41 runs behind with seven wickets in hand. Mr Fane and Carpenter put on 52, when both were dismissed, while Mr M'Gahey was out at 93, being stumped off a slow ball from Lockwood. Mr Perrin and Mr Turner then played out time.

So far Mr Perrin has been batting an hour and a half for his 37, which was made chiefly by driving; but he is a batsman who does not possess much variety of strokes and, although coming down on the ball very straight, he lacks the wrist power which is essential for the cut. The conditions were again very unfavourable for cricket, and although the rain held off there was a very cold wind blowing. The spectators numbered 7,000.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 August, page 11)

After having the better of the game from the start Surrey beat Essex at the Oval on Saturday by five wickets. This is the fourth defeat Essex have met with in the county championship, for they had previously been beaten by Yorkshire (twice) and Gloucestershire. Although Surrey won easily at the finish, the play was always interesting and was watched with much keenness.

For their victory Surrey were chiefly indebted to Abel and Lockwood. Abel has seldom been seen to so great an advantage; throughout he played beautifully free cricket and never gave a chance in either innings, while he scored 201 runs.

Lockwood did an excellent performance with the ball, taking ten wickets in the match for just over 14 runs apiece, a feat which was really of more value than the figures indicate, as at times he had some difficulty in getting a foothold. On Saturday he bowled splendidly and it was greatly due to his efforts that Surrey were able to win so easily. Going on at 238 immediately before luncheon, when Essex had only lost four wickets and there seemed a probability that they might save the game, he clean bowled Mr Perrin in his first over, and after the interval took the whole of the remaining wickets, his analysis, after the last time that he went on, being ten overs, three maidens, 19 runs and six wickets.

When Essex continued their innings Mr Turner was soon out; but Mr Perrin and Mr Lucas during a partnership of two hours and ten minutes put on 103 runs, when Mr Perrin had his middle stump knocked out of the ground by Lockwood. Throughout he had shown very stubborn defence and was batting nearly four hours for his runs.

After their luncheon interval Essex collapsed and the last five wickets added only 42 runs. Mr Lucas played a grand innings. He went in at the fall of the fourth wicket and was last out, caught at third man. He gave a chance to Abel at point before reaching double figures, but afterwards played fine cricket. He hit nine fours, three threes and six twos. The Essex batting for the most part had been marked by great caution, but under the circumstances this was undoubtedly the right game, as at the best they could only hope for a draw.

Going in at 4 o'clock with 124 to get to win, Surrey made an excellent start, and Abel and Brockwell were not parted until 71 had been scored. Brockwell's 29 had enabled him to complete his 1,000 runs aggregate for the season. Abel, after scoring 53 out of 86 in an hour by beautifully free cricket, was caught at slip. Mr Kortright then caused some excitement by bowling Mr Jephson and Hayward, while before the finish Holland was out to a

good catch at the wicket by Russell, who took the ball on the leg side. Lockwood and Baldwin then hit off the runs, the winning stroke being made at a quarter to 6.

The conditions for the game were much more favourable on Saturday, when there were about 9,000 spectators.

28 July: SUSSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5062.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 July, page 12)

The Kent eleven, in the commencement of their return match with Sussex at Hastings yesterday, accomplished a great batting triumph, putting together in four hours and 40 minutes the big score of 354 for the loss of only six wickets. The early play did not suggest anything of this kind, for up to lunch time only 62 runs had been obtained, but afterwards the pace was tremendous, the second hundred being obtained in an hour and the third in 65 minutes.

The honours of Kent's fine performance were carried off by Mason and Rashleigh, each of whom succeeded in scoring over 100. The Kent captain went in first wicket down at 27 and was third out at 232, and he made 133 out of 205 in two hours and a half. He obtained the majority of his runs by clean, hard driving and, except for a chance to slip when 77, there was no serious blemish in his batting. He hit 19 fours, six threes and five twos. With his innings of 133 he raised his aggregate in first-class matches this season to 1,045.

Rashleigh, who, unfortunately, is rarely able to assist his county, played a most brilliant forcing game, scoring his 105 in little more than two hours. He did not give a chance, and besides driving with great power made a number of beautiful cuts. Included in his score were 15 fours, three threes and seven twos. Burnup in the early part of the game played steadily and well, and later on Bannon was seen to advantage, the score at one point reaching 300 with only three men out. All day the weather was dull and gloomy, but about 3,000 people visited the ground.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 July, page 14)

The cricket at Hastings yesterday was in the strongest contrast to that shown on Thursday. Rain overnight had considerably affected the ground, and to such an extent did the ball beat the bat that in the course of the day 17 wickets went down and only 229 runs were scored. Kent, who had on Thursday made 354 with six men out, went on batting in the morning, but the last few players could do nothing against the bowling of Tate, and before half-past 12 the innings was over for 377.

In facing this total on a damaged pitch Sussex had necessarily a thankless task. Mr Arlington and Mr Fry were out for 27 runs, and despite some good batting by Mr Murdoch and Killick, the latter of whom did most of the scoring, the total at lunch time had only reached 55 for three wickets. On a fresh start being made things still went badly, the fifth wicket falling at 69 and, though Butt played well in the latter part of the innings, the side were all out for 144. Killick, who went in second wicket down and was out seventh at 108, played skilfully for nearly two hours.

Sussex had to follow on against the heavy balance of 233 runs, and at the close of the day they had lost three wickets for 62 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 August, page 11)

A victory for Kent in a single innings with 84 runs to spare was the result of the match at Hastings on Saturday. The overnight position of affairs had foreshadowed some such ending, as Sussex, with three wickets down in their second innings for 62, still required 171 runs to avoid being beaten in a single innings.

An hour and 40 minutes' play sufficed to finish off the match, the seven remaining wickets going down for the addition of 87 runs, and the whole side being out in three hours for a total of 149. Mr Charles Fry raised his overnight score of 31 to 52, and was fifth out at 97, having gone in first. For two hours and ten minutes he played a highly skilful game, and hit eight fours, a three and a two. Parris batted very patiently for an hour and a

quarter, and Butt did a little hitting; but after Mr Fry left no serious resistance was offered.

The Kent men played their winning game extremely well, and some good bowling in the match was accomplished by Alec Hearne, Mr Mason and Mr Bradley. Sussex had all the worst of the luck, having to bat for the most part with the wicket more or less injured by rain.

28 July: WARWICKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5063.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 July, page 12)

The bad weather prevented a start from being made in this fixture at Birmingham yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 July, page 14)

Yesterday at Birmingham on the slow pitch there was some interesting cricket. Hampshire were indebted to the tenth wicket partnership of Light and Tate, who added 82, for the respectability of their score of 195. Walter Quaife departed from his usual game of slowness and scored fairly quickly for Warwickshire, who at the close were only 89 behind and had seven wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 August, page 11)

After the loss of the whole of Thursday through rain the match at Birmingham between Warwickshire and Hampshire had on Saturday to be left drawn. For the greater part of the afternoon this result appeared inevitable, and the closing stage of the game consequently lacked interest, but just for half-an-hour before 6 o'clock some excitement was created by a sudden breakdown in the Hampshire batting, which made it look possible for Warwickshire to win. However, this chance passed away and the finish was very tame.

On starting in the morning Warwickshire, with seven wickets in hand, were within 85 runs on the total of 195 put together by Hampshire, and, though two more wickets fell rather cheaply, William Quaife and Kinneir batted so finely together that by lunch time they had raised the score to 276 without being separated. In 45 minutes after the interval the two batsmen put on 57 more runs, and they were still together when, with the total at 333 for six wickets, the Warwickshire innings was declared closed, Quaife having made 117 and Kinneir 78. They had put on no fewer than 163 runs during their partnership in two hours and a quarter.

When Hampshire commenced their second innings against a balance of 138 runs Quinton and Poore met with such success that the 100 went up with only one man out, but then five wickets fell rapidly before the bowling of Field and Santall. However, at a critical moment Webb batted steadily and the danger of defeat for Hampshire was soon averted.

28 July: YORKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5064.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 29 July, page 12)

At Harrogate, yesterday, no commencement could be made with the match between Yorkshire and Derbyshire until after half-past 2, but from that hour play went on uninterruptedly, and Yorkshire before the drawing of stumps completed a first innings of 252. The ground was, of course, soft, but with a high wind blowing the wicket never became really difficult and had practically recovered during the last hour.

The home team had lost Brown and Tunnicliffe by the time the score reached 32 and, although Jackson and Denton raised the total to 71 before the third wicket went down, matters then went so badly with the batting side against the bowling of Hancock and Davidson that there were eight men out for 130. A total of 150 or thereabouts then appeared as much as Yorkshire could reasonably expect, but Lord Hawke found an invaluable partner in Haigh, and these two in less than an hour put on 79 runs.

After the Yorkshire captain's dismissal Hunter kept up his wicket while with Haigh hitting freely 43 runs were added for the last wicket. Thus the last two wickets produced 122 runs. Denton, who was sixth man out at 126, gave a chance when two, but afterwards batted finely. Haigh made no real mistake, hitting ten fours and carrying out his bat for 60. Lord Hawke's resolute 49 included a drive for six and seven fours. About 3,000 people witnessed the day's play.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 30 July, page 14)

At Harrogate yesterday Derbyshire went in to bat against a score of 252 which Yorkshire had put together during such time as play was practicable on Thursday. They made an indifferent start, losing Evershed, who had scored over 100 against Warwickshire at the beginning of the week, when only nine runs had been obtained.

Yorkshire afterwards made several bad blunders in the field, and Bagshaw, who was missed before he had made a run, hit up 68 out of 103 in an hour and five minutes, his innings including 13 fours. Storer, who was his partner after the second wicket had gone down at 57, hit away very finely, but he was badly let off when 24. The Derbyshire wicket-keeper made 50 in less than an hour, and altogether 96 in an hour and a half, his brilliant if not faultless innings including a six and 13 fours. He was fifth man out at 210, and after the interval the batting broke down so badly before the bowling of Rhodes and Milligan that the last five wickets fell for the addition of 28 runs, the innings coming to an end for 238.

Yorkshire began their second innings badly, losing Brown for five, but Jackson, hitting freely, made 39 out of 59 added for the second wicket. Tunnicliffe, displaying great caution, completed his 1,000 runs in first-class matches, but took an hour and 20 minutes to make the necessary 12. After Jackson's dismissal Wainwright hit up 48 out of 60, and when stumps were drawn owing to defective light the score stood at 178 for four wickets. Tunnicliffe batted nearly two hours and a half for 45 not out.

PRESENTATION TO SCHOFIELD HAIGH.- At the Somerset Hotel, Harrogate, last night, Schofield Haigh was presented by the professionals of the Yorkshire county eleven with a marble timepiece and side ornaments as a wedding gift.

Day 3 (report from Monday 1 August, page 11)

There was an exceptionally bright and interesting day's cricket at Harrogate on Saturday, and, with a welcome change in the weather, the afternoon's play was carried on under fair conditions. Yorkshire had in their second innings scored 178 for the loss of four wickets, and thus, with six men still to be dismissed, held a lead of 192 runs.

When the game was resumed three wickets went down rapidly for the addition of 22 runs, but then Tunncliffe and Rhodes completely mastered the bowling for an hour and 40 minutes, and in that time put on 91 runs before Tunncliffe was out at 291. He had batted in faultless style for four hours and 40 minutes. He gave no chance, and among his figures were eight fours, three threes and 11 twos. With the total at 321 for nine wickets the innings was declared closed.

Derbyshire were left with 336 to get to win, but only three hours and 10 minutes remained for play, and they had practically nothing to hope for but a draw. However, runs came easily, and it was soon apparent that Lord Hawke had been quite right in not declaring before he did. Bagshaw and Storer hit out with great freedom and put on 104 for the third wicket. The feature of the later stages of the game was the brilliant batting of Bagshaw, who scored 100 in an hour and 35 minutes and was not out at the close.

Stumps were pulled up and the match left drawn at 6 o'clock, with the score at 219 for three wickets. Derbyshire then wanted 117 to win with seven men left. In his 100 Bagshaw hit 15 fours, a three and 12 twos.

Monday 1 August, page 11: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are now as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	19	13	1	5	12
Lancashire	19	9	2	8	7
Surrey	15	7	2	6	5
Kent	12	4	2	6	2
Essex	14	7	4	3	3
Gloucestershire	13	4	3	6	1
Notts	12	1	1	10	0
Middlesex	9	2	3	4	-1
Derbyshire	12	2	4	5	-2
Hampshire	13	2	6	5	-4
Warwickshire	11	1	4	6	-3
Somerset	11	1	8	2	-7
Sussex	12	0	6	6	-6
Leicestershire	11	0	7	4	-7

The matches between Surrey and Derbyshire on May 19 and between Surrey and Warwickshire on May 23 were abandoned without a ball having been bowled, and are, therefore, not included in the above table.

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "One point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have in finished matches obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

Saturday 30 July, page 14: AUSTRALIAN CRICKET TEAM.- A Reuter telegram from Melbourne, dated yesterday, states that an Australian cricket team will visit England next year under the auspices of the Melbourne Club, with Major Wardill as manager.

Monday 1 August, page 11: THE AVERAGES

The leading averages are given below:-

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in Inns.	Times not out	Average
Abel	28	1284	148	3	51.76
Shrewsbury	24	985	154*	5	50.78
Mr F S Jackson	30	1322	160	3	48.96
Storer	28	1194	109	3	47.76
W G Quaife	17	667	130*	3	47.64
Mr A E Stoddart	18	761	157	2	47.56
Mr J R Mason	24	1045	152	1	45.43
Dr W G Grace	27	1033	168	4	44.91
W Gunn	24	918	139	3	43.71
Mr C B Fry	22	839	123*	2	43.45
Mr C L Townsend	22	900	159	0	40.90
Mr W H Patterson	11	402	117	1	40.20
Mr L C H Palairret	18	828	179*	2	39.25
Mr C McGahey	23	809	145	2	38.52
Brockwell	29	1027	135	2	38.03
Mr C J Burnup	26	912	131	2	38.00
Tunnickliffe	32	1072	108*	3	36.95
Holland	18	627	126	1	36.88

Hayward	21	735	126	1	36.75
Mr C O H Sewell	25	835	111	2	36.39
Tyldesley	35	1241	96	0	35.45
Lord Hawke	24	631	107*	6	35.05
Lilley	20	663	112	1	34.89
Mr S M J Woods	23	782	143	0	34.00
Mr A J L Hill	22	624	199	3	32.84
Lockwood	22	557	109	5	32.76
Mr P Perrin	24	720	106*	2	32.72
Mr A P Lucas	16	455	89	2	32.50
Cuttell	31	776	85*	7	32.33
Alec Hearne	25	731	117	2	31.78
Mr D L A Jephson	20	508	166*	4	31.75
Ward	35	1048	135	2	31.60
Mr G Brann	25	760	118	0	30.40
F Sugg	31	904	169	1	30.13
Mr H G Owen	22	640	92	0	29.09
Mr F G J Ford	17	480	127	0	28.23
Mr A Eccles	19	506	139	1	28.11
Mr W L Murdoch	33	845	121*	2	27.29
J T Brown	32	830	144	1	26.77
Carpenter	27	694	95	1	26.69
Mr F H B Champain	21	499	113*	2	26.26
Mr K J Key	17	296	55*	4	22.76

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	794.3	316	1396	113	12.35
Wainwright	379.3	143	707	55	12.85
J T Hearne	1151.4	503	1958	136	14.39
Mr F S Jackson	572.2	224	1051	70	15.01
G Davidson	885	425	1284	84	15.28
Lockwood	690.1	210	1427	90	15.85
Haigh	656.4	235	1332	86	16.06
Martin	522.2	183	985	55	17.54
Mead	729	243	1504	83	18.12
Attewell	823.4	369	1109	59	18.79
Alec Hearne	541	231	877	46	19.06
Richardson	683.2	176	1745	89	19.60
Cuttell	973.1	514	1635	83	19.69
Mr C J Kortright	469.1	126	1303	65	20.04
Mr F G Bull	603.3	179	1413	70	20.18
Trott	451	146	1117	55	20.30
Dr W G Grace	384.3	132	729	35	20.82
Mr J R Mason	437.2	168	964	46	20.95
Mr G L Jessop	410.1	104	913	42	21.73
Tyler	498.4	99	1402	64	21.90
Mr F H E Cunliffe	396.4	121	942	43	21.90
Mold	816.3	276	1898	85	22.32
Briggs	698.3	255	1433	63	22.74
Mr S M J Woods	221.2	53	632	26	24.30
Bland	640	182	1551	63	24.61
Mr C L Townsend	659.2	134	1886	67	28.14

THE SCARBOROUGH FESTIVAL.— An alteration has been made in the Scarborough Cricket Festival matches. Instead of their ending with North v South of England the last match will be Yorkshire v Mr C I Thornton's England Eleven. Yorkshire will thus occupy the first three and the last three days. Lord Hawke has accepted on behalf of his team an invited to a banquet during the festival.

1 August: DERBYSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5065.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 August, page 10)

The cricket at Derby yesterday in the opening of the return match between Derbyshire and Hampshire was of a somewhat remarkable character. Going in first Derbyshire, in the course of five hours and 20 minutes' cricket, scored 477 for the loss of only four wickets, and three of the batsmen - Mr Wright, Storer and Chatterton - all had the satisfaction of reaching three figures. The feat of three batsmen each making 100 in the course of one innings is somewhat unusual in first-class cricket and is seldom performed in the course of one day's play.

A brilliant start was made by Mr Wright and Mr Evershed, the pair scoring 134 for the first wicket on an hour and a quarter. Mr Evershed hit in a spirited manner and his 67 included six fours, one three and eight twos. The second wicket fell at 174, and then Mr Wright and Storer quite mastered the Hampshire bowling, adding 123 runs for the third wicket. Mr Wright, who was third out at 297, was at the wickets for three hours and a quarter for his 134 and, though he was once caught from a no-ball, he gave no real chance. His chief hits were 14 fours, seven threes and 11 twos.

Storer was fourth out at 376, and he was batting two hours and a quarter for his 100. He made only one mistake, giving a difficult chance in the slips when 86, and his cricket was of a high order. His chief hits were ten fours, four threes and 13 twos. This is Storer's third hundred for Derbyshire this season and he has now scored over 1,000 runs for his county. Chatterton and George Davidson carried the score from 376 to 477 and were both not out at the close.

Chatterton completed his 100 in the last over of the day, having been in a little more than two hours. So far his batting has been particularly fine. About 5,000 spectators witnessed the cricket and were evidently delighted with the brilliant display of the home batsmen.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 August, page 12)

Some further brilliant cricket was witnessed at Derby yesterday, and in raising their overnight score of 477 for four wickets to 645 the Derbyshire eleven made a record score for their county ground. Chatterton increased his score of 103 to 142, and George Davidson also had the distinction of reaching three figures, taking his score from 34 to 108. Four members of the Derbyshire eleven reached three figures - a feat which has only once before been accomplished in a match of importance. At Birmingham in 1896 Mr F S Jackson, Wainwright, Peel and Lord Hawke each made separate scores of over a hundred in Yorkshire's record total of 887.

Thanks very largely to the brilliant play of Major Poore and a capital innings of Mr Lee Hampshire succeeded in putting together a total of 240. Following on in a minority of 405 Hampshire had scored seven runs without loss when stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 August, page 11)

The splendid innings by Captain Quinton and several showers of rain enabled the Hampshire eleven at Derby yesterday to save the match. They left off overnight in a very bad position and, having followed on in a minority of 405, they had scored seven runs in their second innings without loss; but yesterday morning two wickets fell for 37.

Then came a long and valuable stand by Captain Quinton and Webb, and by patient cricket they advanced the score to 123 by lunch time. During the afternoon there were several stoppages owing to rain, and on the wet wicket the two batsmen scored with some freedom. They took the score to 172 before they were separated, the partnership for the third wicket altogether

producing 135 runs. Webb, who left at that point, played a careful game, being in two hours and a half for his 51. His innings, however, was of very great service to his side.

Barton gave little trouble, but Mr English stayed with Captain Quinton, and when, shortly after 5 o'clock, rain caused the game to be abandoned as a draw Hampshire had scored 232 for four wickets. Just before stumps were pulled up Captain Quinton had the satisfaction of completing his 100, this being the sixth individual score of three figures in the match. After a quiet commencement he hit with great power, and among his figures were 14 fours, two threes and nine twos. He was batting for about three hours and played a splendid game for Hampshire.

1 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5066.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 August, page 10)

In their return match with Sussex at Bristol yesterday the Gloucestershire eleven performed in an indifferent fashion, their batting on a capital wicket being very disappointing. They had the good fortune to win the toss, but made such poor use of their opportunity that they actually lost nine wickets for 163 runs. Before lunch Bland bowled extremely well, and afterwards Humphreys, the lob bowler, met with marked success.

It seemed as though Gloucester would be out for a miserable total, but Mr Rice, who had gone in fourth wicket down and batted steadily, found a useful partner in Board, who hit out with spirit and confidence. So sturdy a resistance was offered that in a little over an hour the pair added 81 runs, their partnership being ended by Rice being run out. The total in the end thus reached 244, the innings lasting a trifle under four hours. Mr Rice, who was the top scorer on the side with 61, was batting for two hours and 40 minutes and played a sound, steady game, while Board hit in capital style.

How moderate had been the Gloucestershire batting was made apparent when Sussex went in, as in an hour and 25 minutes Mr Fry and Murdoch, who opened the innings, actually scored 101 runs without being separated. Both played very finely, their hitting being marked by a crispness delightful to watch. The weather was fine and the cricket was witnessed by about 10,000 spectators. Sussex are giving a trial for the first time to Mr C L A Smith, the Brighton College captain.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 August, page 12)

At Bristol yesterday the Sussex eleven maintained the advantage they had gained on the previous day. As the game stands now, Gloucestershire, with nine wickets in hand, want 45 runs to avoid an innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 August, page 11)

Yesterday, at Bristol, the Gloucestershire eleven in their second innings gave a fine display of batting and easily succeeded in drawing the match. Up to a late point, however, the chances seemed all in favour of Sussex winning, but when eight wickets had gone down a splendid stand was made by Dr Grace and Mr Brown, who made the game quite safe.

Overnight Gloucestershire, going in a second time in a minority of 120, had scored 75 for one wicket, and Mr Sewell and Mr Rice, who had made most of the runs, took the score to 101 before they were parted. Mr Sewell played brilliantly for his 67, while Mr Rice, who for the second time in the match was seen to advantage, adopted different tactics, playing a quiet, patient game. He stayed until the score was 181, and took two hours and a half to put together his score of 63. Mr Townsend and Board made useful scores, but when the eighth wicket fell the total only stood at 248.

Then Dr Grace, who had gone in fourth wicket down, was joined by Mr Brown, and in the course of an hour and 40 minutes they added 93 runs, taking the score to 341. At that point Dr Grace declared the innings at an end, his reason for doing so being that his own score stood at 93. He had previously made in first-class cricket every score from 1 to 100 with the exception of 93, and he preferred to close the innings at that point rather than go on to make his 100. Dr Grace played very brilliantly, and apart from a hard chance when 32 his innings was quite free from blemish.

Sussex had scored 20 runs in their second innings without loss when rain came on heavily and caused stumps to be pulled up.

THE CANTERBURY WEEK

1 August: KENT v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5067.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 August, page 10)

All that is necessary for the success of the Canterbury week is fine weather, and yesterday the conditions could not have been more favourable for the opening of the festival. The number of tents on the St Lawrence ground was quite up to the average, and they included those of the Band of Brothers, Lord Harris, Mr G Marsham, Mr Akers Douglas, M.P., I Zingari, Sir E S Dawes, the Buffs, the East Kent Club, the Canterbury Club and the Corporation. The attendance was a record one for Bank Holiday and the improved form shown by the Kent team this season coupled with their brilliant victory over Yorkshire added considerable interest to the cricket.

The proceeds of the first match are to be set apart for Alec Hearne as a fitting tribute to his services rendered to Kent. Born July 22, 1863, he played his first match in 1884 against Somerset, while the same season his excellent bowling against the Australians went a long way to secure a victory for his side. It was this achievement that really brought him to the fore, and he has been a regular member of the team ever since. Although he has lost some of his power as a bowler he has proved himself to be in excellent batting form and has scored three centuries this season.

There was nothing of particular merit in the Lancashire batting, and throughout the play was marked by its evenness. Mr MacLaren, who made his first appearance this season for his county, went in with Ward shortly after 12 o'clock, but the play for the most part before luncheon was slow and only 91 runs were scored. Mr MacLaren played good cricket for 39. He was out to a catch at cover-point when he seemed well set. After his dismissal Ward and Tyldesley carried the score to 91 before the interval without further loss.

Tyldesley had a good share of luck; he was missed from the first ball he received at third man by Mr Rashleigh and again by Mr Bannon when three; both chances were off Mr Mason's bowling and were bad mistakes which proved very expensive, while Ward appeared to be caught at the wicket when 25. On the innings being continued the score was taken to 112, and Ward was then dismissed for a very patient 38, for which he was batting two hours and a quarter.

Tyldesley, apart from the chances referred to, played good cricket, making the majority of his runs on the off side. He was out to a good catch in the slips by Mr Mason at 162, after having been at the wickets for an hour and three-quarters, and his chief hits were seven fours, three threes and eight twos.

Mr Eccles and Cuttell added 43 for the sixth wicket, while Cuttell left at 217. He had rather hard luck, as in trying to cut a ball well wide of the wicket he drew it into his stumps. Mr Stoddart made a useful stand before the close, and the innings was not over until 25 minutes to 6. The ground fielding of the Kent team was excellent throughout.

Kent had just over 20 minutes' batting before the close and lost one wicket for five runs, Mr Burnup being caught off the first ball sent down. A collection was made for Alec Hearne in the ground, and it realized £31.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 August, page 12)

The St Lawrence ground presented a very brilliant spectacle yesterday in the fine weather which favoured the second day at Canterbury. Taken as a whole, the cricket was much brighter than on the opening day, and it was a fitting tribute to Alec Hearne that he should make the top score for his side in the match set apart for his benefit. Going on third wicket down at 132, he carried out his bat for an excellent innings of 80.

Lancashire were considerably handicapped by Mold, who was able to bowl only a few overs owing to his right knee being very much swollen. Shortly after the luncheon interval he retired for good and Baker came out to field for him.

Among the company present were Lord Hothfield, the Hon John Tufton, the Hon Chandos Leigh, the Marquis and Marchioness Camden, the Countess of Guildford, General Sir Hugh Gough, Lady Harris and party, the Earl of Darnley and party, Canon Rawlinson, Mr R A H Mitchell, Sir Edwyn and Lady Dawes, the Hon Lewis Milles, Lady Rose Weigall and Mr Henniker Heaton, M.P. During the afternoon a collection was made for Alec Hearne, which realized over £51. There was an attendance of 7,500, as against 5,000 last year.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 August, page 11)

As was only to be expected from the position of the game overnight the match on the St Lawrence ground yesterday ended in a draw, but the play was full of interest to the close. The day's cricket had for its features the batting of Tyldesley and Mr MacLaren for Lancashire and Alec Hearne and Mr Mason for Kent, while another point that must have impressed everyone was the wonderful ground fielding of Kent. Mr Burnup was particularly good, and his picking up and returning from third man and long-off were constantly securing applause from the company.

During the partnership of Mr MacLaren and Tyldesley the most brilliant cricket in the match was seen; both were in a happy vein and scored with freedom. Coming together overnight at seven for one wicket they raised the score yesterday to 162, when Mr MacLaren was deceived in the pace of a ball from Mr Bradley and was bowled off stump. The partnership for 155 runs had last just two hours, and Mr MacLaren had taken ten minutes longer than this for a great innings of 76, in which were ten fours.

Tyldesley, who this summer has proved himself the most consistent batsman in England, was third to leave at 244 for 127, which is his first "century" this summer; his previous best score was 96 against Middlesex at Manchester. He made his 100 out of 177, and altogether was at the wickets for just under three hours. The feature of his innings was his grand play on the off side. Mr Hartley and Eccles became partners at 254 and carried the score to 324, when Mr MacLaren declared his innings closed. The batting throughout was marked by much more confidence than in their first innings.

Kent went in at five minutes to four, 301 runs behind. Mr Burnup never seemed comfortable and was out at 40, but Mr Mason then joined Alec Hearne and runs were put on at a very fast rate. When Mr Mason came in Hearne was 32, but by some fearless batting Mr Mason passed him at 58, and during a partnership of 55 minutes 104 runs were out on, of which Mr Mason made 76. His vigorous innings included 14 fours. So fast had been the scoring that 140 runs were made in an hour and a half.

Alec Hearne, to whom the proceeds of the first three days of the week were devoted as a benefit, played as well as he has ever done in his career, and it says much for his fine batting skill that he should have played two innings, bringing him an aggregate of 154 runs, without losing his wicket.

1 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5068.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 August, page 10)

At Leicester, yesterday, the Essex eleven, though weakened by the absence of Mr A P Lucas and Mr A J Turner, gave further evidence of their great batting power on hard wickets. It was their good fortune to win the toss and they kept the Leicestershire team in the field for the whole of the afternoon, their score at the drawing of stumps being 413, with only seven men out.

The chief honours of an eventful day rested with Carpenter, who played a splendid innings of 133 and was seen to greater advantage than on any previous occasion this season. He went in first and was the fifth [fourth?] man out, the total when he left standing at 282. His chief hits were 20 fours, three threes and seven twos. He found two admirable partners in Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey, who helped respectively to put on 160 runs in an hour and 50 minutes for the second wicket and 108 in an hour and 20 minutes for the third. Both gentlemen played remarkably well, Mr Perrin hitting eight fours, five threes and three twos, and Mr McGahey four fours, four threes and four twos.

After the fifth wicket had fallen Mr Fane and Mr Kortright made another capital stand, the worn-out bowling being so severely punished that 78 runs were put on in three-quarters of an hour. The weather was delightfully fine all day and a big crowd watched the cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 August, page 12)

There was an afternoon of exceedingly bright cricket yesterday at Leicester, and the chief batting honours of the day were carried off by Mr Kortright, who increased his overnight score of 60 to 112.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 August, page 11)

On their own ground at Leicester yesterday the Leicestershire batsmen made but a poor attempt to save the match, and were badly beaten in a single innings. On Tuesday they had done tolerably well, as, going in against the Essex total of 515, they had scored 269 for eight wickets.

Their first innings was finished off yesterday for the addition of 19 runs, and on going in a second time in a majority of 227 they gave a very indifferent display. The first two wickets went down for 24 and, though Knight and Mr Marriott played very well, half the side were out for 100. Mr de Trafford hit with great power during the time he was in, but after lunch the batting collapsed, the last five wickets falling for the addition of 34 runs. The side were all out for 156, and Essex won in a single innings with 71 runs to spare.

The colt Reeves accomplished a fine bowling performance in Leicestershire's first innings and in the follow-on the best work was done by Mr Kortright.

1 August: SOMERSET v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5069.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 August, page 10)

In meeting Somerset for the second time this season Middlesex had to take the field at Taunton yesterday without the services of Sir T C O'Brien and Mr H B Hayman, but as against this Messrs J Douglas and C M Wells were able to play for the county for the first time this season. A place in the side was also given to Mr B J T Bosanquet, and thus the Oxford University batsman and bowler made his initial appearance for Middlesex.

Somerset played their full strength, except for the absence of Mr R C N Palairet, and, winning the toss, the home county had the good fortune to secure first innings on a perfect wicket. Strange to relate, however, considering the quality of the pitch, the batsmen only once obtained a mastery over the Middlesex bowlers. The third wicket went down at 87, and then the stand of the innings was made by Messrs Lionel Palairet and Phillips, who in the short space of three-quarters of an hour increased the total by 77 runs. No one else did much, and Somerset were all out in two hours and three-quarters for 221, the last six wickets adding only 57 runs.

Mr Palairet obtained his 104 in less than two hours, and the only chance he gave was a sharp one to Mr Ford at mid-on when his score stood at 39. The old Oxford captain played beautiful cricket and hit 17 fours, three threes and eight twos. Mr Phillips also gave a fine display of hitting and included in his 65, scored in an hour and a half, were 12 fours, two threes and two twos. Owing to an accident to his hand Rawlin could only deliver seven overs, so that nearly all the Middlesex bowling had to be done by Hearne and Trott, both of whom accomplished excellent performances.

When Middlesex went in two hours and five minutes remained for play, and after a bad start (Messrs Warner and Douglas both being out for 23 runs) Messrs Stoddart and Ford hit so effectively that when stumps were drawn for the night the total was up to 154 with five men out. As the game stands now, therefore, Middlesex are still 67 runs behind with five wickets to fall, but it is highly probable that Rawlin's injury may prevent him going in. A large crowd of spectators witnessed the highly interesting day's cricket and the weather was beautifully fine.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 August, page 12)

Contrary to expectation the match at Taunton came to a conclusion yesterday, Middlesex gaining a brilliant victory by ten wickets.

1 August: SURREY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5070.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 August, page 10)

In their long innings at the Oval yesterday on the truest of pitched the Surrey eleven showed a variety of fine batting, but the highest standard in style and execution was reached only by Brockwell, Lockwood and Holland. All three men are real spectators' batsmen, so that from the big Bank Holiday crowd they secured an extra share of admiration. Nothing could have been better than the fine forcing game of Brockwell and Lockwood, while in Holland there was plenty of style intermixed with a show of vigour. Abel seemed more anxious to get runs quickly than usual, but Mr Jephson was rather dull to follow.

Weighing the merits of the day's cricket, the score of 329 was in no degree out of the common, for the ball came at a wonderfully true pace from the pitch and, what is more, the bowling of the Notts men was not of the class of the Shaw and Morley days, when Nottinghamshire folk years ago used to look upon this August Bank Holiday match on the Oval in something of the light of a "beanfeast." But the days when Notts produced big bowlers whenever necessary seem to have gone by and, apart from Attewell, who is now verging on the times of the veteran, there seemed no one who for any time could keep a good length. Except for Mr Dixon, who is out, all the big Notts batsmen have to go in to-day, so that it is yet early to speak of the chances of the game, unless cricketers may be reminded that the side playing the first innings of the match and making 329 does not often lose.

The August Bank Holiday match at the Oval long ago established itself as one of the events of the day for London holiday folk, so that given typical summer weather it was not surprising that a crowd quite 25,000 strong gathered to see the play - the official returns showed nearly 23,000 people paying for admission. Taken altogether it was a crowd of better cricket principles than usual, and it would be even better behaved were the Oval authorities to shorten their extensive playing-field boundary and allow more people to lie down inside the enclosure.

Abel and Brockwell made a bright start to Surrey's first innings; there were many fine strokes by both men and Abel was particularly good in placing the ball to leg. The batsmen seemed to get set almost immediately, and on the nice easy pitch they timed the ball so well that their beginning augured badly for Notts. The fielding was in and out, and the only bowling that seemed to require much playing was that of Attewell, who, as usual, kept a superb length.

When Abel as well caught at point from a hard cut Holland went in, and there followed a long spell of brilliant batting. Brockwell played a great forcing game, and apart from his off-drive was the very fine stroke he developed in playing the ball off his legs. The capacity of the Notts' bowling seemed to be rapidly exhausted. John Gunn's left-arm fast, Jones's mediums and Attewell's fine length all failed to keep down the runs. Had Henson been as skilful a second slip as George Lohmann he might have caught Holland, but apart from this no catches were dropped.

The score travelled on rapidly to 142, and then Brockwell, who had seemed well set for his 100, mistimed a ball in trying to place it to leg and was bowled. His 71 was a beautiful innings to watch and there were 12 fours among his figures. Holland played on directly afterwards, while just before the luncheon interval Hayward was given out caught at the wicket - a very bad decision according to the cricketers themselves.

After the interval there was a fine stand for the fifth wicket by Lockwood and Jephson. Lockwood played with powerful precision and his driving was very hard; but Jephson was far less certain in his game. However, it took the Notts men an hour and a half to get down this fifth wicket. The Notts captain rather erred in keeping off his best bowler for such a length of time. Attewell when he was relieved at 85 had no other turn until 196. Some good points in the play were to be found in the fielding of William Gunn at mid-off and the wicket-keeping of Oates, who did his work in a thoroughly good style.

So free was the scoring, however, that 81 were made in an hour after luncheon, and Lockwood completed his 50 in 80 minutes. Daft, who went on at 212, was eventually successful in getting out Lockwood and in thus severing the partnership, for at 255 he bowled Lockwood. The fifth wicket had yielded 101 runs, and in Lockwood's fine, vigorous innings were 11 fours and five threes.

The balance of the innings possessed no uncommon feature. Jephson, who was in about two hours and a quarter for his 54, skied the ball to mid-off, and after this the best thing was the play of K J Key, who in going for a sharp run had his wicket thrown down from third man. Surrey were all out for 329, a score that had taken five hours to put together.

Notts had about half-an-hour's batting, and in this time they scored 11 for the loss of Dixon, whom Lockwood bowled, while Lockwood also nearby caught and bowled J Gunn. If the weather remains fair there should be plenty of good cricket to-day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 August, page 12)

For a long time at the Oval yesterday the Notts men did very badly in their uphill fight against Surrey; but after their first innings was ended there was some splendid batting in the follow-on by William Gunn, Mr Jones and Guttridge, and to-day Notts, with 31 runs on and seven wickets to fall, seem likely to give Surrey a good game in the last innings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 August, page 11)

With a fine knowledge of the capacity of his bowlers the Notts captain yesterday on the Oval decided against speculation in the closure rule, and thus left his side not only to make a record score against Surrey, but enabled William Gunn to play his highest innings in important cricket.

When it was understood that the Notts team were not going to venture on an attempt from a commanding position to get out Surrey all interest in the result vanished, for the draw became inevitable, and attention was concentrated on what Gunn would do. As the Notts men plodded on and got runs at a snail's pace the crowd were not slow to mark their disapproval of the manner of the cricket, for they seemed [rightly to] think that, after all, the great principle in cricket is to win a match, and even in these days when averages have laid many big cricketers by the heels there are plenty of people to whom the interests of the side as a whole against individual achievements appeal.

But we have to record that William Gunn played his highest innings in first-class cricket, and that his previous best was 230 against Derbyshire at Trent-bridge last summer. He went in first wicket down at 13 in the follow-on on Tuesday, and last evening when stumps were pulled up his record was 236. He played a wonderful game of skill and vigour up to luncheon time yesterday. Close students of cricket are familiar with the finish of his stroke and his style, and for many hours yesterday there was only admiration for his manner and precision in dealing with all sorts of bowling. But after passing beyond the 150 his play grew dull in his attempt to beat his previous best score. With the weather almost tropical it was no doubt a great strain on even a man of Gunn's physique to force the play, but the closing stages of his batting were dull. He was eight hours at the wickets for his 236, and his chief figures were one six, one five, 24 fours, nine threes and 21 twos.

It was a great feat for Notts after following on against odds of 172 to do as they did; they were practically safe at luncheon time and they might have at least "declared" at the fall of the seventh wicket. But with the pitch so true Mr Dixon, the Notts captain, despaired of the chances of his bowlers getting Surrey out a second time.

The Surrey men came out very well in their long spell of fielding which began on Monday evening. Very few runs were lost, but near the end yesterday the hot weather and the hard work naturally developed some signs of fatigue amongst them. Nine of the side went on to bowl, and even Key himself had a turn near the close amid the ironical cheers of the crowd, who were forgetful that Key in his school days at Clifton was in no sense a bad bowler.

Yesterday's cricket saw the fall of six Notts wickets for the addition of 345 runs to the 203 made overnight for three. William Gunn's chief partners were Guttridge (124 for the fourth wicket), Dench (111 for the seventh), J Gunn (103 for the eighth wicket) and Henson (59 for the tenth). Gunn completed his aggregate of 1,000 early in the day. There were about 7,000 spectators of the play.

1 August: WARWICKSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5071.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 August, page 10)

A crowd, estimated at between 15,000 and 16,000, assembled on the Edgbaston Ground, Birmingham, to witness the opening of the return match between Warwickshire and Yorkshire, and the spectators had the satisfaction of seeing the home county accomplish a highly creditable batting performance. Winning the toss and going in first, Warwickshire stayed in the whole of the day and scored 338 runs for the loss of seven wickets, this being already the highest score obtained against the Yorkshire bowlers this season.

The hero of the day was unquestionably William Quaife, who followed up his innings of 117 not out against Hampshire last week by scoring 130 not out. He has already been at the wickets for four hours and 20 minutes. Before lunch Warwickshire did none too well, as though Devey and Byrne made fair scores there were four wickets down for 106 runs.

After the interval William Quaife was joined by Kinneir and the two men quite mastered the Yorkshire bowling. They were partners for two hours and ten minutes, and took the score to 263, thus adding 157 runs. Kinneir, who made 78 not out against Hampshire on Saturday, gave another fine display; when 21 he was missed in the slips, but that was the only blemish in a well-hit innings. Included in his 69 were seven fours, four threes and six twos. Later in the afternoon Santall rendered Quaife useful assistance. The sum of £36 was collected on the ground on behalf of Quaife.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 August, page 12)

At Birmingham yesterday the Yorkshire eleven up to a late point were hard pressed by Warwickshire, but, taking advantage of some mistakes by their opponents in the field, they succeeded in leaving off at night with quite an even game. William Quaife, who had made 130 overnight, raised his score to 157, and further had the satisfaction of taking out his bat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 August, page 11)

As was only to be expected the match at Birmingham yesterday ended in a draw, the moderate progress previously made rendering such a result tolerably certain. Rain hastened the end as, after causing several stoppages, it came down so heavily at 5 o'clock that 20 minutes later stumps were finally pulled up.

Overnight, in reply to Warwickshire's total of 406, Yorkshire had scored 345 for the loss of seven wickets, and yesterday they increased their total to 448. Lord Hawke and Rhodes added 27 more, their partnership for the eighth wicket producing 97 runs in an hour and a quarter. Afterwards there was some hard hitting by the Yorkshire captain and Haigh, and the former had the satisfaction of raising his overnight score of 91 to 134. In sixth wicket down at 174, he was ninth out at 423, and was altogether batting for three hours and ten minutes.

When 57 he was badly missed at square-leg, but that was the only fault that could be urged against him. When approaching his hundred he scored very slowly, but at other times he hit with considerable power, his driving being particularly hard. His chief hits were one five - four for an overthrow - 16 fours, four threes and four twos.

In a minority of 42 Warwickshire for some time fared badly, Wainwright bowling with such success that three wickets were lost before the arrears were cleared off. Lilley made a few good hits and then William Quaife and Kinneir, for the second time in the match, showed capital form. When rain finally put a stop to the game they had taken the score to 102, Warwickshire with six wickets in hand being 60 runs on. As will be seen from the score, William Quaife and Kinneir rendered their side splendid service, the former scoring 181 without once losing his wicket.

4 August: ESSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5072.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 August, page 9)

Already there are signs of the cricket season coming to a close, for the return match with Lancashire, which started yesterday on the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, is the last engagement Essex have at home. Their meeting aroused much interest because of the position held by Lancashire in the county championship. At the present time they are second only to Yorkshire, while the brilliant victory gained by Essex over Lancashire some three weeks ago at Manchester, when Essex went in to make 336 to win and got the runs for the loss of six wickets, brought additional attention to the play.

When so much depended on the result for Lancashire it was a piece of ill-fortune that they should be without their only fast bowler, for Mold had not sufficiently recovered from his knee trouble to take his place in the team.

The cricket yesterday went all in favour of the home side, and at the close of play they had a lead of 60 runs with six wickets in hand. When Lancashire went in the pitch gave the impression that there were several bad patches, but this in no way accounted for the poor display, as was proved later when Essex were batting, although Lancashire had no bowler with the same amount of sting as Mr Kortright. From the first Lancashire could do little with Mr Kortright's fast bowling, while Mead, with his splendid length and spin, proved almost equally difficult, and they were dismissed for the small total of 119 in two hours and a half.

Tyldesley again showed what a consistent batsman he is by making the top score for his side. He took an hour to get his 32, but against so much excellent bowling runs never came with any freedom. Both Ward and Mr Hartley played steadily cricket, while Mr MacLaren soon hit up ten. But none of the others got double figures, and the poorness of their batting can be judged from the fact that seven of the side scored only 21 runs between them.

Mr Kortright bowled splendidly and took six wickets for just over eight runs each, while his analysis after luncheon was five overs, two maidens, six runs and three wickets. He very nearly did the "hat trick," as, after dismissing Baker and Mr Stoddart with consecutive balls, Briggs put the next up between point and the slips just out of reach. Russell was in excellent form behind the wicket.

When Essex went in to bat at a quarter to 4 they gave a very different show. Mr McGahey was not out for a well-played 61, so at the close Essex were left in a favourable position. There were some 8,000 spectators of the day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 August, page 13)

Essex gained a brilliant victory over Lancashire yesterday on the Lyttelton ground, Leyton, by nine wickets. For this result they were chiefly indebted to Mr Kortright's wonderful bowling. In the first innings of Lancashire he performed a splendid feat, while yesterday he proved equally irresistible, taking six wickets for 56.

Assisted by a strong wind, he bowled at a terrific pace. Again the Lancashire batsmen collapsed, and it was only towards the close of their innings, when he was tired, that anything approaching a stand was made. In the match Mr Kortright had the remarkable figures of 12 wickets for 106, and he never bowled better in his life.

In face of a total of 199, Essex made 179 for four wickets overnight, and this score they yesterday increased to 288. Mr M'Gahey added only another seven runs when he was out leg-before. Altogether he was batting an hour and three-quarters without giving a chance and he played fine cricket. With Mr Fane he put on 57 for the fifth wicket.

The play then for a time went in favour of the fielding side, until Mead joined Mr Fane, when by some vigorous batting 52 runs were added in half an hour, of which Mead's share was 36. He hit seven fours and made only one single. Mr Fane carried out his bat for a well-played 42. Essex were in altogether for four hours, and the last 109 runs took only 75 minutes to make.

When Lancashire went in a second time at a quarter past 1, 169 runs behind, Mr MacLaren was very easily disposed of. After this disastrous start Mr Kortright carried everything before him; and with the exception of Ward, who was in 75 minutes for 20, the batting was of the poorest description imaginable. With nine men out for 116 an innings defeat seemed inevitable, but once more the uncertainty of the game was exemplified, and not only did Baker and Smith hit off the 53 runs required to save the innings defeat, but during a partnership of some 70 minutes put on 95. Baker showed considerable nerve at a critical period and played the best cricket for his side during the match. His chief hits were nine fours, three threes and four twos. Except for mistakes in the field there would have been no necessity for the home eleven to have gone in again.

Requiring 43 to win and 45 minutes left for play, the batsmen made no attempt to force the game, and it was not until Mr MacLaren consented to play the match out that Essex were able to win a few minutes after the usual time for drawing stumps. There were some 8,000 spectators.

4 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5073.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 August, page 9)

A capital batting performance was accomplished by the Gloucestershire eleven at Bristol, yesterday, in their return match with Middlesex. Winning the toss and going in first, the western county stayed at the wickets the whole of the day and scored 317 runs for the loss of eight wickets.

The honour of this achievement rested almost entirely with Mr Charles Townsend, who, going in first wicket down at 45, stayed in until the drawing of stumps, being still not out with 120 to his credit. With this score, which is his fifth hundred in county cricket this season, Mr Townsend completed his 1,000 runs. In his desire to reach the four figures the young batsman exercised far more caution than is usual, and indeed all through the day he played a very quiet, patient game. Still he had an ample reward, and Gloucestershire were greatly indebted to him for his skilful defence. He gave a chance when 73, but that was his only serious mistake during a stay at the wickets of over four hours and a half.

Mr Grace played an excellent innings, scoring 55 out of the first 88 in an hour and 20 minutes, and being out to a fine catch by Mr Stoddart at slip when apparently well set. Mr Townsend received the best assistance from Mr Rice, who followed up his recent batting success with another admirable innings of 60. The two men were partners for two hours and 20 minutes, and in that time put on 114 runs for the fifth wicket. Gloucestershire are giving a trial for the first time to Mr G H Beloe, a former captain of Marlborough.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 August, page 13)

Some interesting cricket was witnessed yesterday at Bristol, the Middlesex eleven giving a fine display of batting. Gloucestershire had scored 317 for eight wickets on Thursday, and 50 minutes elapsed before their innings came to a close, the two remaining wickets adding 62 runs.

Mr Brown hit in lively fashion, his 42 including seven fours. Mr Townsend, who had made 120 on Thursday, failed to carry out his bat, being caught in the slips when he had scored 131. He obtained his runs in five hours and a quarter, and hit 11 fours, ten threes and 14 twos.

In reply the Gloucestershire's big score Middlesex put together a total of 352, and they were only four hours and 20 minutes in doing so. The highest and perhaps the best individual innings was that played by Mr Douglas, who obtained 82 in two hours and ten minutes by very sound cricket and without making a mistake. Some brilliant hitting was shown by Mr Stoddart and Mr Wells, who scored 70 and 77 respectively. Mr Ford contributed 53, but played a much quieter game than usual, taking an hour and 40 minutes to obtain this number.

Gloucestershire commenced their second innings and had scored 11 runs without loss when stumps were drawn for the day. The present position is that with all ten wickets in hand Gloucestershire have a lead of 36 runs, and as rain began to fall soon after stumps were drawn yesterday this move prove a useful advantage.

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

During Friday night rain fell heavily in Bristol and came in again on Saturday morning. The wicket was so wet that, even with a fine afternoon, cricket would have been impossible, and accordingly, at a quarter past 1, it was decided to abandon the match as a draw . . .

4 August: KENT v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5074.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 August, page 9)

There was a brilliant gathering of spectators yesterday - the "Ladies' Day" - at Canterbury, when in the second fixture of the week the Kent team opposed Notts. Some rain had fallen during the night, but it was not sufficiently heavy to affect the ground very much, and Notts, who won the toss, unquestionably secured a big advantage in batting first.

Before luncheon, however, the wicket was not so good as it afterwards became, and Notts at the outset did none too well, losing Mr A O Jones, William Gunn and Shrewsbury for 96 runs. Mr Jones was caught by the wicket-keeper, standing back, at 44, while at 48 Gunn was run out through a unfortunate misunderstanding with his partner, and at 65 Shrewsbury was dismissed in precisely the same way as Mr Jones had been. There ought really to have been another wicket down, for directly Attewell came in Mr Dixon was twice let off - first by Huish, who in reaching out at a rather wide ball fell over and missed it, and next by Mr Mason at slip, the latter a hard chance low down. Mr Dixon had only made 14 when he had his second escape, and as he was left at the close of the day 160 not out it will be seen that Kent had to pay a terribly dear price for the missed catches.

Mr Dixon and Attewell put on 88 runs together for the fourth wicket in an hour and ten minutes, and after Attewell left Guttridge assisted his captain to add 42 in half an hour for the fifth. Dench, however, proved a more valuable partner to Mr Dixon than either Attewell or Guttridge, the stand for the sixth wicket lasting an hour and 40 minutes and producing 113 runs, of which number Dench's share was 39. Mr Dixon had another piece of good luck when he had made 84, being missed by Martin at mid-off, but he gave no other chance.

With Mr Dixon and J Gunn together stumps were drawn for the day at a quarter-past 6, the total being then 322 for six wickets and Mr Dixon, as already stated, having 160 to his credit. It may be mentioned that Notts have the same team that played up in such wonderful style against Surrey at the Oval - though Daft is unwell and may not be able to take part in the game - and Kent have made no change from the side which opposed Lancashire. The gross gate yesterday amounted to 12,476 persons, of whom 9,115 paid at the turnstiles, these numbers being in excess of those for the corresponding day last year.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 August, page 13)

Yesterday's cricket at Canterbury was full of variety and interest, and the play during the afternoon was followed with keen attention by between 4,000 and 5,000 people. The weather was again fine, but a boisterous wind marred to some extent the enjoyment of those who journeyed out to the St Lawrence ground. Thursday's play had resulted in Notts staying at the wickets the whole time cricket was in progress and scoring 322 for the loss of only six batsmen.

When the game was resumed yesterday it took three-quarters of an hour to put on another 23 runs, the innings coming to an end for the capital total of 345. As had been expected Daft was too unwell to go in. The only point of interest about the later stages of the innings was what score Mr Dixon would ultimately make. He had been not out overnight with 160, but he only added five to this score before being out to a catch at the wicket. He was twice missed, and his chief hits were 24 fours, three threes and 14 twos.

A good start was made when Kent went in. Mr Burnup and Alec Hearne played in such excellent style that 101 runs were scored before the former was out. He was batting only an hour and a quarter, and hit eight fours, two threes and three twos. At luncheon time one wicket was down and the total was 104; but subsequently the bowlers met with such success that half the side were out for 147, and it appeared highly probable that Kent would have to follow on. This was averted by some plucky batting by Messrs Bannon and Marchant, Martin and Mr Bradley.

Near the close of the day Notts went in again, and the "order" was altered, with the result that they lost three wickets for 16 runs. There is every prospect, therefore, of a keen finish to-day, for, with seven men to be dismissed, Notts hold a lead of 91 runs.

In the evening the Old Stagers brought their 57th dramatic season to a close at the little theatre in High-street with a representation of R C Carton's play Liberty Hall.

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

The Kent and Notts match was drawn on Saturday, an ending that was most probable from the position in which things were left overnight. As usual, the last day of the festival fell flat, and there were comparatively few spectators at the finish.

On Friday evening there was not much to choose in the position, the Notts team with three wickets down in their second innings holding a lead of 91 runs. Another wicket soon fell on Saturday morning, Mr Dixon being out for the addition of four runs to the score, but Shrewsbury and Gunn made a good stand together and had carried the total to 72 by 1 o'clock, when Gunn was got rid of.

At this point Notts, with five wickets to fall, were only 147 runs on, and the prospect for them was not without anxiety. However, the partnership of Shrewsbury and Mr A O Jones removed all fear of defeat for Notts, the two batsmen staying together for an hour and doubling the score before Mr Jones was caught in the slips. Shrewsbury, who was missed when 20, was not out with 77 to his credit when, at half-past 3, Mr Dixon declared the innings closed with the score at 171 for seven wickets.

Kent wanted 247 to win and, as they could not hope to get such a number with less than two hours and a half left for cricket, they had nothing to play for but a draw. Mr Burnup was dismissed at 12, but then Alec Hearne and Mr Mason played a steady game and in the course of an hour added 61 runs. Mr Mason was then caught at cover-point and at 82 Hearne was out, but Mr Patterson and Mr Rashleigh stayed together until a quarter to 6, when, by agreement, stumps were pulled up, the Kent score being 98 for three wickets.

4 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5075.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 August, page 9)

The Leicestershire eleven were seen to excellent advantage at Leicester yesterday in the opening of their return match with Hampshire, and at night they left off with considerably the best of the game.

Hampshire won the toss, but they made poor use of their good fortune, being put out in two hours and a half for 180. With the game in this unfavourable position, Mr H W Studd hit with fine determination, scoring 49 in less than an hour. His figures included a six - a straight drive over the pavilion - one five, five fours and four threes. Mr Lee rendered him useful assistance and later on Baldwin showed excellent form in his 38 not out.

Leicestershire began badly, losing two wickets for 12 runs, but then a splendid stand was made by L Brown and Mr Marriott. After a quiet beginning both men hit very brilliantly and obtained such a mastery over the Hampshire bowling that in a little over two hours they put on 183 runs. Of this number Mr Marriott contributed 103, obtaining his runs by faultless cricket and hitting a five, 12 fours, four threes and ten twos. At the close Leicestershire had scored 232 for three wickets and were thus 52 runs on.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 August, page 13)

The Hampshire men found themselves in a somewhat difficult position at Leicester yesterday. They had been outplayed on the previous day, when, after being dismissed for 180, their opponents had scored 232 for the loss of three wickets.

During the night there had been some rain and, while fairly easy in the morning, the wicket, under the influence of a strong wind, crumbled in the afternoon and gave the bowlers some assistance. The last seven Leicestershire wickets added 101 runs, the total thus reaching 333, but there was little in the batting calling for special comment. Coe hit fairly well, and an excellent stand was made by Agar and J Brown. The last-named, who is making his first appearance in county cricket, adopted a strongly defensive game and had the satisfaction of taking out his bat for 26. Some good bowling was done by Baldwin, who dismissed six batsmen for 69 runs.

Hampshire, who were in a minority of 153, began by losing two wickets cheaply; but afterwards some fine batting was shown by Major Poore, who, it may be remembered, scored 121 not out for Hampshire earlier in the week. He received excellent assistance from Captain Quinton, and while together the two men put on 79 in an hour and 25 minutes. Later Mr Studd gave a second display of determined hitting, scoring 44 out of 75 in less than an hour. Mr Studd hit so freely as to obtain four sixes, a five and a four.

All through the innings Major Poore played a highly skilful game and at the close was 91 not out. When stumps were drawn for the day Hampshire had scored 209 for six wickets, and were then 56 runs on.

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

At Leicester, on Saturday, the home county had their match with Hampshire well in hand, but when requiring only 37 runs to win with nine wickets in hand rain came on and robbed them of victory. It was very bad luck and peculiarly disappointing to the Leicestershire men, who have not won a county match this season.

Overnight Hampshire, with six wickets down in their second innings, were only 56 runs on, and on Saturday the remaining batsmen were disposed of for the addition of 20 runs. Major Poore had the misfortune to miss his 100, only making four more runs. In first, he was seventh out and was at the wickets for four hours. He played a great game for his side and

except for a chance when 61 his batting was free from blemish. He hit nine fours, eight threes and eight twos.

Leicestershire required 77 to win, and after L Brown had been dismissed at 12, Wood and J Brown by sound play took the score to 40. Then the rain came on heavily and, after waiting until a quarter to 4, it was agreed to abandon the match as a draw.

4 August: SOMERSET v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5076.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 August, page 9)

At Taunton, yesterday, the Sussex eleven in their return match with Somerset showed some brilliant batting, staying in all the afternoon and scoring 363. The honours were divided between Mr C B Fry and Marlow, both of whom, as will be seen below, made over a hundred.

They became partners when two wickets had fallen for ten runs, and in the course of two hours and a quarter raised the score to 189. Mr Fry, who with his innings of 110 had the satisfaction of completing his 1,000 runs in first-class matches this season, was the first to leave. His cricket was most brilliant in character, his hits including 20 fours, three threes and three twos. He was out to a fine catch at mid-off, the ball, which was driven very hard, being secured by Tyler with one hand.

Marlow, who took three hours and 40 minutes to get his admirable 112, hit 17 fours, five threes and three twos. Mr Fisher, who helped Marlow to put on 91 for the fourth wicket, also batted well, and some free hitting was shown by Parris and Butt. It did not seem at all likely that the innings would be over before the drawing of stumps, but Tyler took the last four wickets in six overs and two balls at a cost of only 14 runs. Though the weather was all that could be wished, there were only about 700 people on the ground.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 August, page 13)

So well did the Somerset men play their uphill game at Taunton yesterday that at night they actually left off with the best of the match. The whole of Thursday had been occupied by Sussex in putting together a total of 363, and yesterday Somerset in the course of five hours' batting succeeded in heading their opponents' total. At the finish Sussex in their second innings had lost two wickets - those of Mr Murdoch and Killick - and were only six runs on.

The feature of the day's cricket was the steady batting of Mr W N Roe, who, going in with two wickets down for 88, was the last man to be dismissed. He was at the wickets for three hours and three-quarters and put together the excellent score of 101. When 46 he might have been caught by Mr Murdoch at short leg, but that was the only blemish in a capital display. He hit 12 fours, one three and five twos.

Mr Palairet gave a characteristic display, scoring 60 out of the first 88 in an hour and a quarter, and hitting a six, six fours, one three and five twos. Mr Stanley helped him to put on 75 for the first wicket, and later on there was some free hitting by Mr Phillips and Mr Hill. The last-named forced the game with such vigour as to hit up 54 out of 69 in an hour.

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

Not a ball could be bowled at Taunton on Saturday. After 10 o'clock rain fell heavily, the downpour for an hour being very severe. Water lay about the ground, and as it was quite useless to wait it was decided at noon to abandon the game as a draw . . .

4 August: SURREY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5077.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 5 August, page 9)

Surrey won the toss yesterday on the Oval, and that they made full use of such fortune will be easily gathered from the fact that they were batting the whole of the cricketing hours and scored 438 at the cost of only six batsmen. Thus they have already reached a position that makes them in a three days' match secure from defeat.

Abel and Brockwell both played with wonderful strength and precision, and they established a standard that was not lost to the rest of the side, for with the exception of Holland every one who has gone in so far has succeeded. After the way in which the side were cut up by Yorkshire a few weeks ago at Bradford Surrey had a big score to wipe out, and they certainly look like atoning for their failures in the North.

Abel's 114 was one of the best things he has ever done in Surrey cricket. Of late Abel seems to have taken to a fine forcing game, and he certainly shines better than when he is continually waiting for the loose ball from which to score. From the very start yesterday he played a beautiful game. His opportunities to begin with were not so many as those of Brockwell, who got most of the bowling; but after the average amount of bowling came to him he forced the game with great brilliancy and got the last 70 odd runs of his 114 in something over an hour. He timed the ball unerringly and some of his strokes off his legs were admirable.

The Brockwell and Abel partnership extended from midday until after luncheon, and in all yielded 143 runs. Brockwell was the first to go, and curiously both he and Abel had their wickets thrown down by Wainwright in the attempt at sharp runs. Brockwell hit 11 fours in his 93, and innings marked by splendid batting in front of the wicket, for it was by the cut and the off-drive that he got his runs.

Abel was the fourth out at 276; he got his runs in about three and a quarter hours and there were 19 fours among his figures. The freedom with which he scored from so much good bowling was remarkable, and the way he drew himself up to deal with bowling that was at all "short" was indeed quite wonderful.

Then, apart from Brockwell and Abel, there was the vigorous innings of Lockwood, who made his 51 in a quick partnership of little more than three-quarters of an hour's duration with Abel for the third wicket. Lockwood hit very hard and in ten instances he sent the ball to the boundary. Later on came the steady play of Hayward and Jephson, while in the closing hour Mr Key gained a mastery over the fatigued Yorkshire bowlers.

On one of the most perfect of pitches and on a tropical day the Yorkshiremen did very well in the field; their bowling, perhaps, lacked some of its usual sting, but the pace of the batting set by Abel and Brockwell at the very start may have largely influenced the bowlers, for it is not easy to keep a length amid a recurrence of boundary hits. Lord Hawke, it was generally thought, would have done better considering the pitch had he begun his bowling with Haigh and Hirst instead of with Hirst and Rhodes, for the latter's slows were not suited to the fast turf.

The only time that the bowlers seemed at all deadly was when the score was about 100, when Milligan and Haigh were extremely good. Milligan had the bad luck to have two catches missed from him - Wainwright dropped Brockwell at slip at 57 and Hunter at wicket let Abel escape at 27. These were the only blemishes in a splendid day's fielding, in which Hirst at mid-off did some excellent work. Mr F S Jackson, who stopped some wonderful things at forward short leg, had the ill-fortune to bruise his right hand so badly that he not only had to get a substitute to field, but there is some talk of his inability to play further in the match. There were fully 20,000 spectators of the day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 August, page 13)

The two great Surrey bowlers, Lockwood and Richardson, achieved a remarkable feat yesterday on the Oval, when, with the wicket perfectly true, they twice got out Yorkshire in the course of four and a quarter hours and enabled their side to win the match by an innings and 272 runs. It was difficult to think that these giants with the cricket ball were the men whose skill was so unavailing against Nottinghamshire last Wednesday on the same ground, although the inner circle of Surrey were aware that Mr Key, when the chances of Surrey's beating Notts were gone, judged rightly in dealing sparingly with Lockwood's bowling on that occasion.

Since his return from Australia Richardson in many instances has not been quite himself, and it has been Lockwood's recovery of form upon which Surrey have mostly relied for their position this season. But yesterday no two men ever bowled better or with more sting on a fine, hard wicket; Yorkshire, handicapped as they were by Mr F S Jackson's imperative absence through an injured hand, seemed paralyzed in their cricket. There was something of J T Brown's brilliancy at the start, and at a later period of the second innings Mr Milligan, with a courage begotten of despair, scored 63 in an hour; but, apart from these, failure completely stamped Yorkshire's batting.

Yorkshire, it is unquestionable, have rather dropped their game since their great days of June and July, and it would, perhaps, be too much to expect that they should keep their great form, for their huge programme and the number of three-days' matches that have been played means tremendous hard work for a side, and it is next to impossible to keep for so many months at concert pitch.

And then, again, Surrey, if failing in some of their out matches, have been a tremendous side at home; but it has often been pointed out that a good medium pace left-hand bowler, such as Smith promised to be, is wanted by them. Yesterday there was no regret of this kind. In pace, spin and break Richardson and Lockwood were wonderful at a pitch absolutely true. Richardson got rather more spin on than Lockwood, but the latter mixed his pace and length with such skilful deception that he had by far the better record. In fact his 11 wickets cost only 126 runs. As George Lohmann used to do, Lockwood bowls for his side rather than for his average, and is not afraid of being hit for a four; indeed, his variety of length and pace have much to do with his success.

So greatly did the big crowd appreciate the performances of Lockwood and Richardson that a sum of over £64 was collected round the ground for division between the two men. Their bowling feats easily eclipsed anything else done during the day; but attention ought to be drawn to the brilliant fielding. Lockwood at extra mid-off was particularly good, and the catch with which he got out Brown when, leaning forward, he held the ball from a low hard drive secured a very big cheer from the ring, while Hayward's catch at third man, which finished the match, was equally brilliant.

Lockwood, however, had ever claim to be the hero of the match; he got 51 runs, took 11 wickets and fielded brilliantly, and the thousands who assembled in front of the pavilion at the finish insisted upon his responding to their calls.

No doubt the collapse of Yorkshire was a sore disappointment to a large section of the crowd who were expecting a fine uphill fight from a side who had so much distinguished themselves this season. But it may be said that Surrey played a winning game from the very start, and the match was lost to Yorkshire when the two catches were missed off Milligan at the end of the first hour on Thursday. It says something for the nature of Surrey's cricket, however, when they can score 536 in seven hours and then twice get out such opponents for an aggregate of 264.

The balance of the Surrey innings was made remarkable by the fine batting of the captain, Mr K J Key, who got his 85 in rather more than two hours and hit 14 fours. Brown of Driffield played beautiful cricket all round the wicket for his 47 in Yorkshire's first innings, and there were ten fours and seven singles in his figures; but the only thing of batting merit after the follow-on was the 63 by Mr Milligan, who, going in at half-past 5 when six wickets were down for 90, made 63 by fine vigorous batting and hit a five and 11 fours. The crowd

ran to about 18,000 strong, and until late in the afternoon the weather was beautifully fine.

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., the first six counties in the championship are:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points in finished matches
Yorkshire	21	13	2	6	11	.73
Surrey	17	8	2	7	6	.6
Lancashire	21	9	3	9	6	.5
Essex	16	9	4	3	6	.33
Kent	14	4	2	8	2	.3
Gloucestershire	15	4	3	8	1	.14

The other counties stand thus:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Middlesex	11	3	3	5	0
Notts	14	1	1	12	0
Derbyshire	12	2	4	6	-2
Hampshire	15	2	6	7	-4
Warwickshire	12	1	4	7	-3
Somerset	12	1	9	3	-8
Sussex	14	0	6	8	-8
Leicestershire	13	0	8	5	-8

The matches between Surrey and Derbyshire on May 19 and between Surrey and Warwickshire on May 23 were abandoned without a ball having been bowled.

The rule laid down by the M.C.C. is as follows:- "One point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have in finished matches obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages for the season are given below:-

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in Inns.	Times not out	Average
W G Quaife	19	848	157*	5	60.57
Abel	30	1436	148	3	53.18
Shrewsbury	28	1097	154*	6	49.86
Storer	29	1294	109	3	49.76
W Gunn	28	1189	236*	4	49.54
Mr A E Stoddart	20	882	157	2	49.00
Mr C B Fry	25	1078	123*	3	49.00
Dr W G Grace	30	1195	168	5	47.80
Mr F S Jackson	31	1336	160	3	47.71
Mr J R Mason	28	1190	152	3	47.60
Mr C L Townsend	25	1068	159	0	42.72
Mr L C H Palairret	21	804	179*	2	42.31
Brockwell	31	1191	135	2	41.06
Mr C McGahey	25	935	145	2	40.65
Mr W H Patterson	15	472	117	3	39.33
Alec Hearne	29	977	117	4	39.08
Tyldesley	39	1478	127	0	37.89
Lord Hawke	27	772	134	6	36.76
Mr C O H Sewell	28	949	111	2	36.50

Lockwood	24	682	109	5	35.89
Holland	20	680	126	1	35.78
Hayward	23	781	126	1	35.50
Mr S H Evershed	20	673	135	1	35.42
Mr P Perrin	27	838	106*	3	34.91
Tunnickliffe	35	1116	108*	3	34.87
Mr C J Burnup	30	975	131	2	34.82
Mr D L A Jephson	22	602	166*	4	33.44
Mr J A Dixon	23	665	165	3	33.25
Lilley	22	685	112	1	33.09
Mr A J L Hill	22	624	199	3	32.84
Mr S M J Woods	25	814	143	0	31.30
Mr A P Lucas	17	459	89	2	30.80
Mr F G J Ford	19	580	127	0	30.52
Mr G Brann	25	760	118	0	30.40
Cuttell	34	820	85*	7	30.37
Ward	39	1121	135	2	30.29
Major Poore	26	719	121*	2	29.95
Mr A O Jones	26	718	80	2	29.91
Carpenter	30	855	133	1	29.82
Mr H G Owen	25	697	92	1	29.04
Mr A J Turner	17	404	102*	3	28.85
F Sugg	35	957	169	1	28.14
Baker	32	764	70	4	27.28
Mr W L Murdoch	37	924	121*	3	27.17
Mr A Eccles	23	560	139	2	26.66
Mr K J Key	19	393	85	4	26.20
J T Brown	35	877	144	1	25.79
Mr F H B Champain	24	529	113*	2	24.04

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	874.3	343	1556	115	13.53
Wainwright	446.3	165	845	60	14.08
J T Hearne	1282	552	2226	150	14.84
G Davidson	968.4	458	1399	91	15.37
Lockwood	795.2	244	1714	107	16.01
Mr F S Jackson	627	245	1157	72	16.06
Haigh	730.4	259	1554	91	17.07
Martin	585.3	204	1078	59	18.18
Mr C J Kortright	560.1	150	1551	85	18.24
Mead	796.3	265	1637	89	18.39
Attewell	938.3	420	1292	66	19.57
Trott	561	188	1399	70	19.98
Richardson	786.2	204	2022	99	20.42
Cuttell	1050.3	532	1829	87	21.02
Alec Hearne	616.1	259	1052	50	21.04
Mr F G Bull	716	222	1661	77	21.57
Mr G L Jessop	475.2	126	1064	48	22.16
Tyler	571	118	1600	72	22.22
Mold	836.3	284	1930	86	22.44
Mr F H E Cunliffe	428.4	131	1023	44	23.25
Mr J R Mason	556.2	200	1245	53	23.49
Briggs	759.3	275	1577	66	23.89
Woodcock	485.5	125	1292	54	23.92
Dr W G Grace	439.3	148	852	35	24.34
Bland	724	206	1752	69	25.39
Mr S M J Woods	245.2	58	710	26	27.30
Mr C L Townsend	764.2	162	2117	73	29.00

8 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5078.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 August, page 10)

In the first match of the Cheltenham week Gloucestershire are opposing Kent, for whom S H Day, the Malvern boy who made such a brilliant first appearance in the same fixture last year, was able to play for the first time this season.

When the game began yesterday in weather which had turned fine after a threatening morning Gloucestershire made a poor start, and despite some excellent cricket by Troup and Townsend they had six men out for 91 at luncheon. Afterwards Jessop hit in characteristic fashion, adding 47 out of 64 and making 62 out of 93 altogether in less than an hour. He gave three sharp chances, but batted in quite the right style upon a wicket which was always difficult, and he hit six fours, four threes and eight twos. Board also played well, and the innings, as a result of two and three-quarter hours' play, realized 189.

Against this Kent fared badly in losing six wickets for 75 runs before rain stopped the progress of the game at half-past 5. Mr Burnup went in first for the visitors and was not out 27 at the close. Gloucestershire have now a big advantage, as Kent, with only four wickets to fall, are 114 behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 August, page 9)

The advantage gained by Gloucestershire at Cheltenham on Monday, when they completed an innings for 189 and then dismissed six Kent batsmen for 75, was followed up yesterday and, although Martin bowled finely and Mr Burnup batted well, Kent were beaten by the narrow margin of 27 runs.

In the early part of the day the cricket favoured Gloucestershire, who entered upon their second innings with a lead of 86, and scored 70 more for the loss of five wickets before luncheon. Subsequently Martin carried all before him and the innings ended for 80, leaving Kent 167 to make.

Though still difficult, the ground was improving; but the task, despite a fine innings by Mr Burnup, proved a little too heavy. Mr Burnup went in first and was eighth out at 123 for 66, in which the only chance was one to Mr Hemingway when 38. The chief credit for Gloucestershire's victory belonged to Mr Townsend, who took eight wickets for 66 runs and in the whole match secured 13 for 92.

8 August: MIDDLESEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5079.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 August, page 10)

Middlesex came out exceedingly well from the cricket on the slow pitch at Lord's yesterday, and 241 for seven wickets, under the circumstances, points more the victory than defeat. But everything turns upon to-day's play, and it will not be forgotten that Surrey, who have the worst of the position at present, have before now come out well in an uphill fight.

Yesterday's play at Lord's had for its feature the beautiful batting of Mr A E Stoddart and the even greater numerical success of Mr P F Warner. Mr Stoddart triumphed over all difficulties and the power of his cut and his fine forcing drives on the off side brought back memories of his earlier play for Middlesex. The great feature of the day was the Stoddart and Warner partnership, which began after luncheon and lasted for an hour and a half, during which 124 runs were added for the second wicket. Mr Stoddart, who then in trying to hit skied the ball to extra mid-off, made ten fours in his 62. Mr Warner was fourth out at 166, caught from a big drive in the long-field. He also made ten fours; but his batting, in spite of his many fine strokes, lacked the brilliant precision shown by Mr Stoddart.

There was some very good play by Mr R N Douglas and Mr Cyril Wells, and altogether Middlesex had little to regret in their day's cricket. With the wicket soft and the ball coming straight through, the great Surrey bowlers, Richardson and Lockwood, did their best, but it proved a day when F Smith, left hand, who was getting another trial, and Hayward, with their medium pace, were the more successful.

There were seven old Blues in the Middlesex eleven, and Mr H H Cobb, a well-known Rugby footballer, was also given a place. It was a bad day for everybody. The weather was cold and dreary, and the rain in the morning prevented cricket until half-past 1.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 August, page 9)

Although Surrey had the worst of the cricket yesterday at Lord's, they showed that they was able to play an uphill game with great resolution. Middlesex increased their overnight score of 241 for seven wickets to 293.

But when Surrey went in at ten minutes to 1 the pitch gave the bowlers considerable assistance for a period; the batsmen had rather an anxious time and four wickets went down for 50 runs. The total was then taken to 75 without further loss when the players retired for lunch. When the game was resumed the pitch showed much improvement, but with six of the side dismissed for 124 there was just the possibility that Surrey would have to follow on. Hayward and Mr Key then batted so well that the score reached the good dimensions of 218, which under the circumstances was a feat of considerable merit.

The feature of the innings was Hayward's 66. He went in when the ball wanted a lot of watching and he showed excellent defence; his 50 took him two hours to make, but afterwards he hit with some freedom and was only 15 minutes making his last 16 runs, when he was out to a catch at the wicket. Except for a difficult chance to Mr Ford in the slips before he had scored his innings was free from fault. His chief hits were seven fours and eight twos.

Mr Jephson and Hayward put on 69 runs for the fifth wicket in an hour, while when Hayward and Mr Key were together the follow-on was saved, and during the partnership of some 50 minutes 63 were added by some bright cricket. Mr Key was ninth to leave at 218 to a beautifully-judged catch in front of the pavilion rails. Throughout the innings the Middlesex fielding was excellent; Mr Cunliffe at mid-off and Mr Stoddart in the long field in particular saved a lot of runs.

Going in at half-past 5 75 runs to the good, Middlesex made 39 without loss, although Mr J Douglas ought to have been caught at the wicket when 18. At the close they were 114 runs on

with all their wickets in hand, so Surrey will have an uphill fight to-day to avoid defeat. There were over 8,000 spectators of the day's cricket.

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

After a keen finish against time Middlesex beat Surrey at Lord's yesterday by 136 runs. The final stage was not without its exciting moments, for more than once it seemed possible that Surrey would save the game, and Middlesex, through several mistakes in the field, were only able to secure a victory eight minutes before the hour at which stumps were to have been drawn. This defeat of Surrey practically deprives them of the last chance which they had of ousting Yorkshire from the championship.

It was scarcely possible to think that yesterday's beaten side was the one which played such fine cricket against Yorkshire last week. But the conditions were different, and if Surrey had the worst of the wicket in the first innings it must not be forgotten that the weather's uncertainty is part and parcel of cricket as a game.

Middlesex are to be congratulated on their success, and just now they are undoubtedly a fine eleven. On Tuesday evening they had begun their second innings 75 ahead and had made 39 without loss. Yesterday they had increased their score to 212 for three wickets at the luncheon interval, when Mr Stoddart declared his innings closed.

The feature of their cricket was the batting of Mr J Douglas, who, profiting by his let-off overnight when 18, carried out his bat for a grand innings of 112. He was in two hours and 50 minutes, and his chief hits were 19 fours, two threes and seven twos. It seems a great pity that such an accomplished cricketer should have so little opportunity for playing in first-class matches. A batsman of many strokes, he yesterday played all the bowlers with equal confidence, and he showed a perfect method of dealing with anything like a short ball.

Mr Stoddart also played well for 54, and with Mr Douglas put on 126 runs for the second wicket in an hour and three-quarters; he was then out to a "yorker" by Brockwell in trying to make the two runs which were required to complete his 1,000 aggregate. Mr Ford hit 13 by three fours and a single before skying a ball to Smith at cover-point; but Mr R N Douglas then kept in until the luncheon interval. It should be stated that Lockwood, owing to indisposition, was unable to bowl yesterday, and this meant a great loss to his side.

When Surrey went in a second time 287 behind, with nearly three hours and a quarter left for play, they collapsed badly and four wickets were down for 31 runs. Mr Jephson and Abel then put on 43 in three-quarters of an hour by the brightest cricket seen in the innings; and then Mr Jephson was deceived in the pace of a ball from Trott and was bowled. With Mr Key and Abel together there seemed a chance of saving the game, but Abel was out at 113 to a good catch in the slips and Mr Key was caught at extra mid-off at 131; and so all hope for them vanished.

Abel played an invaluable innings for his side, and apart from chances at 41 and 63 - the latter an easy "c and b" to Hearne - he made few mistakes. He was batting for nearly two hours and a half and he hit 12 fours. Mr Key, in his endeavour to play out time, showed great caution and was in an hour and 10 minutes for his 21, a circumstance which did not seem to please a certain section of the spectators; but it was the right game at this stage of the match.

Afterwards the end soon came; Lockwood was bowled and Wood caught at the wicket, and when Richardson joined Smith 18 minutes were still left for play, and ten of these had elapsed when Smith was out leg-before-wicket, which gave Middlesex the victory. In the absence of Mr Stoddart during the fourth innings, owing to lameness, Mr M'Gregor took charge of the Middlesex team. In both innings Hearne and Trott bowled superbly, and at the close the chief members of the winning side were called for by the crowd.

8 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5080.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 August, page 10)

In meeting Notts at Trent-bridge, yesterday, Yorkshire were at a great disadvantage through the absence of F S Jackson and Wainwright, the former not having recovered from the injury he met with in the Surrey match and the latter being indisposed. As the Nottingham team, in the previous match between the two counties at Leeds, had had very much the better of the game, there seemed some reason to expect that the day's cricket would go in favour of the home team.

Up to a certain point these expectations were realized, for at the start J Gunn got rid of Brown, Denton and Hirst - the two latter with successive balls - for 40 runs. When Milligan joined Tunncliffe, however, Yorkshire quite retrieved the early disasters, these two batsmen staying together for an hour and a quarter and putting on 125 runs. For this long stand Notts had themselves largely to thank, Tunncliffe being missed when 22 by Henson at mid-on and when 36 by William Gunn at mid-off.

Milligan played sound and determined cricket for 74, and with the ball occasionally rising very awkwardly his cricket was singularly free from fault. He hit six fours, six threes and four twos. Tunncliffe stayed until the score reached 183 and made 66, but his innings was by no means one of his best displays. Lord Hawke and Rhodes subsequently played well, but shortly after 6 o'clock cricket came to an end owing to the bad light which prefaced a heavy storm of rain. At this point 230 runs had been obtained for the loss of seven wickets, so Yorkshire had every reason to be satisfied with their day's work.

Quite the feature of the play was the success of J Gunn, who, despite the fact that two chances were missed off him, took six of the seven wickets, thus to some extent repeating his remarkable success against Yorkshire at Dewsbury last season. Included in the Yorkshire team was a professional named Tait, from Barnsley. Despite the dull weather nearly 5,000 people assembled at Trent-bridge.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 August, page 9)

At Trent-bridge, yesterday, the interest in the Notts and Yorkshire match was fully sustained, the attendance again numbering about 5,000. Early in the day the sky became so overcast that, owing to bad light, the interval after Yorkshire's innings was extended to 35 minutes, but the weather cleared after luncheon, the game for the rest of the afternoon being carried on under the pleasantest conditions.

With seven wickets down for 230, Yorkshire went on batting at half-past 11, and in a little over an hour their innings came to an end for 277. There was a capital stand for the last wicket, David Hunter helping Rhodes to put on 34 runs. Rhodes, who took out his bat for 50, was at the wickets two hours and ten minutes without giving a chance, the chief hits of his capital innings being six fours, two threes and four twos.

Notts started very well, Mr A O Jones hitting up 32 runs out of 40 in 35 minutes, but William Gunn played a ball on to his wicket without scoring, and after luncheon - with the wicket at its worst - the batting broke down so badly that the innings was finished off for 90. The last eight wickets went down for 48 runs. Shrewsbury, who alone showed any capacity to deal with Rhodes's bowling, was out fifth at 65, after batting for an hour and a half.

Notts had to follow on against a majority of 187, and when Mr Jones was bowled at 15 the outlook for them was gloomy. Shrewsbury and William Gunn, however, by fine play gradually mastered the bowling, and when time was called they were still together, the total having been carried to 90. Thus, with nine wickets in hand, Notts are now only 97 runs behind. Shrewsbury ought to have been caught by Lord Hawke - standing rather deep on the leg side -

when he had made six runs, but otherwise his play was irreproachable. He reached his 50 from the last ball of the day.

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

The rain of the early morning at Trent-bridge, Nottingham, made the turf unfit for cricket yesterday, and not another ball was bowled in this match . . .

8 August: SUSSEX v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5081.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 August, page 10)

Cricket at Brighton yesterday was seriously hampered by bad weather, play being only in progress for two hours and 20 minutes. No start could be made until 20 minutes past 1; a light downpour of rain afterwards caused a stoppage for over an hour and a half, and at ten minutes past 6 the light became so bad that stumps had to be drawn.

In the time at their disposal the Sussex eleven, who won the toss, did very well, scoring 131 for the loss of four wickets. For this good start they were mainly indebted to Mr C B Fry, who, with 81 not out, added one more to his already long list of big scores this season. He gave no chance, and except during the last quarter of an hour, when Baldwin's excellent bowling made him cautious, his play was as free and confident as ever.

He opened the innings with Mr Murdoch, and 38 runs had been scored when the latter batsman was bowled. Killick went in first wicket down, and in the course of an hour and ten minutes he and Mr Fry carried the score to 104. Of the 66 runs thus put on Killick made 20 by careful cricket, but it cannot be said that he was ever really master of the bowling. Marlow was out at 117 and Newham at 125, both these wickets falling to Baldwin. Fisher had only been in five minutes when the day's play was brought to a premature close.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 August, page 9)

Of all batsmen Mr C B Fry is just now showing the most remarkable form. At Brighton yesterday he only missed by a single run the rare feat of getting, for the second time this season, two separate hundreds in a single game. In the morning he increased his previous score of 81 to 99, and when Sussex went in for the second time he scored 108 in two hours out of 139, and was still not out at the drawing of stumps.

His innings of 99 lasted two hours and three-quarters and included 11 fours, six threes and six twos. From the first ball bowled yesterday he gave a hard chance at mid-on, but this, so far as any one noticed, was his only mistake. Naturally, his wonderful play dwarfed everything else in yesterday's cricket. The first innings of Sussex, in which four wickets had fallen on Monday for 131, was finished off in less than an hour and a half for a total of 203, Baldwin bowling remarkably well.

Hampshire, on going in to bat, lost three wickets in 35 minutes before luncheon for 30 runs, and were all out by ten minutes past 4 for 113. The majority of the batsmen did very little, but some vigorous hitting was shown by Mr H W Studd and Barton who, in the course of half an hour, put on 40 runs together for the fifth wicket. While Hampshire were in the ground was very difficult and Tate, making the most of his opportunities, took seven wickets for 48 runs.

When Sussex, with a lead of 90, went in for the second time Mr Fry gave the wonderful display of batting to which reference has already been made. Sussex are now 229 runs ahead with eight wickets in hand, so there is every prospect that they will at last win a county match.

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

At Brighton, yesterday, in defeating Hampshire by 134 runs, Sussex scored their first victory in the county championship.

8 August: WARWICKSHIRE v ESSEX

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

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 August, page 10)

Some rather slow cricket at Birmingham yesterday resulted in Warwickshire completing an innings for 187 runs, and Essex losing one wicket for 19, the afternoon's play being curtailed by more than an hour in consequence of the defective light.

The Warwickshire batting was made remarkable by the steady cricket of the brothers Quaife, who between them scored 117 out of 172 from the bat. The elder brother, who went in first, was third out at 116, after batting two hours for 65. In this his only mistake was a chance to square leg when 14, and his figures included five fours, six threes and eight twos.

The younger brother, who had previous to this match scored 60, 117, 157 and 24 for this county without being dismissed, added another not-out innings on this occasion, carrying his bat for 52. He was two hours and 40 minutes at the wicket and his only hits of importance were four fours. The weather was dull and cold, but about 3,000 people visited the ground.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 August, page 9)

The cricket at Birmingham yesterday went greatly in favour of Warwickshire, who, having completed an innings overnight for 187 and dismissed one Essex batsmen for 19, got the rest of the visitors out in less than two hours yesterday morning for an additional 88. Bright sun rendered the turf treacherous and Santall made every use of the opportunity this gave him. Apart from Perrin, who carried out his bat for 36, none of the Essex men showed any ability to cope with the difficulties they had to encounter, and Santall's eight wickets cost only four runs each.

Left with a lead of 80 runs, Warwickshire made 174 in their second innings for the loss of six wickets, and thus finished in the splendid position of being 254 on with four wickets in hand. W G Quaife was again not out for 53, this number taking him three hours and ten minutes to make, and he and one or two others might have served their side better had they forced matters a little more.

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

So showery was the weather at Birmingham yesterday that at no time was there any likelihood of the game between Warwickshire and Essex being played out, and the match was eventually drawn . . .

8 August: SURREY SECOND XI v DURHAM

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/102/102968.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 August, page 10)

The Surrey team established an advantage on the Oval yesterday against Durham, and they are now 74 ahead with two wickets to fall. Hayes made a six, two fives and 13 fours in his 113.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 August, page 9)

After a [?] day's cricket on the Oval yesterday they Surrey Second team drew their match with Durham. The latter side had the better position at the finish, for Surrey had only three wickets left and still wanted 51 to win. E W Elliott played a beautiful innings for Durham.

Thursday 11 August, page 11: THE AUSTRALIAN VISIT OF 1899

The following official statement was issued yesterday by the M.C.C.:-

"Constitution of a Board to manage the test matches.- The committee of the M.C.C. will ask the six counties standing at the head of the list in this year's county contest each to nominate a member to the board. This will be done as soon as the result of the county contest is known, and the M.C.C. committee will then select the names of those who will represent the M.C.C. on the board. The selection will to some extent depend on the names of the six counties which will be represented."

11 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5084.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 August, page 9)

A thoroughly interesting afternoon's cricket was seen at Cheltenham yesterday, when the second match of the cricket week was commenced. For the most part the play was of an attractive description and the Warwickshire batting quite free from that tediousness which has characterized it of late.

Having first chance on a wicket which, after lunch, was fast and true, Warwickshire stayed in four hours and ten minutes, and in that time put together a total of 290. This was a much better score than had at one time appeared probable, and had Mr Glover been caught before he had scored, it would not have reached this respectable figure.

Before luncheon, Warwickshire did none too well, the first five wickets going down for 105 runs. Devey played a very bright and attractive innings, scoring 58 out of 89 in 75 minutes by means of ten fours, four twos and ten singles. In addition to being the highest innings of the day, it was also by far the best. Kinneir batted steadily and helped Devey to put on 69 for the second wicket in a trifle under an hour.

By the time the game was resumed after the interval the ground had become much faster, and as a natural result runs were easier to obtain. Lilley, who went in third wicket down at 99, was seventh out at 182 after having played a capital game for his side. He made his 50 in 70 minutes, and among his hits were four fours, six threes and two twos.

Santall and Mr Glover afterwards punished the bowling very severely, the pair adding 89 runs in an hour before Mr Glover left at 290. His display was not particularly good as, in addition to being missed by Wrathall before scoring, he made several lofty hits. Santall, who was ninth to leave, batted extremely well for his 57. It was quite free from blemish, and among the best hits in it were six fours, two threes and four twos.

Quite a feature of the day was the quick dismissal of William Quaife, whose long sequence of not-out innings was thus brought to a close. Mr Townsend had a very fine analysis and had Glover been caught early, it would have been even better.

Gloucestershire had a little over half an hour's batting at the close and in that time scored 40 runs without loss. With all their wickets in hand, therefore, they are 250 behind.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 August, page 7)

Visitors to the Cheltenham College ground yesterday saw the Gloucestershire eleven render such a good account of themselves that at the close of the day the eleven had gained a very fair advantage over Warwickshire. The overnight position of the game left Warwickshire with a completed innings of 290, while Gloucestershire had scored 40 without loss.

With the wicket still in first-rate order it was confidently expected that the western county would have no difficulty in passing Warwickshire's total, and this view was fully borne out. Going on with their innings shortly after half-past 11, Mr Rice and Mr Brown gave their side such a good start that during the 80 minutes they were together 88 runs were put on before Mr Rice was out. Mr Brown, who was missed at the wicket early yesterday, was the second to leave at 106, and after that one mistake he did not give another chance. He obtained his 57 in an hour and a half, and among his hits were four fours, six three and four twos.

Mr Townsend was a failure, but Mr Champain - fourth out at 145 - showed very fair cricket for his 33. After he left came the best stand of the day, Dr Grace and Mr Sewell staying together for 70 minutes and putting on in that time no fewer than 90 runs. Of these Dr Grace made 34 by excellent cricket. Mr Sewell's was the sixth wicket to fall at 239. His

innings was not only the highest, but distinctly the best on the side, and after luncheon his play was of an especially brilliant character. He was at the wickets an hour and 50 minutes for his 71 and he made his runs without a mistake. Among the best hits of his innings were 12 fours, a three and three twos.

Mr Troup, who went in at the fall of the fifth wicket and took out his bat for 31, rendered his side valuable assistance, staying in while 111 runs were put on, and Mr Jessop hit up 26 out of 31 in 25 minutes. Mr Hemingway also did well and in the end the total reached 346.

In a minority of 56 Warwickshire went in for 40 minutes' batting at the close, and in that time lost two wickets for 31 runs, so that with eight men still to be disposed of they are 25 behind.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 August, page 5)

The Gloucestershire eleven brought the Cheltenham week to a fitting conclusion on Saturday by beating Warwickshire by five wickets. Warwickshire left off at a disadvantage on the second evening, as after being headed on the first innings by 56 they lost two wickets at their second attempt for 31.

With the wicket wearing a little, the Midland batsmen, with two exceptions, gave a disappointing display on the third morning. Five wickets were down before the arrears were cleared off, and though Lilley and Glover made a praiseworthy effort to improve matters the eight outstanding wickets went down in less than two hours for the addition of 122 runs, the side being all out for 153. Lilley hit up 48 out of 80 in 70 minutes, and Glover was in 50 minutes for his 32.

Gloucestershire only required 98 to win, and this moderate task was accomplished in a trifle under an hour and a half for the loss of five wickets. The result was never in the least doubt, as when within 12 of the required number Gloucestershire only had three wickets down. Mr Troup played very well, going in first and being fifth out at 90. Included in his 39 were no fewer than seven fours.

Mr Townsend finished up a remarkable week's work with another good bowling performance. In the match he obtained 15 wickets for 205, and during the week 28 wickets fell to him for 297 runs. He has now taken over 100 wickets in first-class cricket this season in addition to having scored over 1,000 runs. He is at present the only cricketer who has this summer accomplished this double feat.

The weather kept fine to the last and there was a capital attendance of spectators to witness Gloucestershire's victory. The week was a financial success and Gloucestershire won both games.

11 August: LANCASHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5085.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 August, page 9)

Lancashire and Yorkshire occupy such prominent positions in the competition for the county championship that the interest which always attaches to the meetings between them was greatly increased yesterday at Old Trafford. There were more than 21,000 people on the ground, the number paying for admission being 18,006. The large attendance was particularly gratifying, inasmuch as the proceeds of the match are to be set apart for the benefit of George Baker, who for more than ten years has been a member of the Lancashire eleven.

The weather yesterday morning was dull, but the sun shone out brightly in the afternoon and rain having fallen heavily on the previous day the conditions were so much in favour of the bowlers that in just over five hours 19 wickets went down for 210 runs.

Lancashire had the good fortune to win the toss, and before the pitch had become really difficult MacLaren and Ward made an excellent start, putting on 56 before they were separated. Of this number MacLaren, whose display on the leg-side was particularly fine, had made 47 in less than an hour. At lunch time there were four men out for 78, and afterwards so little could be done against the Yorkshire bowlers that the innings was all over in three hours and a half for 112.

Ward was fifth out at 96, after batting more than two hours and a half for 30. Though his caution was extreme, the difficulties against which the batsmen had to contend might be judged from the fact that the last nine wickets fell for 56 runs. Ernest Smith, who made his first appearance in the Yorkshire eleven this year, took three wickets for a dozen runs.

Yorkshire, like their opponents, began exceedingly well, Brown and Tunnicliffe playing a forcing game to excellent effect and putting on 48 in half an hour. This start, however, was very far from being followed up, for half the side were out for 63, Tunnicliffe being the third man to leave at 57, and in spite of a brief stand by Lord Hawke and Jackson there were at the call of time nine wickets down for 98. Thus, as the game was left last evening, Yorkshire, with one wicket to go down, want 14 runs to get on terms with their opponents.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 August, page 7)

Lancashire, after making a very close fight with Yorkshire at Manchester on Thursday, were completely outplayed yesterday, and before 4 o'clock in the afternoon had to admit defeat by ten wickets. The day's play opened with every prospect of an exciting struggle, for, against the Lancashire total of 112, Yorkshire had made 98 for nine wickets. Yesterday morning Yorkshire succeeded in passing their opponents' total, but the advantage they gained amounted to only two runs.

There was thus practically nothing in the game when Lancashire entered upon their second innings, but within a few minutes such a series of disasters had overtaken the home side that the issue of the game was very largely determined. MacLaren, on whom the hopes of Lancashire mainly depended, was taken at the wicket for two, and Tyldesley, Sugg and Baker were so speedily got rid of that four of the best wickets were down for 19 runs. Ward played very steadily for an hour and a half, being eighth man out at 60, but the only other man to reach double figures was Cuttell, the innings being all over in an hour and 40 minutes for 64. Ernest Smith was even more successful than on the previous day, and for the whole match had the remarkable record of six wickets for 20 runs.

Whereas the heavy roller had been put on previous to the Lancashire innings with such disastrous results, only the light roller was used before Yorkshire went in to bat, and, with the sky clouding over, the conditions were not quite so adverse to batsmen. At the same time the performance of Brown and Tunnicliffe, who hit off 63 runs in less than an hour without being separated, was one of exceptional merit. The result of the game places

Yorkshire well ahead of all their rivals for the county championship and reduces Lancashire to the third position in company with Essex.

Although the game finished so early the match was a great success as a benefit for Baker, no fewer than 17,856 people paying for admission. With a collection made on the ground the receipts for the two days amounted to about £1,600.

11 August: MIDDLESEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5086.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 August, page 9)

In the wonderful variety of batting which produced the big Middlesex score at 479 at the rate of 100 an hour at Lord's, yesterday, the two most prominent feats were those achieved by Mr F G J Ford and Albert Trott.

As usual, Mr Ford's characteristic was the powerful forearm stroke by which, without any apparent effort, he drove the ball to the boundary with great velocity; it was by the drive that he made most of the 21 fours which were in his innings of 115, but now and again he rather mistimed the ball and "edged" it either to leg or through the slips.

Trott's 76 was a vastly different innings. He began at a time when the Leicestershire bowling had what little sting it ever possessed driven out of it, and he lashed away and made his 76 in 45 minutes. In having a "go" at most of the bowling, he made some dangerous strokes and gave more than one chance; but it says much for his power that he should be able to drive a bowler of Woodcock's pace into the pavilion seats, for the wicket was pitched about the centre of the ground.

But nothing in the batting equalled Mr Ford's play. Mr Ford went in at 68 and was third out at 252; he got his first 100 in 80 minutes, and such was the pace of the scoring at one time that 127 were made in the third partnership in a little over the hour. Mr Warner, Mr R N Douglas and Mr C M Wells all played splendid cricket and were strong in many strokes, and Leicestershire, considering their weak bowling and their slack fielding, were fortunate in being rid of Middlesex on the true pitch by the end of the day.

With Mr Stoddart, Sir T C O'Brien and Mr M'Gregor all away, Mr A J Webbe decided once more to take command of the side, and he seems likely to lead them to a second victory in the week. Neither Pougher nor Mr C E de Trafford was able to help Leicestershire.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 August, page 7)

Away from the bowling of Albert Trott and the ground fielding of Middlesex, the cricket at Lord's yesterday was very commonplace. Leicestershire struggled on in a vain attempt to avert defeat, but even on a good pitch their batsmen were constantly in difficulties when Trott and Hearne were bowling. Had all the catches been held, Middlesex before last evening would have no doubt won the match. Leicestershire have now only four wickets left after following on, and have yet 170 to make to avoid even the innings defeat.

Trott's variety of pace seemed to upset the batsmen more than anything else, and his six wickets for 70 on a fine true pitch was a record of no common merit. Then in the follow-on came a stand of 103 by Mr Wood and Knight for the first wicket, and after that a collapse. Mr Wood batted very well, but he and Knight were often in difficulties and frequently looked like being out. It was a splendid day at Lord's yesterday for cricket, but the company was small.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 August, page 5)

The Middlesex eleven are in great form just now and their win by an innings and 119 runs against Leicestershire at Lord's on Saturday was their second brilliant victory during the week at headquarters. Were Middlesex always able to command their great amateur cricketers, with Jack Hearne and Albert Trott in form, they would be the equal of any of the county sides of the season; but this summer an injury to Trott and the absence of some of the best amateurs from the earlier matches have had a bad influence on their county matches. But they are now in great form, and with Mr Stoddart and Mr MacGregor helping them to-day at Leeds, Yorkshire will have no easy opponents.

Saturday's play at Lord's was of only 40 minutes' duration. Coe, a left-handed batsman, made some good drives from Trott, but the latter is a splendid all-round cricketer and in the match he took 11 wickets for 153 runs, a creditable feat on a hard and true pitch. Mr R N Douglas kept wicket in place of Mr Bray, who was absent, and he made a very fine catch in dismissing Agar. Leicestershire were really outclassed, and unless their team is soon strongly recruited we shall have some outcry from other shires as to Leicestershire's right to a place in the first-class circle.

11 August: SOMERSET v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5087.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 August, page 9)

For their match at Taunton yesterday the Kent team had to go into the field without their captain, Mr J R Mason, who is suffering from an injured hand. Allowing for this loss and the fact that they had just come from a slow wicket at Cheltenham, it was a moderate performance to be got rid of by the Somerset bowlers on a true pitch for a total of 210. Mr Patterson, Mr Day, Mr Bannon and Huish all made runs; but the best batting on the side was shown by Mr Day, who played in faultless style for his 47.

Kent started disastrously, losing two good men - Alec Hearne and Mr Burnup - with only six runs scored. Mr Patterson and Mr Day, however, improved matters considerably and added 90. Mr Patterson was somewhat lucky in making his runs, a lot of them coming from snicks; but in spite of that, it was an extremely useful innings, and among the best hits were a five and nine fours. Mr Fowler came out with a good analysis, his five wickets for 32 runs being the best piece of work he has accomplished this year.

Somerset had about an hour and three-quarters' batting, and in that time scored 108 for the loss of only one wicket. Mr Palairret played splendid cricket and out of the first 61 he scored 50 in about an hour. As the game stands at present, Somerset, with nine batsmen left, are within 102 of their opponents.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 August, page 7)

The Somerset cricketers yesterday at Taunton greatly increased the advantage they had gained over Kent in the course of Thursday's play, and when stumps were drawn, at the conclusion of an innings on each side, the western county could claim a lead of 293 runs.

At the start they had, thanks to the brothers Palairret, 108 runs on the board with only one man out, and although yesterday the two Oxonians added only 33 runs before Lionel Palairret was out, the partnership for the second wicket, in producing 89 runs, had naturally an important influence upon the fortunes of the game. Lionel Palairret made 88 in most finished style, his only mistake being a possible chance at the wicket when seven, while Richard Palairret, who was fourth man out at 207, also batted in admirable form. Curiously enough, each of the two batsmen made between 80 and 90 in about two hours and a half, and each hit 11 fours.

Phillips helped Woods to put on 52 for the fifth wicket, but there were six men out for 262. At this point Woods and Hill became partners, and these batsmen in two and a half hours actually increased the total by 240 runs. At first they played with much care, Hill, indeed, taking an hour to make 15, but subsequently they were complete masters of the Kentish bowling, and during the latter part of the time they were together put on 127 runs in three-quarters of an hour.

Both of them were dismissed with the score at 502. Woods, in scoring 144, obtained his first hundred for Somerset in first-class cricket on the Taunton ground, whilst Hill, who scored 116, had never before played a three-figure innings for the county. The Somerset captain was at the wickets three hours and 20 minutes, the only mistake in his innings being an easy chance to mid-off when 80. He hit 16 fours, seven threes and 14 twos, whilst Hill, who gave no chance whatever, had a six, 16 fours, four threes and eight twos in his 116.

With the close of the Somerset innings for 503 stumps were drawn for the day, the Kent men having borne their long outing in the field very well. The weather was delightful but the company was very small.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 August, page 5)

Handicapped as they were by an accident to Mr S M J Woods and the indisposition of Gill, Somerset on Saturday failed to turn to account the advantage they had gained on the previous day, and Kent managed to draw their match at Taunton very creditably. They had to start their second innings 293 runs in arrear and, with the whole day before them, had a very serious task in hand, but after a long period of anxiety they succeeded so well that when stumps were pulled up a quarter of an hour before the regulation time they had scored 348 for seven wickets and held a lead of 55 runs.

It was early in the day that Somerset made their mistakes, Burnup, who helped to score 116 for the first wicket, being missed three times in making 56, while Alec Hearne, the first to leave, gave an extremely hard return chance to Woods, who in attempting the catch dislocated a finger. So with their bowling seriously weakened, Somerset never looked like getting their opponents out, and the partnership of Patterson and Day, which realized 110 in an hour and 20 minutes, placed Kent in a position of safety. Day played better than any one else, his 79, which included 13 fours, three threes and five twos, being quite faultless.

Right to the end the Kent men maintained their cautious methods, Rashleigh, Bannon and Weigall all playing good defensive cricket, and they had the satisfaction of seeing their side eventually draw the match with ease.

11 August: SURREY v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5088.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 12 August, page 9)

Surrey once again showed what a strong batting side they are at home, for yesterday at the Oval, in their return match with Sussex, they were in for nearly the whole of the cricket hours and scored 332. They thus kept up their record of not having been once dismissed this season on the Oval for less than 300 runs.

Although seven of the side made double figures, they were chiefly indebted to Holland, Mr Key and Abel for their excellent score, for these players made 235 between them. Holland has seldom been seen to greater advantage and from the first he played beautiful free cricket. His best strokes were his off-drives. He went in at 41 for one wicket, made his 100 out of the next 178 runs, and was seventh out at 267, being caught at extra mid-on off one of Humphreys's lobs. Altogether he was batting for two hours and a half, and his chief hits were 15 fours, three threes and nine twos.

With Abel for a partner 85 runs were added in 50 minutes for the second wicket. Both showed a decided liking for Humphreys's lobs and 23 were scored off two successive overs. Except for an easy chance to Marlow at mid-on when 45 Abel did not make a bad stroke. His innings included eight fours.

The early hours were marked by some exceedingly bright cricket, but when Mr Key and Hayes were in the play was very slow considering the excellence of the pitch, and during a partnership of three-quarters of an hour only 38 runs were added. Mr Key made no mistake in getting his 60, but he lacked that dash which in the past has been a characteristic of his play. There seemed very little sting in the Sussex bowling, and under the circumstances he might with advantage have played with more freedom. His best hits were one five and six fours. Mention should be made of Mr C B Fry's form in the long-field, as he covered a lot of ground and saved many boundaries.

Sussex went in for 40 minutes before the close, and made a bad start against the bowling of Richardson and Lockwood. When stumps were pulled up for the day they were 295 behind with seven wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 August, page 7)

Although 375 runs were scored at the Oval yesterday, except for periods of brightness, the cricket for the most part was dull and uninteresting. On Thursday, in face of a total of 332, Sussex had made 37 for three wickets, and yesterday they increased this score to 220.

But it was to a great extent due to the bad fielding of Surrey that the total reached these respectable dimensions, for had the chances been accepted - and several of them were easy - the score would have been considerably less and Sussex would have had to follow on. This season Surrey have shown very in-and-out fielding form, but it is doubtful if they have been seen to less advantage than yesterday.

The Sussex batting was marked by its consistency rather than by anything of individual merit. Mr C L A Smith, who was making only his fourth appearance in county cricket, showed some promise. Against the bowling of Richardson and Lockwood in his first attempt, and for an hour and a half at the beginning of the day's cricket, he proved that he possessed skill as a batsman. Mr Smith, who has only just left Brighton College, is the son of Mr C H Smith, a captain of the Sussex eleven in the seventies.

Mr Fry, who has recently been in such grand form, did not play quite up to his recent standard of excellence. He made several bad strokes and was missed "c and b" by Lockwood at 41. Vine, who by the courtesy of Mr Key was allowed to take Marlow's place, as the latter had badly injured his hand overnight, made some good strokes, but he also was let off when he had made 18.

With eight wickets down for 151, 62 runs were still required to save the follow-on, and it was at this period that the Surrey fielding was at its worst. Parris was missed by Brockwell at 11, while Tate directly he came in put up a ball close to Hayward, who, however, failed to sight it. Again, at 9, Tate was badly missed by the same player, and in this manner the follow-on was prevented. Mr Jephson's analysis would have been much better except for these mistakes, as, apart from Mr Fry, all the catches were missed off his bowling.

Going in a second time 112 runs on, Surrey once again showed their inability to play slow bowling and at one time looked like collapsing. Mr Jephson and Brockwell put on 59 for the first wicket by some very bright cricket, but afterwards the play was dull and eight men were out for 141. Mr Key, assisted by Richardson and Wood, eventually took the score to 192. Mr Jephson was batting nearly two hours for his 59 and his chief hits were eight fours. He was bowled in endeavouring to guard his stumps with his pads, the same way in which Hayes also lost his wicket. Parris bowled splendidly and dismissed five batsmen for ten runs each.

Sussex at the close required 305 to win with the last innings to play.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 August, page 5)

After holding an advantage from the first, Surrey beat Sussex at the Oval on Saturday by 73 runs. The closing stages of the match were not without their exciting moments, and at one time matters looked rather serious for Surrey. But at that point Hayes went on to bowl for the first time in the match, and so feeble a resistance did the remaining Sussex batsmen offer against him that Surrey were enabled to win with comparative ease.

After having the useful lead of 112 runs on the first innings, Surrey did very badly against the bowling of Parris and were dismissed for 192 on a good hard pitch. This was the first time this season that they failed to score an innings of 300 at home. On Saturday, with the wicket still in good condition, Sussex, with the whole day before them, required 305 to win, a very heavy task for a fourth innings.

But such an excellent start did they make, thanks to some splendid batting by Mr Fry, Mr Murdoch and Mr Smith, that with six wickets still in hand only 110 runs were required to win. Almost from the moment Hayes went on, however, the game took a decided turn in favour of Surrey, and Sussex never once looked like saving the game. Hayes, with his slow leg breaks, bowled magnificently and came out with the splendid analysis of five wickets for 22 runs, figures which would have been even better but for catches missed off him.

After Killick had been bowled by the second ball sent down, Mr Murdoch and Mr Fry batted so well that 71 runs were put on for the second wicket. Mr Murdoch played fine free cricket for his 42, which included seven fours, and he made no mistake. Mr Fry was also seen to great advantage; his driving on both sides of the wicket was marked by much power, while he played Lockwood's slow ball with more success than in his first innings. He was third to leave, at 147, and his chief hits were seven fours, two threes and seven twos.

Mr C L A Smith emphasized the good opinion formed of him on Friday by playing excellent cricket for 78 not out. From the first he showed plenty of confidence and only gave one chance when in the seventies. To score 109 runs for once out against the Surrey bowling in his second county match was a feat of which he can justly feel proud. On Saturday he was batting for over two and three-quarter hours and his best hits were one six, six fours, three threes and nine twos.

Apart from Mr Fry, Mr Murdoch and Mr Smith, the remainder of the side gave such a poor display that they could only score 27 runs between them, and the match was brought to a definite conclusion before half-past four, Surrey winning in the way stated above.

Friday 12 August, page 9: SURREY SECOND XI v WORCESTERSHIRE

The Surrey second eleven met with their first defeat for six years at Worcester yesterday, when the champion side of the minor counties beat them by seven wickets . . . In the double innings Wilson, Worcestershire's new fast bowler, took 13 wickets for 79 runs.

The chief averages for the season are given below:-

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in Times		Average
			Inns.	not out	
W G Quaife	23	984	157*	7	61.50
Mr C B Fry	29	1419	133	2	52.55
Shrewsbury	30	1172	154*	7	50.95
Abel	34	1569	148	3	50.61
Mr A E Stoddart	22	998	157	2	49.90
Storer	29	1294	109	3	49.76
W Gunn	30	1222	236*	5	48.88
Mr F S Jackson	32	1346	160	3	46.41
Mr J R Mason	30	1206	152	3	44.66
Mr L C H Palairret	22	892	179*	2	44.60
Dr W G Grace	33	1243	168	5	44.39
Mr W H Patterson	17	570	117	3	40.71
Mr P Perrin	29	925	106*	5	38.54
Brockwell	35	1206	135	2	38.33
Mr C L Townsend	29	1110	159	0	38.27
Mr C McGahey	27	953	145	2	38.12
Tunncliffe	38	1240	108*	4	36.47
Tyldesley	41	1483	127	0	36.17
Holland	24	826	126	1	35.91
Mr C O H Sewell	32	1041	111	3	35.89
Alec Hearne	33	1039	117	4	35.82
Mr S M J Woods	27	953	144	0	35.48
Mr C J Burnup	34	1131	131	2	35.34
Lord Hawke	29	806	134	6	35.04
Mr D L A Jephson	26	744	168*	4	33.81
Mr A J L Hill	22	624	199	3	32.84
Hayward	27	851	126	1	32.73
Mr F G J Ford	22	720	127	0	32.72
Mr J A Dixon	24	670	165	3	31.90
Lockwood	28	722	109	5	31.39
Mr W Troup	26	687	180	4	31.22
Mr K J Key	23	545	85	5	30.27
Ward	41	1170	135	2	30.00
Mr A P Lucas	19	472	89	3	29.50
Rev W Rashleigh	13	350	105	1	29.16
Mr A O Jones	28	756	80	2	29.07
Major Poore	28	745	121*	2	28.65
Carpenter	32	888	133	1	28.63
Mr H G Owen	26	705	92	1	28.20
F Sugg	37	965	169	1	26.80
Mr A Eccles	23	560	139	2	26.66
J T Brown	38	956	144	2	26.55
Mr W L Murdoch	41	984	121*	3	25.89
Baker	34	772	70	4	25.73
Mr F H E Cunliffe	21	386	70	5	24.12

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	976.3	392	1677	126	13.30
Wainwright	446.3	165	845	60	14.08
J T Hearne	1425.4	622	2408	164	14.68
G Davidson	968.4	458	1399	91	15.37
Mr F S Jackson	674	271	1209	78	15.50
Haigh	790.4	283	1657	96	17.26

Lockwood	879.2	262	1945	111	17.52
Martin	659.3	225	1247	69	18.07
Mead	887	313	1730	94	18.40
Mr C J Kortright	574.1	155	1573	85	18.50
Trott	703	237	1705	90	18.90
Mr D L A Jephson	233.2	37	645	33	19.54
Attewell	990.3	446	1370	67	20.44
Richardson	898.4	239	2299	109	21.09
Mr F G Bull	802	254	1804	82	22.00
Alec Hearne	686.2	278	1218	55	22.14
Mr G L Jessop	558.3	153	1241	56	22.16
Mold	836.3	284	1930	88	22.44
Tyler	646	141	1738	76	22.86
Mr J R Mason	575.2	207	1234	56	23.34
Briggs	780.1	279	1621	69	23.49
Mr C L Townsend	897.1	189	2414	101	23.90
Mr F H E Cunliffe	475.4	150	1127	46	24.50
Bland	766	216	1864	76	24.52
Dr W G Grace	460.3	152	892	35	25.48
Mr S M J Woods	279.2	70	814	28	29.07

15 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5089.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 August, page 9)

Essex were at a serious disadvantage at Clifton yesterday, the great heat so affecting A P Lucas and Russell that neither could take any part in the play. Russell had so far recovered in the afternoon that he may be able to bat to-day, but he was greatly missed during Gloucestershire's innings, H G Owen, F L Fane and P Perrin at different times undertaking the duties of wicket-keeper. Fortunately for Essex F G Bull and Mead bowled capitally and the home team were got rid of for 260. Then, however, Essex lost two men for 33, and but for a couple of blunders in the field would have finished up the day very badly.

W Troup gave further proof of his batting powers, scoring 100 out of 207 in three hours and ten minutes. He gave only one chance when 86 and hit 16 fours, three threes and six twos. Playing more freely than usual, Troup always made a good share of the runs and was somewhat unlucky in playing a ball into his wicket. W G Grace, C O H Sewell and R W Rice all batted well, and with only three men out and the total 180 Gloucestershire were expected to put together a large score.

But then came a wonderful change. Bull bowled round the wicket instead of over and dismissed six of the last seven men for 58 runs, after previously having been punished for 51 runs without getting a wicket. Mead bowled even better than this, absent troubling the batsmen and taking four wickets for 56. The weather was oppressively hot but a large company watched the cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 August, page 9)

At Clifton, yesterday, Mr C L Townsend had a wicket to suit him to perfection, and such fine use did he make of his opportunity that Gloucestershire beat Essex by an innings and eight runs.

Heavy rain had fallen during the night and, the sun shining brightly in the morning, the Essex batsmen were placed at a very great disadvantage and no one rose to the occasion. Bowling unchanged throughout the two innings, Mr Townsend took 15 wickets for 141 runs, which, following his splendid work of last week, gave him an aggregate for three matches of 43 wickets for 438 runs. Yesterday he had the Essex batsmen completely at his mercy and, though at one period tiring perceptibly, he was never at all freely hit. Mr Jessop also bowled successfully, his record for the two innings being five wickets for 76.

There was little in the batting worthy of praise, 18 wickets falling for 219 runs, but at one time Mr Owen and Mr Perrin played so well that Essex looked like retrieving their position to some extent. The two amateurs added 49 for the second wicket when Essex followed on 135 runs behind, but Mr Perrin was badly missed soon after he went in. Once they were separated, the batting collapsed as it had done in the first innings, and Gloucestershire are to be heartily congratulated on the brilliant way they played their winning game. At the end of the match they were loudly cheered by the large company assembled at the college ground.

15 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5090.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 August, page 9)

Visitors to the Aylestone-road ground at Leicester yesterday witnessed a capital exhibition of batting on the part of the Leicestershire eleven, for, having first chance on a firm and true pitch, the home side stayed in all the afternoon and ran up a score of 325 for the loss of only nine wickets.

Chief honours in this excellent performance fell to Mr Marriott, Mr Wood and Knight, each of whom played in brilliant style. A very good beginning was made by Mr Wood and Knight, who went in first, the score being up to 109 before the first wicket fell. At this point Knight was out, having batted in faultless style for an hour and 35 minutes. Mr Wood and Mr Marriott followed this up with another good partnership before Mr Wood's wicket - the third - fell. He had been batting two hours and 20 minutes for his 80, and among his hits were five fours, eight threes and seven twos.

After this Mr Marriott hit out with great freedom and, though always getting runs at a good pace, his driving and cutting were so true and clean that he did not make a mistake. He was seventh out at 291, after having helped Geeson to put on 61 runs for the wicket. Altogether Mr Marriott was batting an hour and 40 minutes without giving a chance, and among his hits were 13 fours, three threes and three twos. Before the finish two more wickets fell, and when stumps were finally pulled up the score was 325. The afternoon was beautifully fine and a large company watched the cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 August, page 9)

With the pitch so much affected by the weather in the early hours of yesterday at Leicester, the Derbyshire eleven were placed in a bad position. So wet was the wicket that the game could not be renewed until nearly 1 o'clock.

The best thing in the cricket was the play of Mr Ashcroft, whose 60 runs were made in fine forcing style, mostly by drives. Derbyshire followed on against arrears of 190 . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 August, page 5)

Leicestershire defeated Derbyshire at Leicester yesterday, and thus gained their first victory in the contest for the county championship during the present season. They won by an innings and 103 runs, some such result as this being clearly foreshadowed by the overnight position of the game, when Derbyshire, after following on against a balance of 190, had lost one wicket in their second innings for three runs.

Derbyshire had to contend against a dead pitch on Tuesday, but the wicket yesterday was even worse and bowlers carried everything before them. Only two men in the side got into double figures, the remainder of the team giving a very poor display. Storer was not out with 38 and he certainly played in a most plucky fashion. Geeson bowled with great success and in the whole match he got rid of 13 batsmen at a cost of 102 runs.

15 August: SURREY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5091.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 August, page 9)

Yesterday was a day of triumph for Surrey, who were in the whole of the five cricketing hours on the Oval and made 368 for the loss of only two batsmen. It was a beautifully true pitch, one, in fact, completely worthy of the Oval, but one that tends to break the hearts of bowlers.

The Kent fielding had something to do with the bad position in which the county found themselves. Some catches were dropped; and the well-known cricket axiom of "dropped catches and lost matches" seems likely to be verified. As a rule, the Kent fielding was very good; but missed catches marked the excellence of the ground work. Alec Hearne was the chief offender; he dropped Lockwood when the last-named was only eight, and he missed an easy catch from Abel when the Surrey player was 196; and then Martin let Abel escape at mid-on very simply when Abel was 135. Both Alec Hearne's mistakes were at extra slip; the first from Mason was a sharp chance to the left hand, but the second was a very easy chance off Bradley.

The wicket was so true that from the first the Kentish bowlers never looked like getting out many Surrey batsmen. With the ball coming at a nice pace from the pitch and rarely rising more than half-stump high, the batsmen had quite an easy time, and the wonder is that in five hours' actual batting the score did not average more than 73 an hour.

It took the Kent bowlers more than two hours to get down the first wicket, and then after luncheon a yorker sent Brockwell's off stump flying. Holland was out just before 4 o'clock, and it was the last of the day's bowling successes, for Lockwood and Abel then put on 176 and were still together at the close. The best class of batting was that by Brockwell. With his fine natural style, Brockwell came out strongly yesterday both in front of and behind the wicket; but the off-drive and the cut are still this batsman's best strokes. Two fives and nine fours were his biggest hits.

Abel played in his own efficacious style, drawing himself up in wonderful fashion to deal with anything in the way of a short ball and playing wonderfully straight at anything that had a fine length and required playing. Now and again yesterday Abel became very quiet as he approached the sundry scoring landmarks, such as the 50, the 100 and the 150; but now he is within 34 of Gunn's 236, the highest individual score of the season, made on the Oval in Bank Holiday week against Surrey. Abel's 202 is only the second 200 innings recorded in big cricket this summer.

Lockwood played in his usual robust manner and his cricket on the leg side was particularly strong. Kent bore their heavy work in the long and hot day very well and the ground fielding was always good. Braund has been brought into the Surrey side in pace of Baldwin, who has been something of a failure this year, and Kent have also their best side. There were quite 10,000 spectators of yesterday's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 August, page 9)

To the average spectator at the Oval yesterday the cricket must have been full of disappointment. Abel failed to establish an individual record for the season, of which he gave so much promise on Monday evening, and the Kent brilliant batting side broke down before some fine bowling and fielding. The pace of the pitch had changed perhaps to a slight degree owing to the storm about dawn.

In the earlier hours, during the finish of the Surrey innings, Martin bowled particularly well. Mr Key hit hard and his cricket was by far the best after Lockwood and Abel had gone. Abel was third out at 401 in trying to play to leg. He had been in about five hours and a half for his 219, and his chief hits were four fives and 26 fours, while a smaller item was increased to six by an overthrow. Abel fell short by 17 of Gunn's record on the Oval. The

three highest individual figures of the season have been made on the Oval - namely, Gunn's 236, Abel's 219 and A J L Hill's 199. The Abel and Lockwood partnership for the third Surrey wicket yielded 209 runs, and Lockwood, who was fourth out, made 13 fours.

The balance of Surrey's innings, in which two wickets had gone overnight for 368, lasted two hours and a half. It was just on the stroke of luncheon time when the final man was out. One of the best things on the fielding side was the catch that disposed of Wood. Mason at short slip took the ball wide out when it was going away from him at a great pace.

Mr Mason played fine cricket when everything was going against his side. But Surrey were at the top of their game; their fielding was close and keen, and the bowling of Richardson and Lockwood was full of sting. To hasten Kent's disasters there was a fine catch at mid-on by Braund when, at the second attempt, he caught out Mr Rashleigh from a hard drive. Lockwood's five for 27 was a splendid analysis.

In the follow-on Kent again fared badly. The Surrey bowling and fielding were beyond cavil; and there was an excellent piece of work in the field by Hayes at cover-point. Hayes's slow leg breaks were also effective, and the end of the day found Kent with four men out in the second innings and still 392 of arrears. It was a splendid cricket day and the spectators again numbered quite 10,000.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 August, page 5)

In an hour on the Oval yesterday morning the balance of the play in Surrey v Kent was finished and Kent was beaten by an innings and 345 runs. Apart from Mr Mason and Mr Rashleigh their batting was unsatisfactory.

The factor in the breakdown of the Kent batsmen was the bowling of Lockwood, who once more proved a tower of strength to the Surrey eleven. Yesterday morning he took the last six Kent wickets for 22 runs, and his full record for the match was 13 for 80 runs. Surrey are making no change to their side for to-day's match against Lancashire.

15 August: SUSSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5092.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 August, page 9)

Mr P H Latham, the Cambridge captain in 1894, made a most satisfactory first appearance for Sussex at Brighton yesterday, scoring 93 in an innings of 220. A master at Haileybury College, Latham has played a few times for Worcestershire, but is qualified for Sussex by residence, his father being a clergyman at Hassocks.

In cutting and driving Latham showed much of the form which distinguished him as a University player, and that his cricket was attractive can be judged from his figures - 12 fours, four threes and seven twos. When 90 he might have been stumped, but this appeared to be his only chance during a stay of three hours, during which 165 runs were scored.

After a wonderful run of successes, C B Fry was clean bowled by Briggs for 13 in the fourth over, and W L Murdoch alone gave Latham much assistance. The Sussex captain was seen at his best, defending soundly and hitting so well that the second partnership realized 111 in less than two hours. The best strokes in Murdoch's 55 were ten fours, two threes and three twos. Some free hitting by Parris marked the close of the innings, which lasted four hours; but after Murdoch's dismissal Cuttell and Briggs carried all before them, the last eight wickets producing only 88 runs.

The home county's total of 220 may prove very useful, however, Lancashire losing A C MacLaren, Albert Ward and Sugg for 19 runs and leaving off 201 runs behind with seven wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 August, page 9)

Yesterday's cricket at Brighton was highly satisfactory to the Sussex eleven, for, following up the advantage they had gained on Monday by some admirable bowling and fielding, they left off in a position which is within easy reach of victory. Overnight Sussex had scored 220 and Lancashire, in half an hour at the close of the day, had lost three wickets for 19 runs.

There had been some rain during the night, but the morning was fine and the sun rendered the pitch treacherous. Of this condition Tate and Parris were quick to take advantage and in 70 minutes they got down the seven outstanding wickets for the addition of 45 runs, Lancashire being all out for 64. The fine bowling of Tate and Parris was backed up by some excellent fielding, Mr Fry especially distinguishing himself. Tate had the fine analysis of six wickets for 31 runs, while Parris dismissed four batsmen and had only 27 runs hit from him.

Lancashire had to follow on against a balance of 156, and after their poor display in the first innings it was well within the bounds of possibility that they would be beaten before the day's cricket ended. The attempts to play the bowling on the broken pitch had proved such a failure that Mr MacLaren, on going in a second time, decided to adopt forcing tactics, and this policy met with a highly satisfactory result. He took Baker in with him, and the professional quickly mastered the bowling. In 40 minutes the total of the first innings was equalled, but then Mr MacLaren unluckily played on, and at the interval two wickets were down for 71.

Baker stayed until 105, when he was third out. His splendid innings of 69 was made in 70 minutes and included nine fours and nine twos. Sugg played patiently for an hour, and Tyldesley's was an uneven innings. However, runs were slowly obtained, and at one time Lancashire with seven wickets in hand were only 11 behind. Tyldesley was then quickly out and there were seven wickets down for 180. Briggs and Cuttell added 38 for the eighth partnership, but the innings, which had lasted just over three hours, closed for 223. By taking five wickets in the second innings, Tate secured the splendid record for the match of 11 wickets for 117 runs.

Sussex were left with 68 to get to win and, though Fry was out at 25, the home side at the close had nine wickets in hand and wanted only 36 runs more.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 August, page 5)

As the result was a foregone conclusion very little interest attached to yesterday's cricket at Brighton. With nine wickets to go down Sussex only required 36 runs to win, and as to the accomplishment of so trifling a task there could, of course, be no doubt. Mr Latham and Tate, the overnight not-outs, playing good cricket on a wicket which was still by no means easy, hit off the runs without being separated, Sussex thus winning the match by nine wickets.

Sussex have had very little luck this season, their only victory in county cricket until yesterday having been in the match with Hampshire last week; but in beating Lancashire they have solid compensation for many disappointments. The weather was delightful.

15 August: YORKSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5093.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 August, page 9)

This month, with their full strength available, Middlesex have given evidence of being one of the strongest counties; and after victories over Somerset, Surrey and Leicestershire, they yesterday had the better of the play with Yorkshire. The wickets at the Headingley ground, Leeds, have always had the reputation of being adverse to batsmen, and though no rain had fallen for some days the bowlers received such assistance yesterday that in the course of four hours and three-quarters 15 wickets fell for an aggregate of 250 runs.

For the greater part of the afternoon the cricket was wonderfully even, Yorkshire being dismissed in two hours and 40 minutes for 142 and Middlesex losing half their wickets for 79. Then the 12,000 spectators saw the visitors gradually obtain an advantage, their score being carried to 108 without further loss, and to-day they will begin only 34 runs behind with half their wickets to fall.

For dismissing their opponents so cheaply Middlesex were indebted to J T Hearne, Albert Trott and F H E Cunliffe; and had the fielding been up to its usual excellent standard Yorkshire would certainly have been out for less than a hundred. Brown - top scorer of the day with 30 - was missed before getting a run, and Rhodes, in making 20, was twice let off, which Lord Hawke should have been caught at 13. To show the difficulty experienced in making runs it is noteworthy that F S Jackson could only score three in half an hour and Ernest Smith 16 in 50 minutes. Denton batted better than any one else on the side, hitting freely for 22 and helping Brown to add 45 in half an hour. Hearne bowled well, often getting an appreciable off break, and his four wickets cost only 43 runs.

A E Stoddart - who, with his score of 26, completed his 1,000 runs - and P F Warner batted so well that Middlesex had 50 on the board with only one man out. Good bowling by F S Jackson robbed the visitors of their immediate advantage, which, however, came to them again through the determined hitting of Rawlin. He found a most useful partner in C M Wells and no wicket fell during the last half an hour.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 August, page 9)

This season Yorkshire have been considered invincible on slow treacherous wickets, but yesterday at Leeds, with the conditions entirely favourable to bowlers, they were completely outplayed and beaten by Middlesex by eight wickets. On Monday the visitors had gained some advantage, scoring 108 for five wickets against their opponents' total of 142, but Yorkshire had a lead of 14 on the first innings. Hot sunshine following rain during the night gave their bowlers an opportunity of which they were quick to take advantage.

Slight as was their lead on the first innings, Yorkshire had more than recovered the ground lost on the previous day, but by unaccountably bad batting they were soon in a hopeless position. If the wicket was all in favour of the bowlers its condition was hardly such as to warrant so strong a batting side being dismissed for 45 runs. Of these Tunnicliffe made no fewer than 31, his admirable play showing up the defects of his colleagues in a marked degree. He was run out through no fault of his own.

No one else on the side could do anything with the bowling of Albert Trott and J T Hearne. The former, indeed, was almost unplayable and dismissed the last five men without having a run hit from him, while in all he took seven wickets for 13 runs and made his total number of wickets for the season 101.

By his splendid bowling Trott had placed victory well within reach of Middlesex, and little doubt could be felt as to their ability to get the necessary 60 runs. By free hitting Mr Douglas and Mr Warner scored 24 in 20 minutes, and then, when they had both been dismissed at the same total, Mr Stoddart and Mr Ford finished off the game. While Mr Stoddart played with a good deal of care, Mr Ford hit in his usual brilliant style and in his 29 not out

there were five fours. The game was all over at a quarter to 4, and though sorely disappointed at Yorkshire's third defeat in the county championship, the spectators, who numbered some 10,000, cheered the visitors very generously on their great triumph.

Thursday 18 August, page 5: THE HASTINGS WEEK

The two matches of this year's cricket week at Hastings promise to be very interesting. The first starts on Monday, September 5, and is between Mr A E Stoddart's Australian Eleven and the Rest of England, and in the second Surrey and Sussex meet the rest of England.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The defeat of Yorkshire on Tuesday and the continued prosperity of Middlesex and Surrey are giving to the finish of the championship competition considerable interest. If Yorkshire are defeated once in their remaining two matches and Surrey win the rest of their games the championship may after all come south. The results so far are:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points in finished matches
Yorkshire	24	14	3	7	11	.64
Surrey	20	10	3	7	7	.53
Gloucestershire	18	7	3	8	4	.4
Middlesex	14	6	3	5	3	.3
Lancashire	23	9	5	9	4	.28
Essex	18	9	5	4	4	.28

The other counties stand thus:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Kent	17	4	4	9	0
Nottinghamshire	15	1	1	13	0
Derbyshire	13	2	5	6	-3
Hampshire	16	2	7	7	-5
Sussex	17	2	7	8	-5
Warwickshire	14	1	5	8	-4
Somerset	14	1	9	4	-8
Leicestershire	15	1	9	5	-8

The matches between Surrey and Derbyshire on May 19 and between Surrey and Warwickshire on May 23 were abandoned owing to the bad weather.

The rule laid down by the M.C.C. is as follows:- "One point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have in finished matches obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

18 August: DERBYSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5094.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 August, page 5)

Some sensational cricket was seen at Chesterfield yesterday, J T Brown and Tunncliffe, who started Yorkshire's innings in the morning, putting on 503 runs together and being still not out when stumps were drawn. This extraordinary partnership beats all records in first-class matches, whether for the first or any other wicket, the previous best being 398 runs by Shrewsbury and Gunn for Notts against Sussex in May, 1890. These two batsmen, by the way, made their runs for the second wicket.

Cricketers will hardly need to be reminded that Brown and Tunncliffe scored 378 runs together for Yorkshire against Sussex at Sheffield in July last year, establishing a record for the first wicket, which in the following month was beaten by a single runs by Abel and Brockwell for Surrey against Hampshire.

Remarkable as yesterday's performance was, there are circumstances which to some extent detract from its brilliancy. For one thing the boundaries on the Chesterfield ground, except on one side, are decidedly short, and for another the Derbyshire bowling was seriously weakened by the fact that George Davidson broke down after delivering one over. Moreover, Brown, in hitting up his 270 not out, enjoyed a liberal share of fortune's favours, being missed by Storer at the wicket when he had made 54, by Chatterton in the slips at 117, at cover-point by Sugg at 208 and, lastly, at 253 from a tame return by Storer. The first two chances were difficult, but the other two easy enough. On the other hand, Tunncliffe's only mistake, so far as could be seen, was a chance when he had made 44 to Chatterton, who was then keeping wicket and standing back to Mr Walker's bowling.

Runs came at a terrific pace yesterday, the game being in progress for only four hours and three-quarters. In the first three-quarters of an hour only 50 runs were obtained, but after that the bowling was knocked about in merciless fashion. Walter Sugg has for years rendered good service to Derbyshire, and it is pleasant to know that his benefit promises to be a decided success. There were fully 6,000 people on the ground yesterday.

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

The Yorkshire eleven made splendid progress in their match with Derbyshire at Chesterfield yesterday, and, though they occupied the wickets some time, they left off in a position which is bound to secure them a victory unless bad weather interferes.

Brown and Tunncliffe, who on Thursday had broken the record for a partnership in first-class matches by scoring 503 for the first wicket, added 51 runs yesterday, so that the record now stands at 554. Their play in the morning was especially brilliant, only 17 minutes being occupied in making the 51 runs. Altogether the two batsmen were at the wickets five hours and five minutes. Tunncliffe was the first to go - well caught at short slip for 243. He gave a chance when 44 and another before scoring yesterday, but otherwise his play was faultless. His chief hits were 48 fours, three threes and seven twos.

Brown at this point had made 292, and when he had got the remaining eight necessary to reach 300 he hit his wicket. Though much luckier than Tunncliffe, Brown played brilliant cricket and, seeing that he scored 300 in five hours and ten minutes out of 569, the four chances he gave were of little account. Among his hits were 48 fours, six threes and 19 twos. The remaining batsmen went in for hitting, with the result that the side were quickly out for 662, 159 runs having been added to the overnight score in 65 minutes.

The wicket had worn in places when Derbyshire went in to bat, but nobody was prepared for the poor display they gave, and in two hours and 20 minutes the eleven were got rid of for 118 runs. G Davidson was the only man who played the bowling with any confidence.

Derbyshire followed on 544 behind, and had scored 50 for one wicket when bad light at 25 minutes to 6 put a stop to play for the day. As the game stands, therefore, they require 494 to avert the innings defeat and still have nine wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 August, page 5)

A capital innings of 54 by Chatterton relieved the cricket at Chesterfield on Saturday from being absolutely tedious; but his effort only lessened Derbyshire's defeat in a very slight degree, and they were beaten by an innings and 387 runs. From first to last the losers had all the luck against them, having to face a total of 662 on a wicket which was somewhat worn, while, besides Chatterton and George Davidson being lame, they had to bat two men short on Saturday.

It was a creditable performance, therefore, for the last seven wickets to withstand the Yorkshire bowlers for two hours and three-quarters. Runs being no object, the batsmen mostly played on the defensive, only 107 runs being scored. But Chatterton sent the ball ten times to the boundary during his stay of two hours.

As a result of his benefit Walter Sugg will receive some £340 apart from subscriptions. The match will always be remembered for the record stand of Brown and Tunnicliffe - 554 for the first partnership.

18 August: HAMPSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5095.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 August, page 5)

In the return match between these counties, which opened in fine weather and before almost 4,000 spectators on the Officers' Ground at Portsmouth yesterday, neither side was fully representative, Sussex being without Mr G Brann, Bland and Marlow, while the Army manoeuvres kept Major Poore, Captain Wynyard and Captain Quinton out of the Hampshire ranks.

The great feature of a capital day's cricket was the brilliant performance of Mr P H Latham, who, after scoring 93 and 29 not out against Lancashire last week on the occasion of his first appearance for Sussex, followed these achievements up with a splendid innings of 117. Going in first, he made his runs without giving a chance in the course of exactly three hours, being fifth man out at 227 and hitting 13 fours, five threes and ten twos. He found his most valuable colleague in Mr C B Fry, who assisted to add 86 runs in an hour for the third partnership. None of the others except Mr Parris, who hit very well, showed to advantage, and the innings ultimately closed for 289.

In the last 25 minutes of the day Hampshire lost two wickets in making 25 runs, so that they left off at a considerable disadvantage.

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

In making 231 and getting within 58 of the Sussex total at Portsmouth yesterday Hampshire accomplished a fine performance, especially when it is stated that they had to continue their batting after some heavy rain in the night, which affected the ground. The position at the resumption showed that Hampshire had lost two wickets overnight for 25 runs against the Sussex innings of 289.

With the sun shining out most people expected the home team to fail, but Barton, Robson, Hill, English and Studd all batted with great spirit and resolution, the first-named pair raising the score to 49, Hill, with Barton, making 42 more, and the last-named with English increasing the aggregate to 126. Barton was fifth out at the last-mentioned figures after a steady little innings of 47, but Studd, on joining English, hit with fine freedom and actually obtained 60 out of 89 in about 65 minutes.

Sussex in the last two hours of the afternoon did none too well to lose half their side for 93, but with their first innings margin they will continue their second attempt this morning with a lead of 151 and five wickets standing. The weather was very fine and there were between 3,000 and 4,000 spectators present.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 August, page 5)

After a thoroughly interesting game Sussex beat Hampshire at Portsmouth on Saturday by 43 runs. Up to a certain point the Hampshire eleven made a bold bid for victory, but at the close their batting broke down.

Sussex with five wickets left in their second innings held a lead in the morning of 151 runs, but the side were all out for another 47. Baldwin bowled well and had the splendid record for the match of 11 wickets at a cost of just over 13 runs each.

Hampshire were left with 199 runs to get to win, and under the conditions that prevailed the task was generally thought to be beyond their powers. The start was a bad one, Mr Robson and Mr Hill both being out with only 17 scored, but then came some bright and spirited batting by Barton, while Mr English played a very steady game. Between them the score was taken to 74 before the amateur left. Mr Studd hit up 18 out of 21, and soon afterwards Barton was badly missed.

This mistake might have cost Sussex the match, but at 121 Barton was got rid of. After he left the remainder of the side offered a feeble resistance and, the last five wickets falling for 34 runs, the total in the end reached only 155.

18 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5096.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 August, page 5)

At Trent-bridge, yesterday, the Middlesex eleven followed up in fine style their recent success against Yorkshire with an admirable display of all-round cricket. They outplayed the Nottingham eleven at all points of the game and, at the conclusion of the afternoon, left off with a big advantage. The honours of the day rested with three men. Albert Trott accomplished a great bowling feat and Mr Warner and Mr Ford both batted with much effect.

The Nottingham innings, which lasted something under three hours and a half, was disappointing, for, on a wicket in every way favourable to run-getting, they were put out for the small total of 171. From the first matters went against them, two of their best men being out when only 23 was scored. William Gunn, however, played in excellent style and received some assistance from Mr Dixon and Attewell. In three-quarters of an hour Gunn and Mr Dixon put on 40 runs for the third wicket, and Attewell helped to add 49 for the fourth partnership.

Partly through his own fault Gunn was run out at 132. He had played with every confidence in making his 57 and was at the wickets two hours and a quarter without giving a chance. Among his hits were four fours, seven threes and five twos. After he left Trott carried everything before him, and in the end obtained the splendid analysis of eight wickets for 83 runs. He sent down his last six overs and a ball for ten runs and five wickets.

The start of the Middlesex innings was bad, Mr J Douglas being out at 21. Then, however, Mr Warner and Mr Ford came together and, completely mastering the bowling, carried the score to 154.

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

Some batting of a very fine order was seen at Trent-bridge yesterday in the match between these counties, and at the close of the day Middlesex had gained an advantage that should give them a victory to-day. They raised their overnight score of 154 for one wicket to a splendid total of 484, and then before the drawing of stumps got down one Notts wicket for 63 runs.

Before luncheon, at which point the score stood at 314 for four wickets, the batting, though good, did not present any special features, but afterwards it was brilliant. Mr Warner and Mr Ford, who had done such good work on Thursday, took the score to 190 before the latter was out. The partnership had realized 169 in a trifle over two hours, and Mr Ford's share was 102. He gave no chance in his splendid display, and among his hits were 12 fours, five threes and seven twos.

Mr Warner stayed until the total was 232, having batted in superb fashion for three hours and ten minutes. The only mistake he made was a chance just before his dismissal, and his best hits were a five and nine fours. Mr R N Douglas, who went in second wicket down, was fourth out at 296. He made his runs in a little over an hour and a half without a single mistake. Together with Rawlin he helped to add 64 for the fourth partnership in 50 minutes, while Rawlin and Mr Wells put on 41 for the fifth wicket in half an hour.

Afterwards came some fierce hitting by Trott and Mr MacGregor. The two batsmen scored 107 runs in 55 minutes, the brilliancy of their batting being very marked. Trott, who hit up 77 out of 110, played with almost reckless freedom. He was twice missed - when five and after he had made 38 - both catches being to fieldsmen standing deep out. His hits included 11 fours, three threes and nine twos, one of the drives clearing the ladies' enclosure.

Notts went in a second time at five minutes past 5, and in 55 minutes had made 63 for one wicket, when the bad light stopped play for the day. As the game stands, therefore, Notts, with nine wickets in hand, require 250 to avoid an innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 August, page 5)

At Trent-bridge, Nottingham, on Saturday, the Middlesex eleven gained another victory, beating Notts in a single innings with 136 runs to spare. In the previous stages of the match the Notts men had been quite outplayed, and at the close on Friday evening had lost one wicket, that of Shrewsbury, in their second innings for 63 runs.

They then required 250 to avoid being beaten in a single innings, and as the pitch was somewhat affected by a thunderstorm during the night they had but small prospect of escaping even that disaster. The remainder of their innings lasted a little over two hours, but only 114 runs were added, the whole side being out for 177.

Mr Jones and William Gunn, the not outs, took the score to 94, their partnership for the second wicket lasting for 50 minutes and producing 63 runs. Mr Jones, who just reached 50, was at the wickets for an hour and 20 minutes, and played very bright cricket, his score including seven fours, a three and six twos. William Gunn, who batted very well for his 32, and Mr Dixon left at 97, and with the four best Notts batsmen out little interest remained in the game. Dench, Attewell, John Gunn, Guttridge and Oates all managed to reach double figures, but there was no stand of any importance.

Hearne, Mr Cunliffe and Trott all bowled with success, and the last-named made his record in the match 13 wickets for 178 runs.

18 August: SOMERSET v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5097.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 August, page 5)

Cricket at Taunton yesterday was not carried on under very pleasant conditions, rain causing a cessation of play after luncheon for an hour and three-quarters and putting a stop to it altogether at ten minutes to 6. However, Gloucestershire, who won the toss and batted first, made splendid use of their opportunities and staying in due the three hours and ten minutes cricket was in progress ran up a score of 255 for the loss of only three wickets.

For this fine total Dr Grace and Mr Troup, who for the first wicket put on 169, were mostly responsible. Mr Troup might have been caught and bowled at 20; while Dr Grace was missed twice - when 18 by Mr R Palairet in the slips and again when 30. These, however, were the only blemishes in a brilliant display. Dr Grace's cutting was the great feature of the innings. Altogether he was batting two hours and 20 minutes for his 109, and among his hits were 15 fours, two threes and eight twos.

After he left Mr Troup and Mr Sewell hit freely and in a little over half an hour added 61 runs. Mr Troup completed his 100 just before the second storm stopped play for the day. Owing to injuries neither Mr Woods nor Mr Stanley is playing for Somerset, but Gloucestershire have their best eleven.

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

At Taunton yesterday Gloucestershire beat Somerset by an innings and 169 runs, play being prolonged for five minutes beyond the time for drawing stumps. Bright sunshine after the heavy rain of Thursday afternoon made the wicket very treacherous before Somerset went in to bat.

In the early part of the day, while Gloucestershire were finishing off their innings, the ground was fairly easy and the overnight total of 255 for the loss of three wickets was increased to 387. Mr Troup, not out 102, carried his score to 127, and though he was given three lives, his display was one of great merit, occupying four hours and a quarter and including 18 fours.

Somerset did not enter upon their innings until after luncheon, when the pitch was at its worst. They were dismissed in an hour and 35 minutes for 104, while on following on against a majority of 283 they were got rid of a second time in an hour and three-quarters for 114, which gave Gloucestershire the victory.

18 August: SURREY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5098.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 19 August, page 5)

In this match, at the Oval yesterday, Surrey went in first and once more made over 300. With only half the side out they have already 361 to their credit, and the chances point to a figure approaching four or five hundred. Lancashire missed their great fast bowler Arthur Mold, whose knee is still troubling him. Their medium pace men worked hard and Cuttell was often bowling remarkably well; but the Lancashire attack at its best seemed rather harmless and the wonder was that Surrey did not score more rapidly.

The feature of the day was the batting of Tom Hayward. His innings of 163 should do much to restore his game, which of late has lacked something of its old finish. There is nothing like a good long innings to bring back to a batsman his nerve and his success. Until well advanced in the seventies Hayward yesterday played beautiful cricket; but afterwards he went rather in for "lofting" the ball and was four times missed - twice in the deep field and twice by the bowler. He went in third wicket down at 81 and was not out 163 at the finish, having been batting actually three hours and three-quarters.

Brockwell played fine cricket for his 43, and Holland and Mr Jephson also showed their run-getting powers. The Hayward and Jephson partnership was the stand of the day. It lasted over two hours and yielded 175 runs. When the fifth wicket went down at 308 Mr Key arrived and hit hard.

The Lancashire ground fielding was often superb; but the misses by Eccles and Hallows in the long field and the return chances missed by Briggs and Hartley spoilt their reputation as a fielding side. Surrey have reached a position that almost commands success, and the twelve or fifteen thousand people on the Oval yesterday seemed thoroughly to enjoy the play.

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

The highest individual score in cricket this season has, up to the present, fallen to Hayward of the Surrey eleven. After going in third wicket down at 81 he took out his bat for 315, the total standing at 634. It is curious that the two great cricketing shires of Surrey and Yorkshire should have been concurrently struggling for records.

With their own case hopeless Lancashire did not seem to be particularly keen in dismissing Surrey. The follow-on and closure rules are still in need of liberal amendment. Hayward yesterday forced the game very strongly, though he escaped being out several times. When he saw his chance of establishing a record he played carefully, and when the Surrey innings came to an end towards half-past 3 Hayward was not out with 315. A collection made on his behalf among the large crowd present realized £71. He was at the wickets six and three-quarter hours and he hit two fives and 37 fours.

The incident in the Surrey innings yesterday was the stand of 204 for the eighth wicket by Hayward and Braund. Braund played very well and made ten fours.

When Lancashire went in they had nothing but the draw for which to play. They began badly and four men were out for 39; Mr MacLaren had his off stump bowled in playing forward to Richardson. Then came some fine cricket by Mr Eccles and Baker, who stayed together about an hour and a quarter, the partnership adding 77 runs. Mr Eccles, who did so well at Lord's in Oxford v Cambridge, played fine cricket. Lancashire want 399 to avert the follow-on with six wickets to fall. There were fully 12,000 spectators on the ground.

INDIVIDUAL SCORES OF 300 AND OVER IN FIRST-CLASS CRICKET

In view of what was done at Kennington Oval yesterday by Hayward and at Chesterfield by J T Brown, it may be interesting to give below the full record of individual scores of 300 and over made by batsmen in first-class matches:-

424	A C MacLaren, for Lancashire v Somerset, at Taunton, in 1895
344	W G Grace, for M.C.C. v Kent, at Canterbury, in 1876
338	W W Read, for Surrey v Oxford University, at Kennington Oval, in 1888
321	W L Murdoch, for New South Wales v Victoria, at Sydney, in 1882
318 not out	W G Grace, for Gloucestershire v Yorkshire, at Cheltenham, in 1876
315 not out	T Hayward, for Surrey v Lancashire, at Kennington Oval, in 1898
311	J T Brown, for Yorkshire v Sussex, at Sheffield, in 1897
301	W G Grace, for Gloucestershire v Sussex, at Bristol, in 1896
300	J T Brown, for Yorkshire v Derbyshire, at Chesterfield, in 1898

Thus it will be seen that W G Grace has accomplished the feat three times, J T Brown twice, and A C MacLaren, W W Read, W L Murdoch and T Hayward once each.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 August, page 5)

The great point in Saturday's cricket at the Oval was the wonderful care shown by Albert Ward, to whom Lancashire were mainly indebted for saving the game with Surrey. Ward went in first soon after 1 o'clock in the follow-in and for nearly four hours he kept up his end. His untiring energy in simply playing the ball and never attempting to score from anything but a bad delivery were greatly appreciated by practical cricketers, but his tactics were not pleasing to many spectators, as could be gathered from the ironical cheering with which his runs were usually received.

It was in vain that Lockwood varied his pace and that Richardson bowled very fast and kept a good length. Ward frustrated all their efforts and was not out at the finish with 63. Hallows and Tyldesley both played very good cricket, but Mr MacLaren in the circumstances, abandoning his usual freedom, played for the draw. He was in 40 minutes for his 15.

When Surrey on Saturday morning finished off the first Lancashire innings in less than an hour and a half, getting down the six outstanding wickets for an addition of 57 runs, their friends began to think of victory; but the wicket was so true that the resolute defensive game adopted by the Lancastrians in the second innings proved successful. The Surrey fielding was good, and the catches that got rid of Tyldesley, MacLaren and Hallows were notable. For the third day the attendance again ran to about 12,000 . . .

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages for the season are given below:-

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in Times		Average
			Inns.	not out	
W G Quaife	23	984	157*	7	61.50
Abel	36	1798	219	3	54.48
Mr C B Fry	33	1503	133	3	50.10
Mr A E Stoddart	24	1031	157	3	49.09
W Gunn	32	1311	236*	5	48.55
Storer	33	1385	109	4	47.75
Shrewsbury	32	1187	154*	7	47.48
Dr W G Grace	35	1372	168	5	45.73
Hayward	30	1206	315*	2	44.55
Mr J R Mason	32	1259	152	3	43.37
Mr F S Jackson	35	1364	160	3	42.62
Mr L C H Palairot	24	921	179*	2	41.86
Tunnicliffe	41	1522	243	4	41.13
Brockwell	37	1382	135	2	39.48
Mr C O H Sewell	34	1106	111	3	38.25
Mr W Troup	28	914	180	4	38.08
Mr P Perrin	31	967	106*	5	37.19
Mr C McGahey	29	991	145	2	36.70
Mr C L Townsend	31	1120	159	0	36.12
Mr W H Patterson	19	576	117	3	36.00
Tyldesley	45	1617	127	0	35.93
Holland	26	888	126	1	35.52
Mr F G J Ford	25	852	127	1	35.50
Mr S M J Woods	27	958	144	0	35.48
Mr D L A Jephson	28	829	166*	4	34.54
Alec Hearne	35	1055	117	4	34.03
Mr C J Burnup	36	1147	131	2	33.73
J T Brown	41	1291	300	2	33.10
Lord Hawke	32	844	134	6	32.46
Lockwood	30	811	109	5	32.44
Mr G Brann	25	760	118	0	30.40
Mr J A Dixon	26	693	165	3	30.13
Mr K J Key	25	602	85	5	30.10
Albert Ward	45	1248	135	3	29.71
Mr A P Lucas	19	472	89	3	29.50
Mr A O Jones	30	817	70	2	29.17
Carpenter	34	919	133	1	27.84
Rev W Rashleigh	15	389	105	1	27.78
Mr H G Owen	28	734	92	1	27.18
Baker	37	877	70	4	26.57
Mr W L Murdoch	44	1036	121*	3	26.00
Mr A Eccles	26	621	139	2	25.87
F Sugg	39	978	169	1	25.73
Mr A C MacLaren	12	285	76	0	23.75
Mr F H E Cunliffe	23	398	70	6	23.41

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	1037.2	411	1800	132	13.63
Roche	152.4	48	421	30	14.03
Mr F S Jackson	772.3	303	1348	93	14.49
Wainwright	446.3	165	845	60	14.68
J T Hearne	1536.4	672	2581	174	14.83
G Davidson	969.4	458	1402	91	15.40

Baldwin (Hants)	430.3	141	880	57	15.43
Lockwood	965	285	2142	128	16.59
Trott	827.2	288	1956	114	17.24
Haigh	812	291	1694	98	17.28
Mead	921.2	329	1786	99	18.04
Mr C J Kortright	590.1	159	1609	85	18.92
Martin (Kent)	705.3	235	1359	70	19.41
Mr D L A Jephson	246.2	42	662	33	20.06
Mr C L Townsend	1004.3	210	2672	128	20.87
Richardson	981.4	270	2499	118	21.17
Mr G L Jessop	625.1	177	1375	64	21.48
Cuttell	1200.3	584	2133	99	21.54
Mr F G Bull	834	261	1913	88	21.73
Attewell	988.3	463	1479	68	21.75
Mold	836.3	284	1930	88	22.44
Alec Hearne	722.2	293	1288	55	23.00
Mr J R Mason	610.2	223	1359	58	23.43
Tyler	684	145	1860	79	23.54
Mr F H E Cunliffe	499.4	160	1182	50	23.64
Tate (Sussex)	789.3	254	1664	70	23.77
Briggs	888.3	313	1850	76	24.34
Bland	766	216	1864	76	24.52
Woodcock	517.4	134	1402	57	24.59
Dr W G Grace	466.3	154	900	35	25.71
Parris	732.1	235	1481	51	29.03
Mr S M J Woods	279.2	70	814	28	29.07

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Yorkshire can now be deprived of their position at the head of the counties only in the event of their defeat by Sussex in their last match at Brighton to-day. Were this contingency to occur and were Surrey to win all their three last matches or to win two and draw the third, Surrey would beat Yorkshire in the proportion of points as laid down by the principle of the Marylebone Club system. But it is unlikely, even in a game of such uncertainty as cricket, that the Sussex side can beat Yorkshire on such a batsman's ground as the Hove; so that the friends of Yorkshire, remembering the thoroughness of the team right through, have shown no anxiety as to the result.

Nottinghamshire finished their programme on Saturday; but their record of 13 drawn games against one win and two losses goes to show how much the side lack skilful bowling. The positions of the counties up to the present are set out below:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points in finished matches
Yorkshire	25	15	3	7	12	.6
Surrey	21	10	3	8	7	.53
Gloucestershire	19	8	3	8	5	.45
Middlesex	15	7	3	5	4	.4
Lancashire	24	9	5	10	4	.28
Essex	18	9	5	4	4	.28

The other counties stand thus:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Kent	17	4	4	9	0
Nottinghamshire	16	1	2	13	-1
Sussex	18	3	7	8	-4
Derbyshire	14	2	6	6	-4
Warwickshire	14	1	5	8	-4
Hampshire	17	2	8	7	-6
Leicestershire	15	1	9	5	-8

Somerset 15 1 10 4 -9

The matches between Surrey and Derbyshire on May 19 and between Surrey and Warwickshire on May 23 were abandoned owing to the bad weather.

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., one point shall be reckoned for each win; one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE AVERAGES

The Nottinghamshire eleven are the first to complete their county matches. But their record is very disappointing, for if they have been beaten only twice they have won but a solitary game in 16 fixtures. Notts are labouring under a difficulty that was unknown to them a dozen years ago, and that is the feebleness of their bowling, while the young players who promised well last season and the season before have not improved.

Attewell still retains his fine pitch; and the great work that has fallen upon him of late years may account for the lack of that sting which his bowling used to possess. A good many great bowlers have been allowed to escape from the villages of Nottinghamshire; but the adoption of the policy of retaining native talent on Trent-bridge has not yet yielded much fruit.

With two such batsmen as Gunn and Shrewsbury, and two less distinguished players like Mr J A Dixon and Mr A O Jones to help, the batting has been good, but it has also invariably been slow, and the tactics of the side in playing for safety rather than victory have given rise to considerable comment.

Another point in Notts' play has been much commented on, and that is the diffidence shown by the captain in taking advantage of the closure rule. In the holiday match at the Oval Mr Dixon might have made a safe bid to win, for the best sides sometimes fail to score on the best wicket.

500 runs: Gunn 1107 (av. 48.13), Shrewsbury 1076 (av. 51.23), Mr A O Jones 756 (av. 29.07), Mr J A Dixon 644 (av. 32.20)

30 wickets: Attewell 61 (av. 22.70), Wass 31 (av. 31.25), Mr A O Jones 30 (av. 26.83)

22 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5099.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 August, page 9)

The return match between Gloucestershire and Surrey, which began yesterday on the Clifton College ground, was looked forward to with more than ordinary interest. The weather was all that could be desired, but a heavy thunderstorm during Sunday night had so seriously affected the wicket that throughout the afternoon the bowlers had a decided advantage. So hard a matter was it to get runs that in the course of four hours and three-quarters 17 wickets went down for an aggregate of 250.

In the absence of Mr Key, Mr Jephson acted as captain of the Surrey eleven, and on winning the toss in the morning he did not quite know what to do. After some deliberation, however, he decided to take first innings. At the end of the day's cricket Gloucestershire, with three wickets to go down, held a lead of ten runs.

The Surrey men were batting for two hours and ten minutes, losing nine wickets before luncheon for 104 and scoring in the end 120. It never seemed likely that they would do any better than this, Abel being out when only three runs had been scored, Brockwell leaving at five and Holland at 24. The last-named batsman was very lucky, being twice missed and making two other hits that were nearly chances.

Mr Jephson himself showed the best batting on the side. Going in fourth wicket down with the score at 42, he was out seventh at 100, his innings of 32 lasting exactly an hour. Braund helped him to put on 32 runs for the seventh wicket, this being the best stand of the innings. Mr Townsend, who in the previous fortnight had taken 55 wickets for Gloucestershire, again met with conspicuous success, five wickets falling to him at a cost of 61 runs. He was well backed up by Mr Jessop and Mr Brown, the latter having a remarkable analysis.

Gloucestershire, on going in at 25 minutes past 3, started very well, Dr Grace and Mr Troup scoring 36 together for the first wicket. Both left at the same total, Dr Grace playing on. After this the batting for a time broke down before Lockwood and Richardson, and when the sixth wicket fell the total was only 67. Surrey had then decidedly the best of the game, but Mr Townsend and Mr Brown, by some very fine play, succeeded in turning its fortunes. They were together for three-quarters of an hour and in that time put on 46 runs, the score being 113 when Mr Brown was bowled.

Mr Townsend found another useful partner in young Mr Grace and, without further loss, the score was increased to 130 when stumps were drawn. Mr Townsend has made many bigger scores this season than his 39 not out, but considering the bowling he had to face and the difficult wicket, he has not often shown finer cricket. The number of people on the College ground was estimated at about 4,000.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 August, page 8)

The cricket on the second day of this match at Clifton was particularly interesting; but some dropped catches helped Surrey to rally and in the end Gloucestershire were set a task which may not be easy to accomplish considering the difficulties of the pitch. When stumps were drawn on Monday Surrey had scored 120, while Gloucestershire had made 130 for the loss of seven batsmen.

The remainder of Gloucestershire's innings extended over exactly an hour yesterday morning, the three outstanding wickets yielding 69 runs. This capital addition was practically the work of Mr Townsend and Board, who, in 40 minutes, scored 57 for the last wicket. Mr Townsend, who had gone in on Monday first wicket down at 36, was the last man out. He batted for two hours and three-quarters without giving a chance. When he reached 49, however, he was completely beaten and bowled by a no-ball. Under the conditions which prevailed his innings was a very fine one, and his chief hits were a five, six fours, five

threes and six twos. The Gloucestershire total reached the responsible figure of 199 and Surrey were thus in a minority of 79.

A shower of rain between the innings delayed the resumption for over 50 minutes, and Surrey, in the 35 minutes before luncheon, did very badly, losing two good wickets - those of Abel and Holland - for 39 runs. With the pitch drying after the interval the Surrey men found themselves at a disadvantage, and for a long time fared so disastrously that half the side were out for 62.

From this point, however, the batting steadily improved. Mr Jephson, who went in first wicket down [?] at 47, played a splendid game, staying in till the score was 118 and being seventh out. When he had made seven, however, he should have been caught and bowled by Mr Townsend. He was batting an hour and 20 minutes, and hit five fours, a three and two twos.

The wicket was now improving and the remaining batsmen were quick to avail themselves of the change, Mr Crawford being seen to great advantage than in any previous county match in which he has taken part. He and Braund scored 40 for the eighth wicket, Wood helped to add 26 for the ninth, and then Richardson, by some vigorous cricket, helped to put on 32 before the last man was out at 216. Mr Crawford, who took out his bat for 48, might have been caught when 34, but no other fault could be found with his play.

Wanting 138 to win Gloucestershire had five minutes' batting at the close and scored two runs without loss.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 August, page 10)

At Clifton yesterday the Gloucestershire eleven finished a brilliant season in capital style by defeating Surrey by five wickets. It was a well-earned victory, though Surrey were sadly handicapped yesterday morning. Lockwood, owing to the combined effects of a chill and a damaged arm, were only able to bowl one over.

With all ten wickets to fall, Gloucestershire wanted 136 runs, and these they hit off in two hours and a quarter, the game coming to an end before lunch-time. Mr Brown was caught at the wicket with the score at 29, but when Mr Troup, the other not-out of Tuesday night, was joined by Mr Champain a stand was made which went far to determine the result. Fifty-seven runs were put on in three-quarters of an hour, Mr Champain, who hit six fours in a capital innings of 30, being then out to a catch at cover-point.

After he left Gloucestershire experienced a little anxiety, for, with the score still at 86, Mr Sewell was bowled, and at 97 Dr W G Grace was caught in the slips. However, Mr Townsend stayed with 20 runs were put on, and then Mr Jessop finished the match in characteristic fashion by quickly hitting up 19 out of the 21 runs still wanted. Mr Troup carried out his bat for an admirable innings of 46. He did not give anything like a chance, and the victory of the side was assured by his skilful play. The spectators, who numbered nearly 2,000, were very enthusiastic at the finish.

22 August: KENT v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5100.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 August, page 9)

There was some splendid cricket at Tonbridge yesterday in the return match between Kent and Essex, and this was the more surprising so far as the batting was concerned seeing that, through the ground having been too freely watered, play was impracticable before 1 o'clock. The Angel cricket field is not much above the level of the Medway, and even in the hot weather experienced of late there could never have been much anxiety about getting a pitch well bound together, so that so much watering was rather unnecessary.

So wet was the wicket, however, that when the umpires inspected it at mid-day a quick decision was given that play was impossible for an hour; and when the toss came the Essex captain decided to put his opponents in. This is a policy to which is attached much risk; and yesterday the superb batting of several of the Kent eleven, who were, perhaps, here and there a little fortunate in the matter of timing the ball, made Mr Owen regret of his decision.

Mr Patterson and Alec Hearne are fine batsmen on bad wickets and their watchfulness and patience laid the foundation of Kent's excellent score, for they were together for an hour and a half when the pitch was at its worst, and made 84. Mr Patterson, who was well stumped, hit six fours in his 49.

But the event of the day was the dashing innings of the Kent captain, Mr J R Mason. Mead beat him twice in his first over; but thereafter he played a wonderful game; he stood even more upright than usual and his off-driving and cutting were full of power, while late in his innings he hit very hard on the leg side. Mr Mason, who was fourth out at 180, made his 59 in three-quarters of an hour and hit 11 fours.

Alec Hearne played careful and good cricket; and Walter Wright, playing with considerable vigour, had much to do with the last 60 or 70 runs. In the end Kent were out for 281, an exceptionally fine score under the circumstances. Walter Mead, in spite of much bad luck, came out with a fine analysis. The ground will probably roll out pretty well to-day, so that Essex should get plenty of runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 August, page 8)

The Essex eleven had to play an uphill game yesterday at Tonbridge and, considering all the circumstances, they may be said to have acquitted themselves well. The principal feature in the day's cricket was the innings of young Carpenter after Essex had followed on. He went in at the fall of the first wicket at 20 and was the fifth out at 197 for 103. He was batting about two hours and three-quarters and there was scarcely a mistimed ball in his innings. His off-driving was particularly powerful and he hit 15 fours. It was not his first century for Essex this season, and he and McGahey had each the distinction of reaching his 1,000 aggregate yesterday at Tonbridge.

Mr Turner, of the Royal Artillery, played steadily and helped Carpenter to add 86 for the fifth wicket, but apart from this batting there was nothing to commend itself in the Essex play. The Kent men fielded and bowled very well; but the pitch helped the side greatly and it can only be regretted that the wicket was so much watered as to prevent the game from being played through under equal conditions. Mr Owen, the Essex captain, is not the first who has had to regret the policy of putting in opponents.

The ball yesterday morning came at all sorts of paces from the pitch, but subsequent to luncheon the turf played much better. The position of the match promises Kent an easy victory.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 August, page 10)

Kent's easy victory by seven wickets at Tonbridge yesterday was not unexpected from the position of the game on Tuesday evening, when, with seven men out, Essex were only 71 ahead after having followed on.

Yesterday's cricket was commonplace. When Kent started to make 120 Burnup and Alec Hearne looked like hitting off the runs easily. However, with 50 on the board Burnup, in hitting Bull, gave extra mid-off an easy catch. The subsequent batting of Mr Patterson and Alec Hearne was dull. If Mr Owen is condemned for putting his opponents in on the spoilt wicket of Monday, it must not be forgotten that the first innings of Kent was quite a remarkable performance, for the runs were made by great batsmen under immense difficulties.

22 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5101.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 August, page 9)

Heavy rain during Sunday night and a bright sun yesterday morning rendered the wicket at Leicester treacherous and the batsmen found themselves at a disadvantage. However, there was one performance worthy of mention, Mr Wood playing a splendid innings of 61 for Leicestershire and saving his side from what would otherwise have been complete failure. He went in first and was seventh out at 100, having made his runs in two hours and ten minutes. His cricket throughout was marked by great patience and skill.

The start of the Warwickshire innings was disastrous, Devey, when only nine runs had been scored, being well caught and bowled, while Diver at 11 was out to a catch in the deep field. William Quaife and Kinneir then stayed until the close, when the total had been raised to 30. Thus Warwickshire, with eight wickets to go down, are 126 runs behind.

Mr F R Loveitt, the Rugby international three-quarter, is making his first appearance for Warwickshire, and Mr H R Parkes is also included in the eleven, Walter Quaife and Mr J F Byrne standing down. On the Leicestershire side Woodcock is absent owing to illness.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 August, page 8)

A capital day's cricket was witnessed at Leicester yesterday and, thanks to some excellent batting on the part of Kinneir, Santall and Dickens, Warwickshire quite recovered from their bad start on Monday and at the close of the day left off with a decided advantage. Certainly under the conditions which prevailed yesterday batsmen were not placed at such a disadvantage as on the previous day, but once or twice it seemed quite likely that Warwickshire would not secure a good lead after an innings had been completed on each side.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 August, page 10)

After outplaying Leicestershire in the early stages of the match, at Leicester, the Warwickshire eleven yesterday gained a victory by seven wickets. This result was by no means unexpected, as at the close of play on Tuesday Leicestershire, who were in arrear on the first innings by 100, had lost two good batsmen for 60.

Three more wickets fell quickly and it was only through the splendid batting of Mr de Trafford that Leicestershire in the end put together the responsible score of 235. Mr de Trafford, who gave his best display of the season, hit up 90 in two hours and three-quarters, and though he had some luck he played very well. His chief hits were a six, six fours, two threes and nine twos. Geeson helped him to put on 61 in a little over an hour, while Mr Stocks assisted him to add 42 for the ninth wicket.

Warwickshire required 136 to win and, as they had two hours and a half at their disposal, little doubt could be felt as to the result. Devey and Lilley, who went in first, did not give much trouble and, though Devey hit well for 30, three wickets were down for 55. As it happened Warwickshire sustained no further loss, William Quaife and Mr Glover hitting off the remaining 81 in 55 minutes. Mr Glover, who scored 56 not out, played an attractive game, his innings including one five, six fours, three threes and four twos.

22 August: MIDDLESEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5102.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 August, page 9)

Middlesex, after winning two matches in brilliant style in the North of England last week, reappeared at Lord's yesterday, when they entered upon their return match with Lancashire. They made one change from the side that beat Notts in a single innings on Saturday, Mr A J Webbe standing down and Mr H H Cobb filling the vacancy. In the Lancashire eleven Mold took his place for the first time since he broke down in the match against Kent at Canterbury, and Sugg was again included, Hartley and Lancaster being left out to make room for them. Mr Stoddart was still unable to assist the home side owing to a strain.

Middlesex had the good fortune to win the toss and batted nearly four hours and a half for a total of 311. A thick haze hung over the ground at noon, but it lifted soon afterwards, and the weather all the time the game was in progress proved delightfully bright, if rather too hot to be pleasant. The match was a great attraction, the attendance in the course of the afternoon amounting to quite 8,000.

The home team commenced rather badly, Mr James Douglas playing on with the score at 10, but then came some very free and stylish cricket on the part of Mr Warner and Mr Ford, who, in about an hour and a quarter, put on 115 runs. Mr Warner for a time scored almost as freely as his partner, but later on Mr Ford almost monopolized the run-getting. The latter might have been dismissed by Mold in the slips when 40, but otherwise played in most brilliant style, his driving being, as usual the great feature of his play. He made 76 before being bowled by Mold, amongst his hits being 11 fours, a three and seven twos. Mr Warner was out in the same over for a thoroughly well-played 42.

Subsequently the batting, although fairly successful, never reached quite the same degree of excellence. Mr R N Douglas and Rawlin put on 49 runs for the fourth wicket, and Mr Wells and Mr Cobb 53 for the sixth. Mr Wells scored his 36 runs in highly creditable form, but Mr Cobb, who in the end carried out his bat for 55, was not seen to real advantage. At no time did this gentleman play Mold at all well, and he must have had numerous narrow escapes from being bowled. Moreover, except for a few hits on the off-side, he scored his runs very luckily, repeatedly attempting to drive and getting the ball clear of the ground in the slips.

Of the Lancashire bowlers Cuttell was the most successful with five wickets for 75. In dismissing Mr Wells Cuttell obtained his hundredth wicket in first-class cricket this season.

Only 20 minutes remained for cricket when Lancashire began their innings, but Mr MacLaren, instead of sending in two of the less-prominent batsmen, went in himself with Ward. The policy was justified, for at the drawing of stumps 15 runs had been made without loss.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 August, page 8)

Lancashire were at a great disadvantage in their match against Middlesex at Lord's yesterday, Mr MacLaren, after batting for nearly half-an-hour, being seized with such severe neuralgic pains in the head that he was compelled to abandon his innings and took no further part in the game. The indisposition of the Lancashire captain was particularly unfortunate for the visitors, as at the time he was obliged to retire the northern team had made 36 runs without loss and, moreover, Mr MacLaren and Ward were showing great skill against some splendid bowling on the part of Hearne and Trott.

Admitting fully that the breakdown of Mr MacLaren rendered the task for Middlesex far more easy than it would otherwise have been, there can be no question that the play of the home side was maintained all day at an exceptionally high standard. The game ended in a single innings victory for Middlesex. The fielding was really admirable. Mr Cunliffe, at mid-off, and Mr James Douglas, in the long field, were brilliant in the extreme and, indeed, every

man on the side did fine work in the course of the day. Not only was the ground work remarkably clean but, so far as could be seen, not a single catch was missed all day.

After Mr MacLaren's retirement Ward and Tyldesley played very well for 50 minutes, and the Lancashire score was up to 74 before a wicket fell. At that point Ward, who had played steadily and well for an hour and a half, was caught at cover-point, and afterwards Hearne, Mr Cunliffe and Trott bowled so finely that in less than 70 more minutes eight wickets fell for the addition of 43 runs, the Lancashire innings coming to an end just before 2 o'clock for 117. Hearne's bowling figures were particularly worthy of note.

Lancashire followed on, 194 runs in arrears, after the interval, and losing Sugg and Tyldesley by the time 17 runs had been made they never looked like retrieving their ground. So steady was the bowling that it took Ward and Mr Eccles half-an-hour to add nine runs. The amateur played with some freedom afterwards and, altogether, the partnership for the third wicket produced 41 runs in less than an hour. Mr Wells disposed of Mr Eccles and followed up his success by getting rid of Hallows and Cuttell, both of whom were out to very neat catches at long-off by Mr Cobb. Cuttell, it may be mentioned, scored his 24 runs in six hits.

Ward, who batted with unwearying patience for two hours and a half, was dismissed at 124, just touching the ball which lodged between MacGregor's legs. After his departure Hearne quickly disposed of Briggs, Mold and Radcliffe. With Lancashire all out for 161, Middlesex were left with a brilliant victory by an innings and 33 runs. Delightful weather prevailed and about 5,000 people witnessed the splendid work of the Middlesex eleven.

22 August: SUSSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5103.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 August, page 9)

At Brighton yesterday the Yorkshiremen fared exceedingly well, scoring 355 for the loss of nine batsmen. They thus practically placed themselves out of danger of defeat, so that the day's cricket may be said to have ensured their triumph in the county championship.

A splendid start was made for the northern team by Brown and Tunnicliffe, who followed up their record partnership of 554 against Derbyshire at Chesterfield by putting on 133 yesterday. Tunnicliffe played exceedingly well for 47, but his performance was completely dwarfed by that of Brown, who in three hours and 20 minutes put together a splendid score of 150. The latter batsman was third out at 275 and, except that he found himself compelled to exercise great care in playing Killick's leg breaks, he was always master of the bowling and scarcely ever made a bad stroke. Amongst his hits were 24 fours, five threes and seven twos.

Mr Jackson helped him to put on 110 for the second wicket, but the Yorkshire amateur was by no means in his best form, although he scored 50. After Brown left there was some fair batting by Denton, Lord Hawke and Rhodes, but despite the efforts of these players six wickets went down for the addition of only 80 runs.

Yorkshire, for the first time this season, enjoyed the services of Mr C E M Wilson, the Cambridge captain, leaving out Hirst to play him, while Sussex chose Bland instead of J Bean. The weather was pleasant in the afternoon, and fully 4,000 people visited the Brighton ground.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 August, page 8)

A grand innings of 179 by Mr C B Fry was the great feature of yesterday's cricket at Brighton in the return match between Sussex and Yorkshire. On Monday Yorkshire had occupied the wickets for the whole of the day, scoring 355 for the loss of nine batsmen. Yesterday the last wicket gave a great deal of trouble, Haigh and Hunter in about 40 minutes adding 73 runs, with the result that the total reached 428.

Sussex, at the beginning of their innings, lost Mr Latham at 22, and although Mr Murdoch stayed with Mr Fry while 51 runs were put on in three-quarters of an hour there were four men out at lunch time for 93. Afterwards the fifth wicket went down at 115, but Parris proved a most valuable partner to Mr Fry, assisting the famous Oxonian to put on 88 runs in less than an hour.

With Butt and Tate cheaply dismissed, Sussex, despite the splendid cricket of Mr Fry, found themselves with eight men out and still wanting 80 runs to escape a follow-on. The chances were, of course, all against this number being obtained, but, Bland playing very well, 40 runs were added for the ninth wicket, and subsequently, Humphreys keeping up his end while Fry hit, the remaining runs were obtained and the innings closed for 311, the follow-on being averted by the narrow margin of three runs.

Mr Fry, who, in scoring 179 not out, put together his sixth three-figure innings of the present season, played wonderfully good cricket from start to finish. He gave difficult chances at 50 and 113, but these were not serious blemishes and his hitting all round the wicket was of the most brilliant description. Included in his score were 25 fours, seven threes and 13 twos. It is worthy of mention that this was the second occasion on which Mr Fry had carried his bat right through an innings for Sussex this season.

Yorkshire had 20 minutes' batting in their second innings and, scoring 12 without loss, they left off 129 runs to the good with all ten wickets in hand. About 5,000 people witnessed the creditable performance of the southern county.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 August, page 10)

Although at the start of play at Brighton, yesterday, there seemed every prospect of the game between Sussex and Yorkshire terminating in a draw, there was a most exciting finish to the match, Yorkshire winning five minutes before time by 192 runs. The wicket had worn a good deal, and in place of the fairly heavy scoring that had characterized the earlier stages of the game 17 batsmen were dismissed in the course of the day for 245 runs.

Yorkshire overnight in their second innings had scored 12 without loss, but yesterday against the bowling of Tate and Bland they found scoring so difficult that, with the exception of Tunnicliffe and Brown, no one was seen to any advantage, these two batsmen, after two wickets had fallen for 14, putting on 47 runs before Brown was out. Tunnicliffe continued to bat in excellent form, and when at 20 minutes past 3 Lord Hawke declared the innings closed he was not out 83 - an admirable innings, quite free from serious blemish, and including 11 fours, three threes and seven twos.

Only two hours and 20 minutes were left for cricket when Sussex, wanting 284 to win, commenced their second innings. There was, of course, no chance of the runs being obtained, and it is probable that Lord Hawke, if he had entertained any idea of winning, would have adopted the closure earlier than he did. Yorkshire's prospects were immediately made very bright, for Rhodes bowled Fry and Murdoch without a run.

Latham played steadily, but four wickets were down for 39 and, despite some creditable batting by Mr Newham and Killick, there were nine men out at 20 minutes to 6. A mistake by Rhodes then nearly cost Yorkshire the victory, for the partnership for the last wicket lasted a quarter of an hour, and it was five minutes to 6 when, with the innings closing for 91, Yorkshire were left with a victory. Charming weather prevailed and about 4,000 people were on the ground.

22 August: SURREY SECOND ELEVEN v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/129/129047.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 August, page 9)

As Worcestershire were the first eleven to beat Surrey's second team after some six years, much interest attached to the return match which began on the Oval yesterday. Worcestershire did very well on the day and Surrey have now an uphill game to play. F Smith, the left-hand slow bowler, took six wickets for 72 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 August, page 8)

For the second time this season Worcestershire beat the Surrey Second Eleven, and on the Oval yesterday they were successful by an innings and 11 runs. Wilson and Bird bowled well for Worcestershire.

With their brilliant win over Sussex at Brighton yesterday the Yorkshire eleven finished their county season with a record precisely the same as that by which they secured the championship in 1896. It has been a wonderful summer for them.

The most remarkable feature about their cricket has been the development of the bowling of Rhodes, who has risen to the rank of a great bowler in his first year of play for the county, and at a time, too, when the executive had thought right to discard Robert Peel. Rhodes was perhaps fortunate in coming out in a bowler's month such as May was, but he is unquestionably a fine bowler, and to find another instance of a slow bowler attaining such success in his first year we must go back to Mr A G Steel. But Mr Steel had made himself famous at Marlborough and Cambridge before he did such great things for Lancashire and England, whereas Rhodes has won his spurs almost as a probationer.

Mr F S Jackson, but his beautiful cricket in batting and bowling, has had a bigger share than ever in Yorkshire's success. As a boy at Harrow he was a great cricketer; and after going up to Cambridge he continued to get wickets and runs in a way that stamped him as one of the finest all-round cricketers of the day.

Tunnickliffe has also had a wonderful season for the county and has shown himself to be the finest short-slip now playing in first-class cricket. His work in that position was not excelled by that of George Lohmann in his best days. J T Brown towards the end of the season quite recovered his form of previous years.

Lord Hawke has batted very well this season, and he with the rest of the team is to be congratulated on the success of the side as the champion county for 1898. Their defeat on the Oval by Surrey was bad, but there is not a practical cricketer who can say that they are not the best side of the year.

500 runs: Tunnickliffe (1538 @ 48.60), Mr F S Jackson (1326 @ 45.72), J T Brown (1389 @ 36.55), Lord Hawke (797 @ 33.20), Wainwright (603 @ 23.19), Denton (819 @ 22.13), Mr F W Milligan (510 @ 17.58).

30 wickets: Rhodes (126 @ 13.84), Wainwright (56 @ 14.32), Mr F S Jackson (80 @ 15.21), Haigh (88 @ 18.38).

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE AVERAGES

The Gloucestershire eleven finished their season yesterday with a brilliant victory over Surrey. This is the best cricket year they have enjoyed for a long time.

Some of the younger members of the team have ably backed up Dr W G Grace in the cricket all round. Young Mr Townsend has been more wonderful than ever in his cricket for the county, and it may be said that, not reckoning the Graces, no cricketer of greater skill has ever played for Gloucestershire. He has the dual distinction of having scored 1,000 runs and of having taken 100 wickets for his side.

Dr W G Grace, as usual, came out strongly, while one of the most remarkable points in the play has been the batting of Mr Troup.

500 runs: Dr W G Grace (1141 @ 47.54), Mr W Troup (968 @ 38.72), Mr C L Townsend (1072 @ 33.28), Mr C O H Sewell (897 @ 33.22), Mr W S A Brown (508 @ 22.08).

30 wickets: Mr C L Townsend (130 @ 19.98), Mr G L Jessop (41 @ 23.60), Dr W G Grace (34 @ 24.47), Mr W S A Brown (39 @ 27.75).

THE LEICESTERSHIRE AVERAGES

Leicestershire finished their season yesterday. They have had rather a bad summer and the frequent absence of their two best cricketers, Pougher and Mr de Trafford, often reduced the cricket of the side much below the usual standard.

500 runs: L Brown (626 @ 26.08), Mr C J B Wood (697 @ 24.89), Knight (505 @ 19.42).

30 wickets: Geeson (44 @ 18.31), Woodcock (51 at 23.56).

25 August: HAMPSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5104.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 August, page 4)

The Warwickshire eleven were seen to much advantage at Southampton yesterday, staying in all the afternoon and running up a score of 380 for the loss of six wickets. Cricket was in progress about five hours and a quarter, so that an average rate of 73 runs an hour was kept up.

Walter Quaife and Kinneir put on 141 for the first wicket; both played steadily and well, but it was left to William Quaife to secure the highest score of the day. He and Mr Glover put on 132 in 90 minutes for the fifth wicket. Sutherland, who is in the Navy, bowled with most success for Hampshire. He is right-hand medium pace and keeps a good length; he secured four wickets.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 August, page 9)

The playing hours were shortened at Southampton yesterday owing to the rain, but there was more than sufficient time for Warwickshire to establish a big advantage. In the balance of their innings, in which 380 had been made overnight at the cost of six wickets, nothing of much note occurred. William Quaife just missed his 100, but his 99 was a careful and good innings.

Hampshire fared badly and, in spite of the stand of 52 for the seventh wicket by Barrett and Steele, they have only two men left to go in with 139 still wanted to save the follow-on.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 August, page 5)

There was no play in the following matches on Saturday owing to rain:-

. . . Hampshire v Warwickshire, at Southampton . . .

25 August: LANCASHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5105.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 August, page 4)

After an unsuccessful tour in the South The Lancashire eleven reappear at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, and on their own ground were seen quite at their best. Their opponents were Derbyshire, whose bowlers suffered so badly at the hands of Brown and Tunnicliffe, the Yorkshire professionals, last week, and once more the Midland eleven, losing the toss, were subjected to a day in the field.

So thoroughly was the Derbyshire bowling mastered that in four and a half hours of actual cricket Lancashire scored 464 runs for the loss of seven wickets. The rate of scoring was singularly even, for, after the first 100 had taken 75 minutes to obtain, each succeeding 100 was scored a trifle inside the hour.

J T Tyldesley, in playing an innings of 200, surpassed all his previous batting achievements in first-class cricket. Tyldesley began in quite an ordinary way, taking an hour and ten minutes to obtain his first 50 runs, but having got the measure of the bowling he played in exceptionally bright fashion, subsequently scoring at the rate of over 50 an hour. But though making runs at this rapid pace his batting was almost free from blemish. Shortly after passing the 100 he gave a chance in the slips, but except for one other bad stroke his game was practically faultless.

Some capital batting was also shown by Cuttell, Baker and Frank Sugg, the last-named completing his 1,000 runs in important cricket this season. The weather was delightfully fine and 5,000 spectators witnessed the cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 August, page 9)

As rain fell in Manchester yesterday during the early part of the day, no progress could be made with the return match between Lancashire and Derbyshire until after luncheon. When cricket was found practicable, Lancashire, who had scored 464 for the loss of seven wickets, played so vigorously that 82 runs were added before the innings closed. Mr Hornby and Mold both hit well, the latter assisting Briggs to put on 40 runs for the last wicket. Briggs gave two or three chances towards the close, but his score of 57 not out included some capital hits.

As the afternoon advanced the wicket, under the influence of sunshine, became very difficult, and Derbyshire in facing a total of 546 found themselves in a practically hopeless position. Storer played steadily for an hour and a quarter, but his colleagues could make nothing of the bowling of Cuttell and Briggs, and in two hours eight batsmen were dismissed for 77 runs. Thus, as the game was left last evening, Derbyshire with two wickets to go down required no fewer than 350 runs to escape a follow-on.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 August, page 5)

There was no play in the following matches on Saturday owing to rain:-

Lancashire v Derbyshire, at Manchester . . .

25 August: MIDDLESEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5106.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 August, page 4)

Yesterday's cricket at Lord's was made noteworthy by a fine hour's batting after 5 o'clock by Mr F G J Ford, who scored 93 out of the 127 for the second wicket of Middlesex. Mr Ford has obtained several high scores for his county this season, but he has never equalled his play of yesterday.

All the members of the Ford family are noted for their great hitting powers, but F G J Ford is the most famous. He obtains his runs mostly by "boundaries" from the off-drive and the cut, and the way he keeps the ball along the ground is remarkable. Mr Ford's splendid batting gave a great advantage to Middlesex, who, with the loss of one wicket, are within 47 of Kent's total.

The Kent batting was generally poor, and nearly all the side seemed at a loss in playing the great Middlesex bowlers, Jack Hearne and Albert Trott. Kent's innings lasted from midday until nearly half-past 4, but it was absolutely devoid of excellence, with the exception of Mr Rashleigh and Mr Day. The latter had the distinction of making the highest score for his side, but Mr Rashleigh played the finer cricket, his cutting and driving, as usual, bringing him most of his runs.

Jack Hearne bowled splendidly; he kept a fine length and got plenty of work on to the ball, while he was backed up by brilliant fielding. Mr MacGregor was in his best form at the wicket, and the catches which dismissed Rashleigh in the long field and Bannon at third man were among the best incidents of the day. There were 5,000 spectators and there was an enthusiastic demonstration with "calls" for Ford at the finish.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 August, page 9)

Middlesex, at Lord's yesterday, not only gained an advantage of 261 on the first innings, but dismissed one Kent man in the second for 60. There was a marked contrast in the pace and style of the two centuries contributed to the Middlesex score by Mr James Douglas and Mr F G J Ford. Mr Ford's 135 runs were made out of the 183 added for the second wicket in 105 minutes; and his cricket displayed his usual hard cutting and driving, and he almost always kept the ball well down. No and again he was a little out in his timing, which was not surprising considering the pace at which he scored. He hit 22 fours.

Mr Douglas seemed a little unsteady as he neared his 50 and his 100, but otherwise his cricket was almost faultless. He took about four hours and a half to get his runs, and he hit 23 fours, being sixth out at 367 to a remarkable catch at mid-on played by Mr Rashleigh. Other good cricket was played by Mr Cobb and Rawlin. Albert Trott made 29 in about 12 minutes. The Kent bowling at no time looked very deadly on the true pitch; but the figures would have worked out better had all the catches been held. Mr Mason was by far the most successful with the ball, and his six for 142 was a very good performance in such a big score as 448.

The light was bad when Kent began their uphill fight, and there was soon a delay of a quarter of an hour. Mr Mason made many fine hits on the off side; but he gave three difficult chances in the slips off Jack Hearne. There were five or six thousand people on the ground, and until late in the day the weather was very pleasant.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 August, page 5)

Another brilliant victory has to be recorded for the Middlesex eleven, making their sixth successive win and their seventh in eight matches. Kent, who were beaten at Lord's on Saturday by an innings and 96 runs, fared worse on the last than on the first day of the fixture, and their batsmen, even though the pitch was true, made a lamentable display

against the fine bowling of Albert Trott and Jack Hearne. It was the latter's match in bowling, for he took 12 wickets for 127 runs, and as he had secured eight against Lancashire on the Tuesday he may be said to have done a very good week's work. Hearne now requires only six wickets to complete his 200 aggregate for the season.

The one redeeming feature in the Kent second innings was the batting of Mr J R Mason, the captain; he increased his overnight 40 to 70, and was then fourth out at 122, having hit ten fours, three threes, four twos and singles. Mr Blaker, the old Westminster boy, at a difficult time played some very steady cricket. Mr MacGregor was in great form at the wicket and had a hand in the dismissal of seven of the Kent team in the two innings.

25 August: SOMERSET v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5107.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 August, page 4)

For three years in succession Surrey have been beaten by Somerset at Taunton, and yesterday they had 392 runs scored against them and only succeeded in getting down five wickets. The visiting team were seriously handicapped by the disablement of Lockwood, who, although suffering from an injury to the elbow, fielded for two hours, but then found himself compelled to return to town for treatment. Baldwin was permitted to take his place. Somerset lacked the services of Messrs Wood and V T Hill, the former being prevented for playing through an injury.

Somerset began badly, losing Mr Stanley with the score at 11; but then the brothers Palairret obtained a complete mastery over the Surrey bowling and in an hour and three-quarters put on no fewer than 149 runs. Mr Richard Palairret, who had given a chance at the wicket when he had scored 15, was then dismissed by a very good ball. But for this one mistake he had batted in excellent style for his 50, which included quite a large proportion of well-timed hits. Mr Lionel Palairret was not got rid of until he had made 107 - his fourth hundred during the present season. He gave no chance and made scarcely a single bad stroke, a splendid display of batting being made up by 16 fours, four threes, five twos and singles.

The Surrey bowling was afterwards punished by Mr Roe and Mr Phillips even more severely than it had been previously, these two gentlemen hitting so finely that they added 168 in an hour and three-quarters. Mr Phillips gave no chance in a brilliant 83 and Mr Roe was not out for an admirable 102 at the call of time. Pleasant weather prevailed and great enthusiasm was displayed by the fairly large company that assembled at the Taunton ground.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 August, page 9)

Considering that on Thursday Surrey were in the field all day and had 392 runs scored against them for five wickets, they had very fair reason to be satisfied with yesterday's cricket at Taunton. Rain during the early hours rendered the pitch rather slow at first, but, nevertheless, 433 runs were obtained before the drawing of stumps.

Somerset on proceeding with their innings made no attempt to play carefully, and in 40 minutes the five outstanding wickets collapsed for the addition of 65 runs. Mr Roe added only nine runs to his score of 102 before Brockwell dismissed him. He played bright and attractive cricket for rather more than three hours and hit 12 fours, three threes and 11 twos. Tyler made 20 in ten minutes, but the innings was all over for 457. Richardson, who had 164 runs hit from him, bowled much better than anyone else and obtained seven wickets.

Surrey, on going in to bat, soon lost Brockwell, but at lunch time Abel and Holland had raised the score to 74 without further loss. Although half the side were out for 120, Surrey played up very pluckily and the total reached 236. Still the visitors found themselves 221 runs behind.

On following on Surrey lost Abel at 14, but then came some very spirited batting by Holland and Brockwell, who, in 55 minutes, actually added 118 runs without being separated. Holland, who played with remarkable brilliancy, thrice hit three fours in one over. As the game was left last evening Surrey, with the loss of one wicket in their second innings, were within 89 runs of their opponents.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 August, page 5)

The expectation that the match at Taunton would be productive of a close finish on Saturday was not realized. Thanks to their own plucky batting and the mistakes of their opponents the Surrey men easily averted the disaster that had threatened them and actually held off with the best of the draw.

On Friday Surrey following on in a minority of 221 had scored 132 for one wicket, and on the third day they actually raised their total to 468, the nine outstanding wickets adding 336 runs. The honours of this fine achievement were well distributed, but Brockwell, Holland and Hayward gained the chief distinction.

Overnight Brockwell and Holland had come together with the score at 14, and they were not separated until the total had reached 165. In an hour and a quarter they put on 151 runs, Holland making 88 of the number. He played a splendid forcing game, hitting with tremendous power, but though taking risks he gave no chance. His score included no fewer than 16 fours.

The arrears were cleared off with eight wickets in hand, but Crawford left soon afterwards. However, Brockwell and Hayward added 53 while together, and the latter and Mr Jephson put on 86 in 75 minutes. Brockwell, who had the satisfaction of reaching his 100, was at the wickets for three hours, and though he should have been caught when 71 he played a wonderfully sound game. He hit 12 fours, four threes and four twos.

Hayward also gave a brilliant display, scoring 90 in two hours without giving a chance. Mr Jephson, however, was lucky, being missed three times, the first being before he had scored, while Braund also had a life. Baldwin, Hayes and Richardson all made useful scores, Wood being the only member of the side failing to reach double figures.

Wanting 248 to win, Somerset had half an hour's batting and lost three wickets for 42, Mr Phillips hitting freely. The last bit of cricket could not be taken seriously, as Braund kept wicket while Jephson, Holland and Wood bowled.

25 August: YORKSHIRE v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5107.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 26 August, page 4)

In the opening match of the annual festival at Scarborough the Yorkshire team were opposed by a Marylebone eleven strong in professionals but rather weak in amateurs.

The county players had been travelling all night after their victory over Surrey at Brighton on Wednesday evening, but, winning the toss, they made a splendid start, Brown and Tunnicliffe in 70 minutes putting on 119 runs for the first wicket. This is the third occasion in three matches that these two professionals have raised the score to more than a hundred before being separated. Tunnicliffe, who was then dismissed, hit up 66 in dashing style, his score including thirteen fours.

With Mr Jackson in, the total was increased to 182 by lunch time, but afterwards there came a truly extraordinary collapse, nine wickets falling for the addition of only 43 runs. An exceptionally heavy dew during the night left the wicket easy during the morning, but, drying under the influence of bright sunshine, the turf subsequently afforded the bowlers great assistance. It might also be urged in excuse for the breakdown of the Yorkshire batting that the men had only arrived in Scarborough at 6 o'clock in the morning.

Brown played splendid cricket throughout, making 80 of his runs in fours. Mr Jackson, Denton, Brown and Mr Milligan were all out with the total at 194, and of the last eight batsmen only Lord Hawke reached double figures, Mead and Attewell bowling very finely after the interval.

Against the Yorkshire total of 225 the M.C.C. scored 100 for the loss of three wickets, the best form for the visitors being that of Mr Wright and Gunn, who added 59 for the second wicket. Charming weather prevailed and nearly 5,000 spectators witnessed the play.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 August, page 9)

Rain very considerably curtailed the day's play at Scarborough yesterday, which was limited to a little over two hours and a half. On Thursday, the M.C.C. got rid of Yorkshire for 225 and then made 100 for the loss of three wickets.

These three were nearly the best men on the side and it did not appear as though the club had much advantage. However, Mr Wilson and Mr Chinnery obtained such a complete mastery over the Yorkshire bowling when the game was resumed that before they were parted they placed their side in a very favourable position. Before the rain came on at 25 minutes to 2 they had raised the total to 223, and after another start had been made at 25 minutes past 4 they carried it to 230 before Mr Wilson was bowled for an extremely fine innings of 57. He made no mistake and his best hits were ten fours. Altogether the partnership produced 130 runs in about an hour and a half.

Twenty runs later when within three of his 100 Mr Chinnery's fine innings was brought to a close. His batting throughout was of a most brilliant description and he had made his runs out of 150 in an hour and 50 minutes. The character of his batting will readily be judged when it is stated that he hit 16 fours, one three and six twos. Then came a complete breakdown in the batting and, the last five wickets falling in 25 minutes for 19 runs, the side were all out at a quarter past 5 for 269.

Yorkshire going in at half-past 5 had half an hour's batting and in that time fared badly, losing both Brown and Tunnicliffe for 26. As the game stands therefore Yorkshire with eight wickets to fall are 18 runs behind. Even when not raining the weather was always dull and there were about 2,000 people on the ground.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 August, page 5)

There was no play in the following matches on Saturday owing to rain:-

. . . Yorkshire v M.C.C., at Scarborough . . .

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The table of results is given below. It will be seen that Middlesex at present tie with Gloucestershire for second place, and a victory in the match which begins to-day at Catford would definitely place them next to Yorkshire:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points in finished matches
Yorkshire	26	16	3	7	13	.68
Middlesex	17	9	3	5	6	.5
Gloucestershire	20	9	3	8	6	.5
Surrey	23	10	4	9	6	.42
Essex	18	9	6	4	3	.2
Lancashire	26	9	6	11	3	.2

The other counties stand thus:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Kent	19	5	5	9	0
Nottinghamshire	16	1	2	13	-1
Warwickshire	16	2	5	9	-3
Derbyshire	15	2	6	7	-4
Sussex	19	3	8	8	-5
Hampshire	18	2	8	8	-6
Somerset	16	1	10	5	-9
Leicestershire	16	1	10	5	-9

The matches between Surrey and Derbyshire on May 19 and between Surrey and Warwickshire on May 23 were abandoned owing to the bad weather.

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., one point shall be reckoned for each win; one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

THE AVERAGES

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in Inns.	Times not out	Average
W G Quaife	26	1151	157*	8	63.94
Mr C B Fry	35	1682	179*	4	54.25
Abel	40	1883	219	3	50.89
Mr A E Stoddart	24	1031	157	3	49.09
Mr J Douglas	11	431	153	2	47.88
W Gunn	33	1333	236*	5	47.60
Shrewsbury	32	1187	154*	7	47.48
Storer	34	1415	109	4	47.16
Mr L C H Palairret	25	1028	179*	2	44.69
Dr W G Grace	37	1407	168	5	43.96
Tunnicliffe	45	1725	243	5	43.12
Hayward	33	1315	315*	2	42.40
Mr J R Mason	36	1389	152	3	42.09
Mr F S Jackson	38	1447	160	3	41.34
Mr F G J Ford	27	1063	135	1	40.88
Brockwell	41	1516	135	2	38.92
Tyldesley	48	1868	200	0	38.91
Mr W Troup	30	988	180	5	38.72
Mr W H Patterson	21	658	117	3	36.44
Mr C L Townsend	33	1199	159	0	36.33
Mr C McGahey	31	1033	145	2	35.62

Mr P Perrin	33	996	106*	5	35.57
Holland	30	1030	126	1	35.51
J T Brown	45	1626	300	2	35.48
Mr S M J Woods	27	958	144	0	35.48
Mr D L A Jephson	32	972	166*	4	34.71
Alec Hearne	39	1176	117	5	34.58
Mr C O H Sewell	36	1114	111	3	33.75
Mr C J Burnup	38	1172	131	2	32.55
Mr S H Evershed	24	743	153	1	32.30
Lord Hawke	35	903	134	7	32.25
Mr P F Warner	30	848	88	3	31.40
Lilley	29	877	112	1	31.32
Lockwood	32	834	109	5	30.88
Mr G Brann	25	760	118	0	30.40
Mr J A Dixon	26	693	165	3	30.13
Mr K J Key	25	602	85	5	30.10
Chatterton	32	872	142	3	30.06
Ward	48	1337	135	3	29.71
Mr A P Lucas	19	472	89	3	29.50
Mr A O Jones	30	817	70	2	29.17
Carpenter	37	1038	133	1	28.88
Mr A J L Hill	28	662	199	3	28.78
Major Poore	28	745	121*	2	28.65
Baker	40	961	70	5	27.45
Cuttell	42	952	85*	7	27.20
Mr W L Murdoch	46	1111	121*	3	25.83
Rev W Rashleigh	18	439	105	1	25.82
Mr H G Owen	30	740	92	1	25.51
F Sugg	42	1044	169	1	25.46
Mr C J B Wood	32	759	80	2	25.30
Mr A C MacLaren	13	293	76	1	24.41
Mr A Eccles	29	658	130	2	24.37
Mr L G Wright	27	622	134	1	23.92
Mr R E Foster	12	272	65	0	22.66
Mr F H B Champaign	31	653	113*	2	22.51
Mr G L Jessop	36	711	65	4	22.21
Mr F H E Cunliffe	25	417	70	6	20.94

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	1108.1	438	1927	142	13.57
J T Hearne	1675.1	747	2783	194	14.34
Wainwright	461.3	166	868	60	14.46
Mr F S Jackson	828.1	326	1482	97	15.27
G Davidson	970.4	458	1403	91	15.41
Lockwood	1002	297	2228	134	16.62
Mead	1013.2	366	1989	112	17.75
Trott	963	338	2225	125	17.80
Haigh	862	302	1820	100	18.20
Mr D L A Jephson	257.2	45	686	35	19.60
Mr C J Kortright	610.4	162	1686	85	19.83
Martin (Kent)	765.3	260	1524	76	20.05
Mr C L Townsend	1071	227	2832	137	20.67
Cuttell	1255.1	604	2256	109	20.69
Mold	866.3	293	1905	90	21.16
Santall	745	272	1411	66	21.37
Attewell	1025.3	480	1541	72	21.40
Richardson	1089.2	305	2785	129	21.58
Mr G L Jessop	649.1	184	1460	67	21.79
Mr F G Bull	898	280	2056	94	21.87
Mr J R Mason	682.2	243	1577	67	23.53

Alec Hearne	781.2	310	1412	60	23.53
Mr F H E Cunliffe	543.4	181	1266	53	23.88
Tate (Sussex)	849.3	276	1774	73	24.30
Brockwell	424.3	143	1098	45	24.40
Briggs	947.3	335	1960	80	24.50
Woodcock	517.4	134	1402	57	24.59
Tyler	773.3	156	2134	86	24.81
Bland	817	228	2017	81	24.90
Dr W G Grace	471.3	157	906	36	25.16
Mr S M J Woods	279.2	70	814	28	29.07

THE LANCASHIRE AVERAGES

The champion county eleven of last year have won nine and lost six matches this season. It is a lamentable falling off; but the secret is not far to seek. Their great bowlers have failed to keep up to the standard of their championship year. Cuttell has done fairly well, but he has not bowled so well as last summer, and Mold and Briggs have both been much more costly than in 1897.

Till the end of July the side had only lost two matches, but afterwards there was a great falling off. Mr MacLaren was successful with the bat at Canterbury, but failed afterwards to do himself justice. Mold's absence from some of the matches owing to a weak ankle has greatly handicapped the side; and the loss of Hallam, through ill health, added to the county's difficulties. Frank Sugg, after failing in the early matches, found his batting powers later on and obtained over a thousand runs for the county.

But the great feature in the batting was the splendid consistency of Tyldesley. His score of over 1,800 runs is in itself a handsome testimony to his capacity as a batsman. The Lancashire batting generally was very good; and it was only the bowling that proved their weak point.

500 runs: Tyldesley (1801 @ 39.15), Ward (1316 @ 31.33), Baker (961 @ 27.45), Cuttell (908 @ 26.70), F H Sugg (1087 @ 26.58), Mr C R Hartley (843 @ 26.34), Briggs (507 @ 16.90).

30 wickets: Mold (85 @ 20.30), Cuttell (107 @ 20.39), W B Stoddart (37 @ 23.13), Briggs (79 @ 24.17).

THE HAMPSHIRE AVERAGES

No county has shown more disappointing form this season than Hampshire. With their captain assisting very little, they only managed to win two matches - one by the bare margin of nine runs. Captain E G Wynyard, though playing three times only for Hampshire, took part in many other matches, and in this way rather failed to carry out the duties involved when he accepted the captaincy.

Mr A J L Hill played better than any one else on the side and Major R M Poore made a most satisfactory first appearance in important cricket. On occasions the batting was of a fairly high order, but with the exception of Baldwin the bowlers were all of an inferior class, and a first-rate wicket-keeper is still sadly needed.

500 runs: Major R M Poore (659 @ 34.68), Mr A J L Hill (652 @ 30.09).

30 wickets: Baldwin (53 @ 17.18), A J L Hill (40 @ 21.50), Tate (35 @ 27.94)

THE SOMERSET AVERAGES

Somerset, despite their possession of so many brilliant amateur players, have had a bad year and are coupled with Leicestershire for the last place in the championship.

Mr Lionel Palairet, the old Oxford captain, has worked splendidly for them, and Mr Woods comes out well in the batting; but neither in fielding nor batting has the side maintained the high standard of previous years, and one has only to consult the bowling returns to discover their chief source of weakness.

500 runs: Mr L C H Palairet (1028 @ 44.69), Mr S M J Woods (870 @ 37.82).

30 wickets: Tyler (83 @ 24.56), Robson (38 @ 24.68), Gill (37 @ 28.89), Mr G Fowler (33 @ 30.57).

THE DERBYSHIRE AVERAGES

The Derbyshire eleven have had a poor season and are consequently far down in the championship table. Bowling has once more been their weak player and, although large scores have often been compiled, the attack has generally failed to follow up any advantage acquired.

W Storer is certainly the most distinguished member of the team, not only for his wicket-keeping but also for his batting, for which he received the great honour of inclusion in the Gentlemen and Players match at Lord's. Hulme's inability to give them much help has been a severe handicap. George Davidson had done fine work for the side.

500 runs - Storer (1113 @ 50.59), Mr S H Evershed (729 @ 33.13), Chatterton (648 @ 30.85), Mr L G Wright (541 @ 21.64).

30 wickets - G Davidson (65 @ 15.69), F Davidson (32 @ 26.37).

29 August: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5109.html)

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

Despite the absence of Dr W G Grace, Mr MacLaren, Mr Townsend, Shrewsbury and the Surrey players, and the fact of county matches being in progress at Brighton and Catford, excellent teams were secured for the Gentlemen and Players match at Scarborough yesterday. Unfortunately for the success of a very attractive fixture, however, heavy rain on Saturday and Sunday had made the ground very soft, and the weather all through the afternoon was dull, cold and cheerless. Moreover, rain set in soon after 5 o'clock, curtailing the cricket by nearly an hour.

Paying no heed to oft-repeated criticisms, the authorities were the reverse of economical as regards time, close upon an hour being taken for luncheon and 25 minutes allowed between the innings. In order that the turf might have a chance of drying, the game did not begin until after half-past 12, when the Players, having won the toss, took first innings. They were batting for two hours and a quarter, their last wicket going down at a quarter to 4 with the total at 126. The best cricket was shown by Tunncliffe and Albert Ward, who became partners with the score at eight for two wickets and put on 39 runs while they were together.

Going in first, Tunncliffe was the fifth man out, Mr Jackson bowling him at 81 in the first over after luncheon. As it took him an hour and a half to make 35, it may be imagined that runs were very hard to get on the slow ground. The hundred went up with only six wickets down, but after that the innings soon came to an end. Mr Jackson bowled very finely, six wickets falling to him at a cost of only 58 runs. With this performance he had the satisfaction of rivalling Mr C L Townsend's feat of scoring 1000 runs and taking 100 wickets in first-class matches this season. Only these two famous cricketers have so far secured the double record.

The Gentlemen, who went in to bat at 10 minutes past 4, lost Lord Hawke with the score at 9 and Mr Jackson at 28. Mr L C H Palairet and Mr Troup, however, were playing well together and had increased the total to 48 when rain set in and stopped further cricket. The outlook being very bad, stumps were pulled up at half-past 5. Notwithstanding the unpleasant weather more than 3,000 people were present.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 August, page 5)

Though late in the afternoon the sky became overcast and the light so defective that stumps had to be drawn at 20 minutes to 6, the weather at Scarborough yesterday was in pleasant contrast to that of the previous day, the sun shining brightly all the morning and the air being much warmer. The change from the rain and cold wind of Monday was naturally most welcome to every one concerned, and the three or four thousand people who visited the ground during the afternoon were able to watch the game in perfect comfort.

When rain cut short Monday's proceedings the Players had completed a first innings of 126 and the Gentlemen, for the loss of two wickets, had scored 48, Mr L C H Palairet and Mr Troup being the not-outs. With commendable punctuality the match was resumed yesterday morning at 20 minutes to twelve. The sunshine made the soft ground treacherous, and despite some skilful batting from Mr Palairet and free hitting by Mr A O Jones, the Gentlemen did not, up to a certain point, do particularly well, eight wickets being down at lunch time for 137.

Mr Palairet, who had gone in first on Monday, was out fourth at 85, his fine innings of 54, which lasted an hour and 50 minutes, including five fours, two threes and eight twos. Despite the state of the ground and the good bowling he had to play he did not, so far as one could see, make any serious mistake. Mr Jones was not so much at home with the bowling, but his score of 31 was of great value to his side.

Just after the luncheon interval Mr W B Stoddart was bowled, and it did not seem as if there would be much to choose between the two elevens on the first innings. Captain Wynyard was joined by Major Chatara, the last man, and the latter batsman, before he had made a run, escaped being caught. For this blunder, as it turned out, the Players had to pay a very high price, the two batsmen hitting away in such vigorous fashion that in 35 minutes they put on no fewer than 71 runs. The score before the innings ended was this carried to 208, the Gentlemen finishing with a lead of 82.

Going in against this majority the Players fared badly, Mr Milligan bowling with great success. Tunnicliffe was caught and bowled when only eight runs had been scored, Brown was caught and bowled at 27, Albert Ward was bowled at 31 and Gunn at 38 was out to a clever running catch. Other disasters followed before very long, Storer being out at 54 and Tyldesley at 69. The seventh wicket, that of Cuttell, fell before the arrears on the first innings had been hit off, but after this matters improved a little, Baker finding useful partners in Attewell and Rhodes.

Still, when bad light caused stumps to be drawn the total had only reached 109 for eight wickets, the Players being thus 27 runs ahead with two wickets to go down.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 September, page 5)

In such a one-sided position was the Gentlemen and Players' match at Scarborough left that very few people visited the ground yesterday to witness the final stages of the game. As it happened, there was far more cricket than had been expected.

Overnight the Players had left off in a very bad way, as with eight batsmen out for 109 in their second innings they were only 27 runs on. The last two wickets, however, gave a great deal of trouble, Baker and Rhodes, who had become partners at 94, increasing the total to 155 before they were separated, having added 46 since the resumption in 35 minutes. Baker, who completed his thousand runs in first-class cricket this season, reached his 50 before the innings came to an end at five minutes to 1 for 169. He batted in wonderfully good style throughout and was at the wickets an hour and 20 minutes. Among his figures were seven fours, a three and six twos.

The Gentlemen were left with 88 to get to win, and of these they scored 45 in 40 minutes before luncheon for the loss of two wickets, Mr Palairt being out at 19 and Mr Troup at 26. Mr Jackson and Captain Wynyard subsequently hit off the remaining runs and won the match for the Gentlemen by eight wickets.

29 August: KENT v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5110.html)

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

For their good score on the slow and false pitch at Catford yesterday, Middlesex were chiefly indebted to the success achieved by Mr H B Hayman on his reappearance for the county after an absence from various matches. Mr Hayman had the distinction of taking his bat right through the Middlesex innings for 104, any errors - and there were many - in the making of which were pardonable under the conditions for batting. The ball rose at all kinds of paces from the pitch and often got up very dangerously; there was one bad place at the end nearest the entrance-gate, and as most of the bowlers discovered this nearly all the wickets went at that particular end.

Now and again Mr Hayman hit a very fine drive or made a good cut; but he mistimed a great number of balls during the three and a quarter hours that it took him to get his 104. He was missed three or four times, and should have been easily out when he had made 17, from a skier which Day dropped running from mid-on. His chief hits were 12 fours. Mr R N Douglas helped to add 57 for the third wicket; but the rest of the side did little, and the high scorers of last week's match at Lord's - Mr Ford and Mr J Douglas - made only 23 between them.

Kent had only been in a little time when rain stopped the game. It was a cold and cheerless day and the cricket all round as not very attractive.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 August, page 5)

It was very difficult to get runs at Catford yesterday and many batting failures were the result. Even the great Middlesex side could in their second innings make only as many as Kent in the first, and they consequently found their lead of 104 of inestimable value when the runs Kent had to make to win came to be reckoned.

Once during the last hour of play yesterday Mr J R Mason was batting so strongly that there seemed just a possibility of a check to the brilliant career of Middlesex; but the dismissal of the Kent captain to the final ball of the day left Middlesex in a winning position, for all the best Kent men are out and it is unlikely that the last five wickets will obtain the 128 still required by them to win. In the Kent first innings Mr Rashleigh did well; but by far the best performance of the day was the 50 by Mr Mason, whose cutting and driving were very powerful. He was only 80 minutes at the wicket and he hit nine fours.

When Kent had to go in for 214 there were few who had much confidence in their ability to make them under the existing conditions. The wicket was false and they had to face some bowling of the highest possible order. Jack Hearne has so far taken eight wickets in the match, and his six in the first innings of Kent brought up his aggregate for the season to 200, a record that easily stamps him as the most consistent bowler of the year.

Albert Trott has not done much in this match in bowling; but his five fours were very welcome to the county, while when Kent went in he saved a lot of runs by his fielding on the off-side. Altogether it was a keen day's cricket, and the 4,000 people present watched the play under the enjoyable conditions of a fine summer day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 September, page 5)

In less than three-quarters of an hour at Catford yesterday morning this match was finished off and Middlesex won by 83 runs. With all their best men gone on Tuesday night Kent's chances of success were remote, and the dismissal of the last batsmen for 44 runs was not in any degree surprising. J T Hearne continued his successful career as a bowler and in the match took 12 wickets for 83 runs, while in eight days' cricket he has taken 32 wickets for 285 runs.

The enjoyment of this game was rather spoilt by the condition of the pitch, which, with all his unremitting care, George Hearne, sen., could not convert into a good one.

29 August: SUSSEX v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5111.html)

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

At Brighton yesterday Sussex and Essex commenced their return match, this being the last fixture in which either county will take part this season, though Sussex will combine with Surrey in one of the Hastings engagements next week. Unfortunately the weather was very unsettled. Two showers caused a loss of 20 minutes before luncheon, and at a quarter to 4 rain set in so heavily that further cricket was out of the question.

Sussex, on winning the toss and going in first, made a good start, scoring 138 for the loss of four wickets. As in most other Sussex matches recently played, Mr Fry was incomparably the best bat in the eleven. Staying in for two hours, he made 71 out of 127 and was only got rid of at last - fourth wicket down - by an extremely smart catch at short-leg. His fine innings included 11 fours and six twos.

Mr Brann, who reappeared in the team after an absence through illness of several weeks, opened the innings with Mr Fry and had in 40 minutes made 15 runs out of 26 when he was bowled round his legs by Mr Bull. Mr Murdoch was abandoned at 44 and Mr Latham was bowled at 76. After this, however, Mr Fry found a capital partner in young Mr C L A Smith, the two batsmen putting on 51 runs for the fourth wicket. When rain cut short the day's cricket Mr Smith was not out 23, having so far been in for an hour. Despite the unfavourable weather there was an excellent attendance, nearly 3,000 people visiting the ground.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 August, page 5)

In a keen day's cricket at Brighton yesterday Essex left off with an advantage; but in securing this position they were fortunate in getting Sussex in for 20 minutes in a bad light at the finish. Mr Kortright's bowling met with such success that Sussex lost three men and, with seven wickets in hand, they are now only four runs on.

With the pitch affected by the rain, Sussex, who had begun so well on Monday, had such a bad time that the six outstanding batsmen were got out by Mead and Mr Bull for 40 runs in addition to the 138 made overnight.

When Essex went in they all - with the exception of Russell - adopted careful tactics, and in three hours and a half put together a score of 185, thus heading their opponents' score by seven runs. Mr Owen batted finely for his 27, but by far the best thing of the innings was the patient display for two hours of Mr Perrin. Tate bowled well, obtaining six wickets for 50 runs, and after going on at 95 he bowled 15 overs and six maidens, took five wickets and only had 28 runs scored off him.

So little time remained for play when Sussex batted a second time that Mr Fry did not go in, and in the defective light the home county fared so badly that when stumps were pulled up at five minutes to 6 three wickets had fallen and only 11 runs had been scored. Until late in the afternoon the weather was fine and about 3,000 persons watched the cricket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 September, page 5)

Essex had no difficulty in beating Sussex at Brighton yesterday, the margin in their favour at the finish being five wickets. Some such result had been foreshadowed by the way the game had gone on Tuesday evening, when Sussex, at their second attempt, had lost three wickets for 11 runs after going in a second time seven in arrear. Mr Kortright had caused this breakdown, and his fast bowling had most to do with the remaining seven wickets falling yesterday for an additional 84 runs.

Mr Fry played splendidly and tried hard to put a better appearance on the game for his side; but after his dismissal the end soon came, and the innings, which had lasted an hour and 25

minutes, closed for 95. Mr Kortright, Mr Bull and Mead all had excellent analyses, but to the first-named the chief honours fell.

Essex were left with 89 runs to get to win, and in an hour and a half they hit these off. Mr McGahey, who went in first, was the fourth to leave at 73, after batting in capital style for an hour and a quarter. He was certainly at fault when Carpenter was run out, but otherwise his play was excellent. His best partner was Mr Turner, who helped to add 44 for the third wicket.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The record is now as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points in finished matches
Yorkshire	26	16	3	7	13	.68
Middlesex	18	10	3	5	7	.53
Gloucestershire	20	9	3	8	6	.5
Surrey	23	10	4	9	6	.42
Essex	20	10	6	4	4	.25
Lancashire	26	9	6	11	3	.2

The other counties stand thus:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Kent	20	5	6	9	-1
Nottinghamshire	16	1	2	13	-1
Warwickshire	16	2	5	9	-3
Derbyshire	15	2	6	7	-4
Sussex	20	3	9	8	-5
Hampshire	18	2	8	8	-6
Somerset	16	1	10	5	-9
Leicestershire	16	1	10	5	-9

The Surrey matches with Derbyshire at the Oval and Warwickshire at Birmingham were abandoned owing to bad weather.

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., one point shall be reckoned for each win; one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county.

THE MIDDLESEX AVERAGES

There was nothing more remarkable in the county championship than the brilliant success of Middlesex in the second half of the season, during which they won eight matches out of nine and drew the other; in fact, they finished with a sequence of seven wins. Middlesex is one of the counties which cannot get its full amateur strength until the schools break up, for the reason that some of their leading players are engaged in the scholastic profession.

The eleven are easily second in the championship to Yorkshire, and had Albert Trott been able to bowl for them in the first two months of the season there is no knowing that they might not have now been enjoying the satisfaction of first place. Fortune changed almost immediately that Trott was able to play after his injury in May at Cambridge, and when he came into the side he enjoyed with Hearne a resulted series of bowling triumphs.

It may be said that no side during the season played such fine cricket as Middlesex during August, when, with their two great bowlers and a splendid batting side, they carried all before them; this, too, in spite of the absence from many of the games of Mr A E Stoddart. When he played Mr MacGregor was in his best form at the wicket, and the batting of Mr F G J Ford and Mr J Douglas went a long way to aid in the success of the county.

Even in the days before they had such bowling as they gave now, when Trott and Hearne can be relieved by such men as Mr Cunliffe, Mr C M Wells and Rawlin, Middlesex had an eleven loved of spectators, and their August cricket rightly secured to them great crowds for their play at Lord's. Mr A J Webbe has only occasionally captained the side; but in his absence the captaincy was in good hands when Mr MacGregor, Mr Stoddart and Mr Ford held the reins of office.

500 runs: Mr A E Stoddart (1005 @ 52.89), Mr F G J Ford (1055 @ 40.57), Mr P F Warner (814 @ 33.91)

30 wickets: J T Hearne (125 @ 14.76), A E Trott (102 @ 17.89)

THE KENT AVERAGES

Under the captaincy of Mr J R Mason, the old Wykehamist, the Kent eleven had a fairly good season; but they wanted more bowling, for, except when the pitch was untrue, their opponents generally made big scores. Walter Wright did well in one match, a memorable occasion, at Maidstone, when Kent had the distinction of beating Yorkshire; and Martin now and again came out in something like his best form; but the truth is that these bowlers, after many years of hard work, are not the men they were.

Apart from Alec Hearne, Kent rely mainly on amateur talent for their batting, and this season many of their eleven have done very well. Mr J R Mason is unquestionably the most brilliant member of the side, alike with bat and ball, and his dashing batting and his fast bowling have gone a long way to secure the success of Kent in the home matches. Kent were beaten yesterday for the first time at home this season.

A serious weakness in the cricket of the team has been in the number of catches that have been dropped. The ground fielding, however, has been extremely good.

500 runs: Mr J R Mason (1197 @ 38.61), Mr C J Burnup (851 @ 38.29), Alec Hearne (1098 @ 36.60), Mr W H Patterson (687 @ 34.35)

30 wickets: Martin (66 @ 20.10), Alec Hearne (57 @ 24.10), J R Mason (61 @ 24.67), W M Bradley (52 @ 24.71), W Wright (44 @ 28.15)

THE SUSSEX AVERAGES

The achievements in batting of Mr C B Fry have failed to bring Sussex into a very good position in the championship table. Mr Fry had a wonderful season for the county, and those who went into raptures over Prince Ranjitsinhji in 1896 and last year must have felt inclined to transfer their admiration to a batsman who has this year done for Sussex what few others have ever achieved.

Mr Fry did better for Sussex this season than Ranjitsinhji last summer, while his performances were quite as good as those of the Indian prince's great year, 1896. He not only scored two hundreds in one match, but he came very near to achieving the feat a second time, when he scored 99 and 133 against Hampshire at Brighton.

Apart from Mr Fry the Sussex cricket was rather commonplace. Mr Murdoch did fairly well; but Mr Newham and Mr Brann failed to maintain their standard. The bowling can be passed over without comment.

500 runs: Mr C B Fry (1604 @ 59.40), Mr G Brann (636 @ 33.47), Mr W L Murdoch (936 @ 27.52)

30 wickets: Tate (79 @ 22.74), Bland (72 @ 25.69), Parris (47 @ 29.91)

THE ESSEX AVERAGES

Had they not occasionally developed a fatal facility for dropping catches the Essex eleven would now have been enjoying a much higher place in the county championship. The match with Yorkshire at Leyton was on the last day absolutely thrown away in this way. But, with all their faults, Essex were a fine side, particularly on a good, hard wicket, and nothing in the season was of greater merit than their performance at Old Trafford against Lancashire when they got over 300 runs in the fourth innings and won.

Success at cricket quickly commands patronage, and the crowds at Leyton and the increased membership of the club, together with the fine cricket of the side, must have gladdened the heart of Mr C E Green, one of the most famous of Uppingham and Cambridge cricketers, who took up the county club in the days of its adversity and has left nothing undone that would help to advance the county to a place among the more important clubs of the country.

Now and again the batting became slow; but Mr A P Lucas in getting even ten was a pleasure to watch, while Mr Kortright's wonderfully fast bowling and the more measured length and regular pace of Walter Mead, together with Mr Bull's slows, infused plenty of sting into the attack.

500 runs: Mr P Perrin (1028 @ 36.71), Mr C McGahey (1024 @ 35.31), Carpenter (998 @ 29.35), Mr H G Owen (729 @ 24.30)

30 wickets: Mr C J Kortright (88 @ 16.81), Mead (81 @ 17.92), Mr F G Bull (94 @ 21.77).

1 September: SURREY v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5112.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 September, page 9)

Getting first innings yesterday on one of the Oval perfect pitches, Surrey scored heavily against Warwickshire and made 361 in a five hours' actual playing day at the cost of two batsmen.

It took Warwickshire three hours and three-quarters to get the first wicket down, and then Abel was caught at cover-point, while Brockwell, the other player in the partnership, was stumped off one of Lilley's slows just before the finish. Warwickshire have a variety of bowling but none of it possesses much sting. The ball was always easily timed. There were two bad hits that might have been catches in the slips from Brockwell, but for the most part the batsmen were content to play a steady game, scoring easily from the loose balls and playing those of a good length.

Abel, who wanted 117 to complete his 2,000 aggregate for the season when the match began, secured this number soon after 4 o'clock, the crowd signaling the achievement by a great cheer. Abel, who was first to go at 265, made a six from an on-drive and 13 fours in his 135. The score was up to 344 when Brockwell was stumped; he hit 17 fours and six threes in his 152, which is his best three-figure score this season.

Surrey so quickly got the game in their hands that the cricket in its steadiness became a little wearisome to follow; but Warwickshire took their hard work very well and their ground fielding was excellent to the end. Neither county is represented by its strongest side. There were about 4,000 spectators of the play.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 September, page 11)

At the Oval yesterday Surrey increased their score to the enormous total of 609, and then got six Warwickshire wickets down for 132. Overnight Surrey had made 361 for two wickets, and yesterday all their batsmen forced the game.

Hayward hit very hard and got nearly all his runs in front of the wicket, while Wood also played a fine forcing game. Thus 248 runs were added in two hours and three-quarters. Hayward hit one six - an on-drive - and ten fours, and Wood one five and six fours. There were two very quick partnerships, both realizing about 70 runs in a little over half an hour, and these were by Hayward and Wood and by Wood and Richardson.

Warwickshire went in to bat about 20 minutes past 3. Their men played courageously in a severe uphill fight, and William Quaife maintained his reputation as the most careful batsman of the day. The Surrey attack, in the absence of Lockwood, lacked sting, and although Warwickshire are still so far behind their chances of saving the game are by no means wholly lost. There were about 5,000 spectators and the weather was beautifully fine.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 September, page 9)

Richardson's brilliant bowling at the Oval on Saturday rapidly ruined any chances that Warwickshire might have had of saving the game with Surrey, and soon after luncheon Surrey won by an innings and 357 runs.

Lilley showed some excellence in his batting and compiled 57 in rather more than an hour. Lilley, in spite of a bad finger, obtained his runs in fine style, but no one gave him any substantial support.

The feature of the day was the bowling of Richardson, who performed the hat trick and obtained four wickets in one over. In the second innings he bowled with even greater effect, and his eight wickets for 28 runs brought his record for the match to 15 for 83 runs

- a capital performance on hard, true turf. With Lockwood away unwell, it was fortunate for Surrey that Richardson should have so successfully risen to the occasion.

1 September: YORKSHIRE v C I THORNTON'S ENGLAND ELEVEN

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5113.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 September, page 9)

The concluding match of the Scarborough Festival began yesterday in charming weather, and the prospect of seeing many of the most prominent cricketers of the year attracted a crowd of some 4,000 people. Mr Thornton, in getting together his England eleven, was fortunate in obtaining as powerful a batting side as could be desired, but he would have been wise to have strengthened the bowling. However, with the exception of Mr H B Chinnery, the whole team have taken a prominent part in the game this season, while Yorkshire were represented by the full side which proved invincible in the first half of the summer.

Considering the weakness of their bowling the scratch eleven did well to dismiss the county for 228. A better score than that seemed probable when Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe added 68 for the second wicket, which fell at 75. But except Lord Hawke and Wainwright, who put on a similar number, the other batsmen did not show to much advantage. On a rather difficult wicket Tunnicliffe played admirably and was well set when brilliantly thrown out by Tyldesley. Baker, who was not tried until 148, did a smart bowling performance, taking four of the last five wickets for 28 runs.

After scoring 42, the highest innings on the side, Wainwright rapidly dismissed three of Mr Thornton's team, but by sound cricket W Gunn and Storer saved their side and more than doubled the score without being parted.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 September, page 11)

Mr Thornton's eleven, who, in face of a total of 228 by Yorkshire, had, at the drawing of stumps on Thursday, scored 65 for three wickets, went on batting yesterday and did so well that it was not until close upon 5 o'clock that their innings came to an end, the score reaching 316. The performance was an extremely fine one, the more so as in the early part of the day at least the wicket seemed to give the bowlers some assistance.

Gunn and Storer, who had become partners overnight with the score at 32 for three wickets, were not separated yesterday till 20 minutes to 2. In the course of exactly two hours' batting they put on 120 runs and quite changed the fortunes of the match. Storer, who was the first to leave, hit half a dozen fours in his watchful and masterly innings of 50. At lunch time there were five wickets down for 175, Gunn being then not out 74.

On play being resumed Captain Wynyard, with some luck to help him, managed to score 13, and Albert Ward, though he took half an hour to get two, stayed with Gunn while the total was carried from 204 to 236. Then, with seven wickets down, Mr Chinnery became Gunn's partner, and by some capital batting 69 runs were put on in about 50 minutes. Gunn was out at last - caught and bowled by Hirst - at 305, his fine innings of 137 having lasted four hours and a quarter. He gave a sharp chance of stumping when he had made 105, but apart from this and a lofty drive towards the end of his innings, which the fieldsman did not attempt to catch, there was scarcely a fault to be found with his play.

It is true that with his score at 70 he gave a possible chance to Hirst, but the ball was travelling at such a pace that the hit could not be said to detract in any way from the merit of the innings. Among Gunn's figures were 14 fours, six threes and 12 twos. Baker and Attewell did nothing, and Mr Chinnery was left to carry out his bat for 49.

With a balance of 88 against them the Yorkshiremen had 40 minutes' batting at the close of the afternoon. The absence of Brown through indisposition involved a change in the order and a very bad start was made, Tunnicliffe being out with the score at six and Lord Hawke at 18. Denton then hit splendidly, but had the misfortune to be bowled just on the stroke of 6 by the last ball of the day. As the game stands now Yorkshire with seven wickets to fall are still 22 runs behind.

The weather at Scarborough yesterday was dull and boisterous, and the attendance, though good, was scarcely so large as had been expected.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 September, page 9)

A draw between Yorkshire and Mr Thornton's eleven on Saturday brought the Scarborough Festival to a close. In an uphill game the Yorkshiremen played well, but Mr Thornton's side was handicapped by Cuttell's lameness. Brown, Mr Jackson, Denton and Hirst batted finely for the county. The partnership of Hirst and Hunter yielded 66 runs in three-quarters of an hour and saved the match for Yorkshire.

There was not sufficient time for Mr Thornton's side to obtain the necessary runs, but at the finish they wanted only 66 more with six wickets to fall. Cuttell went in, and when he had completed his 1,000 aggregate for the season retired owing to his lameness.

CUTTELL'S BATTING AND BOWLING. - Cuttell, of Lancashire, by reaching his 1,000 runs on Saturday at Scarborough, became a sharer in the honour with Mr F S Jackson and Mr C L Townsend of having made 1,000 runs and taken 100 wickets in first-class cricket this season.

Saturday 3 September, page 11: THE YORKSHIRE ELEVEN

Unquestionably the most representative company ever present at a cricket banquet in the Scarborough district was that which assembled at the Balmoral Hotel, Scarborough, last evening, when Captain Darley entertained Lord Hawke and the other members of the champion county eleven. The guests numbered 140 and included the Duke of Beaufort, the Earl of Londesborough, Viscount Raincliffe, Sir C Legard, Sir G Sitwell, Mr J Compton Rickett, the member for Scarborough and the mayor of Scarborough, Councillor Sirie. All the member of the Yorkshire eleven were present with the exception of Brown, who was indisposed, and Moorhouse.

The toast of "The Champion County" was proposed by Sir C Legard and responded to by Lord Hawke and Mr J Tunnicliffe. Lord Hawke was enthusiastically received on rising to respond. In every part of Yorkshire, he said, they received a hearty welcome, but in no place more so than in Scarborough. They were pleased, not only for themselves, that they had gained the championship, but for the county, for, as Sir Charles Legard had said, the eyes of all Yorkshire were upon them and they were glad to think that their work had given such satisfaction. He thought their record - 26 matches played, 16 won, three lost and seven drawn - was a very good result of a very hard season.

In his position of captain he must first give praise to John Tunnicliffe, who he was pleased to think had come to live in Scarborough. The sea air had done him good, for this was the first year that Mr Tunnicliffe had been at the head of the Yorkshire averages. The success of their county was due to a great extent to his magnificent batting. He rejoiced that his friend Mr Jackson had joined that select little band who had made their thousand runs and taken a hundred wickets.

Next, referring to the first wicket record of 554, Lord Hawke described the batting of Brown and Tunnicliffe as the most magnificent display of hitting and driving and cutting that it had ever been his lot to witness. He also spoke in high praise of the grand bowling of their young player Rhodes, who in his first season had taken 126 wickets.

Lastly Lord Hawke referred to David Hunter. It was as a wicket-keeper they admired him. His pluck as undeniable and when the finish came and they wanted to save a match David was always there. The success of the season had been greatly owing to the good feeling amongst them all and their loyalty to the captain, and he could assure them that no one had appreciated it more than he did.

In conclusion Lord Hawke spoke of the great loss the Yorkshire Club had sustained by the death of Mr Ellison, to whose judgment and management the club greatly owed success.

The question of first honours in the county championship was decided nearly a fortnight ago, when Yorkshire won the chief position for the year; but the interest in the competition has been more or less kept alive, not only by the brilliancy with which Middlesex went through the second half of their programme, but by the keen fight for second place between Middlesex and Gloucestershire; and then Surrey, too, were at least consistent this season in their excellence on the Oval.

It was left to Surrey and Warwickshire to play the last match of the season in London; but Warwickshire, by comparison, is but a poor side, and even now it is difficult not to think that in the early days of the county championship when the representatives of the Press were the arbiters more discretion was exercised and a better competition was the result. Even in a game so full of uncertainty as cricket class does rarely fail to tell, and the first circle in which each side twice played the other was better than the extension by which struggling counties were brought into the lists with no possible chance of making themselves much felt against the great sides of native and other capacities.

Of the two counties who always boasted that birthright was the only qualification for playing Yorkshire have continued to keep easily in front; but Nottinghamshire, bereft as they are of many of their best bowlers, have, apart from batting, fallen further and further away from the days of their success. Both the great southern shires - Middlesex and Surrey - depend upon a lot of alien talent for their present position in cricket, and the importation of players is apt to stifle the natural resources of these counties.

Of course when a man makes up his mind to qualify for a county in the hope of getting a place in cricket he has every right to do so; but county patriotism cannot be the same as it was when you see a man helping to beat the eleven from his own native shire. It may be hoped that there will be no relaxing of the present two years' residence for qualification; otherwise county cricket might fall a victim to the pernicious system of buying and selling which holds good in the League Football Championship.

The county cricket year which ended on the Oval on Saturday certainly rendered its best honours to the side most worthy of them - Yorkshire. Middlesex, when they secured Albert Trott and those amateurs unable to give their time to cricket until the school holidays began, came with a great rush at the finish; but they were never rid of the effects of a bad start. Surrey were rarely a good side away from the Oval; bowling too often was their weak point, for, while Lockwood was in great form, Tom Richardson was not himself until half the season had gone.

Lancashire were not nearly the team they were in 1897; Mold's ankle trouble him, Briggs was not the bowler of old, Hallam's health broke down and Mr MacLaren failed to reach his standard of other years. Gloucestershire, now almost wholly an amateur side, owed their fine position mainly to Dr W G Grace and Mr C L Townsend.

Generally, it may be said that the season has been a good one; but it was some time before the public interest recovered from the depressing effect of the disastrous tour of Mr Stoddart's team in Australia.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The complete record for the season is as follows:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Proportion of points in finished matches
Yorkshire	26	16	3	7	13	.68
Middlesex	18	10	3	5	7	.53
Gloucestershire	20	9	3	8	6	.5
Surrey	24	11	4	9	7	.46
Essex	20	10	6	4	4	.25

Lancashire	26	9	6	11	3	.2
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The other counties stand thus:-

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Kent	20	5	6	9	-1
Nottinghamshire	16	1	2	13	-1
Warwickshire	17	2	6	9	-4
Derbyshire	15	2	6	7	-4
Sussex	20	3	9	8	-5
Hampshire	18	2	8	8	-6
Somerset	16	1	10	5	-9
Leicestershire	16	1	10	5	-9

The Surrey matches with Derbyshire at the Oval and Warwickshire at Birmingham were abandoned owing to bad weather.

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., one point shall be reckoned for each win; one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county.

The following tables will prove interesting as showing what the various counties have done generally during the season. They are given in the positions occupied by them in the championship:-

BATTING AGGREGATES

	Runs scored	Wickets lost	Average
Yorkshire	9055	327	27.69
Middlesex	6723	250	26.89
Gloucestershire	7399	270	27.40
Surrey	10200	303	33.66
Essex	6880	280	24.57
Lancashire	9741	402	24.28
Kent	6993	275	25.42
Notts	5523	216	25.56
Derbyshire	5190	228	22.76
Warwickshire	6084	254	23.94
Sussex	7147	330	21.68
Hampshire	5530	305	18.13
Somerset	5794	264	21.94
Leicestershire	4908	264	18.68

BOWLING AGGREGATES

	Runs scored	Wickets taken	Average
Yorkshire	7411	437	16.95
Middlesex	6298	300	20.99
Gloucestershire	7189	294	24.45
Surrey	8799	385	22.85
Essex	6356	311	20.43
Lancashire	8445	365	23.13
Kent	7356	296	24.85
Notts	6270	212	29.57
Derbyshire	7235	210	29.69
Warwickshire	6236	219	28.47
Sussex	8022	292	27.47
Hampshire	6284	224	28.05
Somerset	6567	226	29.05
Leicestershire	5701	197	28.93

INNINGS FOR AND AGAINST

	Highest For	Lowest For	Highest Against	Lowest Against
Yorkshire	662	45	536	35
Middlesex	484	75	468	45
Gloucestershire	634	80	500	75
Surrey	634	37	548	78
Essex	515	64	314	95
Lancashire	546	64	634	44
Kent	571	79	534	80
Notts	548	90	634	81
Derbyshire	645	73	662	71
Warwickshire	485	96	609	94
Sussex	364	91	428	64
Hampshire	381	36	645	118
Somerset	503	35	468	97
Leicestershire	346	56	515	87

THE AVERAGES

The leading averages of the season are given below:-

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in Inns.	Times not out	Average
W G Quaife	28	1219	157*	8	60.95
Mr C B Fry	37	1788	179*	4	54.18
Abel	41	2018	219	3	53.10
Mr A E Stoddart	24	1031	157	3	49.09
W Gunn	36	1464	236*	5	47.87
Shrewsbury	32	1187	154*	7	47.48
Hayward	34	1409	315*	2	44.03
Dr W G Grace	37	1407	168	5	43.96
Storer	38	1491	109	4	43.85
Brockwell	42	1670	152	2	41.75
Mr L C H Palairret	29	1126	179*	2	41.70
Mr J R Mason	38	1444	152	3	41.25
Tunncliffe	49	1804	243	5	41.00
Mr J Douglas	13	451	153	2	41.00
Mr F S Jackson	42	1554	160	4	40.89
Mr F G J Ford	29	1083	135	1	38.67
Tyldesley	52	1918	200	0	37.60
Mr W Troup	32	989	180	5	36.62
Mr C L Townsend	33	1199	159	0	36.33
Mr P Perrin	35	1073	106*	5	35.76
Holland	31	1072	126	1	35.73
Mr S M J Woods	27	958	144	0	35.48
J T Brown	49	1654	300	2	35.19
Mr C McGahey	33	1089	145	2	35.12
Mr W H Patterson	23	687	117	3	34.35
Mr D L A Jephson	33	988	166*	4	34.08
Mr C O H Sewell	36	1114	111	3	33.75
Alec Hearne	41	1210	117	5	33.61
Mr C J Burnup	38	1172	131	2	32.55
Mr S H Evershed	24	743	153	1	32.30
Mr P F Warner	30	848	88	3	31.40
Lilley	31	934	112	1	31.13
Lockwood	32	834	109	5	30.88

Lord Hawke	38	950	134	7	30.64
Carpenter	39	1152	133	1	30.31
Mr J A Dixon	26	693	165	3	30.13
Mr K J Key	25	602	85	5	30.10
Chatterton	32	872	142	3	30.06
Mr A P Lucas	19	472	89	3	29.50
Mr A J L Hill	26	662	199	3	28.78
Mr G Brann	27	775	118	0	28.70
Major Poore	28	745	121*	2	28.65
Mr A O Jones	33	882	70	2	28.45
Ward	51	1365	135	3	28.43
Baker	43	1020	70	5	26.84
Cuttell	46	1003	85*	7	25.71
F Sugg	42	1044	169	1	25.46
Wainwright	36	804	92	4	25.12
Mr W L Murdoch	48	1123	121*	3	24.95
Mr H G Owen	32	769	92	1	24.80
Mr A C MacLaren	13	293	76	1	24.41
Mr A Eccles	29	658	130	2	24.37
Denton	44	998	99	1	24.11

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
J T Hearne	1730.3	768	2866	206	13.91
Rhodes	1188.1	463	2071	146	14.18
Wainwright	515.3	185	1032	69	14.95
G Davidson	970.4	458	1403	91	15.41
Mr F S Jackson	903	350	1630	104	15.67
Baldwin (Hants)	470.1	155	973	60	16.21
Lockwood	1002	297	2228	134	16.62
Mead	1048	382	2049	117	17.51
Trott	963	338	2225	125	17.80
Haigh	883	305	1880	102	18.43
Mr C J Kortright	635.4	165	1773	91	19.48
Martin (Kent)	784.1	266	1560	79	19.74
Richardson	1135.2	317	2868	144	19.91
Mr C L Townsend	1071	227	2832	137	20.67
Attewell	1113.3	517	1685	80	21.08
Mold	866.3	293	1905	90	21.16
Cuttell	1340.1	633	2419	114	21.21
Mr F G Bull	952	303	2162	101	21.40
Mr G L Jessop	666	189	1493	68	21.95
Tate (Sussex)	902.2	301	1854	82	22.60
Alec Hearne	813.2	324	1497	65	23.03
Mr J R Mason	714.4	251	1676	72	23.27
Santall	806	284	1592	68	23.41
Mr F H E Cunliffe	552.4	184	1286	54	23.81
Briggs	947.3	335	1960	80	24.50
Tyler	773.3	156	2134	86	24.81
Dr W G Grace	471.3	157	906	36	25.16
Bland	847	224	2099	82	25.59

THE SURREY AVERAGES

The Surrey eleven had a wonderful season on the Oval, but away from home they often did badly, and their failures at Bradford, Lord's, Clifton and Leyton wrought their discomfiture in the championship competition.

There were many splendid batting triumphs for the side, but the truth is that the county wants more bowling. The average Surrey member must tremble to think what would have happened to the side had not Lockwood recovered all his old bowling skill, for Tom Richardson, no doubt from the effect of his heart-breaking work on hard wickets in the colonies, was something of a failure for a long time. Hayward, too, is not the bowler that he was, and Surrey failed to bring out of their remarkable second eleven any player capable of taking a big place in the first team. The young cricketers are wonderfully good in their own class, but there seems neither a Lockwood nor a George Lohmann among these reserve forces.

What Surrey wants most is a really fine slow bowler, and until the attack is materially strengthened the side is not likely to win the championship. Lockwood and Richardson are both very great, but in a season such as that now closed it is too much to expect that they should for ever be working hard and getting out big batting teams. The Surrey fielding too has been a little in and out.

But in batting the records are wonderful. Abel and Brockwell played with splendid consistency right through the season; Hayward did some fine work, but had his spells of bad luck, and Mr Jephson proved an invaluable bat, and often, too, at a pinch. Mr K J Key made the most of his side and, when runs were needed quickly, constantly showed the power and skill that marked his game in his Clifton and Oxford days. But the regret was often expressed among the general body of members that some of the leading amateurs of the day should have been allowed to drift away from the county, for their help might have at least been secured after the schools had broken up.

The pleasantest thought of the Surrey man in thinking of the past season will be in connexion with those two wonderful days in the August Bank holiday week, when Surrey completely beat Yorkshire on a fine, true wicket. This was certainly one of the feats of the season. The playing turf at the Oval has never been better than this year, and how much Surrey took advantage of it may be gathered from the fact that only once was the team got out for less than 300 runs. Tom Hayward, with his 315 on the Oval against Lancashire, secured the highest individual record for the year.

500 runs: Abel (1832 @ 57.25), Hayward (1373 @ 47.34), Brockwell (1468 @ 43.17), Mr D L A Jephson (952 @ 36.51), Holland (1047 @ 36.10), Lockwood (695 @ 31.59), Mr K J Key (546 @ 30.33)

30 wickets: Lockwood (109 @ 17.06), Mr D L A Jephson (35 @ 20.51), Richardson (126 @ 21.29), Brockwell (44 @ 23.15)

THE WARWICKSHIRE AVERAGES

The Warwickshire eleven have had rather a poor season. Their cricket has been rarely attractive, and its slowness has more than once prevented them from winning matches drawn much in their favour.

500 runs: W G Quaife (1219 @ 60.95), Lilley (907 @ 31.27), Devey (618 @ 28.09), W Quaife (717 @ 26.55), Mr A C S Glover (555 @ 26.42)

30 wickets: Santall (68 @ 23.41), Field (30 @ 28.20)

5 September: MR A E STODDART'S XI v REST OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5114.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 September, page 9)

The Hastings executive were fortunate in having such an interesting match to open their annual cricket festival as Mr Stoddart's Australian team against the Rest of England. The weather conditions were favourable and the play was watched with interest by a large company.

So late in the season there is always great difficulty in getting representative sides together. Mr Stoddart had no choice in the selection of his team, as Mr Norman Druce, who has played no big cricket this year, is suffering from an injured hand, while K S Ranjitsinhji is not in England. The Rest of England were represented by a powerful side; but with such cricketers as Mr F S Jackson, Mr C B Fry, Gunn, Brown, Lilley and Lockwood absent from various causes the present match cannot well be taken seriously as a criterion of the strength of Mr Stoddart's team.

Dr Grace had the luck in the spin of the coin, and the Rest of England went in to bat at ten minutes past 12. They made a disastrous start, as both Brockwell and Abel were dismissed at seven. Abel was bowled in trying to place the ball to leg, while Shrewsbury was out at 30. The ball at times kicked. Dr Grace and Mr Townsend then came together, and during a partnership of 40 minutes 53 runs were added before Mr Townsend was caught at the wicket. His 18 included four fours and a two. Mr Brann was soon dismissed, but Mr Jessop then assisted Dr Grace to carry the score to 116, when luncheon was taken.

When the game was resumed Dr Grace was caught in the slips from the second ball sent down. Altogether he was batting an hour and a half and his chief hits were ten fours, one three and three twos. He set his side a grand example, and from the first he showed all his accustomed skill in timing the ball. Mr Jessop stayed at the wickets until 144. Every now and then he hit out, but he did not score quite so fast as usual.

With seven wickets now down it seemed probable that the Rest would be dismissed for a comparatively small score; but when Mr Ford was joined by Mr Kortright some very fast scoring was seen, and 83 runs were put on in 35 minutes by very bright batting. Mr Ford was in altogether for three-quarters of an hour, and his innings, which was chiefly marked by powerful drives, included nine fours. Mr Kortright, who also played a vigorous game, was out to a very well-judged catch in the long field, Mr MacLaren taking the ball on the boundary with the sun in his eyes. The innings eventually closed for 236, after some two hours and 50 minutes' batting.

Mr Stoddart's eleven had nearly an hour and ten minutes' play before stumps were drawn, during which they scored 88 for three wickets. At the close, therefore, they were 148 runs behind with seven wickets in hand. Mr Mason and Mr MacLaren made an excellent start and put on 58 runs in 45 minutes, when Mr Mason was tempted out of his ground by Mr Townsend and was easily stumped. Mr MacLaren left at 88, while Storer was caught by the wicket-keeper, standing back, off the next ball. Mr MacLaren, with the exception of one or two strokes off Mr Kortright's bowling, played excellent cricket and his innings included ten fours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 September, page 5)

The opening stage of the game had left the match in a very even position; but yesterday, when Mr Stoddart's eleven continued their innings on the Central-ground, Hastings, the good batting of Wainwright and Hayward enabled them to claim a lead of 25 runs on the first innings.

Wainwright, who has been considerably below his form this season, played very good cricket for his 75, which included one five (four from an overthrow), ten fours, three threes and five twos. He was batting an hour and 50 minutes, and during his stay at the wicket

scarcely made a bad stroke. From the first he showed excellent defence, while at times he hit out with much power.

Wainwright found a very useful partner in Hayward, and the score was taken from 88 to 166 for the fourth wicket during their partnership. Hayward's 43, for which he was batting an hour and a quarter, was chiefly noticeable for driving on the off side, while his play to leg was equally accurate. Apart from Wainwright and Hayward there was nothing in the batting worthy of mention, although several of the side rendered Wainwright some assistance, and no less than eight of the eleven made double figures.

Another feature worthy of note was the fact that nine batsmen fell to catches, while the tenth was stumped. Rhodes proved the most successful bowler, taking four wickets for 16 runs each; but the easy boundaries naturally told against the bowlers.

Going in a second time with arrears of 25, the Rest of England again made a most disastrous start, as both Brockwell and Abel were dismissed without scoring, although the latter was in for 20 minutes. It seemed strange to see Richardson bowling against his colleagues, but neither of them seemed to appreciate him, and to dismiss Abel twice in the match for five runs was a feat of some merit.

More disasters befell the batting side as Mr Ford, who had gone in first wicket down, received a nasty blow from Richardson and, after making the first 15 runs, he found it necessary to retire. His injury proved so severe that it is very doubtful if he will be able to [participate further] in the match.

The game continued to favour the fielding side, and both Dr Grace and Mr Townsend were dismissed before the deficit was hit off, while five wickets were down in addition to Mr Ford's for 50 runs. So far the batting had been very quiet, but when Mr Jessop went in he treated the spectators to some fearless hitting, and during a stay of under 40 minutes he made no less than 76, and was still not out at the close. Up to the present he has hit 14 fours.

During the Rest of England's innings the fielding reached a high pitch of excellence, while, with the exception of Mr Jessop, the batsmen found the bowling too good to take liberties with. After their poor display the Rest found themselves in considerably the worse position at the drawing of stumps as they are now only 118 on with practically only two wickets to fall. There as again a good attendance, although not so large as on Monday.

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

As was only to be expected after the partial collapse of the Rest of England in their second innings, Mr Stoddart's team had no difficulty in winning their match yesterday on the Central-ground, Hastings, the victory being gained by five wickets. This brought the first half of the week's cricket to a close.

Throughout the three days the conditions ere very favourable, and the play was watched with much interest by large crowds.

8 September: SURREY AND SUSSEX v REST OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5115.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 9 September, page 6)

For the second and final match of the Hastings Festival, which was begun yesterday on the Central ground, the executive was again fortunate in being able to command the services of powerful elevens. The combined counties, with the exception of Mr C B Fry, were at full strength, and were made up of seven representatives of Surrey and four of Sussex, while the Rest of England team was drawn from the two elevens of the previous match. Shrewsbury, who was down to play, had to give way to Board at the last moment owing to a split finger.

Mr Murdoch beat Dr Grace in the spin of the coin, and Surrey and Sussex went in to bat shortly after 12 o'clock; but the start was a disastrous one, as four good wickets were down for 24. From this point, however, the game took a decided turn in favour of the batting side and runs were put on at a great pace. Mr Jephson and Hayward added 111 for the fifth wicket during an hour's partnership, when Hayward was out to a good catch in the slips.

After this runs continued to come faster than ever, and when Mr Jephson and Lockwood were together 99 were added in 40 minutes. Lockwood, who is usually a fast scorer, was almost a spectator, as Mr Jephson hit out so brilliantly that he made no less than 80 runs to Lockwood's 19. Mr Jephson left at 234, and then Mr Murdoch stayed until 250 had gone up, when he was caught and bowled, while the last three wickets fell at the same total and the innings closed for 254.

The feature of the day's cricket was the magnificent hitting of Mr Jephson, which entirely overshadowed everything else. Before now he has proved that he could play a forcing game with success, but he has never in his career given such a grand exhibition of resolute hitting as yesterday; he went in at a period when the cricket was going against his side, and in the short space of an hour and three-quarters' batting he made 143 out of 210. The vigour of his play can be judged when it is stated that he hit no fewer than 29 fours, one three and six twos; while in the first ten minutes after the luncheon interval he made 33 runs, and during his innings he hit the ball over the ring on three occasions. By his score yesterday Mr Jephson for the first time has made an aggregate of over 1,000 runs in a season.

Hayward played very stylish cricket for his 41 without giving a chance, but the remainder, with the exception of Lockwood, gave a feeble display against the bowling of Mr Townsend and Hearne, who divided the wickets between them. The unevenness of the batting is shown from the fact that eight of the side only made 31 between them.

The Rest of England had an hour and 20 minutes' batting before the close of play, and made 98 without loss, so that they are now only 156 runs behind with all their wickets in hand. Dr Grace and Mr MacLaren both played attractive cricket, especially the latter, who showed much more freedom, and the last hour's play was one of the best features of an excellent day's cricket.

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

At the close of play on Thursday the Rest of England left off in the better position, for after having dismissed the combined counties for 254 they had made 98 without loss. But yesterday, when they resumed on the Central ground, they were unable to follow up their advantage. Richardson bowled so well that Surrey and Sussex were able to claim a lead of 78 on the first innings.

Dr Grace and Mr MacLaren took the score to 113 for the first wicket, when "W.G." was bowled, while three runs later Mr MacLaren was well caught by Mr Jephson at cover-point. Afterwards wickets fell so fast that eight men were out for 146; but Board and Rhodes gave some trouble and the last two wickets put on 30 runs.

Mr MacLaren was batting about an hour and three-quarters, and his chief hits were 12 fours, one three and five twos. From the first, he had played very attractive cricket and did not give a chance; while his driving on the off side was marked by much power. Apart from Dr Grace there was nothing more worthy of special mention in the batting. A feature of the innings was the grand bowling of Richardson, who took eight wickets for just six and a half runs each, while yesterday he had the splendid analysis of four overs and three balls, six maidens, 31 runs and eight wickets.

An incident of note was the catch with which Abel dismissed Briggs, when he took the ball in the slips low down with the right hand. The unevenness of the batting can be judged from the fact that six of the side only made 13 between them.

When Surrey and Sussex went in a second time the bowlers again held the upper hand, while the batting was noticeable chiefly for its consistency. No less than eight of the side made double figures, while the highest score was Mr Murdoch's 21. At the lunch interval they had made 30 runs without loss, but afterwards Hearne and Rhodes bowled splendidly and the innings closed for 141.

This left the Rest of England with 220 to get to win, and during some 50 minutes' batting they made 76 for the loss of two batsmen, so they now require 144 runs to win with eight wickets in hand. There is thus every prospect of an interesting finish to-day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 September, page 9)

The annual cricket festival, which is the 12th of the series, was brought to a satisfactory close on the Central ground on Saturday, when the Rest of England beat Surrey and Sussex by four wickets. After having a lead of 78 runs on the first innings the combined counties gave a very feeble display in their second innings against the bowling of Hearne and Rhodes, and the Rest of England were left with 220 to get to win, of which they had made 76 for the loss of two wickets at the close of play on Friday. Thus when the game was resumed on Saturday 144 were still required, but, thanks to some consistent batting, these were hit off for the loss of four batsmen, and the Rest of England won as stated just after half-past 1.

The score was only raised to 84, when Wainwright was caught at the wicket in Richardson's second over. Storer and Mr Townsend then put on 57 runs, but half the side were out for 160, while Mr Townsend was caught at cover-point 20 runs later. At this period Hirst and Board came together and won the match for their side.

The chief feature in the batting was Mr Townsend's 51, for which he was in an hour and a quarter, and he hit seven fours and four twos. His play was noticeable for his driving both sides of the wicket, while he made some pretty cuts. Storer showed considerable patience for his runs and he was at the wickets for 65 minutes. Towards the close Hirst, after a careful start, hit out with some effect, but he should have been caught by Abel in the slips when 28.

The combined counties had bad luck in losing the services of Tate, who was unable to take his place in the field owing to indisposition, while Lockwood's arm had not sufficiently recovered to allow him to bowl in the match. Throughout the week the executive have been favoured with splendid weather and, with nearly six days' cricket, the festival has also proved a great success financially.

THE CLOSE OF THE CRICKET SEASON

The season of first-class cricket has ended in a manner quite the antithesis of the way in which the cold and wet of May ushered it in, making many cricketers regret that there was not some delay in the beginning so that the wonderful early weeks of September might have been utilized for something better than the half-hearted festivals which mark the end of the season.

It has been a wonderful season, both collectively and individually. The fine work of the counties has been exhaustively dealt with in the various reviews given in *The Times* as the different counties finished; but with the end of the season we now give the full batting and bowling statistics of all matches coming into the category of first-class. A majority of what may be termed the old hands have done wonderfully well, and Dr W G Grace, even in his 34th year of big cricket and in the 50th year of his age, has again demonstrated by his batting genius for the game. Taking the list for the year of those playing in ten innings and upwards Dr Grace comes out ninth with 42.

Robert Abel, for the second time in succession, enjoys the sole distinction of having a 2,000 aggregate; and this wonderful little batsman continues to gather fame. But a batsman of even smaller physique holds the first place in batting, and that is William Quaife of Warwickshire. Quaife has his good points in playing with a fine straight bat and in the possession of the faculty of steadiness; but his notorious care makes him dull to watch. Not so Mr C B Fry, whose brilliant work for Sussex this season has put him in the same category as K S Ranjitsinhji.

Of those of any real claim to be put in the chief figures of the bowling year Jack Hearne is easily first. He is the only player who has taken over 200 wickets - a distinction solely enjoyed by Tom Richardson last summer. Hearne has bowled with splendid consistency from first to last, and his average will secure to him the sincere congratulations of all good cricketers. With a fine natural action, a superb length and plenty of spin, Hearne has constantly achieved great pieces of work in the attack.

Next to Hearne perhaps Rhodes, the Yorkshire left-hander, should be given most distinction; and no bowler ever did in his first year what this young professional has done for Yorkshire in the season now closed.

As to the way in which the rules have worked out, those in connexion with the "follow-on" and the "closure" are still in need of amendment. This season there have been more instances of sides tampering with the course of the game in connexion with the follow-on; and to prevent such action the M.C.C. executive ought to discuss the present aimless restriction of the closure rule to the last day of a match and also to amend the follow-on rule.

THE AVERAGES

[See http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/1898_ENG.html]

Wednesday 14 September, page 5: THE MARYLEBONE CLUB

The M.C.C. teams in the first-class matches at Lord's and in the provinces scarcely did so well as in some other years, and of 12 first-class games played only three were won; six were lost and three drawn. We give below the averages in batting and bowling of most general interest:-

100 runs: Davidson (159 @ 31.80), Dr W G Grace (137 @ 27.40), Mr C W Wright (228 @ 20.72), J T Hearne (103 @ 20.60).

20 wickets: J T Hearne (53 @ 10.90), Roche (30 @ 15.83), Mead (22 @ 18.50).

Friday 23 September, page 8: SIR R WEBSTER ON SURREY COUNTY CRICKET.

Sir Richard Webster, Q.C., M.P., president of the Surrey County Cricket Club, speaking on Wednesday night at the annual dinner of the Cranleigh Cricket Club, of which he is also president, said it was a great disappointment that their county had not taken a better place among the counties, but they must remember that they had very bad luck at the beginning of the season. Four matches which, speaking of the ordinary chances of cricket, the county was almost certain to have won were spoilt by the weather, and in two of them not a ball was bowled.

That, of course, was "hard lines" for a county prepared to do their best; but they could point to the magnificent performance of Abel, the only batsman who had scored 2,000 runs in first-class cricket during the season, and they had in Holland and Hayward two excellent cricketers. He would like to say how much satisfaction it gave him and all true cricketers to see Lockwood come back to his form and play so well. In his opinion, but for the fact that he rather fell off during two or three seasons, Lockwood would have been perhaps the finest professional cricketer in England, and he hoped to see the splendid form he had shown in bowling and the very good form in batting repeated next year, and that they would see him still higher than he was at the present time.

Although they were unlucky in Richardson at the beginning of the season, because he suffered very severely from the splendid way in which he represented England in Australia, yet they saw him at the end of the season returning to his old form; and he ventured to prophesy that they would have in him for some years to come still one of the finest bowlers ever seen on an English ground.

He was glad to say that in Hayes, Nice and others in the second eleven they had fine cricketers preparing. In fact, Surrey could boast as good a number of second-class cricketers as any county. Nor were they deficient in amateurs, for in that respect he had only to mention Mr Key, Mr Jephson, Mr Crawford and others, while he hoped that before long a name which in his young days was honoured in cricket - the name of Dowson - would appear again. He knew that it was the ambition of Mr Dowson that his son should play for the county, and he sincerely hoped that they would see young Mr Dowson playing for the first eleven of Surrey for many years to come.

Wednesday 12 October, page 5: THE M.C.C. AND THE TEST MATCHES

The M.C.C. yesterday completed the board which the counties at their meeting at Lord's on July 18, 1898, agreed should "govern the future test matches between England and Australia at home." At that meeting the M.C.C. were requested to appoint a board, and the counties resolved "that such board be comprised of the president of the M.C.C., five of its club committee and one representative from six of the first-class counties selected by the M.C.C. from time to time to send a representative; the president to have a casting vote."

The M.C.C. have complied with the request and have selected the six first-class counties highest on the list, who have nominated Lord Hawke, Mr A J Webbe, Dr W G Grace, Mr R Webster, Q.C., M.P., Mr C E Green and Mr A N Hornby or Mr S H Swire. The M.C.C. have now completed the board by nominating their president (the Hon A Lyttelton, M.P.), the Earl of Lichfield, Lord Harris, Mr W E Denison, Mr H D G Leveson-Gower and Mr W H Patterson.

It is hoped that a meeting may be arranged for Monday, the 24th inst., at Lord's Cricket Ground, at 3 p.m.

THE PROPOSED LONDON COUNTY CLUB. - With reference to the announcement made yesterday, a telegram has been received from Dr W G Grace stating that he has accepted the post of secretary and general manager at the Crystal Palace cricket ground, but that the appointment

will not involve his retiring from the Gloucestershire eleven. Dr Grace's contract with the Crystal Palace was signed last Thursday.

Saturday 15 October, page 13: COUNTY QUALIFICATIONS

Lord Harris has addressed the following letter, dated Belmont, Faversham, Kent, October 13, to the committees of county cricket clubs:-

Gentlemen,- The subject of the qualification of players in county cricket elevens has been exercising the minds of county cricketers for some time, and the M.C.C. have been authorized by the majority of the cricketing counties to appoint a committee for the purpose of considering the amendment of "The Rules of County Cricket." To assist any such committee the M.C.C. recently invited the counties to advise them whether they wished the rules amended in the direction of a more stringent or a more elastic qualification; and the replies on the whole indicate a preference for the former.

I venture now to suggest for the consideration of the committees of the county clubs the following ideas, which are the result of my own consideration of the subject. I have not yet laid them before the committee of the M.C.C.

I start from the basis that -

- (1) We ought in no way to hinder, in the first instance, a cricketer good enough for first-class cricket from playing for a county.
- (2) We should endeavour to discourage, as much as possible, changing from one county to another; and
- (3) I assume, which I think can be proven, that it is impossible to prevent such inducements being offered as can and do tempt cricketers, both amateurs and professionals, to select counties in which they were not born and in which they have no family or residential interest as was originally intended. By which I mean not only such inducements as enable cricketers to earn their livelihood, but also the inducements of playing for a first-class county or with personal friends.

The latitude now winked at is, of course, only as regards the "residential qualification." I believe most of us think that the present practice is too elastic, and, personally, I go so far as to think that it is unworthy of county cricket. But I am very doubtful whether without a complete and elastic alteration of the present code it is possible to secure what I believe we all really desire - i.e., a system of qualification, perfectly above board, and of which we can speak openly and not in whispers; and I venture to submit what I fear may seem a startling proposition, that, as long as we retain "residence" as a qualifying factor, the desired change will be impossible of attainment.

When the county qualification rules were first drafted there was nothing like the present excitement about county cricket; it was often difficult to get amateurs to play for their counties; I preached its merits, as one crying in the wilderness, for several years; and "residence" was a sufficiently precise term to describe what was meant. But we have changed all that, and I altogether doubt whether now, with this intense competition which exists, it is possible to evolve a definition of "residence" that would be so clear as to obviate constant references to the M.C.C. - that is, of course, if county committees mean to be really strict. If they do not, we had better leave things as they are.

What is "residence"? Is it where a man earns his living or where he sleeps? If the former, where he earns his living in the summer or where he earns it in the winter? If the latter, how many nights in the year must he sleep there to keep his qualification valid? Does he break his qualification by leaving England in the winter? There are any quantity of conundrums of a similar character, and I doubt the possibility of laying down such a precise definition of "residence" as will enable the committee of the M.C.C. to sit in arbitration and decide satisfactorily either to themselves or others.

I submit that, with cricket played as it is, and if the counties really wish the present laxness to be swept away, "residence" is an impossible factor; because an inquisitorial watchfulness over each cricketer's way of spending his time would be necessary, which is absurd.

If, then, my argument be sound, some other qualifying factor has to be found; and I circulate this with the hope that the counties will give a fair hearing to the suggestion that "registration" should be substituted for the "residential" qualification, and the cricketer be left free to select his county in the first instance.

Such a system will not prevent A or B or C being induced to select this, that or the other county according as inducements offer, but it will be an open and above-board system, surely more worthy of the game than that at present accepted, under which an amateur qualifies by leaving his portmanteau at a friend's house and by paying him 2s 6d a week rent; and professionals are qualified by their county paying a rent for a lodging, whether they reside in it or not.

Anyhow, I am bold enough to think the suggestion worth discussion, and to assist that I subjoin a draft code with explanations in brackets:-

- (1) A register of county cricketers shall be established and kept up. (I hope by M.C.C.)
- (2) (a) A cricketer must be regarded before he can play in county cricket matches; (b) his name must be placed on the register by the county for which he wishes to play; (c) he can play for no other county.
- (3) A cricketer once regarded for a county is qualified for that county for the remainder of his career unless, as provided for in Rule 4, he is permitted to transfer his registration to another county. [Wherever born or wherever residing, he is qualified directly his name is on the register, and he remains so qualified.]
- (4) A cricketer desirous of transferring his registration from one county to another must obtain the assent of (a) the county for which he is registered; (b) the county to which he wishes to be transferred; (c) the committee of M.C.C. (who will satisfy themselves that no valuable consideration has passed between the responsible county clubs to bring about the transfer). [Subject, of course, to the consent of the M.C.C.) This is to prevent what I understand is done by football clubs. It does not prevent the cricketer making a bargain satisfactory to himself if the county for which he is registered does not object to transfer.]
- (5) If the transfer is permitted, an interval of not less than 24 months must elapse before he can play for the county to which he has been transferred. [Or such period as the counties may think advisable.]

This suggestion is, of course, in the direction of greater elasticity in the first instance, but the restrictions against changing from one county to another would, I think, make cricketers very cautious before getting themselves registered for a county. The amateur would have to be satisfied that there was some prospect of a secured position in the county eleven for a certain time, and the professional would, as he is perfectly justified in doing, take care that any contract into which he may enter is sufficiently profitable whether he plays for the county or not.

A complication which has to be considered, and which I have not dealt with in the above suggested rules, is as to whether cricketers born out of England should be required to put in a certain term of "residence in England," which could be defined, I think, say not less than 24 months before becoming qualified to select a county; and I am at present disposed to think it would be wise to make some such provision, in which case it would only be necessary to make the above rules applicable to cricketers born in the British Isles and to add a rule for those born out of them.

But the most difficult problem appears to me how to accommodate the "birth qualification" with "registration," and I must confess to being much puzzled. If a "birth qualification" is to be always valid and no penalty to be attached to transfer from the county of registration to the county of birth, all the risks of temptation, including "buying," remain open, and that, I fancy, is one of the things the counties desire to check.

A solution would be to attach a less severe penalty in such a case - i.e., an interval of 12 months, as compared with 24, must elapse "before he can play for the county to which he has been transferred."

It has been suggested to me that some provision should be made in the event of a county unreasonably objecting to a transfer. If the M.C.C. would consent, it might be left to them by another rule to decide such disputes finally.

If your committee could make it convenient to authorize your representative at the secretaries' meeting at Lord's in December to discuss these suggestions and, if possible, to give a decided opinion for or against them, I should be greatly obliged; and though I have no authority to say so, I feel sure the committee of the M.C.C. will welcome such assistance.

Yours faithfully,

HARRIS

Thursday 20 Oct, page 8: YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

A meeting of the committee of this club was held yesterday at Sheffield under the presidency of Lord Hawke. It was decided to retain for the county the following professionals:- [G] H Hirst, of Kirkheaton, J T Brown, of Darfield, A Cordingley and S Bairstow. Permission was given to J T Brown, of the county eleven, to winter in South Africa.

Certain alterations of rules suggested by the sub-committee were adopted, subject to confirmation by the next committee meeting. It was resolved that the "Yorkshire Cricket Year Book" be again published. Lord Harris's letter on the county qualification was read and considered.

The county championship matches to be played in Yorkshire next season were allocated as follows:- Surrey and Essex at Sheffield, Lancashire and Kent at Leeds, Middlesex and Nottinghamshire at Bradford, Gloucestershire at Huddersfield, Derbyshire at Dewsbury, Sussex at Harrogate, Warwickshire at Scarborough and Somerset at Hull.

The fixtures with Hampshire and Leicestershire have not yet been settled and may not be played. If played, the Leicestershire match will be at Bradford and Hampshire at Sheffield. The Australians will be played at Sheffield, Leeds and Bradford.

Second eleven matches will be played with Durham at Leeds, Norfolk at Harrogate and Worcestershire at Sheffield. The annual match between the Yorkshire Colts and the Notts Colts will take place at Barnsley.

Tuesday 25 October, page 7: THE ENGLISH COUNTIES AND THE AUSTRALIAN TEST MATCHES

The board recently formed for the purpose of regulating future test matches between England and Australia in this country met yesterday afternoon in the pavilion at Lord's. All the members were present, these being the Hon A Lyttelton, M.P. (chairman), the Earl of Lichfield, Lord Harris, Mr W E Denison, Mr H D G Leveson-Gower and Mr W H Patterson (all nominated by the M.C.C.); Lord Hawke (Yorkshire), Mr A J Webbe (Middlesex), Dr W G Grace (Gloucestershire), Sir Richard Webster, Q.C., M.P. (Surrey), Mr C E Green (Essex) and Mr A N Hornby (Lancashire).

It was decided that five test matches should be played next season - one at Lord's, one at the Oval, one at Manchester, one at Nottingham and one in Yorkshire, probably at Leeds.

In accordance with the provisions of a scheme, of which the details will shortly be made public, all the first-class counties will participate in the profits of these five test matches and an increased remuneration for the professional players selected to represent

England has been agreed upon. The test matches will, as before, be limited to three days each.

Tuesday 1 November, page 11

At yesterday's meeting of the Cambridge University club next year's officers were elected thus:- captain, Mr G L Jessop, Christ's; honorary secretary, Mr T L Taylor, Trinity; assistant treasurer, Mr H H B Hawkins, Trinity.

Mr P H Foley, the honorary secretary of the Worcestershire Club, was presented with a silver cup yesterday in recognition of his cricket services to the county. The Mayor of Worcester presided at the meeting of the members of the club.

At the annual meeting it was stated that for next season matches had already been arranged with Warwick, Derby and Sussex, all home and home, and Notts at Worcester. More first-class fixtures had yet to be obtained, and supporters of the club might be sure of seeing plenty of good cricket.

All last year's team were available as well as Arnold, and several promising colts were coming on. Mr Foley said that he had reason to hope that Prince Ranjitsinhji would be seen at Worcester with Sussex, and that Dr Grace might be persuaded to bring the new London County team.

The balance-sheet showed largely increased gates for special matches, but a falling off in minor county matches, which all ended practically in one day. There was a deficit on the season of £318.

Mr E Bromley-Martin said that a gentleman, who desired to remain anonymous, was willing to bear that deficit and any deficit on the next three seasons, before which time it would be settled whether Worcestershire would be advanced to first-class. The Earl of Coventry was re-elected president, Mr Paul Foley hon. secretary and treasurer, and Mr Harry Foster captain.

Thursday 3 November, page 10: THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Middlesex County Club as held yesterday at the Charing-cross Hotel. Mr E Rutter took the chair, and among those present were Mr A J Webbe, Mr P M Thornton (hon. secretary), Mr M Turner, Mr G F Vernon and Mr W J Ford.

Mr A J Webbe definitively resigned the captaincy of the eleven, a position he had filled since the late Mr I D Walker retired from first-class cricket after the season of 1884. A desire was expressed by the committee that Mr Stoddart would in future captain the team. Among other business the following resolutions were passed:

"(1) The committee of the Middlesex County Club desire to place on record their deep appreciation of the great services that Mr I D Walker rendered to cricket in the country. They feel, however, that it is impossible to find words to express their sense of the loss the club has sustained, which is simply irreparable, and they are well aware that these sentiments are shared by the whole cricket world."

"(2) The committee much regret the death of Mr W H Hadow, who played for many years for the county, and also of Mr C M Tebbut, who, in spite of his new interest in Essex, still remained a member of the committee of his old county."

Lord Harris's proposals with regard to county qualification were laid before the committee and discussed, but no decision was arrived at. It was stated that Middlesex would probably play one match with the Australians next year, and that out and home matches would be played with Surrey, Yorkshire, Notts, Lancashire, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Kent and Sussex. It

is not likely that there will be any matches next season with Leicestershire. At the meeting of county secretaries at Lord's on December 6 for the purpose of arranging the fixtures for 1899, Middlesex will be represented by Mr Webbe and Mr Stoddart.

After payment of all expenses Middlesex matches this year yielded a balance of £850 15s 11d, the matches with Surrey, Yorkshire, Lancashire and Kent being the most profitable. The club's assets at the present time amount in all to nearly £5,500. Donations to the professional members of the team during the year came to £137.

Friday 11 November, page 9: THE AUSTRALIAN TEST MATCHES

The Marylebone Club executive yesterday issued what appears to be a fragment of the minutes of the meeting of the board of control for the Australian test matches which are to be played next summer in England. It has taken the Marylebone Club since October 24 to furnish the following official précis of the discussion, the salient results of which are already familiar to the readers of The Times:-

"It was proposed by Mr A N Hornby, seconded by Mr W E Denison and carried unanimously, that a test match should not extend beyond three days.

"Mr W E Denison remarked that the number of qualifying inter-county matches could be reduced from eight to six, as have been previously done, if found desirable.

"On the question of finance being opened, the position of the M.C.C. was discussed.

"Mr W E Denison mentioned that he had received a letter from Notts County, stating that in their opinion the M.C.C. should not be placed on the same footing as the counties with regard to the financial question.

"Lord Harris drew a forcible distinction between the positions of the M.C.C. and the counties, and contended that as the M.C.C. made a large annual expenditure for the benefit of the counties they should not be expected to make a further contribution out of the proceeds of a test match.

"The Earl of Lichfield hoped that as they had decided to have five test matches it would not be necessary to enter into a discussion with regard to the distribution of gate money.

"The chairman drew attention to the high position the M.C.C. held in the cricket world, and to the difficulty of the board (the majority of whom are members of the M.C.C.) placing the M.C.C. by the scheme in a position of pecuniary advantage as compared with the counties. He suggested that the M.C.C. should not stand on their strict rights and should accept a position of equality with the counties on the money question.

"It was then agreed that the M.C.C. should rank equally with the counties in this respect.

"It was proposed by Mr C E Green, and seconded by Mr A J Webbe, that, after payment of half the gross gate money to the Australians, the net gate money of all test matches should be divided equally among the first-class counties and the M.C.C., but should there be a loss upon these matches such loss should be equally divided among the said counties and the M.C.C.

"Sir Richard Webster objected to the resolution as introducing a wrong principle, and warned the board that its adoption would be contrary to the interests of cricket and would not bring about the beneficial result they anticipated.

"It was proposed by Lord Harris and seconded by Lord Hawke, as an amendment, 'That before paying over the net gate money for division among the said counties and the M.C.C. each club or county, as the case may be, regulating a test match should be entitled to retain 20 per cent of such net gate money.' (Carried.)

"At the suggestion of the Earl of Lichfield it was agreed that the expenses to be deducted from the gross gate money, after payment of a moiety to the Australians, shall include police, players (including reserve men), umpires, scorers, gate and ground attendants, advertising, luncheons and any other item specially sanctioned by the board. (Carried.)

"It was also agreed that the proceeds of the stands should not be included in arriving at the sum to be divided.

"The above resolution, as amended, as carried (Sir Richard Webster dissenting). It was decided that, as the selection of teams was in the hands of the board, they could, if they considered it expedient, delegate the duties thereof to such persons as they thought fit.

"Sir R Webster proposed that a more liberal remuneration should be given to the professionals and reserve men who took part in a test match. It was agreed that such remuneration should be in future £20."

Monday 14 November, page 7: SOMERSET COUNTY CLUB

The Hon Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane presided over the annual meeting of the members of the Somerset County Cricket Club, held at Taunton on Saturday. Mr Gerald Fowler, the hon. treasurer, presented the balance-sheet, which showed that the year ended with a small favourite balance, notwithstanding the fact that it had commenced with a deficit of £140. The guarantors, however, have been called upon for £116. The members' subscriptions this year showed an increase of over £100.

Several of last season's matches were considerably interfered with by rain, the gates being consequently affected. Mr Fowler stated that the two Smiths (D and W), Farmer, Gamlin and Bailey would no longer play for the county, but Braund, of Surrey, would assist the eleven, while Lewis would be placed on the staff next year.

Tyler had been granted a benefit match for next year, which, he was sure, they would all agree was thoroughly deserved. It had been decided to give him the Surrey match, which, granted fine weather, was generally one of the best-attended of the season.

The Australians would play once at Taunton. The accounts were adopted.

Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane was re-elected president, and the whole of the vice-presidents, including the Marquis of Bath, were reappointed. Major Simpson and Mr Morgan, of Bath, Mr Lionel Palairt and Mr D H McLean, of Wells, were placed upon the committee. Mr Gerald Fowler was again chosen as honorary treasurer and Mr H E Murray-Anderdon as honorary secretary.

Mr Hamilton Palairt proposed the election of Mr S M J Woods as paid secretary at a salary of £200 a year. He remarked that it was a question whether they should lose Mr Woods's services or not, and he did not think that Somerset could afford to do without him. Mr Gerald Fowler seconded the motion, which was carried. Mr Woods was reappointed captain.

In answer to a question from Major Wilkie, Mr Murray-Anderdon stated that the Yorkshire match, in May, and the Gloucestershire match, in July, would both be played in Bath.

Wednesday 16 November, page 11: COUNTY QUALIFICATIONS

After thoroughly discussing Lord Harris's proposals for the amendment of county qualifications, of which the text was published in The Times of the 15th ult., the Nottinghamshire committee have decided to put forward the following suggestions:-

"The committee of the Notts County Cricket Club, feeling that the existing rules require amendment in form, as well as uniformity in application, venture to suggest the following

proposals in the hope of restoring a genuine character to county cricket and of ensuring that the eleven playing for a county shall represent the county itself and not merely the county club and ground:-

"BIRTH.- (1) A cricketer is qualified to play for that county in which at the time of his birth his parents had their settled home, or, in the event of the said parents having at that time no settled home in England, for the county in which he was born.

"RESIDENTIAL.- (2) He is qualified to play for that county in which for the two years immediately previous to his playing he has had his settled home. N.B.- The acquirement or hiring of a tenement unless used as a bona-fide home does not give a qualification.

(3) A cricketer who has obtained, or is in process of obtaining, a qualification on account of settled home does not forfeit that qualification by accepting a temporary cricket engagement for the winter months, joining a team playing cricket abroad during those months, or by travelling abroad, so long as he maintains that home during his absence, and comes back to it on his return to England. N.B.- In the case of a man living in lodgings it will not be necessary for him to retain his lodgings, but he must come back to them or to similar ones on the county immediately on his return from abroad.

(4) A cricketer qualified by residence for one county and changing his residence to another forfeits his qualification for the first from the date of the change.

"COUNTIES TO PROVE QUALIFICATION OF THEIR PLAYERS.- (5) No one shall play under a residential qualification until the county for which he proposes to play shall have proved his qualification to the satisfaction of a committee appointed for the purpose.

(6) No one shall play for more than one county in the same year.

(7) A cricketer born abroad, and having no residential qualification for any county, may acquire one by a bona-fide residence as described above for one year; but in the event of his again living abroad, or of changing his residence to another county, the full period of two years will be necessary for qualification. N.B.- This privilege might be extended to men belonging to counties having no county cricket club.

(8) The county which proposed to qualify by residence any cricketer shall before application to the committee give notice, with particulars surrounding the claim, to the county for which the said cricketer may already have a birth qualification.

(9) A register shall be kept of cricketers claiming to play under residential qualification.

(10) Every county playing cricketers under residential qualifications shall in every year before the opening of the cricket season certify to the committee that the qualification continues, and shall be required to prove the same if called upon.

(11) An appeal may be made from the decision of the committee to the committee of the C.C.

(12) All previous rules for qualification are repealed.

"W WRIGHT, Hon. Sec. Notts C.C.C.

"November, 1898."

Tuesday 22 November, page 5: KENT COUNTY CLUB

The Kent committee held their half-yearly meeting yesterday afternoon at Willis's Rooms. Lord Falmouth (president of the county club) was in the chair, and among those present were Lord Harris, the Marquis Camden, Earl Sondes, Mr A Akers Douglas, M.P., the Hon J S R Tufton, Mr J R Mason, Major Spens, Mr Stanley Christopherson, Mr Cornwallis, M.P., Mr F A Mackinnon, Mr K McAlpine and Mr F Marchant.

The draft report to the members on the season of 1898 was read and unanimously approved. Reference was made in the report to the improved form shown by the eleven, and a very high compliment was paid to Mr J R Mason on the way in which he had carried out the duties of captain.

Finally the season was one of great success and, despite the fact that the first match of the Canterbury Week was given to Alec Hearne for his benefit, the balance of £499 19s 2s in the hands of the club at the beginning of the year had been increased to £842 18s 10d. The gross receipts for the year amounted to £4,493, this sum exceeding the average of the previous three years by £785.

Moreover, the purchase of the St Lawrence ground at Canterbury had been completed, the balance of £550 which was due on the loan from the bank at the date of the last balance-sheet having been paid off by the sale of £473 Consols and a few donations.

A cheque for £796 0s 8d had been handed to Alec Hearne as the result of his benefit, and as he collected for himself £218 he would receive in all over £1,000. Martin, in recognition of his long service to his county, is to have a benefit at Canterbury in 1900.

Kent will next season play out and home matches with Yorkshire, Middlesex, Surrey, Gloucestershire, Lancashire, Essex, Notts, Somerset, Warwickshire and Sussex, and, in addition of playing the M.C.C. as usual at Lord's, will meet the Australians on the last three days of the Canterbury Week. Of the ten county matches at home three will be played at Tonbridge, two each at Canterbury and Catford, and one each at Blackheath, Gravesend and Maidstone.

The payment of a winter wage of £1 a week to the regular professional members of the eleven - Alec Hearne, Martin, Wright, Easby and Huish - from the middle of September to the middle of April is to be kept up.

At the meeting of the county secretaries at Lord's on December 6 to arrange next season's fixtures Kent will be represented by Mr Mason and Mr Marchant.

COUNTY QUALIFICATION

Lord Harris has invited the leading counties to send representatives to a meeting at Lord's on December 5 to discuss the rules of county cricket. All the counties except Lancashire and Notts have already accepted the invitation and the meeting has been fixed for 4 o'clock. Lord Harris's proposal as to the registration of players has been approved by Kent and by several of the second-class counties.

Wednesday 30 November, page 7: CRICKET

The committee of the Derbyshire County Club have recently held a series of meetings in reference to their arrangements for 1899. their usual programme will be repeated - namely, home and home matches with Yorkshire, Surrey, Lancashire, Notts, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Essex and Hampshire, and the M.C.C. at Lord's. The Australians will also be met at Derby, and there will be a further extension of the programme in a fixture with Worcestershire.

After the success which attended the playing of the Yorkshire and Surrey matches at Chesterfield last summer two county fixtures will be allotted to the East Derbyshire town, while the Lancashire match will be played at Glossop, which will for the first time have a county fixture. This has been arranged chiefly through a guarantee given by Mr S H Wood, who has often figures in the county eleven and who is this year Mayor of Glossop.

Friday 2 December, page 11: COUNTY QUALIFICATION

A special committee of the Lancashire County Club appointed to consider and report on the question of county cricket qualification issued last night the following report:-

"This committee think that the rules at present in operation are quite sufficient if properly carried out, but if an alteration is desirable they wish to recommend the following:-

- (1) That a register shall be kept of all county cricketers, giving their names in full and the county of their birth.
- (2) A county cricketer shall always be eligible to play for the county of his birth; but (a) if such county cricketer desires to play for another county he can do so provided he has given notice to the registrar before the 1st of May of the preceding season that he wishes to be 'attached' to such county; (b) no county cricketer can play for more than one county during the same season.
- (3) A county cricketer on leaving the county he has been 'attached' to shall not be permitted to play for any other county except the county of his birth.
- (4) Cricketers born outside Great Britain can attach themselves to any county after 12 months' personal permanent residence in this country."

The above suggestions, it is explained, are meant to apply to first-class cricketers only.

Tuesday 6 December, page 11: COUNTY QUALIFICATION

The meeting convened by Lord Harris, who had drawn up a comprehensive scheme to deal with the vexed question of county cricket qualification, was held at Lord's yesterday, and the day being opportune as preceding by 24 hours the annual assembly of secretaries nearly all the counties of any cricketing pretensions were represented.

Lord Harris was unanimously voted to the chair. There were present:- Mr A J Webbe, Middlesex; Mr F E Lacey, secretary of the M.C.C.; Mr J Shuter, Mr K J Key and Mr C W Alcock, Surrey; Mr F S Jackson and Mr J B Wostinholm, Yorkshire; Mr W E Denison and Mr W Wright, Notts; Mr T Pawley, Kent; Dr W G Grace, Gloucestershire; Mr S M J Woods and Mr H Murray Anderdon, Somerset; Mr Arthur Wilson, Derbyshire; Mr O R Borradaile, Essex; Dr Russell-Bencraft, Hampshire; Mr T Burdett, Leicestershire; Mr W Ansell and Mr G H Cartland, Warwickshire; Mr J MacLaren and Mr S H Swire, Lancashire; Mr H F de Paravicini, Sussex; Mr P H Foley, Worcestershire; Mr H Turner, Oxfordshire; Mr H G Tylecote, Hertfordshire; Mr J H Brain, Glamorganshire; Mr Oliver Papworth, Cambridgeshire; Mr G R Ward and Mr P J de Paravicini, Buckinghamshire; Mr W O Nares, Berkshire; Mr A J Darnell and Mr Percy W Dale, Northamptonshire; Mr A M Miller, Wiltshire; Mr R H Mallett, Durham; and Mr E G Buxton, Norfolk.

Lord Harris suggested, and it was decided, that the proceedings should be open to the Press, and that only one delegate should vote for each county. In moving "That the county qualification rules are inadequate for present requirements," the chairman said that last year Lord Hawke drew the attention of the M.C.C. to the necessity for some modification of the present rule. The Marylebone Club could not act without ascertaining the views of the counties, and offered to appoint a committee for the purpose of considering any suggested amendments. The large majority of the counties were of opinion that the present rules needed strengthening. That was sufficient argument for his original letter on the subject and also for his motion.

Mr Tylecote seconded the motion.

Mr Swire was of opinion that the present rules, if properly carried out, were sufficient.

Mr Denison observed that Notts preferred the existing rules to any of the proposed schemes with the exception of their own.

Dr Grace and Mr Wilson also shared the view that the present rules sufficed if strictly carried out, the latter remarking that the payment of half-a-crown a week for a room occupied only once or twice during the year should not constitute a residential qualification.

Mr Darnell said that Northamptonshire were strongly of opinion that the rule of qualification needed amendment; and he pointed out how ill his county had fared under the poaching system carried on.

The motion having been carried,

The Chairman proposed, - "That the word 'residence' is incapable of such precise definition as is required for county qualification rules." He said it had been observed that the act of sleeping in lodges would become an eligible qualification; but who was going to become such an inquisitorial authority? Certainly not the M.C.C. committee. He was not much in love with his own scheme of registration, but he had racked his brains for a definition of residence and could find none.

The application of adjectives availed them nothing; how could one define bona fide residence? It had been suggested that a man should reside at least nine months of the year in the house which gave him his qualification, but that project was impossible, as no authoritative body would undertake the duty of seeing that the rule was obeyed. Notts had suggested "settled home," but he thought "settlement" was much better. Mr Lacey and a lawyer had warned him against using the word "domicile," for it had been legally laid down that a man might leave the country for several years but still have his domicile.

Mr Pawley seconded the motion.

Mr Ansell did not agree that the word "residence" was incapable of definition, and suggested that a qualification might be determined by reference to the rate book, the Parliamentary register and the lodger franchise.

Mr Denison moved as an amendment "That the word 'residence' requires some precise definition to make it suitable for county qualification rules."

The amendment was carried by 12 votes to nine, and adopted as a substantive motion.

The Chairman announced that the Marylebone Club had offered to appoint a committee to discuss the county qualification.

The meeting then unanimously agreed "That the amendment of the county qualification rules with all resolutions passed to-day and all schemes suggested by counties are referred to the committee which the Marylebone Club have offered to assemble."

On the motion of Mr Cartland, it was decided "That the M.C.C. be requested to add to the committee which they have offered to assemble a representative from the counties of Kent, Yorkshire, Surrey and Lancashire, and two minor counties to be selected by themselves."

It was also agreed "That the rules of county cricket should apply to all counties."

Mr Webbe proposed "That this meeting of counties considers that a cricketer who has played for a county for five years shall be qualified to play for that county for the rest of his cricket career, or until he plays for some other county."

The motion was also carried.

Mr Darnell, in moving "That this meeting recommends the committee now appointed to consider the question of monetary compensation being given to the counties transferring a professional," observed that he thought monetary compensation should be given in such cases. His county, Northants, had suffered through their players leaving, and he instanced the cases of Bowley, West, Santall, Wood, Thomson and Mold. First-class counties had plundered

the minor counties. The question of transfer should be considered as well as that of monetary consideration.

Mr Darnell's motion was rejected by 13 votes to eight.

Mr Wostinholm drew attention to the advisability of inducing railway companies to grant cheap fares to holders of members' tickets, and at his suggestion the meeting agreed that it was desirable that members of visiting counties should be admitted to the pavilion and enclosures of the home county. The same gentleman also raised the question of the practice on some grounds of giving each umpire a ball after a match, but no motion on the subject was submitted.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Lord Harris who, in responding, said that he was personally sorry that the result of their deliberations should have left things so indefinite. The situation seemed to be drifting back to the present unsatisfactory state of the rules. But perhaps the raising of the question was in no way harmful.

THE AUSTRALIAN ELEVEN IN 1899.- Including the five test matches 31 fixtures have now been arranged for the Australian team, and for the few vacant dates there are several applications. The eleven will meet all the 14 first-class counties, playing Surrey, Gloucestershire, Lancashire and Yorkshire twice each. They will play the M.C.C. and Ground twice at Lord's, and will meet Oxford University, Cambridge University, the South of England at the Crystal Palace and Portsmouth, and will take part in the Scarborough and Hastings festivals.

Apart from the five test matches, which were definitely arranged some little time back to be played on June 1 at Nottingham, June 15 at Lord's, June 29 at Leeds, July 17 at Manchester and August 14 at the Oval, the various dates will have to be ratified at the meeting of county secretaries at Lord's to-day. In all probability the Australians will play Yorkshire at Sheffield on Whit Monday, and Warwickshire at Birmingham on the August Bank Holiday.

Wednesday 7 December, page 11: THE MEETING OF COUNTY SECRETARIES

The Tuesday in Cattle Show week has long been devoted at Lord's to the meeting of county secretaries for the agreement upon the first-class cricket of the succeeded summer, and the tradition was duly observed yesterday, when the attendance was larger than usual. These meetings have often been opportune for the discussion of some subject of particular interest to the counties, but the matter of qualification, which is just now supposed to be the burning question, was, as already reported in The Times, dealt with at Lord Harris's gathering on the preceding day, and the only thing of interest away from the fixtures was the reduction of the number of matches qualifying for the county championship from 16 to 12 - a custom which during Australian tours in this country has generally been practised.

By this reduction of the *minimum* Worcestershire become a first-class county. They have a fine eleven on last year's form, and Mr P H Foley and Mr H K Foster have worked very hard in developing the play. Worcestershire have secured six home and home matches with Yorkshire, Hampshire, Warwickshire, Leicestershire and Derbyshire, and they have also a two days' match with Notts. Somerset came into the charmed circle some years ago in a very similar manner. One or two of the counties objected yesterday to the reduction; but, as Dr Grace pointed out, the championship can never possess a sound basis until each of the first-class counties plays the other twice.

The Australian programme, of which Mr C W Alcock has charge, has been made upon the same lines as those of other tours. There are five test matches instead of three - a change which many good cricketers think unnecessary, for the reason that it smacks rather of "gate" money; but, as there were to be five, it was strongly suggested that the west country should have been given one. The details of the scheme for the division of profits and for the selection of the sides are familiar to the readers of The Times.

No mention was publicly made of the Crystal Palace scheme for the London County Cricket Club, and the fixtures have been arranged on a very modest basis, which was perhaps dictated by the exigencies of the London season, overcrowded as it is now with the addition of the long Australian list to the ordinary county games.

Mr F E Lacey, the secretary of the Marylebone Club, presided, and among those present were Mr C W Alcock and Mr K J Key (Surrey), Mr F S Jackson and Mr J B Wostinholm (Yorkshire), Mr James MacLaren, Mr E B Rowley and Mr S H Swire (Lancashire), Mr Charles Green and Mr O R Borradaile (Essex), Mr A J Webbe and Mr A E Stoddart (Middlesex), Mr W Wright, Mr W E Denison and Mr Henry Turner (Nottinghamshire), Dr W G Grace (Gloucestershire), Mr S M J Woods and Mr H Murray Anderson (Somerset), Mr E Roper (Liverpool), Mr F H B Champain and Mr R E Foster (Oxford University), Mr J R Mason, Mr F Marchant and Mr A J Lancaster (Kent), Mr P J Foley and Mr H K Foster (Worcestershire), Mr Barclay Delacombe and Mr Arthur Wilson (Derbyshire), Mr T Horner (Cheshire), Mr H W Bainbridge and Mr W Ansell (Warwickshire), Mr H F De Paravicini, Mr E A Smithers, Mr G Brann and Mr W Newham (Sussex), Dr Russell Bencraft and Mr C Robson (Hampshire), Mr H D Taylor (Cambridge University), Mr C I Thornton (Scarborough), Mr T Burdett (Leicestershire), Mr A Worsley (North and East Riding) and the representatives of the minor counties who had met in the morning.

Some compliments having been exchanged between Mr Lacey, of the M.C.C., and Mr C W Alcock on behalf of the counties, the meeting proceeded to deal with the fixtures.

After Luncheon Mr Wostinholm drew attention to the fact that some of the counties had difficulty in arranging the full eight home and home matches because of the time taken up with the Australian tour.

Mr Ansell, of Warwickshire, and Dr Grace objected to the proposal of Mr Wostinholm that six home and home matches should be the *minimum* for qualification for the championship.

After some discussion it was agreed to have six matches home and home, as was the case when two other Australian teams had been here. The recommendation will formally come before the M.C.C. Committee next Monday for ratification.

[Note: full first-class fixture list for 1899 follows. This can be found at:
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/Seasonal_Averages/ENG/1899_f_Match_List.html]

THE MINOR COUNTIES

Mr E G Buxton (Norfolk) presided over the meeting of the minor counties at Lord's yesterday morning, the representatives present being Messrs P H Foley and H K Foster (Worcestershire), Messrs A T Darnell, T H Vials and Percy W Dale (Northamptonshire), Mr F G H Clayton (Northumberland), Mr J Earl Norman (Hertfordshire), the Rev P E Mainwaring (Staffordshire), Mr W O Nares (Berkshire), Mr A M Miller (Worcestershire), Messrs G R Ward, C E Cobb and P J de Paravicini (Bucks), Mr Oliver Papworth (Cambridgeshire), Messrs R C Thompson and R H Mallett (Durham), Mr D Howell (Cornwall) and Mr H M Turner (Oxfordshire).

Mr Foley suggested that another hon. secretary to the Minor Counties Association should be elected, as Worcestershire would not be playing any of the minor counties, and Mr R H Mallett was chosen to take over the duties.

The question of having neutral umpires was again brought forward. A recommendation from the special committee appointed to consider the matter, that the M.C.C. should appoint umpires from a submitted list, was not considered feasible, and an amendment that the counties should select and pay their own umpires, as heretofore, was carried.

A resolution by Mr R H Mallett recommending the inclusion of the second elevens of first-class counties in the minor counties competitions was agreed to after considerable discussion, and the number of matches necessary to qualify was fixed at eight - home and home matches with four counties, whether taking part in the competition or not.

Messrs A R Darnell (Northamptonshire), P J de Paravicini (Bucks) and the hon. secretary were elected to serve on the County Cricket Committee, and the representatives on Northamptonshire, Glamorganshire, Buckinghamshire and the hon. secretary were elected as a committee to choose the eleven to play M.C.C. and Ground.

Tuesday 13 December, page 10: THE MARYLEBONE CLUB AND THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The M.C.C. committee met yesterday at the Lord Chamberlain's office in St James's Palace.

The suggestion of the counties that, in view of the pressure caused by the Australian tour next summer, the number of matches qualifying for the championship should be 12 instead of 16, was adopted.

Worcestershire's application for admission to the championship was granted conditionally upon compliance with the usual regulations.