

Cricketers have long learned to look to "Wisden" for something more than a mere dry return of the year's work, and this winter they are treated to a very full discussion on one of cricket's most debatable rules - the law as to leg before wicket. Not since the spirited controversy carried on in the columns of The Times on the following on "incident" in the University match at Lord's in 1896 has there been such an authoritative discussion as is now presented to us in "Wisden."

It will be remembered that Mr E V Bligh proposed to amend the l-b-w rule to -

"Or if, standing in the direct line between the two wickets, with any part of his person he stops the ball, which, in the opinion of the umpire at the bowler's wicket would have hit the striker's wicket - leg before wicket."

With considerable enterprise, the editor of "Wisden" sought the opinion of leading cricketers on the subject, and he has secured a wonderful harvest of interesting matter. Perhaps the abuse of the pads has called for some slight change in this particular law of the game, which might be so modified that an umpire should be able to place a wider construction on its lettering than he can do at present. Robert Thoms, the veteran Middlesex professional, lays it down that

"The bat ought to play the ball that is about to hit the wicket, and in a spirit of fairness, if the bowler, by extra spin or break back, can beat the batsman, it seems but right that he should have the benefit of his skill . . ."

But there are other causes besides leg play for present-day heavy scoring. One is deterioration in fielding and another is that good bowlers have not increased at the same rate as good batsmen. Fielding is too often now the last branch of the game cultivated. That prince among unorthodox batsmen - Dr E M Grace - in giving his opinion against the proposed change bluntly delivers himself thus:- "Instead of altering l-b-w provide every fielder with a pennyworth of cobbler's wax, and then all catches would be made and few centuries scored." It would certainly be interesting to know how many cricketers last summer got 100s without being missed.

Much of the heavy scoring can, no doubt, be traced to bad bowling and fielding; and it would seem that some sides wish to compensate for the absence of bowling skill by making the batsman's position more vulnerable. The best antidote to high scoring is a better cultivation of fielding and bowling.

It is a bold cricketer who would differ with the lords of the Marylebone Club, many of whom seem anxious for a change; but we have had a succession of wonderful batsman's summers. Lord Harris and Mr John Shuter advocate extreme caution in dealing with the laws of cricket, while one of the finest cricketers Harrow or Cambridge have produced - Mr F S Jackson - thinks the present rule meets the case. And Mr Jackson, being almost as eminent a bowler as he is a bat, can speak with a good deal of experience.

George Lohmann used to be able to get sides out on any wicket, and such men as Jack Hearne, Tom Richardson, Rhodes, Albert Trott, Lockwood and Charles Townsend are still capable of doing it, leg play or no leg play. And if we remember rightly, the Australian bowlers developed a capacity for getting Mr Stoddart's men out on the most perfect of wickets.

The batsmen must not be asked to give too much away. The sides without bowling and fielding talent must remember that the race is, after all, for the swift; and it is to be hoped that the M.C.C. Committee will not be hurried into any hurried and drastic change. When, however, Mr Alfred Lyttelton, the president, writes that he "would welcome almost any change that would minimize the evil" it may be assumed that he is giving some idea of the feeling of the Lords executive on the subject.

Among the interesting features in "Wisden" Mr F G J Ford makes his usual analysis of public school cricket, and is not far out in claiming for Harrow, with their wonderful player E M Dowson, the title of the best eleven of the year. For those fond of records there is a list

from 1844 giving the bowlers of 100 wickets; the work of Mr Alfred Gaston, of Brighton. The editor sounds a pardonable note of triumph on the successful crusade against throwing, for the suppression of which he has persistently fought.

Storer, Trott, Mr Townsend, Lockwood and Rhodes are worthily chosen as "five great cricketers of the season," but their portraits which adorn the volume as a frontispiece are not very good. The memoir of Mr I D Walker, written by one of his closest friends, will be read with pathetic interest; and in connexion with this a line from the new Bishop of Calcutta's letter, which was addressed to The Times on the eve of the Eton and Harrow match may be quoted:-

". . . in the early hours of this morning the devoted friend of Harrow, and of its cricket especially, Mr I D Walker, passed away. His death could hardly have been more painful in its circumstances, for it has occurred almost within a stone's throw of Lord's Cricket Ground, and on the eve of the annual match between Eton and Harrow. The Harrow eleven, in whose training he bore so large a part, may claim, after his family, to be his chief mourners. They will play the match on Friday and Saturday, for to abandon it would cause widespread disappointment, such as he of all men would most keenly have regretted; but they can have little heart for playing it, and I do not think that anybody who knows their feeling for him will look upon their playing as an act of disrespect to his memory."

"Wisden" in its 37th year is one of the best numbers ever issued from Cranbourn-street, and Mr Sydney H Pardon, the editor, is to be warmly congratulated on this fact.

Wednesday 18 January, page 7: THE NOTTS COUNTY CLUB

The annual report of the committee of the Notts County Cricket Club, issued yesterday, states that the total income for the year was £3,129 and the expenditure £2,808, leaving a profit on the season's working of £321. The profit, with £313 balance in hand in January last, has been expended on a new structure erected on the north side of the ground.

The experience of last year has been gratifying in regard to the fact that the revival of public interest in the club continues. The committee acknowledge the energy displayed by the team, and particularly thank Mr Dixon, the captain, for his untiring efforts.

The committee have decided to play the next annual colts' match on the last Monday and Tuesday in April. The Yorkshire v Notts colts' match is to be played this year at Barnsley.

Out matches have been arranged with M.C.C. and Ground and Worcestershire, and home and home matches with Sussex, Kent, Gloucestershire, Middlesex, Surrey, Lancashire, Yorkshire and Derbyshire. Trent-bridge this year will be the scene of the first of the test matches against Australia.

Various improvements, including the construction of a pavilion for ladies, are in progress on the ground. The estimated cost of the whole of the new buildings on the ground is £4,000.

The report adds that the engagement of a ground staff at Trent-bridge has fully proved the wisdom of its adoption. A strong effort will be made during the coming season to raise the number of members to 2,000.

THE LANCASHIRE CLUB

The annual balance-sheet of the Lancashire County Cricket Club shows a deficiency on the season's working for the first time for many years. The amount of the loss is £196.

During the year the Old Trafford ground was purchased for £24,732, and the only liabilities are £20,000 due to the mortgage creditors and an overdraft at the bank of £277. During the season £3,657 was received in subscriptions and £3,717 from gates and stands.

Saturday 21 January, page 7: COUNTY QUALIFICATION

At the meeting of county delegates at Lord's last December a sub-committee was appointed to confer with the M.C.C. committee on the subject of the county qualification. It has been arranged for the county representatives to meet the M.C.C. committee at Lord's on Friday, February 3, at 11 a.m.

Thursday 26 January, page 8: THE NOTTS COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Notts County Cricket Club was held at Nottingham yesterday, Mr G M Royle presiding, in the absence of Sir Henry Bromley. The secretary, Mr H Turner, referring to the report - which has been already published - said he thought it might be regarded as very satisfactory, especially considering the unfortunate weather which attended the early matches.

The team did much better last season than in the previous year, having risen two points in the County Championship. Special thanks were due to Mr Dixon, not only for his able captaincy, but for his valuable service as a player. All those who had studied Notts cricket for the last generation well knew that the county had ever been the pioneer in all movements tending to the welfare of the game, and he was sure they would all be glad that it

was from Notts the idea emanated of putting the test matches on a fairer basis than they had been previously.

The engagement of a ground staff at Trent Bridge had proved a success as far as the two years' experience had gone. The competition for the younger players was now so severe among counties that it was only by adopting a course of that kind they could expect to keep their best young players at home.

Four years ago a debt of £4,800 rested upon the club, but the whole of that had since been paid off. Three thousand pounds had been spent in improvements on the ground and the cultivation of the ground staff, and they had still a balance of over £200 in hand.

The report was adopted, upon the proposal of the chairman, seconded by Judge Masterman. The chairman made an appeal to raise the Attewell benefit fund to £1,000, of which sum it was at present only £25 short.

Mr Dixon, in the course of discussion, said last season the team had played several good up-hill games and had done better than in the previous year. They had only been defeated on two occasions - a fewer number of defeats than was experienced by any other county during the season.

Mr W Hollings, of Pleasley Vale, Mansfield, was nominated by Sir Henry Bromley as his successor in the presidency for the ensuing year, Captain Tomasson, chief constable of Nottinghamshire, being chosen as vice-president.

On behalf of the committee and other subscribers the chairman presented to William Gunn a case of silver dessert knives and forks and a gold albert in recognition of his two great innings of 139 at Lord's in the Gentlemen and Players' match and 236 not out at Kennington Oval for Notts against Surrey during the August Bank Holiday match.

Monday 30 January, page 11: CRICKET

We are asked to state that the London County Cricket Club has now been definitely formed and will begin operations at the Crystal Palace as soon as possible. The management of the club and election of members are vested in the executive committee, which is composed as follows:- Sir Richard Webster, Q.C., M.P., Sir Arthur Sullivan, Mr A J Webbe, Mr A W Biggs, Mr E Clark, Mr W H Stone, Mr E Schenk, Mr G Cosens, Mr H E Milner, Mr W F Umney, Mr F C Barchard and Dr W G Grace, secretary and manager.

A new pavilion is to be at once erected on the present cricket ground. In addition to the present cricket ground other spaces in the ground are available and are being laid out, so that plenty of accommodation will be provided for practice. A ground staff is being formed, so that on practice days members will have no difficulty in procuring bowlers.

All communications respecting the London County Cricket Club should be addressed to Dr W G Grace, St Andrew's, Lawrie-park-road, Sydenham, S.E.

Tuesday 31 January, page 10: THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Lancashire County C.C. was held yesterday afternoon at the Memorial-hall, Manchester, Mr A N Hornby presiding. The statement of accounts showed that for the first time for many years the receipts had not equalled the expenditure by £196 17s 8d, a circumstance largely due to the unfavourable weather prevailing on the dates of many of the Old Trafford fixtures.

The total gate and stand receipts only amounted to £3,717 3s 8d, and members' subscriptions were £3,657 5s. The ordinary members numbered 2,858 and there were 689 lady subscribers. The expenditure included £1,591 14s 9d for players' wages in county matches; £504 11s 4d for

hotel and travelling expenses of amateurs and payments in connexion with county matches; £2,570 for wages, including £1,411 for ground professionals and £302 for grounds men and boys. The liabilities consist of a mortgage of £20,000 and an overdraft of £277 19s 2d, whilst the assets consist of the newly-purchased ground and buildings and an investment of £1,690 10s.

The annual report stated that there was a very unwelcome deterioration compared with the previous year in the attendance of the general public. The bad weather experienced during Whit week - almost the worst from a cricket point of view - was mostly responsible for this fact, and the falling off in the attendance of 41,000 was apparently due the conditions altogether uncontrollable, rather than to lack of enthusiasm.

Mr Hornby was re-elected president, Mr S H Swire hon. secretary and Mr J MacLaren hon. treasurer. It was decided by 114 to 81 to increase the subscription of new members to two guineas.

THE KENT COUNTY FIXTURES

There have been two changes in the grounds originally fixed for Kent matches. The Gloucestershire fixture on May 11 has been altered from Maidstone to Blackheath, and the Middlesex match on July 6 will be played at Maidstone instead of at Canterbury.

Saturday 4 February, page 9: COUNTY QUALIFICATIONS

The county committee appointed last December to deal with the question of county qualification met the M.C.C. committee at Lord's yesterday, Lord Harris in the chair. There was a long discussion, the proceedings being private.

Just before luncheon, Lord Harris stated that there would be nothing to communicate to the Press, adding that any resolutions passed at the meeting would in due course be submitted to the Marylebone Club. The chief and, indeed, almost the only point in dispute is the question of Residential qualification.

Tuesday 7 February, page 11: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR 1899

It has been arranged that the members of the Australian team will leave Australia in the Orient liner Ormuz, which is due out from Adelaide on March 23 and will arrive in Plymouth about April 28.

Wednesday 8 February, page 12: The match between Sussex and Cambridge University on the 19th, 20th and 21st of June next will be played at Eastbourne instead of at Brighton, as originally arranged.

Tuesday 21 February, page 12: COUNTY QUALIFICATION

The committee appointed in December by the M.C.C., at the request of the counties, to deal with the question of county qualification, has now completed its labours and, what is more, its proposals have been approved by the M.C.C. Below will be found the new rules set out in detail: -

(1) A cricketer born in one county and residing in another may not play for more than one county during the same season.

(2) A cricketer is always eligible to play for the county of his birth.

(3) A cricketer is qualified to play for any county in which he has resided for the previous 24 months and is residing; but -

- (a) The mere acquirement for hiring of a tenement, unless used as a bona-fide home, does not constitute "residence."
- (b) The occupation of a tenement during the cricket season only does not constitute "residence."

(4) Where a cricketer uses as residences in the course of the year tenements in more than one county, or where he leaves the country for the winter months, and in all other cases where his qualification is in any doubt, it is obligatory on the county for which he wishes to play to prove his qualification to the satisfaction of the M.C.C.

(5) A cricketer who has played for a county for five consecutive years is qualified to play for that county for the rest of his cricket career, or until he plays for some other county.

(6) A cricketer may play for his old county during the two years that he is qualifying for another.

(7) A cricketer already qualified for a county, but wishing to qualify by residence for another county, must give notice in writing to the cricket club committee of the former county before he commences such residence; and a county cricket club wishing to engage, under a residential qualification, a cricketer who is already qualified for another county club must inform the committee of the latter before commencing negotiations with the cricketer.

(8) Should any question arise under these rules it shall be left to the decision of the committee of the Marylebone Club, which shall be final.

N.B. - In consequence of the resolution passed at the meeting of the counties on December 5, the County Qualification Committee recommended that rule 5 should come into operation at once. The M.C.C. committee have now approved of the alterations, and are of opinion that the new rules should come into operation on January 1, 1900, except rule 5, which should come into operation at once.

As the new rules are not to be put in force till next year, it may be interesting to give the rules which at present govern county cricket. They were originally framed in 1873 and added to in 1888: -

(1) That no cricketer, whether amateur or professional, shall play for more than one county during the same season.

(2) Every cricketer born in one county and residing in another shall be free to choose, at the commencement of each season, for which of those counties he will play, and shall during that season play for that county only.

(3) A cricketer shall be qualified to play for any county in which he is residing and has resided for the previous two years, or a cricketer may elect to play for the county in which his family home is, so long as it remains open to him as an occasional residence.

(4) That should any question arise as to the residential qualification the same should be left to the decision of the committee of the Marylebone Club.

Supplemental rules, passed December, 1888, were: -

(1) "For purposes of county cricket, county boundaries are not affected by the 'Local Government Act, 1888.'"

(2) "During the two years a cricketer may be qualifying to play for another county under the residential qualification he shall be allowed to play for the county for which he has previously been playing under that rule."

This latter alteration was passed by ten votes to five, on the motion of Sussex, seconded by Gloucestershire. In consequence of its passing the rules of county cricket were modified by the addition of the words: - "That a man can play for his old county during the two years that he is qualifying for another."

Friday 24 February, page 12: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

Cricket states that F A Iredale, W Howell and T R McKibbin (New South Wales) and A E Johns (Victoria) are pretty well certain of the four remaining places in the Australian team which is to leave Adelaide on March 23, with Mr B J Wardill, the secretary of the Melbourne Cricket Club, as manager.

In this case the 13 will be J Darling (South Australia), E Jones (South Australia), C Hill (South Australia), H Trumble (Victoria), J Worrall (Victoria), C McLeod (Victoria), A E Johns (Victoria), S E Gregory (New South Wales), J J Kelly (New South Wales), M A Noble (New South Wales), F A Iredale (New South Wales), W Howell (New South Wales) and T R McKibbin (New South Wales).

Only one of the four dates left vacant on the Australian programme arranged at Lord's on December 6 has as yet been fixed. This is July 10, which has been allotted to Birmingham for a match against the Midland Counties. The three remaining dates (May 18, July 6 and July 20) will most probably be secured by Eastbourne, Cornwall and Harrogate.

Friday 3 March, page 12: THE MARYLEBONE CLUB AND THE LAWS OF CRICKET

Mr F E Lacey, the secretary of the Marylebone Club, asks us to give publicity to the following: -

The M.C.C. Committee propose to make the next general meeting of the club "special" (see M.C.C. rules, No. 23) for the purpose of making alterations to the laws of cricket as follows: -

33a. A batsman being out from any cause the ball shall be "dead."

33b. If a ball, whether struck with the bat or not, lodges in a batsman's clothing the ball shall become "dead."

46. They shall not order a batsman out unless appealed to by the other side. N.B. - An appeal "How's that?" covers all ways of being out unless a specific way of getting out is stated by the person asking.

ONE-DAY MATCHES

2. The match, unless played out, shall be decided by the first innings. Prior to the commencement of a match it may be agreed that the over consist of five or six balls. N.B. - A tie is included in the words "played out."

Monday 6 March, page 7: YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Yorkshire County Cricket Club was held on Saturday at Sheffield under the presidency of Mr M J Dodsworth. The statement of accounts for last

season, which was adopted, showed a balance of income over expenditure of £1,424 on the year's working, bringing the total balance now in favour of the club to £6,709.

After the balance-sheet had been adopted, the meeting was adjourned until May 3, or other date which the committee may decide upon.

Tuesday 14 March, page 12: SELECTION OF THE TEAM FOR ENGLAND

Melbourne, March 13.

F A Iredale, W Howell, A E Johns and F E Laver have been finally selected to fill the four remaining places in the team for England, and Trumper will probably accompany the team as 14th man. The side will therefore be made up as follows: -

S E Gregory, J J Kelly, M A Noble, F A Iredale and W Howell (New South Wales), J Worrall, H Trumble, C McLeod, F Laver and A E Johns (Victoria), J Darling, C Hill and E Jones (South Australia), with V Trumper (New South Wales) as reserve.

Friday 17 March, page 11: COUNTY UMPIRES

The annual meeting of county captains for the purpose of nominating umpires to act in first-class county matches next season was held at Lord's yesterday. The following were present: - Mr W B Delacombe and Mr A Wilson (Derbyshire), Mr H G Owen (Essex), Dr W G Grace (Gloucestershire), Captain E G Wynyard (Hampshire), Mr J R Mason (Kent), Mr A N Hornby (Lancashire), Mr A J Webbe (Middlesex), Mr J A Dixon (Notts), Mr S M J Woods (Somerset), Mr W Newham (Sussex), Mr F S Jackson (Yorkshire), Mr H W Bainbridge (Warwickshire) and Mr F E Lacey (secretary M.C.C.). The umpires nominated were: -

T Mycroft, W Hearn, R Clayton, W A Woof, J Painter, J J Tuck, R G Barlow, A Young, J Wheeler, C E Richardson, R Thoms, G Burton, A A White, M Sherwin, W Shrewsbury, R Daft, W A J West, V A Titchmarsh, H Holmes, A Chester, J Street, J Lillywhite, A Hide, A Shaw, W Richards, A F Smith, L Hall, E Goodyear, G Porter, W Clarke, Moss, H Pickett and Milward.

Saturday 18 March, page 14: THE FUTURE OF BRAMALL-LANE GROUND

At Sheffield last night a special meeting of the shareholders of Bramall-lane Ground was held for the purpose of considering a scheme for the purchase from the Duke of Norfolk of the freehold of the Bramall-lane Ground for the sum of £10,134, and for the reconstruction of the Sheffield United Cricket and Football Club as a limited company.

The proposal laid before the meeting by the committee was that a capital of £20,000 be raised, divided into 477 vendors' shares of £20 each fully-paid, and 1,046 £10 5 per cent preference shares. Mr A Neal presided and the attendance was large.

After considerable discussion and several amendments which were all lost, the reconstruction scheme above described was, on the proposition of the chairman, seconded by Mr D Haigh, carried, and 20 directors appointed to take the steps necessary for carrying the same into effect.

The following were nominated: - Lord Hawke, Mr F S Jackson, J C Clegg, W Chesterman, W A Matthews, C E Jeffcock, C E Vickers, F Atkin, M J Dodworth, C Stokes, J B Wostinholm, D Haigh, E Barber, A Cattell, A Neal, T Bott, J Smith, A Tasker, E J Whiteley, W Sissons, C Ellis, J Hodgkinson, A Bingham, G A Tomlinson and H Lockwood. Of these 20 are to be elected by ballot.

It was announced that arrangements had been made for the borrowing of £10,000 on mortgage at 3 per cent for the purpose of purchasing the freehold. The articles of association include the enlargement of the ground and the erection of a new cricket pavilion.

Wednesday 22 March, page 14: CRICKET

The question of an increase in the subscription to the Lancashire County Club in consequence of the purchase of the Old Trafford Ground was discussed at a special meeting of the members held in Manchester yesterday. No decision was arrived at, the meeting being adjourned until December.

At the annual meeting of the Sussex County Club at Brighton yesterday, the Marquis of Abergavenny was elected president for the year.

Thursday 23 March, page 11

The annual meeting of the Warwickshire County Cricket Club was held yesterday at Birmingham, Mr G H Cartland presiding. The report showed that there had been a profit of £141 on the year's working.

The approaching season promised to be more important and interesting to Warwickshire than any of its predecessors. Two fixtures had been arranged with the Australians and 20 first-class matches would be played.

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, referred to the difficulties with which they had had to contend last season in the matter of wet weather and the loss which they had sustained of Mr Bainbridge's services through injury.

The programme for next summer was the best they had ever had. When the alterations at Edgbaston were finished there would be accommodation for 20,000 spectators. Lord Willoughby de Broke was re-elected president.

Monday 27 March, page 14

The annual meeting of the Leicester County Cricket Club was held at Leicester on Saturday, under the presidency of Mr E Holmes. The report stated that 300 new members had been secured, but the total was only 800, and efforts were being made to bring up the number to 1,000.

Serious attention was being given to securing a new ground from the Leicester Corporation near the town, for which £5,200 would be required for the initial outlay. Tom Emmett, the old Yorkshire player, had been engaged as coach, while the ground staff had been increased.

There had been a loss during last season of over £200, and there was a balance in hand of only £71. On the proposition of Sir Archdale Palmer, Mr E Holmes was elected president of the club, and Sir Humphrey de Trafford was added to the vice-presidents.

It was afterwards reported that £1,560 had been subscribed towards the new ground, and that further sums had been promised.

Wednesday 29 March, page 7: THE LAWS OF CRICKET

With regard to the proposed changes in the laws of the game already published in The Times, the following amendment will be moved at the annual meeting of the Marylebone Club at Lord's on May 3: -

To insert the words "within the jurisdiction of the umpire appealed to" between "out" and "unless."

The N.B. to the proposed law 46 will, if the amendment is carried out, accidentally read as follows: - An appeal, How's that? covers all ways of being out within the jurisdiction of the umpire appealed to, unless a specific way of getting out is stated by the person asking.

The balance-sheet of the Gloucestershire County Club was yesterday issued to members. It gives a good idea of the club's prosperous condition. Subscriptions last year realized over £900 and the gate money at matches £2,385. The total income was £3,369 and the expenditure £2,974, increasing the balance to £2,726. The match which realized most gate money was that against Warwickshire at Cheltenham, when £438 was taken.

Friday 31 March, page 8: THE CRICKET SEASON

The new cricket season has an interest which few of its predecessors have equalled. The fresh and powerful Australian eleven will be here, and there are the honours of purely English cricket which were lost during Mr Stoddart's luckless colonial tour to be regained.

Judging by the news from the colonies, the task is likely to be severe. It has been a great season in Australia, full of wonderful batting and bowling feats, and the best judges of the game aver that they are sending home a side stronger than any other. It would need to be strong even to equal the splendid capacity of the elevens in 1882 and 1884.

The Australians are, however, now relying on a vein of thorough excellence which runs through their whole side rather than on the mainstay of some of the older elevens when Massie, Murdoch, Spofforth, McDonnell, Blackham and a few other of their giants were flourishing. Evenness in the distribution of skill is the new team's boast, with a capacity to play under conditions that are often found in an English season - sticky wickets. And it is understood that this wet wicket business so much weighted with the selecting committee that Worrall, who was here 11 years ago, was put in the side because of his consistent form on bowlers' pitches out there.

Most of the men who helped in the discomfiture of Stoddart's team are coming over, including Noble, who is described as the new Giffen of the party, because of his all-round excellence. It says much for the team's strength when George Giffen and McKibbin are left out; Harry Trott's late illness, of course, prevented his coming. There is a plentitude of batting and bowling, and, as an insurance against shorthandedness, three extra men - that is, the team will number 14 in all - are coming.

There will be plenty of scope for testing the capacity of the team in the test matches. Of these there are to be five, the old and so long rigidly observed custom of three being broken through, presumably with the idea of trying to please the counties whose grounds promise to be left out in the cold. The authorities might have made it seven while they were about it, and given the deserving West of England a match. Bristol and Gloucestershire might certainly have been thought of even in the allocation of five.

It is a disturbing element to the sentiment of some cricketers when they hear of the new regulations for "pooling" the net county share of the gate receipts for division among the clubs; but when the M.C.C. and Counties Committee took up the selection of the English teams some such arrangement was imperative. That the English team should be chosen by the county on whose ground the match was to be played was the source of much lament, and the fact that we are rid of the evil is very gratifying. Then, again, the English professionals are not

to be so niggardly treated as hitherto, and George Lohmann's popularity with the Surrey executive on the question of increased payment has not been sacrificed for his brother professionals in vain.

The Australian programme which Mr C W Alcock has, as usual, arranged is, in addition to the tests, of a very comprehensive character, and all the bigger counties will be met.

From the county secretaries there is little prospective news of interest. Their reply is mostly the customary "All last year's men available; we are looking out for any promising talent." But in an Australian year room has been found for another member of the first-class circle. Worcestershire is the fortunate county, and they just secure the requisite number of matches for inclusion, as on the occasion of Australian visits the qualifying number is six out and home.

Worcestershire played splendid cricket last season among the minor counties and the second elevens; but they will find the wear and tear of first-class cricket a severe strain on their small band of really great players. The county club has a generous patron in Mr P H Foley, and visitors to Worcester will find a ground worthy of a first-class side. Worcestershire have been fortunate in securing Yorkshire among their opponents. The Yorkshiremen, who won the championship last year, have so much young and brilliant skill in the eleven that their prospects in this coming summer are very bright, but all the counties are very hopeful of doing well.

There is nothing fresh to say about the retirement of Mr Stoddart. It can be easily imagined how disappointed the Middlesex committee were, for he had been expected to take on the captaincy. That Mr Stoddart, too, should give up big cricket after his splendid season of last year, when he scored over 1,000 runs for the county, makes the regret all the more felt. Middlesex, however, hope to get Mr H B Chinnery, the old Etonian, to help them, and Roche, the Australian, will also be available. As a reward for the good work that he has done for Middlesex Jim Phillips will probably be given a portion of the proceeds of Middlesex v Australians.

The Surrey eleven will not differ much from last year. Lockwood and Richardson are both very well and have been keeping themselves in good condition, and Brockwell, who is in India with Jack Hearne, has been doing well with both bat and ball. Young Dowson, the gifted Harrow player, will probably be tried in the Surrey eleven when the school holidays begin.

Of the other home counties, Kent seem likely to do well by the almost regular assistance of Mr Burnup and Mr Bradley, who had hitherto played only occasionally. Essex are still looking keenly after their young players and hope to get much assistance from their tuition by the Yorkshireman Robert Peel.

From Lancashire comes the news that S Webb, who played with some success for Middlesex, will be qualified in June, and that all last year's members are in excellent health. Dr W G Grace hopes to play regularly for Gloucestershire in spite of his new position in connection with the London County Club at the Crystal Palace.

There is little fresh information of interest from the other counties. Derbyshire, who were always something of a luckless county in cricket, sustained a most serious loss by the death of George Davidson, one of the best cricketers they ever had, and in a hard season his services will be badly missed. The Nottinghamshire executive are still striving to find some fresh bowling talent, and they hope to awaken something of the old interest in cricket around the town by the decision of England v Australia at Trent-bridge.

From Hampshire it is reported that Mr E I M Barrett will not play this year; but that Captain E G Wynyard will probably appear regularly after the third week in June. The county season will be, in fact, on much the same lines as last year, and in the matter of popularity it may safely be left to hold its own even in an Australian tour.

The Marylebone Club a few years ago was quite indolent in administering for the great game for which it is supposed to be the protector, but under a new regime it is making the pace fast. It has realized the importance of its office, and the counties now that they can

discern some vitality in the club are more content to leave even the questions of most concern to themselves to the M.C.C.

How the new qualification scheme will work out a year hence remains to be seen. The question was always difficult and the new complicated arrangement does not seem a great improvement on the old. As a matter of fact, the old rule, if stringently enforced, met the matter. The great idea is to avoid steering so near the wind that a mere quick barter for a professional shall reduce cricket to the level of football professionalism.

The M.C.C. have not only been altering to laws, but they have altered Lord's almost beyond recognition. Since last August the tennis courts and the houses which followed it to the groundman's cottage have given place to a huge stand built in a quarter circle. This is estimated to hold 10,000 people. Then the luncheon room for members has been enlarged; there is a new bowlers' room, and tennis and racquet courts are being built behind the pavilion.

But the room for the Press is as confined as ever and is quite unworthy of the Marylebone Club. Lord's is strangely enough almost the one important cricket ground in the kingdom where the cricket reporters work on big days under the utmost discomfort. The new stand in the south-east corner of the ground was much of a necessity; but it destroys one of the prettiest bits of the place and is only in keeping with the huge works of the Great Central Railway which have so disfigured St John's-wood. The Marylebone Club have issued a splendid programme, and the mildness of the winter has left the ground in splendid order.

Of the Crystal Palace scheme for the formation of the London County Cricket Club there is yet little to say. The club has to win its spurs. But the ground is in capital order and for the South of England match with the Australians the following fine side has been chosen: - Dr W G Grace, Mr C L Townsend, Mr C B Fry, Mr J R Mason, K S Ranjitsinhji, Abel, Hayward, Lockwood, J T Hearne, Board and Brockwell. "W.G." speaks very hopefully of the concern.

Oxford and Cambridge cricket is sure to maintain its hold on the public during the first two months of the season. At Oxford there are four old blues for certain - Mr F H B Champain, the captain, Mr R E Foster, Mr E C Lee and Mr B J Bosanquet. Also available will be Mr E C Wright, who was in the '97 team, and Mr Eccles and Mr Stocks. The list of Seniors is strong, and the most notable Freshmen are H C Pilkington, Eton, and A B Reynolds, Winchester. Martyn and Reynolds possess the best chances for furnishing the wicket-keeper.

At Cambridge Mr G L Jessop is the new captain, with Mr T L Taylor honorary secretary, and the other old blues available are Mr J H Stogdon, Mr G E Winter, Mr A E Fernie, Mr H H B Hawkins and Mr A E Hind. There is a strong list of Seniors, but the fine band of Freshmen who have gone up will no doubt furnish most of the new members of the eleven. S H Day, of Malvern, and R N R Blaker, of Westminster, have already been brought into prominence by their county cricket.

School cricket during June and the beginning of July will command the usual attention. At Eton the prospects of a good eleven are fair. The great want is a slow bowler, and there is no obvious person at present to fill his want. Eton have, however, three of last year's bowlers in P Loraine, E G Martin and G Howard-Smith. W Findlay is captain, an excellent wicket-keeper, and the only other old choice is H K Longman, who did good service last year and is a very promising player. It looks as though the batting will be the weakest part of the team. Likely players, however, are C E Lambert (12th man last year), F Grenfell, G Lyttelton and J Wormald.

At Harrow everything seems to rest on E M Dowson, who will captain the eleven. H J Wyld and G Cookson are also at school, so that Harrow have three bats and two bowlers to go on with. Winchester have numerous old choices left, including R S Darling, F D Joy, S N Mackenzie, Bonham-Carter and G J Bruce. The side should, therefore, turn out well.

[Note: the full fixture list follows. This can be found at:
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/Seasonal_Averages/ENG/1899_f_Match_List.html]

K S Ranjitsinhji arrived in Cambridge yesterday, having travelled by the overland route from Marseilles. He was interviewed by a representative of the Cambridge Daily News, to whom he gave an account of his cricket experiences in India. He said his health was indifferent and that he still suffered from his throat. He looked forward to taking a team to Australia, he having been requested to do so.

Being asked what effect the new suggestion that the M.C.C. should control representative elevens would have upon that, Ranjitsinhji replied that he did not care what the M.C.C. did. He had been asked to take a team over and he should do so, and he proposed to start at the end of 1900. He thought that the Australian team now on its way to England was a very powerful combination.

Ranjitsinhji said that he intended to appear for Sussex and would play regularly if all went well. He proposed at present to make Cambridge his headquarters, and after the cricket season was over he intended to take a team of amateurs to India. He should ask Messrs A E Stoddart, F S Jackson, J R Mason, C J Kortright, G L Jessop, H D G Leveson-Gower, C B Fry, A C MacLaren, N F Druce, G Brann, G MacGregor and A Priestley.

The teams for the annual match, to be played on April 24 and following day at Trent Bridge, between 11 of the county and 22 colts and a captain were selected on Saturday at Nottingham. The eleven will be comprised of Messrs J A Dixon, C Wright and A O Jones, Shrewsbury, W Gunn, Attewell, Daft, Dench, J Gunn, Henson and T Oates, with W J Drury as reserve.

Mr W Marshall is to captain the twenty-two, who will be D Snaith (West Bridgford), J Snaith, H Goodall, W Syson and N Frost (Nottingham), A Peatford (Retford), C Dobbin (Cropwell Bishop), J Mee and T James (Ruddington), P Harrison (Mansfield Woodhouse), J Day (Sutton-on-Trent), S Attewell (Awsorth), Fred Wild (Mansfield), T Duxfield (Wigston), G Featherstone (Church Warsop), A Heath (Pinxton), J M Warner (Bulwell), J Stapleton (Eastwood), J Ellis (Sutton-in-Ashfield), S Sills (Bingham), A Mawer (Sleaford) and G Anthony, who was engaged upon the ground staff last season.

Thursday 13 April, page 11: THE ESSEX COUNTY CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Essex County Club will be held in the pavilion at Leyton on Wednesday, May 3, at half-past 5 and will be followed by a dinner at which Colonel Lockwood, M.P., one of the vice-presidents of the club, will preside.

The report of the committee shows that the club is in a very satisfactory position. The roll of members on December 31 stood at 2,127 gentlemen and 156 ladies. No fewer than 775 new members were elected during 1898.

The receipts from cricket during the year amount to £2,273 15s 10d, and the expenses, including those incurred in connexion with club and ground matches, to just under £1,813.

In their report the committee express their deepest regret at the loss sustained by the club last year by the death of Mr C M Tebbut, the honorary treasurer, through whose generous assistance the financial difficulties which beset the club some few years ago were surmounted. The last instalment on Mr Tebbut's loan to the club has now been paid off out of the club funds, but unfortunately several gentlemen who had given their guarantee for various amts have not up to the present fulfilled their obligations.

Since last season some important improvements have been effected at the Leyton ground.

A meeting of the Yorkshire County Committee was held yesterday at Sheffield, under the presidency of Mr M G Dodworth. The eleven for the earlier matches of the season were selected as follows: - Lord Hawke, Messrs F S Jackson and F Mitchell; Wainwright, Brown, Hirst, Rhodes, Denton, Tunnicliffe, Hunter and Haigh. The sum of five guineas was voted to the Cricketers' Friendly Society.

The Colts team to oppose Notts Colts at Barnsley on May 1 and 2 will be: - W Wilkinson (Harrogate, captain), C L Chapman (Carlotes) and J R Bower (Leeds); T H Hirst (Huddersfield), W Mitchell (Leeds), J Washington (Barnsley), J T Brown (Darfield), Tait (Hickleton Main), F Asquith (Hull), T Wildman (Keighley) and T Stringer (Pudsey).

About 300 new members were elected. The opening of the new cricket and athletic ground at Wath-upon-Deerne will take place on April 28 and 29, when the following Yorkshire team, prior to entering upon their county engagements, will play Sixteen of the district: - Lord Hawke, Messrs C E M Wilson and F Mitchell; Brown, Wainwright, Hirst, Denton, Rhodes, Moorhouse, Tunnicliffe, Hunter and Haigh.

The annual general meeting of the Surrey Club is to be held in the pavilion at the Oval on Thursday, May 4, at 5 p.m., and on the evening of the same day the Australians will be the guests of the club at dinner.

Despite the great expenditure involved in building the new pavilion, the club's financial position is thoroughly satisfactory. There are still some outstanding liabilities in connexion with the pavilion, but the contractors have already received £33,558. As a valuable set-off against this heavy charge the club received £14,000 as premium on the new lease of the tavern. During last year the membership of the club reached its *maximum* - 4,000.

In their annual report the committee gratefully acknowledge the services rendered by Mr K J Key, and announce that he has consented to remain captain of the eleven. The Lancashire match at the Oval on August 24, 25 and 26 is to be played for the benefit of Tom Richardson.

24 April: THE NOTTS COLTS' MATCH

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

Potted score: THE COLTS 132 (H H Goodall 31, T Duxfield 24; W Attewell 8/34, H B Daft 10/42) and 61 (W Attewell 14/23, Drury 7/18). THE ELEVEN 125 (A P Jones 27, J A Dixon 21) and 30/3. Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 April, page 13)

It was a good idea of the Notts committee, as Easter fell so early this year, to play their annual colts' match at Trent Bridge later than usual, but unfortunately circumstances were against them, the weather at Nottingham yesterday being cold and cheerless and rain in the course of the afternoon stopping play for 50 minutes.

It was generally thought that the colts as a side were above the average of recent years, and it is likely enough that under pleasanter conditions they would have made a bigger score than 132, for which number they were batting three hours and a quarter.

The start of the innings gave promise of great things, Mr H H Goodall and Duxfield hitting so freely that in three-quarters of an hour they scored 52 runs before they were separated. Mr Goodall was a trifle fortunate, but all the same he showed himself capable of scoring all round the wicket. Of the later batsmen Mr D W Snaith and Hingley were the most successful, the former being as patient in his methods as Hingley was vigorous. As will be seen from the analysis, Attewell and Daft bowled with great success.

The eleven, on going in to bat, obtained, in a little over an hour, 50 for two wickets, but they would not have fared so well if a palpable chance offered by Mr A O Jones when he had made ten had been accepted. Two left-handed bowlers in Mawer and Harrison were thought to be promising.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 April, page 13)

Yesterday was essentially a bowler's day at Nottingham, but though in the course of the afternoon's play 33 wickets went down for an aggregate of 166 runs, no definite conclusion could be arrived at and the game consequently ended in a draw.

Against their opponents' total of 132 on Monday the eleven had scored 50 for the loss of two wickets and thus left off in a favourable position. The rain of the previous day was succeeded yesterday by bright sunshine, and with the pitch drying rapidly batsmen were nearly always in difficulties. The remaining eight wickets of the eleven gave little trouble, going down in two hours and a quarter for an additional 75 runs. The total thus reached 125, or seven behind. Hingley, Wild and Anthony each bowled well and created a very favourable impression.

The second innings of the colts was disastrous indeed and, with the exception of Duxfield, Peatfield and Harrison, no one could withstand the bowling of Attewell and Drury. The innings was finished off for 61, Attewell taking 14c wickets for 23 and Drury seven for 18 runs. The eleven were left with 69 to get to win and in a little over half an hour lost three wickets for 30 runs. Stumps were then pulled up and the match left drawn.

Friday 28 April page 12: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

The majority of the Australian team, with Major Wardill, the manager, arrived at Plymouth yesterday in the Orient liner Ormuz, and subsequently proceeded to London.

LORD'S

Yesterday was the opening day for members' practice at Lord's. Since last year the ground has undergone considerable change, and a stand, covering the south-eastern portion of the ring, now provides accommodation for 10,000 spectators. The injunction against the club in regard to the construction of the new tennis court is removed and the building was restarted yesterday.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The annual general meeting of the Gloucestershire County Club was held yesterday at the grand Hotel, Bristol, Mr H W Beloe presiding over an unusually large attendance.

The accounts showed that with an income of £5,700 there had been a profit on the year of over £400, the balance to the credit of the club now standing at £2,276. The chairman said that they had some excellent "gates," and they had never had such a large balance to their credit. He deeply regretted that Dr W G Grace had left, but he would play in most matches, and in his absence Mr W Troup would captain the team.

The accounts were adopted and the feeling was expressed that more professionals should be engaged. Mr Lowther moved an instruction to the committee to employ five additional bowlers on the county ground, and this was carried.

A proposal to elect three new members on the committee led to a spirited discussion. In the end the names of the new men were withdrawn and the old members were re-elected.

28 April: THE SURREY TRIAL MATCH

Day 1 (report from Saturday 29 April, page 13)

Mr Key had command of almost his best side against the next fourteen at the Oval yesterday. Tom Richardson was absent owing to an injured foot. After the recent wet weather the pitch was naturally slow; but the ball came along pretty easily and the bowlers were handicapped by the difficulty of getting a foothold.

The best thing of the day was the batting of Mr H B Richardson for the next fourteen. He had some luck; but he played very good cricket for his 72. He came down hard on some of the Surrey bowlers and was good on the stroke beyond cover point. He has had plenty of experience in really good cricket, for since his schoolboy days at Clifton he has been strongly prominent in that Surrey second eleven which has become such a power in cricket under the management of Mr W T Graburn.

Lockwood and Hayes bowled well yesterday for the eleven; and Clode of the fourteen showed the capacity not only to mix his pace but to keep a fine length. Present score: - Next XIV, 178; Eleven, 59 for two wickets.

Day 2 (report from Monday 1 May, page 14)

The cricket at Kennington Oval on Saturday had no such feature as that on Friday furnished by H B Richardson's batting. There were rain delays and the game was not played out.

Enough was seen during the two days, under conditions disadvantageous to batsmen, to know that Surrey still possess a wealth of talent in the next available men for the first eleven. Of course, no particular interest attached to the actual result of the match. Clode seems a bowler of promise, but his five wickets for 76 runs failed to secure him a place in to-day's fixture with Leicestershire. Mr Key has in fact decided to give H B Richardson a trial in the eleven against Leicestershire, for Tom Richardson has, in view of his injured foot, expressed a wish to stand out of the first match.

The scores were: - Next Fourteen, 178 and 121 (ten wickets); the Eleven, 145.

28 April: THE HAMPSHIRE TRIAL MACH

Potted score: HAMPSHIRE 101 (Barton 42*; Mead 7 wkts) and 53 (Barton 21; A Shaw 6 wkts, K S Ranjitsinhji 3 wkts). CAPTAIN HOARE'S XI 181 (C B Fry 120, G Brann 20; Tate 5 wkts).

Day 1 (report from Saturday 29 April, page 13)

There was some fine cricket at Southampton yesterday in the match between Hampshire and Captain Hoare's Eleven.

Day 2 (report from Monday 1 May, page 14)

The Hampshire team were beaten at Southampton on Saturday by an innings and 27 runs. Walter Mead and Alfred Shaw met with great success in bowling.

Saturday 29 April, page 13: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

The Ormuz, with Major Wardill, Hugh Trumble, Charles McLeod, W Howell, J Worrall and V Trumper on board, arrived at Tilbury yesterday afternoon, and the cricketers reached their London headquarters at the Inns of Court Hotel shortly after 8 o'clock.

Monday 1 May, page 14: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

The Australians begin practice at Lord's to-day. The M.C.C. committee have decided, in consequence of the unfinished state of the new buildings, not to admit the public to the ground until the first day of M.C.C. v Sussex, on Wednesday.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE COLTS' MATCH

Mr C L Townsend bowled with great success at Bristol on Saturday, taking 13 wickets for 33 runs, and thanks to his efforts the county team beat the colts very easily. The scores were: - The Colts, 71 and 60; the Eleven, 135 and 6 (two wickets).

1 May: SURREY v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5144.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 May, page 11)

If the cricket on the opening day of the season at the Oval found the conditions a little disadvantageous to batsmen, the play was full of keenness and excellence. Those who think cricket is best when runs are hard to get had a thoroughly interesting day.

Several good things in batting, some fine fielding and much deadly bowling - these were the characteristics of yesterday's play on the Oval. The pitch, although slow, was uncertain, for the ball, coming at different paces from it, was always difficult to time. And herein no doubt was the secret of the small scoring.

Lockwood has begun the season in wonderful fashion; his pace and length were very effective, while now and again, without varying his action, he gave the batsmen the slow ball that got more than one of them out. Five wickets for 17 runs made up Lockwood's analysis; and this first day of the season of the Surrey bowler must be extremely gratifying to the club, for Tom Richardson is still far from fit and is much troubled by a bad foot. Leicestershire were saved from utter collapse - six men went for 18 runs - by the courageous batting of Mr de Trafford.

Surrey made a fine beginning to their innings, but, after Abel and Brockwell had scored 53 for the first wicket, a steady dismissal of the side set in. Abel when well set was badly run out by Holland at a time when a single was of no particular consequence. And then Leicestershire bowled and fielded so well that the difference in the scores of the first innings promises to be far less than might have been expected.

Surrey, with a wicket in hand, are 93 runs ahead. Agar, Cole and King all bowled well for Leicestershire. There were quite 5,000 spectators of the cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 May, page 12)

The Surrey bowlers were irresistible on the Oval yesterday morning, and Leicestershire were beaten by an innings and 53 runs. Lockwood and Brockwell were both breaking back at a great pace, and this fact in itself showed the condition of the pitch under which Leicestershire had to make their effort to save the game.

But the visitors were utterly at sea with the bowling, and in eight instances the wicket was broken. Lockwood, as in the first innings, took five wickets, making his double analysis ten for 37 runs, and remarkably enough all his victims were bowled. His pace and break were tremendous yesterday and his triumphs augur well for this season's Surrey cricket. The game was over by half-past 1.

1 May: THE CAMBRIDGE SENIORS' MATCH

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

Potted scores: MR L J MOON'S SIDE 149 (A M Sullivan 54, C A S Sewell 38; E F Penn 5/65, O W Wright 3/70) and 126 (C H Moore 27, K E M Barker 26, G C Valpy 24*; E F Penn 6/46, O W Wright 4/65). MR J STANNING'S SIDE 106 (H R Palmer 6/68, C F Parry 3/30) and 171/3 (J Stanning 68, G B Newport 57*). Mr J Stanning's Side won by eight wickets.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 May, page 11)

Recent rain had made the ground at Cambridge yesterday very heavy, but the day's cricket, without presenting any remarkable features, was interesting.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 May, page 12)

On a wicket still suffering from the effects of rain batsmen had little opportunity of showing their form at Cambridge yesterday, and Mr Stanning alone came out of the ordeal with any particular credit. His 41 not out was a bright and attractive innings and, thanks to it and to the bowling of Mr E F Penn, his side left off with a distinct advantage, wanting only 89 runs to win and having nine wickets in hand.

Mr Penn, who was in the Eton eleven of 1897, bowled even more effectively than on Monday, and for the two innings his record was 11 wickets for 110 runs. Mr T G O Cole, who played a wonderful innings of 142 for Harrow at Lord's two seasons ago, showed good form early in the day and was unfortunate to be run out.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 May, page 11)

At Cambridge, yesterday, Mr Stanning's side, after being in a minority on the first innings, gained an easy victory in the Seniors' match by eight wickets. Their success was largely due to the excellent batting of Mr Stanning himself and Mr Newport, who came together at the fall of the second wicket on Tuesday afternoon with the score at 39, and were not separated until yesterday morning. In all they added 100 runs during their partnership, which lasted altogether an hour and a half.

1 May: THE OXFORD SENIORS' MATCH

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

Potted score: MR R H DE MONTMORENCY'S SIDE 323 (T H K Dashwood 35, L P Collins 51, H R Parkes 22, R H de Montmorency 84, J A Davenport 24, H White 31; A M Hollins 3/74, C D Fisher 3/46) and 74/2 (F H K Dashwood 22, L P Collins 32). MR A PAGE'S SIDE 151 (A Page 37; R H de Montmorency 3/9) and (following on) 250 (A M Hollins 44, H Martyn 67, T Roberts 54; E B Carter 3/67, H White 3/37, F J Portman 3/13). Mr R H de Montmorency's Side won by nine wickets.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 May, page 11)

With the annual trial match of seniors the season at Oxford University was begun yesterday under tolerably favourable conditions.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 May, page 12)

Yesterday's cricket at Oxford in the Seniors' match was poor in character.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 4 May, page 11)

As had been anticipated from the state of the game when play ceased on Tuesday evening, the match at Oxford ended yesterday in a victory for Mr R H de Montmorency's side by nine wickets. Overnight Mr Page's side, with two men out in their second innings for 106, still required 71 to avoid being beaten in a single innings.

Mr Hollins and Mr Martyn were quickly disposed of, the latter having batted in most vigorous fashion for his 67. Among his hits were a six and 11 fours. Mr Roberts afterwards played extremely well for 54, being at the wickets only 40 minutes. The total in the end amounted to 250, and thus Mr de Montmorency's side were left with 74 to get to win. These were obtained for the loss of two wickets. During the whole of the game Mr Martyn kept wicket wonderfully well, and best among the bowlers were, perhaps, Mr Portman and Mr Good.

1 May: YORKSHIRE COLTS v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COLTS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/199/199769.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 2 May, page 11)

Owing to heavy rain in the morning play in this match at Barnsley could not be started yesterday till after lunch time. The cricket was made noteworthy by the batting of Tait and the fast bowling of J T Brown, of Darfield. Tait played a capital innings, hitting well all round the wicket and scoring a large proportion of the runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 3 May, page 12)

At Barnsley yesterday the Notts Colts won this game by two wickets, their victory - somewhat unexpected after Monday's play - being mainly due to the effective bowling of Iremonger. J T Brown, of Darfield, a fast bowler who played once for Yorkshire last year and is to appear against Worcestershire to-morrow, made a great effort to win the match for his side.

Tuesday 2 May, page 11: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

The Australians were at Lord's yesterday for practice. The only member of the team who took no active part in this was Howell, the New South Wales bowler. He was on the ground in the morning, but, as he was suffering from a slight strain, it was thought well that he should rest.

The conditions were not very cheering, the wind being cold and the sky overcast. The heavy rain of last week had considerably affected the ground, but the wickets were not in such a condition as to prevent good practice being obtained. The builders being still busy - though their labours are drawing to a close - Lord's was not open to the general public, and only a few people had the opportunity of watching the Australians.

The greatest interest was taken in the doings of the players who are new to this country. Without going into minute details, it may be said that Trumper and Noble bat in very taking style, while on the other hand Laver, though his records prove him to be a great run-getter, is a little clumsy and ungainly in his methods. Charles McLeod bowled remarkably well, getting plenty of spin on balls of full medium pace. He has a capital Derbyshire, but does not raise his hand so high above his head as did some of the famous bowlers in previous teams. Of Noble as a bowler it is enough at present to day that he commands a good variety of pace.

All the men seem in capital health and there was no mistake as to the thoroughness with which they enjoyed their first experience of cricket since their long voyage. They will practise at Lord's for the next four days, and on Saturday they dine with Dr W G Grace at the Crystal Palace.

Wednesday 3 May, page 12: THE TEST MATCHES BOARD

At their meeting at Lord's on April 25 the Test Matches Board appointed the following to act as a selection sub-committee for test matches: - Lord Hawke, Dr W G Grace and Mr H W Bainbridge, with power to co-opt, out of the first six chosen, two amateurs to assist in selecting the remaining players.

Auditors were appointed to deal with the question of finance. There were present at the meeting the Hon A Lyttelton, M.P., Lord Harris, the Earl of Lichfield, Mr A J Webbe, Mr W H Patterson, Dr W G Grace, Mr A N Hornby, Mr C E Green, Mr H D G Leveson-Gower and Lord Hawke.

3 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5145.html)

Day 1 (report from Thursday 4 May, page 11)

The M.C.C. opened their season yesterday at Lord's with an interesting day's cricket. There was much good bowling by Trott, J T Hearne and Tate, but the chief feature of the play was the splendid batting of Mr C B Fry, while Trott gave a fine exhibition of resolute hitting.

Although the pitch was slow and gave the bowlers some assistance, Mr Fry played with great confidence from the first and put on runs at a fast rate, and with the exception of a chance to Mr Burnup in the long field at 23 he hardly made a bad stroke. Mr Fry was dismissed by a good catch by Trott, who held a hard, low return. Altogether he was batting for two hours and was fourth out at 150. His vigorous innings included 15 fours.

After Mr Fry had left the Sussex batsmen collapsed again the bowling of J T Hearne and Trott and the last six wickets fell for 28 runs. Both had good analyses after the luncheon interval, Trott taking four wickets for 14 runs and Hearne one less for the same number.

When the club went in to bat a most disastrous start was made, but Trott came to the rescue of his side with an invaluable innings. Although not playing with the same finish as Mr Fry, he hit with tremendous power. He was batting 70 minutes and his chief hits were nine fours, four threes and three twos, but these scarcely represented the vigour of his cricket.

Going in a second time 33 runs to the good, Sussex lost Marlow's wicket for 23 runs, so at the close of play they were 56 ahead with nine batsmen to go in. K S Ranjitsinhji was unable to play for Sussex, as he was suffering from throat trouble.

Day 2 (report from Friday 5 May, page 11)

After having the better of the cricket in the opening day's play, Sussex yesterday at Lord's gave such a poor display in their second innings that the M.C.C. had no difficulty in winning by five wickets. For this result the club were largely indebted to the grand batting and bowling of Albert Trott. In the match he made 133 runs, while he had the splendid analysis of 11 wickets for just over ten runs apiece. J T Hearne also bowled extremely well, and by taking nine wickets for 98 runs proved that he was equally difficult to play.

Overnight Sussex in their second innings were 56 runs to the good for the loss of Marlow's wicket, but when the game was resumed the batsmen could do little with the bowling of J T Hearne and Albert Trott. The former in particular, with his splendid length, was very difficult to get away, while Trott mixed his bowling with considerable judgment. With the exception of a well-played innings of 20 by Mr Fry, who was again top scorer for his side, there was very little worthy of mention in the Sussex cricket.

Requiring 131 runs, the club began very badly, and when three wickets had fallen for 19 it seemed probable that Sussex might win. But at this period Trott came in and with Mr Foley for a partner practically won the match for his side. While Mr Foley was content to play a strongly defensive game, Trott hit out with tremendous power and punished all the bowling severely. He was fourth to leave at 101 and his vigorous innings included no fewer than 14 fours. Considering the pace at which he scored, he ran very few risks, while the brilliancy of his hitting was considerably enhanced by the fact that the pitch gave the bowlers some assistance.

After Trott left Mr Tindall was soon dismissed, but Mr Foley and Lees Whitehead hit off the necessary runs. Mr Foley played very steady cricket for 23, for which he was batting 70 minutes.

The annual general meeting of the M.C.C. was held yesterday afternoon in the pavilion at Lord's, Mr Alfred Lyttelton, M.P. (the retiring president), being in the chair. Among the large number of members present were Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, the Duke of Buccleuch, the Earl of Jersey, Earl Winterton, the Earl of Pembroke, Major-General F C Trevor, Messrs V E Walker, A J Webbe, A W Ridley, E L Bateman, C.B., A N Hornby, A Appleby, K J Key, W E Denison, H Perkins, A E Stoddart, G MacGregor, W H Patterson, P H Hewett, M Turner, C I Thornton, W J Ford, C E de Trafford, P F Warner, G J V Weigall, W W Read, Arthur Wilson, E H Bray, E A Nepean, G W Ricketts, Denzil Onslow, C E Horner, H Philipson, S W Scott, Major Hardy and Captain J St J Frederick.

The annual report of the committee stated that in 1891 the club consisted of 4,395 members, an increase of 107 over the previous year, of whom 3,923 paid; 205 were life members; and 267 were abroad.

During the past season 193 matches were played by the club, of which 109 were won, 33 lost and 51 drawn.

The Earl of Jersey, Lord Hawke, Mr E L Bateman and Mr W H Long retired by rotation from the committee.

In accordance with statements made in the last annual report the new tennis and racquet courts have been in the course of erection, and had it not been for an action brought by the tenant of No 2, Grove-end-road, for interference with ancient lights in respect of a greenhouse, would by now be ready for play. The plans of this building were accepted after a careful comparison of the plans and designs of other well-known courts with a view to obtaining the best courts in the world. To meet the wishes of a large number of members a squash racquet court has been added to the new tennis and racquet courts at the back of the pavilion.

At the request of the County Cricket Clubs a committee was appointed by the M.C.C. during the winter months which has revised the county qualification rules, and the M.C.C. committee has approved of the alterations recommended. A board to regulate future test matches with Australia has also been formed, at the request of the first-class counties, and arrangements have been made (inter alia) for the selection of representative teams for five test matches, and for the equitable apportionment of net gate money.

An agreement between M.C.C. and Middlesex C.C. has been arranged whereby the relationship between these clubs has been placed upon a businesslike and satisfactory footing.

The catering department was carried on at a loss, as appears on the balance sheet appended to the club accounts. An analysis of the refreshment accounts discloses the fact that this loss is entirely attributable to the supply of refreshments to members and their friends. The refreshment committee hope that, in spite in the many difficulties with which they are confronted, it may be possible to show more favourable results in the future.

The proceedings were, as usual, private, but at the close of the meeting information was given to the Press that the report was adopted and that the Hon Alfred Lyttelton had announced as his successor as President of the club Lord Justice A L Smith.

Some little time later it was announced that of the seven candidates for the four vacancies on the committee Mr Alfred Lyttelton, Mr A N Hornby, Mr F S Jackson and Mr John Shuter had been duly elected.

The alterations in the laws of cricket which were confirmed at the meeting were as follows:
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33 (a). A batsmen being out from any cause the ball shall be "dead."

33 (b). If the ball, whether struck with the bat or not, lodges in a batsman's clothing the ball shall become "dead."

46. They shall not order a batsman out unless appealed to by the other side. N.B. - An Appeal, "How's that?" covers all ways of being out (within the jurisdiction of the umpire appealed to) unless a specific way of getting out is stated by the person asking. (N.B. - The words between parentheses are moved as an amendment.)

One-day matches. - 2. The match, unless played out, shall be decided by the first innings. Prior to the commencement of a match it may be agreed that the over consist of five or six balls. N.B. - A tie is included in the words "played out."

THE YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB

The adjourned annual general meeting of the Yorkshire County Club was held in Sheffield yesterday. Lord Hawke, who presided, in moving the adoption of the annual report, referred to the loss which the club had sustained by the death of Mr M J Ellison, the late president, and also of his son, Mr M Ellison, who had acted as hon. treasurer for many years.

He expressed pleasure at the success of the county team in again winning the championship last season; mentioned that the funds of the club amounted to £6,709; and that up to date the sum of £1,659 had been handed to Wainwright as the proceeds of his benefit. Mr M J Dodsworth seconded the resolute, which was unanimously passed.

The chairman moved the adoption en bloc of the revised rules, which had been printed and circulated among the members. Mr C Stokes seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Alderman J R Bowen, of Leeds, proposed that Lord Hawke be elected president in the room of the late Mr Ellison. Mr Sam Shaw, of Dewsbury, seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted. Lord Hawke thanked the meeting for the honour paid him, which, he said, next to being president of the M.C.C., he regarded as being the greatest honour a man could have.

Major Shepherd, Bradford; Mr M J Dodsworth, Sheffield; and Alderman Bower, Leeds, were elected vice-presidents, and the chairman announced that Mr F S Jackson would be one of the additional vice-presidents whom the committee had power to appoint. Mr C Stokes, Sheffield, was elected hon. treasurer. The chairman said that the membership list of 950 had been increased by the addition of 523 new members.

ESSEX COUNTY CLUB

The annual meeting of the Essex County Club was held last evening on the county ground, Leyton. Mr C E Green presided over a large company.

The chairman congratulated the members on the satisfactory nature of the report and balance-sheet, and said that they had reason to be satisfied with the performances of Essex in the field. Essex cricket had now become a feature with the public and the game had taken deep root in the county.

Mr C E Green paid a tribute to the late Mr C M Tebbut, who had done so much for the club, and then said that with the side they had they need not despair of championship honours. They owed a debt of gratitude to Mr Owen for his able captaincy.

The present number of members was 2,300, and the revenue last year materially exceeded the expenditure. Mr H H Francis seconded the adoption of the report, which was unanimously agreed to.

Messrs A J Edwards, G Pagensticher and W Comerford were re-elected on the committee, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr Green.

THE MIDDLESEX ELEVEN

At the meeting of the Middlesex County Club at Lord's yesterday Mr A E Stoddart tendered his resignation of the captaincy of the county eleven, which was accepted with great regret. Mr Gregor M'Gregor was elected to the post, with Mr F G J Ford as vice-captain.

MR L C H PALAIRET. - Cricketers will learn with extreme regret that Mr L C H Palairret will not be able to play cricket this year until August, and possibly not even then. He has recently had to undergo a serious operation for some internal trouble and cannot for the present attempt to take the field.

4 May: LANCASHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5146.html)

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

Cricket of an interesting character was witnessed in the opening match of the Lancashire season at Old Trafford yesterday, when the afternoon brought success to Tyldesley, who played an innings for the northern county that saved the side from what at one time threatened to be an utter collapse.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 May, page 11)

At Manchester yesterday, owing chiefly to fine bowling by Mold and Mr Ainsworth, the Lancashire eleven gained a victory over Warwickshire by ten wickets, the end being reached by 25 minutes to 6.

4 May: SURREY v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5147.html)

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

The Surrey men played very good cricket at the Oval yesterday, and their day's work promises another success to follow their fine victory over Leicestershire. William Brockwell was completely himself yesterday in that fine forcing game which gives him an unrivalled position in the Surrey eleven. His powerful play on the leg side and his method of punishing a well pitched up ball quickly won for him the admiration of the large company. From the first he seemed always at home and, playing with a powerful and easy precision, he made 102 out of 170 at the rate of about a run a minute. He hit 18 fours and was the third out.

While Brockwell carried off the chief honours of the day, there were other good performances. Lockwood forced the game all round the wicket and was, as usual, particularly strong on the leg side, while Hayward got his 55 with all that finish which seems to mark his play as much as it did his uncle's - the Tom Hayward of the old Cambridgeshire eleven. Another good innings on the Surrey side was the 45 of Mr Richardson, who has completely justified his selection. The Derbyshire men fielded and bowled fairly well and Storer was quite himself at the wicket; but the ball came along at a nice easy pace and thus the batsmen were at an advantage.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 May, page 11)

Although Derbyshire had to play an uphill game during the whole of yesterday's cricket at the Oval, there were several batting feats of considerable merit. But, despite the good form of Storer, Mr L G Wright and Chatterton, at the close they were left in a hopeless position.

One of the most pleasing features of the game was the batting of Storer, who thus early in the season has proved that as an all-round cricketer he has lost none of his skill. His 77 was put together in quite his best form; the stroke on the leg side and the cut were played with equal precision, and the vigour of his batting can be judged from his hits, which included two fives and ten fours. Going in at 65, Storer made his 50 out of the next 64, and altogether was at the wickets nearly an hour and a half. The ball came along at a nice easy pace, but the rest of the Derbyshire side gave rather a disappointing display.

In the second innings Mr L G Wright showed excellent defence and he did not fail to punish the loose balls. With Chatterton, who showed all his well-known finish, 89 runs were added for the second wicket. When seven batsmen were out for 190 it was doubtful whether Derbyshire would save the single-innings defeat, but Hancock then hit with considerable effect. Mr D L A Jephson was very successful with his lobs and in the two innings took eight wickets for 10 runs apiece.

Surrey required 49 to win, and at the close of play had made 18 without loss.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 May, page 13)

Surrey beat Derbyshire at the Oval on Saturday by ten wickets. The position of the game overnight had placed the result beyond doubt, for Surrey required only 31 runs to win. Brockwell and Abel had no difficulty in getting this number, and half an hour's play finished the match.

4 May: WORCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5148.html)

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

Worcestershire have entered upon first-class cricket with great promise. By reason of their carrying off the minor counties championship in two successive years they were able to obtain sufficient fixtures to qualify for the more important competition, and yesterday saw their first appearance at the county ground at Worcester in an important match.

In meeting last year's champions Worcestershire were set a hard task, and they have so far come through the trying ordeal with distinct success. If anything, Yorkshire were the more favoured yesterday, inasmuch as they batted first, but the end of the day found Worcestershire with a useful advantage, for, with three wickets in hand, they held a lead of 37 runs.

Wilson, a fast right-handed bowler, was chiefly responsible for Worcestershire's doing so well. So difficult was he to play that he took eight wickets for 70, and at no time was any prolonged stand made against him. At one time, when Arnold and Mr R E Foster were together and the hundred had been reached with only two men out, a really good score seemed in prospect, but a startling change came over the game and six wickets were down for 111. However, Wheldon played admirably at the critical time. The longest partnership of the day was that of Mr H K Foster and Arnold, who put on 50 runs.

The Worcester ground is a very good one, being fully large enough for important matches and well appointed; and the wicket yesterday appeared to be in excellent order.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 May, page 11)

As the result of some highly interesting cricket at Worcester yesterday, the home county maintained the advantage they had gained on Thursday and have an excellent prospect of winning their opening match in the county championship. The fortune of the game varied considerably, Yorkshire at one time having the better position; but in the end Worcestershire left off requiring only 80 runs to win and having eight wickets to fall.

This favourable state of affairs was due to the all-round work of the side rather than to any individual performance, and the honours of the day belonged to Wainwright. When he began his innings of 86 Yorkshire had lost four wickets for 62, and another fell before the arrears of 72 were hit off. But it was from that point that Yorkshire's prospects improved, and before they lost another man they had decidedly the best of matters. While Wainwright forced the game Hirst kept up a sound defence, and 115 runs were added in an hour and a quarter.

At length, when Hirst was caught in the slips for a capital 35, Yorkshire were 110 runs on with four wickets to fall. However, a collapse followed; the innings closed for 205 and Worcestershire were set only 134 runs to win. Wainwright during the hour and three-quarters that he was at the wickets scored 86 out of 141, and hit 13 fours, five threes and four twos. Probably the only mistake he made was in calling Mr Mitchell for a short run which cost the old Cambridge captain his wicket just when Yorkshire sadly needed runs.

With Mr H K Foster bowled first ball by Rhodes Worcestershire began their second innings disastrously, but Mr R E Foster and Arnold batted well. Generally speaking the fielding was good. A fairly large company took a keen enjoyment in the cricket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 May, page 13)

After getting very near to victory Worcestershire had to put up with defeat in their opening match in first-class cricket, Yorkshire winning a remarkable game by 11 runs at Worcester on

Saturday. For this success, which came to them most unexpectedly, last year's champions have to thank their newest recruit, J T Brown, the young professional from Darfield.

With Rhodes unable to get his length and Haigh and Hirst also failing, Brown was soon called upon; and so finely did he bowl that he actually took six wickets in nine overs for 19 runs. Bowling fast right hand, he caused a complete collapse when it appeared that Worcestershire must win. He began by bowling Mr R E Foster, who with Arnold added 62 for the third wicket; but it was not until after the 100 went up with only four men out that the home county's batting broke down absolutely. In a few overs four more wickets fell to Brown, so that with only two men to be dismissed Worcestershire wanted 22 runs. Ten of these were obtained, and then the remaining wickets went down. Thus Yorkshire secured a most sensational victory, six wickets actually falling for 22 runs.

Of course, all the honours belonged to J T Brown on Saturday, but the match will add greatly to Worcestershire's reputation and attract general attention to their doings. An unfortunate accident happened to Hunter, the Yorkshire wicket-keeper, who split his hand so badly that he will probably be unable to play for some weeks. The finish of the game was favoured by fine weather, but there was only a small company, the end being reached at ten minutes to 1.

4 May: THE FRESHMEN'S MATCH AT OXFORD

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

Potted score: MR F H B CHAMPAIN'S SIDE 286 (J T Adamson 20, W S Medlicott 63, W F A Rattigan 119, F H Humphreys 33; R A Williams 3/91, W L H Moss 3/65, E S Duval 3/23) and 201/2 dec (J P Knox 46, J T Adamson 32, H F Terry 67*, W S Medlicott 45*). MR B J T BOSANQUET'S SIDE 299 (C H B Marsham 76, H C Pilkington 27, R A Williams 35, B Ussher 46, W L H Moss 21; G F Bentley 3/31, J P Knox 4/96, F H Humphreys 3/77) and 162/6 (J L Stow 25, H C Pilkington 104*; G W F Kelly 3/37). Match drawn.

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

The most interesting feature of the cricket yesterday at Oxford in the opening stage of the Freshmen's match was the success for Mr Champain's side of Messrs Rattigan and Medlicott, two of the best bats in the Harrow Eleven last year.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 6 May, page 11)

At Oxford, in the Freshmen's match, the game was left in a very even condition last evening.

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 May, page 13)

Mr H C Pilkington's brilliant batting gave distinction to the cricket at Oxford on Saturday, when the trial match was left drawn. Mr Pilkington was captain at Eton last year. His 104 runs were made in a couple of hours.

4 May: THE FRESHMEN'S MATCH AT CAMBRIDGE

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

Potted scores: MR T L TAYLOR'S SIDE 325 (E B Noel 34, E R Wilson 60, W K P Ffrench 77, H A Jones 36*, T L Taylor 41; P R Johnston 6/73) and 207/6 (G F Collett 57, C C T Doll 57, P W Robertson 35). MR H H B HAWKINS'S SIDE 141 (W S Tresawna 37, J N B Champain 39, D R Taylor 21; L J Clayton 4/31) and (following on) 337 (S H Day 47, N O Tagart 24, W S Tresawna 20, J N B Champain 44, P R Johnston 35, D R Taylor 73, E W N Wyatt 29; E R Wilson 6/73). Mr T L Taylor's Side won by five wickets.

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

There are several Freshmen with high cricket reputations up at Cambridge this year, and the trial match, which began yesterday, possessed more interest than usual.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Saturday 6 May, page 11)

Day 3 (report from Monday 8 May, page 13)

The trial match of the Cambridge Freshmen ended on Saturday in a win for the side captained by Mr Taylor by five wickets.

Friday 5 May, page 11: THE SURREY COUNTY CLUB

There was a large attendance of members in the great hall of the Oval pavilion yesterday for the annual general meeting, over which the Attorney-General presided. Sir R Webster was supported by Lieutenant-Colonel Farmer, Mr Wildman Cattley, Mr Winterflood, Dr Blades, Mr W E Roller, Mr John Shuter, Lieutenant-Colonel Bircham, Major-General Trevor, General Sir Frederick Marshall and Mr Denzil Onslow.

Sir Richard Webster, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, congratulated the members on the prosperity of the club. He pointed out the fine work done by Surrey last year on the Oval, and if they did not win the championship they had the merit of not losing a match at home. He congratulated Yorkshire on their splendid year, which brought to them the championship, and he was convinced that Yorkshire were the best all round side of last summer.

Surrey were fortunate enough to retain the services of Mr K J Key as captain; and he had the meeting with him in thinking that Mr Key rather underrated his abilities in putting himself so late on the order.

The new pavilion was now complete, but they had not thoroughly agreed with the Duchy of Cornwall as to the way the side stands should be constructed. He hoped, however, that some early agreement would be arrived at. Under these circumstances the storage of cycles would be made at the Vauxhall entrance to the ground.

In spite of the tremendous expenditure entailed by the new pavilion the Surrey Club was now quite solvent. But the committee had thought it desirable that the members should be increased from the 4,000 limit by another 300, and they asked for the authority to make this change in the rules. The 4,000 membership was exhausted last year and the committee would exercise their usual discretion in the new election.

In answer the questions from the members, the chairman said that the idea of reducing the admission fee for the Gentlemen v Players would be considered by the committee. The winter wage for professionals was already in practice at the Oval, and the question of drinking fountains on the ground was a subject that he would impress on the committee.

A vote of thanks to Mr Key for his captaincy preceded the election of officers for the year. Sir Richard Webster, as president; General Sir Frederick Marshall, as vice-president; and Mr Wildman Cattley, as treasurer, were all re-elected.

THE ESSEX CLUB. - Colonel Lockwood, M.P., presided at the annual dinner on Wednesday evening at the county ground, Leyton, when there was a company of nearly 200. He congratulated the county on its rise in a few years after a long period of mediocrity, and coupled with the toast of the evening the name of Mr Charles Ernest Green, the old Cambridge blue, to whom Essex really owe their existence as a cricket county. Mr D J Morgan, Mr O R Borradaile and the members of last year's team were among those present.

Saturday 6 May, page 11: THE MARYLEBONE CLUB

In connexion with the new stand at Lord's, the M.C.C. have made the following regulations: -

At ordinary matches the price of seats will be 1s a day, and at the Eton and Harrow and Oxford and Cambridge matches and all the Australian matches, except the one with England, half-a-crown a day.

On the occasion of the England and Australia match special regulations will be in force, the seating accommodation of the stand being divided into two equal parts. In the west part the charge will be 5s a day, and in the east portion 1s a day. The 5s tickets will be sold beforehand to the public after June 1.

The M.C.C. have also arranged to issue 6d entrance tickets to the ground by which members will be able to admit their friends at the members' entrance.

THE LONDON COUNTY CRICKET CLUB

The finishing touches are now being given to the new buildings and fixtures at the Crystal Palace ground for the reception of the Australians on Monday, when the new colonial team make their first appearance in England. The open winter and the recent spell of dry weather have been very favourable to ground men, and yesterday the turf on the cricket ground at the Crystal Palace promised everything for a true pitch.

Dr Grace has personally supervised the preparation of the ground and arrangements. The handsome new pavilion and the temporary public stand will be ready for use on Monday, and the ordinary visitors to the palace will also be able to get a view of the cricket from the grass slopes. To-night Dr Grace and the Crystal Palace management entertain the Australian cricketers at dinner.

Monday 8 May, page 13: THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM

With reference to the big match which begins to-day at the Crystal Palace, the Australians will not decide upon their eleven until this morning. The South of England team will consist of: -

Dr W G Grace, Mr J R Mason, Mr C L Townsend, Mr C B Fry, Mr G L Jessop, K S Ranjitsinhji, Lockwood, Brockwell, Hayward, Abel and Board.

The Australian team were entertained at dinner by Dr W G Grace and the London County Club at the Crystal Palace on Saturday evening. Lord Suffield presided, and the company, in addition to the Australians, included the Hon J W Taverner, Minister of Agriculture, Victoria; Mr Henry Gillman, the manager of the Crystal Palace; Colonel Campbell, Colonel Thompson, Mr A Biggs, Mr E Clark, Mr E Schenk, Mr E Milner, Mr W Gardiner, Mr J R Mason and Mr C L Townsend.

Major Wardill, the Australian manager, in responding to the toast of the team, expressed the opinion that, if they had not players of such mark as Spofforth, Blackham and Palmer, they had brought a fine side, and their only wish was for fine weather and good wickets.

Dr W G Grace, in replying for the London County Club, mentioned that the membership had already passed beyond 600, and they hoped to get plenty of hard matches and good cricket at the Palace. As for the Australians, he wanted to see their new bowlers and to judge whether they were as good as Mr Stoddart's team made them out to be. It was common knowledge that a team did not always perform so well here in this country as on their own ground. There generally was an excuse, and on Monday it would, no doubt, be said that there were too many trees on the boundaries.

He was indeed sorry that they had not had a little longer time to prepare the ground; but if they at present had not the pavilion and everything else as it should be, he hoped all would be right when the team visited them in July. He hoped they would, while in this country, make their home in London.

On his Australian visits he had found that the English teams were always treated right royally. With Major Wardill at the head the tour would be carried out as it should be, and if the present team did not make a record he was sure they were a rare good lot of cricketers. Whether England won or lost in the coming contests, they should meet with the same friendly spirit as they did that evening.

8 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5149.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 May, page 9)

Although not represented by a very powerful batting side the M.C.C. at Lord's yesterday had slightly the better of the opening day's play against Yorkshire. The cricket generally was of a varying character.

This was especially the case in the Club's innings, for, after an indifferent start, so well did Storer and Chatterton bat that there appeared every prospect of a large score, but when once the partnership had been broken the remaining batsmen offered only a feeble resistance to the bowling of Haigh and Hirst, and the innings closed for a comparatively moderate total. Storer and Chatterton were responsible for 147 out of 180 from the bat, and eight of the side could only make 16 between them. Storer's chief hits were 14 fours, three threes and four twos.

When Yorkshire started their innings runs were put on at a fast rate, and the first half-hour's cricket produced 66 runs, at which total Brown left for a hard hit 43. When four he was badly missed by Roche, but otherwise he showed excellent form. In marked contrast to this Mr F S Jackson was batting three-quarters of an hour for two.

With six wickets down for 95 it seemed probable that the champion county would be dismissed for a small score, but Wainwright and Haigh improved their prospects, and at the close they were 42 runs behind with two wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 May, page 14)

Although not possessing anything so attractive as the batting of Chatterton, Storer and Brown on the previous day, the cricket at Lord's yesterday was always interesting if only from the evenness of the match. Lord Hawke's 30 not out proved a very useful contribution, which enabled the side to get within 11 runs of the club's total. J T Hearne bowled exceedingly well and he took seven wickets for just ten runs apiece.

With several of their most reliable batsmen failing in the club's second innings, it was left to Mr C P Foley and Mr A F Somerset to carry off the batting honours. Mr Foley made his 48 out of the first 69. While playing a strong defensive game, at times he hit with considerable power, his best stroke being his late cut. Mr Somerset also showed good form.

The feature of the innings, however, was the grand bowling of Hirst, who kept a splendid length and was very difficult to play. He took seven wickets for under seven runs apiece, while in the match he had the fine analysis of 11 wickets for 82 runs. His catch which dismissed Storer was a splendid one, as the ball was travelling at a tremendous rate. Throughout the innings the Yorkshire fielding was very close.

Requiring 197 to win, Brown and Tunncliffe made a good start for Yorkshire by putting on 44 for the first wicket, although Tunncliffe was somewhat favoured by fortune. When stumps were drawn Yorkshire required 92 runs to win with six wickets in hand.

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

After an exciting finish Yorkshire beat the M.C.C. at Lord's yesterday by one wicket. The result was in doubt until the last ball was bowled. Several times during the innings the Club's prospects of victory seemed hopeful. And when Mr F S Jackson, who was suffering from an injured hand, went in 20 were still required to give his side the victory. With Haigh content to keep up his end Mr Jackson hit off the runs, and the game was over at 1 o'clock.

For this result Yorkshire were largely indebted to Haigh, who batted with great nerve at a critical period. Going in when half the side were out for 105, he remained at the wickets

for an hour and 20 minutes, and carried out his bat for a well-played 36. Mr F Mitchell, after rather an uncertain start overnight, showed good form, and he made some fine drives on both sides of the wicket. During the innings Mr A F Somerset kept wicket for Storer, who had slightly bruised his hand.

8 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5150.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 May, page 9)

Notts had the good fortune to win the toss in their match against Lancashire at Trent Bridge yesterday, and though for some time they fared disastrously they managed in the end to put together 249. Mr Jones and Shrewsbury were both dismissed with the score at eight, and in spite of the efforts of W Gunn, Attewell and Mr Dixon six men were out for 67.

However, the partnership of Mr Dixon and John Gunn brought about a great change, and an unexpected stand was made for the last wicket by Iremonger and Oates, who hit in resolute style and put on 64 runs together. Mr Dixon played careful cricket for his invaluable 71, and John Gunn, who was ninth out at 185, did not give a chance in his 60, which included four fours, three threes and 11 twos.

Lancashire had 50 minutes' batting at the close of the afternoon, and did so badly that three of their best wickets were lost for 45 runs, Notts being thus left with a substantial advantage on the day's play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 May, page 14)

The bad weather prevented any cricket at Nottingham yesterday . . .

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

This match was drawn at Trent-bridge yesterday.

8 May: SOUTH OF ENGLAND v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5151.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 May, page 9)

No Australian team, not even excepting the great sides of 1882 and 1884, ever secured so much general public attention as that which opened its tour at the Crystal Palace yesterday. The cause can be easily traced to the failure of Mr Stoddart's splendid side in Australia two years ago, for it was against that side that not a few of the present team won their spurs.

The fielding of the Australians yesterday was exquisite, and the bowling, if a trifle humdrum, was lacking neither in pace nor in length. They were yesterday pitted against a wonderfully fine eleven of the South of England, and in bowling and fielding they acquitted themselves well. To get such a side as represented the South of England out for 246 on a beautifully true pitch was in itself a notable feat, and had it not been for three batsmen the South would have been out for much less. It is too early yet, of course, to pronounce on the batting abilities of the Australians, but they look like a fine side, and the prospects are that England will have to fight hard in the five test matches.

The striking feature of yesterday's cricket was the way the Australians played when the game seemed to be going against them. Two wickets down at luncheon time for 128 and so many good batsmen to follow might have made any side relax a little, but after the interval the Australians fought harder than ever, and were rewarded. It was only Lockwood's splendid forcing game in the last half an hour that enabled the South of England to reach a respectable total in the end.

Perhaps the finest cricket of the day was displayed by Mr Fry and Hayward. While they were adding 114 for the third wicket their batting was so full of precision and of excellence that the Englishmen seemed in for a colossal score. Mr Fry made his mark as a great batsman last year, and he has already confirmed it this year. Yesterday nothing could have been better than his perfection of style and his wonderfully strong game in front of the wicket. Hayward perhaps played a less powerful game; but he had more strokes and was particularly clever on the leg-side. These two men, apart from Lockwood, alone did anything remarkable.

Going in late, Dr Grace did little; and Ranjitsinhji failed to exhibit his old precision in his wonderful leg play. But it was a splendid day's cricket, rendered notable particularly by Fry's driving and the excellent fielding of the Australians. The South of England team would be better for the addition of another great bowler, and it was unfortunate that Jack Hearne was engaged in playing for the M.C.C. at Lord's. Still, Dr Grace has a batting side of great strength, and on the good wicket such as that at the Crystal Palace yesterday the Australians, with their best side, were fortunate in getting the team out for 246.

The conditions for the game yesterday were excellent and there was a crowd of 8,000 people. Mr Henry Gillman had charge of the arrangements, and with Dr Grace he is to be congratulated on the debut of the London County Club.

Play will be resumed at midday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 May, page 14)

The Australians laid a good foundation for their fame as a batting side by their cricket on the London County Club ground at the Crystal Palace yesterday, and this, coming after their beautiful fielding and true bowling of the Monday, only confirms the good opinion already pronounced on the side. They were at the wickets the whole of the playing hours yesterday, and exceeded the South of England score by 111 runs. Two batsmen were still in hand.

The spectators, of whom there were about 10,000, had opportunities of judging of the side's batting yesterday. Two men got over 100 and there were one or two other useful scores. But the chief honours belonged to Gregory and Noble. Gregory was very strong all round the

wicket. His best cricket was seen up to the time that he had made 80; afterwards his play, in his anxiety to reach 100, became less satisfactory. But taken altogether it was a fine innings, although of no particular pace. There were ten fours made by Gregory during the three and a half hours that he was in. Gregory scored over 100 on the Palace ground three years ago, so that he seems to possess a knack for showing his best form there. There were questions of chances to Board at the wicket and one of the fieldsmen, but they were so difficult as to be ignored as errors in the field.

It was after luncheon that the great change came over the match. Four wickets had gone for 159 when the Gregory and Noble partnership began, which yielded 141 runs. Noble played very well. He is not an attractive batsman to watch, but he comes down well on the ball and he plays very straight. He is still not out with 105, and his chances of improving his score are favourable. Clement Hill played well for his runs, and Worrall hit hard until he was cleverly caught in the deep-field.

The English bowling, apart from that of Lockwood's, lacked sting. Grace's slows puzzled some of the cricketers, and his deception in pitch and pace led to many scrambling strokes. Townsend's slows were for a long time very expensive; but his subsequent success improved his analysis so much that he now has five wickets to his credit, at about a cost of 20 runs each.

The Australians are a sound batting side; but their men, accustomed to the slowness of the matches in Australia, are inclined to play the same quiet cricket as in practised in the colonies, where the big matches have unlimited days allotted to them. The type of cricketer which the English public loved was to be found in the class of Massie, McDonnell, Lyons and Bonnor; but there is none of this class with the present team, whose sole aim seems to be an easy steadiness. The English fielding yesterday was not to be compared to the wonderful form of the Australians on Monday. After a gloomy morning the weather became very fine and the wicket played well all day.

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

The first of the Australian matches has been left unfinished with the drawn game in a position favourable to the visitors, for when the end came last evening at the Crystal Palace, the Australians had only 87 to make to win and had nine wickets left.

It has often been thought best in the opening match of these Australian tours to begin with a game in which easy hours could be observed; and had this not been done on the first three days of this week the Australians might now be enjoying their first victory. Their initial cricket has established a reputation for the side - they are admirable fieldsmen, their batting possesses precision and steadiness, and their bowling, if lacking in variety, is marked by sting, pace and length.

The Australians have acquitted themselves well in their first test of merit; and they will now enter upon the serious part of their campaign with the respect of the general public. Other sides from the colonies have possessed bowlers and batsmen of more distinctive brilliancy; but there is a vein of excellence running through this new team which assures them success in the majority of their engagements.

In this match at the Crystal Palace they were playing on a pitch the trueness of which lasted to the end; the bowlers had only their own skill to help them. Under Dr Grace's instruction the ground men at the Palace have secured a playing field which is equal to either Lord's or the Oval, except for the boundaries, where the bowler's arm is often lost in the trees. But the Sydenham authorities are not likely to sacrifice their finely-wooded landscape for cricket, and the trees on the boundary must remain. A cricketer has no eye for the picturesque; and the beautiful row of limes at the nursery end of Lord's some years ago was sacrificed to the clamour of the batsmen, who lost the bowler's arm in the foliage, and to the fieldsmen, who attributed dropped catches to these same limes.

At one time yesterday the match at the Palace promised a win for the Australians. That was just before 4 o'clock, when, with five men gone in the second innings, the South of England

had yet 24 arrears to make up. But then came one of the best periods of the match. K S Ranjitsinhji and Dr Grace got together and played a most beautiful hour's cricket. Ranjitsinhji was quite himself; his beautiful play on the leg-side and his precise cutting were worthy of his reputation, and his wrist and forearm power came in tremendously when dealing with a half-volley.

Dr Grace, while scoring much more slowly than Ranjitsinhji, made some fine cuts, while his twos and threes out of reach of cover-point and extra mid-off showed the champion in his best style. Their stand of 78 for the sixth wicket quite deprived the Australians of any chance of success. Eventually Ranjitsinhji was caught at point and Grace was bowled. Mr Mason batted very well; but Jones's pace told at the finish, and he got the last few wickets quickly.

Among the other incidents of the day was the hard hitting of Jessop, during whose innings occurred the solitary error in the Australian fielding; Hill dropped a catch in the long-field after getting the ball easily to his hands. The mistake cost the side little, for Jessop was directly afterwards out.

There was nothing much to say about the Australian batting in the morning. Noble was not out for a fine 116; but reference to his merit was made in The Times of yesterday. After a gloomy morning the weather became very fine. There were 10,000 spectators.

8 May: WARWICKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5152.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 May, page 9)

Everything else accomplished in the opening stage of this fixture at Birmingham was completely dwarfed by the performance of E J Diver, who made 184 out of 260. Yesterday he went in with first wicket - that of W G Quaife - down for two runs, and was sixth out at 262, having obtained his 184 in about two hours and a half. He only gave three chances - when at 47, 59 and 182 respectively - and they were all exceedingly difficult. He hit 28 fours, eight threes and ten twos.

Leicestershire in their turn did none too well, and but for Pougher's 51 would have fared very badly indeed. As it was they lost six wickets for 140, and so with four wickets only in hand left off 136 behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 10 May, page 14)

Owing to the heavy rain at Birmingham yesterday it was impossible to resume this match until past 5 o'clock, and all the progress that was made was devoted to the conclusion of Leicestershire's innings. Overnight the visitors had lost six wickets for 140 against Warwickshire's total of 176, so that with four wickets in hand they still required 17 to avert the follow-on.

Pougher, who was not out 51, and Whitehead increased the aggregate to 183 before the latter was bowled when the partnership had yielded exactly 50 runs. Pougher himself was last out when ten short of his 100, his fine score of 90 being the result of two hours 40 minutes' faultless cricket. He hit 11 fours, four threes and six twos. Leicestershire's innings having realized 195, Warwickshire will resume this morning with a lead of 81 runs.

Day 3 (scorecard but no report from Thursday 11 May, page 9)

8 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY FIRST TWELVE v NEXT SIXTEEN

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

Potted scores: FIRST TWENTY 330 (H C Pilkington 27, L P Collins 50, A M Hollins 61, H Martyn 90, A Eccles 25, F H Humphreys 27*, F W Stocks 23; H White 3/65, B Knox 3/53) and 230/4 (R E Foster 52, L P Collins 21, A Eccles 70*, R H de Montmorency 46). NEXT SIXTEEN 258 (T H K Dashwood 27, F H Hollins 27, B Knox 61, C D Fisher 30, J W Crawford 36; F W Stocks 6 wkts, B J T Bosanquet 3 wkts, E C Lee 3 wkts). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 9 May, page 9)

In the opening stage of the third of the home trial matches at Oxford yesterday afternoon Mr Collins, Mr A M Hollins and Mr Martyn batted in excellent style for the twelve, the two last-named putting on 142 runs together for the fourth wicket. The twelve had made 275 at the drawing of stumps with still four wickets in hand.

Day 2 (scorecard but no report from Wednesday 10 May, page 14)

Day 3 (scorecard but no report from Thursday 11 May, page 9)

Wednesday 10 May, page 14

A correspondent writes to complain that the new stand at Lord's cricket-ground seriously diminishes the amount of space available for the public who do not care to pay more than their entrance-money: -

"In order to erect the new stand," he says, "the club have completely demolished the old high-bank seats at the south-eastern end of the ground which accommodated 1,500 or 2,000 persons and also all the sitting and standing accommodation which previously existed in front of the old tennis-court and gave view to many hundreds more; all these seats were free to those who had paid the entrance charge of 6d. Under the new rules the public will be absolutely robbed of a large portion of free sitting and standing room, for no part of the new stand is to be given up to the public in return for the accommodation enjoyed prior to its erection.

"It has long been a complaint that the authorities at Lord's have not seen the necessity of providing fair accommodation to that portion of the general public which, from many causes, is unable or unwilling to pay more than the entrance-money, and it has been the hope of many that the erection of the new stand was to mark the end of the old order of things; it now appears that the contrary is the case, and that the general public is to have less room than before from which to view the game . . . It would, I think, be well if the committee of the club were to send delegates from their body to watch a county match at the Oval, and to report on the accommodation which the Surrey Club provide for the public, and then perhaps the latter might receive some benefit at the hands of the authorities of the premier club . . .

"The club cannot any longer hide from themselves that the prosperity of the M.C.C. is largely due to the support given to the game by the general public, and not by the few who are willing to pay 5s or 2s 6d a day for a seat in addition to the entrance charge; and the public have, I maintain, a right to receive in return proper and comfortable accommodation."

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5153.html)

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

At Cambridge, yesterday, the University gave a splendid display of batting in the first of their important matches.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 May, page 16)

The feature of the cricket at Cambridge yesterday was the batting of E R Wilson - the old Rugby boy - brother of C E M Wilson, last year's Cambridge captain.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 May, page 9)

The University gained a great success in their first match, defeating Mr A J Webbe's Eleven at Cambridge on Saturday by an innings and 62 runs. Assisted as they were by injuries to their opponents and rain, which fell on Friday night, Cambridge still deserve much credit for the way they played their winning game.

And what honours belonged to the losers were carried off by the Freshman, Mr E R Wilson. On Friday he made 117 not out when the conditions were favourable for run-getting, and on Saturday he played just as well when the pitch was considerably affected by rain. He was batting throughout the innings of 178, which lasted three hours and 20 minutes, going in first and being the last man out. Wilson's 70 was quite faultless and included eight fours and two threes.

11 May: ESSEX v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5154.html)

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

In their first day's cricket with Essex at Leyton the Australians came out very well. Their fielding lacked some of the unerring qualities exhibited at the Crystal Palace, though it was still very good, and the honours of the day belonged to the best bowler in the side - Mr H Trumble.

Going on as first change he quickly found his length, and from that time to the end of the innings his varying pace, his pitch and the spin he got on the ball were the elements which wrought disaster to the Essex eleven. Eight for 79 was a great performance and he was warmly congratulated on the achievement of this feat.

Young, a left-hand player of no batting pretensions, won everybody's admiration by the way in which he placed the ball to leg, but the great batting of the day was the 46 by Mr A P Lucas. His 46, not out, yesterday took a long time to get; but some of his drives all along the ground were perfect, and now and again he came out strongly on the leg side.

The Australians were in about 70 minutes before the time appointed for drawing stumps. They did not being well. There was a wonderful catch in the slips which got out Iredale - the decision was given against the batsman by the umpire at the striker's wicket after the other umpire had declined as he did not see the catch - and the catch at short-leg that got out Clement Hill was almost equally good, the ball being held low down close to the ground. Walter Mead bowled superbly but with no luck. There were quite 10,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 May, page 16)

The county ground at Leyton maintains its reputation as one of the most sporting in the Kingdom, that is, the wickets there, while good, have not that excessive trueness which makes the bowlers' lot on many fields so hard. The game passed through its second stage yesterday with the play so keen that the attention of the 10,000 spectators was always closely retained. Last night the adjournment came with only the fourth innings left to decide and in this the Australians will have to make 200 to win the match.

Yesterday was a day full of exciting periods - the wonderfully fine bowling of Young and Walter Mead which produced the discomfiture of the Australian batsmen and left a good margin for Essex on the first innings, and the disastrous start of the Essex eleven, to be followed by a fine rally by Turner and McGahey, and then another collapse. Spectators could not have had a more exciting day's cricket. And now, unless the wicket is early rid of the effect of the dew this morning, the Australians will have to fight very hard for victory.

Essex have certainly found a fine left-hand fast bowler in Young, whose discharge from the Navy was secured by them last year simply for his cricket. He keeps an excellent length and gets up at a great pace from the pitch. The Australians themselves are quite frank in their appreciation of him, while every one knows the steady capacity of Walter Mead, whose length and spin were yesterday very pronounced. It was a great feat on the part of these bowlers to get rid of the fine batting side possessed by Australia so cheaply. Their hour and a half's bowling after 12 was some of the best and, for length and spin, could not be easily surpassed.

When Essex went in a second time with a lead of 55 they seemed to be in a very good position, but the Australians never know when they are beaten and, playing up keenly, they seemed to have taken command of the game again, for three Essex wickets went for eight runs. Then came four blunders in the field; and the dropped catches by Noble, Laver and Iredale were costly. Turner and McGahey struggled hard for runs and, making the most of the kindness of the Australian fieldsmen, they were together an hour and 50 minutes and added 93 runs.

Another change occurred and after 101 had gone up the last six wickets went for an additional 43. Trumble and McLeod bowled extremely well, and Trumble in the double innings took 12 wickets for 131 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 May, page 9)

The Australians have met with a severe check at the very beginning of their cricket campaign, and their defeat by Essex on the county ground at Leyton on Saturday may be a very practical exhortation to them that it will never do to relax their game, as they did in fielding on the Friday of this match, if they wish to beat the great English counties.

To the errors after luncheon on the second day the turn of the match could be traced. Then on Saturday came the wonderful bowling of Young, the most recent addition to the Essex ranks, and this was the chief factor in the Essex success by 126 runs. Young on Saturday was quite unplayable; his bowling came at a tremendous pace down the pitch, which the dew had left just sufficiently damp to make the ball bite; his length was unerring and the Australians seemed utterly unable to time him. How completely he beat them may be judged from the fact that he hit the wicket six times, and then in no unmistakable fashion, for it was generally the middle or off stump that was sent flying. Mr Green casually picked up Young at the nets last season, and this great find for Essex materially improves the chances of the county for this summer.

With Kortright well again they will have such a variety of bowling as Kortright, Young, Bull and Mead. Walter Mead backed up Young on Saturday by keeping an excellent length and getting plenty of spin on the ball; it was a particularly good ball that got out Mr Trumble. But Young's seven for 32 eclipsed everything. His record for the match was 11 for 74; and it is, perhaps, without precedent that such a comparatively unknown man should achieve so much distinction on such an important occasion.

Essex are to be heartily congratulated on their splendid victory. There was no great batting feat in the match; runs always had to be fought very hard for, and the wicket, without being bad, always gave the bowlers just that first aid to make them difficult to play. The Australians on the first occasion of their playing on a pitch that was more or less in favour of the bowlers have not come out well; but, because they have lost their first county match, it will be a mistake for people to run away with the idea that they are not a side equal to be classed with some of the best of their predecessors.

The Australians, to whom Saturday was left to get 200 runs in the fourth innings, were all out in rather more than an hour and a half for 73. They began badly by losing Iredale and Hill to very fine catches; and then with the bowling of Gregory the match seemed lost. It was in vain that the captain changed his order and kept the new men till last. Young simply could not be played; and Darling and Noble, considering the times they were beaten, were fortunate in reaching double figures.

The many thousand people present gathered in front of the pavilion at the finish, and speeches were made to them by Mr Darling, the Australian captain, who congratulated Essex on the possession of such a fine bowler as Young, and Mr Charles Green, who hoped that this victory was only the forerunner of good things to come. Colonel Lockwood, M.P., presented to the professionals a sum of £42, collected from the public and the members as a recognition of the work of the Essex players.

11 May: KENT v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5155.html)

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

There was some interesting cricket on the Rectory Field, Blackheath, yesterday . . . [So why don't you tell us about it, than?!!]

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 May, page 16)

An interesting day's cricket at the Blackheath Rectory Field yesterday left the scores as follows . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 May, page 9)

After an extremely good match Kent were beaten at Blackheath on Saturday by 51 runs. Mr Beloe's fine innings of 52 on the last day had much to do with Gloucestershire's victory; but at one period Kent had a fair prospect of success, seeing that 150 went up with only four batsmen out. Subsequently, something of a collapse set in when Mr Stewart's 52 had been made.

11 May: LEICESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5156.html)

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

As recent rain had affected the ground, Mr Key, on winning the toss, at Leicester, yesterday, set to put his opponents in first. The experiment, however, did not turn out well, Leicestershire staying in the greater part of the day and scoring 279.

Things might have gone very differently, however, if Pougher had not been twice missed in the slips. His finely hit 104, obtained in two hours and 50 minutes, included 14 fours. At the close of the day Surrey had a quarter of an hour's batting. There was a good attendance.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 May, page 16)

At Leicester yesterday Surrey were batting all the afternoon, carrying their overnight score of 21 for no wicket to 475 for eight wickets. Abel, Hayward and Mr H B Richardson all did well, but the feature of the play was the splendid batting of Brockwell, who, for the second time this season, scored over 100 for Surrey. His innings of 147 - quite free from mistake - lasted just over three hours and included 11 fours, 11 threes and 12 twos. He and Abel put on 163 runs for the second wicket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 May, page 9)

When Surrey had victory almost West Indies grasp at Leicester on Saturday the rain set in and prevented any cricket after a quarter to 5. Thus the match was drawn. The feature of Saturday's cricket was Leicestershire's fight against great odds.

11 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5157.html)

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

The opening stage in this match at Lord's yesterday went entirely in Lancashire's favour, and it seemed quite inexplicable where one side did so well that the M.C.C. should have shown such poor form. So well did Briggs and Hallam bowl that the whole side were out in less than an hour and three-quarters.

Briggs considerably puzzled the batsmen. Throughout he kept a splendid length, while he was able to get a fair amount of spin on the ball, and in taking five wickets for a little more than five runs apiece on a fast pitch he accomplished a fine performance. Hallam, who was making his first appearance since the season of 1897, also showed that he had lost none of his skill.

The Lancashire batting was in marked contrast to that of the Club, and from the first the bowling was met with plenty of confidence. The chief honours were carried off by Albert Ward, who had the distinction of scoring the first hundred at Lord's this season. Up to the present he has been at the wickets nearly three hours and three-quarters, and except for a chance in the long field to Mr Glover, who misjudged the ball, he played good cricket. The brightest play was the partnership of Ward and Mr Bardswell, who put on 103 runs in less than an hour, Mr Bardswell punishing the ball severely. At the close Lancashire were 183 runs to the good with four wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 May, page 16)

Lancashire yesterday at Lord's gained a very easy victory by an innings and 82 runs. When they continued their innings Mr G R Bardswell was dismissed without any addition to his score. His partnership with Ward had yielded 111 runs.

Ward was the last to leave, being run out in attempting a sharp single. Altogether he was batting four hours and 20 minutes, and during his long stay at the wickets he made very few bad strokes. Some of his drives all along the ground on the off-side were very fine. His chief hits were 11 fours, eight threes and ten twos.

Going in a second time 210 runs behind, the Club made a good start, Mr Warner and Mr Foley putting on 69 for the first wicket. But so well did Mold and Cuttell bowl on a pitch which was beginning to show signs of wear that the M.C.C. never looked like saving the innings defeat, and the match was over by half-past three.

11 May: SOMERSET v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5158.html)

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

The Yorkshiremen scored heavily against Somerset at Bath yesterday, but were largely assisted by blunders in the field. With an interruption of nearly an hour, caused by rain, cricket was actually in progress for four hours and 20 minutes, and in this time Yorkshire ran up the formidable total of 429 for the loss of seven wickets.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 May, page 16)

There was a good deal of rain at Bath yesterday, which delayed the cricket for two hours and seriously damaged the pitch. This morning Somerset will have to follow on against 374 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 15 May, page 9)

The Somerset batsmen failed again in their second innings at Bath on Saturday, and were out in an hour and three-quarters for 73, Yorkshire winning by an innings and 301 runs. The Yorkshiremen bowled and fielded finely and made the most of the advantage bestowed on them by the ruined pitch.

11 May: WORCESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (not first-class)

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive,
www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/135/135097.html)

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

Some very brilliant batting was seen at Worcester yesterday, and the Worcestershire eleven had by far the better of the day's play. Arnold played splendidly for 142, his hits including 27 fours.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 13 May, page 16)

The Worcestershire eleven, at Worcester yesterday, followed up the advantage they had gained over Notts on the previous day by some excellent bowling and fielding, but in the end the match - limited to two days - had to be left drawn. Notts followed on against a balance of 206, and at their second attempt scored 70 for seven wickets.

15 May: DERBYSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5159.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 May, page 14)

There was no play in the following matches yesterday, owing to the weather: -
Derbyshire v Warwickshire, at Derby . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 May, page 14)

Yesterday, though the Derbyshire and Warwickshire match was started at 12 o'clock, rain greatly curtailed the play. There was an interruption of 15 minutes soon after Warwickshire commenced batting, and at half-past 4 a heavy storm put an end to cricket for the day.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 May, page 14)

There was some fine cricket at Derby yesterday before the match was left drawn . . .

15 May: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5160.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 May, page 14)

Very little cricket was possible at Bristol yesterday through bad weather . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 May, page 14)

At Bristol yesterday the Yorkshire eleven followed up in brilliant style the advantage which they had gained during the hour and a half or so that cricket was in progress on Monday, and they now have every prospect of an easy victory, Gloucestershire being no further than 270 runs behind on the first innings.

Two members of the Yorkshire team - Mr Frank Mitchell as a batsman and Rhodes as a bowler - earned high distinction yesterday. Mr Mitchell went to the wickets at 20 minutes to 1, when the game was resumed, and stayed while the score was being increased from 87 to 274, his being the sixth wicket to go down. He was batting for two hours and ten minutes, and had the satisfaction, for the first time in his life, of making 100 for his county. So far as could be seen he did not give a single chance, and it was only on the rarest occasions that the ball beat him. The ground when he was in was rather too slow to be really difficult, but all the same he played a very fine innings. His hits included ten fours, five threes and ten twos, a large proportion of his runs being obtained by hard drives and skilful strokes in front of square-leg. He had two excellent partners in Denton and Hirst, who helped respectively to put on 86 runs for the fourth wicket and 58 for the sixth.

Yorkshire's innings ended at ten minutes past 4 for 314, and then in an hour and a quarter the Gloucestershire eleven were put out for 44. The chief cause of this collapse was the extremely fine bowling of Rhodes, who seemed on the slow ground almost unplayable. Anyway he took six wickets for 16 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 May, page 14)

There was no interest in yesterday's cricket at Bridgetown, a crushing defeat for the Gloucestershire eleven being always inevitable. On a wicket greatly damaged by rain they had to follow their innings yesterday morning against a balance of 270 runs, and there was never the remotest chance of obtaining any such number. However, they did better than on Tuesday, staying at the wickets for a trifle over two hours and scoring 74. The match thus ended in a victory for Yorkshire by an innings and 196 runs.

Though Mr Troup, who went in first and was fourth out, maintained a strong defence for an hour, there were five wickets down for 32, and a speedy finish seemed in prospect. Mr Brown, however, played exceedingly well and received such good support from Hale and Roberts, both of whom hit with some vigour, that the five remaining wickets more than doubled the score.

For some not very obvious reason Rhodes was taken off yesterday after he had got rid of three batsmen, and so could not repeat his success of the previous day. Still, in the whole game he had the fine record of nine wickets for 31 runs. Wainwright got a lot of spin on the ball yesterday and Mr Jackson, who took four wickets, looked very hard to play.

15 May: KENT v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5161.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 May, page 14)

In the hours allowed for cricket on the Private Banks' ground at Catford yesterday, Kent did as well as might have been expected in the circumstances, as, although, with the pitch spoiled by rain, the bowlers were unable to get much break on the ball, runs proved difficult to make.

The chief batting honours were carried off by Mr S H Day, the old Malvern boy. This young cricketer, who as a schoolboy shares the distinction of scoring a hundred on his first appearance in first-class county cricket, has not been showing his true form up at Cambridge this season, so that his success was all the more gratifying. Going in second wicket down at 27, when things appeared to be going against his side, Mr Day showed plenty of confidence and made scarcely a bad stroke. He was sixth to leave at 156, being caught at mid-on in trying to hit a short-pitched ball to leg. He was batting over two hours and his chief figures were seven fours, five threes and nine twos.

Mr C J Burnup and Mr G V J Weigall also played good cricket, while Mr W E C Hutchings, an old Tonbridge boy, showed some promise of future excellence. With six batsmen out for 156, there seemed a prospect of a larger score, but the last four wickets went down for the addition of a single. Wass was the most successful bowler, taking four wickets for just under four runs apiece, while mention should also be made of Oates at the wicket, as he dismissed the first four men.

Notts went in just before time, but after Oates had lost his wicket in the first over stumps were pulled up for the day. Mr Weigall is acting as captain of the Kent team in the absence of Mr J R Mason, who is suffering from a bad cold. Owing to the weather a start was not made until 3 o'clock, and the actual time of play was about three hours and a quarter.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 May, page 14)

Only three-quarters of an hour's cricket was possible on the Private Banks' ground, at Catford, yesterday. Notts had carried their overnight score of two for the loss of Oates's wicket to 29 for two wickets when rain drove the players to the pavilion. Shortly afterwards a storm of hail and rain made further play impossible.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 May, page 14)

Such little progress had been made with this game on the Private Banks' ground at Catford during the first two days that yesterday there was no prospect of bringing the match to a definite issue. Owing to rain in the early hours the pitch was too soft to admit of a start being made until after lunch. Notts carried their total from 29 for two wickets to 191 for three, and then stumps were pulled up, at a quarter to 6, Notts being 34 runs to the good with seven wickets in hand.

Gunn and Shrewsbury in a partnership of just over two hours added 131 runs. Shrewsbury, although occasionally beaten by the ball, made scarcely a bad stroke, and his chief hits were 17 fours, three threes and eight twos. His driving was as well-timed as ever, while his placing on the leg-side was marked by all his old accuracy. Gunn, after an indifferent start, played good cricket.

15 May: LANCASHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5162.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 May, page 14)

There was no play in the following matches yesterday, owing to the weather: -
. . . Lancashire v Hampshire, at Manchester

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 May, page 14)

Cricket at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, was not possible until after luncheon. Then with the wicket rendered treacherous by the action of the sun the bowlers carried all before them. Hallam fell forward while bowling and had to be carried to the pavilion.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 May, page 14)

There was never the slightest chance at Manchester yesterday of arriving at a definite result in the Lancashire and Hampshire match, and shortly before half-past 6 in the evening the game was given up as a draw, Lancashire at the finish having an innings to play and requiring exactly a hundred runs to win.

15 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5163.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 May, page 14)

The Club had the better of the day's cricket at Lord's yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 May, page 14)

Although the hours of play at Lord's yesterday were made short by the rain much progress was secured in this match. Mead and Trott bowled with great effect for the M.C.C., the former taking six wickets for 54 runs and the latter four for 48.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 May, page 14)

Yesterday was a bowler's day at Lord's in the most literal sense of the term. Woodcock's pace proved too much for the M.C.C. and nine wickets went to him for 28 runs; But Leicestershire fared even worse before Walter Mead and Albert Trott. The former's four wickets cost only nine runs and the latter's six only 21. Marylebone won the match by 92 runs.

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

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5164.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 May, page 14)

Although, unfortunately, prevented by indisposition from taking part in the game himself, Mr A J Webbe duly sent a team down to Oxford yesterday to oppose the University eleven. The day's cricket opened in a sensational manner, Mr Stocks bowling with such conspicuous success that Mr Webbe's team were all out in little more than an hour for the wretched total of 43. Certainly the ground, affected by the showers of the previous day, placed batsmen at a disadvantage, but for all that the performance of the Leicestershire amateur in taking eight wickets at a cost of only 22 runs was one of exceptional excellence.

When the University players went in to bat Mr Champain played well, and Mr Collins withstood the bowling of Hearne, Peel and Rawlin for more than two hours. Mr Eccles too showed fine form and had scored 40 not out, when shortly after 5 o'clock a storm of rain and hail brought the day's cricket to a close. At that point Oxford, with five wickets in hand, had already established a lead of 100 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 May, page 14)

The University team, following up the advantage they gained on Monday, secured a single-innings victory with 85 runs to spare. In the early part of yesterday, on a slow pitch, Oxford were engaged in increasing their overnight total of 143 for five wickets to 218 - Bosanquet and Stocks adding 54 for the last partnership.

Mr Webbe's team were then in a minority of 175, and after Wynyard and Page had opened fairly well and contributed 39 together, Bosanquet and Knox obtained the upper hand as completely as Stocks had done during the first stage, with the result that the innings terminated for 90, and the match was all over by half-past 4. Bosanquet bowled fast and made the ball get up awkwardly, and with Knox, a slow right-hand bowler, able to break both ways, carried off the bowling honours.

15 May: SURREY v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5165.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 May, page 14)

W Howell, the Australian medium pace bowler, secured a distinction at the Oval yesterday that has never been achieved by any Australian cricketer in this country - he took the whole of the ten wickets in one innings. In various phases of cricket sundry English bowlers have done the same thing, and it is recorded that Edward Barrett, who was a great bowler in Surrey's days of mediocrity, dismissed the Australians in their match with the Players in 1878, the first year of an Australian trip to England. No Australian bowler had ever achieved the feat in England, and George Giffen was the only player who had performed it in Australia.

So that Howell, who had only been tried in the third match of the tour, came out supremely well. He was first change at 39, and bowled out Abel with his first ball. From that point his superb length and varying pace ruined the chances of the Surrey batting. Whether the men went forward or played back they were equally at sea. Howell kept always a fine length and it was a great feat on his part that he should have done so well, for the pitch was comparatively easy as the ball came straight through. But no one could time Howell, who hit the wicket in eight instances. His length was unerring and, in spite of th? cutting through, he never sent down many balls that could be hit.

The weather yesterday promised to disturb the cricket very much. After three men had gone for 80 the Surrey batting collapsed and the side were out for 114. Abel and Brockwell both played very well. There had been no cricket owing to the rain before about 1 o'clock; but in the last two hours of the day the Australians established an advantage, and now, with six wickets left, they are eight runs ahead.

Tom Richardson bowled fairly well, and so did Clode, who secured his introduction to the side as a reward for his fine feat in the trial, when he bowled very well with his medium left-hand pace. Lockwood and Wood are both out of the side owing to sprains. There were 7,000 or 8,000 spectators of the play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 May, page 14)

What little cricket was possible between the showers before luncheon on the Oval yesterday - there were in all 40 minutes for the game - served to strengthen the position of the Australians, who at the cost of one more wicket increased their overnight score from 122 to 163. With five men in hand the visitors are now 49 runs on.

Mr Iredale made some splendid strokes on the leg side in dealing with bowling of bad length, but he was twice in danger of being caught at point or thereabouts. So heavy was the rainstorm after luncheon that at a quarter past 4 caught was abandoned. There were 6,000 people on the ground.

The Prince of Wales, who was to have been at the Oval about 5 o'clock, gave up his intended visit on learning of the postponement of play.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 May, page 14)

The new Australian players have not had to wait long for their first victory in England, and their brilliant single-innings win against Surrey on the Oval yesterday will go far to compensate for the disaster at Leyton on Saturday.

Yesterday's triumph was completely merited. They outplayed Surrey at every turn, in batting and bowling particularly, and the county team were throughout the match at a low standard. The conditions were disadvantageous to batsmen; but from a side with the capacity credited

to Surrey - unless Surrey be, after all, only a fair-wicket side - something more was expected than these poor scores of 114 and 64.

The Australians had established a certain advantage on Tuesday, when they finished with a lead of 49 runs and five wickets in hand; but it was the hitting of Kelly yesterday morning which quickly began to turn their thoughts to success. Apart from Kelly's 50, there was nothing worthy of comment in the batting. Iredale did little to improve his overnight score, and the best cricket team was played on Tuesday. Kelly, who went in seventh wicket down, was not above pulling a ball, and in his 50 there were ten fours. Hayward was the only bowler who troubled the Australians, but his length and break were of no avail against Kelly.

With the pitch false Surrey's friends were a little despondent. But no one was quite prepared for the utter collapse of the side. Howell and Trumble bowled at different ends from those taken in the first innings and met with an equal amount of success. Surrey lost three men before lunch for 28, and the other seven went afterwards in three-quarters of an hour for 36 runs.

The only bright feature in the batting was the play of Hayes, one of the youngest members of the side, who threw plenty of courage and vigour into his cricket. But his innings of 43 out of 64 could not save his team from an inglorious show, and Surrey, who had arrears of 135 on the first innings, were beaten by an innings and 71 runs. Howell again showed his cleverness with the ball, and his five wickets for 29 brought his record in the match to 15 for 57 runs. There was a smaller company than might have been expected, only some 4,000 or 5,000 people assembling.

15 May: SUSSEX v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5166.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 16 May, page 14)

The Worcestershire team, which so narrowly missed beating Yorkshire a fortnight ago, appeared at Brighton yesterday to fulfil their engagement with Sussex, but were not seen to much advantage. Rain yesterday morning prevented any cricket until 1 o'clock, when Worcestershire going in first scored 39 for two wickets before the interval.

Afterwards Bland and Tate met with such poor resistance that there were actually nine wickets down for 68. Burrows and Straw, however, made an invaluable stand for the last wicket, the former hitting vigorously, and 61 runs were added before the innings closed. Although punished at the finish Bland obtained six wickets for less than ten runs apiece.

Surrey on going in to bat lost Mr Brann with the score at ten, but then came some delightful cricket by Mr Fry and Ranjitsinhji. With Mr Fry cutting and driving in fine style and Ranjitsinhji displaying his exceptional skill in placing on the leg side, the pair added 102 runs in an hour. In Mr Fry's 69 were ten fours. Mr Murdoch failed, but at the drawing of stumps Sussex with six wickets in hand were three runs to the good.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 17 May, page 14)

Thanks to an admirable display of batting on the part of Mr W L Foster, Worcestershire fared much better in batting at Brighton yesterday than they had done on the previous day, but the ground lost on Monday could not be retrieved, and at the drawing of stumps the western county team, with six men out in their second innings, were only 76 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 18 May, page 14)

At Brighton, yesterday, Sussex beat Worcestershire by five wickets, the bowling of Tate and the batting of Ranjitsinhji being the features of the cricket. The end was reached soon after half-past 3.

Overnight Worcestershire had lost six wickets in their second innings from 169, and deducting the balance against them they held a lead of 76. Their chief hope of adding materially to this number disappeared at once yesterday morning, Mr W L Foster, who had batted so finely on Tuesday, being bowled by the first ball sent down. Though marred by a couple of chances, his innings of 83 was in its general characteristics admirable. He hit ten fours, almost entirely drives and cuts. Wilson and Straw contrived to put on 22 for the last wicket, but despite their efforts Worcestershire were all out for 200. Helped to some extent by the condition of the ground, Tate bowled finely yesterday morning, taking all the four wickets that fell and having only 15 runs hit from him.

Sussex wanted 108 to win, but for some time they did not seem by any means certain of accomplishing this apparently easy task. Mr Fry played a bumping ball on to his wicket at 23 and, three other wickets falling in somewhat quick succession, there were four men out for 55. Ranjitsinhji, however, saved the situation and, with some useful help from Mr Smith and Killick, won the match. From the last ball but one he was nearly caught at short-leg, but this was the only blemish in his innings. Arnold tried very hard for the losing side and his medium-pace bowling broke back a good deal.

Thursday 18 May, page 14: PARSEE CRICKETERS FOR ENGLAND

(From our correspondent)

Allahabad, May 17

Arrangements are already progressing for a Parsee cricketing team to visit England in the summer of 1900. Framjee Patel, a Parsee gentleman well known in cricketing circles in the Bombay Presidency, is corresponding with Lord Harris and K S Ranjitsinhji on the subject. Ranjitsinhji will be asked to captain the team, and the following players will probably be included: - Mistry, Tayaram, Kanga, Kharas, Gagrat, Chandare, Chonkar, Mody, Billimoria.

18 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5167.html)

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

At Cambridge yesterday, in the match between the University and Yorkshire, Mr G L Jessop gave a very fine display. Going in after the third wicket had fallen in the Cambridge innings, he scored 171 in less than two hours, and carried out his bat, this being his best performance in first-class cricket.

He hit Mr Jackson for ten in one over and 13 in another, and scored 52 out of 53 in the first half-hour at the wickets. Altogether in his innings he hit 27 fours, six threes and 14 twos. It cannot be said that his display was without fault, for when he had made only 24 he skied a ball to Mr Mitchell at point which that fieldsman failed to hold, and at 125 he gave a chance to Denton in the deep field; but, considering the rate at which he scored, these were small blemishes. Apart from Mr Jessop, the Cambridge batsmen showed little capacity to deal with the Yorkshire bowling, and the side were all out for 246.

Brown (of Driffield) and Tunncliffe made a capital start for Yorkshire, scoring 99 together before Tunncliffe was dismissed; and subsequently Brown and Mr Jackson did so well that at the close Yorkshire had 169 on the board with only one wicket down, Brown being not out 93.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 May, page 12)

The second stage of the University's match against Yorkshire at Cambridge yesterday was marked by two splendid batting performances. On resuming from the overnight position of Cambridge 246, Yorkshire 169 for one wicket, J T Brown, of Driffield, and Mr F S Jackson, the not outs, increased the figures to 293, and as the pair had become partners at 99 the stand actually produced 194 runs.

Brown's share of the total was 168, made in the course of three hours and three-quarters by 19 fours, 12 threes, 13 twos and singles. Save for a couple of chances at the wicket, one just before completing his 100 and the other when 148, Brown's cricket was faultless. Mr Jackson, who curiously enough was also twice missed, first when 51 and next when 112, was in for three hours and 50 minutes for his 133, and his chief figures included 12 fours, seven threes and 13 twos. Lord Hawke hit well but the other Yorkshire batsmen did little, and the innings terminated at quarter to 4 for 429.

This left Cambridge in a minority of 183, and when by half-past 4 29 of these had been obtained without loss rain came on and stopped cricket for the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 May, page 5)

The Yorkshire eleven on Saturday bowled and fielded excellently and beat Cambridge University by an innings and 83 runs. Friday had left Cambridge in a bad position, as with all their wickets in hand they still required 154 to save the single innings defeat.

A good deal of rain had fallen during the night, and from the outset bowlers were able to get a lot of spin on the ball. A heavy storm soon delayed the game until 3 o'clock. Then Mr Jackson and Rhodes carried everything before them, and the whole side were out for 100. Bairstow kept wicket excellently.

18 May: ENGLAND XI v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5168.html)

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

The Eastbourne Club had secured so many leading cricketers for the match with the Australians that the interest in the fixture which began yesterday at the Saffrons was much more general than is usual when a side under the title of an England Eleven is engaged. The English side was so strong that the Australians could in no way look upon this match as a relaxation. As it happened, stern cricket was the order of the day, and the bowling and fielding were so good that runs had always to be keenly fought for.

The play itself was bright and exhilarating from almost the start. With the pitch just a little damp on the surface at the beginning, it can be readily understood that bowlers of the stamp of J Hearne and Albert Trott readily appreciated the situation, and for a long time their bowling was so good that runs were very difficult to obtain. Then when J Hearne retired Attewell seemed more difficult than anybody to play, and so it came to pass that the Australians found themselves in a bad situation after luncheon, for, with seven men gone, they had only 122 runs.

The catch at third man which got out Iredale and the one to the bowler which dismissed Darling were particularly good. Lilley kept wicket at his highest point of skill, and his running out of Hill and, later in the innings, his catching of Jones were inimitably done, while the throwing down of Trumper's wicket by Braybrooke from cover-point was one of the best pieces of cricket of the day.

When things were going badly for the Australians Ernest Jones's slogging came to their aid. Hitting is his game and he practised it with every success. He went in seventh wicket down at 122 and was eighth out at 188 to a fine catch on the boundary. Nearly all his runs were got in front of the wicket and he hit eight fours in making his 54 out of 66 in half an hour. The extreme care of Laver, who is rather a poor bat to watch, though efficacious, and a little more vigour by Howell helped to make the Australian score quite respectable in the end. The English fielding was very good and no real chances were missed.

In the last hour of the day the England Eleven had a variable experience. First of all there was a 30 minutes' period of excellence from Shrewsbury and A O Jones, but then came something of a collapse and three men were out for 41. A brilliant spell at the finish by Gunn and Albert Trott brought evenness back to the match, and the finish left the home side 149 batting average with seven wickets in hand. A splendid day's cricket was witnessed by 4,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 May, page 12)

Before the cricket ended at Eastbourne last evening the Australians secured a position that ensures them at least against defeat, if it does not give them any prospect of victory, for, with four wickets left, they are 265 runs ahead in the second innings.

With the pitch beautifully true, the batting of the England Eleven during the morning must have created some disappointment. In rather less than two hours the seven outstanding wickets from Thursday night were lost for 98 runs. Amid all the failures there was one piece of cricket for the England team that excelled everything else in the batting line during the day. This was the innings of 52 not out played by that great master of English batting, William Gunn. He may have taken a great time to get his runs - he was at the wickets two hours and a half - but nothing could have been better than his forward play and his exact method of dealing correctly with the bowling. The only real error in his play was when, in his anxiety, with the last man in, to get his 50, he became a trifle uncertain and was missed from a bad stroke at cover-point.

The Australian bowling throughout the morning as remarkable alike for its accuracy of pitch and the spin which Trumble and Howell got on the ball. Trumble seemed particularly

difficult to play; while, in addition, the fielding was very good up to the end of the English innings.

The Australians afterwards seemed to be continually playing a winning game. The great feature of their batting was the cricket of Trumper, the New South Wales batsman, who was absolutely the last choice for the team when it was made up in the colonies. There are some who think that he is not far from being the best bat in the new Australian team. He has certainly almost the best style, and his play on the leg side yesterday afternoon was remarkably good. Hearne, Attewell and Albert Trott were all played strongly and were well timed by him; he got his 50 in an hour. Towards the close last night, when he had some chance of continuing his innings this morning, he adopted measures of caution and was not out at the finish with 64 to his credit.

Trumper had come in at the fall of the third wicket at 62, and he was joined by Laver at 84. When four men were out it was the stand of Laver and Trumper that placed the Australians in such a strong position. In an hour they carried the score from 84 to 173.

Earlier in the innings there was good cricket by Iredale and Hill, and it was a very fine catch at point that got out Hill when he was well set. Altogether it was an excellent day's cricket, of which there were 5,000 spectators, and the weather was fine.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 May, page 5)

The second week of the Australians' tour furnished them with two brilliant victories, the second of which was gained at Eastbourne on Saturday when the strong scratch all England eleven were beaten by 172 runs.

The Australians have in Trumble and Howell perhaps the two most dangerous bowlers of the day on sticky wickets; and these were the men who played such a big part in the two wins of last week. Hugh Trumble especially distinguished himself on Saturday. His unerring accuracy of pitch, his varying pace and his watchfulness of the batsmen's tactics gained for him a great success and once more stamped him, not only as a greatly improved bowler since last he was here, but as the best in the new Australian side. While the ball was cutting straight through the wet turf he was not able to do much, but when he went on with the pitch drier his length and turn were remarkable. Indeed, his last spell with the ball yielded these figures: -

Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
8.2	5	8	6

He was supported by skilful fielding, and nothing could have been better than the three catches made off him by Hill at long-on. That which got out Trott was particularly good, for the ball swerved a lot owing to the heavy wind that was blowing from the north-west.

Trumble's bowling was the distinguishing feature of the day, for with the wicket ruined by rain, there was little in the batting worthy of comment. Fielding and bowling were, in fact, throughout the best points in the game, and in addition to Hill's there were many fine catches. That by Braybrooke in the country, which got out Howell, was wonderfully good, while it was a nice running catch from mid-off that dismissed Gunn.

The Australians, after a brief half-hour before luncheon, closed their innings and left themselves over three hours in which to get the Englishmen out. Shrewsbury and Gunn showed the best batting; but with the ball turning a great deal they rightly took to hitting, although it did not completely answer. The Australian captain managed his bowling and his field with marked ability, and he has already proved himself well fitted to follow in the footsteps of Mr Murdoch, the greatest of all Australian captains. The uncertain weather of Saturday did not prevent some 3,000 people from visiting the Eastbourne cricket ground.

18 May: ESSEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5169.html)

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

Some 3,000 spectators assembled at Leyton yesterday to witness the opening stage of the Essex and Sussex match, and they had the satisfaction of seeing the home eleven gain a decided advantage. With the ground helping the bowlers run-getting was a matter of considerable difficulty, only 256 being obtained in the course of the day and 15 wickets falling.

Sussex, who went in first, were disposed of in rather less than two hours and a half for 142. Mr George Brann played a capital innings of 43, and he and K S Ranjitsinhji put on 45 for the second wicket in half an hour. Afterwards the batting broke down before the skilful bowling of Mead, Marlow alone playing with any degree of confidence. Keeping a fine length and making the ball break back Mead was very hard to play, and he had a splendid analysis.

Essex started badly, losing three wickets for 37, but by some plucky and skilful batting Mr M'Gahey and Mr Turner added 75 for the fourth partnership in an hour and a quarter. At the close Essex had five men out, but were within 28 of their opponents' score. It may be noted that George Ayres, formerly of the Surrey ranks, is making his first appearance for Essex.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 May, page 12)

So far as actual play was concerned, the Essex eleven at Leyton yesterday fully maintained their advantage which they had gained over Sussex on the opening day, when, after dismissing their opponents for 142, they scored 114 for the loss of five wickets.

Essex finished off their innings in an hour for the addition of 77 runs, Mr McGahey and Russell making 40 of the number. Mr McGahey, who took out his bat for 75, played very finely, being altogether at the wickets for two hours and a half without giving a chance. Cox, the Sussex left-hander, again bowled well, taking altogether seven wickets, five of them clean bowled.

Sussex, who were in a minority of 49, made 180 at their second attempt, staying in for two hours and 40 minutes. Mr Charles Fry batted in superb fashion, but there were seven wickets down for 100. However, Parris, Cox, Butt and Bland all hit out in plucky fashion. Drizzling rain considerably interfered with the cricket afterwards, and Essex, who were set 132 runs to win, secured only a quarter of an hour's batting, and in that time they lost one wicket for 15 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 May, page 5)

There was an exciting finish to the match at Leyton on Saturday, Essex winning after a great struggle by only one wicket. Owing to rain during Friday night and Saturday morning the game could not be resumed until after lunch and, with the pitch helping the bowlers, Essex, who had already scored 15 of the 132 set them to win for one wicket, found themselves with a tolerably difficult task.

The early play suggested that Sussex would prove successful, as in 20 minutes Cox succeeded in getting rid of Owen, McGahey and Perrin. With four of the best batsmen out for 40 Essex were in a bad way, but, as it happened, A J Turner batted with superb resolution and fairly won the game for his side. Ayres helped him to put on 40 for the fifth wicket in an hour, and Reeves also reached double figures.

When Turner was bowled at 128, having played splendidly for nearly two hours, the result was still in doubt. However, Bull and Young managed to make the necessary runs and Essex just won. Bland, the Sussex fast bowler, made a great effort for his side, taking the last five Essex wickets that fell.

18 May: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5170.html)

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

With the pitch favouring the bowlers great progress was made in this match at Lord's yesterday. When stumps were drawn the M.C.C. were 73 runs to the good with eight wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 May, page 12)

Chiefly through some good batting by Storer and Chatterton, Derbyshire yesterday, at Lord's, beat the M.C.C. by two wickets.

18 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5171.html)

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

In a day's cricket slightly delayed by showers before luncheon and further curtailed owing to the agreement arrived at to draw stumps at half-past 5 in order that the cricketers might witness the summer eights racing, the University team were yet seen to considerable advantage at Oxford yesterday.

They were set a splendid example by their captain, Mr F H B Champain, who, going in first, made 90 out of 160 in the hour and 40 minutes before luncheon. Mr Pilkington helped the old Cheltenham boy to score 57 in 25 minutes to begin with, and then Mr Collins stayed while 51 were put on and Mr Foster while 52 more. Subsequent to the interval, the last-named and Mr Hollins also punished the bowling, but when the total reached 291 for six wickets there was a collapsed and four more batsmen were dismissed before the drawing of stumps.

Mr Champain, though giving a palpable chance when 59 and three others that were difficult, hit in the most dashing style, his figures including 15 fours. Next to his innings that of Mr Hollins, who played steadily for two hours, was the best of the day. It will be noticed that there are 12 a side playing, and that Somerset are including Braund, the ex-Surrey professional, who is qualifying for them.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 May, page 12)

Very little progress was made at Oxford yesterday in the 12-a-side match between the University and Somerset. Rain began after the players had adjourned for luncheon, and continued with such persistency that no further cricket was found practicable.

Oxford, who had on Thursday scored 298 for ten wickets, finished their innings without adding to their overnight total, and subsequently Somerset made 111 for three wickets, Mr Trask playing faultless cricket for 65 not out.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 May, page 5)

After an interesting game, in which the University were much favoured by fortune, Oxford beat Somerset in the Parks on Saturday by 83 runs. Rain, which prevented any play after lunch on Friday, had so affected the wicket as to give the bowlers assistance and, seizing their opportunity, the Oxford men played their winning game quite brilliantly.

Although they secured a lead of 111 on the first innings and were soon able to send the county in 192 runs behind, there did not seem time enough for the University to win. However, weakened as they were by the absence of Mr V T Hill owing to an injured finger, Somerset lost all but one of their wickets in an hour and three-quarters, and the game was prolonged beyond the original time fixed for the close so that Oxford might secure the triumph they had earned so well.

Mr Bosanquet's medium-paced bowling proved very effective in the morning, six wickets falling to him for 40 runs, and he, Mr Stocks and Mr Knox prevented any stand being made when Somerset went in to try and save the game. But it was consistent batting and splendid fielding which had most to do with Oxford's victory. Mr Trask batted exceedingly well for Somerset, his play in each innings being quite faultless.

18 May: SURREY v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5172.html)

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

Surrey showed some consistent batting in the opening day's play against Gloucestershire at the Oval yesterday, and no less than nine of the side got double figures. The chief batting honours were carried off by Mr V F S Crawford, who played vigorous cricket. He went in sixth wicket down at 156 and was eighth to leave at 250. His 60, which was made in as many wickets, included no less than 12 fours. When Mr Key and Mr Crawford were together 65 runs were put on in 35 minutes.

Brockwell, the highest scorer for his side, did not play with his accustomed freedom and was frequently in difficulties with Dr Grace's bowling. Mr Key played good cricket for 37, but Hayward had his share of luck and was missed being stumped on three occasions, the first being before he had scored. With seven down for 186, it seemed probable that Surrey would be out for a much smaller score, but the remaining batsmen gave great trouble and put on 113 runs.

One of the features of the innings was the bowling of Dr Grace, which was much better than the figures would indicate, as his slows frequently beat the batsmen. Mr W S A Brown and Mr W Hemingway were very prominent in the field; while the catches which dismissed Hayward and Mr Jephson were worthy of mention.

Gloucestershire had just over an hour's batting before the close, and they were unfortunate in losing Dr Grace from the first ball sent down. Mr W Troup and Mr C L Townsend then played out time.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 20 May, page 12)

Visitors to the Oval yesterday were rewarded by seeing a splendid batting performance by Gloucestershire, who increased their overnight score of 65 for one wicket to 404. Their large total was put together by general excellence.

First of all there was some steady batting by Mr Troup, while later Mr Hemingway and Hale hit with considerable power. Mr Hemingway was at the wickets 40 minutes for his 51, which included nine fours. With nine of the side out for 298, few were prepared for the magnificent stand by Wrathall and Board. For they accomplished the uncommon feat of scoring over 100 runs for the last wicket. Their partnership yielded 106 in 65 minutes. The record for the ten wickets is 173, made by Briggs and Pilling in Lancashire v Surrey at Liverpool in July, 1885. Lockwood, after bowling two or three overs, broke down and had to retire, being again trouble with a strained thigh.

Going in a second time 105 runs behind, Surrey soon lost Abel and Brockwell. Hayes, however, played free cricket and was dismissed by the last ball bowled. At the close Surrey were ten runs behind with seven wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Monday 22 May, page 5)

With the cricket hours considerably shortened at the Oval, on Saturday, there was not much chance of finishing this match. A heavy stroke broke over the ground between 11 and 12, and play was not possible until 20 minutes to 4.

When Surrey continued their innings they were still 10 runs behind with seven wickets in hand, but the first hour's play practically settled matters, as Mr Crawford and Hayward put on 71 for the next wicket. Hayward, again, was very lucky, as he was twice missed in the long field. Mr Crawford was the fifth to leave for a well-played 53, made chiefly by powerful driving. At 206 for seven wickets Mr Key declared his innings closed.

Requiring 102 to win and only 50 minutes left for play, Gloucestershire had little chance of making the necessary runs. So well did Hayward bowl that at the drawing of stumps half the side were out for 46. A feature of the last stage was the fielding of Hayes at slip.

22 May: ESSEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5173.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 8)

The rain also prevented any cricket in the following county matches fixed for yesterday: - .
. . Essex v Leicestershire, at Leyton.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 4)

The cricket at the Lyttelton Ground, Leyton, yesterday was particularly interesting; runs were only scored by very skilful and vigorous work, for the bowlers were always helped by the wicket. Leicestershire erred in not forcing the game at the start, when the ball cut through the soft surface; but no member of the side seemed capable of hitting until Mr de Trafford arrived. It was Mr de Trafford's batting that gave to the Leicestershire score its tone of respectability, and he got his runs quickly between the fall of the third and sixth wickets.

Essex fielded and bowled very well, while, after a bad start in their innings - two men were out for 14 runs - they also showed batting capacity. Mr Owen, who is something of a veteran now, played a strong game with a vary of strokes, and it was his 51, made in 70 minutes, that really established the advantage at present possessed by Essex, who are seven runs ahead with six wickets to fall.

Mr McGahey for a great while was rather tedious to follow, but eventually he brought the power of his fine physique to bear on the cricket, and his driving was very good. He had partnerships of 63 and 59 with Mr Owen and Mr Turner; but the latter's run out at the finish was the result of a piece of bad judgment on the batsmen's part. Beyond one shower before luncheon the weather was fine and there was a crowd of 8,000 people.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 May, page 7)

So general were the rain storms yesterday that the following matches could not be renewed, and were abandoned unfinished: -

Leyton. - Essex v Leicestershire . . .

22 May: HAMPSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5174.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 8)

More fortunate than any of the other towns, except Brighton, where first-class matches were fixed to be played yesterday, Southampton enjoyed some fine weather and some excellent cricket was shown in the game between Hampshire and Derbyshire, the latter team being seen to unusual advantage at all points. Some rain had fallen on Sunday and it may be questioned whether Hampshire gained anything by batting first. Certainly the bowling seemed much harder to play before luncheon than in the latter part of the afternoon.

Hampshire, as will be seen below, managed to score 155, but at one point a considerably smaller total seemed in prospect. However, Baldwin and Tate played with great resolution and in 20 minutes put on no fewer than 35 runs for the last wicket. In the early part of the innings the best batting was that of Mr A J L Hill, who scored 24 runs out of 34 while he was at the wickets. Hulme bowled uncommonly well and Davidson also looked difficult.

When Derbyshire went in the batting was of vastly better quality than that of the home side. Bagshaw and Mr L G Wright started the innings in brilliant form, scoring in an hour 86 runs for the first wicket. Still more vigorous was the cricket while Bagshaw and Chatterton were together, half an hour's play producing 52 runs. Bagshaw was out third at 141, his splendid innings - quite the feature of the day's cricket - having lasted an hour and 35 minutes. He hit 11 fours - mostly powerful drives - and nine twos. One or two of his strokes were rather lucky, but he gave no chance.

Mr Higson and Storer added 42 for the fourth wicket, and towards the close of the afternoon Walter Sugg hit freely. As the game stands now Derbyshire, with two wickets to fall, hold a lead of 81 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 4)

Hampshire played in excellent style under depressing circumstances at Southampton yesterday, but, in spite of their efforts, they can hardly hope to avoid being beaten to-day, for Derbyshire, with eight wickets in hand, want only 86 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 May, page 7)

Very little interest was left in the concluding stage of the Hampshire and Derbyshire match at Southampton yesterday, Derbyshire with eight wickets in hand requiring only 86 runs to win. The match was finished off in an hour, Derbyshire gaining a victory by seven wickets.

The not outs, Storer and Bagshaw, raised the overnight total of 51 to 78 before they were parted, and subsequently Bagshaw and Mr Higson hit off the remaining runs. Bagshaw's 77 not out was an innings marred by one difficult chance when he had made 17. He carried off the batting honours of the match, and it will be noticed that he scored the same number of runs in each innings.

22 May: LANCASHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5175.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 8)

The rain also prevented any cricket in the following county matches fixed for yesterday: - .
. . Lancashire v Kent, at Manchester.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 4)

No cricket was possible at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, and the fixture was for the second day postponed.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 May, page 7)

So general were the rain storms yesterday that the following matches could not be renewed, and were abandoned unfinished: -

. . . Manchester. - Lancashire v Kent . . .

22 May: MIDDLESEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5176.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 8)

The rain also prevented any cricket in the following county matches fixed for yesterday: - Middlesex v Somerset, at Lord's . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 4)

Some sensational cricket was seen at Lord's yesterday in this match, the proceeds of which are to be given to W Flowers, the old Notts cricketer, as a benefit for services rendered to the M.C.C. No play had been possible on Whit Monday, but yesterday, on a pitch ruined by rain, a little more than three hours' actual cricket proved sufficient to bring the match to a definite conclusion, Middlesex winning by an innings and seven runs.

When a start was made, shortly after 12 o'clock, it soon became apparent that the ball would require very careful watching, but few were prepared for the utter collapse of the Somerset batsmen, who were quite unable to time the bowling of Hearne and Trott. With the wicket giving them every assistance the bowlers were almost unplayable. Three wickets fell in the first two overs for three runs, and six of the side were out for five, Hearne taking the last three in an over. Mr Phillips was bowled by the first ball, Mr Trask by the second and Mr Stanley by the fourth. Trott then dismissed Nichols and Tyler in his next over, and eight were out for eight runs. Mr Newton was bowled at 17, then Mr Woods, assisted by Gill, more than doubled the score for the last wicket.

A shower during the luncheon interval gave hopes of the pitch being a little easier, but after Mr Hayman and Mr Warner had put on 24 for the first wicket, half the Middlesex side were out for 36. Afterwards Mr Foley (who was missed by Mr Woods before he had scored), Rawlin and J T Hearne offered some resistance to the bowling and fielding, and Middlesex were able to claim the useful lead of 51 on the first innings.

Going in a second time Somerset were again totally unable to play Trott and Hearne, and their display was virtually a repetition of their first innings. After two had been scored from Hearne, Trott, in his first over, bowled Mr Phillips, Mr Palaret and Mr Roe, while at the same total Robson was out. With eight wickets down for 18 and 33 runs still required, there seemed little probability of saving the innings defeat.

Mr Newton and Nichols added 26 in 15 minutes while they were together, but the innings closed without any addition, and the game was over long before half-past 5. Trott and Hearne bowled unchanged throughout the match. Both had splendid analyses, Hearne taking eight wickets for 44 and Trott 11 wickets for 31, a great performance on any pitch. The deadliness of the bowling can be judged from the fact that the wicket was hit on no fewer than a dozen occasions.

There were between 6,000 and 7,000 spectators of the play. It was most unfortunate for Flowers that rain should have interfered with his benefit match.

22 May: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5177.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 8)

The rain also prevented any cricket in the following county matches fixed for yesterday: - .
. . Nottinghamshire v Surrey, at Nottingham . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 4)

Play in this match at Nottingham yesterday was limited to about three hours and ten minutes, rain causing a delay of a quarter of an hour in the morning and two heavy downpours after 4 o'clock preventing any further play. Such limited progress, however, was an improvement upon the experience of Monday, when not a ball could be bowled; and, with the morning fine and bright, a company of about 6,000 people assembled at the Trent-bridge ground.

Run-getting was always a difficult matter, and Notts did very well to score 119 for the loss of half their wickets. An excellent commencement was made by Mr Jones and Shrewsbury, these two batsmen putting on 55 runs in an hour and a quarter. Mr Jones played with quite as much care as his famous partner, waiting for his opportunities with admirable self-control. He gave a very difficult chance at short leg when 24, but otherwise his cricket was quite free from fault.

Gunn left with the score at 81, and five runs later Shrewsbury was out l.b.w., after batting with all his well-known skill and patience for a couple of hours. Some rain fell during the interval, but the ground became more difficult afterwards, and Mr Dixon and Dench had their powers of defence severely taxed, the latter batting more than an hour for his 16 not out.

Attewell, owing to a sore throat, is not likely to play, and his place will probably be filled by Drury. Kersley, the new medium-pace bowler appearing for Surrey, took two of the five wickets which went down.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 May, page 7)

So general were the rain storms yesterday that the following matches could not be renewed, and were abandoned unfinished: -

. . . Nottingham. - Notts v Surrey.

22 May: SUSSEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5178.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 8)

Undeterred by the disastrous results that attended Gloucestershire last week at Bristol, when the same policy was ventured upon, Dr Grace, on winning the toss at Brighton yesterday, determined to put Sussex in. After much rain during the night, the sun was shining with considerable power, and Dr Grace judged - correctly as it turned out - that the wicket would be at its worst before lunch. He had good reason to congratulate himself on the course the game took, Gloucestershire, when an innings had been completed on each side, leading by 60 runs.

Up to a certain point Sussex did not get on badly, for though Mr Fry was stumped for a single the score with three men out was up to 56. The credit of this performance, such as it was, belonged to Mr Ranjitsinhji, who very properly played a hitting game on the treacherous wicket. He batted well, but he ought to have been caught in the deep field when he had made 22. After he left very little was done against the Gloucestershire bowling, and the innings, which only lasted an hour and 40 minutes, was all over for 97. Paish and Mr Townsend, the former of whom bowled especially well, were able to make the ball break a great deal.

When Gloucestershire went in, Dr Grace, after getting 11 runs out of 12, was finely caught at short leg. The Sussex total was equalled before the sixth wicket fell, Mr Troup and Mr Townsend batting admirably. Mr Troup was at the wickets an hour and 50 minutes for 19, and Mr Townsend an hour and a quarter for 37. When the last-named batsman left - sixth out at 97 - it did not seem likely that Gloucestershire would obtain much of a lead, but Wrathall hit in fine form and received such useful help that when the last wicket fell, just after 6 o'clock, the total was up to 157.

Sussex, going in for a few minutes, had scored five runs without loss when stumps were drawn. As usual on Whit Monday at Brighton, there was a capital attendance, it being estimated that there were fully eight thousand persons on the ground.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 4)

Although Gloucestershire had established a big advantage over Sussex in the course of Monday's play at Brighton, yesterday's cricket proved full of interest, and it was not until the fortunes of the game had undergone several changes that, just before 6 o'clock, Sussex had to admit defeat by four wickets. Pleasant weather prevailed and about 5,000 people visited the ground.

At the start Killick, who, in company with Mr Collins, had scored five runs overnight in the second innings of Sussex, hit away in such resolute style that the total reached 75 before the first wicket fell. Killick, who was second man out, made 65 in less than an hour and a half, his innings including six fours, three threes and nine twos. Mr Fry again failed, being stumped off Paish for the second time in the match, but Ranjitsinhji played in faultless style for 51.

At lunch time Sussex, with 157 on the board and only four men out, looked to have excellent prospects, but the batting broke down very badly afterwards, six wickets falling for 26 runs. Paish had the chief share in the dismissal of the side and in the whole match could claim ten wickets for 104 runs.

Gloucestershire had only 124 to get to win, but Messrs Grace, Hemingway and Townsend were all out for 18, and Wrathall should have been caught by Mr Somerset at 24. Had that chance been seized Sussex would very likely have won, but as it was Wrathall batted in such fine free style that he made 58 out of 70 in 50 minutes by nine fours, a three, four twos and singles. The partnership in which he and Mr Troup shared practically determined the result of the encounter, and in the end Gloucestershire won by four wickets.

22 May: WARWICKSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5179.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 8)

The rain also prevented any cricket in the following county matches fixed for yesterday: - .
. . Warwickshire v Worcestershire, at Birmingham.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 4)

There was very little cricket at Birmingham yesterday owing to a recurrence of the wet weather. Worcestershire got some batting . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 May, page 7)

So general were the rain storms yesterday that the following matches could not be renewed, and were abandoned unfinished: -

. . . Birmingham. - Warwickshire v Worcestershire.

22 May: YORKSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5180.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 8)

Although drizzling rain fell all yesterday morning at Sheffield and the prospect on cricket in the first of the two matches arranged between Yorkshire and the Australians was very remote, over 8,600 people paid for admission to the Bramall-lane ground.

Shortly after 2 o'clock it was decided to give up the idea of starting the game until this morning, and when the decision was announced the great crowd quietly dispersed. Haigh resumes his place in the Yorkshire team, Brown of Darfield being left out.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 4)

The Australians have been most unfortunate in the weather attending their match with Yorkshire at Sheffield. On Monday not a ball could be bowled, and yesterday play was limited to an hour and 35 minutes, a storm of hail and rain bursting over the Bramall-lane Ground during the luncheon interval and preventing any further cricket. To such a condition did the downpour reduce the pitch that within a few minutes it was obvious that no further progress with the game could be made yesterday, and stumps were pulled up before 3 o'clock. Even before the storm the wicket was exceedingly soft, the commencement of the game being delayed in consequence until nearly half-past 12.

Yorkshire, winning the toss, took first innings and scored 83 for the loss of three batsmen. This was a much better performance than at first seemed probable, as in three-quarters of an hour Brown, Tunncliffe and Mitchell were dismissed for 24 runs, Tunncliffe giving two chances in making nine and the other two batsmen quite failing. Mr Jackson and Denton, however, were seen to fine advantage in adding 59 runs in 50 minutes, for, although the wicket was too heavy to give the bowlers much assistance, getting the ball away proved a very difficult matter.

Mr Jackson batted with excellent judgment, his hitting being admirable and his defence sound. Once or twice he was in difficulties, but he made no real mistake during the hour and a half he was batting. Denton played bright cricket, pulling with marked accuracy and power. He had one narrow escape from being caught in the long field, but that was all that could be urged against him.

Howell and Trumble bowled very steadily. With Jones, Johns and Laver left out, Kelly, McLeod and Worrall resumed their places in the colonial team. Despite the early termination fully 15,000 people were present, the receipts amounting to nearly £370.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 May, page 7)

So general were the rain storms yesterday that the following matches could not be renewed, and were abandoned unfinished: -

. . . Sheffield. - Yorkshire v the Australians.

22 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY FIRST TWELVE v NEXT SIXTEEN

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

Potted score: FIRST TWELVE 276 (A M Sullivan 49, S H Day 100, G E Winter 33, T G O Cole 28; E W N Wyatt 5/88). NEXT SIXTEEN 35/8 (O W Wright 4 wkts, E F Penn 3 wkts). Match drawn.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 23 May, page 8)

There was no cricket in the Cambridge trial match yesterday, and the fixture at the Oval between the Surrey and Lancashire second elevens could not be proceeded with.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 24 May, page 4)

The wicket at Cambridge was very soft when this trial match began yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 25 May, page 7)

In the First Twelve v Next Sixteen yesterday the weather allowed of only two or three minutes' cricket, during which the Next Sixteen added three runs to their overnight score. Then the match was abandoned.

Wednesday 24 May, page 4: YORKSHIRE COUNTY CLUB.

At a meeting of the Yorkshire committee at Sheffield yesterday, Lord Hawke being in the chair, it was decided to subscribe £25 to the fund now being raised for the purchase of a new county ground at Leicester. The selection of the Yorkshire eleven for ensuing matches was left to Lord Hawke's discretion.

Thursday 25 May, page 7: WARWICKSHIRE v KENT

It has been decided to cancel to-day's fixture at Birmingham owing to the condition of the ground, which is made unplayable by the rain. A fresh date will be secured for the game.

25 May: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5181.html)

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

Some cur cricket took place at Cambridge yesterday, the wicket after lunch rendering the bowlers such assistance that for a time they carried everything before them. Before the interval runs were not nearly so hard to obtain and, therefore, it meant a considerable advantage for the side who batted first.

This good fortune fell to Surrey, and such use did they make of their time before the interval that by some skilful play by Mr Jephson, Hayes and Abel, 102 runs were scored for the loss of only two wickets. The pitch had become very treacherous during the adjournment and upon coming out again batsmen found themselves handicapped. Mr Jephson and Abel were out without any addition to the score, and in about another 65 minutes the innings was all over for 147.

The way their bowlers had performed gave the Cambridge men an idea of what they might expect when they went in, but hardly anybody was prepared for the poor display the side made. Against Hayward and Kersley they were quite helpless and in about 70 minutes the whole eleven were out for 60.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 9)

Surrey beat Cambridge University at Cambridge yesterday by 171 runs, play being prolonged beyond the usual hour in order that the match might be finished.

Mr Jephson, for the second time in the match, scored the highest innings of his side. He was at the wickets an hour and 35 minutes, and included in his figures were 12 fours. Cambridge were left with 315 to get to win; but, under the conditions that prevailed, this task was too much for them.

25 May: ESSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5182.html)

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

The bowling feats of Walter Mead for Essex and Wilfred Rhodes for Yorkshire gave distinction to the day's cricket on the Leyton ground yesterday. But the collapse of the Essex batsmen late in the afternoon converted what promised to be a hard game into something of a runaway match for Yorkshire, for the pitch is still favourable to the bowlers and it is questionable whether it will roll out true this morning after all the work of yesterday.

It was not a day for batsmen; but the Essex Eleven ought to have made a much better show. Rhodes got his length at the very start, however, and his "yorkers" seemed to establish the collapse. And there were other things that led to Essex getting so much the worst of the day's play. Fielding has often been a weak point in Essex cricket, and in these days of its bowling excellence dropped catches can still lose matches.

Wainwright, the chief scorer for Yorkshire, hit out courageously; but he had two easy lives at 19 and 27. The batting of the most intrinsic merit of the day was that by Mr F S Jackson and Denton. In getting his 28 the old Harrow and Cambridge captain showed all his familiar judgment of strong play on difficult wickets; and Denton, too, made some beautiful strokes on the leg side. But no one could do much with Walter Mead, whose spell of bowling after luncheon came out thus - 14 overs (10 maidens), ten runs, five wickets.

The pitch was certainly worse when Essex went in; but a side with the pretensions of first-class were never more at sea than were the county in playing Rhodes, who took the first six wickets for ten runs. He was backed up by brilliant fielding, and the catch which Denton brought off running from long-off was a masterpiece in cricket.

Essex just managed to save the follow-on, and that was all, and Yorkshire, with ten wickets in hand and a lead of 133, are in a strong position. There were 4,000 people at Leyton; but the wind from the north-east was keenly felt.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 9)

With the pitch in much the same condition as it was on Thursday, the second day's play at Leyton furnished another series of triumphs for the bowlers. But amid everything Yorkshire had always the game in their hands, and their brilliant victory of 241 runs was well merited.

The Essex batsmen played bad cricket under bad conditions; but incapacity or lack of nerve must have had a good deal to do with their ignominious innings of Thursday and yesterday. Apart from Walter Mead's bowling Yorkshire outclassed the Essex cricketers. The slack Essex fielding ill-compared with the finish and return practised by the Yorkshiremen, whose batting also possessed plenty of vigour. Essex never recovered from the dropped catches and the batting failures of Thursday, and it was unfortunate for Mead, after all his fine bowling, that his county should have fared so poorly.

Mead bowled for two hours and a half at a stretch yesterday, but always kept his superb length and spin, and at no time in either innings were the Yorkshiremen at home to him. His 14 wickets for 127 runs may not have reached in mere figure excellence the return of Rhodes, but Mead had not the good fielding at his back that Rhodes had. The latter took 15 wickets in the game for 56 runs; his left-hand slows were excellent, and three men were out in attempting to get forward to them and smother the ball on the pitch, the players being all cleverly stumped through the fatal lifting of the right foot. David Hunter kept wicket splendidly and the Yorkshire fielding was unerring. There were 4,000 spectators of the finish.

25 May: LANCASHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5183.html)

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

In Manchester, yesterday, in their match with Lancashire, the Australians gave convincing evidence of their batting strength. On a ground rendered very soft and slow by the heavy rain of the three previous days they lost six of their best wickets for 65 runs, and yet in the end they ran up a total of 267. After this performance nobody can doubt their run-getting power down to the last man on the side.

Fortune in one important respect favoured them, the afternoon remaining dull. Had the sun come out and shone with any strength the wicket would, no doubt, have quickly become too difficult to admit of any team making a big score against high-class bowling. As it was, the ground, so saturated during the earlier part of the week that not a ball could be bowled in the Lancashire and Kent match, dried slowly under the influence of a strong wind.

Iredale and Darling started the Australian innings by getting 33 runs in half an hour for the first wicket, but after they were separated the bowlers for a time held quite the upper hand. Darling was out to a catch in the deep field at 38; Hill at 52 was caught at mid-off; and at 65 Worrall was caught in the long field and Noble at mid-on. With five wickets down the game was adjourned for luncheon, and a fresh start had only just been made when Gregory, who had taken an hour and ten minutes to get four singles, was caught at slip. The fourth, fifth and sixth wickets all fell at the same total.

From this point, however, a great change came over the game. Trumper played splendid cricket and found such valuable partners in Kelly and Trumble that the seventh wicket put on 83 runs in an hour and a half, and the ninth 74 in about an hour. Trumper, who was out ninth at 229, was batting two hours and three-quarters, his innings of 82 including four fours, three threes and 11 twos. He made nearly all his runs on the on side, driving well and pulling with the utmost certainty. His innings in point of merit quite dwarfed everything else that was done yesterday.

Even when he left the Lancashire eleven were by no means at the end of their troubles, Trumble and Howell putting on 38 for the last wicket. Trumble made some fine drives in his 51, but was fortunate in being twice let off. The ground was far too soft to suit Mold, who was only kept on for five overs. Cuttell, however, bowled admirably - much better than his analysis would suggest.

Lancashire at the end of the afternoon had a quarter of an hour's batting and lost two wickets, Mr Bardswell being caught and bowled and Baker caught at short leg. The attendance at Old Trafford during the afternoon numbered about 12,000, 9,561 people paying for admission.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 9)

Yesterday, in Manchester, in the sixth match of their tour, the Australians followed up their recent fine performances by defeating Lancashire in a single innings with 84 runs to spare. On Thursday they had secured a great advantage, putting together, on a pitch that helped the bowlers, a total of 267, and then getting two Lancashire wickets down for six runs.

The ground was more difficult when the match was resumed yesterday morning than it had been on the opening day, all the bowlers being able to get a lot of spin on the ball. So much were the batsmen at a disadvantage that in the course of four hours and a quarter 18 wickets went down and only 177 runs were scored. Among the many batting failures, however, there was one remarkable exception, Tyldesley playing two brilliant innings of 56 and 42.

On the first occasion he went in fourth wicket down, with the score at seven, and was the eighth out; while in the second innings he went in after the first wicket had fallen for six

runs, and was the last man to be got rid of. In making his 56 he was at the wickets for two hours, and his only mistake was a hard chance to Worrall at mid-off when 22. For his score of 42 he was batting an hour and a half, and again only gave one chance - an awkward one to Gregory at short leg when he had made 31. In both innings he was beaten once or twice by the ball, but for the most part he played superb cricket. His batting, indeed, was the most attractive seen in the match.

Cuttell in each innings managed by hitting out to reach double figures, but only Ward, of the other batsmen, seemed able to stay in for any length of time. He assisted Tyldesley to put on 56 runs for the fifth wicket in the first innings and 33 for the wk when the side followed on. At one point it seemed quite likely that Lancashire might save the follow-on, the hundred going up with third-wicket in hand, but the innings came to a sudden end directly afterwards, the last three wickets falling at the same total.

The second innings was finished off in an hour and three-quarters, the end being reached at a quarter-past 5. All the Australian bowling was extremely difficult, the chief honours resting with Trumble and Noble, while the fielding generally was admirable. A big crowd witnessed the triumph of the Australians, between 14,000 and 15,000 people paying for admission to the ground.

25 May: LEICESTERSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5184.html)

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

In consequence of rain yesterday at Leicester, the ground was unfit for this match to be started.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 9)

The Derbyshire eleven had the better of the cricket at Leicester yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 May, page 7)

The match at Leicester between Leicestershire and Derbyshire had to be left drawn on Saturday, but at one time the Derbyshire eleven must have had some anxious moments. The saturated state of the turf prevented a ball being bowled on Thursday, but on a difficult wicket Derbyshire had decidedly the better of the play on Friday, and after scoring 207 got down five of their opponents' wickets for 60 runs. This they did on Saturday, although they were deprived of the services of Pougher through an injured hand.

In the second innings for Derbyshire Mr Wright and Bagshaw batted well, putting on 57 in half an hour. Storer and Mr Wright also played well, and with the total at 119 for three wickets the innings was declared closed.

Leicestershire were left with 223 to be got to win, and with only two hours and a half remaining for cricket the task seemed beyond their powers. Mr de Trafford and Knight made a brilliant attempt to win the game. Both hit vigorously, and runs came at such a rate that Mr de Trafford completed his 50 in 40 minutes. Nothing came amiss to the batsmen, and at last, when stumps were pulled up, they were within 29 of victory, the score standing at 194 for no wicket. Mr de Trafford was fortunate, being missed four times.

25 May: MIDDLESEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5185.html)

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

With the pitch again favouring the bowlers at Lord's yesterday, runs were difficult to get, and at one period it seemed just probable that the match might be finished in a day, as both sides completed an innings before 4 o'clock. On going in a second time, however, Gloucestershire, chiefly by the aid of Dr Grace and Mr W S A Brown, were not dismissed until the time appointed for drawing stumps.

During the day's play 30 wickets fell for 261 runs. Apart from the excellence of the bowling, the game was very interesting, as there was much good fielding, while the resources of the batsmen were severely tried in keeping up their ends.

In Gloucestershire's first innings Dr Grace was out at 16 to a beautiful catch on the boundary between square-leg and long-on by Mr C P Foley, who held the ball with his left hand. Seven wickets fell for 32 and the innings closed after a little more than an hour's batting. Trott and Hearne bowled splendidly.

The Middlesex start was almost as disastrous, as three wickets were down for 19. With Mr Hayman and Rawlin together the Gloucestershire total was passed without further loss and 40 runs were added in 25 minutes. It was chiefly due to Rawlin and Mr Hayman that Middlesex were able to claim a lead of 44 on the first innings. Paish, who bowls slow left-hand, took seven wickets for seven runs apiece.

The feature of Gloucestershire's second innings was the batting of Dr Grace, who was at the wickets nearly an hour and a half for his 33. Against such dangerous bowlers as Trott, Hearne and Roche on a pitch which gave them every help, Dr Grace was at times beaten by the ball, but his strokes on the leg side were very good. Riche, who was making his debut for Middlesex as a bowler, had a splendid analysis. Trott brought off a good catch during the innings. Wrathall drove the ball at him at forward short leg and he held it above his head with one hand. Middlesex to-day require 70 runs to win.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 9)

Much progress had been made in this match overnight, and with the result practically a foregone conclusion, very little interest was shown in yesterday's play at Lord's when Middlesex gained an easy victory over Gloucestershire by seven wickets. Middlesex required only 70 to win, and as the pitch, although still soft, did not give the bowlers much assistance, a hour's cricket proved sufficient to hit up the runs.

25 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5186.html)

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

Lacking the services of Mr Stocks and Mr Eccles, the Oxford University team had very much the worse of yesterday's play in their match with Worcestershire on the ground in the Parks.

The Dark Blues went in first, but could do so little with the fast bowling of Wilson that they lost half their wickets for 29 runs. Mr Martyn, however, then hit out in vigorous style and redeemed the side from ignominious failure. He enjoyed a lot of luck, being clearly missed three times, but he deserved great praise for playing to such good purpose the one game likely to succeed. Included in his 61 were three sixes and six fours. With the pitch soft owing to recent rains Wilson enjoyed some assistance, but for all that in taking eight wickets for 46 runs he accomplished a splendid performance.

Oxford were all out in just over two hours for 134, and then in about the same space of time Worcestershire scored 145 for the loss of three batsmen, thus leaving off 11 runs ahead with seven wickets in hand. For this satisfactory result the western county had to thank Mr H K Foster and Arnold, who put on 133 runs for the second wicket in less than two hours. The old Oxonian and his partner both played remarkably bright cricket and made no mistakes. In Mr Foster's 83 were 12 fours, four threes and three twos.

Arnold was out just before the drawing of stumps, his 55 being an admirable display of batting. Although they fared so well, Worcestershire had to take the field without either Mr W L Foster or Mr G Bromley-Martin.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 9)

The Oxford eleven played very well yesterday in batting, bowling and fielding, and they finished up the day with a [score] of 310 and two wickets to fall. Pilkington, Collins and Foster batted with great brilliancy.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 May, page 7)

A seven wickets' victory for Worcestershire was the result of the match at Oxford on Saturday. It was expected, after their capital batting on Friday, that the University would make a close fight, but as they had found runs easy to get so had the county batsmen. The last two Oxford wickets only added 11 runs on Saturday morning, and then the 240 required by Worcestershire were obtained for the loss of only three wickets.

Arnold played a wonderfully good innings of 125 not out. Defending strongly, he rarely failed to score off a loose ball and his hitting was always well timed. The runs were made in rather less than three hours, and during that time Arnold was only seriously at fault once, when he gave a chance of stumping off Mr Knox. Arnold's chief hits were 16 fours, six threes and 11 twos.

Mr Simpson-Hayward played freely, but was lucky at the start, and then Mr H K Foster helped Arnold to place his side in a safe position. In rather more than an hour and a half they put on 128 runs, Mr Foster playing faultlessly for 55. The Oxford bowling looked very moderate on a wicket which had become quite fast, and occasionally the fielding was slack.

25 May: SUSSEX v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5187.html)

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

Although rain kept off, the weather at Brighton yesterday was not particularly pleasant, the air being cold and the sky at times very threatening. The wicket was affected by rain that had fallen in the night, but Mr Woods, on winning the toss for Somerset, decided to take first innings.

The result was that his side, who were batting for about three hours, succeeded in reaching a total of 210; but almost the entire credit for this performance belonged to Robson and Mr Trask, who came together when two wickets had fallen for 42 and put on 104 runs. Of this number Robson made no fewer than 80, his innings including 17 fours. Mr Trask's play was of quite a different order, for this batsman took nearly two hours and a half to make 56.

When Sussex went in Mr Fry and Mr Brann, by bright free cricket, scored 60 together for the first wicket and, though Ranjitsinhji and Mr Murdoch were both dismissed at 78, Mr Brann and Killick added 60 more runs before Mr Brann was out for a well-played 69. At the close the Sussex total was 149 for four wickets.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 27 May, page 9)

At Brighton, yesterday, the Sussex eleven gave a fine display of batting, staying in from 20 minutes to 12 until a quarter to 5 and carrying their overnight score of 149 for four wickets to 479. The hitting was brilliant, but Somerset's bowling was weakened by the absence of Tyler - suffering from a strain.

Killick and Mr Collins, the not outs on Thursday evening, remained together for a long time and took the total to 286 before they were separated, their partnership producing in all 148 runs. Mr Collins was the first to leave, having batted in capital form for two hours and a quarter. Killick was the eighth man out, his innings of 140 coming to an end with the total at 332. He was at the wickets three hours and three-quarters, and among his hits were nine fours, 14 threes and 15 twos. Up to the time he completed his hundred his play was perfect, but in getting his next 15 runs he had extraordinary luck, being actually missed three times.

On the advice of his doctor Killick is playing this season in glasses, an experiment that has so far been attended with gratifying results. He attributes his ill-success last year to defective eyesight. After he left it seemed as if the Sussex innings would soon end, but Butt and Tate hit the worn out bowling all over the ground and in 80 minutes put on 126 runs for the ninth wicket. Butt, in his vigorously played 75, hit a dozen fours.

With a majority of 269 against them Somerset had nearly an hour and a half's batting at the close of the afternoon, and did not get on very well, losing three wickets for 88 runs. Robson was out from the last ball of the day. The attendance yesterday numbered about 10,000.

Day 3 (report from Monday 29 May, page 7)

An hour and 40 minutes' cricket proved sufficient to finish this fixture at Brighton on Saturday, Sussex winning by an innings and 49 runs.

Somerset, who had lost three wickets overnight for 88, wanted 181 to avert a single innings' defeat, but they never looked like getting them. Indeed, wickets fell so rapidly that eight were down for 143, and it was only the plucky hitting of Gill and Newton, who added 77 in the last 40 minutes, that infused any life into the concluding stage of the match.

29 May: KENT v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5188.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 May, page 7)

The sudden change from slow to fast turf was probably the cause of the great progress made with the match at Gravesend yesterday. The batsmen failed to time the ball, coming along as it did at a great pace on the dry turf, and so there were small individual scores. Essex are at present 42 on with eight wickets to go in the second innings, but there is really little in the position of the game and everything points to a hard match.

Mr Perrin, aided by some luck - he was twice missed off Mr Bradley - made the best score of the day. But the finest innings of the day was that of 48 by Alec Hearne for Kent.

The bowling feat of the day was performed by Young for Essex. Kent were doing very well when he crossed over at 70 for one wicket. From that period he carried all before him. His last spell with the ball yielded the following figures: - 15 overs (seven maidens), 25 runs, seven wickets.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 May, page 11)

The best thing in yesterday's cricket at Gravesend was the batting of Carpenter, who experienced some misfortune in not reaching his 100. Yesterday he was batting two hours and three-quarters, and his chief hits were a five and 14 fours. Essex at one time were in a very bad way, but after losing five men for 57 they had the fine partnerships of Carpenter with Mr Turner and Russell, and the score was 214 when the seventh wicket went.

Kent were left with 277 to get to win. So well did they start that the hundred went up with only one man out. Mr Patterson played excellent cricket until the last over, when he ran himself out. Kent with seven wickets left want 151 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 June, page 7)

Three-quarters of an hour's play at Gravesend yesterday sufficed to finish this match, and Essex were left the winners by 118 runs. When the stumps were drawn on Tuesday evening the position of the game suggested a close fight, but yesterday, on a wicket that left little to be desired from the batsman's point of view, Kent made a poor show.

Until Mr Patterson threw away his wicket in attempting a short run on Tuesday evening, Kent, who had gone in to get 277 runs to win, looked uncommonly like pulling the game out of the fire, and despite that misfortune they had still a chance of being successful, for though 151 runs stood between them and victory, they were in possession of seven of their wickets.

A very few minutes' play, however, sufficed to seal their fate. Mr Mason, who joined Easby, the overnight not out, was easily caught by Carpenter in the slips after a single had been added to the total, and at 140 Easby was run out. The innings then rapidly ended.

29 May: MIDDLESEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5189.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 May, page 7)

Middlesex v Yorkshire has for some years past been regarded as one of the most interesting county fixtures of the season, and yesterday's match at Lord's offers no exception. There was nothing exceptional in the cricket; but the play generally was watched with great keenness. After an indifferent start Yorkshire have run into form and at the present time are at the top of their game, and thus early they have proved themselves to be a very powerful eleven. As neither side so far has been beaten the result should have a certain bearing on the championship.

Under the circumstances the Yorkshire batting yesterday was rather disappointing, but this was probably due in some measure to the sudden change from the slow pitches they have been playing on to a fast one, as the batsmen were at fault in timing the ball. To be dismissed on a fast wicket for 203 was not a great performance. At one time it seemed probable that they would be out for a smaller score, as six wickets were down for 123, but the later batsmen have the facility for making runs when they are wanted, as several counties have experienced to their cost, and by some useful contributions the last four wickets put on 80 runs.

The chief batting honours were carried off by Mr Mitchell, who went in second wicket down at 37 and was seventh out at 147. He gave a difficult chance behind the wicket on the offside at two and he might have been stumped at 57. But apart from these his play was marked by much vigour, and his diving, especially on the offside, was wonderfully clean and well timed. He was batting an hour and a quarter, and his chief hits were nine fours, three threes and three twos,

Both Mr Jackson and Brown made some good strokes, but there was nothing else of special note in the Yorkshire batting. Hearne, with his splendid length, and Trott, who varied his pace with great judgment, bowled with great skill and they shared the wickets between them. Hearne also brought off a good catch, as he held a hard return from Tunnicliffe close to the ground.

When Middlesex went in Mr Hayman and Mr Warner put on 49 in 40 minutes for the first wicket, but afterwards the cricket was rather slow, as Rhodes and Hirst were keeping a splendid length. In fact, Rhodes bowled for an hour and three-quarters at a stretch. The second wicket fell at 65, Mr Cobb, who failed to time the bowling altogether, being out to Rhodes.

After four wickets were down for 95 Mr Warner and Mr Foley took the score to 121, when play ceased for the day. From the last ball sent down Denton, in trying to save a boundary hit, slipped on the bank in front of the pavilion and cut his face badly against the railings. Mr Warner had been batting two hours and a quarter for his 49. He showed excellent defence against much fine bowling and scarcely made a bad stroke.

At the close Middlesex were left in the more favourable position as, with six wickets in hand, they were 82 runs behind. Some 10,000 people watched the day's cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 May, page 11)

After having the better of the opening day's play Middlesex yesterday, at Lord's, gave a brilliant exhibition of batting and were not dismissed until they had carried their own score of 121 for four wickets to 438. For their large total Middlesex were chiefly indebted to Mr Warner and Albert Trott, who made no fewer than 314 between them.

Mr Warner has never been seen to greater advantage, and throughout his five hours' stay at the wicket he scarcely made a bad stroke. Overnight his 49 had taken him two hours and a quarter to make, but the bowling of Rhodes and Hirst had wanted very careful watching, and yesterday he played with the same easy confidence which had characterized his cricket at the

beginning of his innings. He showed much resource and his method of dealing with a rising ball or stopping a "yorker" was worthy of great praise. In fact, his play generally was marked by precision and he seldom failed to get the ball in the middle of his bat. His figures included 21 fours, seven threes and three twos. Mr Foley helped Mr Warner to add 107 for the fifth wicket, when he was dismissed by a good left-hand catch at slip by Tunncliffe.

Trott started with unusual care and took an hour to get his first 17 runs, but between the thirties and forties he began to hit with tremendous power, and after passing his hundred scored 26 off two consecutive overs from Wainwright and Brown. The vigour of his hitting can be judged from the fact that after Mr Warner left, at 288, he made his last 137 out of 181, or 172 from the bat, in an hour and a half. Trott was eighth out at 469 to a splendid one-hand catch by Hirst fielding at mid-off. Altogether he was batting two hours and three-quarters, and his chief hits were 27 fours, three threes and 14 twos. This is his first score of 100 for Middlesex.

Yorkshire, having the heavy deficit of 285, had an hour's batting before the close, during which they made 87 without loss, so that they are now 198 runs behind with all their wickets in hand. The turf was very true and there were 8,000 spectators.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 June, page 7)

Middlesex gained a victory over Yorkshire at Lord's yesterday by an innings and two runs. Almost from the start Yorkshire had to play an uphill game owing to their comparative failure in their first innings, and with Middlesex strengthening their position by good batting, Yorkshire's only hope was a drawn game. With the pitch still fast and true and Brown and Tunncliffe in good form, it seemed probable that Yorkshire were in for a big score, but when once the partnership had been broken wickets fell at steady intervals, and at no time did the north-countrymen look like saving the match.

Overnight Yorkshire, on going in a second time 285 behind, had made 87 without loss, and yesterday Brown and Tunncliffe, by some free and attractive cricket, took the score to 152 before they were parted, when Brown was caught at the wicket. The partnership had lasted nearly two hours. Brown's innings included 12 fours, four threes and four twos.

Tunncliffe was the fifth to leave at 206. Wainwright called him for a short run, but Mr Warner, going from mid-on behind the bowler, fielded the ball and threw down the wicket at the opposite end. After an indifferent start Tunncliffe, who had given two chances early in his innings, showed good form and at times he drove with power. He was batting nearly three hours, and his chief hits were 14 fours, two threes and eight twos.

Several of the side lost their wickets in attempting to hit. When Hunter came in 11 runs were still required to save the innings defeat, but Rhodes was soon bowled and Middlesex secured a great victory shortly after half-past 3.

29 May: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5190.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 May, page 7)

The Oxford University team yesterday received a visit from the Australians, and though they could scarcely hope to hold their own with such formidable opponents, they came through the first stages of the contest with a good deal of credit. The colonials put together a total of over 300, but the University men bowled very well in one or two instances, and fielded with great brilliancy. Bosanquet and Martyn carried off the honours for the Dark Blues, the former taking six wickets for 83 and latter, in addition to giving away only two byes, making four separate catches.

At the start of the day three of the best colonial wickets went down for 60 runs. Then Iredale and Noble became partners, and in rather less than an hour and a half increased the total by 93 runs. Iredale, who was then dismissed, played splendid cricket for 77, an innings which extended over two hours and a quarter and included six fours, three threes and ten twos. There was another productive partnership when Darling joined Noble, these two adding 67 runs in an hour.

Noble, who, after two or three small scores, had the satisfaction of playing the highest innings of the day, hit seven fours, two threes and 13 twos in his 86. Darling only scored 35, but this was his highest innings since the opening of the present tour. Late in the day Laver and Trumper hit hard, scoring 63 in about 40 minutes, but towards the close Bosanquet again bowled with considerable effect.

Oxford had 35 minutes' batting, and although Pilkington lost his wicket through hesitation no other disaster befell the home side before the drawing of stumps, Champain playing capital cricket. Delightful weather prevailed, and a company of fully 5,000 people assembled on the Christ Church ground, where the match is being contested.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 May, page 11)

The Oxford eleven secured the cricket honours yesterday. On Monday, against their opponents' total of 303, Oxford had made 36 for the loss of one wicket, and before the end of the innings they had headed the Australian total by 38.

The honours of the batting were carried off by Mr Champain, the Oxford captain, and far and above everything else that was done during the afternoon stood out his brilliant innings of 120, the first three-figure score against the present Australians. He was once beaten by a ball from Howell, which apparently only just missed the wicket, but apart from this he was never troubled in the slightest degree by the variety of the attack brought against him. He was not long to get the measure of the bowling, and once thoroughly set scored all round with great freedom. His runs were made up by 11 fours, seven threes, 21 twos and 13 singles. With nine fours, two threes and 13 twos [Foster?] as his best hits he was batting two hours and 25 minutes.

Mr Eccles, who was missed after scoring two, stayed while 56 were added, but then it looked as though the Australians' total would not be reached. Mr Bosanquet, however, hit out fearlessly for 65 minutes, the partnership between him and Mr Knox realizing 62 in 50 minutes.

The Australians had an hour and a quarter's batting at the close, and in that time made 110 for the loss of two wickets, so that with eight men to be got rid of they now hold a lead of 72 runs. Mr Worrall played with great resolution, scoring 53 out of 90 in something less than an hour, and Mr Iredale made 31 out of the first 80 in 40 minutes.

In order to give the Australians plenty of time to journey to Nottingham for the great test match, it has been to-day arranged to draw stumps early - probably about 4 o'clock.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 June, page 7)

A notable batting performance by Mr Darling and Mr Noble marked the closing stage of the match at Oxford yesterday. Coming together with four wickets down for 151, the two Australian batsmen put on 209 runs in two hours and 50 minutes without being separated, Mr Darling scoring 106 and Mr Noble 100. This was the first occasion on which the former had played an innings of three-figure during the present tour, but Mr Noble had previously achieved that distinction, scoring 116 not out in the first match at the Crystal Palace.

Mr Darling gave a couple of chances in making his first dozen runs, but afterwards batted superbly. Included in his figures were 16 fours, three threes and seven twos. His partner's display, on the other hand, was quite free from blemish. After a quiet beginning Mr Noble scored at a good pace, his chief hits being 12 fours, four threes and ten twos.

Stumps were drawn yesterday at half-past 3 in order to enable the Australians to reach Nottingham early last night, and the day's play was curtailed to three hours and a half. In that time the Australians raised their overnight score of 110 for two wickets to 360, and when the game was abandoned as a draw they were 322 runs on with six wickets in hand.

29 May: SURREY v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5191.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 May, page 7)

Somerset have fallen upon evil cricket days. They were yesterday endeavouring to get out Surrey on the Oval, but their attempts met with poor success. It was an ideal Oval wicket and Surrey scored at a great pace all day and lost only five wickets.

Robert Abel was quite himself and he made the highest score of the season. Hayward and he were together when the third wicket went at 143, and they put on 334 runs before they were separated. Hayward was perhaps scarcely so good as usual, in fact he had a good deal of luck. He hit 21 fours. Abel made four fives and 25 fours.

Somerset struggled hard in their uphill game; but the absence of Tyler through an injury was a severe handicap to them. There was a big crowd to see the cricket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 May, page 11)

The Surrey eleven, who on Monday at the Oval had scored 495 runs for the loss of five wickets, yesterday succeeded in raising their total to the remarkable figure of 811. This exceptional score was put together in the fast time of eight hours and 35 minutes, the five outstanding wickets yesterday adding 316 runs in a trifle over three hours. This 811 is the highest score ever made on the Surrey enclosure, and is the second-best in a first-class county match, being only surpassed by Yorkshire's record total of 887 made against Warwickshire at Birmingham in 1896.

The hero of Surrey's great performance was Robert Abel, who achieved a remarkable personal triumph. Going in first on Monday the famous professional had scored 227, and yesterday he increased his score to 357, and further, had the satisfaction of carrying out his bat. His great innings was singularly free from blemish, his only mistakes being two chances of stumping at 224 and 237 respectively. All through Abel played very seriously and he batted quite as correctly after making 300 as at any period of his innings. He never lost his form and always seemed the complete master of the bowling. His chief hits were one six, seven fives, 38 fours, 11 threes and 23 twos.

Mr V F S Crawford had a big share in yesterday's batting honours, the old Whitgift boy raising his overnight score of 13 to 129 and helping Abel to put on 211 runs for the sixth wicket. Mr Crawford, who made his runs in two hours and ten minutes, hit with tremendous power, his score including no fewer than 21 fours. Mr Key also punished the Somerset bowling, hitting up 43 out of 69 in half an hour.

On going in to bat Somerset, with the exception of Mr Woods and Mr Trask, gave a disappointing display and at the drawing of stumps had nine wickets down for 165. The two batsmen named put on 85 runs while together in an hour, Mr Woods making 49 of the number by vigorous methods. Mr Trask, who was at the wickets for two hours, played a highly skilful game, his 70, which included one six and five fours, being quite free from fault. The weather was fine and the cricket was witnessed by close upon 4,000 spectators.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 June, page 7)

As was only to be expected, there was a tame finish to the match at Kennington Oval yesterday, Surrey winning in a single innings with 379 runs to spare.

At the drawing of stumps on Tuesday evening Somerset had nine wickets down in their first innings for 165, but considerable difficulty was experienced in taking the last wicket yesterday, Mr Daniell and Cranfield carrying the total to 234 and altogether putting on 75 runs. Mr Daniell, who raised his overnight score of 19 to 5, was batting for an hour and 50 minutes, and showed good form.

Following on in a minority of 577, Somerset for a time fared very badly and, despite some fair cricket by Mr Stanley and Robson four wickets were down for 66. Half the side were out for 90, but Mr Woods and Gill by some plucky hitting put on 72 runs for the sixth wicket. Mr Woods, who for the second time in the match played capital cricket, was eighth out at 171, but except Mr Newton, no one else did anything.

The innings closed shortly before half-past 4 for 198, having lasted two hours and 40 minutes. Richardson and Brockwell shared the chief bowling honours, the former taking eight wickets for 136 runs and Brockwell seven for 101.

29 May: WORCESTERSHIRE v LONDON COUNTY

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

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 30 May, page 7)

At Worcester, yesterday, Dr W G Grace captained the London club against Worcestershire.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 31 May, page 11)

Owing very largely to a fine innings of 102 by Arnold, Worcestershire had the best of yesterday's play at Worcester. The professional batted extremely well and only made one mistake. At the drawing of stumps London County, with five wickets down in their second innings, were 95 runs on.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 1 June, page 7)

There was a happy feature in the cricket at Worcester yesterday, Dr W G Grace raising his overnight score of 34 not out to 175 and carrying out his bat. His fine display naturally afforded the greatest delight to the spectators. He was at the wickets altogether for over three hours and a half, and he hit 17 fours, 12 threes and 17 twos. It is true that he gave several chances, but they were all very difficult and, all things considered, his performance was a most praiseworthy one.

Dr Grace was ably supported by Mr Campbell and Murch, each of whom helped him to add 100 runs to the score. When the total had reached 376, with eight wickets down, Dr Grace closed the innings of the London Club and put Worcestershire in with 318 required to win and only two hours left for play. Though they could not, of course, get such a number in the time that remained, Worcestershire did exceedingly well, scoring 191 for the loss of only three wickets before the match was left drawn.

Tuesday 30 May, page 7: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

We are officially informed that ten of the places in the England side for the match at Nottingham on Thursday have been allocated thus: -

Dr W G Grace, Mr F S Jackson, Mr C B Fry, K S Ranjitsinhji, Gunn, Storer, Jack Hearne, Rhodes, Hayward and Tyldesley.

Brockwell and George Hirst are left for the 11th place. If it is wet Brockwell will play; if fine Hirst.

Dr W G Grace, Lord Hawke and Mr H W Bainbridge selected the first six men, and then with Mr Jackson and Mr Fry they completed the team.

The umpires in the match have been appointed by the M.C.C., and they are Titchmarsh and Barlow.

Wednesday 31 May, page 11: M.C.C. AND GROUND v THE AUSTRALIANS

The M.C.C. and Ground team against the Australians at Lord's next Monday will be - Dr W G Grace, Mr C L Townsend, Mr F G J Ford, Mr S M J Woods, Mr P F Warner, Captain Wynyard, Gunn, Attewell, J T Hearne, Board and Albert Trott.

REMARKABLE BOWLING. - In a match at Harrow yesterday between the school eleven and the town, E M Dowson, the Harrow captain, took five wickets in five balls - the first leg before, the second, third and fourth clean bowled, and the fifth stumped.

Thursday 1 June, page 7: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Below will be found the present position of the counties engaged in the county championship competition: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Per cent
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	3	100.00
Surrey	6	3	0	3	3	100.00
Lancashire	3	1	0	2	1	100.00
Yorkshire	5	4	1	0	3	60.00
Essex	4	2	1	1	1	33.33
Notts	3	0	0	3	0	--
Gloucestershire	5	2	2	1	0	--
Sussex	4	2	2	0	0	--
Derbyshire	4	1	1	2	0	--
Hampshire	2	0	1	1	-1	-100.00
Warwickshire	4	0	1	3	-1	-100.00
Leicestershire	5	0	1	4	-1	-100.00
Worcestershire	3	0	2	1	-2	-100.00
Kent	3	0	2	1	-2	-100.00
Somerset	4	0	4	0	-4	-100.00

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "one point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

The county which during the season in finished matches have obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county.

1 June: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5192.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 June, page 12)

The first of the five test matches between England and Australia was begun yesterday at Nottingham. Everything was favourable to the game; a hard and true wicket and glorious June weather left nothing to be desired, but the sternness of the cricket offered little attraction to those who were not cricketers themselves.

It needed a cricketer yesterday to appreciate the superb fielding and bowling of the Englishmen. The average spectator loves batsmen who force the play. There was none of this forcing yesterday and, if any proof were needed of the lack of dash in the Australian batting, it was furnished at Nottingham. One missed the great style of such men as Hugh Massie and Percy McDonnell, and even the hard hitting of Lyons and Bonnor and the ever-famous Murdoch.

The performance of this Australian team yesterday confirms the opinion that, though the side take a lot of getting out, they possess only a slow scoring game, which, however profitable in the colonies with unlimited time, is unsuited to the quick game which is imperative in the three-day matches of English cricket. The Australians were batting on a perfectly true pitch - and every one knows what a good wicket at Trent Bridge means - and in five and a half hours' actual cricket scored only 238 runs. This is a mean rate of 43 an hour, which on a fine, fast ground is extremely slow.

The slowness of the batting was due to the wonderful bowling of "Jack" Hearne, the excellence of the English fielding and the incapacity of the Australians to force the game. It is questionable whether finer bowling on a hard wicket was ever seen than Hearne's yesterday. Long ago he made his reputation as the best hard-wicket bowler of the day, and nothing could have been better than his exquisite length and spin yesterday. An occasional four was scored from him, but he never lost his length and the batsmen who attempted to hit him paid for it at the cost of their wickets. The ball that bowled Darling was a warning to those who are inclined to play back on fast turf to good-length bowling. Hearne's analysis was: - 54 overs, 26 maidens, 65 runs, 4 wickets. He bowled throughout from the lower wicket.

The fielding of the English team deserves high praise. Late in the day there was a slip here and there, but every catch was held and they were all difficult. Two of them were by Hayward, one that got out Iredale at mid-on and the other at cover-point. But the catch of the afternoon was that by George Hirst, when, running at top speed from deep mid-off to mid-on, he got under a skier and so dismissed Kelly. This was the turning point in the day's cricket, for it was at the then total of 229 that three wickets went. Before that things were looking rather ominous for England, but the close of the day saw a great change in the game, and if the wicket and the weather last England, with all their splendid batting capacity, ought at least not to lose the game.

There is some question, however, of a spot at one end of the pitch, but the Englishmen are after all not merely a true-wicket side, but are capable of great things on any turf. Mr Jackson's fielding when covering Dr Grace's bowling was supremely good, Tyldesley at third man and in the long field was splendid, and Hirst at mid-off with his wonderful left-hand return was quite himself. Hayward in sundry positions also did well, and what with their bowling and fielding the Englishmen may be said to have had their full share of the day's honours.

On the whole the Australian captain, Darling, played the finest cricket. His cutting was particularly brilliant. Neither Noble nor Gregory started well, the former's batting being very scratchy. Clement Hill was as clever as ever on the leg side, and it is still surprising to find how English captains insist upon neglecting the strength of the field on the leg side for both Gregory and Clement Hill.

But there was never anything very attractive on the Australian batting. Runs were always terribly difficult to get and the batsmen never once obtained any mastery over the bowling. There were three long partnerships during the day. Darling and Noble made 71 in an hour and a quarter for the second wicket, Hill and Gregory made 57 for the fourth wicket in 65 minutes, and Kelly and Hill made 62 for the sixth wicket in 70 minutes. It was difficult to avoid the conclusion that Rhodes's bowling ought to have been used much more than it was. Mr Jackson kept an excellent pitch and was unlucky in not getting a wicket considering how often he beat the batsmen.

In view of the fine weather the 11th place in the England team was given to Hirst, and Brockwell became 12th man. The Australians left out Worrall, McLeod and Johns. It is common knowledge that the test matches are now managed by a board of control jointly nominated by the Marylebone Club and the counties, and the new division of the profits and the selection of the teams seem to be an much more equitable arrangement than the old plan, by which not only was the selection of the England eleven left in two instances to the caprice of county committees, but the gate money in these cases was secured by the clubs on whose grounds the matches were played.

There are, however, many cricketers who think that three test matches would meet the case, and that the increase to five looks rather like an excessive regard for gate money. But the public seem to have given their countenance to the increase, and Nottingham has not been so full since the Church Congress as it was yesterday. The crowd numbered fully 15,000 people.

In the selection of the team the sub-committee appointed by the Test Matches Board had a more than usually difficult task, for English cricket has not been seen at its best this season, most of our batsmen and many of our bowlers having been affected by the poor weather of May. On the whole, the selections of the sub-committee were approved, though the opinion was expressed in some quarters that Walter Mead, of Essex, who is a wonderfully good bowler on hard wickets, should have been included. As a batting eleven the English side is very good.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 June, page 13)

The first test match between England and Australia was continued at Nottingham yesterday, and England were left in a bad position, the Australians being 152 runs ahead and having nine wickets in hand in the second innings.

The English batsmen opened with great vigour, and nothing could have been better than Mr Fry's play in front of the wicket, but when it seemed easy for the Englishmen to secure themselves from all danger of defeat, there came a break-down. The turning point of England's fortunes began with the dismissal of Dr Grace, who treated Noble's bowling much too cheaply and turned the ball into the wicket-keeper's hand. From this point - the first wicket went at 75 - England's chances quickly diminished.

Dr Grace and Mr Fry had started a splendid forcing game on the hard wicket. They had hit the bowlers off their pitch and were getting runs quickly, but just when everything was going well a kind of "rot" set in, and instead of being well up on the innings England were 59 behind. There was talk of badly-worn turf, but there was nothing very much the matter with the pitch. It was Jones's length and pace that beat the batsmen.

The critical point of the innings came when Jones and Howell changed ends. Ranjitsinhji played very uneven cricket. He ought to have been dismissed twice before he reached double figures. He was often misdriving the ball and indeed never played his proper game. Now and again his driving was worthy of himself, and that is all that can be said.

The finest batting of the match has so far been Mr Fry's. His drives from Jones's bowling was wonderful. Next to him, perhaps, Tyldesley played the best innings. He was strong on the leg side, although eventually it was at short leg that he was caught.

After the fall of the first wicket, the Australian bowling and fielding were excellent. When Jones went on a second time at the lower end he took three wickets for 15 runs. The batsmen found his yorkers extremely puzzling.

There was little in the balance of the Australian innings, and the last two wickets went for an addition of 14 runs. The only thing worth mentioning was the well-judged catch by Mr Fry that dismissed Jones. The Australian innings lasted for about five hours and three-quarters, so that the 252 runs were obtained at a poor speed. The bowling honours were carried off by Jack Hearne and Rhodes, but, intrinsically, Hearne's bowling was much the best.

When England went in soon after midday, everything seemed to promise a big score. Ernest Jones was no-balled twice in two overs for getting right outside the return crease, and in the second innings he hit Fry's middle stump and the ball went to the boundary, but Fry made no attempt to play the ball. Titchmarsh, the umpire, ostentatiously pointed to the crease to show the reason of his decision.

Dr Grace and Mr Fry played beautiful cricket while they were together, but at 75 came the catching of Dr Grace off Noble, who had gone on at 73. The Australians then seemed to find their game, their bowling was true and their fielding was clean in the gathering of the ball and brilliant in the return.

The batsmen seemed to be always in difficulties. Mr Jackson was caught at short-leg, and Jones bowled Fry, who was attempting to hit a yorker. Ranjitsinhji was let off by Iredale from a skier, and the wicket-keeper dropped a catch from him off Jones. Afterwards he made some fine drives, but he was often reckless and this caused his dismissal at 172.

England were in a bad way when the fifth wicket fell for 117. They may have had bad luck in Gunn's cutting a ball that was wide off the wicket on to his off stump, but there is no question that the England eleven were beaten by the superb bowling and fielding. Tyldesley and Ranjitsinhji put on altogether 55 for the sixth wicket. Hayward was run out rather unluckily. He had striven to get Noble away to leg, but Darling, after first failing to catch the ball, returned it skilfully and Hayward, in endeavouring to get to the crease, lost his bat and could not recover his crease. There was nothing else of note during the English innings, except that Jones and Howell bowled well to the end.

Going in a second time, the Australians lost their first wicket at 18, when Darling, in trying to hit Rhodes to leg, was bowled middle stump, but for the next hour Noble and Clement Hill played with studied finish. It was in vain that Dr Grace constantly varied his bowling. The batsmen left nothing to chance, every good length ball was played and those of inaccurate length were simply waited for. It was in vain that Jack Hearne went on the top end and that Dr Grace himself, Hayward, Rhodes and Hirst were tried. The Australians played their own steady game and before the drawing of stumps they had placed themselves practically beyond the chance of defeat. The weather was magnificent and the attendance numbered about 15,000.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 June, page 13)

The England eleven, about whose choice under the new conditions of selection so much care had been taken by the expert committee, just avoided defeat in the first of the test matches on Saturday. They literally [!] scrambled away from defeat, and on the form in this match sundry changes are certain to be made in the England side for the second big game, which is due to be played at Lord's on the 15th inst.

England's chances seemed hopeless on Saturday when, with two hours and a half left for play, Dr Grace, Fry, Jackson and Gunn were out for 19 runs in the second innings. The wicket seemed as good as ever, but the Australians, who had declared their innings closed and had left England to get 290 to win, were quite at the top of their game.

The two things that contributed to England's escape from a loss were the wonderful batting of Rank and the two sharp catches that the Australian captain dropped at short-leg at the

critical stage of the game. Hayward and Ranjitsinhji were the men who saved the match for England, and they were missed at early points of their career by Darling at short-leg. Hayward was only at 12 when he gave this chance, and Ranjitsinhji had made 29.

These dropped catches meant all the difficult between a draw and a win for the Australians. Hayward and Ranjitsinhji for an hour after this played a rigidly careful game, which remained unchanged amid all the keenness in the field and the true bowling of the Australians. And then when Ranjitsinhji found the game very largely safe he scored easily from all the bowling.

Somehow or other the English cricketers lack nerve at a pinch in meeting Australian sides; and at Trent-bridge on Saturday afternoon there were revived memories of England's dismal failure in 1882 on the Oval, when Spofforth and Boyle got them out for 72. Dr Grace and Mr Jackson were both bowled by splendid balls from Howell, which broke tremendously; but Mr Fry cast discretion to the winds when, with nothing to be gained, he tried to hit Trumble and put the ball up to deep mid-off. And Gunn, too, played in a manner quite unworthy of himself.

But then, when everything suggested an early finish, there came the saving partnership for England. It was in vain that the Australian bowlers got on their length and put on two short legs, one very close in. After getting their sharp escapes neither Hayward nor Ranjitsinhji offered further chances. They ran a few risks in attempting unnecessary singles, and Ranjitsinhji had one particular bad time when, had the ball hit the wicket from the return, he must have been out. But fortune was kind to England, and the hour and 20 minutes of Hayward and Ranjitsinhji for the fifth wicket saved the game. With run-getting no object, both men played beautiful cricket. The bowling changes of the Australians seemed exhausted, when at last, with a fine break back, Trumble got out Hayward. This was a 63 runs partnership.

England's dangers were not yet over when Tyldesley came in, for there was still an hour and a quarter left and only five wickets to fall. Tyldesley began by nearly running out Ranjitsinhji to gain a single; but, having survived this mistake, the Englishmen were scarcely ever afterwards in danger. Ranjitsinhji got completely the better of the bowling and his driving was excellent. He made more runs than usual in front of the wicket with his strength of wrist play; and by sacrificing his stroke on the leg side he outwitted the Australians, who had materially strengthened their field in this position with the idea of checking him.

Ranjitsinhji was batting about three hours in all, and for the first two he was content with smothering the bowling. But nothing could have been better than his last hour, when he got the majority of the 11 fours credited to him. His innings of 93 not out was the batting feature of the match, and some of its success could be traced perhaps to the splendid weather which ushered in June. The Indian prince was almost disinclined to play when he was made aware of his choice, for the reason that he personally felt that the cold winds of May had so far affected his health as to deprive him of the chances of getting into form. But he never played better than he did in the last hour on Saturday; and the scene of enthusiasm among the thousands who gathered in front of the pavilion at the finish of the match must have been very gratifying to him.

When Tyldesley was caught at wicket the match was practically safe, for then there was only time for 25 minutes' play and four men had still to come in. Storer, however, in this brief cricket played very poorly.

All the great points of the game occurred after luncheon; but early in the day the batting of Clement Hill and Noble was to be commended. Hill played very finely for his 80, and he was only fifth out at 173 to a great one-handed catch low down at point by Dr Grace. When Laver was bowled at 180 seven of the Australians were gone, and for the moment England seemed to have a chance of success. But mistakes at the wicket led to Trumble and Kelly's making a stand which enabled the Australians to close their innings at luncheon time.

They put England in to make 290 in three hours and 35 minutes, for the wicket was not rolled until 20 minutes to 3, and the interval usually taken between the innings was added to the

luncheon period. F S Jackson bowled very well; but Jack Hearne never found that pitch with which he kept the Australian scoring down in the first innings. In all it was a happy escape for the English eleven.

The Australians were to some extent fortunate in finding England without any first-rate fast bowling. It will be easily understood how much the honours of this first test game rested with Australia by the actual position of the draw. England, with only three wickets left, were 134 runs behind.

1 June: HAMPSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5193.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 June, page 12)

After a curious day's cricket, in which the fortunes of the game varied a good deal, Yorkshire at Southampton yesterday succeeded in gaining a decided advantage over Hampshire. The home county scored 138 for four wickets before lunch but, the batting breaking down badly afterwards, the whole side were out for 184.

Yorkshire lost half their wickets for 83, and then, by some fine batting, Wainwright and Lord Hawke added 116 runs without being separated, the Yorkshire captain playing a very attractive game. With still five wickets in hand, Yorkshire now have a lead of 15 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 June, page 13)

The Yorkshire eleven were seen to capital advantage at Southampton yesterday, and in the end defeated Hampshire by nine wickets. Overnight, in reply to Hampshire's total of 184, the northern county had scored 199 for five wickets, and yesterday the remaining batsmen carried the total to 425. Lord Hawke and Wainwright played very well, putting on 225 for the sixth wicket, and later in the innings Haigh hit in determined fashion.

Mr Robson and Barton opened Hampshire's second innings extremely well, scoring 125 for the first wicket, but despite some fair cricket by Mr Radcliffe and Mr Hill Hampshire could only set Yorkshire 19 to win, a task that was accomplished for the loss of one wicket.

1 June: LANCASHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5194.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 June, page 12)

A moderate day's cricket was witnessed in Manchester at the opening of the match between Lancashire and Leicestershire. Although the wicket was fast, only 299 runs were scored and 14 wickets fell. Pougher, Whitehead and Coe all hit well for Leicestershire, and Brown batted very steadily for over two hours. Mold bowled with very bad luck, having five catches missed off him, while Cuttell secured a good analysis.

When Lancashire went in Ward played very patiently and Mr Hartley hit with some freedom. At the close Lancashire, with four good batsmen out, were 159 runs to the bad.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 June, page 13)

In Manchester yesterday the Leicestershire eleven considerably added to the advantage they had gained on the opening day against Lancashire. The home eleven who had lost four wickets overnight for 70 were all disposed of for 142, Cuttell and Briggs being the only batsmen to offer any resistance.

On going in a second time in a majority of 87, Leicestershire did extremely well, putting together a total of 238. With the close of Leicestershire's second innings play ceased for the day, and Lancashire are set 326 to get to win. Unfortunately for them they will lack the services of Frank Sugg, who has been seized with illness and was unable to field yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 June, page 13)

The Lancashire eleven were beaten at Old Trafford on Saturday by 79 runs.

1 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5195.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 June, page 12)

Chiefly owing to some good batting by the three Essex professionals, Carpenter, Mead and Young, who scored 193 between them out of 291, the Marylebone Club yesterday were able to claim a good lead in this match at Lord's.

For style and finish Carpenter's was by far the best display. He was batting two hours and 20 minutes, and his only mistake was a chance in the long-field towards the close of his innings. His chief hits were seven fours, three threes and eight twos. Mead and Young came together at 193 for eight wickets, and during a partnership of some 50 minutes they added 88 runs. Mead played a vigorous game and hit no fewer than 13 fours. Martin bowled well and took five wickets for 11 runs apiece.

When Kent went in the only feature of note was a well-played innings of 61 by Mr Burnup. Mr Knowles helped him to put on 43 for the third wicket, but the others gave a poor display and at the close Kent were 153 runs behind with four wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 June, page 13)

The Marylebone Club gained a narrow victory over Kent at Lord's, yesterday, by two wickets.

1 June: WARWICKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5196.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 2 June, page 12)

In Birmingham yesterday, in the opening stage of their match with Warwickshire, the Surrey men went far towards securing themselves against defeat, for, after winning the toss, they remained at the wickets for nearly the whole of the day and put together a total of 317.

Abel and Mr Jephson made an excellent start by scoring 118 together for the first wicket, Mr Jephson, who was the first to leave, playing in beautiful style for 74. Abel, who took two hours to complete 50, had an exceedingly lucky escape when he had only made two, putting a ball up to square leg, which Dickens failed to hold. Mr Leveson-Gower played a most attractive innings, and Wood and T Richardson hit vigorously, while Mr H B Richardson showed great care and patience in making his 32. Before the close Warwickshire lost one wicket for 18 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 3 June, page 13)

The Warwickshire men made a capital fight at Birmingham yesterday against Surrey. They had lost one wicket overnight for 18 runs but, thanks to some plucky batting, they succeeded in putting together a total of 283, or only 34 short of Surrey's score. When play ceased Surrey in their second innings had lost Abel and Jephson for 36 and, with eight wickets in hand, were 70 runs on.

Day 3 (report from Monday 5 June, page 13)

It was unfortunate that there would not have been time to bring this match to a definite conclusion at Birmingham on Saturday, the position at the drawing of stumps being most interesting. Set 237 runs to win, Warwickshire scored 193 in the three hours at their disposal for the loss of seven wickets, so that when the game had to be abandoned they still wanted 44 runs and had three men to be dismissed.

As, however, Mr Bainbridge would probably have been unable to bat owing to an injured writs, Surrey were left in a better position than appears from the score. The weather was splendidly fine and there were 8,000 visitors.

Friday 2 June, page 12

It was currently rumoured in Bristol yesterday that Dr W G Grace, in reply to a letter from the Gloucestershire County Cricket Committee as to the selection of teams in his absence, had suddenly resigned his position as captain of the county eleven. The officials decline to say anything on the subject, but it is known that the committee are in correspondence with Dr Grace.

Monday 5 June, page 13: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are: -

Thursday 1 June, page 7: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Below will be found the present position of the counties engaged in the county championship competition: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Per cent
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	3	100.00
Surrey	7	3	0	4	3	100.00
Yorkshire	6	5	1	0	4	66.66
Essex	4	2	1	1	1	33.33
Notts	3	0	0	3	0	--
Lancashire	4	1	1	2	1	--
Sussex	4	2	2	0	0	--
Derbyshire	4	1	1	2	0	--
Gloucestershire	5	2	2	1	0	--
Leicestershire	6	1	1	4	0	--
Warwickshire	5	0	1	4	-1	-100.00
Hampshire	3	0	2	1	-2	-100.00
Worcestershire	3	0	2	1	-2	-100.00
Kent	3	0	2	1	-2	-100.00
Somerset	4	0	4	0	-4	-100.00

5 June: DERBYSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5197.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 June, page 14)

In this match at Chesterfield yesterday Hayward performed the "hat trick" by getting three wickets with successive balls. Surrey established an advantage . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 June, page 13)

After having had all the worst of Monday's cricket at Chesterfield, the Derbyshire eleven were yesterday so completely outplayed that soon after half-past 4 the match came to an end, Surrey gaining the victory by an innings and 164 runs.

5 June: KENT v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5198.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 June, page 14)

In a good day's cricket at Tonbridge yesterday on a batsman's pitch Kent had perhaps the better of the game. A feature of their innings was the partnership between Mr Burnup and Mr Patterson for the third wicket. This yielded in just over two hours 147. Mr Burnup, who was third out, played by far the best innings of the afternoon and hit 11 fours.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 June, page 13)

There was another bright afternoon's cricket at Tonbridge yesterday and, though they fared very badly in the first innings, the Sussex batsmen gave a fine display upon going in a second time.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 June, page 9)

Sussex won their match with Kent at Tonbridge yesterday by 112 runs. They had had to follow on 124 runs behind on Tuesday, and this fact doubtless helped them to victory, for, having to bat last, the home team failed badly against Bland. There was one exception, Alec Hearne, who carried his bat through the innings for 55. Bland dismissed the whole Kent eleven at a cost of 48 runs. He had a short rest while Hearne and Huish were together, but otherwise bowled unchanged.

Early in the day Newham and Collins batted well, and thanks to them Sussex escaped all danger of defeat. Kent required 227 to win with only two hours and fifty minutes left for play.

5 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5199.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 June, page 14)

A fine piece of work by F W Stocks, the Oxford bowler, was the feature of yesterday's cricket at Leicester in the match between Leicestershire and Worcestershire. Going on to bowl when the visitors had raised their score to 106 for the loss of one batsman, Stocks took eight of the last nine wickets in 29 overs for seven runs apiece.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 June, page 13)

Leicestershire again played very good cricket against Worcestershire at Leicester yesterday, and left off last evening with an excellent prospect of victory. With all ten wickets in hand, they want 149 more to win. Pleasant weather prevailed and there was again a large attendance.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 June, page 9)

There was not very much interest left in the last stage of the match at Leicester yesterday, and Leicestershire won by eight wickets.

5 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5200.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 June, page 14)

The eleven who appeared for the Marylebone Club yesterday were not so representative as they would have been had there been fewer calls by the counties on many of the best men.

The day's cricket was to some extent disappointing to the club. Dr Grace generally played well and his old stroke in front of cover-point often got through the fieldsmen; he had some fortune at the beginning of his innings and there were difficult chances at 15 and 20 that some other great Australian sides would never have missed. The culprits were Howell and Kelly, the former missing a return catch and the latter dropping one at the wicket. Dr Grace was second out at 72 to a well-judged catch at long-on.

It was after the luncheon interval that the M.C.C. had their bad hour. William Gunn, who batted with all his characteristic care and finish, and Captain Wynyard were out within two runs of each other, making four of the side gone for 114. Townsend and Woods looked like recovering the position, but at 152 a blunder in an attempted run for a quick hit to cover-point lost Townsend his wicket, which was thrown down by Darling. Such were the misfortunes of the M.C.C. that two other wickets went without the addition of a run; and seven for 152 was a very poor performance on a good wicket.

The Australians had been bowling and fielding particularly well and Darling's captaincy was excellent. Wrathall and Board hit courageously for some overs, and if there was not much style about the batting it had the merit of efficacy. The wicket added 38 runs and, with a little help from Attewell and Hearne, Board further improved the Marylebone prospects.

Jones, who was tried at each end, bowled at a great pace, was often getting the batsmen in difficulties and took the most wickets. Trumble bowled less than usual and he had the misfortune to have to retire from the field through indisposition when the seventh wicket had gone. McLeod was in good form with the ball, but Howell and Noble met with no success.

After a bad beginning - Iredale was out when only a single was scored - the Australians played a fine forcing game, and the batting of Darling and Hill was the best thing in the day's cricket. The contrast between the last hour and a half's batting and the M.C.C.'s innings was very marked. The club had always to fight hard for their runs, but Darling and Hill played with easy confidence and always were on top of the bowling. Just before the close Darling, when 53, was missed by Woods at slip off Attewell, but the Australian captain did not appear ready to receive the ball, while Mr Woods seemed quite taken by surprise.

The Australians may certainly claim to have the better position, seeing that they are only 135 behind with nine wickets to fall. The weather was very hot and the Australians' first visit to Lord's was sufficiently an attraction for 10,032 of the general public to pay for admission. The pavilion and members' enclosures were all well filled, but the same cannot be said of the grand stand, with its raised price, and the huge reserved terraces on the south side of the ground. The Australians fell in with the M.C.C. practice of drawing stumps at 7 o'clock.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 June, page 13)

The visits of Royalty to big cricket matches in London are of rare occurrence; but, though the Princess of Wales and the Duke and Duchess of York were at Eton v Harrow a few years ago, it is many seasons since the Prince himself went to Lord's. He had intended going to the Oval last Month to see the Australians' match with Surrey; but the weather then prevailed any play, and his Royal Highness yesterday took the first opportunity of renewing his acquaintance with an Australian cricket side since 1896, when he was the guest of Lord Sheffield at Sheffield Park in Sussex.

The Prince, who was accompanied by the Duke of York, reached the ground about half-past 4 and was received by Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, the treasurer of the club and an original member of I Zingari, the Earl of Lichfield and the Duke of Buccleuch, both past presidents. There was a great gathering of members in the pavilion. The game was stopped for the players to be presented to the Prince of Wales and the Duke of York, who remained on the ground until the close. It may be mentioned that the Prince is the patron of the Marylebone Club.

The Australians had all the best of yesterday's cricket, and by some good batting they greatly increased their prospects of success. On fast pitches they have proved themselves to be a very difficult side to get out, while their bowling on the best of wickets is extremely true. They had already gained an advantage when the game closed on Monday, for with nine wickets left they were only 135 behind. In the end they were able to claim a lead of 107 on the first innings, and before the close had sent back four good Marylebone batsmen without the arrears having been quite hit off.

Darling and Hill, the overnight not-outs, who had made such a brilliant stand, were soon separated, for with the addition of 20 runs Darling was out to a splendid length ball from Hearne. The partnership had yielded 129 runs, and except for a chance at 53 Darling had made no mistake. His chief hits were 11 fours, two threes and two twos. Worrall helped Hill, who played a careful game, to add 47; but after scoring 13 off Trott in one over he was out in attempting to hit.

With Noble in, Hill did most of the scoring and completed his 100. Noble played poor cricket, but after his dismissal Trumper and Hill passed the M.C.C. score, the luncheon figures being 261 for four wickets. Trumper at 11 should have been run out by Woods, who threw at the wicket instead of sending the ball to Dr Grace.

After the interval the game took a decided turn in favour of the M.C.C. Trumper twice hit Dr Grace to leg for four, but in trying to repeat the stroke he was bowled at 277. Without another run being added Kelly was out in a similar manner, while for the addition of a single Hill's great innings was closed, for in running out to hit he was beautifully caught at slip by Hearne, who took the ball with his left hand extended. Hill, except for a difficult chance at the wicket at 19 and a certain unsteadiness due to his anxiety to reach his 100, made few bad strokes. He was at the wickets for four hours, and his chief hits were one five, 14 fours, seven threes and three twos.

Up to this point the fielding had been very close, but Trumble had his share of luck. When only two he was twice missed, first at the wicket and then in the deep field by Gunn, usually one of the safest of fields, both chances being off Hearne. Profiting by these mistakes Trumble and McLeod added 60 for the next wicket, which fell at 338, when Trumble was caught in the slips. At the same total McLeod was bowled in trying to hit to the on, while shortly afterwards Howell was dismissed from a high stroke at mid-off, and the innings closed just before half-past 4.

Dr Grace was the most successful with the ball and again showed his aptitude for getting wickets against batsmen comparatively new to his bowling. Apart from the chances referred to, Board kept wicket excellently and did not give an extra until close on the 300.

Marylebone, on going in again, fared badly. Dr Grace, after being missed at forward short leg by Worrall from a hard hit, was caught at the wicket at 18, while Gunn left at 56. Warner, who drove very well, was third out at 65, and Captain Wynyard was easily "c and b" from the last ball sent down. At the close the club were four runs behind with six wickets in hand, so that they will have to fight hard to avoid defeat.

The weather was again very hot and 8,809 of the general public paid to see the cricket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 June, page 9)

After having the better of the game almost from the start the Australians beat the Marylebone Club and Ground at Lord's yesterday by eight wickets. Winning the toss on a fast

and true pitch made no appreciable difference to either side, as the wicket played well right up to the finish, and the only conclusion to draw is that the M.C.C. met a better team than themselves.

The grand batting of Darling and Hill and the bowling of Jones went a long way to give their side the victory. Fe of the M.C.C. batsmen played Jones's fast bowling with confidence, and in the match he had the fine figures of ten wickets for 137 runs. The best form with the bat for the Club was shown by Townsend, who scored 115 runs and was unlucky to get out on both occasions.

Overnight the Club in their second innings had lost four wickets for 103, so that when play was resumed they were still four runs behind. Through good batting by Townsend and Woods there appeared every prospect of making a big score; but directly this partnership was broken the remaining batsmen collapsed and the last five wickets fell for 29 runs. Townsend and Woods were together for an hour and a quarter and out on 98 for the fifth wicket.

After Woods had left Jones carried all before him, for, going on at 201, which was the total at the fall of the fifth wicket, he had the following analysis: - 6 overs, 3 maidens, 10 runs and 4 wickets. Trott and Wrathall left at 218 from successive balls. Shortly afterwards Townsend's excellent innings ended; he was bowled off his body from a fast rising ball. He made a couple of bad strokes when about 50, but gave no chance, and certainly played Jones's fast bowling and fielding with as much confidence as any one. His innings included 10 fours, three threes and four twos. Subsequently Board and Attewell gave little trouble and the innings was over at 25 minutes past 1.

Requiring only 124 to win, it soon became apparent that the Australians would easily accomplish their task. Darling and Worrall hit with freedom and scored 92 for the first wicket when Darling got out of his ground and was stumped. His chief hits were nine fours. Only six runs were added before Hill was well caught at mid-off close to the ground. Worrall and Noble then hit off the necessary runs, the former making the winning hit, a hard drive into the pavilion seats off Townsend, and the game was over at 4 o'clock.

The runs had only taken 80 minutes to get. Worrall's vigorous innings, which included some powerful drives, contained 10 fours. With the game virtually a foregone conclusion, only 2,792 people paid to see the finish.

5 June: WARWICKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5201.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 June, page 14)

Yesterday's cricket in Birmingham had for its feature the excellent innings played by W G Quaife, who, when stumps were drawn at 243 for seven wickets, was not out 110. He played five hours and 20 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 June, page 13)

The Lancashire eleven at Birmingham yesterday accomplished a fine batting performance and had distinctly the better position when play ended.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 June, page 9)

A full and interesting day's cricket was witnessed at Birmingham yesterday, but except at one point later in the afternoon there never seemed any chance of a definite result being arrived at; and in the end the game was left drawn.

5 June: YORKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5202.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 6 June, page 14)

Thanks in the main to the batting of Mr Perrin and Mr Turner, Essex made such a start at Sheffield yesterday as to place themselves practically beyond the possibility of defeat. The two young amateurs in rather less than three hours added 193 runs.

Early in the day, when the wicket seemed a trifle slow through a heavy dew, Mr McGahey batted with discretion, and after losing Mr Owen at 27 he helped Mr Perrin to put on 97. This stand took a good deal of the sting out of the bowling, and when the pitch had become quite easy none of the Yorkshire bowlers appeared particularly difficult. But the eleven bore their long outing in a hot sun uncommonly well, and by excellent fielding never allowed runs to come at more than a normal rate.

The crowd numbered nearly 10,000. Essex have not their full strength, and Russell, the regular wicket-keeper, being injured, a trial is being given to his brother.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 7 June, page 13)

The cricket at Sheffield went all in favour of Essex. There was nothing in their batting - indeed, the last five wickets went down for 30 runs - but so well did Mead and Young bowl that Yorkshire have now scarcely a chance of escaping defeat.

Mr F S Jackson made 96 in his usual admirable style, and until the fifth wicket fell at 181 in the home team's first innings, they looked like making a good struggle, but from that point the batting broke down completely.

Mr Perrin, who was not out overnight, only scored six more. Included in his faultless 142, for which he was batting five hours and 20 minutes, were seven fours, eight threes and 20 twos.

Later in the day Inns made a wonderful catch. Running at full speed across a big drive by Denton he secured the ball with one hand close to the boundary. As the game was left Yorkshire still required 70 runs to save the single innings defeat and have only four wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 8 June, page 9)

By determined hitting Lord Hawke and Hirst saved Yorkshire from the discredit of a single innings defeat at Sheffield yesterday, but Essex were only set 19 runs to win, and they gained an easy victory by nine wickets. Mead again bowled very well, although the state of the wicket gave him scarcely any assistance.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties in the championship are: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Per cent
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	3	100.00
Surrey	8	4	0	4	4	100.00
Essex	5	3	1	1	2	50.00
Yorkshire	7	5	2	0	3	42.85
Leicestershire	7	2	1	4	1	33.33
Sussex	5	3	2	0	1	20.00
Notts	3	-	-	-	-	0.00
Lancashire	5	1	1	3	-	--
Gloucestershire	5	2	2	1	-	--
Derbyshire	5	1	2	2	-1	-33.33
Warwickshire	6	0	1	5	-1	-100.00
Hampshire	3	0	2	1	-2	-100.00
Worcestershire	4	0	3	1	-3	-100.00
Kent	4	0	3	1	-3	-100.00
Somerset	4	0	4	0	-4	-100.00

8 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5203.html)

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

Following the example set them a week ago by Oxford, the Cambridge eleven yesterday in their match against the Australians on the University ground gave a fine display of batting. Owing to the fact of the summer eights being in progress, play, by arrangement, ceased early, the afternoon's cricket only lasting four and a half hours. The severity of Cambridge's hitting may be judged from the fact that during that time runs came at a uniform rate of 88 an hour.

The chief honours of a very remarkable performance rested with Mr L J Moon, who, though unsuccessful at Cambridge till the present season, enjoyed a high reputation at Westminster in 1895 and 1896. He went in first yesterday at five minutes past 12 and was out third at 221. This is the highest innings yet made against the present Australian team, just beating Mr F H B Champain's 120 at Oxford. Just before he was out Moon gave a very easy chance to McLeod at cover-point, but apart from this he scarcely made a bad stroke. He scored his first 50 runs in an hour, his 100 in two hours and five minutes, and was batting altogether for two hours and 20 minutes. His figures included a straight drive out of the ground for six, twenty-one fours, two threes and seven twos.

T L Taylor, after beginning with great steadiness, hit out finely and found two such valuable partners in Blaker and Penn that in the last 80 minutes of the afternoon 126 runs were added and only one more wicket was lost. Blaker was in while the score was carried from 261 to 342, and after he left Taylor and Penn hit so freely that 55 runs were scored in half an hour. So far Taylor - whose fine innings in the University match last year will be remembered - has been at the wickets two hours.

The Australians, who did not field so well as usual, left out Kelly, Laver and Trumble, the last-named of whom, during the M.C.C. match at Lord's in the beginning of the week, had the misfortune to break a small blood-vessel.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 June, page 14)

There was some splendid batting at Fenner's Ground, Cambridge, yesterday, when everything favoured the game. The University in the early part of the day increased their overnight score from 397 for seven wickets to 436. Mr Taylor had the satisfaction of scoring his hundred and was the last man out for a great innings of 110.

After a bad start, Hill and Gregory were the two men to come to the rescue of their side. By lunch time they had taken the score to 86, and altogether they were partners two hours and ten minutes before Gregory was dismissed. During the whole of the time Hill and Gregory were together runs came at the rate of over 100 an hour, despite the fact that the fielding was excellent. Hill was fifth out at 299 for a brilliant 160. For three hours and ten minutes he was completely master of the bowling. His chief hits were 21 fours, three threes and 12 twos.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 June, page 9)

The Australians gave further proof of their exceptional ability at Cambridge on Saturday, when they beat the university by ten wickets. Such a result appeared quite impossible when the last stage of the match was entered upon. With three wickets to fall the Australians were 105 runs behind and play was only to last from 20 minutes to 12 to half-past 5. But the Australians found time to win and had 20 minutes to spare.

So easy to score from did Jones and Howell find the Cambridge bowling that they put on 85 runs in 25 minutes, and by adding 105 runs in 43 minutes the last three Australian wickets carried the total to 436, equalling that of Cambridge. During this spell of extraordinary

scoring Mr Jessop kept Wilson bowling his slows, while 61 runs came from them in five overs. Probably the Cambridge captain thought a few runs more or less mattered little, but, by getting on terms with their opponents so quickly, the Australians had a triumph within reach if they could dismiss the University cheaply.

And this they did in two hours and ten minutes for 122 runs. Playing back on a fast pitch caused the downfall of several of the best men, and brilliant fielding accounted for four more wickets. Moon, Jessop and Winter were out to fine catches, while Stogdon was stumped from a ball which kept low on the leg side. And Cambridge experienced a great misfortune in an accident to Taylor, who was so badly hurt by a ball from Jones as to be unable to take further part in the game. Winter, Penn, Hind and Hawkins showed that runs could be made if only the bowling was met instead of waited for, the last three wickets adding 892 runs; but this did not suffice to retrieve the position.

Darling and Worrall hit off the runs for the Australians in less than an hour and a quarter. Beginning steadily, they mastered Jessop and Hind, who shared the bowling until 95 runs had been scored, and after 50 had gone up in 45 minutes, 74 were obtained in 28 minutes. In his 60 Darling hit six fours, and Worrall's 53 included a six and four fours. The chief hits of Jones and Howell, who were each batting 35 minutes, were a six, a five and seven fours and nine fours respectively.

Very rarely has a match been won by a side going in against such a big score as 436, but Gloucestershire accomplished a similar feat at Gravesend in May, 1895, when Kent, after a first innings of 470, were beaten by nine wickets. Lovely weather favoured Saturday's play on Fenner's Ground and there was a good attendance.

8 June: ESSEX v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5204.html)

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

It was more or less a bowler's day at Leyton yesterday, and on the rather crumbling turf there were some fine analyses by Baldwin for Hampshire and Walter Mead for Essex. The Essex wickets have not proved to be very good this season, and no doubt some means of thoroughly overhauling the playing ground will be adopted at the end of the summer.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 June, page 14)

The very fine cricket by Perrin and Turner enabled Essex to secure a winning position before the end of the playing hours at Leyton yesterday. Turner was particularly good from the moment he went in, and with a variety of strokes he got his runs in all directions, whereas Perrin depended mostly on his drive for his fine score. Perrin and Turner added 116 while they were together for the fourth Essex wicket. Baldwin's length and spin were very good and he had the distinction of taking ten wickets in the match for 150 runs. A feature of the day's play was the fielding of E M Sprot, who by a clever left-hand catch at cover-point got out Young.

Hampshire wanted 270 to win, but with the wicket worn there was never much hope of their success, and now with five men out they still have another 145 to get.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 June, page 9)

The Hampshire eleven were unequal to the task set them for the fourth innings, in which they wanted 270 to win, and on Saturday, in a little more than an hour at Leyton, the balance of the match was got through, Essex winning by 72 runs. Walter Mead took eleven wickets in the double innings for 141 runs, while Bull's slows on Saturday were very effective. Mead, with his medium pace, spin and length, seems to be bowling better this season than at any previous period of his career.

8 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5205.html)

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

A remarkable batting feat was accomplished at Bristol yesterday in the Notts and Gloucestershire match. Mr A O Jones and Shrewsbury, who opened the Notts innings, stayed together for four hours and a half and made 391 runs. This score is the second highest partnership for the first wicket, being inferior only to the 554 put together by Brown and Tunnickliffe against Derbyshire at Chesterfield last season.

Jones gave no chance until he was 184. Then when he had passed his second hundred he was missed three times, and after scoring 250 was at last beaten by Brown. Shrewsbury and Gunn carried the score to 438, and then in the last over of the day Shrewsbury returned the ball to Townsend. Shrewsbury was batting five hours and a half and played a perfect innings.

The Gloucestershire fielding was remarkably good, but they are a very weak eleven, Dr Grace, Mr Champain, Mr Sewell and Jessop all being absent. A trial is being given to Wilkinson, a fast bowler from Bristol, and Healing, who as a batsman has a good reputation at Tewkesbury.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 June, page 14)

The Notts batting met with such astonishing success at Bristol on Thursday that in the course of the day 438 runs were scored and only two wickets lost, Mr A O Jones and Shrewsbury putting on 391 for the first partnership.

Up to a certain point yesterday the heavy scoring was maintained, 555 going up with four men out, but after this there came a breakdown and the last six wickets added only 52 runs, the innings closing soon after half-past 1 for 607. Mr Dixon and Attewell hit so vigorously while they were together that 95 runs were scored in 45 minutes, but the later batsmen, in trying to play the same free game, quickly came to grief.

When Gloucestershire went in a bad start was made, three wickets going down for 40, but Mr Troup and Mr Townsend made an improvement, staying together for two hours and a quarter and adding 141 runs. Mr Townsend had the distinction of making his first hundred this season.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 June, page 9)

Gloucestershire managed to save the match against Notts at Bristol, and the result was a draw. Mr Townsend's batting in the first innings had much to do with this. He was out on Saturday for 141, the result of four and a half hours' cricket, and his best hits were seven fours, fourteen threes and 20 twos.

In the follow-on, Dench performed the "hat trick" for Notts. Hale and Troup, who got together at the fall of the fifth wicket at 77, were partners for an hour and three-quarters, and their stand of 116 saved the game for Gloucestershire.

8 June: KENT v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5206.html)

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

Some interesting cricket at Tonbridge yesterday produced the following score . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 June, page 14)

There was scarcely a dull moment in the cricket at Tonbridge yesterday. Somerset succeeded in heading the Kent total by 14 runs and then got down five of their opponents' wickets for 111.

For the excellent position in which they found themselves at the close of the day Somerset have mainly to thank their captain, Mr Woods, and Mr C A Bernard, a young cricketer who played his first county match last month. Mr Woods and Bernard stayed together for two hours and put on 167 runs. Woods was missed when 25, but he afterwards hit brilliantly, sending the ball 18 times to the boundary; Bernard gave no chance.

As the game stands at present Kent are 97 runs on with five wickets to fall.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 June, page 9)

The Kent eleven gained their first success this season at Tonbridge on Saturday, beating Somerset by 41 runs. Thanks largely to some further skilful batting by Burnup, Kent raised their overnight score of 111 for five wickets to 203.

This left Somerset with 188 to get to win, but whatever chance they had was destroyed by the first three wickets going down for 11 runs. Bernard and Woods made a plucky effort, but the others did little and the side were all out for 146. Bernard, who is practically new to important cricket, had a personal triumph, scoring 79 and 68 in the match; while Bradley and Mason each took ten wickets in the game.

8 June: LANCASHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5207.html)

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

The disappointing form recently shown by the Lancashire eleven did not diminish the attraction yesterday of the match with Surrey, at Old Trafford. Lancashire won the toss, but up to a certain point they did not profit by taking first innings, for, though Albert Ward and Hartley put on 63 runs together in 50 minutes for the third wicket, there were six men out at lunch time for 103.

The seventh wicket - that of Briggs - fell at 117, but then a remarkable change came over the match, Eccles and Sharp playing very finely together, and in the course of an hour and a quarter putting on 115 runs. Sharp, who is already well-known to the public as a member of the Aston Villa football team, was yesterday making his first appearance in county cricket, and there could not be two opinions as to the excellence of the form which he displayed. Apart from a little nervousness during the first over or two, and a possible chance of being caught and bowled, high up, when he had made 22, his innings of 57 was irreproachable, his hitting on the off-side being especially good.

Surrey started badly, losing Brockwell and Hayes in a quarter of an hour for 13 runs; but Abel and Jephson carried the score to 73 before the drawing of stumps. Lockwood reappeared in the Surrey eleven after having been absent for three or four matches, but did not meet with any success as a bowler.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 June, page 14)

The Lancashire team were very much at fault in the field at Manchester yesterday, and, thanks in a large measure to their blunders, Surrey succeeded in gaining a lead of 172 runs on the first innings. The visitors overnight had scored 73 for the loss of two wickets, and yesterday Jephson and Abel raised the score to 108, their partnership yielding in all 95 runs.

Afterwards Hayward played excellent cricket for nearly two hours and a half, but Surrey lost six men for 253, and had Lancashire not make mistakes there would probably not have been any big difference on the first innings. The seventh wicket, however, produced 49 runs, the ninth 73 and the last 58, the total when the innings terminated at a quarter to 6 amounting to 434. Lancashire began badly in their second innings and with nine wickets to go down are still 165 behind.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 June, page 9)

At Manchester on Friday evening, Lancashire, with nine wickets to fall, required 165 runs to avoid being beaten in a single innings. On Saturday they scarcely ever looked like making a hard fight.

Ward and Mr Hartley raised the score from 21 to 59 for the third wicket, and Mr Eccles and Smith put on 35 runs together for the ninth wicket; but the side were all out shortly after luncheon for 163, and Surrey won by an innings and nine runs.

8 June: MIDDLESEX v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5208.html)

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

The Sussex eleven were seen to advantage at Lord's, yesterday. During their innings there were two partnerships of over 100. K S Ranjitsinhji carried off the batting honours. Apart from a bad stroke off Hearne's bowling at five, which went close to Rawlin at point, his batting was marked by that skill which has made his name famous in the cricket world. He was sixth out at 328 to a catch by Rawlin, who ran from mid-off and took the ball behind the bowler. He was batting altogether two hours and 50 minutes and his figures included 17 fours, four threes and ten twos. He made his 120 out of 193.

Mr Chinnery, who used to play for Surrey, is making his first appearance for Middlesex.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 June, page 14)

Sussex had kept Middlesex in the field the whole of Thursday, but yesterday at Lord's their innings closed for another nine runs. When Middlesex went in they gave even a better display; the Sussex total was passed with only seven wickets down, and at the drawing of stumps Middlesex held a lead of 79 on the first innings.

The chief contributions to the big score were Mr F G J Ford and Albert Trott, who between them were responsible for 283 runs. Mr Ford played the better cricket and made 160, which is his first three-figure score this season. He was batting some three hours, and his chief hits were one five, 24 fours, five threes and six twos.

Trott began quietly and at first allowed Mr Ford to make the majority of the runs, but after the latter had left at 296, Trott hit with great power. He was batting two hours and made 19 fours, one three and ten twos. These figures give a mean idea of his vigorous cricket. Dr G Thornton was too indisposed to take further part in the match, and by the courtesy of Mr W L Murdoch, the Sussex captain, Mr A E Stoddart was allowed to complete the Middlesex eleven, this being his first appearance this season.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 June, page 9)

As a rule a score of nearly 400 in the first innings would exempt any side from defeat, but this was not the case in this match at Lord's, for on Saturday Middlesex beat Sussex by five wickets.

Having arrears of 79, Sussex made such a good start in their second innings that these were hit off in an hour without loss, and Mr Fry and Mr Brann were not parted until 148 had been added for the first wicket. Although giving no chance, Mr Brann's 58 was not up to his usual standard of excellence. Mr Fry was the third to leave at 167, which was the score at the luncheon interval. When only eight he was missed off Hearne's bowling by Mr Chinnery at long-on, but apart from this he poll very good cricket. The chief feature of his innings, which included 13 fours, three threes and six twos, was his powerful driving.

Up to this period there seemed little probability of bringing the match to a definite conclusion, but directly the game was resumed Sussex collapsed. The next five wickets went down in half an hour for 14 runs, and the whole side were out at a quarter to 4 for the addition of 45 runs. Albert Trott was the cause of this remarkable change, for after lunch he had the following analysis: - Ten overs, five maidens, 18 runs and five wickets.

Requiring 134 to win, Middlesex lost four wickets for 74, but Trott and Rawlin stayed together until the score was 126, while shortly afterwards Trott made the winning hit, and Middlesex were able to claim their fourth successive victory at ten minutes to 6.

Considerable interest was shown in the cricket and 6,376 people paid to see the finish. Middlesex and Surrey are now the only counties who have not been beaten in the county championship.

8 May: YORKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5209.html)

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

The Yorkshire eleven had a good deal the best of matters in their match with Derbyshire at Dewsbury yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 10 June, page 14)

At Dewsbury yesterday the Yorkshire eleven bowled and fielded so well that to-day they have an easy task, for with an innings to play they want only 32 to win.

Storer's batting was the best feature of Derbyshire's cricket. In the first innings he took three hours to get his 96 and he hit 14 fours. Hirst and Rhodes bowled with much success for Yorkshire.

Day 3 (report from Monday 12 June, page 9)

Twenty minutes' cricket proved sufficient on Saturday morning to finish off the match at Dewsbury. Yorkshire, who required only 32 to win with an innings to play, gained the victory by nine wickets.

Monday 12 June, page 9: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The present positions of the counties are: -

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

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 more prominent cricketers are given below: -

BATTING

Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Times not out	Average
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Shrewsbury	6	330	146	1	66.00
Mr A O Jones	6	334	250	0	55.66
Lockwood	8	259	77	3	51.80
Abel	17	750	357*	2	50.00
Mr F H B Champain	6	263	120	0	43.83
K S Ranjitsinhji	17	657	120	2	43.80
Diver	9	379	184	0	42.11
Hayward	16	664	158	0	41.50
Mr C B Fry	17	700	98	0	41.17
Brockwell	15	529	147	1	37.78
Mr F S Jackson	15	554	133	2	36.93
Lord Hawke	13	331	127	4	36.77
Mr G L Jessop	9	295	171*	1	36.87
Mr A J Turner	12	431	109	0	35.91
Tyldesley	12	415	78	0	34.58
Albert Ward	13	414	118	1	34.50
Mr P Perrin	13	378	144	2	34.36
Mr H K Foster	9	303	83	0	34.22
J T Brown (Drifffield)	18	614	168	0	34.11
Storer	20	576	90	3	33.88
W Gunn	10	259	55*	2	32.37
Mr C McGahey	10	260	75*	2	32.50
Albert Trott	19	538	164	1	29.88
Mr S M J Woods	14	417	111	0	29.78
Mr D L A Jephson	14	416	74	0	29.71
Mr C L Townsend	16	449	141	0	28.05
Mr G Brann	13	321	69	0	24.69
Mr K J Key	14	283	58*	2	23.58
A Hearne	17	368	67	1	23.00
Denton	15	341	67	0	22.73
Mr F Mitchell	16	354	100	0	22.12
Dr W G Grace	13	246	50	0	18.92

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mead	450	172	790	69	11.44
Rhodes	437	150	910	70	13.00
Mold	291.1	111	521	34	15.32
Mr D L A Jephson	143	24	375	24	15.62
Hayward	258.4	63	666	41	16.21
Mr W M Bradley	329.1	114	763	47	16.23
Haigh	266.3	93	518	31	16.54
Trott	530.4	160	1342	80	16.75
Briggs	299.4	112	403	24	16.79
Young	308.4	101	727	42	17.14
Mr J R Mason	206.3	81	446	26	17.15
Tate (Sussex)	253.2	85	638	37	17.24
J T Hearne	627	241	1219	68	17.92
Hirst	271	93	553	30	18.43
Brockwell	305.3	102	686	36	19.05
Lockwood	132	34	305	16	19.06
Mr F S Jackson	221.2	67	511	25	20.44
Mr F G Bull	185.2	47	459	19	24.15
Richardson	344	100	791	31	25.51
Mr C L Townsend	326.4	69	918	33	27.81
Mr G L Jessop	134.4	23	439	15	29.26

AUSTRALIAN BATTING AVERAGES

Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Times not out	Average
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Mr C Hill	14	631	160	0	45.07
Mr M A Noble	14	479	116*	3	43.54
Mr J Darling	15	493	106*	2	37.92
Mr J Worrall	9	259	53*	2	37.00
Mr S E Gregory	12	401	102	1	36.45
Mr J J Kelly	8	165	50*	2	27.50
Mr H Trumble	12	217	51	3	24.11
Mr F A Iredale	13	294	77	0	22.61
Mr V Trumper	11	235	82	0	21.36
Mr F Laver	9	126	39	3	21.00
Mr W P Howell	9	115	49*	3	19.16
Mr E Jones	8	130	54	1	16.25
Mr C E McLeod	8	68	27	1	9.71
Mr A E Johns	3	16	12	0	5.33

AUSTRALIAN BOWLING AVERAGES

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble	348.1	128	615	46	13.37
Mr W P Howell	325.1	123	678	42	16.02
Mr E Jones	293.1	75	698	34	20.52
Mr C E McLeod	153.4	50	354	15	23.60
Mr M A Noble	222.4	64	553	23	24.04

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

At a meeting in London, last night, the selection sub-committee chose the following side to play for England against Australia in the second of the test matches, at Lord's, on Thursday: -

Mr F S Jackson, Mr C B Fry, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr A C MacLaren, Mr G L Jessop, Mr C L Townsend, Hayward, Tyldesley, Lilley, Walter Mead and Rhodes. Brockwell is 12th man. The captain of the side will be appointed on the morning of the match.

Five changes have been made from the side that played at Nottingham. Dr Grace, Gunn, Hirst, Storer and Jack Hearne are succeeded by Mr MacLaren, Mr Jessop, Mr Townsend, Lilley and Mead. The radical change from the first team is not wholly surprising on the form of some of the men in the opening test match.

12 June: CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY v MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5210.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 11)

The Marylebone Club did not send a very powerful side to Cambridge yesterday to play the University, but, with Messrs Taylor, Hind and Hawkins all absent from the home team, the visitors had slightly the better of the day's play.

Going in first, the M.C.C. up to a certain point did fairly well. Mr Stanning, a Cambridge senior, carried off the batting honours with a score of 56. He gave a chance at 12, but otherwise played steady and skilful cricket for nearly two hours. King, the Leicestershire professional, rendered him useful assistance, but all prospect of a big score for the side was destroyed by Mr Jessop, who, going on to bowl after lunch, dismissed five batsmen at a cost of only 18 runs. The success of the Cambridge captain was especially interesting in view of the fact that he has been selected to play for England at Lord's on Thursday.

After Marylebone had been disposed of for 155, Moon and Stogdon opened the University innings in promising style, putting on 44 runs for the first wicket. But after Mr Moon's dismissal very poor opposition was offered to Young and Mead. At the drawing of stumps Cambridge, with only three wickets to fall, were still 47 runs behind. Charming weather prevailed, but the attendance was small.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 June)

No cricket reports could be found in this issue of The Times.

12 June: HAMPSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5211.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 11)

The Somerset eleven were kept in the field the whole of yesterday at Portsmouth. Chief honours in the Hampshire batting belonged to Major R M Poore. By excellent cricket he and Barton put on 112 runs for the second partnership, and then, after the fourth wicket had gone down for 164, Poore and Spens stayed together for just over an hour and added 109. Of these Spens made 74 in vigorous style, hitting 13 fours, one three and eight twos.

Major Poore was sixth out at 199 for a steadily played 104. He was batting three hours and a half, but should have been out before they had made 20. Among his figures were 13 fours, four threes and seven twos. Mr Heseltine afterwards punished the bowling with severity and with Steele raised the score by 79 in less than 40 minutes for the seventh wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 June)

No cricket reports could be found in this issue of The Times.

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

At Portsmouth, yesterday, Major Poore and Captain Spens were again seen to great advantage, and the former followed up his 104 of Monday with 119, not out. Major Poore did not make a real mistake, his hits including a five and fifteen fours; while Colonel Spens hit in his 71 a six - a grand drive over the screen - and seven fours.

The Hampshire innings was declared closed at ten minutes past 3 with the total at 269 for six wickets, and Somerset were put in with the practically impossible task of getting 352 runs in about three hours. They looked at one point like being beaten, for three of their wickets went down for 33 runs, but Captain Hedley and Mr Woods played defensive cricket.

12 June: LANCASHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5212.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 11)

Mr A N Hornby captained the Lancashire team in the match which opened in Manchester yesterday, and there were several other changes from the side so severely beaten by Surrey at the end of last week, a trial being given to Ingleby, a Yorkshire-born professional, who has been showing very fine batting form this season for the Royton Club, with which he is engaged.

Derbyshire, who were strongly represented, won the toss, and their innings, lasting a little over four hours, produced 262. When Lancashire went in Paul and Tyldesley were both got rid of in the first over without a run being obtained, but then Albert Ward and Ingleby scored 62 before the latter was bowled.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 June)

No cricket reports could be found in this issue of The Times.

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

Yesterday, at Old Trafford, Manchester, the Lancashire eleven beat Derbyshire by eight wickets.

12 June: MIDDLESEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5213.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 11)

The partnership record of 173 for the tenth wicket, made so long ago as 1885 by Briggs and Pilling for Lancashire in Liverpool, was beaten yesterday at Lord's during a remarkable day's cricket. Middlesex won the toss and went in on a wicket in the preparation of which too much water had been used. And so for an hour and a half Mason and Bradley came at all sorts of paces from the pitch, and the great Middlesex batsmen were utterly at sea in timing the ball and such was the collapse that nine of the side were out for 55.

Mr Nicholls and Roche, however, put a very different complexion on the game. Roche profited by a dropped catch at wicket and by another in the long field to Mr Le Fleming and, after these early escapes, the batsmen prospered. For two hours and a half they remained together and their stand for the last wicket produced 230 runs. Every minute really spelt improvement for the pitch and after luncheon the ball came along quite truly. Roche got a good proportion of his runs behind the wicket; but Mr Nicholls, who is an old Rugby boy, made his mostly by cutting and driving. It was a wonderful partnership after what had gone before, and so completely was the bowling mastered that the average rate of run-getting was 92 an hour. Mr Nicholls, who was at last caught at point, made 21 fours in his 154, and Roche hit eight in his 74. Before this great stand Bradley took five wickets for 15 runs and Mason four for 30.

When Kent went in J T Hearne and Trott bowled with great power. Alec Hearne played well, but no one else did much, and with four good wickets gone Kent are 210 behind. The weather was beautifully fine and there was an attendance of some 4,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 June)

No cricket reports could be found in this issue of The Times.

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

Very little interest remained in the concerning stage of the match between Middlesex and Kent yesterday, and with the weather cold and cheerless only two or three hundred people assembled at Lord's ground. Kent, wanting 283 runs to win, had scored 49 for the loss of Burnup overnight. With the wicket showing signs of wear, the success of the home side was generally regarded as certain, and less than two hours' cricket sufficed to bring the match to a conclusion, Kent having to acknowledge defeat by 118 runs.

J T Hearne and Trott bowled unchanged, the former, who seemed to have found a spot, dismissing six batsmen at a cost of less than 11 runs apiece. The victory was the fifth Middlesex have gained this season in the county championship.

12 June: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5214.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 11)

Several prominent players being engaged in the schools, the University could not yesterday in the last of their home matches put a representative side into the field against Surrey. Mr E C Wright, who played against Cambridge at Lord's two years ago, reappeared in the team, and a trial was given to Mr A Ward, who has lately been playing well for Balliol.

Surrey on winning the toss made a very bad start, losing Brockwell and Abel before ten runs had been scored, and having five wickets down for 131. So far the best batting, by many degrees, was that of Hayes, who hit ten fours, and was only at the wickets a trifle over an hour for his 58. The character of the game changed entirely when Messrs Leveson-Gower and H B Richardson became partners, these two obtaining a complete mastery over the Oxford bowling and putting on no fewer than 157 runs for the sixth wicket. Mr Richardson, who was the first to leave, was bowled by a good ball for 72.

With Mr Key in, Mr Leveson-Gower went on hitting for some time longer, but was out at last to an easy catch at cover-point. His brilliant innings of 155 - by far the highest he has ever played for Surrey - lasted three hours and 40 minutes, and included 25 fours, three threes and six twos. He ought to have been caught in the slips when he had made 107, but for the most part his play was irreproachable.

Mr Key played a vigorous game and it was not until ten minutes past 6 that the innings came to an end, the total being 415. Lee was out to a splendid running catch by Mr Eccles, close to the boundary.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 June)

No cricket reports could be found in this issue of The Times.

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

The Oxford eleven were beaten yesterday at Oxford by five wickets. There was no particular feature about the last day's cricket, but Surrey found the 113 runs necessary to win a much more difficult task than was expected. In fielding and bowling the University were seen to advantage.

12 June: SUSSEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5215.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 11)

At Brighton, yesterday, Notts were handicapped by the absence of Mr A O Jones, who had hurt one of his fingers and could not play. When they won the toss there seemed every likelihood of a good score, the wicket being in excellent order.

Shrewsbury and Dench started well by putting on 40 runs in as many minutes for the first wicket, and with Shrewsbury and W Gunn together the score was taken to 109 by lunch time with only one man out. Afterwards, however, there came a marked change in the game and the side were dismissed for 180. Shrewsbury when he had made four gave an easy chance, but apart from this his innings of 52, which included five fours, was good.

Mr Fry and Mr Brann made an excellent start for Sussex, scoring 66 in less than an hour, and then Ranjitsinhji and Killick hit so hard that 75 runs were added in the last 40 minutes. Sussex, with eight wickets in hand, are only 24 runs behind.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 June)

No cricket reports could be found in this issue of The Times.

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

So exceptionally skilful and attractive batting was seen in the closing stages of the match at Brighton yesterday, and ultimately Notts were able to draw their game with Sussex, emerging from their uphill fight with credit. Overnight Notts had scored 137 for one wicket, and thus, with nine men to be got rid of, they were 30 runs behind.

Gunn and Shrewsbury, who were together on Tuesday evening, added 121 in an hour and fifty minutes, their partnership, which extended altogether over three hours and 20 minutes, producing 258 runs. Shrewsbury, who was first out after a stay of four hours and 25 minutes, only gave one chance in his superb display, and hit 16 fours, five threes and seven twos. Gunn left at 356. With 18 fours, two threes and 18 twos as his best hits, he batted in faultless style for five hours without giving a single chance, and always played the bowling with skill and judgment.

When Sussex went in again with 211 runs to get to win, only an hour and thirty-five minutes were left for cricket, so that a draw was inevitable. Fry and Brann made an excellent start by putting on 89 before being separated. Apart from a chance at the wicket when 19, Fry played admirably, and among his hits were five fours, five threes and three twos.

12 June: WARWICKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5216.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 11)

The Gloucestershire eleven were seen to admirable advantage yesterday in Birmingham, for, having the good fortune to bat first on a good pitch, they remained in all the afternoon. There were several performances of merit, but quite by itself was Mr Townsend's innings of 119 not out.

Going in at the fall of the first wicket, Townsend maintained his defence for three hours and a half, and in that time made only one bad stroke. This was when he had scored 38. Lilley was bowling, and Townsend returned a ball which the Warwickshire man just touched. While he was in 200 runs were added to the score.

Mr Troup and Wrathall made an excellent start by putting on 156 for the first partnership, and afterwards Mr Rice helped Mr Townsend to add 81 in an hour for the third wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 June)

No cricket reports could be found in this issue of The Times.

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

The Warwickshire batsmen played up splendidly at Birmingham yesterday and succeeded in drawing the game. With five wickets down for 265 Walter Quaife and Glover were associated, and for an hour and 40 minutes defied all the attempts of the Gloucestershire bowlers to separate them. Quaife, who was the first out, batted nearly five hours for his 144 without making a mistake. Glover was at the wickets nearly three hours.

With the total at 484 for nine wickets the innings was declared closed, and Gloucestershire went in a second time with two hours and ten minutes left for play. No fewer than 195 runs were required, however, so there was nothing but a draw in prospect. Owing to illness Troup was unable to field yesterday, and left for home during the afternoon.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5217.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 13 June, page 11)

It was estimated that 25,000 people watched the cricket at Bradford yesterday in the second match this season between Yorkshire and the Australians. That they thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon there cannot be a doubt, for the Yorkshire eleven, by dint of some really fine all-round play, left off with a substantial advantage, being 88 runs ahead with a wicket to fall. At one time the county seemed certain to be in a far better position even than this, but during the last hour and a half their batting fell much below its previous standard.

Mr F S Jackson was kept away by a social engagement, Lord Hawke preferred to stand out of the match and Rhodes, in view of his having to bowl for England at Lord's on Thursday, was given a rest. The places of these three cricketers were filled by Mr C E M Wilson, last year's captain at Cambridge; Mr A Sellers, who a few years back did excellent work for Yorkshire as a batsman; and J T Brown, of Darfield, the fast bowler who early last month won for his county a remarkable match against Worcestershire. The Australians left out Iredale, Trumble and Johns.

The Australians won the toss, but on a very fast and rather fiery wicket they did not by any means sustain the form they have recently been showing in batting, being all out in an hour and 50 minutes for a total of 141. Only once during their present tour have they been got rid of for a smaller score than this - namely, in the last innings of the match in which Essex beat them at Leyton.

The start of the innings yesterday was quite sensational, for of the best wickets going down in half an hour for 38. Darling was bowled in the first over when only four byes had been scored; Clement Hill was bowled at 13; Worrall was caught in the slips at 17; and Noble bowled at 38. Another wicket ought to have fallen at the same total, for, just before Noble was out, Gregory, with his individual score at six, was missed by Mitchell in the slips.

The mistake proved rather a costly one for Yorkshire, as Gregory afterwards played first-rate cricket. He and Trumper made the only notable stand of the innings, putting on 54 runs together in 35 minutes. Trumper was out first - caught at 92 by the wicket-keeper standing back. Gregory was out at 109, playing a ball from Hirst on to his wicket. Barring the one chance his innings of 54, which included half-a-dozen fours, was quite free from fault.

Neither Laver nor McLeod gave any trouble, and Kelly, after having played very carefully for ten, was caught in the slips, nine wickets being down at lunch time for 140. Five minutes' cricket after the interval sufficed to finish the innings, the total being 141. Just before lunch, Jones, who had made 13, hit Hirst for three fours in one over. Hirst bowled wonderfully well, taking eight wickets at a cost of only 48 runs. He maintained a great pace all through the innings and never lost his pitch.

When Yorkshire went in it was thought, after the success that had attended Yorkshire's fast bowling, that Jones would be very dangerous, but thought at first he made the ball get up rather awkwardly, he met with no success. A splendid start was made for the county by Brown and Tunnicliffe, but the latter batsman was lucky in being missed by the wicket-keeper, standing back to Jones, when his own score was one and the total 21. Brown played most brilliant cricket, and thanks chiefly to his hitting the hundred went up when the innings had been in progress 66 minutes. However, the partnership came to an end at 119, Tunnicliffe being caught at mid-on.

Yorkshire were now in a splendid position, but from this point their batting declined. Brown was out to a catch at mid-off at 132, and it is safe to say that he has rarely played a finer innings. He hit 15 fours, and did not during his stay on a hour and three-quarters make a mistake of any kind. After he left the game went so much in favour of the Australians that when the seventh wicket fell the score had only reached 178, this rapid downfall being chiefly due to Noble's bowling. Towards the end of the afternoon there was some free hitting, but a good many runs were obtained by faulty strokes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 14 June)

No cricket reports could be found in this issue of The Times.

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

After a truly memorable struggle the match at Bradford between Yorkshire and the Australians terminated yesterday in a draw, the county team, when stumps were finally pulled up, having only one wicket to fall and requiring 44 runs to win. In all probability a few more minutes' cricket would have given the Colonials a victory, but for all that the Yorkshiremen are entitled to high praise for a magnificent effort to accomplish a great performance.

The home team entered upon the day's play with an innings to play and wanting 332 to in, but, as it had been previously arranged to draw stumps at a quarter to 5, in order that the Australians might arrive in London in good time last evening, the period left for cricket did not amount to quite four hours and a half. In order to make the runs Yorkshire would have had to score at the rate of 75 an hour, and such a pace seemed scarcely possible against the colonial bowlers, yet more than once during the day it seemed as if the task might be accomplished.

J T Brown, of Driffield, followed up his first innings of 84 with a splendid score of 167, and so long as he stayed the issue of the struggle was quite open. Going in first, he made 51 out of 98 in an hour and a half, 100 out of 160 in just over two hours, and altogether 167 out of 256 in three hours and a half before he was seventh man out. Except for a sharp chance in the slips at 149 his play was almost free from fault. Thirty fours, five threes, five twos and 22 singles made up his grand innings.

Brown's 167 is the highest innings yet hit against the colonial team. His achievement of making 84 and 167 in the same match must rank next to that of Shrewsbury, who, in the England and Australia match of 1893, scored 106 and 81. So pleased were the spectators that they subscribed nearly £25 for the Driffield professional.

Yorkshire's fine fight was the more remarkable, as at the start Tunnicliffe and Denton were out before a run had been scored. Mitchell then stayed while 57 runs were obtained, but there were four wickets down for 79. When Wainwright joined Brown, however, the latter hit away so brilliantly that at lunch time the total had been raised to 170 without further loss. Altogether Wainwright helped to put on 99 in an hour and a quarter.

Hirst next assisted Brown to add 51, and with 65 minutes left for play 93 runs were wanted to win. There was still a chance of Yorkshire's winning, but Brown left at 256 and afterwards Yorkshire had to play hard to save the game. In this endeavour Wilson greatly distinguished himself, but 12 minutes remained for play when the last man came in. Hunter, however, proved equal to the occasion, and when time was called and the game left drawn the score had reached 278.

Noble, who took 12 wickets in the match, obtained his last four for 23 runs. Delightful weather prevailed and nearly 5,000 people were present.

Thursday 15 June, page 12: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

The second of the five test matches between England and Australia begins to-day at Lord's. It is satisfactory to notice that, as was recorded in The Times of yesterday, the hours of play have been so extended that during the three days 90 minutes will be gained on the ordinary hours. The sides for to-day are given below: -

ENGLAND

Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire) (captain)

Mr J Darling (South Australia) (captain)

Mr F S Jackson (Yorkshire)
Mr C B Fry (Sussex)
Mr G L Jessop (Gloucestershire and
Cambridge University)
Mr C L Townsend (Gloucestershire)
K S Ranjitsinhji (Sussex)
A A Lilley (Warwickshire)
W Rhodes (Yorkshire)
T Hayward (Surrey)
J T Tyldesley (Lancashire)
W Mead (Essex)
Reserve:
W Brockwell (Surrey)

Mr C Hill (South Australia)
Mr E Jones (South Australia)
Mr S E Gregory (New South Wales)
Mr V Trumper (New South Wales)
Mr W P Howell (New South Wales)
Mr J J Kelly (New South Wales)
Mr M A Noble (New South Wales)
Mr J Worrall (Victoria)
Mr C E McLeod (Victoria)
Mr H Trumble (Victoria)
Mr F Laver (Victoria)
Mr A E Johns (Victoria)

Mr F A Iredale (New South Wales) is ill and quite unable to play.

15 June: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5218.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 June, page 11)

The England eleven cannot as a whole be congratulated on their batting at Lord's yesterday in the second of the test matches. Everything was in their favour at starting. They won the toss and had a good hard wicket to play on; but the side seemed incapable of taking advantage of their chances, the batting broke down at the start and it was only at a late stage of the innings that the credit of the side was somewhat redeemed by the sterling batting of Mr F S Jackson and the courageous, if fortunate, hitting of Mr Jessop. The other members of the side batted disappointingly.

Ernest Jones, from the nursery end, bowled at a great pace and with a fine length, and took seven wickets for 88. The fielding of the Australians was magnificent; notably the work of Noble and Laver at point, the return of Gregory from extra mid-off and cover-point, and the almost infallible mid-off (Jones).

When the Australians went in a moderate start was followed by some good batting by Hill and Noble, who remained together an hour and a half and put on 97 runs. It was this stand that turned the game. The Australians secured their strong position simply by sheer hard work and merit. At nearly all points their cricket was the better, and now, with seven wickets in hand, they are within 50 runs of the England score.

When it was known that England had won the toss, a big score was expected, for the batting side was strong and the wicket was hard and true. But Jones started at a great pace, and in his second over with a fine length ball he got out MacLaren, the English captain, who drew back and tried to get away to leg, with the result that he mistimed the ball and had his middle stump bowled down. Other disasters quickly followed. Ranjitsinhji made a pretty stroke on the leg side, for which five were run, but he soon put up the ball in trying to place it, and Jones, running three parts of the way up the pitch, made a clever return catch.

Two for 14 was a bad enough record; but worse was to come. Townsend was very cleverly stumped at 20, Fry was easily caught at short slip when he had been in an hour for 13, and at 45 Hayward had his off stump knocked down by a swerving ball from Noble, who had gone on for Howell. Five for 45. Gregory was twice warmly applauded for saving runs at extra mid-off. Tyldesley made a few good strokes, but an easy catch by third slip disposed of him, and England had six men out for 66.

Jessop and Jackson were now together. Jessop is nothing if not a hitter, but this time he played a quiet game. The bowling was, in fact, of too good a length to be hit; and Jessop was rather fortunate in a few of his strokes. Jackson, however, played superb cricket, and there was one straight drive of his from Jones which was received with enthusiastic applause. Runs came freely and sundry bowling changes were tried. Jones bowled for close upon two hours at a stretch, and the fact that he maintained his pace and kept his length all the time is a striking proof of his splendid physique. Just before luncheon runs came at a fast rate, and Jackson's cutting and driving were particularly good.

After luncheon Jackson gave a very difficult chance to Hill, who was fielding second in the slips; and then at 161 Jessop was out to a well-judged catch at long-on. He had made 51 out of 95 in just over an hour, and his best hits were nine fours.

When once this partnership was severed the wickets fell rapidly. Jackson turned a ball from Jones into his wicket at 184; he played strong cricket and exhibited a great variety of strokes. In two and a quarter hours he made his 73, and his figures included ten fours. There was nothing much to be said for the rest of the innings, and by 20 minutes to 4 it was ended for a total of 206. The Australians had bowled and fielded superbly, and to their close fielding the small score of England was largely due.

At 4 o'clock the Australians started batting. Darling and Worrall began very carefully to Jessop and Mead. There was a good straight drive by Worrall off Mead to the boundary, but before Darling scored he gave a difficult chance to Hayward, who was fielding third in the slips to Jessop; Hayward mistimed the slight of the ball and got only his left hand extended to it. Worrall then started hitting, but an over of Rhodes, who went on for Jessop, was very profitable for England. With the second ball of his first over he got Worrall brilliantly caught at long-off by Hayward, who held the ball at the second attempt, while with the last he secured Darling, who was caught by Ranjitsinhji low down at point from a very hard cut. Two for 28 made the game more even.

Hill and Gregory were now together, and the former gave something like a chance of stumping; he went out to Mead and missed a well-pitched-up ball which kept low and utterly beat him. Jessop had a turn at the pavilion end; but the batsmen scored steadily. Gregory, after making a couple of bad strokes over third man's head, was caught at the wicket at 59.

Thenceforward everything went well for the Australians. Noble and Hill played equally well, and Hill was, as usual, particularly good on the leg side. MacLaren changed his bowling frequently; but the batsmen were well set on the true pitch and they reached the 100 at the rate of a run a minute. Ranjitsinhji had a couple of overs, and just before the close - there had been loud cries for Hayward - the famous Surrey player was given a chance. But it was all to no purpose, and the end of the day found the Australians in a strong position.

Hill played very fine cricket. He was as strong as ever on the leg side, and the field was not sufficiently strong for him in this position. Noble, too, without being quite so certain in his timing of the ball, batted excellently. The English fielding was not much inferior to the high level of excellence attained by the Australians.

Every preparation had been made for the reception of a big crowd, and the expectations were realized. The record of those who paid for admission at the turnstile alone showed 20,541, and another 5,000 may be added to this number for members and their friends. With Ascot races on, it was surprising to find the pavilion so full; indeed, it was difficult for the members to find room downstairs in the afternoon.

The ground, under its new conditions, looked extremely well. The scene was a curious contrast to the Eton and Harrow and Oxford and Cambridge matches. Everyone was on cricket bent and there was no promenading. It was a glorious day, and under the supervision of Mr F E Lacey, the Marylebone secretary, and Mr John Murdoch, the assistant secretary of the club, the arrangements for the management of the crowd were perfectly satisfactory. Even the representatives of the Press were given extra room on the grand stand, and it may be hoped that this will also be done at the other big matches at Lord's this season.

Play will begin this morning at 11 o'clock, and luncheon will be taken at half-past 1, instead of the usual hour of 2.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 June, page 14)

Australian cricket once again triumphed at Lord's yesterday, the result being that England was last night left in a position that presages only defeat, for, with all the vagaries of cricket, we can scarcely hope to escape from disaster. With six wickets left in the third innings, the England eleven are still 121 runs behind. There is much batting to come; but failures on a good hard pitch have been so plentiful that little confidence can be reposed in the side.

This wonderful England eleven has lost every advantage given them by the winning of the toss, have been quite outplayed on the hard, true turf, and the perilous position in which they now stand is the simple result of bad cricket. Not only was the batting bad, but the fielding was slovenly, the Englishmen developing a wonderful facility for the misgathering of the ball. Indeed, yesterday's cricket in the first two hours was discreditable, and such careless ground work in a match of so much importance was not to be explained away very easily. There is no disguising the fact that this carefully picked England eleven have so far been utterly outplayed.

The Australians got command of the game in the second over on Thursday, when Jones bowled down MacLaren's middle stump, and they have never relaxed in their brilliantly winning game. Clement Hill had some luck in the way of dropped catches, but he played very fine cricket; his driving was powerful and well-timed, and he was as strong as ever on the leg side.

But, although numerically even, the innings of Trumper was the innings of the match. When Trumper got his runs last month at Eastbourne almost every one was impressed by his style; and yesterday he won everybody's admiration by his timing of the ball and his driving and cutting. He played like a master on a great occasion, and by winning his spurs in a match of this importance he has justified the committee who brought him over here as one of the latest choices, when keen discrimination had to be exercised in the selection of the last few men of the side.

All the honours are, so far, with the Australians; and England's only hope of rescue from defeat must lie in one of those remarkable batting feats which do occasionally occur in the most uncertain of all games. But their present position savours of disaster. The Australians are at the top of their game, and experience has taught us that Australians elevens, when once in a winning position, rarely relax their hold on a match.

England have been utterly worsted in this match. Their men seem incapable of finding their game against the keenness of the colonists; and their cricket in every department yesterday can be only written down, and this with some mercy, as deplorable.

When the game was resumed the Australians were within 50 runs of the English first innings and had seven wickets to fall. The early cricket was very poor. Hill and Noble, who had got together overnight and had carried the score from 59 to 159, advanced the score slowly to 189. But the ground fielding was unworthy of a match of such importance. There was a chance to the wicket-keeper of catching Hill, and later on Jackson, with a little promptness in his return, might have run out either batsman.

However, at 189 came a catch at wicket that rid the English side of Noble. It had been a wonderful partnership, full of good batting; since the third wicket had gone two and a quarter hours' actual play had occurred, and in this time 130 runs were added. Noble, with a variety of strokes, had played very fine cricket, although his chief hits showed nothing abnormal in his game, his figures being five fours, three threes, three twos and singles. He once more demonstrated his capacity as one of the best all-round cricketers of the day.

There was just a chance of evenness in the game with four wickets down for 189. But Trumper and Hill soon collared the bowling, and the ground work in the fielding continued slack. Hill had been in about three hours when he ran to his 100, a landmark in batting that was not forgotten by the crowd. Soon afterwards the famous left-hander - he had then made 119 - was badly missed by Ranjitsinhji at short slip.

The Englishmen about now were playing very poor cricket. Their fielding was slack and their bowlers failed to keep a length. Changes in the attack were plentiful, but what with bad ground work and overthrows the Australian score mounted steadily. At last, at 271, came the fall of the fifth wicket, Hill being caught from a low raking drive just in front of the pavilion rails. He had been in four hours and, although fortunate to get a good deal of luck, he had played superbly on both sides of the wicket.

There were three bad errors to be scored against him; Lilley missed stumping him at one and catching him at 82, while at 119 the Indian Prince dropped a catch from him at short slip. Hill was batting some four hours, and the fours in his 135 numbered 17. While playing a very fine game on the leg-side Hill drove and cut with tremendous power, and this great innings increased his reputation as one of the finest bats Australia ever furnished us with.

The score at luncheon was 293 for five; and quickly afterwards Kelly went, caught at wicket at 306. But Trumble and Trumper remained together a long time. Trumble, with his fine reach, was content to keep up his end, while his companion scored freely all round the wicket. In dealing with a short ball Trumper was particularly good, as he drew himself back and hit it to the boundary, and then again he was very skilful in his cutting. There was

one bad stroke of his, however, that passed just beyond the reach of the first slip, by which he scored four runs.

The English bowling seemed very poor and the ground fielding continued slack. MacLaren again delayed putting on Hayward, but when the Surrey man had his trial he was slow to find his length and was easily scored from. Eighty had been added in just over the hour, when Trumble was caught by Lilley standing back to Jessop. Subsequently there was nothing much in the batting. Jones made a few big hits before being caught at mid-off and just after 4 o'clock the innings was over for 421.

Trumper was not out 135. It was a superb innings and his batting was the best so far in the match. He timed the ball easily and well from the moment of his arrival, and amid all his fondness for playing the ball off his legs he found opportunities for practising the drive and the cut with much power. His batting won everybody's admiration. He was over three hours getting his runs, and he hit 20 fours. This fine score of 421 gave the Australians a lead of 215 on the innings, and was in itself something of a satire on the great batting side of England, who had so lamentably failed on a good, hard wicket.

Those who were expectant of an improvement in England's show in the second innings were rudely awakened from their optimism by the fall of three wickets for 23 runs. Jones, bowling at a great pace and with a fine length, got out Fry in his second over with a ball that Fry seemed to [lose completely] - this was at five - and a single later Ranjitsinhji was cleverly caught low down at point. Then came an escape at wicket for Hayward off Jones, who, however, bowled out Townsend at 23.

Three of the side had now gone and England were in dire straits. But Jackson and Hayward, by sound and cautious cricket, kept up their ends for an hour and 25 minutes. There were many fine hits by them, but Darling managed his bowling with great judgment and the batsmen were never able to get the best of it. The fielding was always good. Just when the men seemed certain to play out time Jackson, in trying to hit a bad ball from Trumble, gave the bowler a return catch. The old Harrow and Cambridge captain had played very well and his share of the 71 for the wicket was 37.

All through the disasters Jackson fought manfully for the side and made over 100 runs in the two innings. England, however, are in a bad way; 121 arrears and four wickets gone in the second innings is more than suggestive of defeat.

It was another glorious summer day at Lord's and there was another huge crowd; 18,433 paid for admission and the company was well over 20,000. The same excellent arrangements prevailed and reflected credit on both the officials of the club and the superintendent of the divisional police.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 June, page 13)

The position of the game at Lord's on Friday evening spelt disaster for the England eleven, and expectations were realized, for early in the afternoon Australia won the second of the test matches by ten wickets. It was a great victory and one that was wholly merited. On a good hard pitch England were outplayed; and the cause can to some extent be traced to the fact that just at present a wave of mediocrity is passing over English fast bowling.

England entered the field in this match, with the weather settled and the ground hard, without a consistently good fast bowler; and they have paid the penalty in a severe defeat. The Lord's wickets when they are true are particularly true. But our batsmen failed to begin with and our bowlers followed suit.

This was the second of the test matches. In the first England, by the aid of time, just scrambled away from defeat by drawing; in the second England are thoroughly beaten in a match in which they had at the very start an advantage conferred on them by winning the toss. The selection committee no doubt did their work to the best of their ability, but when their decision was announced it was received with many misgivings by some of the old

stagers, conversant with the art and keenness of the Australians and who knew the value of nerve and experience of the Arthur Shrewsbury type, which was in this team greatly lacking.

The Australians won, and all good cricketers will hasten to congratulate them on their success, secured as it was by sheer merit in every branch of the game. In batting, bowling and fielding their excellence almost always prevailed, and the only thing that was greatly creditable to England was the cricket of Mr F S Jackson on the first day and of Mr A C MacLaren on the third.

With his side in an almost hopeless position, on Saturday Mr MacLaren developed that splendid form which long ago made him so famous in cricket. After starting quietly he found things going from bad to worse, and then he began driving on both sides of the wicket with tremendous power and precision, and his 88 was the best piece of batting in the match. But when once Hayward had gone (while MacLaren and Hayward were together England just had a glimpse of hope of making a fight) the English captain could get no permanent help and the game was soon beyond saving.

After having tried two sides of vastly different *matériel*, it is dangerous to forecast the paths that the Test Boards Committee will try in their selection for the next match at the end of this month at Leeds. Many changes must be made; and from the experience already gained the sub-committee may fall back upon some of the older hands, both in batting and bowling. Some of the younger men have had their opportunities and have failed. The Australians are a very fine side; there is a vein of excellence running right through the team that even in thinking of the great elevens of 1882 and 1884 it is difficult to say ever had a superior.

With England in such a bad way on Friday night - 121 runs were wanted to save an innings defeat and only six wickets left - it was not surprising that in spite of a continuance of the fine weather there was a great falling off in the company, and the average of 25,000 people of the first two days fell to 10,000. But those who went up to Lord's had something great to see in MacLaren's innings. The English captain and Hayward played steadily and well. There were 11 fours in Hayward's figures and he made his runs at a normal pace.

It can be understood that Darling made the most of his bowling, and its variations and the fine fielding kept the runs down. Tyldesley was soon caught at cover-point and Jessop gave an easy chance to Trumper, who was fielding very deep on the off-side. And so seven men were out for 70. Lilley stayed a good while, during which MacLaren made some of the best drives in the match; but Lilley was bowled by a bailer at 212, and neither Rhodes nor Mead was very difficult to get rid of. MacLaren took out his bat for 88, made inside two hours and a half and included in which were 16 fours. Darling and Worrall quickly made the few runs necessary for Australia to win, and the match was all over early in the afternoon.

For the conduct of the match and the huge companies the arrangements at Lord's were excellent, and Mr F E Lacey, the M.C.C. secretary, Mr John Murdoch, the assistant secretary, and Superintendent C Dodd, of the S Division of Police, are to be complimented on the manner in which everything passed off.

15 June: HAMPSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5219.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 June, page 11)

Considering how badly Hampshire have always fared against Lancashire, it was rather surprising that yesterday, at Southampton, when lacking the services of Colonel Spens, Captain Wynyard, Hill and Sprot, they should have obtained a big advantage over the northern county, dismissing them for 163 and subsequently scoring 162 for the loss of three wickets.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 June, page 14)

Lancashire had the better of the day's cricket at Southampton yesterday.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 June, page 13)

At Southampton, on Saturday, Lancashire beat Hampshire by 71 runs.

15 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5220.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 16 June, page 11)

The wicket at Leicester yesterday was in excellent condition, and it was a piece of good fortune for Leicestershire to gain first innings.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 17 June, page 14)

Mr Frank Mitchell and Wainwright made 329 runs for the fifth wicket at Leicester yesterday, and by their brilliant batting placed Yorkshire in a winning position.

Day 3 (report from Monday 19 June, page 13)

It seemed somewhat premature for Mr Mitchell to close Yorkshire's innings at Leicester on Saturday without increasing the lead of 178 runs gained overnight; but as events turned out this majority enabled the visitors to win without going in a second time, their victory being secured by an innings and 37 runs.

Up to lunch time there appeared every prospect of Leicestershire making a good many runs, but the men who had then been dismissed alone showed any batting ability, and the last six men were dismissed for 21 runs. The collapse was even worse than this, 100 going up with only two men out. Knight showed his best form, playing really well for his 41. Wainwright had most to do with Yorkshire winning so comfortably. On a wicket that had worn somewhat he always had the batsmen in difficulties, making the ball break back a lot at times.

Monday 19 June, page 13: THE AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Times not out	Average
Shrewsbury	8	496	146	1	70.85
Lockwood	8	259	77	3	51.80
K S Ranjitsinhji	20	843	120	2	46.83
Mr F H B Champain	8	373	120	0	46.62
Abel	18	776	357*	2	45.64
W Gunn	12	446	150	2	44.60
Mr F S Jackson	17	664	133	2	44.26
J T Brown, sen	21	901	168	0	42.90
Hayward	20	800	158	1	42.10
A Ward	17	627	118	2	41.80
Mr C B Fry	21	816	98	0	38.85
Lord Hawke	13	331	127	4	36.77
Mr A J Turner	12	431	109	0	35.91
Brockwell	16	529	147	1	35.26
Mr C L Townsend	19	629	167*	1	34.94
Wainwright	18	619	153	0	34.38
Mr P Perrin	13	378	144	2	34.36
Bagshaw	16	514	77*	1	34.26
Mr H K Foster	9	308	83	0	34.22
Mr G L Jessop	12	353	171*	1	33.54
Mr C McGahey	10	260	75*	2	32.50
Storer	22	588	96	3	32.00
Mr P F Warner	12	376	150	0	31.33

Mr F Mitchell	19	579	100	0	30.47
Mr W Troup	13	362	83	1	30.16
A E Trott	21	592	164	1	29.60
Tunnickliffe	21	549	85	2	28.89
Mr S M J Woods	16	455	111	0	28.43
Mr K J Key	16	367	69*	2	28.23
Mr G Brann	15	388	69	1	27.71
Tyldesley	16	442	100	0	27.62
Mr A Eccles	12	333	63	0	27.35
Mr D L A Jephson	16	437	64	0	27.31
Mr F G J Ford	12	287	160	1	26.09
A Hearne	19	453	55*	1	25.16
Dr W G Grace	13	246	50	0	18.92

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mead	534	201	978	75	13.04
Rhodes	481	161	1027	73	14.06
Mr W M Bradley	383.1	125	904	56	16.14
Young	345.2	113	814	49	16.57
Briggs	425.3	155	600	36	16.86
A E Trott	602.4	188	1475	88	16.76
Mold	333.1	121	630	37	17.02
Cuttell	455	197	749	43	17.18
Hirst	365	115	776	45	17.24
Hayward	301.4	72	803	46	17.47
J T Hearne	691.3	264	1334	76	17.55
Tate (Sussex)	264.2	89	651	37	17.59
Paish	398.4	103	911	50	18.22
Mr J R Mason	251.3	96	576	31	18.58
Mr B J T Bosanquet	270.3	68	628	33	19.03
Lockwood	132	34	305	16	19.06
Brockwell	346.4	113	815	41	19.75
Haigh	337.4	107	677	34	19.91
Mr F S Jackson	239.2	73	542	25	21.68
Dr W G Grace	190	47	325	14	23.21
Mr F G Bull	185.2	47	459	19	24.15
Mr G L Jessop	191.4	39	681	23	25.26
T Richardson	378	107	885	32	27.65
Mr C L Townsend	403.3	77	1116	40	27.90

AUSTRALIAN BATTING AVERAGES

	Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Times not out	Average
Mr C Hill	17	774	160	0	45.52
Mr M A Noble	17	623	116*	3	44.50
Mr J Worrall	13	399	104	3	39.90
Mr S E Gregory	15	503	124	1	35.82
Mr J Darling	19	527	101*	3	32.93
Mr V Trumper	14	410	135	0	29.28
Mr J J Kelly	11	243	59	2	27.00
Mr F A Iredale	12	294	77	0	24.50
Mr F Laver	12	193	67*	4	24.12
Mr H Trumble	13	241	51	3	24.10
Mr E Jones	11	181	54	1	18.10
Mr W P Howell	12	115	49*	3	14.37
Mr C E McLeod	10	80	27	1	8.88
Mr A E Johns	3	16	12	0	5.33

AUSTRALIAN BOWLING AVERAGES

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble	378.1	143	662	48	13.79
Mr W P Howell	432.1	165	938	48	19.54
Mr M A Noble	321.3	96	798	38	21.00
Mr E Jones	414.3	116	969	45	21.53
Mr F Laver	62	25	136	6	22.66
Mr C E McLeod	166.4	53	403	16	25.18

19 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5221.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 11)

At Bristol yesterday, in the opening of their match with Gloucestershire, the Lancashire eleven had all the better of the day's play, as after putting out the home county for the total of 129 they scored 156 for the loss of five wickets.

The chief factor in the downfall of the Gloucestershire team was the fine bowling of Mold. Going on after a dozen runs had been scored, the Lancashire fast bowler dismissed eight batsmen at a cost of 69 runs. The pitch was a little soft after Sunday's rain.

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

Between the rain delays at Bristol yesterday Lancashire managed to secure a winning position, for with six wickets down their opponents still require nine runs to save the innings defeat. Baker and Sharp batted well for Lancashire, while for Gloucestershire Mr Cranston did best.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 June, page 9)

Lancashire won this match at Bristol yesterday by eight wickets.

19 June: MIDDLESEX v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5222.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 11)

There was no particular feature about yesterday's cricket at Lord's. With the surface of the pitch made just a trifle soft by Sunday night's rain the ball bumped now and again, and in this, perhaps, was to be found the secret of the many batting failures. Trott bowled very well for Middlesex and the Leicestershire men came out excellently in both attack and fielding.

Middlesex for their advantage of 97 on the first innings were mainly indebted to Mr MacGregor, who went in seventh wicket down at 129 and took out his bat for 57, one of the best innings he has played for a great time. In his Cambridge days Mr MacGregor was a very fine batsman, but of late years he seems to have cared more for his wicket-keeping and less for his batting than he did. Yesterday he got nearly all his runs in front of the wicket and his work was excellent.

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

Another brilliant victory awaited Middlesex at Lord's yesterday when their defeat of Leicestershire made their sixth win in succession. Yesterday Albert Trott's bowling had much to do with their victory.

Leicestershire had gone in a second time on a pitch affected by the rain and were 97 runs behind. At first things went well for them; but when the ball ceased to come straight along Trott was put on at the pavilion end, and after luncheon he took five wickets for ten runs. His full record for the match was 13 wickets for 125 runs.

In the Leicestershire batting the noticeable feature was the vigour of Mr de Trafford. Middlesex had only 62 to get to win, and these were secured in three-quarters of an hour, Middlesex winning by ten wickets.

19 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5223.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 11)

At Trent-bridge yesterday Nottinghamshire established a big advantage in this match, for with six wickets left they are already 93 ahead on the first innings. They owe this position to the good medium-pace bowling of Bottom and the fine batting of Gunn and Shrewsbury.

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

The position of the game at Trent-bridge on Monday night pointed to an easy victory for the Notts eleven; and yesterday they again completely outplayed Derbyshire, who were beaten by an innings and 180 runs.

For the fifth Notts wicket there was a partnership of 125 runs between Mr Dixon and Mason, both of whom played very good cricket. The Notts bowling and fielding were excellent and Derbyshire came out badly in their uphill game.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5224.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 11)

Although the weather was dull and cold there were some 4,000 spectators on the United Service ground at Portsmouth to see the Australians play a good side of Oxford University. Mr Darling, on winning the toss, put his opponents in, but so far the experiment has not answered too well. However, there is every prospect of a good match.

The Oxford eleven batted very well, and next to Mr Fry's 40, the innings of most intrinsic merit was that of Mr Leveson-Gower. Mr Cunliffe was a partner with Mr Leveson-Gower when 59 runs were made in an hour. The last-named left at 187, and his chief hits were two fives and eight fours.

The Australians went in for an hour and a quarter, and did none too well, being now 173 behind with seven wickets to fall.

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

On a wicket made slow by the rain of Monday night the Australians yesterday at Portsmouth gave one more demonstration of their excellence. There were some good batting performances for them, and the end of the day found the Oxford men in a very bad position, for the Australians were 122 on with two wickets to fall.

With five men out for 139 the visitors had nothing the better of the game, but from that point everything for the Australians prospered. The Oxford men took to bowling short, and the Australian batsmen showed a fine capacity for drawing back and dealing with the short balls in a proper manner. Kelly was particularly strong in his game on the leg side, and in his 89 were 12 fours.

And then, after a shower, Laver and McLeod hit with great power, much to the surprise of those who are familiar with the usual steadiness of these batsmen. It was a fairly good day's cricket, of which there were some 3,000 spectators, but the weather was unfavourable.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 June, page 9)

The match at Portsmouth came to an unexpectedly early termination yesterday, the Australians winning at half-past 3 by ten wickets. A good deal more play had been looked for, but the wicket, which, despite the change in the weather, had played very well on Monday and Tuesday, became under the influence of rain overnight and sunshine in the morning decidedly treacherous.

Feeling that his side did not require any more runs than they had already obtained, Darling declared the Australian innings closed, with the total as it had been left on Tuesday - 373 for eight wickets. His action, however, involved some rather awkward consequences. Trumble, Kelly, Trumble and Laver, who did not think that they would be wanted so soon, were absent from the ground at the time fixed for resuming play; and when Oxford went in the Australians, despite the help of two members of the University team as substitutes, were two men short in the field. But the absent players soon arrived and very little harm was done.

Fry and Pilkington opened Oxford's innings in remarkable fashion. Realizing that with the ground as it was a steady game would be no use against the Australian bowling, Fry hit away in his most brilliant style, and thanks to his efforts runs came at a great pace. Fifty went up after half an hour's play, and at the end of 50 minutes the score was 76. Then, however, Fry's splendid innings was closed by a catch very low down at mid-on. He made in his 54 a drive over the stand for six, his other hits being five fours, two threes, six twos and ten singles.

From the time he left little or nothing was done, McLeod and Laver bowling in irresistible form on the treacherous pitch. Eight wickets were down at lunch time for 130 and the innings closed for 135. Pilkington, with one chance to help him, withstood the bowling for an hour and a quarter, and then ran himself out.

The Australians only wanted 14 runs to win. The Australians have now played 13 matches, of which they have won seven, lost only one and left five unfinished.

19 June: SOMERSET v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5225.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 11)

In the return match between Somerset and Kent, which was begun yesterday at Bath, some highly interesting cricket was witnessed. On the day's play neither side could claim any particular advantage, as after Kent had put together a total of 290 Somerset scored 74 for the loss of two men, leaving off 216 behind with eight wickets in hand. Kent's innings occupied about four hours, and their total would certainly have been much smaller had the Somerset men accepted all their chances.

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

In consequence of the bad weather there was no cricket at Bath yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 June, page 9)

The match at Bath was yesterday left unfinished.

19 June: SUSSEX v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5226.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 11)

Yesterday, at Eastbourne, on a false wicket, the Sussex bowlers, Bland and Tate, carried all before them and got Cambridge out cheaply. K S Ranjitsinhji secured the honours of the day by his brilliant batting. He went in first wicket down at seven and was fourth out at 141. His 107 included 16 fours and he was batting only an hour and a half.

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

The Cambridge eleven were beaten by ten wickets at Eastbourne yesterday. They were in a bad way overnight, when with one man gone they were still 108 runs behind in the second innings; and yesterday with the rain, followed by a bright sun, their chances were soon made hopeless. Tate bowled extremely well and his ten wickets in the match cost little more than ten runs each.

19 June: WARWICKSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5227.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 11)

Warwickshire came out particularly well in their match with Essex at Birmingham yesterday. Their innings absorbed the whole of the cricketing hours; but they were mostly dependent on W G Quaife and Mr Bainbridge for their good score.

Four wickets had fallen for 58 when these batsmen got together, and before they were separated 157 were put on for the partnership. Quaife was ninth out at 315, and his long and well-finished innings included nine fours.

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

In Birmingham yesterday the Essex Eleven were engaged in a serious uphill fight, and they emerged from the struggle with a good deal of credit. Owing to rain during the night and early morning it was after 12 o'clock before the game could begin. On Monday Warwickshire had completed a first innings for 324 and Bull and Young had gone to the wickets for Essex; but owing to defective light had not received a ball.

Yesterday the pair started the innings by putting on 38 runs and then, with the pitch becoming difficult, the batsmen were at a disadvantage. Aided by a good deal of luck Bull managed to stay in until the score was 78, but the total was only 101 when the sixth wicket fell.

The outlook for Essex was serious, but at that point a splendid stand was made by the brothers Turner. They became associated while the wicket was difficult, but wore down the attack and later they were assisted by some showers, and their partnership for the seventh wicket resulted in the addition of 79 runs, W M Turner, who was making his first appearance for the county match, contributing 28. At the finish Essex had scored 221 and had still three wickets in hand.

A J Turner, who was not out 93 at the close, played capital cricket, marred only by a hard chance when 21. Whatever the result of the game the Essex men may be complimented on the fine uphill game they have so far played.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 June, page 9)

After a good day's cricket at Birmingham, yesterday, this match was left drawn. Mr A J Turner played splendidly for his runs. In the last two innings the sun on the wet turf gave plenty of help to the bowlers. Young, the Essex, left-hand fast, did a great performance in getting eight wickets for 54 runs.

19 June: YORKSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5228.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 20 June, page 11)

The Surrey eleven were seen to great advantage yesterday on an easy wicket on the Headingley ground, Leeds. Their innings occupied the whole of the day and was still unfinished at the close, when only six wickets had gone and the total was 359.

Brockwell, by his brilliant forcing game - he made 48 out of 67 - may be said to have laid the foundation of the excellent Surrey score. After he had gone Abel and Hayes put on 85 in an hour, while Hayward and Lockwood made 152 in two hours. Lockwood, whose score included 13 fours, was as strong as ever in front of the wicket and got most of his runs on the leg side, while Hayward exercised all that wonderful finish which is such a strong characteristic of his batting.

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

Owing to rain in the early morning the resumption of the game at Leeds was delayed yesterday for a couple of hours. The change in the conditions was an unfortunate matter for Yorkshire, who had been in the field the whole of Monday while Surrey were scoring 359 for the loss of only six wickets.

The remainder of Surrey's innings lasted only a trifle over half an hour, the side being all out for 393. With the afternoon keeping dull the wicket, though of course slow, did not become really treacherous.

Of the first three or four batsmen Brown and Denton went in for forcing tactics, Brown making the first 25 runs; while Denton hit five fours and two threes in his 38. Tunnicliffe was run out from a no-ball, while Brown was cleverly caught at 51. With four wickets down for 107 Mitchell and Wainwright made a valuable stand. Both batsmen made some faulty hits that fell out of harm's way, but they managed to keep together for 65 minutes and put on 51 runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 22 June, page 9)

At Leeds, yesterday, the Yorkshiremen had very hard work to escape being beaten, but after being in danger till 6 o'clock they succeeded in averting defeat, and at the drawing of stumps they were 66 runs ahead and had one wicket to fall. The draw was, of course, in favour of Surrey, but it must be borne in mind that the Yorkshiremen, after being in the field all day on Monday, were prevented by rain from batting under the conditions that had favoured their opponents. The wicket, perhaps, never became really treacherous, but after the first day it was always slow and to some extent difficult. In saving the match Yorkshire were largely indebted yesterday to Brown, F S Jackson and Frank Mitchell, but despite the efforts of these three batsmen the side might after all have been beaten if Haigh and Hunter had not stayed together during the last half hour.

Yorkshire's first innings, in which five wickets had fallen on Tuesday for 169, was finished off before 1 o'clock for 250. Mitchell took 35 minutes to add nine to his overnight score of 33, his defence being most valuable. The best batting, however, in this closing part of the innings was shown by Whitehead and Rhodes, who put on 44 runs together for the ninth wicket.

Being 143 runs behind Yorkshire had, of course, to follow on, and after Tunnicliffe had unluckily played a ball on to his wicket at 18, some admirable cricket was shown by Brown and Jackson. They took the score to 47 before lunch and were not separated till the total had reached 79. Altogether, their partnership lasted 80 minutes and produced 61 runs. Both batsmen, curiously enough, were out to catches at the wicket. Brown, whose 58 was decidedly

the finest innings yesterday, hit nine fours, but so steady was his cricket that he was at the wickets two hours and 20 minutes.

Mitchell played with extreme care, taking an hour and three-quarters to make 26, but notwithstanding all his patience and skill nine wickets were down by 6 o'clock for 170. Then, however, fortunately for Yorkshire, Haigh and Hunter kept up their wickets in the most stubborn fashion and made a draw inevitable. Just at the finish, when the game was safe, they hit out freely, and at the final drawing of stumps they were still together, the score having been increased to 209. In the last innings Richardson bowled with considerable success, taking five wickets for just over ten runs each.

Wednesday 21 June, page 13: WARWICKSHIRE v KENT

The postponed match between these counties has been refixed for Birmingham on August 17.

22 June: ESSEX v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5229.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 June, page 12)

The weather yesterday prevented a start from being made in the following matches: - . . .
Essex v Derbyshire, at Leyton . . .

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

Though for the most part bowlers held the upper hand in the match at Leyton yesterday, there was one piece of batting of exceptional merit, L G Wright staying in right through the Derbyshire innings and scoring 59 out of a total of 112.

Thursday's rain had rendered the pitch extremely difficult. The bowling honours of the day fell to Mead and Hulme, each of whom took six wickets at a trifling cost.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 June, page 9)

The Derbyshire eleven, at Leyton, on Saturday, played fine cricket and beat Essex by 98 runs. From the position in which the game had been left overnight a close finish was expected, but for what really happened few people were prepared. To four men were the Derbyshire eleven mainly indebted for their victory - Bagshaw, Sugg and Kenward in batting and Hulme in bowling.

Essex were left with 193 to get to win. Hulme bowled steadily; he kept a fine length, got a lot of spin on the ball, and so feeble were the efforts of the Essex batsmen to play him that in two hours the whole side were out for 94. Hulme had a record of six wickets for 29 runs, and in the whole match he took 12 at a cost of less than 7 runs each.

22 June: LEICESTERSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5230.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 June, page 12)

The weather yesterday prevented a start from being made in the following matches: - . . . and the Australians v Leicestershire, at Leicester.

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

On a slow wicket at Leicester yesterday the Australians had the better of the cricket. Gregory batted well for them and was in over two hours for his 66; and then the Australian bowling and fielding were so good that Leicestershire were nearly 100 behind on the first innings.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 June, page 9)

The Australians at Leicester on Saturday won in remarkable style the 14th match of their tour, beating Leicestershire by 248 runs. They were from the start practically bound to win the game, but for the manner in which the result was brought about no one could have been prepared.

The close of Friday's play had left the Australians, with an innings completed on each side, in possession of a lead of 99, and on going on for the second time on Saturday morning they at once forced the pace, their object being to put the closure rule in force as soon as it was safe to do so. Of all the first-rate batsmen on their side Worrall is the quickest run-getter, and on Saturday he was at his best, hitting with a power that he has never surpassed in this country. In a little under two hours he scored 100 out of 177, his hits including two sixes - both splendid drives out of the ground - 11 fours, four threes and eight twos.

It was a wonderful innings, his only mistake being a chance in the deep field when he had made 81. He found his best supporter in Noble, who helped him to put on 94 runs for the second wicket, the partnership lasting only 65 minutes. With the total at 177 for three wickets Darling declared the innings closed, and after lunch Leicestershire, with three hours and 40 minutes left for cricket, went in to get 277.

Then came the most sensational part of the game, the bowling of Noble and Jones proving so irresistible that seven wickets actually went down for four runs. The smallest total on record for first-class cricket seemed in prospect, but, happily for Leicestershire, Geeson and Whitehead, with several extras to help them, managed to put on 18 runs for the eighth wicket. Still, despite all they could do, the innings was finished off for 28, the Australians winning the match with fully two hours and a half to spare.

There did not seem anything in the condition of the ground to account for the collapse of the county, but both Noble and Jones were assisted by a strong cross wind. The Australian record now stands at 14 matches played - eight won, one lost and five drawn.

22 June: MIDDLESEX v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5231.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 June, page 12)

The weather yesterday prevented a start from being made in the following matches: -
Middlesex v Nottinghamshire, at Lord's . . .

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

No play had been possible in this match at Lord's on Thursday, but yesterday there was a full day's cricket. The wicket was still soft.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 June, page 9)

The Middlesex eleven, who this season won the whole of their first six matches in the County Championship, met with an unexpected defeat at Lord's on Saturday, being beaten by Nottinghamshire by 52 runs. The chief credit of the Notts victory belonged to J Gunn and Arthur Shrewsbury.

Gunn, who is left-hand medium pace, had the splendid figures in the match of ten wickets for 66 runs. In the second innings of Middlesex, who wanted 120 to win, Gunn's bowling was quite sensational - he took five wickets for 16 runs. After bowling Mr Warner he performed the "hat trick," dismissing such fine batsmen as Mr Hayman, Mr Ford and Rawlin with successive balls. He took his first four wickets without a run being scored off him, while directly afterwards he beat Trott, making up to that period five wickets for only two runs.

The collapse of the Middlesex batsmen in their second innings seemed inexplicable, for if a side like Notts, who possess a considerable tail, could make over 150 against Trott, Hearne, Rawlin and Roche, the home eleven against a weaker bowling side ought to have been capable of equal success. Gunn was able to get some spin on, while the pitch helped the ball to do its work quickly, and with the notable exception of Mr Nicholls, who was batting an hour for 33 without giving a chance, and Roche to a lesser degree, the batsmen could do nothing with him.

Another feature of the match was the good bowling of Albert Trott and Rawlin, the former taking 11 wickets for under ten runs apiece, while the latter had the satisfaction of dismissing such fine batsmen as Arthur Shrewsbury and William Gunn in both innings.

22 June: SOMERSET v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5232.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 June, page 12)

Playing yesterday for the first time this season on the county ground at Taunton, the Somerset eleven gave a fine display of batting against Lancashire, staying in all the afternoon and scoring 406. For this big total they were mainly indebted to three men, who by good cricket put an entirely new appearance on the game after a very indifferent start.

The ground was somewhat soft at the start, and though it gave the bowlers little assistance, three wickets were down for 35 runs. It was at this point that Woods went in and turned the fortunes of the game. For two hours and three-quarters he maintained a strong defence against the bowling, not forcing the pace till he had reached his hundred. After that, however, he made up for his previous self-restraint, and in 45 minutes added 46 runs. So far as could be seen he made no mistake whatever. His chief hits were 16 fours, four threes and 11 twos.

Palairt and Nichols gave him useful assistance - Nichols in a quarter of an hour before lunch scored 28 without Woods making a single - but the turning point was reached when Daniell joined his captain at 158. The two batsmen completely mastered the bowling and so free was the hitting that no fewer than 174 runs were added in something under two hours. Daniell at 20 gave a palpable chance to Sharp, and when 89 hit up a ball that fell just short of Sugg at cover-point. Apart from these errors he played admirably for his 107. With 11 fours, five threes and eight twos as his best hits he was at the wickets two hours and 40 minutes.

Lancashire were greatly weakened in bowling by the absence of Cuttell through indisposition, and A C MacLaren was also away. A N Hornby captained the team.

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

The Somerset fielding at Taunton yesterday was not up to its usually high standard, and dropped catches had a big influence on the match. Sugg and Baker played a hard forcing game in the second innings and scored 127 for the third wicket in 50 minutes.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 June, page 9)

The Lancashire batting broke down badly at Taunton on Saturday and Somerset gained an easy victory - their first of the season - by ten wickets. Mr A N Hornby played well for nearly an hour carrying out his bat for the second time in the match, but he received scarcely any assistance.

Sugg lost his wicket in attempting a fourth run for a hit of his own. In scoring his 95 Sugg experienced great luck, being missed four times on Friday afternoon. He hit brilliantly during his stay of an hour and three-quarters, 16 fours being among his figures. Tyler bowled well, taking four of the last six wickets, which fell for 53 runs, at a cost of six runs apiece.

Mr H T Stanley and Mr C A Bernard obtained the runs necessary to win in an hour and a quarter. Mr Bernard, after a careful start, scored freely in front of the wicket and made his runs in excellent style. He hit eight fours. The fielding of the Somerset men was far in advance of their work on the previous day, and Mr Woods and Robson made smart catches.

22 June: SURREY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5233.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 June, page 12)

The weather yesterday prevented a start from being made in the following matches: - . . .
Surrey v Cambridge University, at The Oval . . .

THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN. - Mr Jessop, the Cambridge captain, has given Mr E F Penn his "blue."

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

For the cricket seen at the Oval yesterday no one could have been in the least prepared. Rain had prevented a ball from being bowled on Thursday, and it was naturally thought that batsmen would have a great deal to contend against. Except, however, for about an hour, the bowlers did not meet with anything like the success they had anticipated, and in the course of the day no fewer than 433 runs were scored for the loss of 15 wickets.

Surrey, who gained very little by winning the toss, stayed in till just after half-past 3, and scored 239. Abel, who was sent out eighth wicket down at 213, was batting two hours and 50 minutes for his 100 - an admirable innings, in which, apart from a hard chance of being caught and bowled, there was scarcely a fault. He hit ten fours, four threes and nine twos. Lees in his 64 not out made some splendid drives.

Moon and Stogdon started the Cambridge innings in very promising fashion, scoring 50 together in 35 minutes, but some far more remarkable batting was seen during the partnership of Winter and Wilson. The latter played a strictly defensive game, while Winter hit the Surrey bowling all over the field, the result being that in about an hour the score was taken from 51 to 139. Winter, who actually made 84 runs out of 89 while he was at the wickets, gave an astonishing display of the art of pulling. He ran many risks, but never made a mistake till Lees bowled him. Included in his innings were a dozen fours, one three and nine twos. Wilson, who plays in admirable style, carried caution to an extreme, his 20 not out being the result of two hours' batting.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 June, page 9)

Saturday's cricket at the Oval suffered in interest from the fact that there did not at any time seem much likelihood of bringing the game to a definite conclusion. Just for a few minutes before the luncheon interval Cambridge seemed to have a chance of winning, but Brockwell and Leveson-Gower, by some very brilliant hitting, quickly placed Surrey out of danger, and after that a draw was always certain.

In the last half hour Cambridge's batting suffered a bad breakdown, the new Surrey bowler Stoner suddenly becoming deadly, but his success was too late to be of any practical value. Still, his bowling enabled Surrey to finish up with the best of the position, Cambridge at the end wanting 72 runs to win with only four wickets to go down.

Saturday's cricket from first to last savoured more of a trial game than a keen match, Jessop being so sparing of himself that he did not either bowl or bat. This being the case the score as it stands is a little misleading. From Cambridge's point of view, the most satisfactory feature of the game was the batting of Wilson and Day. Winter played the longest and most brilliant innings, but whereas he is an Old Blue with an assured position in the eleven, the other batsmen were on their trial.

As a reward for his admirable batting Wilson received his Blue, the only other new men who have so far earned the same distinction being Moon and Penn. Wilson took two hours and three-quarters to score his 46, anxiety to do himself justice perhaps making him over-anxious. Still, he showed extreme promise, his defence being very strong and his bat as

straight as the most exigent critic could desire. In his second innings he made 31, but did not play so well as before, his cricket being marred by two or three faulty hits.

Day's success was peculiarly welcome, as, though a batsman of proved ability in the Kent eleven, he had not hitherto played up to his form for Cambridge.

The brightest cricket on Saturday was seen during the partnership of Brockwell and Leveson-Gower in Surrey's second innings, the two batsmen putting on 93 runs in an hour. Brockwell's 36 was admirable in its style and freedom, and was only marred by one very hard chance of being caught and bowled.

22 June: SUSSEX v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5234.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 June, page 12)

The presence of the Oxford eleven did not prove by any means at strong attraction at Brighton yesterday, less than 2,000 people visiting the county ground. Possibly the weather affected the attendance, the afternoon being very gloomy.

Sussex, with Mr C B Fry still away, made two changes from the team that so easily beat Cambridge at Eastbourne on Tuesday, Mr R W Fox and Parris taking the places of Butt and Cox. Oxford did not have their full strength, Mr H C Pilkington and Mr L P Collins being unable to play, but, nevertheless, the University, on winning the toss, got on remarkably well, staying at the wickets until after 5 o'clock and scoring 259. This was a better performance than it looked, recent rain having made the ground comparatively slow.

Of the early batsmen, Mr Knox was by far the most successful. Going in first wicket down, when only ten runs had been obtained, he was the fifth man out, the score when he left having reached 130. His innings of 62 lasted two hours and 20 minutes. For a time he made a good proportion of his runs by rather lucky strokes in the slips, but when firmly set he improved and hit well on the off-side.

At lunch time Oxford's score was 97 for three wickets, but after the interval Parris bowled with such effect that the seventh wicket fell at 147. Then, however, Mr Bosanquet went in and by his vigorous hitting put quite a different appearance on the game. He was lucky in being missed at mid-on by Marlow when he had made six, and later in his innings he had two narrow escapes of being caught at point, but, apart from his luck, he played exceedingly well. In the course of an hour and a quarter he scored 71 out of 112, his hits including eight fours, four threes and seven twos.

He found excellent partners in Mr Martyn and Mr Wright, the former staying in while 60 runs were added in 40 minutes for the eighth wicket. Of the Sussex bowlers Parris and Vine were the best, Tate and Bland, who have been doing so well lately, being comparatively ineffective.

When Mr Brann and Marlow had by excellent batting in a bad light scored 41 together in 35 minutes without being separated, a drizzling rain set in and stopped play. As the weather did not improve stumps were pulled up at 20 minutes past 6, Sussex being 218 runs behind with all ten wickets in hand.

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

The Sussex eleven gave an admirable display of batting at Brighton yesterday, raising their overnight score of 41 for no wickets to 356.

K S RANJITSINHJI'S BATTING

With his innings yesterday at Brighton K S Ranjitsinhji had the distinction of being the second to complete his 1,000 runs aggregate for the season, a feat already accomplished by J T Brown, the Yorkshire professional.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 June, page 9)

On the Hove ground the Oxford eleven played splendidly on Saturday. Mr Knox made 106 by very good cricket, and among his figures were 12 fours. It was a drawn match, and when Sussex went in again there were two excellent innings by K S Ranjitsinhji and Marlow.

22 June: YORKSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5235.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 23 June, page 12)

Owing to heavy rain during Wednesday night at Scarborough it was not possible to commence the Yorkshire and Warwickshire match until late in the afternoon yesterday. Less than two and a half hours' cricket was practicable.

The chief feature of the cricket was the admirable batting of Brown, who, going in first, scored 62 out of 84 in 70 minutes. Apart from one faulty stroke, which was in no way a chance, his innings was quite free from any blemish, and included seven fours, four threes and eight twos. With his score of 62 Brown raised his aggregate in first-class cricket this season to 1,049, being the first batsman to achieve the distinction of reaching four figures.

At one point Yorkshire had 80 on the board with only two wickets down, but after Brown left, being third out, the batting broke down, the ninth wicket falling at 134. Then a useful stand was made by Rhodes and Hunter, the pair adding 22 runs without being separated.

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

Yorkshire had all the better of the play at Scarborough yesterday, and they are now 205 ahead in the second innings, with eight wickets to fall. Haigh's bowling and the batting of Tunnicliffe and Brown were the best things in the day's cricket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 26 June, page 9)

The Yorkshire eleven, at Scarborough, on Saturday morning, did not maintain the batting form they had shown on the previous afternoon, adding only 70 runs to their overnight score of 142 for two wickets. But Warwickshire never looked in the least degree likely to obtain the 276 necessary to win; in two hours they were out for 108, Yorkshire winning the match by 167 runs.

Saturday 24 June, page 14: RECORD SCORE

The extraordinary score of 501 not out was made at Clifton College, yesterday, by a boy named A E G Collins. He was playing in a house match for Clarke's-house v North Town, and as the innings is not yet complete - nine men being out for 650 - he will have a chance to-day of still further increasing his score.

Collins is only 14 years of age and has so far been six hours at the wicket. He is the first batsman in the world to make five hundred runs in a single innings. Up to yesterday the record had been held by Mr A E Stoddart, who, for the Hampstead Club against the Stoics, in August, 1886, scored 485.

Monday 26 June, page 9: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

At a meeting of the Selection Committee yesterday afternoon the following nine players were definitely picked to represent England next Thursday at Leeds: -

AC MacLaren (Lancashire) (captain), K S Ranjitsinhji (Sussex), C B Fry (Sussex), Shrewsbury (Notts), J T Brown (Yorkshire), Hayward (Surrey), Lilley (Warwickshire), J T Hearne (Middlesex) and Young (Essex).

Among the candidates for the two places at present left open are T Richardson (Surrey), W Brockwell (Surrey) and J Briggs (Lancashire), but it is understood that the claims of other players will be considered. F S Jackson, the famous Yorkshire cricketer, intimated on Saturday that for private reasons he would not play.

THE OXFORD ELEVEN

It has been finally decided that the following nine players will appear in the eleven for Oxford against Cambridge next Monday: - F H B Champain (captain), R E Foster, F W Stocks, A Eccles, B J T Bosanquet, H C Pilkington, L P Collins, H Martyn and R P Knox. Of these nine, Champain, Foster, Bosanquet, Eccles and Stocks took part in the University match last year.

THE UNIVERSITY MATCH. - As the result of the fine play at the Oval and Brighton respectively, Mr E R Wilson, Cambridge, and Mr F P Knox, Oxford, both received their Blues on Saturday.

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages up to the present are: -

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Times not out	Average
Shrewsbury	11	656	146	1	65.60
K S Ranjitsinhji	23	1093	178	3	54.65
Abel	22	956	357*	2	47.80
Hayward	21	875	158	1	43.75
W G Quaife	16	612	148	2	43.71
J T Brown	25	1090	168	0	43.60
Lockwood	11	348	87	3	43.50
W Gunn	15	560	150	2	43.07
Mr A O Jones	9	383	250	0	42.55
Mr F S Jackson	19	718	133	2	42.23
A Ward	19	718	118	2	42.23
Mr A J Turner	16	615	124	1	41.00
Mr C B Fry	23	910	98	0	39.56
Brockwell	19	697	147	1	38.76
Mr S M J Woods	18	697	146	0	38.72
Bagshaw	20	619	77*	1	32.57
Mr C L Townsend	21	648	167*	1	32.40
Lord Hawke	15	339	127	4	30.81
Mr F Mitchell	23	690	194	0	30.00
Mr P F Warner	16	449	150	1	29.93
Mr G L Jessop	15	406	171*	1	29.00
Tyldesley	20	646	100	0	28.73
Tunnicliffe	25	651	82	2	28.30
Mr P Perrin	17	424	104*	2	28.26
A E Trott	24	631	164	1	27.43
Storer	26	622	96	3	27.21
Mr K J Key	18	375	59*	3	25.00
Mr G Brann	18	446	69	0	24.77
Mr C McGahey	14	295	75*	2	24.58
Dr W G Grace	13	246	50	0	18.92

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
J Gunn	162.3	51	851	27	13.00

Mead	641.2	242	1182	87	13.58
Rhodes	570	193	1205	80	15.00
A E Trott	712.1	226	1707	112	15.24
Young	457.1	152	1037	68	15.25
Mr W M Bradley	397.1	132	939	58	16.18
Haigh	386.3	127	746	46	16.21
Cuttell	480	214	768	47	16.72
Tate (Sussex)	375.2	128	904	53	17.05
Paish	443.4	119	994	54	18.14
Mold	429.3	147	857	47	18.23
Hirst	427.4	134	918	50	18.36
J T Hearne	755.3	289	1467	79	18.56
Tyler	182.4	39	566	30	18.86
Roche	300.3	83	742	33	19.52
Brockwell	402	131	941	48	19.60
Mr J R Mason	264.3	99	608	31	19.61
Hulme	454.3	139	924	47	19.65
Hayward	337.4	79	908	51	19.76
Bland	433	150	1266	60	21.10
Mr F S Jackson	289.1	87	640	30	21.33
Mr C L Townsend	449.3	85	1217	47	25.89
Richardson	457	135	1026	39	26.30

AUSTRALIAN BATTING AVERAGES

	Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Times not out	Average
Mr C Hill	17	774	160	0	45.52
Mr J Worrall	16	525	104	4	43.75
Mr M A Noble	20	713	116*	3	41.94
Mr S E Gregory	17	589	162	2	39.26
Mr J J Kelly	13	350	89	2	31.81
Mr V Trumper	16	477	135	1	31.80
Mr J Darling	22	552	106*	3	29.05
Mr F Laver	14	272	79	4	27.20
Mr H Trumble	15	275	51	3	22.91
Mr F A Iredale	13	294	77	0	22.61
Mr E Jones	14	224	54	3	20.36
Mr W P Howell	14	133	49*	5	14.77
Mr C E McLeod	12	121	41*	2	12.10
Mr A E Johns	3	16	12	0	5.33

AUSTRALIAN BOWLING AVERAGES

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble	441.1	175	774	53	14.60
Mr M A Noble	341.1	104	836	48	17.41
Mr W P Howell	466.1	183	988	51	19.56
Mr C E McLeod	214.1	71	502	25	20.08
Mr F Laver	84	32	202	10	20.20
Mr E Jones	459.1	127	1068	52	20.53

26 June: DERBYSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5236.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

Against the Australians at Derby yesterday the county started at a great disadvantage with their only first-class bowler, Hulme, indisposed. Derbyshire did badly, however, in batting, and very quickly the Australians established a winning position; such can be assumed, seeing that they are already 80 ahead with eight wickets in hand. There was no excuse to offer for Derbyshire's breakdown, the wicket being in excellent condition. The Australians bowled admirably and their fielding was perfect.

When the colonial team went in to bat Trumble played brilliant cricket for a couple of hours and hit up 100 out of 155. He gave no chance, and except for a couple of dangerous snicks his innings was quite free from fault.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 12)

Yesterday's cricket at Derby was so entirely one-sided that no one could take any very keen interest in it. At the drawing of stumps on Monday the visitors had secured a big advantage, and yesterday, in the course of four hours and a quarter, they carried their score from 203 for two wickets to 533 - the largest total they have yet obtained this tour.

Noble and Gregory, the not-outs on Monday, were separated at 269, their partnership, which lasted an hour and 40 minutes, putting on 114 for the third wicket. On Darling joining Noble the bowling was once more mastered, 108 runs being added while these two batsmen were together. Noble, who was out fifth at 393, was batting a little over five hours for his 156. The only mistake was a chance at point at 28. The chief hits in his long innings were 11 fours, five threes and 22 twos. Darling played far more vigorous and attractive cricket, being only at the wickets two hours and three-quarters for his 134 not out. He hit a six and 17 fours, and, except that he might have been caught at the wicket when he had made 20, he gave no chance.

Going in against a balance of 410 runs, Derbyshire, at the end of the afternoon, had a quarter of an hour's batting and lost two wickets. As the game stands they now want 390 to avert a single-innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 June, page 11)

The Australians won their match at Derby yesterday by an innings and 249 runs. An hour and 50 minutes' cricket brought the one-sided struggle to an end. Showers during the night and morning increased the severity of the county's task, and only 141 of the 390 runs still needed to save an innings defeat were made by the last eight wickets.

For an hour and three-quarters Storer maintained a perfect defence and hit powerfully in front of the wicket. In his 54 not out were five fours, five threes and six twos. McLeod, who bowled unchanged, took the first five wickets for 30 runs, but he proved expensive, being freely punished on the leg side.

26 June: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5237.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

The day's cricket at Gloucester yesterday was remarkable for the innings of H T Stanley, who in the course of four hours and three-quarters made 127. There was also some brilliant batting by Robson and Gill. Robson contributed 93 out of 130 in an hour by means of 19 fours and smaller hits, and despite the fierceness of his hitting only made one mistake.

Stanley, like Robson, gave but one chance, and that was when 78. His innings included a five and 16 fours. Towards the close Gill scored 50 in 35 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 12)

The features of the cricket at Gloucester yesterday were the fine batting performances of Wrathall - who scored his first 100 for his county - Troup and Townsend for the home side, and the marked success of a new bowler for Somerset, Griffin, of Todmorden. Wrathall and Troup scored 148 together in two hours for Gloucestershire, Wrathall making 102 without a mistake and hitting 17 fours.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 June, page 11)

By not only drawing the match with Somerset at Gloucester yesterday, but also leaving off with rather the better position, Gloucestershire accomplished an exceedingly fine performance. They had followed on overnight against a majority of 168 and lost one wicket in their second innings for 30, so that they still required 138 to avert a single innings defeat.

However, thanks in a great measure to Mr Townsend, who in scoring 114 made his third three-figure innings this season, the total reached 303, and Somerset were left with 136 to make in 85 minutes. Apparently Mr Woods thought the task was possible, for he sent in his hitters. Two wickets fell for 12 runs, and then in the last hour three other batsmen were dismissed before stumps were pulled up and the game abandoned as a draw. As Somerset, with half their wickets down for 43, still wanted 92, the position certainly favoured Gloucestershire.

Mr Townsend's innings lasted two hours and three-quarters and included a six, a five and 13 fours.

26 June: HAMPSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5238.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

Against Essex at Southampton, yesterday, Hampshire placed in the field a stronger side than had previously represented them this season, while Essex suffered from the absence of A J Turner. Hampshire gave a trial to a new left-handed slow bowler named Gravett.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 12)

Some good cricket was shown by the Hampshire team against Essex at Southampton yesterday. The home team had obtained 28 without losing a wicket on Monday, and when their innings came to an end yesterday they were only five runs behind the Essex total of 271. At the drawing of stumps Essex, with six wickets in hand, were 97 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 June, page 11)

A heavy thunderstorm at Southampton yesterday prevented any cricket after 4 o'clock, and the game had to be left drawn. Mr Perrin played an excellent innings of 168 not out. During a stay of four hours and ten minutes, he gave only one chance and he hit 20 fours, three threes and 16 twos. This is Mr Perrin's highest innings in important cricket.

26 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5239.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

Yesterday at Lord's Cambridge began their last trial game, when they gave a good batting display against a strong bowling side of the M.C.C. The chief honours were carried off by Mr S H Day, the old Malvern College boy, who, going in second wicket down at 27, was sixth to leave at 313. After a quiet start Mr Day played attractive cricket, and except for a difficult chance in the slips at 111 his innings was free from fault. He made the majority of his runs on the off-side and his best stroke was his cut.

Mr Jessop gave one of his characteristic displays of powerful hitting. He was batting only 35 minutes and scored 74 out of 88 while he was in. His chief hits were 12 fours, two threes and five twos. In the middle of his innings Mr Jessop had some luck, as he was twice missed being stumped off Mr Stoddart's bowling, while he ought to have been caught by Mr Ford at long-on.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 12)

The M.C.C., yesterday at Lord's, increased their score to 278. Apart from Mr Sewell, who played splendid cricket, their batting was marked more for its evenness than for any innings of special merit. Albert Trott made his 45 out of 57 in 40 minutes for the fourth wicket.

When Roche came in 12 runs were still required to save the follow-on; but these were obtained, and Cambridge went in again with a lead of 112. Mr Stogdon then played free cricket for 58. The Club were set 319 to win, and at the close they still required 257 with all their wickets in hand.

Mr G L Jessop, the Cambridge captain, took no part in yesterday's cricket. In England v Australia at Lord's he slightly strained his side, and on Monday, in trying to bowl his fastest, he renewed his old strain, but this will not prevent him from playing in the Universities' match on Monday next. He will take no further part in this game with the M.C.C.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 June, page 11)

By some good batting yesterday at Lord's the M.C.C. gained an unexpected victory over Cambridge University by two wickets. To make over 300 runs in a fourth innings was a performance of much merit, although it must be borne in mind that Cambridge were without the services of Mr G L Jessop.

With the pitch still fast and true the University bowling looked poor and runs were put on at a good pace. Mr F G J Ford and Mr C C Pilkington, the old Oxford blue, who overnight had made 62, took the score to 106 for the first wicket by free and attractive cricket. They were together only an hour and a quarter. Mr Ford was the second to leave at 159, being caught at long-on.

After the good start that had been made the remaining batsmen played up so well that the match was over at ten minutes to 4. The Cambridge fielding was good, while Mr T L Taylor was in excellent form at wicket, but the bowling lacked sting.

26 June: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5240.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

At Nottingham, yesterday, about 8,000 people visited Trent-bridge. Notts put into the field exactly the same eleven that defeated Derbyshire and Middlesex.

Kent won the toss and lost Burnup, Brown, Alec Hearne and Mason for 22 runs. These disasters, however, were fully retrieved by Livesay and Du Boulay, who put on no fewer than 111 runs for the fifth wicket in an hour and 35 minutes. Livesay, with his score at 36, gave a chance to Bottom at slip off Attewell's bowling. John Gunn followed up his success in the Middlesex match at Lord's by taking six wickets for 58 runs.

Going in at a quarter-past 4 Notts fared very badly. William Gunn and Attewell improved matters to some extent, but at the finish Notts were still 101 runs behind with only four wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 12)

A remarkable batting performance on the part of Alec Hearne and Mr Mason was the feature of the cricket at Trent-bridge yesterday. The Kent captain joined Hearne when two wickets had fallen in the county's second innings for 90, and the two batsmen carried the score to 411 before the drawing of stumps.

Mason at the finish was not out 181 and Hearne not out 162. Hearne had been at the wickets nearly five hours when his score reached 150, but Mason, who played a much more vigorous game, completed the same number in three hours and 20 minutes.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 June, page 11)

As was generally expected Mr J R Mason was quite satisfied with the number of runs made overnight at Nottingham, for he declared the Kent innings at 411 for two wickets the first thing yesterday morning.

The Notts batsmen set to work with Characteristic patience to try to save the game, and they were batting from five minutes to 12 until 6 o'clock for an innings of 124. Kent won by no fewer than 165 runs. Bradley took 12 wickets for 83 runs.

26 June: SURREY v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5241.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

The Surrey eleven got much the better of yesterday's cricket on the Oval, and finished with a lead of 60 and six wickets in hand. Sussex found that the first innings was no advantage for there had been a shower and, with the wicket just slightly soft on the top, the bowling became difficult.

It must have been a subject of much gratification to the Oval members to see Richardson again bowling with his great pace, and it was his fine work that mostly wrought the visitors' discomfiture. The balls with which he bowled out Fry and Brann in the first half-hour were very good, and his six wickets cost only ten runs each. Some of the Surrey catches were very skilful, that of Leveson-Gower in the long field when Bland was out being particularly noticeable.

When Surrey went in things were very different. The pitch had become quite true and the Sussex bowling was severely punished. Abel and Lockwood, who put on 65 in the last hour, forced the game; but perhaps the best stroke so far was the cut by which Leveson-Gower made five runs. There were fully 10,000 spectators, who did not fail to think of a cheer for Abel when he ran into his 1,000 aggregate for the season.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 12)

K S Ranjitsinhji played one of his best innings at the Oval late yesterday afternoon, and his batting, which possessed grace and vigour, held in close attention the 10,000 spectators for over two hours. He had gone in first wicket down when Sussex were in dire straits, and he and Brann, by putting on 178, gave the game a better complexion for the side; but such was the nature of the arrears on the first innings that a score of 233 for one wicket still leaves Sussex 96 behind.

Ranjitsinhji's driving was only equalled by his skilful stroke on the leg side; he seems to get many more runs in front of the wicket than he used to, and Brann, too, drove very hard. Brann was, however, fortunate in getting a life when he was 58, Hayward dropping him at short slip.

Surrey made their fine score of 457 - to which it will be noted every member gave a double-figure contribution - at the rate of 75 an hour. Perhaps the best cricket was shown by Abel and Lockwood during their partnership of 161 for the fifth wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 June, page 11)

The Sussex eleven saved their match at the Oval yesterday, and at the end Surrey were left with 233 to make in the fourth innings. On the true wicket the Surrey bowlers seemed harmless, but Sussex owed the saving of the game to the partnership of the second wicket by Ranjitsinhji and Brann. In four hours and a quarter these men added 325 runs.

The score was 380 when Ranjitsinhji was caught and bowled from a ball which he went in to hit but got only half hold of. He scarcely made a bad stroke in his innings of 197, and hit two fives and 32 fours. Brann was third out, caught in the slips. He had some luck, but his driving was very fine, and during his five hours' stay he hit a five and 21 fours.

For half an hour after this Surrey looked like winning the match, so well did Lockwood bowl; but when, just after 3 o'clock, six men were out for 394, Vine and Smith stayed together for two hours and added 71 runs. There were 8,000 spectators.

26 June: YORKSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5242.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

A splendid display of batting on the part of A C MacLaren stood out prominently from the rest of the cricket which took place at Sheffield yesterday. The famous player opened the Lancashire innings in company with Ward, and was ninth man out at 202. Except that on one occasion Rhodes nearly bowled him, he was scarcely ever at fault, his innings being a masterly exhibition of sound defence and judicious hitting.

Curiously enough, not a single other member of the visiting team made as many as 20, but it should be mentioned that Ward, Tyldesley and Cuttell were all out unluckily, and that batsmen were seriously handicapped all day by the dense smoke from the neighbouring chimneys; and by 6 o'clock the light had become so bad that further progress with the match was abandoned for the day, Yorkshire leaving off 142 behind with eight wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 12)

At Sheffield, yesterday, in the match between Yorkshire and Lancashire, 19 wickets went down and only 230 runs were scored. In the morning Yorkshire lost their eight outstanding wickets in 80 minutes for the addition of 54 runs, the whole side being out for 115.

Lancashire, being thus unexpectedly left with a lead of 88 runs, scored 42 without loss before lunch time, but the total only reached 157. Yorkshire were set 246 to get to win, and lost Brown in the last over of the day, so that, with nine wickets to go down, they have to make 229 to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 June, page 11)

When the final stage of the match at Sheffield was begun yesterday, Yorkshire, with one wicket down, required 227 runs to win. Several showers fell and delayed the resumption of the game until ten minutes to 3.

When the Yorkshire innings was continued Denton and Mr Mitchell gave little trouble, the third wicket falling at 54; but Tunnicliffe and Wainwright played steadily for nearly an hour and put on 44 runs, while after Tunnicliffe left Wainwright and Hirst added 38 in 35 minutes. With Haigh and Hirst together a point was reached at which Yorkshire seemed to have a real chance of winning, 150 going up at a quarter past 5 with only five wickets down.

Soon afterwards, however, the game took a decided turn against the batting side, and by five minutes past 6 the innings was finished for 186, Lancashire winning by 59 runs. Hirst showed good form in making his 53 not out. Briggs bowled with great success in the match.

26 June: W G GRACE'S XI v OXFORD UNIVERSITY (not first-class)

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

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 27 June, page 11)

Dr W G Grace may be said to have played the chief part in the match at the Crystal Palace yesterday, and this remark applies to his successful bowling, when, going on for a second spell with the ball, he took five of the last six wickets for ten runs. Champain played very well for Oxford, but Collins's was the innings of most merit.

The scratch side did so well that they made 101 in an hour and a quarter at the cost of four wickets. On the good, hard turf the Oxford bowlers failed to show much capacity.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 28 June, page 12)

At the Crystal Palace yesterday the scratch side played rather poor cricket. Their batting failures destroyed their prospects of being well up on the first innings, while they developed a faculty for dropping catches when Oxford went in again.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 29 June, page 11)

Oxford University beat Dr Grace's eleven at the Crystal Palace yesterday by 202 runs. Mr L P Collins played good cricket and had hard luck not to reach his hundred. His chief hits were 10 fours.

For Dr Grace's eleven Arnold, the Worcestershire professional, made his runs in good form. Dr Grace was unable to bat in the second innings, as he had injured his thumb.

Tuesday 27 June, page 11: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

It is understood that Arthur Shrewsbury has declined the invitation to play at Leeds in the test match next Thursday. Brockwell and Richardson will probably be included in the side, and then there will be only Shrewsbury's place to fill.

THE RECORD INDIVIDUAL SCORE

A E G Collins, of Clifton College, who is taking part in the house match in which he so distinguished himself last week, renewed his innings yesterday, when the game was continued from Thursday and Friday's figures, which left Collins with 509 runs of the 650 total for nine wickets. Yesterday's cricket lasted less than an hour and the match was again adjourned. The score was carried to 804, Collins being not out 598. Yesterday he made 89 in 50 minutes.

Wednesday 28 June, page 12: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

William Quaife, of Warwickshire, has been chosen to play in place of Shrewsbury, who declined the invitation, at Leeds to-morrow; but the England side will not be definitely made up until the morning of the match.

THE RECORD INDIVIDUAL SCORE

A E G Collins, the young schoolboy of Clifton College, who has been taking part in a house match, continued on various afternoons, got to the end of his innings yesterday by the

dismissal of the last member of the side. He carried his bat through the innings of 833 for 628. He was at the wicket seven hours and hit one six, four fives, 31 fours, 33 threes and 146 twos. The previous best score was Mr A E Stoddart's 485 for the Hampstead Club against the Stoics in August, 1886.

THE MARYLEBONE CLUB AND FAIR BOWLING

PROPOSED AMENDMENT IN THE LAWS

A special general meeting of the M.C.C. will be held at Lord's on September 7 and 3 p.m. to consider and, if thought expedient, to pass the following alterations in the Laws of Cricket: -

Law 10. - "The ball must be bowled; if thrown or jerked either umpire shall call no ball."

Law 48. - "If either umpire be not satisfied of the absolute fairness of the delivery of any ball he shall call no ball."

The following additions to the instructions to umpires has been approved by the M.C.C. Committee: -

Law 54, "Declaring."

- (1) If a side declare its innings during the luncheon interval, it must do so within 15 minutes after the commencement of such interval, otherwise an extra ten minutes will be allowed for rolling.
- (2) If a side declare its innings closed in the morning before play commences, it must do so in sufficient time to enable the other side to choose the roller it prefers, otherwise an extra ten minutes will be allowed for rolling.

THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN. - As a result of his fine batting at Lord's Mr S H Day has been given his blue.

Thursday 29 June, page 11: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Below will be found the present positions of the counties engaged in the competition for the county championship: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Surrey	11	5	0	6	5	100.00
Middlesex	7	6	1	0	5	71.42
Yorkshire	12	8	3	1	5	46.45
Essex	9	4	2	3	2	33.33
Notts	8	2	1	5	1	33.33
Lancashire	11	5	3	3	2	25.00
Sussex	8	3	3	2	0	--
Gloucestershire	9	2	3	4	-1	-20.00
Leicestershire	9	2	3	4	-1	-20.00
Kent	8	2	4	2	-2	-33.33
Derbyshire	9	2	5	2	-3	-42.35
Somerset	9	1	6	3	-4	-66.66
Warwickshire	9	0	2	7	-2	-100.00
Worcestershire	4	0	3	1	-3	-100.00
Hampshire	7	0	4	3	-4	-100.00

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "one point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during

the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

Mr F S Jackson has, after all, consented to play for England in to-day's match at Leeds. It was felt that he ought to be in the team, and as the result of some friendly negotiations yesterday the difficulties which stood in the way were happily adjusted.

There will now be 13 England players on the spot, the final choice, which will no doubt depend in great measure upon the weather and the state of the wicket, being left over till this morning. The elevens will be chosen from the following players: -

ENGLAND	AUSTRALIA
Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire), captain	Mr J Darling (South Australia), captain
Mr F S Jackson (Yorkshire)	Mr J Worrall (Victoria)
K S Ranjitsinhji (Sussex)	Mr M A Noble (New South Wales)
Mr C B Fry (Sussex)	Mr S E Gregory (New South Wales)
J T Brown (Yorkshire)	Mr C Hill (South Australia)
Hayward (Surrey)	Mr F Laver (Victoria)
Brockwell (Surrey)	Mr C McLeod (Victoria)
Richardson (Surrey)	Mr H Trumble (Victoria)
Lilley (Warwickshire)	Mr H Kelly (New South Wales)
W G Quaife (Warwickshire)	Mr E Jones (South Australia)
Briggs (Lancashire)	Mr W P Howell (New South Wales)
J T Hearne (Middlesex), and	Mr A J Johns (Victoria) and
Young (Essex)	Mr V Trumper New South Wales)

Umpires - W Hearn and Sherwin.

THE CAMBRIDGE ELEVEN

Mr G L Jessop, the Cambridge captain, has completed his eleven to play against Oxford at Lord's on Monday. Mr A E Fernie, who got his blue in 1897, but was not included in last year's team, will be the eleventh man if the wicket is fast, but in case of a slow pitch Mr A E Hind will have the preference.

The side is made up of six old choices, two Freshmen (Mr S H Day, Malvern, and Mr E R Wilson, Rugby) and three Seniors (Mr L J Moon, Mr E F Penn and Mr J Daniell). The full names are: -

*Mr G L Jessop, *Mr J H Stogdon, *Mr T L Taylor, *Mr G E Winter, *Mr H H B Hawkins, Mr E F Penn, Mr L J Moon, Mr S H Day, Mr E R Wilson, Mr J Daniell and *Mr A E Fernie or *Mr A E Hind.

*Old blues.

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5243.html)

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

The despondency that overtook English cricket after the poor shows made in the test matches at Trent-bridge and Lord's is, for the moment at any rate, relieved by the fact that England finished up last night at Leeds with the better position; for, with six wickets in hand and with the prospect of an improved pitch, the Englishmen are only 53 runs behind the Australian score.

This position was only reached after a tremendously hard day's cricket. The Australians had the worst of the luck so far as concerned the condition of the pitch; for when England went in the turf was rid of a good deal of its falseness, although, even then, after the first good effects of the roller had passed away, the ball came along at varying paces and was difficult to time. Though England had been completely outplayed on hard, true wickets, it was expected at least that we could make a good fight under conditions where no fast bowlers were necessary. Expectations have, so far as this match has progressed, been realized.

The Australians on the slow, treacherous wicket of the morning had a difficult struggle for runs, and when Kelly, Noble and Gregory were all out without a single between them and the score stood at 24, there seemed a sensational day in store. But Worrall hit with a brilliance that recalled that prince of Australian batsmen on bad wickets, the late Percy McDonnell, who so long divided with Hugh Massie the honour of being the most brilliant batsman Australia had ever sent to this country.

Worrall hit with wonderful precision. Here and there would come a snick, but he timed the ball splendidly. He got nearly all his runs in front of the wicket and his driving and cutting were equally good. He did all this, too, when things were going greatly against his side. His only partner of any substance was Hill, who helped to add 71 in an hour for the fourth wicket. Then came the running out of Worrall, who made his 76 out of 95 in an hour and a half. The vigour of his batting may be gathered from the composition of his innings, which included 14 fours, two threes, two twos and singles.

Beyond the careful batting of Hill, who went in third wicket down at 24 and was seventh out at 132, there was nothing else worthy of comment in the Australian batting. Hill was, to a certain extent, fortunate, for directly he came in he gave a sharp chance in the slips which Hearne failed to hold with his right hand, the ball going very high to him. Trumble by his steadiness also prevented the collapse of the Australian side. He watched the ball very carefully and made some very good drives.

With the wicket so false Darling, the Australian captain, departed very radically from his common order of going in, and began with his fast-scoring men; but this change scarcely turned out profitably, and it must have been alarming to find Kelly, Noble and Gregory all failing to score. The English bowling and fielding were very good and special praise must be given to Fry, who saved many runs, whether he was fielding at long-on, third man or short leg.

There were other points in the English fielding that should be dwelt on. It was Worrall's fault that caused the running out of Noble, for Worrall had cut the ball late to third man and he ought to have responded to Noble, whose call it was by the unwritten laws of cricket. But the running out of Worrall was a grand piece of work between Quaife at third man and Lilley at wicket. Two other fine things in the English fielding were the one-handed catches by Fry at Short leg and Young at mid-on that got out Kelly and Darling.

The English bowlers had little to be dissatisfied with. They all kept superb lengths. But the man to whom every one offered congratulations was the left-hander, Young, of Essex. To begin with he failed to get his pitch; but when MacLaren gave him a chance at the top end he accomplished a fine piece of work: -

Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
13	9	15	4

He broke a great deal and the Australians found him as troublesome as they did at Leyton last month, when they met with their only defeat of the tour. Briggs, with his left-hand slows, was as good as ever and took a great deal of playing; while Lilley at wicket could scarcely have been surpassed.

The Australian innings began at a quarter to 12 and finished at a quarter to 4, which, deducting the luncheon interval, meant a duration of three hours and a quarter.

England were batting just inside two hours and a half, and their score was very creditable. They began fairly well, and Brown of Driffield was particularly brilliant in his cutting, but just when everything was going merrily MacLaren went forward to a slow one from Trumble, was beaten in the pace and gave an easy return catch. This occurred with the total at 27. But the chagrin of the company was intense when Ranjitsinhji, in hitting at Noble, was caught from a low, hard drive at mid-off.

William Quaife, of Warwickshire, maintained his reputation as a "sticker" and, going in at a quarter to 5, was not out with 20 at the finish, having been batting an hour and three-quarters. He took an hour to make his first nine runs. Brown, who was third out, caught at short slip, played very fine cricket. His cutting was very fine and, considering his double qualifications of fielding and batting, it is difficult to understand how his claims for the test matches have been overlooked by the board's committee.

Darling managed his bowling very well and, when the fourth wicket seemed likely to give trouble, he had Trumble on at the lower end, with the result that F S Jackson was bowled at 69. But Trumble dropped a catch at short slip off Howell near the finish that may prove expensive, for it was Quaife who was let off. Fry made some beautiful drives and leg hits in the last hour, and contributed 38 out of the 50 which gave England the advantage.

It was common knowledge that the English eleven would not be definitely made up until the morning of the match. It was not surprising to find Briggs get a place with the wicket slow. But Brockwell, who had been 12th man at Lord's and Trent-bridge, would have played had his hand not been badly hurt when he was attempting to catch Ranjitsinhji on the previous afternoon at the Oval. Tom Richardson was also in attendance but, under the conditions, his services were not required.

Mr F S Jackson's presence was a source of gratification to every one. Quaife and Young were the only men who had not before played for England against Australia. The test board's committee are to be congratulated on satisfying all reasonable cricketers by their choice.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 July, page 14)

Another hard day's cricket in the test match at Leeds yesterday left England still with the better position. The English eleven have now to get 158 more runs for victory in the fourth innings of the match. Unless rain comes - and the weather is perhaps not too certain - they should not have much difficulty in achieving this task.

The ball yesterday came along pretty easily, but the fine bowling and fielding made it a hard thing to get runs. The match was full of exciting moments yesterday, and the performance of the "hat trick" by Hearne and the fact that five Australian wickets were down while yet nine runs of the arrears remained suggested a finish last night. The Australian side are never done with, and that they have no tail was proved by the hard hitting of Trumper, Trumble and Laver, proving once more that this Australian side is one of the hardest to beat which has ever come to this country.

No "hat trick" has before been performed in England v Australia in this country, but F R Spofforth did the feat in Australia playing against Lord Harris's eleven, and W Bates also performed it in Australia in 1892, his victims being McDonnell, Giffen and Bonnor.

The news that Briggs had an epileptic seizure at the Empire Music Hall, Leeds, on Thursday night, cast something of a gloom over the game. The seizure constantly recurred through the

early hours of the morning, and late yesterday evening he was reported to be unconscious and in a serious condition. Every feeling of sympathy was extended to Mrs Briggs, who had been summoned to Headingley. Briggs's illness meant a severe handicap for his side, for not only his batting but his bowling and fielding was much missed, particularly when the Australians were making the two great stands which brought evenness to the game. The wicket had virtually recovered and, as a rule, the ball came along quite truly.

England's position, which seemed quite strong on Thursday night, was made very different by the bowling of William Quaife and Mr C B Fry without the addition of a run, so that instead of only four men out for 119 there were six. Quaife and Fry had made 50 while they were together, but all the work had been done on Thursday night.

Hayward and Lilley re-established England's advantage. The former was fortunate in an escape at the wicket, a difficult chance on the leg side, but Lilley played fine cricket and Hayward, when he settled down, made some splendid off-drives. This partnership of 93 for the seventh wicket once more placed England in a strong position, but neither Hearne nor Young was of much use in batting, and by 20 minutes past 2 the innings was over, England leading by 48. Trumble, in length and spin, was by far the most consistent bowler.

Darling went back to something like his regular order and he and Worrall forced the game well, but just when everything was going strongly for the Australians there came a collapse, four wickets falling at 34 and one at 39. Worrall, to begin with, was out to a well-judged catch in the long field by Tyldesley, who was fielding as substitute for Briggs, and then Hearne, with the last three balls of his fifth over, performed the "hat trick," bowling Hill middle stump and getting Gregory and Noble caught at slip. Darling was soon afterwards caught at third man, and five wickets were down for 39.

England seemed to have the game in their hands, but the Australians never know when they are beaten. With the score in this critical condition for them Kelly hot out courageously, and was so well backed up by Trumble that 58 were rapidly added. Then Trumper and Trumble put on 43, while in an hour, for the eighth wicket, Trumble and Laver added 73. Trumble played a sound game, driving hard, but the bowling was very true and the batsmen in their attempts at hitting got some lucky things through the slips.

Trumble was run out through a fine piece of work between Fry from third man and Lilley at the wicket. With Trumble out the knell of the Australian innings was sounded, for a fine catch in the long field disposed of Jones, and Laver's steady batting ended with a catch at the wicket. It was a great recovery for the Australians to make 224, after their first five men had gone for 34.

England have made 19 of the runs necessary to win, and have, through Briggs's illness, to bat a man short. The weather was again fine, but about 8 o'clock last night rain set in at Leeds, and the chances are that England will have to make their last 158 runs on a soft pitch.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 July, page 9)

The weather prevented any cricket at Headingley, Leeds, on Saturday, and the third test match was therefore abandoned as a draw. England had played the best game they have yet played against the Australians this season; they generally had something in hand and, although the colonists by great exertions once or twice got almost even, the English eleven may be sympathized with for having their first chance of success ruined by the rain. They wanted 158 more runs to win and had all their wickets to fall.

There had been a great deal of rain overnight, and on Saturday morning the umpires on inspecting the wicket decided to give the turf an hour's chance of recovering; then about midday the rain set in heavily again, and at 3 o'clock it was decided to give up all idea of further cricket. There were six or seven thousand people present, but the wet washed away all their enthusiasm.

It is to be regretted that a match which had been so full of incident and excitement should end in such an unsatisfactory manner. This English side so much distinguished itself that it is doubtful whether the committee will make much change for the Manchester match a fortnight hence, except that Wilfred Rhodes of Yorkshire will probably play for Briggs. Briggs, it is satisfactory to record, rapidly improved during the early hours of Saturday, and Dr Iredale issued a bulletin to the cricket ground stating that he was out of danger and was progressing as favourably as could be expected.

The dates of the other test matches upon which the rubber now depends are:-

Monday, July 17, at Old Trafford, Manchester.

Monday, August 14, at Kennington Oval.

The score of the third match, for the management of which the executive at Leeds is to be congratulated, is given below . . .

29 June: HAMPSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5244.html)

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

At one time at Portsmouth, yesterday, Surrey looked like doing very badly. They had seven men out for 44, and it was only the partnership of Abel and Stoner, which realized 79 runs, that saved the side from complete disaster. Both men occasionally found trouble in timing the bowling, the wicket evidently being somewhat difficult, but for the most part they played admirably.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 July, page 14)

Yesterday's play at Portsmouth went so much in favour of Hampshire that they have an excellent opportunity of being the first county to beat Surrey this season.

The one individual performance to stand out prominently was an innings of 175 by Major Poore. For over four hours and a half he played perfect cricket, and he was at the wickets while all but the first 18 of Hampshire's total of 313 was obtained. While showing sound defence he hit very hard and punished loose bowling severely, his chief strokes being one five, 16 fours, five threes and 18 twos. Captain Wynyard, Mr Heseltine and Mr Steele all played well for their runs, the first-named helping Major Poore to put on 103.

After the heavy scoring of the home side the Surrey men did badly, and when rain, which had previously interrupted play, caused stumps to be drawn at a quarter-past 6, they were still 31 runs behind with four of their best men out.

Day 3 (report from Monday 3 July, page 9)

Rain almost saved Surrey at Portsmouth on Saturday, Hampshire only gaining their six wickets' victory five minutes before time. Surrey could not recover from their bad start, and but for the break-up of the weather their defeat would undoubtedly have been more severe.

With four wickets down in their second innings they were still 31 runs behind at the close of play on Friday, and when the game could be continued, just after 1 o'clock, on Saturday the batsmen did so little that eight were out for 118, or only five runs on. Then came the recurrence of rain, which nearly robbed Hampshire of victory. After lunch play could not be proceeded with until 4 o'clock, and then Lees and Wood found run-getting so easy on the wet pitch that they added 69 runs in 40 minutes; and in the end Hampshire were set to get 94 runs in 95 minutes.

Risking a good deal the home team scored just fast enough to hit the runs off; and so Surrey suffered their first defeat of the season in the county championship, while Hampshire gained their first victory. Major Poore again batted well; and in the match he scored 214 and was only once out.

29 June: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v OXFORD UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5245.html)

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

In the last of the trial games Oxford University at Lord's yesterday gave a very uneven display against a strong M.C.C. eleven, for out of a total of 154 from the bat, Mr H C Pilkington, Mr R E Foster and Mr H Martyn scored no less than 133 among them. Mr A M Hollins did not arrive in time to bat.

When the M.C.C. went in Alec Hearne played with his usual finished style for his 60. He was ninth to leave at 169. Martin and Roche then added 30 for the last wicket. In view of the University match Mr F H B Champain and Mr F W Stocks are having a rest.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 1 July, page 14)

The M.C.C. defeated Oxford University at Lord's, yesterday, by six wickets. Hearne in the match scored 101 runs and he took seven wickets for just over ten runs apiece, while Trott had the good analysis of 11 wickets for 162.

When Oxford went in a second time with arrears of 30, the chief feature of their innings was the batting of Mr L P Collins and Mr R H de Montmorency. Mr Collins made his 53 by faultless cricket. His chief hits were one six and seven fours.

The M.C.C. required 204 to win with three hours and ten minutes still left for play, and this they succeeded in doing with over half-an-hour to spare. Alec Hearne was batting nearly two hours and a quarter for his 41.

Friday 30 June, page 11: THE OXFORD ELEVEN

Mr F H B Champain has given the 11th place in the Oxford team to Mr H H de Montmorency. The full names of the side to play at Lord's on Monday are: -

*Mr F H B Champain, *Mr F W Stocks, *Mr A Eccles, Mr R E Foster, *Mr B J T Bosanquet, Mr L P Collins, Mr H Martyn, Mr F P Knox, Mr H C Pilkington, Mr A M Hollins and Mr R H de Montmorency.

*Old Blues.

Saturday 1 July, page 14: BENEFIT FOR JAMES PHILLIPS

The Middlesex Cricket Club and the Australians have agreed that James Phillips, who played for Middlesex for several years and has been much connected with Australian cricket, shall receive a proportion of the gate money in Middlesex v the Australians on August 21, 22 and 23 as a benefit.

Monday 3 July, page 9: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions of the counties are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Middlesex	7	6	1	0	5	71.42
Surrey	12	5	1	6	4	66.66
Yorkshire	12	8	3	1	5	46.45
Essex	9	4	2	3	2	33.33

Notts	8	2	1	5	1	33.33
Lancashire	11	5	3	3	2	25.00
Sussex	8	3	3	2	0	--
Gloucestershire	9	2	3	4	-1	-20.00
Leicestershire	9	2	3	4	-1	-20.00
Kent	8	2	4	2	-2	-33.33
Derbyshire	9	2	5	2	-3	-42.35
Hampshire	8	1	4	3	-3	-60.00
Somerset	9	1	6	3	-4	-66.66
Warwickshire	9	0	2	7	-2	-100.00
Worcestershire	4	0	3	1	-3	-100.00

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "one point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Times not out	Average
Major Poore	7	599	175	2	119.80
K S Ranjitsinhji	26	1341	197	3	58.30
Shrewsbury	13	684	148	1	57.00
Abel	25	1103	357*	2	47.95
Hayward	28	936	158	2	44.57
W G Quaife	18	633	148	3	42.20
J T Brown	22	1165	168	1	41.60
Lockwood	14	452	88	3	41.09
Mr A J Turner	16	615	124	1	41.00
Mr F S Jackson	20	727	133	2	40.38
W Gunn	17	595	150	2	39.66
A Ward	21	742	118	2	39.05
Mr S M J Woods	20	737	146	1	38.78
Mr C L Townsend	23	843	167*	1	38.31
A Hearne	25	838	162*	3	38.09
Mr A O Jones	11	418	250	0	38.00
Brockwell	20	721	147	1	37.94
Mr P Perrin	19	605	168*	3	37.81
Mr C B Fry	26	975	98	0	37.50
Mr F H B Champain	12	423	120	0	35.25
Mr H K Foster	9	308	83	0	34.22
Diver	15	502	184	0	33.46
Mr G Brann	20	615	157	1	32.36
Mr G L Jessop	16	480	171*	1	32.00
Mr H C Pilkington	10	251	77*	2	31.37
Bagshaw	22	637	77*	1	30.33
Mr F Mitchell	25	734	194	0	29.36
Mr P F Warner	16	449	150	1	29.26
A E Trott	28	742	164	1	27.48
D L A Jephson	20	514	74	0	25.70
Mr K J Key	21	446	59*	3	24.77
Lord Hawke	19	386	127	4	24.40
Mr F G J Ford	19	433	160	1	24.05
Mr C McGahey	16	328	75	2	23.42
Mr J R Mason	18	345	181*	1	23.23
Mr C E De Trafford	23	509	117*	1	22.13

Lilley	17	327	65*	2	21.80
Dr W G Grace	13	246	50	0	18.92

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mead	701.3	271	1298	93	13.95
J Gunn	231.1	77	467	33	14.15
Mr W M Bradley	475.2	178	1022	70	14.57
Rhodes	639	211	1346	88	15.29
A E Trott	839.3	254	2077	132	15.72
Mr F W Stocks	280	102	849	34	16.14
Young	552.2	186	1230	75	16.40
Haigh	440.3	148	874	50	17.48
Hirst	465.3	152	973	55	17.69
J T Hearne	841.3	317	1658	91	18.21
Mold	496.3	181	948	52	18.23
Briggs	667.1	247	1150	60	19.16
Brockwell	443.1	149	1030	53	19.24
Hayward	375.3	87	1043	54	19.31
Hulme	454.3	139	924	47	19.65
Mr F S Jackson	305.1	93	671	31	21.64
Roche	346.3	97	881	40	22.02
Bland	474	153	1369	61	22.44
Lockwood	269.1	70	667	28	23.82
Mr C L Townsend	498	91	1386	54	25.66
Richardson	529.4	156	1191	46	25.89

AUSTRALIAN BATTING AVERAGES

	Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Times not out	Average
Mr M A Noble	23	859	156	3	43.45
Mr C Hill	19	808	160	0	42.52
Mr J Worrall	19	626	104	4	41.73
Mr S E Gregory	20	633	124	2	35.16
Mr J Darling	25	711	134*	4	33.85
Mr H Trumble	18	451	100	4	32.21
Mr V Trumper	19	532	135*	1	29.55
Mr J J Kelly	15	383	89	2	29.46
Mr F Laver	17	324	79	4	24.92
Mr F A Iredale	13	294	77	0	22.61
Mr E Jones	17	286	55	3	20.42
Mr W P Howell	17	148	49*	6	13.45
Mr C E McLeod	13	125	41*	2	11.36
Mr A E Johns	4	19	12	0	4.75

AUSTRALIAN BOWLING AVERAGES

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble	492.1	198	855	61	14.06
Mr M A Noble	402.1	123	968	55	17.60
Mr C E McLeod	241.3	76	591	31	19.06
Mr F Laver	103	37	254	13	19.53
Mr W P Howell	499.4	193	1067	53	20.13
Mr E Jones	498.1	140	1140	54	21.11

3 July: DERBYSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5246.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 July, page 14)

A fine batting performance was accomplished by the Yorkshire eleven at Derby yesterday. Winning the toss and going in first on a pitch that, though slow after recent rains, never became difficult, Yorkshire stayed in all day and lost only four wickets in scoring 318 runs.

J T Brown was at the wickets the whole of the time the game was in progress and scored 192 runs. He completed his 100 in two hours and a quarter, and was altogether batting for four hours and 20 minutes. He gave a couple of chances at 176 and 178 respectively, but these were small faults in a splendid display of vigorous cricket. His chief hits were one six, 24 fours, 11 threes and 16 twos. Tunnicliffe helped him to put on 131 for the first wicket in an hour and 40 minutes, while Wilson assisted to add 118 for the fourth partnership in an hour and three-quarters.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 July, page 14)

Yesterday's cricket at Derby went all in favour of Yorkshire, who left off at night with an overwhelming advantage. The wicket, which on Monday was slow and easy, yesterday became difficult under the influence of sunshine, and Derbyshire, who had fielded the whole of Monday while Yorkshire were scoring 318 for four wickets, were in a hopeless position.

Yorkshire finished off their innings for a total of 432, the six outstanding wickets adding 114 runs in an hour and a half. At their first attempt Derbyshire were put out in an hour and three-quarters for 78. Kenward played finely, but most of the other batsmen found Wainwright almost unplayable.

Following on, Derbyshire did much better, Kenward giving a second good display, and when stumps were drawn had scored 122 for five wickets. They still, however, require 232 runs to avoid being beaten in a single innings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 July, page 7)

Only an hour was necessary to finish this match at Derby yesterday, and Yorkshire won by an innings and 160 runs.

3 July: LANCASHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5247.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 July, page 14)

Brilliant batting on the part of Mr A C MacLaren and Tyldesley and steady cricket by Mr A H Hornby marked the opening of Lancashire's innings against Sussex at Manchester, yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 July, page 14)

In batting, bowling and fielding alike, Sussex outplayed the Lancashire team at Manchester yesterday, and at the close of the day held undoubtedly the better position. Sussex were left 136 to make to win and in the last few minutes of the afternoon they lost a wicket for a single run.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 July, page 7)

Lancashire beat Sussex by 29 runs at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday. Sussex had nine wickets left to get 135 more; the turning point came at 78, when Lancaster took up the bowling, and before luncheon he took five wickets in 10 overs for 13 runs.

3 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5248.html)

Monday 3 July, page 9

THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM. - The Australian team at Trent-bridge to-day will consist of Messrs J Darling, M A Noble, S E Gregory, V Trumper, F A Iredale, Laver, C McLeod, E Jones, H Trumble, W Howell and either J J Kelly or A E Johns.

Iredale reappears in the eleven for the first time since his attack of measles. Clement Hill and Worrall are for the time being in the hands of the doctors. Worrall's injured knee, which gave him a great deal of trouble at Leeds and prevented him from fielding on Friday evening, demands special treatment, and Clement Hill is to undergo a slight operation for the removal of a small growth in his nose. Hill expects to play again in a week's time.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 July, page 14)

Less than an hour's cricket was possible at Nottingham yesterday owing to the rain. Notts went in first . . .

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 July, page 14)

Heavy rain at Nottingham on Monday caused the day's cricket to be restricted to 55 minutes, Notts during this time scoring 51 for the loss of one wicket. When the game was continued yesterday the batsmen found run-getting a difficult matter, though in the absence of sunshine until after luncheon the pitch never became so treacherous as it otherwise might have done.

W Gunn was dismissed without increasing his not-out score of 13, but subsequently things went so well for the county that at lunch time the total had been raised to 158 with only four wickets down. Shrewsbury and Dixon, by excellent cricket, had brought about this favourable state of affairs, their partnership for the third wicket adding 69 runs in an hour and 10 minutes. Shrewsbury made quite a large proportion of his runs by hard drives, his figures including seven fours. Dixon was batting close upon two hours for his 46, and did not give anything like a chance.

After luncheon a great change came over the game, Howell and Trumble bowling with such effect that the last six wickets went down in something under an hour for 30 runs, the innings this being finished off for 188.

McLeod and Kelly opened the batting when the Australians went in, and the former was out to a splendid catch high up at player by Shrewsbury from the first ball. Three wickets were down with the score at 40, but then Noble and Trumper, playing with great caution, added 66 runs in an hour and 35 minutes, and were still together at the drawing of stumps.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 July, page 7)

The Australians took a couple of big risks at Trent-bridge yesterday and very nearly paid the penalty of their rashness. In the course of two hours and 25 minutes before luncheon they were engaged in increasing their overnight total of 106 for three wickets to 234 for seven, and although this only gave them a lead of 46, Darling decided to close his innings, trusting that his bowlers might get the county out cheaply in the second innings while the pitch was still difficult, and then, with only a few to make, his batsmen might just snatch a victory before time.

Aided by a defective light Howell and Trumble at first carried all before them and, although Shrewsbury batted splendidly and scored 34 out of 48, there were five wickets down for 54

when the umpires allowed an adjournment for a quarter of an hour in consequence of the light. As it happened, this stoppage proved the turning point, for subsequently Attewell, Goodacre and J Gunn did so well that Dixon in his turn declared and left the Australians 87 to make in 38 minutes.

Apparently, Darling thought there was a chance of getting the runs, for he went in first and hit four fours in the first over, but Jones was out the first ball he received; at 23 Darling, Trumble and Trumper left, and at 24 Howell was dismissed. These disasters roused the crowd to the greatest enthusiasm; but Gregory and Kelly changed the tactics, and though another wicket fell there were only six men out for 38 when stumps were pulled up and the game drawn.

It should be stated that West, the umpire, "no-balled" Hardstaff for throwing. Noble and Trumper played a wonderful defensive game in the early part of the day, their partnership, which commenced overnight, realizing 164 runs.

3 July: OXFORD UNIVERSITY v CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5249.html)

Monday 3 July, page 9: OXFORD v CAMBRIDGE

The University match begins to-day at Lord's, and there is every prospect that it will have to be contested on a slow wicket. From what has been seen of the elevens Oxford seem the better side, particularly in batting and bowling. The teams are given below: -

Oxford. - F H B Champain, Cheltenham and Hertford; B J T Bosanquet, Eton and Oriel; H C Pilkington, Eton and Magdalen; F P Knox, Dulwich and Corpus; R E Foster, Malvern and University; L P Collins, Marlborough and Keble; A Eccles, Repton and Trinity; A M Hollins, Eton and Hertford; H Martyn, Exeter Grammar School and Exeter; F W Stocks, Denstone and Oriel; R H De Montmorency, St Paul's and Keble.

Cambridge. - G L Jessop, private and Christ's; J H Stogdon, Harrow and Trinity; T L Taylor, Uppingham and Trinity; G E Winter, Winchester and Trinity; H H B Hawkins, Whitgift and Trinity; E F Penn, Eton and Trinity; L J Moon, Westminster and Pembroke; S H Day, Malvern and Queens; E R Wilson, Rugby and Trinity; J L Daniell, Clifton and Emmanuel; and either A E Fernie, Wellingborough and Clare, or A E Hind, Uppingham and Trinity.

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 July, page 14)

It is a long time since the University match opened under such depressing conditions as those of yesterday. A grey day at Lord's with an intermittent drizzle and a cold wind were enough to keep many an enthusiast for the game away, so it can be readily understood that the company yesterday was much reduced by the weather prospects and, instead of the average 20,000, the numbers could scarcely have reached 10,000, seeing that considerably less than 6,000 of the public paid for admission.

In the nursery ground were the quarters of the Cavalry, the Royal Artillery, the Isthmian and other clubs, while the Sports Club had, as usual, a space at the back of the grand stand. But the weather prevented at any time Lord's being worthy of itself.

The pavilion was naturally full; and among those to be found here were Lord Justice A L Smith, the Marylebone president, the Hon Alfred Lyttelton, M.P., Mr George Kemp, M.P., Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, Mr A J Webbe, Mr M C Kemp, Mr W E Denison, Mr W H Patterson, Lord James of Hereford, Mr H D G Leveson-Gower, Mr Gregor MacGregor, Mr V E Walker, Mr H Philipson, the Hon Chandos Leigh, Dr W G Grace and Mr H Perkins. The private boxes on the grand stand and the new members' buildings were also well filled.

In spite of this, it was a depressing day; and there was scarcely any enthusiasm for the cricket. Nor was the cricket of a nature likely to thrill anybody. The Oxford men absorbed nearly the whole of the cricket hours in making a score of 192. On the slow wicket they found runs very difficult to get, but their 192 had the merit of being well spread over the side. For their slow pace of run-getting they had a good excuse in the sudden change wrought by the weather in the soft turf.

There seemed nothing very deadly in the Cambridge bowling; Wilson and Hind kept a nice length, but Jessop bowled himself a little too much, particularly as the effects of his strain have not wholly passed away. The Cambridge fielding was very good, not only in regard to their ground work, but also in their catching; the catches of Jessop when he got out Foster and of Hawkins when he dismissed Champain were in themselves masterpieces.

When Champain won the toss there was only one decision to arrive at, and that was to take first innings, for, although the wicket had been made soft by the rain of Saturday and Sunday, it was in no sense "sticky" and the ball came straight along, the change in the pace of the turf being more or less responsible for the constant mis-timing of the ball. It must have been a great disappointment to Oxford men that H C Pilkington, a typical bat of the Eton school and one of the best sent out from Eton for some years, should have been out so

early, and also before he had scored. But he has the gratification of knowing that many batsmen as good as he have similarly failed. He was caught by the wicket-keeper standing back to Jessop.

Hind, a slow left-hand bowler, seemed to take the more playing, because of his accurate pitch; but just when Champain and Collins were getting set both men were out. This was at 25, when Champain was caught at mid-off low down and Collins succumbed to a slow yorker. Knox, a steady and painstaking batsman with no particular style, and the young Malvern bat R E Foster improved Oxford's position by adding 50 runs. Foster got his runs in fine form, but Knox did a lot of edging through the slips. There had been plenty of bowling changes during this stand, which extended over an hour, and Wilson and Hawkins each kept a respectable length. The fourth wicket - Foster's - went at 75; this was when Jessop running backwards jumped up at cover-point and took the ball high up with his right hand.

There was a delay of a quarter of an hour after luncheon for rain; but soon after the 100 had gone up Knox was bowled by a yorker; the care of his play may be gathered from the fact that he took nearly two hours to get his 37. With five men out for 106 Oxford seemed to be in a bad way; and things were not improved by the subsequent quick dismissal of Hollins, Eccles and Bosanquet, making eight down for 138. Eccles played some of the best cricket on his side; but his method was not so good as last year, when he got 109 in the first innings.

The later stages of the Oxford innings were marked by the driving of Montmorency and Martin. Montmorency was bowled at 159; but Stocks by his steadiness stayed in while his companion hit, and the score had reached 192 when at last Martyn was well caught at long-off.

When Cambridge went in the light was very bad; and it was surprising that no protest was raised. Rain, too, was slightly drizzling; but the game was continued from 20 minutes to 6 until a quarter past. Then a downpour set in and later on stumps were drawn. Bosanquet bowled very well and got the two Cambridge wickets which have so far fallen.

Cambridge are now 148 behind with eight men in hand, so that there is really little in the match. Altogether it was a poor day's cricket. Cambridge have six old Blues in their side, against the five possessed by Oxford.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 July, page 14)

Lord's was a very changed place for the second day of the University match. The sun shone brilliantly, the wind had got into a better quarter, the pitch was rid of its falseness and there was cricket to be seen worthy of the best traditions of Oxford and Cambridge.

The bowling of Bosanquet, with its varying pace and fine length, the true Oxford fielding, the batting of Day and Hind which rescued Cambridge from a bad position, and then in the closing hours of the afternoon the innings of 93 by H C Pilkington, a typical Eton batsman of the R A H Mitchell school - these were the great features of the day. Oxford have rather the better position, seeing that with seven wickets left they are 125 runs ahead; but there is every prospect of a good afternoon's play.

The improved weather made a great difference to the attendance; there were fully 16,000 people on the ground, and during the intervals the promenade presented that brilliant spectacle which can scarcely be found except at Lord's for Eton v Harrow and Oxford v Cambridge. The pavilion itself was more crowded than ever and there was a great gathering of old blues.

Cambridge, who had made 44 for two wickets against Oxford's score of 192, had a very bad three-quarters of an hour at the beginning of the day, for after 60 had gone up with only two of the side out, the score was only 89 when the seventh wicket fell. This breakdown was mostly the work of Bosanquet, who, bowling from the pavilion end, kept a fine length and got a lot of spin on the ball. Moon and Stogdon both played well, and the driving of the latter must have reminded some of the company of the fine forcing game which was his at Harrow, but seemed rather lost to him when he went up to Cambridge.

Stogdon was fourth out at 82; and then came the collapse which was only stayed when seven men had gone for 89. Much had been expected from Jessop, the Cambridge captain, with all his quick scoring capacity; but he was out in trying to place a slow one from Knox, for he mistimed it and the ball went over his head and was caught at wicket. The dismissal of Taylor and Daniel was easily achieved. Penn hit very hard and stayed with Day while 34 were added, and then he was cleverly caught low down at short slip.

But it was the batting of Day and Hind, who put on 84 in 65 minutes, that so much helped Cambridge. Their prospects seemed dark when this rather unexpected stand occurred; eight men were out for 123, but the ninth was not captured until 207 had been scored. Day has already won his spurs in county cricket for his scored 100 in his first match for Kent, and yesterday his driving and cutting could not have been better; he possesses plenty of wrist work and comes down on the ball very hard. He made his runs in about an hour and three-quarters and hit four fours and seven threes.

Hind, who bats and bowls left-handed, was very clever on the leg side, and fortunately for him Hawkins stayed long enough for him to make his 50. Cambridge in the end secured a lead of 49 on the innings, a vastly improved position from the state of things at a quarter-past 12. The Oxford fielding was brilliant, and in Bosanquet, who was on for a stretch of an hour and a half, they possess a very good bowler. It is not improbable that he would be found in the Middlesex county side very shortly.

Another application of the heavy roller further improved the pitch before Oxford went in a second time just before 4 o'clock; and the general impression was that they would score heavily. Pilkington and Champain did something to disturb this idea at first, for before they had played themselves in they took to short running with the result that their wickets were twice in danger. In fact Champain would in one instance have been out to a certainty had Jessop fielded the ball cleanly at cover-point. The Oxford captain had got half way up the wicket to Pilkington's call and was sent back; he momentarily hesitated, but seeing that Jessop had misfielded the ball he just got back in time. This blunder was a little expensive to Cambridge, for Champain made many fine strokes.

At 44 Hind was put on for Wilson, with so much success that in his first over he got Champ, who, in trying to hit, edged a ball into the hands of point. Pilkington, who had made a couple of false hits from Jessop's fast bowling, did most of the scoring when Collins came in and there was a spell of quiet cricket until Collins was leg before at 74. R E Foster gave the Cambridge team a taste of his fine play in front of the wicket, but he got a little reckless, and at 112 in stepping across his wicket to hit he missed a straight ball and was leg before.

Three for 112 did not seem a very hopeful position for Oxford; but their affairs steadily improved afterwards and no other wicket fell. Knox came in, and Pilkington settled down to play a powerful forcing game. His splendid position at the wicket and the way he cut and drove won the admiration of every one, and was especially gratifying to those who had formed such high opinions of him in his school days. If he finds leisure for the game he has a great cricket future. He got a majority of his runs by cutting, but there were one or two very good drives all along the ground to the boundary which were very striking. In the first two hours of his stay he made 50, and then in 35 minutes he added another 43.

Jessop did his best with his bowling; but apart from himself it seemed to possess little sting, and Pilkington completely exposed its weakness. Pilkington made few bad strokes, but just near the finish he mistimed one of Winter's lobs and was nearly stumped. The Eton batsman had a great reception as he returned to the pavilion at the close.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 July, page 7)

The University match was left unfinished last evening at Lord's. Such an ending is so rare in Oxford v Cambridge that since the institution of the contest 72 years ago only three other instances are recorded, and these at long intervals - the first match in 1827 and those in 1844 and 1888.

Rain was the cause of these unsatisfactory endings; but this year's result cannot be laid to the charge of the weather. There was, indeed, a trifling delay on Monday; and to the slow pitch at the beginning of the game was due the slow progress made at first. But the real reason for the draw was that both sides were exceptionally strong in batting; and neither, at least on a hard, true wicket, had sufficient bowling skill successfully to combat this abundance of fine batting.

Had there been time to have played the match out it might be voted anybody's game, for Oxford had two good wickets left when they declared and Cambridge with six men to go wanted another 70 runs to win. It would be unfair to look upon the ending as much against Oxford, seeing that in their attempt to win they had by introducing the closure artificially altered the natural cause of the match. The sides were, in truth, very even, and if Oxford were a trifle the better bowlers the Cambridge men had an advantage in fielding.

The three great batsmen on the Oxford side were Pilkington, Champain and Knox; and Knox, if he has not the brilliancy of stroke of the other two, possesses a great faculty for watching the ball. S H Day, the old Malvernian, who just beat Knox for the highest aggregate in the match, for the second time in the game played beautiful cricket, while Moon, Wilson and Taylor are all fine batsmen.

The last day of the match to begin with went much against Oxford, who, with four wickets only left, were 158 on; but the partnership of Knox and Montmorency prepared everybody for the result that ultimately came. Brilliant weather existed for the closing stages of the game and the scene was as gay as ever, although the company was not so large as on Tuesday, owing probably to Henley Regatta. But, in spite of the bad Monday, the aggregate attendance for the three days fell less than 2,000 short of last year.

Oxford had a bad quarter of an hour to start with in the morning, for Pilkington, who had made 93 overnight, was out first ball - caught at wicket - and at 184 Eccles played on. Five for 184 was a great change from three for 174. Pilkington thus missed his hundred by only seven runs; the beginning of his innings had been slow, but in the last 40 minutes of Tuesday night he made 50 of his 93, in which were 12 fours.

Knox, who played very carefully, had Hollins for a partner until 207, and then came the great stand of the innings between Knox and Montmorency. It lasted rather more than an hour and a half and yielded 109 runs. Montmorency forced the game splendidly from the time he went in, while this vigorous contagion even spread to Knox, who made some fine drives on the off-side. Jessop varied his bowling as much as possible and the fielding was close. There was one particularly fine hit by Montmorency when he drove a ball from Wilson on the left of the pavilion.

It was not until after luncheon that Hawkins bowled out Montmorency. Bosanquet ran himself out, and soon after Martyn came in Oxford, about half-past 3, closed their innings when they were 298 runs on. Knox was warmly cheered for his innings of 73, in which were eight fours; it had been marked chiefly by extreme care and his only good stroke seemed to be the off-drive.

Had there not been several batsmen of quick-scoring capacity on the Cambridge side Champain would no doubt have closed his innings earlier; but he dared not run much risk on a good hard wicket with his more or less commonplace bowling. So Cambridge were left only two hours and a quarter to make 299 to win.

Moon was out at 24; but then came half an hour of dashing cricket by Jessop, who hit the bowlers off their pitch and scored 46 out of 58. He hit six fours. He was then dismissed by a very good catch in the long-field. His hard hitting aroused great enthusiasm and he was warmly cheered as he returned.

While Jessop stayed Cambridge just had a chance of success; but subsequently three men were out for 109, and as there was then an hour and a half's play, they could only resort to defensive work. Wilson and Day played very well and added 36 runs; but it was after Wilson had gone that the great stand of the innings was made. Its heroes were Day and Taylor, who both drove and cut in great style, and it was difficult to say which was the better

cricketer. They completely collared the Oxford bowling and each had passed into the fifties when at half-past 6 stumps were drawn and the match left unfinished.

Of the 65 matches now played Cambridge have won 32, Oxford 29, and four matches have been drawn.

3 July: SURREY v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5250.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 4 July, page 14)

Since the rapid rise of the Essex eleven in first-class cricket their fixture with Surrey at the Oval has been considered one of the chief county matches in the South; and yesterday, when they met for the first time this season, the interest was fully maintained.

With the ball cutting through, Brockwell made the most of his opportunities and played free cricket. He was missed at mid-off at 45, from a hard drive, but this was his only bad stroke. Afterwards the ball began to bite and the bowling had to be watched with great care. Lockwood was batting an hour for 21, while Abel was in nearly 40 minutes longer for his 18. The light at times was defective and it caused some delays.

With six wickets down for 126, it seemed probable that Surrey would be out for a small score. But at this point Lees joined Hayward and 104 were added for the seventh wicket. Hayward was seen to great advantage. He made his 84 practically without a bad stroke, while his placing on the leg side was quite worthy of his great reputation. He was in over two hours and three-quarters, and his chief hits were six fours, three threes and 12 twos. Hayward has now made his 1,000 runs aggregate for the season. With the close of the Surrey innings at a quarter-past 6 play ceased for the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 5 July, page 14)

When play was resumed yesterday at the Oval the pitch had quite recovered, and Essex took full advantage of the altered conditions, for they kept Surrey in the field the whole of the cricketing hours, and at the drawing of stumps were 102 runs on with three wickets in hand.

Mr Perrin and Carpenter were the first pair to make a stand of any note. Mr Perrin played free cricket, getting nearly all his runs, as usual, in front of the wicket. He hit up his 52 out of 65 in an hour. Shortly after the 100 went up, Marshall, the Surrey wicket-keeper, dislocated one of his fingers in taking Lees's bowling and had to retire, his place being filled by Hayes.

The most profitable stand in the innings was that between Mr M'Gahey and Carpenter, who put on 102 for the third wicket. Carpenter played with undue caution, considering the excellence of the pitch, and he was batting nearly three hours and a half. Mr M'Gahey was the fourth to leave at 204, but he should have been caught at 3 by Tom Richardson at mid-on - a mistake which proved very expensive.

With Mr A P Lucas and Mr A J Turner together the Surrey total was passed. Their cricket for style and finish was the best thing during the day. Mr A J Turner played with equal accuracy and was seventh out at 311. Afterwards Mr Bull and Russell took the score to 342. The Surrey ground fielding was good but had the chances been accepted the Essex score would not have reached such proportions.

Towards the close of the afternoon the light was defective and the game was stopped for nearly half an hour. There were some 8,000 spectators of the play.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 6 July, page 7)

After having the worst of the match, Surrey, yesterday, at the Oval managed to draw with Essex. For this result they were largely indebted to the splendid batting of Lockwood, who made his first hundred this season, and Hayward, as they were not parted until the game was practically saved. Their feat was all the more prominent, as the rest of the side, with the single exception of Lees, could do little with the bowling.

Overnight Essex had lost seven wickets for 342 and yesterday their innings closed for another 30 runs. Lees was the most successful with the ball, and his figures showed that he might have been utilized more with advantage.

When Surrey went in a second time, 132 behind, they made a most disastrous start, as Abel, Hayes and Brockwell were out for 21. At this critical period of the game Hayward and Lockwood came together, and during some three hours and a half they added 183 for the fourth wicket. When Lockwood left there was little more than an hour for play. Hayward was fifth out at 221. He ought to have been stumped at seven off Young's bowling, while he was missed at cover-point at 74. Otherwise, he played good cricket. The Surrey innings closed for 264 and the match was left drawn.

Wednesday 5 July, page 14: THE CONDITION OF JOHN BRIGGS

In the course of the second stage of the Lancashire v Sussex match at Manchester yesterday, Briggs visited Old Trafford and was there medically examined. At the conclusion of a prolonged consultation the doctors issued an official intimation to the effect that their patient needed a long rest, and that in all probability he would be unable to play again this season.

Thursday 6 July, page 7

At Lord's last evening the following teams for the match at Lord's next Monday were announced: -

GENTLEMEN	PLAYERS
Dr W G Grace	Shrewsbury
Mr F S Jackson	Gunn
Mr A C MacLaren	Lilley
K S Ranjitsinhji	Albert Trott
Mr C B Fry	Lockwood
Major Poore	Rhodes
Mr G MacGregor	Quaife
Mr A J Turner	Hayward
Mr C L Townsend	Brockwell
Mr J R Mason	J T Brown
Mr W M Bradley	Mead

Mr Woods was asked, but declined, and thus Mr Mason was put in the side.

6 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5251.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 July, page 11)

The Surrey executive still preserve their traditional match between Gentlemen and Players, although lack of thoroughness in representation long since robbed it of its old importance. With county cricket so much increased it is difficult to find a place for the old-fashioned fixture; but while the public and the club members give it such strong support as that of yesterday, when there were some 6,000 spectators, there is no reason why the match should be given up. Every one knows that the great test is at Lord's, which follows in the wake of the Oval match.

Ten or a dozen cricketers could be mentioned that were necessary to make yesterday's teams representative. But the sides which appeared were better than usual and the crowd saw a long spell of run-making. The Gentlemen were in the field all day; their bowling never seemed deadly on a nice easy wicket; and the Players put together 413 for five wickets, at an average rate of about 75 an hour.

The chief contributor to this score was Robert Abel, who has been such a prolific run-getter this summer. He played his usual game, with its alternating periods of care and vigour, and generally waited for the loose ball from which to score. Going in first at midday, he stayed until half-past 5, and then when within five of his second hundred he had the misfortune to be run out. Abel hit 27 fours. His chief partner was Lockwood, and while they were together, rather more than two hours, 196 runs were put on for the third wicket. Lockwood played a fine hard game for his first 50, but after that he was very quiet. However, his 84 was a very good innings and his cricket on the leg side was as strong as ever.

Hayward towards the close did very well. The Gentlemen did their best in the field; but their bowlers must have been disheartened when at 5 o'clock the score stood at 300 for only two wickets. Then came some relief in the dismissal of Lockwood, Abel and Brockwell, the last-named being bowled in trying to turn a ball from such an occasional bowler as Mr H K Foster, of Oxford and Worcestershire.

For those who are fond of heavy scoring it was a fine day's cricket. Prince Christian visited the Oval pavilion to see the game, and Lord Harris was also present.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 July, page 13)

If the weather lasts the Players will have all their work cut out to win the match on the Oval, in spite of their huge score of 647 - an innings that began at noon on Thursday and lasted until a quarter-past 3 yesterday afternoon. This total seems to be a record in Gentlemen v Players. A search into cricket history shows the two next best to have been made more than a quarter of a century ago; and in both of these Grace had a hand - viz., in 1870, when he scored 215 of the 513 made by the Gentlemen on the Oval, and in 1871, when at Brighton he contributed 217 towards the total of 496.

There were many good points in yesterday's game on the Oval; and perhaps the finest piece of cricket of the day was the 71 made by Mr A O Jones. He arrived when the Players were carrying all before them; he got the better of their great bowlers and in little more than an hour made the 71 out of the 108 which he and Townsend added for the fifth wicket. Mr Jones was a fine bat in his Cambridge days and has done much good work for Nottinghamshire; but he never played better than he did yesterday. His driving was well-timed and powerful and he kept the ball to the ground, and it was by driving that he got the majority of his runs. After the Gentlemen's bad start his batting came as a luxury, and when he was brilliantly caught in the long field he had an enthusiastic reception as he came back to the pavilion.

Mr Townsend played very steadily, but had more than an average share of luck; had Storer been in his best form at wicket he would have caught him, while Abel quite early in the innings nearly held a catch from him in the vicinity of short leg. Dr Grace, who put himself rather late on the order, was very busy in the last 40 minutes, and the way he dealt with some short bowling from Brockwell was quite worthy of him with his wonderful variety of strokes. The cricket between half-past 4 and the close was some of the brightest of the match; the batting, bowling and fielding were all very good.

The pavilion spectators were a little disappointed at the failure of that splendid sportsman Major Poore, who has been doing such wonderful work for Hampshire this season; and this feeling must have been the more keenly shared by the large company of officers who were also to be found in the pavilion. Major Poore, however, is not the first great batsman to succumb to that fine Essex left-hand bowler Young, who, after taking three wickets in his first two overs, was only checked by Messrs Jones and Townsend, and these batsmen when playing themselves in were several times beaten by him. Essex have certainly one of the finest bowlers of the day in Young.

The first three hours of actual cricket yesterday were occupied by the balance of the Players' innings. Storer helped to add 102 runs for the sixth wicket; but then Mr Foster and Dr Grace managed to get four men out very wicket - Carpenter falling into W G's old trap at deep square leg. Then young hit hard with great success, for while he lofted the ball repeatedly there happened to be no fieldsman in that particular quarter. In 80 minutes the last wicket added 135 runs. Hayward played his own characteristic game to the end and took out his bat for 134, in which were 11 fours; his great variety of strokes were all well practised. But the Gentlemen's bowling was very mild stuff and Mr Foster was the only member of the side who could get any pace on the ball.

It was a typical June day and there were 6,000 people on the ground. The position of the game is shown from the figures given below, and as the Gentlemen have to make another 316 to save the follow-on, it may be taken that they will absorb the batting hours on the Oval today.

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

The Players had to fight very hard for the victory gained by them on the Oval last Saturday by an innings and 36 runs. It was one of the hottest of July days and the pitch was splendidly true, so that it was a great triumph for the Players to get the strong batting side twice out.

But a glance at the score will show how keenly the Gentlemen struggled to make a draw. They scored over 300 in each innings and there was only an hour left for play when the end came. Nowadays, perhaps, there is not quite the same keenness between the teams as existed some dozen or 15 years ago; but this has its advantage in the fact that, relieved of the anxiety attaching to any county championship or international honours, the cricketers, more particularly the batsmen, are quite themselves. And so after all these Gentlemen and Players matches possess the excellent virtue of cricket played alone for cricket's sake.

There was no lack of good things in Saturday's game, alike in batting, bowling and fielding. Dr Grace may have failed to do anything more in his first innings than his 28 made up to Friday night; but his 60 in the second was quite worthy of himself. The cricketer of the century is not quite so active between the wickets as he used to be; but he ran many of his fours well, and his judgment of the strength with which he played the ball to a fieldsman secured to him many a single that momentarily to the spectator looked dangerous. His 60 on Saturday afternoon was a typical innings of the great Gloucestershire cricketer; and the only bowler whom he seemed not to like was Young, the Essex left-hander, who is about the best hard-wicket bowler England can command just now.

But Dr Grace, like Major Poore and Mr A O Jones, was beaten by Storer's leg breaks. Storer's hands are not too sound at present; but when he gave up the pads to Diver and took to bowling he gave an illustration of what a splendid all-round cricketer he is. Major Poore again failed to do himself justice and he was certainly one of the disappointments of

the match. He has the reputation of being a bad starter, and on Saturday afternoon, much to the disappointment of his military friends in the pavilion, he never settled down. When once started he is a splendid bat, and to-day at Lord's he will have an opportunity of retrieving any reputation lost by his cricket on the Oval in this match.

In the early hours on Saturday there were several errors in the fielding of the Players, and these enabled the Gentlemen to carry their first innings beyond 1 o'clock. Mr Townsend took out his bat for 112; he played steadily and his off-drive was very strong. And then when he wanted only three to get into three figures a generous bowler gave him an easy one on the leg-side for which he showed kindly appreciation. He hit 15 fours.

The best cricket in the follow-on was seen after luncheon; but when Dr Grace had gone seven wickets were down for 180. Mr Bosanquet's fine hitting gave a strong flavour to the balance of the cricket, and Mr Jephson also came off, so that in three-quarters of an hour 106 runs were added. While these two stayed there seemed just a chance that the Gentlemen would save the match; but when Mr Bosanquet was out the end came quickly, and by half-past 5 the game was over. Young and Brockwell bowled well in both innings and the pitch gave them no aid. Over 1,200 runs were made in the match.

6 July: KENT v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5252.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 July, page 11)

At Maidstone, yesterday, the return match between Kent and Middlesex was much interfered with by the weather. A tremendous storm broke over the Mote-park ground at 1 o'clock, and so drenched the wicket that further play was not practicable until 20 minutes past 4, and, in accordance with the rule in force at Mote-park, stumps were drawn at 6 o'clock.

Kent, on going in to bat in the morning, started with excellent promise of success, Burnup and Alec Hearne scoring 43 runs together in 50 minutes. Then, however, wickets fell in quick succession. Burnup was out to a marvellous catch by Albert Trott at short-leg, W Patterson was bowled and Alec Hearne caught at slip, and Mason and Knowles were cheaply got rid of. However, Du Boulay and Weigall played admirably, and in the course of a little over an hour added 58 runs to the score.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 July, page 13)

The weather at Maidstone yesterday was delightful, but the ground had suffered from the storm of the previous day and batsmen found it a hard matter to get runs. Albert Trott bowled with great effect, taking four wickets in 11 overs and a ball at a cost of only ten runs, and when Kent went in for a second time Trott and Rawlin bowled wonderfully well, and in the course of an hour and 50 minutes nine wickets were lost for 90 runs.

As the game stands now, Kent, with a wicket to fall, only lead by 87 runs.

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

Kent beat Middlesex at Mote Park, Maidstone, on Saturday by 30 runs. The result was to some extent surprising, as Middlesex had only 108 to make in the fourth innings; but the wicket was bad and Mason and Bradley were almost irresistible.

Three Middlesex batsmen were out for seven runs, and seven for 39. Ford alone up to this time had shown any capacity to cope with the bowling. Nicholls made a plucky effort to save a lost match, but when the ninth wicket fell the score had reached only 60. Roche and Hearne were separated soon after luncheon.

6 July: LANCASHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5253.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 July, page 11)

Although less than a fortnight ago Somerset defeated Lancashire at Taunton by ten wickets, yesterday's cricket at Manchester in the return match went largely in favour of the northern county team, who ran up a score of 206 and then in an hour and 30 minutes dismissed nine of the Somerset eleven for 70.

Webb and Lancaster, whose bowling had mainly contributed to Lancashire's victory over Sussex on Wednesday, again did capital work, the former obtaining six wickets and having only 41 runs hit from him. At the drawing of stumps Somerset, with a wicket still to fall, wanted 17 runs to escape a follow-on.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 July, page 13)

The Lancashire bowlers carried all before them at Old Trafford yesterday, and Somerset were beaten by an innings and 47 runs.

6 July: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5254.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 July, page 11)

Little public interest was shown in this match at Lord's yesterday, in consequence of the weakness of the teams put in the field. The only redeeming feature in the Notts innings was the batting of W Gunn and Mr W B Goodacre. The rest of the side could do little with the bowling of Geeson, who took six wickets for less than six runs apiece.

When the M.C.C. went in they gave a very different display; the Notts total was passed for the loss of three men, and at the close they were 121 runs on with half their wickets in hand. For their favourable position the M.C.C. were chiefly indebted to Wrathall, who was batting three hours for his 115 not out. He found useful partners in Mr W L Murdoch and Mr A F Somerset. The former helped him to put on 85 for the first wicket in three-quarters of an hour by splendid free cricket, while with Mr Somerset 108 were added for the fourth. After passing his 100 Wrathall played with great care.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 July, page 13)

From the position of the match overnight, everything pointed to the ultimate success of the M.C.C. at Lord's yesterday, but few were prepared for the wretched display of Nottinghamshire, who were beaten by an innings and 194 runs. Geeson bowled with marked success and in the match he took 11 wickets for 90 runs.

6 July: YORKSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5255.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 July, page 11)

Cricket at Harrogate yesterday was only in progress an hour and 40 minutes before luncheon, rain coming on heavily during the interval and preventing further play. With the prospect of the wickets improving, Ranjitsinhji, who captained the Sussex eleven, decided, after winning the toss, to put Yorkshire in.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 July, page 13)

A full and interesting day's cricket was witnessed at Harrogate yesterday and, after varying fortunes, the game was left at night in an open state. In the morning Sussex lost the services of their fast bowler, Bland, who had the misfortune to dislocate his thumb and took no further part in the cricket. At the finish the northern county had a lead of 84 with seven wickets in hand.

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

Though the game at Harrogate was in progress the whole of Saturday a definite conclusion could not be arrived at. Yorkshire, who had three wickets down in their second innings for 86, raised their total to 332 for nine wickets and then closed their innings. Lord Hawke and Whitehead played well and Rhodes in making 81 not out surpassed his previous batting achievements in first-class cricket.

With three hours left Sussex required 331 runs to win, but of course had nothing but a draw to play for. This they easily accomplished, their score when stumps were finally drawn standing at 262 for four wickets. Mr C B Fry gave a fine display, going in first and scoring 162 not out. He hit one six, 22 fours, seven threes and nine twos. He only made one mistake, and that at 124.

7 July: ENGLAND ELEVEN v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5256.html)

[Note: the Times headed this match as Lord Robartes's Eleven v Australians.]

Day 1 (report from Friday 7 July, page 11)

Down at Truro yesterday the Australians entered upon one of the least important of the matches on their programme. To meet the colonials a scratch team, including several well-known players, had been got together and, anything like first-class cricket being practically unknown in Cornwall, the game aroused a good deal of local interest.

The one feature of the colonials' batting was the hitting of Darling, who made 55 in less than an hour without a chance, a six and nine fours being included in his innings. The Englishmen fielded well, Lilley being really brilliant at the wicket, but they fared badly in batting against Jones, who twice took two wickets with successive balls.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 8 July, page 13)

The team got together to play the Australians in a two days' match at Truro were badly beaten on Saturday afternoon by eight wickets, the Australians owing their victory to consistently good batting and some remarkable bowling by Jones and Howell.

The English side went a long way towards losing the match on Friday, when, in face of a total of 214, they lost seven wickets for 75. Their innings was quickly finished for 87, Jones taking the last three wickets without having a run hit from him. In the whole innings the fast bowler obtained seven wickets for 31 runs.

The Englishmen had to follow on against a balance of 127, and they again made a wretched start, four of their wickets going down for 45 runs. At this point Pougher and Braund made a determined stand, putting on 54 runs together, and after Pougher's departure Lilley stayed with Braund until the total had been carried to 164, but the last three wickets fell very cheaply and the innings closed for 192. Braund played beautiful cricket in his 63, in which the chief hits were seven fours, two threes and nine twos. Howell carried off the bowling honours in the second innings of the Englishmen, having the fine record of six wickets for 36 runs.

The Australians had only 66 to get to win, but they played with caution and it took them over an hour and a half to obtain the runs.

Friday 7 July, page 11

GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS, AT LORD'S. - Sundry changes have been made in the Players team for Monday, at Lord's. Shrewsbury and Gunn asked to be excused, and their places have been filled by G Hirst and Albert Ward. Warwickshire will not let off Lilley and Quaife because of the Midland Counties match against the Australians at Birmingham, and these two men are succeeded by Storer and Abel.

Saturday 8 July, page 13

MR F S JACKSON AND YORKSHIRE CRICKET. - In their last few matches Yorkshire have been without the services of Mr F S Jackson, but that famous cricketer will reappear for the side against Warwickshire at Birmingham, and will assist the county in the remaining games of the season.

The positions of the counties are as follows:

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	13	5	1	7	4
Middlesex	8	6	2	0	4
Yorkshire	14	9	3	2	6
Lancashire	13	7	3	3	4
Notts	8	2	1	5	1
Essex	10	4	2	4	2
Kent	9	3	4	2	-1
Sussex	10	3	4	3	-1
Gloucestershire	9	2	3	4	-1
Leicestershire	9	2	3	4	-1
Derbyshire	10	2	6	2	-4
Hampshire	8	1	4	3	-3
Somerset	10	1	6	3	-5
Warwickshire	9	0	2	7	-2
Worcestershire	4	0	3	1	-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 the champion county."

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Times not out	Average
Major Poore	9	624	175	2	89.14
K S Ranjitsinhji	30	1494	193	3	55.33
Shrewsbury	15	769	146	1	54.92
Hayward	26	1246	158	3	54.17
Abel	28	1380	357*	2	50.76
Lockwood	17	657	100	3	46.92
J T Brown	32	1377	192	1	44.41
Mr A J Turner	17	686	124	1	42.87
W G Quaife	18	633	148	3	42.20
Mr C B Fry	30	1202	162*	1	42.20
Mr C L Townsend	25	965	167*	1	40.20
Mr F S Jackson	20	727	133	2	40.38
Mr P Perrin	20	657	168*	3	38.64
Mr S M J Woods	22	775	146	1	36.90
Brockwell	23	797	147	1	36.22
W Gunn	21	687	150	2	36.15
Mr A O Jones	15	526	250	0	35.06
Mr H C Pilkington	12	344	93	2	34.40
A Ward	24	783	118	2	33.59
Mr G L Jessop	17	534	171*	1	33.37
Wrathall	21	621	116	2	32.68
Mr S H Day	15	445	138	1	31.78
Mr F H B Champain	16	499	120	0	31.18
Mr H K Foster	11	341	83	0	31.00
Storer	31	791	96	5	30.42
Mr G Brann	24	677	157	1	29.43

Mr R E Foster	15	407	64	1	29.07
Mr E R Wilson	18	494	117*	1	29.05
Mr J A Dixon	12	343	71	0	28.58
Mr B J T Bosanquet	15	370	61	2	28.46
Tunnickliffe	30	795	82	2	28.39
Tyldesley	25	679	100	1	28.29
Mr P F Warner	18	469	150	1	27.58
Mr F Mitchell	28	765	194	0	27.32
A E Trott	30	743	164	1	25.62
Mr K J Key	21	446	59*	3	24.77
Mr F G J Ford	21	494	160	1	24.70
Mr C McGahey	20	430	75*	2	23.88
D L A Jephson	23	545	74	0	23.73
Lord Hawke	22	427	127	4	23.72
Dr W G Grace	15	334	60	0	22.26
Lilley	17	327	65*	2	21.80
Mr J R Mason	20	404	181*	1	21.26

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr W M Bradley	507	193	1069	76	14.06
J Gunn	240.1	79	494	33	14.96
Mead	803.3	315	1481	98	15.11
A E Trott	896.4	276	2181	140	15.57
Rhodes	743	249	1566	100	15.66
Mold	553.1	203	1056	63	16.76
Cuttell	553	240	893	53	16.84
Mr J R Mason	336.3	137	695	40	17.37
Wass	283	89	679	39	17.41
Haigh	459.3	157	907	52	17.44
Young	657.2	218	1507	85	17.72
Martin	512.3	99	711	39	18.23
F W Tate	541.4	189	1262	69	18.28
J T Hearne	844.1	320	1643	88	18.66
Hirst	505.3	164	1073	57	18.82
Tyler	182.4	39	568	30	18.86
Briggs	667.1	247	1150	60	19.16
Hulme	517.3	156	1048	54	19.25
Brockwell	531.2	173	1289	64	20.14
Paish	503.4	136	1142	56	20.39
Hayward	407.3	99	1129	54	19.31
Mr B J T Bosanquet	444.4	109	1122	52	21.57
Roche	353.3	101	887	41	21.63
Mr F S Jackson	305.1	93	671	31	21.64
Bland	534	175	1435	67	22.16
Dr W G Grace	328	59	407	16	25.43
Richardson	565.4	163	1280	47	27.23
Mr F G Bull	378	116	825	30	27.50
Mr G L Jessop	299.4	61	834	30	27.80
Mr C L Townsend	552.4	99	1566	56	27.90

AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Times not out	Average
Mr M A Noble	27	993	156	5	45.13
Mr C Hill	19	808	160	0	42.52
Mr J Worrall	19	626	104	4	41.73
Mr J Darling	28	793	134*	4	33.04

Mr S E Gregory	24	679	124	3	32.33
Mr V Trumper	22	635	135*	1	30.28
Mr J J Kelly	18	423	89	2	27.00
Mr F Laver	18	345	79	5	26.53
Mr F A Iredale	15	322	77	0	21.46
Mr E Jones	19	297	55	3	18.56
Mr W P Howell	19	162	49*	6	12.46
Mr C E McLeod	16	152	41*	2	10.85
Mr A E Johns	4	19	12	0	4.75

AUSTRALIAN BOWLING AVERAGES

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble	580.1	226	1033	70	14.75
Mr W P Howell	582.4	238	1183	67	17.65
Mr M A Noble	458.1	141	1046	56	18.67
Mr C E McLeod	272.3	87	650	33	19.69
Mr E Jones	540.4	158	1253	63	19.88
Mr F Laver	128	45	307	13	23.61

Monday 10 July, page 12: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

The sub-committee of the Test Matches Board met in London on Saturday for the selection of the English eleven to play Australia in the fourth of the test matches, the date of which is next Monday, and the ground chosen is Old Trafford, Manchester.

After the fine cricket of the team at Leeds it is not surprising to find ten of the eleven in the 13 names from which the side will be made up on the morning of the match. Briggs's illness left an inevitable vacancy; but it may be taken that if the wicket is soft Rhodes will play and if hard Mr W M Bradley.

Brockwell has been in the running for every match, but has not so far played. Tyldesley, who is one of the finest fieldsmen in England, has been ordered to be present in case of a substitute being wanted in the field. The 13 cricketers chosen are: -

Mr A C MacLaren, captain, Mr F S Jackson, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr C B Fry, J T Brown, Lilley, Hayward, Brockwell, Young, Rhodes, William Quaife, J Hearne, Mr W M Bradley.

ETON v HARROW. - The secretary of the Marylebone Club asks us to state that for the convenience of the public it has been arranged that the new stand seats for the match next Friday and Saturday can be reserved on application at Lord's before Friday next.

10 July: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5257.html)

Monday 10 July, page 12: GENTLEMEN v PLAYERS

At Lord's to-day the sides for this match will be: -

GENTLEMEN	PLAYERS
Dr W G Grace (captain)	Abel
Mr A C MacLaren	Hayward
Mr F S Jackson	Lockwood
K S Ranjitsinhji	Brockwell
Mr C B Fry	Storer
Mr D L A Jephson	Trott
Major R M Poore	J T Brown
Mr G MacGregor	Hirst
Mr J R Mason	Mead
Mr C L Townsend	Rhodes
Mr W M Bradley	Ward

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

It was a severe day's cricket at Lord's yesterday. The Gentlemen had the advantage of first innings and the pitch was sound and true; but runs were always hard to get, for the Players' bowlers were at their best both in length and spin, and although the Gentlemen lost only six wickets, their average rate of scoring was only a little over 60 runs an hour in an actual cricket day of six hours.

Mr Fry's game was by far the best both in merit and extent. He started with a caution that was in itself a tribute to the excellence of the attacking side. He took an hour to play himself in and to make his first nine runs; but thereafter his play was excellent in every respect. Nothing could have been better than his powerful driving which kept the ball on the ground, and next to this his best stroke was on the leg side. He scored altogether slowly; but the bowling was not of a kind to be lightly treated, and it was in trying to hit Rhodes that he was at last out.

Fry has played with great brilliancy right through the season and his 104, though it took him three and a quarter hours to make, was among his best innings. He made one bad error when in trying to place Hirst he was missed at short leg by Trott midway in his yesterday's career. Mr Fry in all hit ten fours, and had the distinction of scoring more than twice as many runs as any one else on the side; but his companions, if not so successful, played splendid cricket.

Mr MacLaren's driving, Ranjitsinhji's play on the leg-side, the steadiness of Messrs Townsend and Jackson, and the last stand by Dr Grace and Mr Mason left nothing necessary for a variety of fine batting. It was a very good ball that got out Mr MacLaren; Ranjitsinhji in trying to hit skied the ball to third man, Mr Townsend was brilliantly caught low down at short leg and Mr Jackson was bowled. Major Poore, as at the Oval, never found his game and played very commonplace cricket for his 27, which took him an hour to make.

The best partnership of the day was that between Messrs Fry and Townsend, who for the third wicket added 115 runs in two hours. Mr Townsend is a very excellent bat, although like most left-handers not very attractive to watch. But his scoring has been so consistent this season that it is not surprising to find that he completed his 1,000 aggregate by his runs yesterday at Lord's. When Mr Jackson was bowled at 309, Dr Grace and Mr Mason got together and played out time, adding 64 runs. They had few balls to hit; but, while Mr Mason made some fine drives, Dr Grace finished several balls in great style on the leg-side.

It was a fine day's cricket, but while the bowling was so true and the men got plenty of spin on the ball, it was patent to many that England at present lacks a bowler of the George

Lohmann type; English bowling has grown too mechanical; more headwork and vary of pace are wanted. Abel, who captained the Players yesterday, made the most of the bowling and the field was generally well placed, and the fielding side could gather some credit from the fact that on a perfectly true pitch a fine batting team were prevented from reaching an even normal rate of scoring.

The sides were not quite so representative as had been hoped; but the Players were the chief sufferers by the absence of Gunn, Shrewsbury, Lilley and W G Quaife. Mr A J Turner's duties at Woolwich with the Royal Artillery prevented his appearance, and Mr Jephson, of Surrey, was elected in his stead. There were 14,000 spectators of the cricket.

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

Lob bowling played a great part in yesterday's cricket at Lord's and led to the professionals having a very bad time, for last night, with two wickets down in the second innings, they were still 240 runs behind. But in these days, when a lob bowler's going on is the signal for a laugh from the crowd, it is a great rebuke to those who neglect the development of underhand slows that the only good lob bowler we have should get six of England's Players out for 21 runs.

Deception in the flight of the ball and ill-timed hitting are the things sought for by a lob bowler; and Mr Jephson certainly had these yesterday, and he was backed up by superb fielding. There were many fine catches - and true fielding is a very essential thing for the underhand bowler - but that by which Mr MacLaren got out Hirst was the catch of the day. Running along the boundary at a great pace he was almost square with the striker's wicket when he held the ball.

There were sundry other good catches; Mr MacLaren's, at short-slip, when he dismissed Albert Ward, that at long-on, when he secured Trott, and Mr Jephson's catch dismissing Hayward. Mr MacLaren's fielding was one of the features of the day, this remark being applicable alike to his catching and his ground work. Mr Gregor MacGregor, too, kept wicket excellently.

But the lob bowling of Mr Jephson was the thing most talked about. Since the days when Sussex largely relied on Walter Humphreys to get their opponents out there has been scarcely a lob bowler of any particular skill; but Mr Jephson yesterday was very good and his temptations to hit were not easily withstood. Curiously every man on the side was caught. Mr Jephson has done much good work for Surrey, but his successes were never so great as that of yesterday.

There was much other excellent cricket in the long day which began at 11.30 and extended until 7 o'clock. In the early hours there was the fine batting of Dr Grace to admire. "W.G." seemed in almost at once and his driving and his placing to leg were executed in a vastly different style to his cricket overnight. He was playing a quick and sterling game and seemed well set for his 100 when he was run out through a gross piece of misjudgement by Mr J R Mason, who, having played the ball to mid-off, called "W.G." for a hazardous run and the ball being well fielded by Walter Mead, Dr Grace was a long way out.

It was a bad ending to a great innings and could only be set down as one of the accidents of cricket. But it was a luxury to see the great Gloucestershire batsman so much resembling his won great self of other days. The Grace and Mason partnership yielded in all 130 runs. Mr Mason played very well, and his care in waiting for the bad ball was perhaps excusable seeing what bad luck the old Wykehamist has had this season.

The Players were in a position that presaged either a draw or a defeat for them. But with the wicket rid of the effect of the night's rain and very true, there seemed no reason why a big score should not have been made by them. The Gentlemen's bowling seemed to have nothing deadly about it. Mr Bradley was about the best of the amateurs, but he is rather a tearaway bowler with no particular length, only possessing a faculty to get a very good ball in now and again, such, for instances, as that which got out brown, of Driffield, in the second innings.

The Gentlemen owed their strong position to Mr Jephson. But the great thing in the Players' batting was the beautiful innings by Hayward. He was very strong on the fast bowlers and his stroke on the leg side was quite worthy of the splendid stock from which he comes. He played such perfect cricket that when he was caught and bowled from a fine return catch, every one was surprised. It was another hit June day and there were 12,000 people present.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 July, page 11)

The Gentlemen beat the Players at Lord's yesterday by an innings and 59 runs. The hours of cricket were brief, but there was no lack of brightness in the game, for the Players entered upon their forlorn hope with plenty of zest, and the vigour of Trott, Hirst and Rhodes, and the steadiness of Storer at some moments promised the prevention of an innings defeat.

How well Mr Jephson's lobs came off is told by the analysis. But the bowler yesterday was Mr Bradley; he kept pretty short and his pace on a pitch affected by rain made the ball get up considerably. Abel just turned the ball that hit his middle stump; but Trott mistimed one that was well up and had his off stump sent some dozen yards out of the ground.

Even in its brevity the day's cricket had its merits. Ward hit with a surprising freedom and Trott made some hard strokes; but the Yorkshireman Hirst, who scored his 33 in a quarter of an hour, achieved the best batting feat. He was very severe on Mr Bradley and such cutting as Hirst's has not been surpassed at Lord's this year. He actually made his first 30 in ten minutes.

No doubt the match would have been all over before luncheon save for Storer's steadiness; and Storer, who took out his bat, was in over two hours for his runs. The Gentlemen's fielding was not quite so good as it had been; sundry catches were dropped and Mr Bradley was the chief sufferer by these errors.

10 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5258.html)

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

Some uneven cricket was seen at Leicester yesterday in the opening stage of the Leicestershire and Lancashire match. Leicestershire won the toss and up to a certain point did well, their score when the second wicket went down at 20 minutes to 5 standing at 222, but then there came such a collapse that the last eight batsmen were got rid of for the addition of 59 runs, the innings thus being finished for 281.

The weather may have had something to do with the startling change that came over the cricket, for while up to late in the afternoon a very slight drizzle kept the wicket wet and so handicapped the bowlers, two showers fell and damaged the pitch just before the breakdown occurred. Cuttell seemed to be assisted by the new conditions, and he bowled so effectively as to take five of the last eight wickets.

Knight was batting three hours and a half for his 82, showing great patience and skill. His chief strokes were a five, seven fours and four threes. Mr De Trafford at the start of the innings played in brilliant style, hitting up 75 out of 104 in an hour and 20 minutes. Amongst his figures were ten fours, three threes and two twos. Pougher, who helped Knight to add 118 for the second wicket, showed steady cricket in getting his 67, and King, the only other man to reach double figures, played well for his 31. With the fall of the last Leicestershire wicket stumps were drawn.

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

At Leicester, on Monday, the Leicestershire team occupied the whole time available for cricket in completing an innings for 281. Yesterday morning Lancashire went in against this total and gave a remarkable display of batting, running up a total of 554 for the loss of only seven wickets.

Everything else done during the day was dwarfed by the superb innings of 249 played by Tyldesley, who has never before made such a big score in first-class cricket. He went in first wicket down at 41 and was the sixth man out at 510, being at the wickets altogether for four hours and three-quarters. His chief hits were 34 fours, 14 threes and 15 twos, and, so far as could be seen, he did not give a chance of any kind.

Cuttell helped him to put on 109 runs for the third wicket, and Eccles stayed while 65 were added for the fourth. Even better support was given him, however, by Sharp and Hallows, his partnership with the first-named producing 137 runs in an hour and a half, while Hallows assisted in scoring 139. Sharp in his excellent 72 hit a six - a drive into the pavilion - and seven fours, and Hallows showed capital form for his 60, his chief strokes being eight fours.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 July, page 11)

By running up the huge score of 554 for the loss of seven wickets at Leicester on Thursday, Lancashire made their victory practically assured, and yesterday they beat Leicestershire in decisive fashion by an innings and 170 runs, the match coming to an end at 5 o'clock.

The Lancashire innings was finished off in 40 minutes in the morning for a total of 590, Leicestershire thus having to face a balance of 309. They did their best to save the game, but in three hours and a half they were got rid of for 139. Knight and Brown gave most trouble, the former taking nearly two hours to score his 38 and Brown being at the wickets an hour and a half for 30. Mold bowled with great effect, taking five wickets for 24 runs, and he had a good share in Lancashire's handsome victory.

10 July: MIDLAND COUNTIES v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5259.html)

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

The presence of the Australians proved a great attraction at Birmingham yesterday, 10,000 people visiting the Edgbaston ground. A certain licence was allowed to the Warwickshire authorities in making up the Midland Counties eleven, places being given to three Gloucestershire cricketers - F H B Champain, G L Jessop and Wrathall. As in their two matches last week the Australians were without Hill and Worrall, both of whom have recently been in the hands of the doctors.

The day's cricket proved thoroughly interesting, an innings being completed on each side with an advantage to the colonial team of only seven runs. Some showers fell in the morning, but the ground was not affected to any great extent, the wicket remaining fairly easy all the afternoon.

The Australians won the toss and went in first, but despite admirable batting by Trumble and Darling eight wickets were down for 129. Then, however, when a small score seemed in prospect, Jones came to the rescue of his side, and by some fierce hitting obtained in half an hour 47 runs out of 63. The innings was all over by 20 minutes past 3, the total being 192. Trumble, who went in first, was out fifth at 114, his 50 being the result of rather less than an hour and a half's batting. The two Worcestershire bowlers, Arnold and Wilson, did capital work, each taking four wickets.

When the Midland Counties went in, W G Quaife failed, but Champain, Arnold and Jessop met with so much success that with only two wickets down the score reached 70. Then, however, there came a sudden collapse. No one would have been surprised if after this the innings had been speedily finished off, but as it happened the disasters were retrieved. Lilley and Wrathall, playing very skilful cricket, put on 53 together, and towards the close of the afternoon Hulme by vigorous hitting scored in 25 minutes 35 runs out of 43. The last wicket fell at 185, and with the close of the innings stumps were drawn.

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

From the time the first ball was sent down yesterday until stumps were drawn at half-past 6 the cricket at Birmingham was full of incident. During the afternoon the fortunes of the game underwent many changes, and when at last the end was reached the position of affairs favoured neither side. To put in as few words as possible what happened, the Australians, with a lead of seven runs, scored in their second innings 234, and then, on going in to make the 242 runs required to win, the Midland Counties lost three wickets for 98.

Mere figures, however, convey no adequate idea of how the cricket went. The Australians did not make their runs without a severe struggle, as with three wickets down in three-quarters of an hour for 37 runs they had a good deal the worst of the game. It was then that they gave another proof of their ability to recover from a bad start, Noble and Trumper staying together for 65 minutes and carrying the score to 108. To Noble belonged the most credit, his steady, patient methods wearing down the bowling just when it was at its best. He was out fifth at 126, his innings of 63 being faultless. He was batting a couple of hours and, as a matter of record, it may be mentioned that he hit seven fours.

Afterwards Darling stayed in for an hour and 40 minutes, receiving admirable assistance from Iredale and Kelly, who helped to put on 38 and 25 respectively, while Howell, in his unorthodox style, hit up 23 runs out of the last 30.

The Midland Counties made none too happy a start when they entered upon their formidable task and, though Arnold and Quaife batted steadily and well, the third wicket fell at 50. The cricket that followed was, from the English point of view, the most satisfactory of the day. In their different ways A O Jones and Quaife played the fine bowling in first-rate

style, and during the rest of the afternoon no success fell to the Australians, the two batsmen staying in until the close and being not out with 38 and 21 respectively.

As the game stands now the Midland Counties, with seven wickets to fall, want 144 to win, so that which ever way the game goes to-day there is the prospect of a good finish. The crowd after lunch yesterday numbered 10,000.

THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM. - Mr Noble completed his 1,000 aggregate for the season at Birmingham yesterday; he is the first member of the side to achieve the feat.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 July, page 11)

When play ceased at Birmingham on Tuesday night the Midland Counties team seemed to have an excellent chance of beating the Australians, as with seven wickets in hand they required 144 runs to give them the victory. Had the wicket remained fast and true to the end the Australians would very likely have been defeated, but, unfortunately for the English players, heavy rain fell during the night and greatly damaged the pitch, so that the batsmen found themselves in unexpected difficulties when the game was continued shortly after 12 o'clock yesterday.

Still the not outs, W G Quaife and Mr A O Jones, did very well for a time, the overnight score of 98 being carried to 144 before Quaife was caught at short leg for a patiently-played 36. The partnership of the two men produced in all 94 runs for the fourth wicket. After Quaife's dismissal the Australians always had the game in their hands, though Mr Jones for a long time batted splendidly. He was eighth out at 191, having given only one chance in scoring his 90. He was batting altogether for two hours and a half and hit 13 fours and five threes.

The English innings was finished off by 2 o'clock for 197, the Australians thus winning by 44 runs.

10 July: SUSSEX v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5260.html)

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

Yesterday's cricket at Hove, Brighton, possessed no remarkable feature. Marlow played very well for his 71, and it was his batting that enabled Sussex to make anything like a respectable score . . .

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

A brilliant innings by Mr A J L Hill enabled the Hampshire eleven to get the better of yesterday's cricket at Brighton, and when stumps were drawn their prospects of success in the match were bright.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 July, page 11)

Much to the surprise of the 500 or 600 people who visited the Brighton ground yesterday the Sussex eleven, by dint of some very fine all-round play, gained a victory over Hampshire by 57 runs.

When stumps were drawn on Tuesday Hampshire looked to be well on the road to success, as Sussex, with eight men out in their second innings for 158, were only 113 runs ahead. Such a determined resistance, however, was offered by the remaining members of the eleven that before the innings came to an end 112 runs were added, the total being thus carried to 270.

The chief honours rested with Vine, who took out his bat for a faultless 115 - his first three-figure score in important cricket. For a batsman comparatively new to county cricket he showed remarkable judgment. When his side were in danger of going to pieces on Tuesday he maintained a defence that nothing could shake, but yesterday, with the position much improved, he allowed himself more freedom and scored well all round the wicket. In second wicket down at 38, he was batting for four hours and a quarter, and hit 15 fours. Favoured by a dropped catch, Butt helped to add 52 runs, and then Humphreys stayed with Vine while 65 were put on for the last wicket.

Hampshire require 226 runs to win and, though it was thought that the task would be accomplished, it was sufficiently heavy to make the cricket highly interesting. As it happened Hampshire lost their first five wickets for 46, and were all out in two hours and a half for 168. Mr A J L Hill again batted superbly and, with Mr Bennett as his partner, added 82 for the sixth wicket in an hour. He gave no chance in a stay of 75 minutes, and in making his 53 sent the ball eight times to the boundary.

10 July: YORKSHIRE v SOMERSET

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5261.html)

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

Somerset did well at Hull yesterday against Yorkshire, who were handicapped by the absence of many of their best cricketers at Lord's for Gentlemen v Players. Bernard and Robson put on 156 for the second Somerset wicket, but subsequently Brown, of Darfield, bowled with great success, and his record at the finish was seven wickets for 78 runs.

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

After an interesting day's cricket at Hull yesterday the Yorkshiremen finished up with rather the better of the position in their match against Somerset. At the close of play on Monday Yorkshire had, in face of a total of 275, scored 59 for the loss of one wicket, and yesterday the Yorkshire total reached 290 before the side were all out.

Mitchell was dismissed when only ten runs had been added to the overnight score, but Denton and Mr E R Wilson made a splendid stand, putting on 114 runs for the third wicket, Denton being at last got rid of for an admirable 74. Mr Wilson showed most skilful cricket for his 55, in getting which he did not make a mistake, and he is to be congratulated upon so successful a first appearance for his county.

Somerset went in a second time, and lost three wickets for 78 before play ceased.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 13 July, page 11)

Bad weather spoilt a very interesting finish at Hull yesterday afternoon. A violent storm broke over the ground when with four wickets in hand Yorkshire wanted 23 runs to win, only 20 minutes being left for play. It was a most disappointing end to a keenly-fought game.

In the early part of the day Somerset did not bat particularly well, only carrying their overnight score of 78 for three wickets to 184. Mr Bernard, for whom the match was a great personal success, increased his 39 not out to 54, and some good hitting was shown by Messrs Woods and Newton. Griffin, on the other hand, played very steadily and took an hour and ten minutes to score 23.

Yorkshire wanted 170 to win and obtained before luncheon 18 runs for the loss of Mr Mitchell's wicket. When play was resumed 21 runs were quickly added, and then the light became so bad that the game had to be stopped. Rain came on just afterwards and nothing more could be done till past 4 o'clock. For a time Yorkshire's batting broke down badly, and when the fifth wicket fell at 62 a victory for Somerset seemed in prospect. However, Tunnicliffe, who had been in all through the innings, found an admirable partner in Lord Hawke, and the two batsmen completely turned the fortunes of the match.

It was 6 o'clock when Lord Hawke was bowled, only 32 runs being then required. Whitehead went in, but with nine runs added the storm burst and there was no choice but to leave the match drawn. Tunnicliffe's splendid innings of 74 not out lasted two hours and 35 minutes and included seven fours. Except for a chance at mid-off at 73 he made no mistake.

Tuesday 11 July, page 12: THE CRICKETERS' FUND

The annual general meeting of the Cricketers' Fund Friendly Society was held at Lord's ground last evening under the presidency of Mr W E Denison. Amongst others present were Lord Harris, Mr F E Lacey and Mr H Perkins.

The balance-sheet showed a gratifying result on the year's working, for against a slight deficiency last year, a balance of £57 was now recorded. The chairman, having congratulated the meeting upon this result, observed that efforts had been made to arrange a match with the Australians with a view to augmenting the exchequer of the Cricketers' Fund. It was hoped that a date would be fixed early in September for the match, and the Colonials had expressed their willingness to play provided that the share of the gate which would otherwise have gone to them was devoted to the assistance of Harry Trott, and the balance to the Cricketers' Fund.

Beyond the re-election of Mr Denison as president, Mr Henry Luff as secretary, Mr G F Hearne as treasurer and the committee of management, with the substitution of George Hearne for J Briggs, there was no other business calling for mention.

In responding to a vote of thanks which was accorded him for presiding, Mr Denison took the opportunity to refer to the proposed new rule which empowers either umpire to no-ball a bowler if he is convinced of his unfair delivery. The new rule, he pointed out, did not relieve the bowler's umpire of any responsibility now attaching to him, but the umpire at the batsman's end was in an excellent position to judge the fairness of a bowler's delivery, and hence it was necessary that he should be vested with the authority to no-ball a bowler. The bowling of to-day, he thought, was fairer than it used to be, but, for all that, it was not beyond suspicion, and he hoped that when the proposed new rule became law the game would benefit as the result.

Lord Harris supplemented the chairman's observations, and in the course of his remarks said the drastic alterations in the laws of the game which were now proposed had not been suggested without careful consideration, and those who were responsible were not a little influenced by the opinions of the most experienced umpires.

Thursday 13 July, page 11

DR W G GRACE'S ELEVEN v THE AUSTRALIANS. - At the Crystal Palace to-day week, July 20, the team to oppose the Australians will include Dr W G Grace, Mr C O H Sewell, Mr F H B Champain, Mr G E Winter, Mr T L Taylor and Mr R E Foster; W G Quaife, Lilley and Arnold. Wilson, of Worcestershire, will possibly play, and another bowler has yet to be picked.

13 July: DERBYSHIRE v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5262.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 July, page 8)

The poor support given to cricket at Derby has induced the county to arrange fixtures for other towns, and yesterday the first important match ever played at Glossop was begun. In a way the experiment proved successful, the attendance being good, but the state of the wicket left something to be desired. Heavy scoring was expected, but instead each side completed an innings and, going in a second time, Lancashire lost a wicket for 32 runs.

At the start batsmen did well and Lancashire, who batted first, gained a big advantage, leaving off 108 runs to the good with nine wickets in hand. Except for the sound defence of Mr A H Hornby and some brisk hitting by Tyldesley early in the day, there was nothing in the batting, and after Lancashire's second wicket fell at 62 the whole side were out for 132, no stand being made against Hulme and Bestwick, who bowled admirably.

And when Derbyshire went in Mold and Webb did still better. Mold, who bowled very fast, carried all before him and had the remarkable analysis of seven wickets for 19 runs.

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

With the wicket in much better condition at Glossop yesterday than it had been on Thursday, the cricket changed completely in character and the Lancashire men found scoring an easy matter. Tyldesley and Ward at once obtained a mastery over the Derbyshire bowling and altogether added 103 for the second wicket; then Hartley and Cuttell put on 84 for the fourth, while Eccles and Sharp hit up 61 for the sixth partnership.

Tyldesley, the highest scorer, had some luck in making his 74, being missed twice before reaching 50; but he hit finely and played attractive cricket. Among his strokes were 12 fours, four threes and two twos. Another excellent innings was Hartley's 69, in which were 11 fours; but perhaps Eccles, who captained the side, showed the best form. Hitting with freedom, he made no mistake in his 57, in which were ten fours.

Lancashire at one time looked like running up a much bigger score than 339; but, after having previously met with no success, Storer went on at 292 and finished off the innings rapidly. None of the batsmen played his leg breaks with any confidence and he took five wickets for 21 runs.

Requiring no fewer than 416 runs to win, Derbyshire were in a practically hopeless position, and as they lost three of their best bats for 43 runs they left off with every prospect of being badly beaten.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 July, page 10)

At Glossop, on Saturday, Lancashire defeated Derbyshire by 269 runs. The home county, who were set 416 to win, had when stumps were drawn on Friday afternoon lost three wickets for 43.

On Saturday Mr Kenward and Storer made a fair stand, putting on 70 runs while they were together; but Mr Kenward in making his 37 gave two distinct chances. After they were separated the only batsman to give any trouble was Mr Wood. The innings closed at half-past 1 o'clock for 146, having lasted a trifle under three hours. The collapse of the Derbyshire tail was chiefly brought about by the bowling of Albert Ward, who took six wickets for 29 runs.

13 July: ESSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5263.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 July, page 8)

It is a long time since the pitch at Leyton was favourable to batsmen; and yesterday it was at its worst. Following its preparation there had been a storm; and in the early hours of yesterday the ball kicked badly. It was almost a misfortune to win the toss, for as the day advanced the wicket improved.

But before this improvement occurred Essex were already in a losing position. With the ball bumping and with Lockwood breaking back at a great pace Essex had a bad time, and in an hour and a quarter were out for 37. Lockwood bowled with something of his old sting, and his six wickets for 18 runs was a fine performance.

When Surrey were in the turf seemed to have profited considerably by the application of the heavy roller. The Essex left-hand bowler, Young, bowled very well, and with seven men out for 81 it seemed after all an even match. Messrs H B Richardson and K J Key did well and their partnership was responsible for 55 runs.

Essex are now 26 runs behind with four wickets to fall in the second innings. There were about 10,000 spectators of yesterday's play.

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

As was only to be expected from the position of the match overnight Surrey gained an easy victory over Essex yesterday on the Lyttelton ground, Leyton, by nine wickets.

When the game was resumed Essex, in their second innings, were 26 runs behind with only four wickets in hand. But, with the pitch showing considerable improvement, Mr W M Turner and Buckenham batted so well that the arrears were hit off without further loss, and they were not parted until 96 runs had been added for the seventh wicket. Both played with considerable skill at a critical period, and it was entirely due to them that Surrey had to go in a second time. Mr Turner was in an hour and three-quarters for his 65, with included seven fours, three threes and three twos.

Requiring 68 to win, Surrey got the necessary runs for the loss of Abel's wicket, and the match was over shortly after 2 o'clock. Lockwood showed a welcome return to form with the ball, and in the two innings took 11 wickets for eight runs apiece.

13 July: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5264.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 July, page 8)

For the first time since matches have been played between Gloucestershire and the different Australian teams that have visited this country, the Western county yesterday took the field at Bristol without W G Grace. For all that they were very well represented, Champain, Jessop and Sewell making their first appearance in county cricket this summer. The Australians, on the other hand, had nothing like their full strength, Hill and Worrall being still unable to play, and a rest being given to Noble, who had taken part in every previous engagement.

The colonials, however, had the good fortune to get first innings and, aided by a little luck, they ran up a score of 377. The great feature of the day's cricket was a very bright and skilful innings of 104 by Trumper, who, going in first wicket down, was fifth man out at 212. The young batsman gave a chance to Paish in the slips when seven, and should have been run out when 75, but otherwise his cricket was quite free from fault during the two hours and three-quarters he was at the wicket. Included in his score were seven fours, six threes and 17 twos.

Excellent assistance was rendered to him by three members of the Australian team, Trumble helping to put on 54 for the second wicket, Gregory 77 for the third and Darling 67 for the fourth. After Trumper's departure Iredale appeared to considerable advantage in putting together a score of 39, but was missed with his score at two, and Laver offered a very determined resistance to the Gloucestershire bowling. These two men took the total from 213 to 302 in about 70 minutes. Laver's style was no more attractive than usual, but he hit hard at times and gave no chance, included in his 77 being seven fours, three threes and ten twos. Apart from the three blunders mentioned the Gloucestershire eleven fielded remarkably well, Sewell, Champain and Brown being always conspicuous.

Gloucestershire had a few minutes' batting towards the close of the day and scored six runs without loss. Charming weather favoured the game and about 6,000 people visited the county ground.

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

After making a capital fight up to lunch-time at Bristol yesterday, the Gloucestershire eleven failed very badly before the Australian bowling and left off at night in practically a hopeless position. So well did Rice and Wrathall and then Townsend and Sewell play that in two hours and a half before lunch the overnight score of six was raised to 166 for two wickets.

The first pair of batsmen, both of whom left at the same total, carried the score to 85, Wrathall, who made 52 of the number, hitting six fours. As already indicated Townsend and Sewell followed up this excellent start in admirable style and were not parted until the total had reached 180. Townsend, who scored 50 in 70 minutes, hit seven fours, and neither he nor Sewell gave the least approach to a chance.

After they were separated, both leaving at the same total, the batting deteriorated considerably. Troup offered a strong defence, but except from Champain and Jessop he received no assistance, and the innings, which had opened so well, closed for a total of 240. Trumble met with no success before lunch, but afterwards he bowled very effectively, sending down 18 overs for 35 runs and six wickets.

Following on in a minority of 137, Gloucestershire again fared very badly, losing Wrathall, Townsend, Sewell and Rice in 50 minutes for 20 runs. At this point Jones had obtained three wickets for 11, but in view of the test match on Monday he was taken off, Darling being desirous of saving his fast bowler as much as possible. A praiseworthy stand was then made by Troup and Champain, the pair in a little over an hour putting on 74 runs. Both were out

before the drawing of stumps, and at the close Gloucestershire, with six wickets down for 99, required 38 runs to avert an innings defeat.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 July, page 10)

According to general expectation the Australians easily defeated Gloucestershire at Bristol on Saturday, though the colonials lost four wickets for 28 runs only.

13 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5265.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 July, page 8)

With everything favourable to batting at Trent Bridge yesterday Notts began their return match with Sussex very satisfactorily, scoring 298 runs and losing only four wickets. The batting was always good, but A O Jones and Shrewsbury, who put on 130 for the first wicket, each had an escape. They were not parted until after lunch, the amateur at last being beaten by a fine ball from Bland, who bowled with rather bad luck. Jones hit 10 fours in his 86, and as usual played with plenty of dash.

Shrewsbury maintained a watchful defence for over three hours and very rarely seemed at fault in scoring his 63; but the best innings was William Gunn's 57. He made no mistake during the couple of hours he was at the wickets and showed rather more freedom than customary. A good company watched the cricket in fine weather. It will be seen that K S Ranjitsinhji is not playing, an injured wrist keeping him away.

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

Taken altogether, yesterday's cricket at Trent-bridge was quiet and uneventful, but there were several features of interest about it. Overnight Notts had made 298 for the loss of four wickets, but such careful methods did the remaining batsmen of the side adopt that it took them until lunch-time to reach a total of 410, the 112 runs added yesterday morning being obtained in very little under two hours and a half.

Dench, for the first time this season, played an innings of over 50, but he was extremely slow, being at the wickets for over three hours. However, apart from its tediousness, little fault could be found with his batting, and during the whole time he was in he gave no chance.

If only by reason of the sharp contrast it presented, the cricket that marked the opening of the Sussex innings came as a welcome relief. Fry and Brann hit so freely that 50 runs were scored in half an hour before a wicket fell. Subsequently, Killick and Vine gave an admirable display, the two young cricketers staying together for nearly an hour and a half and adding 100 runs for the fourth partnership.

Killick might have been caught behind the wicket when 39, but, except for this, his batting was very skilful indeed. Vine followed up his success against Hampshire with another excellent innings, and when play ceased for the day, with the total at 223 for five wickets, he was not out 52. As the game stands now, Sussex, with half their wickets to fall, are 187 behind.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 July, page 10)

Although the Nottingham captain put the closure into force at Trent-bridge on Saturday this match ended in a draw. Sussex, in reply to Nottingham's score of 410, had on Friday obtained 223 for five wickets.

On Saturday their total was carried to 338, mainly owing to the batting of Vine and Tate. The former was at the wickets for three hours and a half. He gave a chance when his score stood at 59, and that was the only fault to be urged against a careful and patient innings. Included in his score were five fours, four threes and eight twos. Though not quite at home with the bowling, Tate hit freely, his 58 being of great service to the side.

In Nottingham's second innings Mr Jones and Mr Dixon played brilliantly. One hundred and forty-seven runs were obtained in an hour and 25 minutes for the loss of three wickets. At that point the innings was declared closed, Sussex being set 220 to get to win. Only two hours remained for play and the match was drawn.

13 July: WARWICKSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5266.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 14 July, page 8)

The ground at Birmingham had quite recovered yesterday from the effects of the rain that fell on Tuesday night and the pitch was in perfect order for the return match between Warwickshire and Yorkshire. Yorkshire had the good fortune to win the toss and they made capital use of their opportunity, staying in for the whole of the day and running up a score of 350 for the loss of six wickets.

With the exception of Tunnickliffe, every man who went in made double figures, the best batting of the day being seen when Hirst and young Mr E R Wilson were together. During their partnership the score was exactly doubled, and the fact that 128 runs were put on in an hour and 40 minutes sufficiently indicates the lively character of the cricket. Hirst, who was out first, made his 85 in the time mentioned, hitting 11 fours, six threes and five twos. So far as could be seen he did not make a mistake of any sort.

Mr Wilson, in getting his 79, gave a display of quite a different kind. He was batting for about three hours and a quarter, showing patient defence, combined with stylish and correct hitting. His chief strokes were seven fours, five threes and 12 twos. After he left Lord Hawke and Haigh stayed together until the close, adding 45 runs in the last 50 minutes. Yorkshire are still without Mr Jackson; and Wainwright is kept away by a damaged hand.

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

Yorkshire yesterday at Birmingham considerably strengthened their position and at the close of play Warwickshire were left in a very bad way. Overnight Yorkshire had lost six wickets for 350. Lord Hawke and Haigh batted so well that they were not dismissed until the score had been increased to 466. Haigh hit in brilliant style for his 70, which included 11 fours, while Lord Hawke showed great care until he had completed his 50.

When Warwickshire went in only Lilley, W G Quaife and Devey were seen to any advantage, and in two hours and three-quarters the whole side were out for 143. Warwickshire had to follow on against 323, and at their second attempt they lost two wickets for 73 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 17 July, page 10)

Warwickshire gave a good display in their second innings against Yorkshire at Birmingham on Saturday but, nevertheless they were easily beaten by ten wickets. The chief feature of the day's cricket was the batting of Devey and Lilley, who put on 120 runs in an hour and three-quarters. Devey's 102 was made by well-timed hitting all round the wicket, and included 12 fours.

Brown, of Drifffield, in trying to hold a sharp return from Devey injured one of his fingers so badly that he may possibly not be able to play for England against Australia to-day.

Monday 17 July, page 10: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The results in the competition are so far as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	14	6	1	7	5
Yorkshire	16	10	3	3	7
Middlesex	8	6	2	0	4
Lancashire	15	9	3	3	6
Notts	9	2	1	6	1

Essex	11	4	3	4	1
Sussex	12	4	4	4	0
Kent	9	3	4	2	-1
Gloucestershire	9	2	3	4	-1
Leicestershire	10	2	4	4	-2
Derbyshire	11	2	7	2	-5
Hampshire	9	1	5	3	-4
Somerset	11	1	6	4	-5
Warwickshire	10	0	3	7	-3
Worcestershire	4	0	3	1	-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 AVERAGES

Below are printed the chief averages of the season: -

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Times not out	Average
Major Poore	10	651	175	2	81.37
Shrewsbury	16	832	146	1	55.46
K S Ranjitsinhji	31	1532	197	3	54.71
Hayward	29	1335	158	3	51.34
Abel	32	1355	357*	2	45.16
J T Brown	35	1443	192	1	42.44
Mr A C MacLaren	10	378	126	1	42.00
Mr C B Fry	33	1343	162*	1	41.95
Mr A J Turner	17	668	124	1	41.75
Mr A O Jones	19	779	250	1	41.05
Mr C L Townsend	28	1066	167*	2	41.00
Mr F S Jackson	21	771	133	2	40.57
Lockwood	20	656	100	3	39.17
William Quaife	28	732	148	3	38.52
W Gunn	24	828	150	2	37.63
A Hearne	27	895	162*	3	37.29
Mr S M J Woods	24	849	146	1	36.91
Tyldesley	28	1029	249	1	36.75
Mr P Perrin	22	664	168*	3	34.94
Brockwell	27	872	147	2	34.88
A Ward	28	895	118	2	34.42
Mr H C Pilkington	12	344	93	2	34.40
Mr S H Day	15	445	138	1	31.78
Mr E R Wilson	21	628	117*	1	31.40
Mr H K Foster	11	341	83	0	31.00
Storer	35	890	96	6	30.68
Mr G L Jessop	22	623	171*	1	29.66
Mr J A Dixon	14	410	71	0	29.28
Mr F H B Champain	20	584	120	0	29.20
Mr G Brann	28	781	157	1	28.92
Mr P F Warner	18	469	150	1	27.58
Mr H B Richardson	25	550	72	5	27.50
Hirst	30	714	85	4	27.46
Diver	20	542	134	0	27.10
Mr F Mitchell	31	834	194	0	26.90
Lord Hawke	25	562	127	4	26.76
Dr W G Grace	16	412	78	0	25.75
Mr K J Key	22	475	59*	3	25.00

Mr C E de Trafford	25	593	117*	1	24.91
A E Trott	32	769	164	1	24.80
Mr F G J Ford	21	494	160	1	24.70
Mr D L A Jephson	25	580	74	1	24.16
Mr J R Mason	21	476	181*	1	23.80
Lilley	23	487	62	2	23.19
Denton	30	661	74	1	22.79
Mr C McGahey	22	454	75*	2	22.70

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr W M Bradley	559	208	1223	83	14.73
Mold	688.1	230	1211	78	15.52
Mead	871.2	342	1610	100	16.10
A E Trott	936.4	287	2282	141	16.18
Rhodes	837	279	1742	106	16.43
Young	691.4	226	1593	90	17.70
Mr J R Mason	345.3	139	724	40	18.10
J T Hearne	844.1	320	1643	88	18.67
Haigh	531.2	179	1089	57	19.10
Briggs	667.1	247	1150	60	19.16
Brockwell	577.2	190	1387	69	20.10
Hirst	571.3	180	1216	60	20.26
Lockwood	229	84	861	42	20.50
Hayward	413.3	101	1139	55	20.70
Mr F W Stocks	357	128	740	35	21.14
Mr F S Jackson	326.1	102	715	32	22.34
Bland	589.2	186	1633	72	22.68
Mr F G Bull	383.4	116	847	33	25.66
Richardson	586.4	163	1318	50	26.36
Mr G L Jessop	299.4	61	834	30	27.80
Mr C L Townsend	595.1	103	1695	60	27.91

AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Times not out	Average
Mr M A Noble	29	1063	156	5	44.29
Mr V Trumper	21	807	135*	1	43.50
Mr C Hill	19	808	160	0	42.52
Mr J Worrall	19	626	104	4	41.73
Mr J Darling	32	911	134*	5	37.44
Mr S E Gregory	28	781	124	4	30.45
Mr F Laver	21	440	79	6	29.23
Mr H Trumble	26	567	100	5	27.00
Mr J J Kelly	21	451	89	2	23.73
Mr F A Iredale	19	387	77	0	23.68
Mr E Jones	22	371	55	3	19.52
Mr W P Howell	22	209	49*	7	13.93
Mr C E McLeod	20	158	41*	3	9.29
Mr A E Johns	5	22	12	1	5.50

AUSTRALIAN BOWLING AVERAGES

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble	684.3	263	1256	85	14.78
Mr W P Howell	670.1	272	1378	73	18.46
Mr E Jones	606.4	175	1404	74	18.97
Mr M A Noble	455.1	147	1087	56	19.41

Mr C E McLeod	327.3	113	757	38	19.92
Mr F Laver	157	57	373	17	21.94

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5267.html)

Monday 17 July, page 10

In meeting England to-day at Old Trafford the Australians will be placed at a disadvantage, Clement Hill being unable to play. The exact constitution of the side will presumably not be determined on till this morning, but Worrall, who, owing to a bad knee, has not played since the last test match at Leeds, will be in the eleven.

England will be represented by 11 of the following: - Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire) (captain), Mr F S Jackson (Yorkshire), Mr C B Fry (Sussex), K S Ranjitsinhji (Sussex), Mr W M Bradley (Kent), J T Brown (Yorkshire), W G Quaife (Warwickshire), W Brockwell (Surrey), T Hayward (Surrey), A A Lilley (Warwickshire), W Rhodes (Yorkshire), J T Hearne (Middlesex) and Young (Essex).

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 July, page 10)

Yesterday in the fourth of the test matches which is being played at Old Trafford, Manchester, Thomas Hayward, of Surrey, who has in each of the other matches been a bulwark of the English side, came out in the same role. It would be impossible to imagine a better innings than his 130. He arrived at a critical time; he seemed at once at home, and his watchfulness and finish against much fine bowling were almost inimitable. He waited from the bowling from which to score and he never made a bad stroke.

Going in when four of the English side were out for 47, he was batting from half-past 12 until nearly 20 minutes to 6, and deducting intervals this meant four and a quarter hours' actual cricket. Hayward practised his fine variety of strokes right through his innings, but those which were most admired were the off-drive and the cut, although any leg ball was beautifully finished by him. He was eighth out at 324, when, in trying to hit, he gave mid-off rather an easy catch, although it was made one hand from a half-volley. The chief figures in his excellent innings were 18 fours.

Before Hayward went in England had fared badly, mainly through their own fault. The heavy dew may have helped the bowlers at starting, and Jones, by bowling short, made the ball bump very much; and then again the Australian bowling was particularly good. The catch at short-leg which Darling brought off to dismiss Quaife was very well made. It was a hard hit and rather low, but Darling threw himself forward and just held the ball. Fry started hitting, and after making one fine off-drive from Jones, he, in attempting to repeat the stroke off the next ball, edged it into his wicket.

So badly did England do at starting that four wickets were down for 47. Ranjitsinhji was very strong on the leg side, but he was over-anxious to hit, and it was a tame stroke to mid-on from which he was out. The Australians seemed already to have established an advantage when they had got out Quaife, Fry, Ranjitsinhji and MacLaren for 47 runs. MacLaren, by the way, was out to a beautiful ball that beat him as he attempted to play it.

It was Jackson and Hayward who first began to improve the English position. While Hayward exercised every care, Jackson forced the game with characteristic courage and skill. His driving was very strong, and there was one particularly fine boundary by him when Howell had gone on for Noble. Whenever Jones was relieved Trumble always took up his end, but Jackson seemed mostly to appreciate Noble's bowling, and it was through two fine fours off this bowler on the leg side that the 100 was reached. Jackson brought quite a glorious innings to an end with an ill-timed attempt to cut that resulted in his getting under the ball and giving extra-slip an easy catch.

Five wickets were then down for 107, but hereafter the Australians had a very bad time. The pitch was rid of any falseness that the dew had given it in the morning. The ball came along much more easily, and Hayward found in Brockwell, Lilley and Young most serviceable partners. Brockwell began the forcing game, and his 20 after luncheon were so well made

that he hit the Australian bowlers off their pitch and made the running for the subsequent English cricketers. Brockwell was sixth out, caught at mid-on at 154, and even now there seemed no prospect of the big score which England ultimately secured.

Lilley, however, played very finely. He was always a good bat, but his method of dealing with a ball was never better illustrated than it was yesterday. His off-drives and his stroke on the leg side were both well done. Hayward, too, having passed the 50 in two hours, found quick scoring moments. He came down on Jones very heavily in cutting and the fast scoring continued. It was in vain that Darling varied his bowling. The Australian captain himself made about the first blunder in the field when at long leg he missed Lilley off Jones. The error was of small consequence, for Lilley was almost directly afterwards out leg before. It had been a remarkable partnership, for in 90 minutes 113 runs had been added, and the stand had changed the whole nature of the match. Lilley's cricket was very good, and he had a big reception when he came back.

But this was as nothing to the scene that greeted the completion of Hayward's 100, the first hit against the Australians this year in a test match. The previous highest score was Ranjitsinhji's 93 at Trent Bridge. The huge crowd rose **en masse** and some moments elapsed before the subsidence of the applause. When Hayward was caught at mid-off at 324, this being the eighth wicket down, the innings seemed almost over - and Hayward had, by the way, scored 130 out of 277 added during his stay - but the astonishing part of the innings was, perhaps, furnished by the stand for the last wicket.

Young, who had gone in seventh wicket down, was quite clever in his stroke on the leg side, and he hit very hard, but when nine men were out for 337 he and Bradley collared the bowling and made 35 in a quarter of an hour, and it was after 6 o'clock when Young was bowled and the innings completed for 372.

The Australians had a few minutes' batting and lost one wicket - Laver was out to a good catch by Lilley at short leg. It was a fine day's cricket, but after the sorry start no one could have been more surprised than the Englishmen when they found themselves in a satisfactory position.

Brown, of Driffield, had to stand out of the English side through a badly bruised hand, and Rhodes stood down in consequence of the hard pitch. Brockwell and Bradley played for the first time in the side this season, and the latter had the distinction of taking a wicket with the first ball he sent down. The Australians were handicapped by the loss of one of their best bats, for Hill had to absent himself through a painful throat operation he has had to undergo.

With the weather wholly typical of the best English summer some 30,000 people were at Old Trafford yesterday, and such was the crowd that the gates to the ground were closed to the public at luncheon time.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 July, page 9)

At Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, the Australians showed again their wonderful capacity to play an uphill game. In their first innings they lost seven wickets for 57 runs, but in the end they had compiled 196. They therefore had to follow on and to make 176 before they got on level terms with their rivals. So well did they in their second effort that, with eight wickets in hand, they are but 34 behind.

The Colonials looked like being beaten in an innings, but it may truly be said that they never know when they are beaten. It was certainly an advantage to them to follow on when things had gone so badly for the side, for they were able to begin their second innings against bowlers wearied by hard work and against fieldsmen feeling the effects of severe play under a hot sun.

The chief feature of yesterday's cricket was the batting of Noble. Going in third wicket down, he checked the "rot" which had set in and, playing with wonderful care, he found two

useful partners in Trumble and Iredale. In the second innings he had made 59 not out when stumps were drawn.

Mr Bradley and Young bowled splendidly for England, and on the fast and hard wicket they alone seemed in form. J Hearne bowled little and lacked his old sting. The English fielding got a little slack in the last hour of the day, but it was evident that the men felt the heat and the hard work entailed in fielding from 11 o'clock until half-past 6. Noble, however, never showed any signs of slackness, although he began his first innings at 11.25 and was at the wicket until the close.

The English fielding was generally superb, particularly that of Jackson, Quaife and MacLaren. Lilley at wicket, by dropping catches off Bradley in the second innings, scarcely maintained his reputation. Worrall he missed when the batsmen had made one only and Trumper off his first ball.

It was but a few minutes after 11 o'clock when the Englishmen took the field. The Australians had lost on Monday night Laver's wicket for one run, and yesterday morning the bowling of Young and Bradley was so perfect that the Colonists were soon in a difficult position. A yorker from Bradley sent Howell's middle stump flying with only six on the board. At 14 Young bowled down Kelly's leg stump, and Worrall, after having an escape in the slips, was dismissed by Bradley at 26.

Four for 26 was a bad start indeed, but the position of the Australians grew rapidly worse. The English bowlers and fielders were quite at the top of their game. Gregory, who began with a pretty stroke on the leg side, was out at 35, and a swerving ball from Young sent back Trumper at 53. Darling was bowled at 57 and seven men were then out.

It was at this stage that the great defence of Noble began to make itself felt. Extreme care marked his game. He had been in a quarter of an hour when he scored his first single, and he was at the wicket an hour before reaching double figures. Soon, however, runs came so quickly that MacLaren made sundry changes in the bowling; but these were of no avail, for, apart from Young and Bradley, the English bowlers seemed to trouble the batsmen but little. Now and again, when Bradley and young renewed the bowling, the batsmen were in trouble, but it was not until after luncheon that the eighth wicket went. Trumble, who had made 44 out of 82 in an hour and a quarter, was then caught at third man. But eight for 139 was still a poor score against 372.

Iredale made some good strokes, but he never seemed comfortable and was beaten by both bowlers. Noble, however, never forsook his splendid defence, and when he reached his 50, which had taken two hours and three-quarters to make, he was very warmly cheered. He ultimately carried out his bat for 60. He had saved his side from utter collapse, and his long and splendid defence secured for him the applause of every one.

In the second innings Darling made a radical change in his "order" and renewed the Australian batting with Worrall and Noble. Noble went on with the same easy steadiness that had marked his cricket in the first innings. But Worrall forced the play. Young and Bradley seemed much less difficult than they were earlier in the day. But if they had lost some of their sting they kept a good length and runs came slowly.

In Bradley's first over Lilley dropped Worrall at the wicket. As the score mounted steadily MacLaren varied his bowling, but Jackson, Hearne and Brockwell seemed to trouble the batsmen little. Now and again there would be a mistimed stroke through the slips, but it was not until the partnership had produced 93 runs in 95 minutes and Young had gone on that Worrall was caught at short leg. He had played a fine free game and had got nearly all his runs in front of the wicket.

Trumble stayed some time, but at 117 he was caught at short slip, and this, too, after Bradley and Young had returned to their original ends. Trumper and Noble played out time.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 July, page 7)

The Australians drew their match - the fourth of the test matches - at Manchester yesterday, and it was a great feat after the course of the game on the first day and in the early hours of Tuesday. They had a tremendously stern struggle and they fought with a tenacity that was well worthy of the traditions of Australian cricket. Fortunately for them the wicket was little affected by the rain of Tuesday night. The pitch was a little slow in the first two hours, but thanks to the early haze the turf was rid of the effects of the wet before the sun began to shine strongly.

For their great achievement in saving the game the Australians were almost completely indebted to Noble, who was batting from 11.25 on Tuesday morning, during the cricket hours, until a quarter to 3 yesterday, so that in his double innings he was only once dismissed. His stay at the wicket lasted in all eight hours and a half, and he made 149 runs. His batting was a display of indomitable patience. He neglected many opportunities to score and seemed bent on wearing down the English fieldsmen and bowlers. Now and again the bowlers beat him without finding the wicket, but he gave no actual chance in either innings.

The Australians generally adhered to their cautious game, but the English team threw away their chances by dropping catches. Worrall and Trumper were missed off Bradley by Lilley standing back, and yesterday Darling was missed, this time by Jackson at mid-off. These errors probably cost England the game, as a glance at the score will show.

The batting was a little dull yesterday to follow, but the bowling and fielding were good, and the Australians secured plenty of applause for their hard fight. The last hour's cricket after they had declared must not be taken too seriously, for the Englishmen, with the draw inevitable, forsook their regular game and tried to hit almost everything.

There was one rather disagreeable incident in the game, and that was the protest by the Australians against Tyldesley's fielding as substitute for Hayward, who, suffering from a slight sunstroke, had to retire early in the day. The Australians made the stipulation that if Tyldesley fielded Hayward should not bat, but Mr MacLaren would not consent to this, and so Rhodes, the twelfth man, came out as substitute. The English executive certainly seemed to be asking for a concession in having Tyldesley to field for them, for there is no better fieldsmen in the country.

This was the third test match that has been left drawn. It is curious that the three games left unfinished should have been away from London. Australia beat England at Lord's, and the rubber will now depend on the match at the Oval on August 14. The gate at Old Trafford yesterday ran to about 15,000, the aggregate for the three days being nearly 56,000, and the Australians will have made nearly £2,000 out of the match.

It was 11 o'clock when the Englishmen entered the field, and sawdust at each end indicated the condition of the pitch. Hearne and Young had the bowling to start with, but the wicket was too soft for Young, who very soon gave way to Brockwell. The bowling was difficult to time, and twice Hearne got right past Noble without hitting the wicket. Hearne bowled extremely well on a pitch that suited him and, being backed up by very fine fielding, his first six overs were maidens.

The batting was very quiet, and the only hit of note was a four by Noble from a long hop by Brockwell. Trumper began scoring quite freely and got, as usual, most of his runs on the leg side. There was a loud burst of cheering when the innings defeat was saved. This occurred at a quarter to 12. MacLaren soon had Bradley on to bowl, but Trumper, who played very finely, ran to his 50 in an hour and a quarter. Such had been the difference in the scoring of the two men that Trumper had made these runs while Noble was adding only 14.

The Australians were going very strongly, and with the 200 up Hearne was again put on to bowl. This time he met with success, for Trumper in playing forward was beaten and bowled. He had played fine cricket for 63, which was his share of 88 put on for the third wicket. Hearne was bowling wonderfully well and with something of his old sting. Twice he nearly bowled out Noble; the second time the ball just missed the off stump and went for four byes. Gregory found Hearne very difficult to play, and in his second over from him he was easily caught at short slip.

Four for 213 showed a great change in the position of the game. Darling and Noble were then partners, and there were sundry trivial delays that absorbed a lot of time. Jackson, who went on to bowl, made the ball bump badly, and Noble was hit on the hand. Hayward was so unwell that he had to get Rhodes to field for him. Before this ten minutes had been taken up without the scoring of a run, and altogether only five runs were made in the half-hour before 1 o'clock.

With Young bowling again Jackson at mid-off dropped a catch from Darling. It was a hard drive and came below the fieldsman's knees. The batting was very quiet and Noble failed to get a run for three-quarters of an hour after he had made 78. Just before luncheon Bradley and Ranjitsinhji had a trial with the ball, but no other wicket had fallen at the interval, the score being 240 for three wickets. Noble had been exactly an hour in carrying his score from 78 to 82.

The game was renewed at 20 minutes past 2. When 15 runs had been slowly added Noble was at last out, a simple return catch to Hearne ending his innings. He was at the wickets nearly five hours and a half, so that he made only 89 during that time. The Darling and Noble partnership produced only 43 runs in 90 minutes.

With five wickets down for 255, interest in the match revived. Bradley and Hearne bowled very well, but the batsmen refrained from hitting, and presently Hearne gave way to Young, in whose third over Darling, who had been in two hours, was caught at short leg, where Rhodes brought off a clever catch low down. Six wickets down for 278 runs.

When Kelly came in there was a sharp chance given to Brockwell by Iredale at short slip, and then slowly the interest in the game ebbed, and by 4 o'clock the draw seemed inevitable. Kelly and Iredale were batting an hour for the seventh wicket for 41 runs, and when, just after 5 o'clock, the Australians closed their innings the score was 346 for seven wickets.

The Englishmen had been fielding since 20 minutes past 6 on Monday in tropical weather, and certain signs of fatigue were excusable. Little seriousness was attached to the last hour's cricket, for the Englishmen had been set 171 to get in a little more than an hour. They appreciated the Ponsonby, and with the draw inevitable hit almost at everything, and they scored 94 in just over the hour. Trumble took three wickets, two from very fine catches by Iredale in the long field, but he had Ranjitsinhji twice missed off him, first by Trumper in the long field and then by Gregory at short leg, while Jackson was missed at mid-on by Worrall.

Ranjitsinhji's splendid batting in the last 50 minutes came as a great relief to the crowd after the quietude of most of the hours of the day. But the real interest of the match was over about 5 o'clock, and the drawn game remained as a monument of the Australians' capacity for fighting gallantly an uphill game.

17 July: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5268.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 July, page 10)

In the opening of the return match between Gloucestershire and Kent at Bristol yesterday the cricket, though tolerably interesting, did not present any features out of the common. Gloucestershire, who went in first, looked like being out for quite a moderate score, seven wickets being down for 166, but, thanks to a determined stand by Board and Mr Brown, the total in the end reached 256.

Wrathall and Mr Townsend put on 51 runs for the second wicket, and Mr Troup and Mr Champ 62 for the fourth partnership. Mr Champain played a fine innings of 53, marred only by a chance when 40, and Board, aided by a little luck, hit up 58, which is his best score for the county this season. In trying to save a boundary Wright trod on the ball and badly strained his ankle.

Kent had an hour's batting at the close of the day and scored 53 for the loss of two wickets. The weather was very hot and there was a fair attendance of spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 July, page 9)

In this match with Gloucestershire at Bristol yesterday the Kent eleven were seen to marked advantage. Overnight, in reply to the western county's total of 256, they had scored 53 for two wickets, and yesterday they increased their total to 406, the innings, which lasted six hours and 50 minutes, not coming to a close until 20 minutes past 6.

The chief feature of the innings was the superb batting of Mr C J Burnup, who raised his overnight score of 29 to 150. He had been missed on Monday evening, but yesterday his play was quite free from blemish. He was at the wickets for four hours, and hit ten fours, 12 threes and 17 twos. Huish, who had been sent in overnight, helped the old Cantab to put on 102 runs for the third wicket, while Mr Livesay assisted to add 113 for the fifth wicket.

With Mr Weigall and Mr Blaker together some quick hitting was witnessed, 76 runs being scored in 65 minutes. Stumps were drawn at the close of Kent's innings, Gloucestershire being 150 in arrears.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 July, page 7)

Gloucestershire yesterday, at Bristol, by some splendid batting, quite recovered their position, and when stumps were pulled up they had none the worst of a drawn game.

For this result they were chiefly indebted to Mr C L Townsend, who played an invaluable innings for his side. His 152, not out, except for a couple of chances at 116, was made in quite his best form. With Wrathall for his partner 120 runs were added for the second wicket, while Mr Jessop and Mr Champain gave him splendid support. Mr Jessop, when he had made seven, was caught at long-off by Mr Day, who, however, stepped over the boundary in taking the ball.

17 July: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5269.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 July, page 10)

The opening day's play between these teams at Lord's yesterday was chiefly noticeable for the good batting of Captain Wynyard and Mr W L Murdoch. The former played very attractive cricket and his 89 included no less than 15 fours. When he and Mr Murdoch were together 152 runs were put on in just over two hours for the first wicket.

Afterwards Carpenter and Storer were seen to advantage, but the rest of the side, with the exception of Sir T C O'Brien, who could get no one to stay with him, could do little with the bowling of Wilson and Bird. Worcestershire had an hour's batting before the close, and at the drawing of stumps they were 236 runs behind with nine wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 July, page 9)

When Worcestershire resumed their innings and Lord's yesterday there was very little of note in their batting. Mr W L Foster showed good form for his 52, which included ten fours, while Mr R E Foster also played good cricket.

On going in a second time, 105 runs to the good, the M.C.C. were seen to great advantage. With the exception of Captain Wynyard's and Carpenter's, however, their batting was marked more by its evenness than any innings of individual merit. Captain Wynyard's 81 was the best thing in the day's cricket. He was batting just over an hour and a half and his figures included 15 fours. At the close of play the M.C.C. were 432 runs on with two wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 July, page 7)

As the result was practically a foregone conclusion, little interest was shown in yesterday's play at Lord's, where Worcestershire was defeated by 332 runs.

Although the visitors were left in a hopeless position, few were prepared for their collapse in their second innings. Six of the side got double figures, but no one could make a prolonged stand against the bowling of Albert Trott and Tate. The former varied his bowling with considerable skill and he had the splendid analysis of seven wickets for 33 runs.

17 July: YORKSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5270.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 18 July, page 10)

Having the good fortune to bat first at Sheffield yesterday on a true wicket, Leicestershire stayed in until a quarter past 6 and made 337, stumps being pulled up at the conclusion of their innings.

Knight carried off the chief honours with 131, which occupied him three hours and ten minutes, and included a five, 17 fours, nine threes and five twos. He went in first and was fourth out at 253. Before he had made a run he was missed at short leg by Tunnicliffe, and when 75 he put up a ball behind point which Mr Wilson could not reach. But apart from these mistakes, he played perfectly sound cricket.

Mr De Trafford helped him to put on 107 for the first wicket, the Leicestershire captain hitting in vigorous style for 62. Pougher, though he only made 18, stayed while 80 runs were added for the second wicket, and L Brown assisted in scoring 62 for the third. Mr T L Taylor, of Cambridge University, is making his first appearance for Yorkshire, who are without Mr F S Jackson, Brown (of Drifffield), Rhodes, Hunter and Lord Hawke.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 19 July, page 9)

A fine batting performance was accomplished by the Yorkshire eleven at Sheffield yesterday. Without F S Jackson and J T Brown they had to face a total of 337, but they made so light of their task that, staying in for five hours and 25 minutes, they put together a total of 452.

This splendid score was the work of many hands, but the chief honours rested with Denton, who, going in second wicket down at 11 o'clock, scored 110 out of 172 in two hours and ten minutes. Though putting on runs at that fast rate, Denton did not make any mistake and hit in his brilliant innings 17 fours and 14 twos. Mr F Mitchell and Wainwright each made 77 by admirable cricket and were each at the wickets for an hour and three-quarters. Mr Taylor also played capitally and Hirst hit up 53 in three-quarters of an hour.

In a minority of 115 Leicestershire had a few minutes' batting at the close of the day and lost one wicket for eight runs.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 20 July, page 7)

It is a most unusual thing for a side to score over 300 at the outset of a match and then be beaten in a single innings, but this was Leicestershire's experience against Yorkshire at Sheffield yesterday.

When the game was continued Leicestershire had an uphill task before them, and their position was rendered almost hopeless by heavy rain which had fallen during the night. Brown of Darfield bowled with such effect that he took four wickets in five overs for nine runs, and with half their side out Leicestershire had only scored 18, but a better stand was made afterwards and the total in the end reached 112.

This, however, left Yorkshire with a victory by an innings and three runs. Brown, after opening in such sensational fashion, was subsequently freely hit, and Haigh came out with the best analysis.

Tuesday 18 July, page 10

Mr A N Hornby wishes it to be announced that a subscription has been started for the family of Briggs, the famous Lancashire professional, whose condition has been very grave since his epileptic seizure at Leeds a few weeks ago.

Thursday 20 July, page 7: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Below will be found the present positions of the counties engaged in the competition for the county championship: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Surrey	14	6	1	7	5	71.42
Yorkshire	17	11	3	3	8	57.14
Middlesex	8	6	2	0	4	50.00
Lancashire	15	9	3	3	6	50.00
Notts	9	2	1	6	1	33.33
Essex	11	4	3	4	1	14.28
Sussex	12	4	4	4	4	--
Kent	10	3	4	3	-1	-14.28
Gloucestershire	10	2	3	5	-1	-20.00
Leicestershire	11	2	5	4	-3	-42.85
Derbyshire	11	2	7	2	-5	-55.55
Hampshire	9	1	5	3	-4	-66.66
Somerset	11	1	6	4	-5	-71.42
Warwickshire	10	0	3	7	-3	-100.00
Worcestershire	4	0	3	1	-3	-100.00

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "one point shall be reckoned for each win, one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

20 July: DERBYSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5271.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 July, page 11)

The cricket at Chesterfield yesterday had for its feature the brilliant innings of William Storer.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 July, page 14)

There was much fine batting by the Leicestershire men at Chesterfield yesterday, and little chance exists of the match being played out. Rain stopped the game just after 5 o'clock when Leicestershire were only 88 behind with two wickets to fall. Mr Wood played steadily for over three hours and a quarter for his 91, in which were seven fours.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 July, page 14)

Not a ball was bowled at Chesterfield on the third day of this match owing to bad weather . . .

20 July: LANCASHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5272.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 July, page 11)

On the Aigburth Ground, Liverpool, yesterday, the Lancashire innings absorbed the whole of cricketing hours. Essex were handicapped in having Young away, who was hurt in the test match at Manchester.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 July, page 14)

Essex made a hard fight at Liverpool yesterday, and after having seven men out for 174 managed to save the follow-on. Mr Perrin and Carpenter played the best cricket of the day and their partnership for the second wicket yielded 94 runs. Carpenter played steadily and scored his runs in good style, while Mr Perrin, although he was twice missed, made his score by strong batting in front of the wicket.

Lancashire began their second innings badly; Mr MacLaren was bowled before scoring and Mr Hornby was out at 4. Tyldesley was missed at short slip and afterwards with Ward carried the total to 49.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 July, page 14)

The wet weather on Saturday at Liverpool destroyed any chance of the completion of this match. There was only an hour's cricket and the game was given up as a draw . . .

20 July: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5273.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 July, page 11)

Though not at their full strength the Gloucestershire eleven did very well in the opening of their return fixture with Notts at Trent-bridge yesterday. Going in first on a fast pitch they stayed at the wickets for four hours and 20 minutes, and put together the fine score of 372.

The heroes of this performance were Townsend and Jessop, who respectively made 114 and 126 runs. Townsend, who gave a chance at 86 and again at 99, was batting for two hours and a half and hit 12 fours, five threes and 12 twos. Jessop gave a very brilliant display, scoring a century in an hour and only being at the wickets an hour and a half in all. He made no mistake. Included in his score were one five (four for an overthrow), 18 fours, seven threes and nine twos.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 July, page 14)

The loss of Shrewsbury's wicket during the last half-hour's play at Trent-bridge on Thursday was a serious matter to the Notts team, and during the whole of yesterday they were engaged in an uphill game. Their first innings resulted in the compilation of 190 runs after 170 had been scored for five wickets.

In the follow-on the side did a great deal better, and at the finish they were in a moderately good position, being 43 runs ahead with seven wickets in hand. The first innings was only redeemed from complete failure by the fine play of Mr Jones and William Gunn. These two batsmen became partners when four wickets had been lost for 46, and while together they put on 124 runs. Gunn was batting an hour and 20 minutes for his 52 - an admirable display - which included half a dozen fours.

Mr Jones, who is just now in wonderfully good form, gave a difficult chance in the slips when he had made 59, but otherwise his innings of 87 was not marred by a blemish of any kind. He hit 13 fours, two threes and five twos. Going in the third wicket down, he was the eighth man out, his runs being made in just over two hours. The cause of the breakdown at the end of the innings was the highly effective slow bowling of Paish, who, when put on for the last time, took five wickets in five overs at a cost of only four runs.

When Notts followed on a capital start was made by W B Goodacre and Shrewsbury, the former confirming the favourable impression he made the other day against the Australians. In less than an hour he scored 57 out of 79, his brilliant innings including 11 fours. Shrewsbury and William Gunn added 109 for the second wicket, Gunn again scoring over 50 runs without giving a chance, but unluckily for Notts Mr Jones played a ball on to his wicket a few minutes before the call of time. Shrewsbury at the close was not out 89, having played in his best style for three hours.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 July, page 14)

Rain prevented any cricket at Trent-bridge on Saturday and the match was abandoned as a draw
. . . .

20 July: SOMERSET v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5274.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 July, page 11)

Somerset had all the better of the game at Taunton yesterday, this, too, in spite of the absence of Mr Woods through a family bereavement. Robson's innings was the best of the day and he hit 12 fours, driving being the stroke by which he got most of his runs. Owing to the late arrival of Cranfield Somerset batted a man short.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 July, page 14)

An extraordinary display of batting by Major Poore and Captain Wynyard marked the cricket at Taunton yesterday, and by their success a vast change was brought about in the position of Hampshire. Overnight the latter county had been left in a rather bad plight, having, in the face of a total of 315, lost four of their wickets for 65, but before Poore and Soar, the not outs, were separated yesterday, Hampshire had secured a big advantage.

The total had reached 258 when Soar left for a finely-played 95, having helped Poore to add 196 runs for the fifth wicket. Then came a truly wonderful partnership between Poore and Wynyard, who stayed together for four hours and 20 minutes and in that time increased the total by the enormous number of 411. Wynyard, who was the first to leave at 669, made three mistakes in scoring his 225, but his first chance was not given until he had reached 146. He hit a couple of fives and 36 fours.

Poore was out in the same over as Wynyard at 670, having made 304, the second highest individual innings this season. He was batting altogether for nearly seven hours, and hit no fewer than 45 fours. He might have been caught by the wicket-keeper, standing back, on Thursday evening when he had only made four, but he gave no further chance until he had scored over a hundred, and after that the only blemish in his innings was a chance at 290.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 July, page 14)

The wonderful batting of Major Poore and Captain Wynyard at Taunton on Friday was followed up by good bowling on Saturday, with the result that early in the afternoon Hampshire were left with a victory by an innings and 151 runs.

Hampshire's innings was declared closed the first thing on Saturday morning, and Somerset quickly lost the chance of saving the game. They had six wickets down for 114 and, though Daniell and Newton, who at that point became partners, carried the score to 189, the whole side were got rid of for 206.

20 July: SUSSEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5275.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 July, page 11)

Splendid weather favoured the return match between Sussex and Surrey at Brighton yesterday. Sussex did well, staying in the whole of the day and scoring 348 for the loss of only five wickets.

The innings was started by Brann and Marlow, who made 44 runs in three-quarters of an hour. After Marlow's dismissal Fry helped Brann to make a brilliant stand. It was not until the total had been carried to 163 that Fry was bowled in playing forward to Lockwood. Vigorous driving marked his innings, his 64 including ten fours.

Brann was got rid of for 81, and the feature of the play afterwards was the batting of Ranjitsinhji. He was not out 106 at the close and was at the wickets for two hours and 50 minutes.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 July, page 14)

The Hove ground continues its kindnesses to batsmen. Sussex scored heavily on the first day and made 348 for five wickets, and yesterday they increased their record to 453. Ranjitsinhji added 68 to his overnight figures and was then bowled by Brockwell. He played with his usual brilliancy and obtained his 174 in four hours and 25 minutes, during which he hit 22 fours, seven threes and 16 twos.

When Surrey went in Brockwell and Mr Miller made 152 in two hours and a quarter for the first wicket by a hard forcing game. Mr Miller, who was appearing for the first time in the county eleven, had the distinction of achieving the rare feat of scoring 100 runs on such an occasion. Surrey, with seven wickets in hand, are only 209 runs behind.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 July, page 14)

The heavy scoring continued at Brighton on Saturday, and the match, in which 1,153 runs were made in the three days, was drawn. Mr Miller added only 14 more and was out for 124, a brilliant innings, in which were 19 fours. Lockwood, Hayes and Lees all hit hard, and Surrey managed to head their opponents' score by 23.

Then came the second innings of Sussex, marked by beautiful cricket by Ranjitsinhji, Mr Fry and Mr Brann, and 224 were made in less than three hours for the loss of one wicket.

20 July: W G GRACE'S XI v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5276.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 July, page 11)

At the Crystal Palace yesterday the eleven got together by Dr Grace made 358 for five wickets. The Australians were without three of the chief members of their side - Jones, Hill and Worrall, who were resting - and after their great work at Manchester in the test match the lack of keenness in bowling and fielding which they exhibited could well be excused.

The great incident of the day was the batting of Hearne and Braund. They got together when two men were out for 41, and in two hours and a half they made as many as 242 runs. On the fine true pitch both men played splendid cricket. There was scarcely a bad stroke on either's part.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 July, page 14)

Good batting again marked the cricket at the Crystal Palace yesterday, and there was another large company, while the wicket, in spite of the rain in the night, played as well as ever.

Hearne, before being sixth out from a hard return, managed to beat J T Brown's highest record of 167 against the Australians this season; his innings was a good one and included 26 fours. Dr Grace played rather patiently, but T L Taylor hit well. The innings lasted in all six hours and produced 431.

After luncheon the Australians went in and by 6 o'clock had made 189. The batting was very sound but the scoring was slow. Dr Grace made the most of the bowling at his command and the fielding was good. It will be gleaned from the score given below that the Australians have 123 more runs to get to save the follow on and that they have six wickets left.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 July, page 14)

There never seemed much chance of anything but a draw in this match at the Crystal Palace, after the big innings of the scratch side, for Dr Grace had not sufficient bowling capacity at his command to get such a batting team as the Australians out twice for small scores.

Iredale played steadily for his 115 and took nearly five hours to make his runs. He had obtained 76 of these on Friday night, and his innings extension two hours into Saturday. The rest of the cricket possessed little interest . . .

20 July: YORKSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5277.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 21 July, page 11)

In the return match at Bradford yesterday the Yorkshire eleven secured an advantage. They dismissed Middlesex in two hours and 40 minutes for 188, and then scored in two hours and a half 216 for one wicket. Their bowling and batting were equally good; but for once their fielding was much at fault. David Hunter behind the wicket made several mistakes and Tunnicliffe blundered at slip.

Middlesex opened very well, but half the team were out for 118. Some fine hitting by Ford, who scored 40 in 50 minutes, improved the position, but after lunch, though Hunter missed three catches, the last four wickets went down for 49 runs. Brown, of Darfield, after the interval, bowled ten overs for 18 runs and three wickets.

For Yorkshire Jackson and Tunnicliffe together scored 41 in half an hour for the first wicket. On Tunnicliffe's downfall Denton joined Jackson and some superb batting followed, 175 runs being made before the stumps were drawn. Denton might have been caught in the slips, but, speaking generally, the play was beyond reproach.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 22 July, page 14)

Rain at the end of the afternoon curtailed the game at Bradford yesterday by rather more than an hour, but of the time at their disposal the Yorkshire eleven made splendid use, carrying their overnight score of 216 for one wicket to 575 for seven wickets.

Their batting was the more remarkable as they had all through the afternoon to play some extremely good bowling. Mr F S Jackson and Denton, who had given such a splendid display of cricket on Thursday, added 44 to the score before they were parted. Altogether they put on in two hours and 40 minutes 219 runs for the second wicket. Denton's innings of 113 was disfigured by an easy chance at slip when he had scored 89 and another faulty stroke of the same kind that did not go to hand, but for the most part he batted very finely. Among his hits were 13 fours, five threes and three twos.

Mr Jackson, who has not played so great an innings in any previous match this season, was bowled at 316. During a stay at the wickets of just over four hours he was at his very best, never being in any trouble with the bowling till Rawlin beat him.

He hit 21 fours, five threes and three twos. Mr Mitchell, who was also seen to the best possible advantage, was in for just four hours, rain stopping the game directly after he was out. So far as could be seen he gave no chance, and among his hits were one five, 12 fours, three threes and nine twos. With his score of 121 he completed his thousand runs in first-class matches this season.

Both Wainwright and Hirst played capital cricket, but Wainwright was fortunate in being missed when he had made 14. Hirst forced the game in capital style, hitting in an innings of 53, which only lasted 50 minutes, no fewer than ten fours.

Day 3 (report from Monday 24 July, page 14)

There was only a little cricket at Bradford on Saturday, rain permanently stopping the game at 1 o'clock. Yorkshire had closed their innings the first thing in the morning, and Middlesex would have had a severe task to have saved the match. Mr Hayward played very well, but three men were out for 87 when the weather broke up.

The positions in the county championship are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Surrey	15	6	1	8	5
Yorkshire	18	11	3	4	8
Middlesex	9	6	2	1	4
Lancashire	16	9	3	4	6
Notts	10	2	1	7	1
Essex	12	4	3	5	1
Sussex	13	4	4	5	0
Kent	10	3	4	3	-1
Gloucestershire	11	2	3	6	-1
Hampshire	10	2	5	3	-3
Leicestershire	12	2	5	5	-3
Derbyshire	12	2	7	3	-5
Somerset	12	1	7	4	-6
Warwickshire	10	0	3	7	-3
Worcestershire	4	0	3	1	-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 AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Times not out	Average
Major Poore	11	955	304	2	106.11
K S Ranjitsinhji	35	1859	197	5	61.96
Shrewsbury	18	932	146	2	58.25
Hayward	30	1465	158	3	54.25
Mr C L Townsend	31	1358	167*	3	48.50
Mr F S Jackson	24	984	155	3	46.85
Abel	33	1387	357*	2	44.74
Mr A O Jones	21	886	250	1	44.30
Tyldesley	30	1203	249	2	43.07
J T Brown	35	1443	192	1	42.44
Lockwood	21	739	100	3	41.05
Mr A J Turner	17	668	124	1	41.75
Mr C B Fry	37	1469	162*	1	40.80
Mr F P Knox	16	405	106	6	40.60
W Gunn	26	934	150	2	39.91
Storer	38	1170	216*	7	37.74
A Ward	30	940	118	3	38.51
Captain Wynyard	15	554	225	0	26.93
Mr S M J Woods	24	849	146	1	36.91
Mr P Perrin	23	730	168*	3	36.50
W G Quaife	24	755	148	3	35.95
Brockwell	29	966	147	2	35.77
Mr H C Pilkington	12	344	93	2	34.40
Mr G Brann	30	947	157	2	33.82
Mr A C MacLaren	14	439	126	1	33.76
Mr H G Leveson-Gower	13	386	155	1	32.16
Mr G L Jessop	25	767	171*	1	31.95

Mr F Mitchell	33	1032	194	0	31.27
Mr F H B Champain	23	676	120	0	29.39
Mr J A Dixon	16	423	71	1	28.20
Lord Hawke	26	586	127	5	27.90
Diver	20	542	134	0	27.10
Mr P F Warner	20	513	150	1	27.00
Mr H B Richardson	26	555	72	5	26.42
Mr C E de Trafford	28	710	117*	1	26.29
Dr W G Grace	16	412	78	0	25.75
Mr K J Key	23	496	59*	3	24.80
Lilley	24	545	62	2	24.77
A E Trott	35	800	164	1	23.52
Mr J R Mason	22	480	181*	1	22.85

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr W M Bradley	638	237	1372	89	15.41
Mold	656.1	231	1265	79	16.01
Rhodes	858.3	284	1793	110	16.30
A E Trott	1049.4	329	2548	153	16.61
Young	757.4	248	1753	96	18.26
Haigh	582	193	1215	66	18.40
Mead	944.2	379	1941	104	18.66
Briggs	667.1	247	1150	60	19.16
J T Hearne	944	366	1794	92	19.50
Tate (Sussex)	755.4	279	1641	84	19.53
Paish	641.3	179	1460	74	19.72
Lockwood	381.3	97	953	47	20.27
Hulme	667.1	196	1407	63	20.69
Hayward	416.3	102	1149	55	20.87
Mr J R Mason	391.3	155	857	41	20.90
Tyler	367.1	80	1027	48	21.39
Hirst	613.3	188	1357	63	21.55
Mr B J T Bosanquet	475.4	111	1192	54	22.07
Brockwell	640.2	207	1545	70	22.07
Bland	628.2	195	1709	74	23.09
Mr F S Jackson	359.4	116	779	33	23.60
Mr C L Townsend	647	119	1809	65	27.83
T Richardson	644.4	175	1509	53	28.07

AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Times not out	Average
Mr M A Noble	32	1247	156	6	47.96
Mr C Hill	19	808	160	0	42.52
Mr J Worrall	21	693	104	4	40.76
Mr V Trumper	24	909	135*	1	39.52
Mr J Darling	35	976	134*	5	32.53
Mr S E Gregory	32	814	124	5	30.14
Mr F Laver	25	491	79	7	27.27
Mr F A Iredale	22	569	115	1	27.01
Mr H Trumble	30	643	100	6	26.79
Mr J J Kelly	24	494	89	2	22.45
Mr E Jones	23	371	55	3	18.56
Mr W P Howell	25	213	49*	7	11.83
Mr C E McLeod	22	204	41*	4	11.33
Mr A E Johns	6	22	12	1	4.40

AUSTRALIAN BOWLING AVERAGES

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble	775.3	292	1461	90	16.27
Mr M A Noble	512.2	169	1229	63	19.50
Mr W P Howell	745.2	292	1543	78	19.80
Mr E Jones	656.4	184	1573	78	20.16
Mr C E McLeod	350.3	123	798	39	20.46
Mr F Laver	180	62	448	18	24.88

24 July: DERBYSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5278.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 July, page 9)

At Derby, yesterday, the Derbyshire captain, after winning the toss, decided to put Essex in first. This decision proved disastrous to his side, for Essex stayed in the whole day and ran up the big score of 317 for the loss of only four wickets.

The chief honours belonged to Mr Perrin, who played in wonderfully good style for 148 not out. He went in when Carpenter had been dismissed at 17, and when play ceased he had been at the wickets for about five hours. Ayres helped him to add 54 runs, while Messrs McGahey and W M Turner assisted him to put on 92 and 74 runs respectively.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 July, page 11)

Yesterday, at Derby, Essex, who had run up a score of 317 for four wickets, were batting for another two hours, and during that time added 137 runs, their total amounting to 454. Mr Perrin increased his score of 148 to 196. He played a masterly, patient innings, being at the wickets six hours, and except for a chance at mid-off directly after he went in, made no real mistake. He hit a 6, 11 fours, six threes and 31 twos.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 July, page 12)

Rain came to the assistance of the Derbyshire eleven at Derby yesterday, the game having to be abandoned as a draw. Only 20 minutes' cricket took place, but even that short space of time sufficed to finish off Derbyshire's first innings, in which six wickets had fallen for 232. Mr Bull bowled his slows with such remarkable success that the four outstanding wickets went down for the addition of eight runs, the side thus being out for 240. It is worthy of mention that Bull sent down his last ten overs for 16 runs and five wickets.

At the close of Derbyshire's innings rain fell so heavily that shortly after half-past 3 it was decided to abandon the game, Derbyshire being 214 in arrear on the first innings.

24 July: LANCASHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5279.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 July, page 9)

At Manchester, yesterday, in the opening of the Lancashire match with Gloucestershire, there was one batting performance of exceptional merit on each side. Mr Townsend made 91 out of 173 in two hours and a half, and Tyldesley 75 not out in an hour and a half. Townsend was twice missed from sharp chances, first at the wicket when 19 and again when 72 by Webb at mid-on.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 July, page 11)

After an interesting day's cricket at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday, the score was left as follows . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 July, page 12)

Lancashire won this match at Old Trafford, Manchester, yesterday by eight wickets.

24 July: SURREY v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5280.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 July, page 9)

The slow wicket on the Oval yesterday helped the bowlers and runs were always difficult to obtain, so that similar conditions existed to those when early in May Howell got ten wickets and Surrey were completely beaten.

Abel and Brockwell did very well for a time yesterday, but when once they were separated the innings collapsed and Surrey were out just after luncheon for 112. Trumble bowled right through the innings. With his varied pace and fine length and spin he secured the splendid analysis of eight wickets for 35 runs; he hit the stumps six times and got two other men caught at short leg.

The Australians were in for rather more than three hours and made 159 for eight wickets. There was nothing calling for comment about their batting; in fact they had to struggle very hard for their runs. Lockwood bowled with his old sting and the Oxford "blue," Knox, also did well. He kept a nice length and his slows were very puzzling, while he made a fine return catch that got out Darling. Wood was scarcely up to his usual form at wicket. The Australians are 47 ahead with two wickets left.

There were about 15,000 spectators of yesterday's cricket on the Oval. Hayward has not quite recovered from his sunstroke, and it was decided to allow him additional rest.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 July, page 11)

The Surrey eleven made a splendid fight at the Oval yesterday against the Australians, who to-day have to make 296 more runs in the second innings with all ten wickets left to win.

Surrey are indebted for their fine position to the feat of one of the youngest members of the side - Hayes, who, going in second wicket down at 48, made 131 in two hours and a half, and was ninth out at 337. He got nearly all his runs in front of the wicket, and the fact that he hit a five and 17 fours conveys a good idea of the vigour of his cricket. Curiously enough it was three years ago that Hayes made his mark for Surrey with a good score against the Australians; but his ability has since been acknowledged only intermittently.

The 15,000 people on the Oval yesterday were very enthusiastic, and naturally so, for since their defeat at Leyton the Australians have no been so hard pressed by a county eleven.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 July, page 12)

The Australians met with the second defeat of the tour yesterday on the Oval, when Surrey beat them by 104 runs. It was a brilliant victory and one that was thoroughly merited. The first two innings were played on a pitch helpful to the bowlers, and when the Australians established an advantage of 53 they seemed to have a considerable advantage. At this point they missed the aid of their fast bowler, Ernest Jones, for the pitch was quick and true after the first hour of Tuesday.

The dashing innings by Hayes, for whom the crowd subscribed nearly £70 as a practical acknowledgement of their admiration, turned the game against the Australians, who had to make 299 in the last innings to win. With the wicket hard and true and with plenty of time in which to get the runs the task seemed to be well within their capacity.

But Surrey were at the top of their game. Brockwell, Lockwood and Richardson bowled with good length and spin yesterday; and, despite all the fine work of Trumper, Surrey seemed [always to] have the game in hand after the first half-hour. Their fielding was excellent, and the general keenness of the Surrey side came as a relief after a good many hum-drum matches on the Oval. In Richardson's bowling there seemed something of the old sting, while

Brockwell never bowled better than he did in the first hour of yesterday. The balls with which he got out McLeod and Trumble were very fine; and then, when Richardson went on, the result was quite easily presaged. Wood kept wicket very well.

The chief thing in the Australian innings was the batting of Trumper, who got nearly all his runs in front of the wicket. He is certainly one of the best bats in the team, and with his great stroke on the leg side it is surprising that English captains still seem to lack the idea of the necessity for strengthening the field on the leg side for him, and for Hill and Gregory. The Australians were without Iredale, who was injured, but this absence can have little affected the actual result.

In this match the Australians were beaten on their merits; but it was a strange game and in whatever way the cricket is analyzed the pivot of the match is to be found in Hayes's batting on Tuesday. By only 22 runs this defeat misses the severity of the Australian loss at Leyton early in May. There were over 10,000 spectators of yesterday's finish.

24 July: SUSSEX v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5281.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 July, page 9)

The weather was very pleasant at Hastings yesterday, when Sussex and Middlesex won to play their return match, but the rain of Saturday night and Sunday had greatly damaged the wicket, which all through the day gave the bowlers considerable assistance.

Mr Fry and Ranjitsinhji put on 126 runs in an hour and a half for Sussex. Mr Fry's innings of 94 was the feature of the day's cricket. He overcame the difficulties of the ground in a remarkable way and made no bad stroke during the hour and 40 minutes he was batting. Most of his runs were made by hard drives, the ball in several cases clearing the ring, and in one over from Trott he hit four fours. His figures comprised 20 fours, a two and twelve singles.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 July, page 11)

The pitch again helped the bowlers at Hastings yesterday and Sussex won the match by eight wickets.

24 July: WARWICKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5282.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 July, page 9)

With rain having fallen in Birmingham on Sunday it seemed quite possible yesterday in the match between Warwickshire and Hampshire that the captain winning the toss might send his opponents in first. Wynyard, however, ran no risk of that kind, but took first innings for Hampshire, and so completely was he justified that in five hours the southern county ran up a score of 425.

Poore, who has been making such a number of hundreds this season, had to be content with 36 yesterday, but in helping Hill to put on 102 for the second wicket in 70 minutes he laid the foundation of Hampshire's big total. The great stand of the day was that between Hill and Wynyard, who added 177 for the fourth wicket, while after eight men had been dismissed Soar and Steele hit up 76 in 40 minutes.

Hill, in his splendid innings of 168, gave three chances - the first at 50. He made his runs in three hours and 25 minutes, and his score included 23 fours, seven threes and 17 twos. Wynyard was badly missed when six, but afterwards hit magnificently. In his 89 were 14 fours. Soar obtained his 70 in an hour and a quarter.

After the conclusion of the Hampshire innings for 425 Warwickshire had a few minutes' batting. To-day, with all ten wickets in hand, the Midland county want 300 more runs to escape a follow-on.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 July, page 11)

Mr Fishwick made his first 100 in important cricket at Birmingham yesterday . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 July, page 12)

The Warwickshire and Hampshire match at Birmingham, which rain caused to be left drawn yesterday, was marked by tremendously heavy scoring. Quaife was batting for six hours and a half, and hit 18 fours and 15 threes; while Mr Glover's chief figures were 14 fours and six threes.

Hampshire went in after lunch with 232 runs required to avert a single inning's defeat, but when 76 runs had been scored in an hour and ten minutes for the loss of Hill's wicket rain set in.

24 July: WORCESTERSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5283.html)

Day 1 (scorecard but no report from Tuesday 25 July, page 9)

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 July, page 11)

In this return match at Worcester yesterday the Worcestershire team lost nothing of the advantage they had gained in the course of Monday's play, and have an excellent prospect of scoring their first victory in the competition for the championship.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 July, page 12)

At Worcester yesterday the home team succeeded in gaining their first victory in the county championship competition, beating Leicestershire by 122 runs. Some such result had been foreshadowed by the position of the game overnight, as, though Leicestershire had scored 41 of 336 set them to win without loss, they had still a long way to go.

A wicket fell quickly yesterday morning, but a capital stand was made by Knight and Wood, the pair carrying the score from 45 to 111. Later, with Wood and Joyce together, 150 went up with only two men out, but afterwards the batting broke down completely before the bowling of Arnold and Wilson. The last seven wickets fell for the addition of 59 runs and the whole side were out for 213.

24 July: YORKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5284.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 25 July, page 9)

Rain at Leeds yesterday interfered considerably with cricket, reducing the afternoon's play to three hours and a half. Up to a certain point Kent did as well as could be expected, 130 runs being on the board before the fourth wicket fell, but then Rhodes brought about such a change that when play was stopped at 25 minutes past 4 seven men were out for 147.

Mr Burnup before lunch batted very well, making 40 out of 74 in an hour and 50 minutes, but the finest cricket of the day was seen while Messrs Knowles and Mason were together. These two added 56 runs in an hour, and were scoring at a good pace when Rhodes's bowling turned the fortunes of the game. After going on at 129 he sent down seven overs, three maidens for ten runs and three wickets.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 26 July, page 11)

Yesterday, at Leeds, the Yorkshire batsmen placed their side in a position which may lead them to victory, for to-day Kent in the third innings of the match have to face odds of 218.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 27 July, page 12)

The Kent eleven, who went in a second time at Leeds yesterday in a minority of 218, were unequal to the task of saving the game. Their chances of making a draw of it were ruined by heavy showers of rain in the night followed by bright sunshine in the morning. The pitch helped the bowlers at the outset and became more difficult as it dried.

Under the conditions that prevailed, Kent made a good fight of it, staying in for three hours and three-quarters and putting together a total of 188. By some highly skilful cricket Mr Burnup and Hearne put up 71 for the first wicket in an hour and a half, and Messrs Mason and Blaker scored 50 for the seventh partnership in three-quarters of an hour. Despite two chances, Burnup batted very finely for two hours and 20 minutes, while Mason's innings was a brilliant affair. Yorkshire won by an innings and 30 runs.

27 July: ESSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5285.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 July, page 12)

There was a good day's cricket at Leyton yesterday and everything was favourable for the game, for even the pitch on the Essex ground, which has fallen into ill repute with batsmen, was fast and true.

The beginning of the match was marked, like the closing hours, with superb batting. Better hitting than that by which J R Mason and S H Day got their runs and made 125 for the second wicket in 90 minutes can scarcely have been wished for. Mason played with all that vigour, and practised his great variety of strokes, which stamped him as a good bat in his school days at Winchester. His off-driving was particularly good and he hit eight fours.

S H Day was rated by a good many judges as the best bat in the Cambridge eleven this year, although he was late in getting his blue; and yesterday he confirmed this opinion by his fine all-round play against much good bowling and fielding. He went in first wicket down before a run had been scored, and made 82 out of 172 in a little more than two hours, and he hit ten fours.

Le Fleming also played well, and with 200 up and only five men out Kent seemed in for a long score. But with Mead on again there was something of a collapse, and the whole side had finished when the total stood at 240.

Essex began badly, but when two wickets had gone for 19 Perrin and McGahey got together and by excellent cricket added 99. Essex at the finish were 122 behind with eight wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 July, page 14)

Essex had all the better of the cricket at Leyton yesterday, and last night their opponents, with four good wickets gone in the second innings, were only 43 runs on. It was a good day's play; but Essex thoroughly merited their strong position.

McGahey and Perrin made 129 for the third Essex wicket; and the latter, who was fourth out at 242, had the distinction of not only making a "century," but of completing his four-figure aggregate for the season. Perrin pursued his usual course of batting, showing much steadiness and getting most of his runs by driving.

A J Turner also batted fairly well; but just when Essex seemed in for a score out of the common Bradley bowled with great effect. He performed the "hat trick" and his figures after luncheon were five wickets for 25 runs. The Kent second innings had for its feature brilliant batting by Mason and Burnup.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 July, page 11)

The Kent eleven were beaten on their merits on one of the best pitches there has been at Leyton this season. After about 3 o'clock on Friday they were steadily placed in a losing position, from which not all the fine batting of Mr Mason, Mr Burnup and Mr Le Fleming could deliver them, and at a quarter past 4 on Saturday Essex had won by eight wickets.

The best feature in the third day's cricket were the fine innings by Mason, Fleming and Perrin and the good slow bowling of Bull. The Kent captain, who began the season with a spell of bad luck, has run into form; while in the last hour of Saturday nothing could have been better than the batting of Perrin.

27 July: LANCASHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5286.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 July, page 12)

The feature of yesterday's cricket at Manchester was the batting of Albert Ward and Cuttell. Mainly by their efforts Lancashire, staying in until 6 o'clock, ran up the big score of 349.

The two men came together when matters were going badly for their side - three wickets having fallen for 34 runs - and in two hours and three-quarters they added 215 runs. During the three hours and a quarter he was batting Ward hit with much freedom. Most of his runs came from pretty leg glances and hard drives, but he scored well all round the wicket and sent the ball ten times to the boundary. It is interesting to note that yesterday he completed his thousand runs this season in first-class matches.

Cuttell stayed until the total reached 270 before being out to a good catch at long-off. It was a splendidly-hit innings. At one point he scored 40 runs by fours alone. His 137 was made up by 24 fours, six threes, seven twos and only nine singles.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 July, page 14)

The brilliant three-figure innings by William Gunn at Manchester yesterday enabled Notts to make an even game in this fixture. Gunn went in third wicket down at 33 and was seventh out at 241, having scored as his own proportion of 208 no fewer than 116 in two hours and 35 minutes. He did not give a chance and hit 17 fours. Dench and Dixon were his most useful partners.

When the Notts innings closed for 275 they were still 74 behind; but Lancashire lost eight wickets in their second attempt for 119.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 July, page 11)

The chief credit in Lancashire's easy victory over Notts, at Old Trafford, on Saturday, belonged to Sharp, who, going on at 75 when only two wickets were down, took five of the last eight for 38 runs. He was helped in his pace by a high wind, and Smith, the wicket-keeper, made three catches off him. In the match, Sharp dismissed eight batsmen for 56 runs and Smith brought off seven catches behind the wicket from the fast bowlers.

Lancashire, with eight men out for 119 [overnight], were 193 ahead at the resumption, and they finished off their innings for an additional 23, which left Notts 217 to make. Although Shrewsbury was out cheaply, A O Jones, first with W Gunn and subsequently with Dixon, made a big effort, but after the old Cambridge man was fourth out at 91 the remaining wickets fell rapidly, and by half-past 3 Lancashire had won by 84 runs.

27 July: MIDDLESEX v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5287.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 July, page 12)

Few matches in the season's programme have a stronger claim on the sympathies of metropolitan cricketers than the fixtures between Middlesex and Surrey, and yesterday, when delightful weather favoured their first meeting of the year at Lord's, the attendance of the public was very large. Middlesex were at practically their full strength, while the Surrey eleven included Hayward (who has so far recovered from the sunstroke which he contracted at Manchester that he was again able to play) and D L A Jephson, while T Richardson had to give way to H O Dolbey, the old Dulwich College boy, who, having proved very successful as a fast bowler for the Surrey second eleven, was given a trial in the county team.

The toss gave Middlesex the first use of an admirable wicket, and upon it they did very well despite the fact that they made a sorry start in losing Hayman, Warner and Ford for 17 runs. Hayman was run out before a run had been scored, and for this he had only himself to blame, while Warner and Ford were both bowled.

This brought L J Moon and Rawlin together, and do profitable was the forcing game that their separation was not effected, despite frequent changes in the bowling, until just on the point of adjourning for luncheon, and then Moon was caught at the wicket; 130 runs had been added for the fourth wicket in less than an hour and a half, Moon's hits including ten fours.

On resuming after lunch Nicholls was promptly dismissed, and at 182 Trott was caught at the wicket, while when Rawlin, after completing his 100 in two hours and a half, was bowled, seven of the side were out for 243. Rawlin played a particularly good innings, hitting 13 fours, three threes and eight twos, while his partnership with Bosanquet for the wicket yielded 61 runs in 35 minutes. Directly afterwards Bosanquet, who ought to have been run out when he had made three, was bowled, and with both MacGregor and Hearne leaving at the same total, Middlesex were all out for 285.

An hour and 35 minutes remained for play when Surrey started batting, but they made a disastrous start, for their first 42 runs were scored at the cost of three of their wickets. Brockwell in endeavouring to drive Trott was bowled at 24, Knox lost his wicket 13 runs later, and then Hayes was out to a good catch in the deep field. Hayward joined Abel but, although Hayward scored a dozen off three successive balls from Hearne, runs came very slowly, for when Abel was bowled they had been together 50 minutes for 41 runs. With the fall of Abel's wicket, stumps were drawn for the day, and Surrey with six wickets in hand were still 202 runs behind the Middlesex score.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 July, page 14)

Yesterday's play at Lord's went all in favour of Middlesex, who, following up the advantage they had secured overnight, compelled their rivals to follow on, and at the close of the day they had got rid of Surrey for the second time and were left to make but 125 runs to win the match.

On the game being resumed yesterday, Surrey, who had gone in against a total of 285, had lost four wickets for 82 runs, and they were never able to recover from their disastrous start. Hayward's admirable innings ended at 139. During the hour and three-quarters he was in he played perfect cricket, and his 64 included 11 fours.

Surrey followed on, 124 runs behind. On going in again they did better, though Brockwell, Knox, Abel, Hayward and Lockwood were all out before the arrears had been hit off. For the sixth wicket Hayes and Jephson made a stand of 80 runs. Trott bowled particularly well, and in the match he took 13 wickets at the cost of but 140 runs.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 July, page 11)

After playing an uphill game during the whole of Friday Surrey found themselves in an almost hopeless position at the close of the day. They had gone in against the home county's total of 285 and had been compelled to follow on 124 runs behind, and though they did better in the second innings, they were only able to send Middlesex in for the last time to make 125 runs.

The start was not encouraging for Middlesex, for only 12 runs had been scored when Lockwood bowled Warner with a splendid ball; but Moon then joined Hayward, and their dashing batting soon placed the issue beyond doubt. Lees and Dolbey relieved Lockwood and Brockwell, who had started the bowling; but the first 50 minutes' play produced as many runs, though Moon, when seven, had given a sharp one-handed chance to Hayes in the slips.

When Jephson and Hayward took charge of the attack runs came very slowly, and at 104 Moon was well caught in the deep field. The partnership of an hour and a quarter had added 94 runs for the second wicket, and of these the retiring batsmen claimed exactly half. Middlesex suffered no further loss, and by 20 minutes past 1 the runs were hit off and they won by eight wickets. Hayward was batting an hour and three-quarters for his 54, though against Jephson's lobs he cut a very poor figure.

27 July: SUSSEX v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5288.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 July, page 12)

The Sussex eleven had a great triumph at Brighton yesterday. Winning the toss and going in first on a splendid wicket, they had the satisfaction of keeping the Australians in the field the whole of the day and scoring 389 runs for the loss of six wickets.

The colonists, though, had only themselves to thank, as Mr Brann, Mr Fry and Killick were all missed. Mr Brann might have been dismissed before making a run. Mr Fry was missed by Worrall with his score at three, and Killick was let off when only eight. How heavy a penalty the Australians paid for their blunders a glance at the score will show.

A fine start was made by Messrs Fry and Brann, the pair staying together for an hour and 20 minutes and putting on 96 runs for the first wicket. Ranjitsinhji failed, but with Mr Fry and Killick together the Australian bowling was quite mastered. The two hours and 20 minutes the two batsmen remained together and in that time put on 209 runs.

Mr Fry, who was third out at 313, played a magnificent innings of 181, which, after his early mistake, was quite free from blemish. For four hours he batted grandly and hit one five (four from an overthrow), 25 fours, four threes and 15 twos. This is the highest individual innings that has so far been hit against the present Australian team, Alec Hearne's 168 at the Crystal Palace being the previous best.

Killick, who was dismissed at 330, was at the wickets for two hours and three-quarters, and included in his 106 were 16 fours, three threes and seven twos. In recognition of Killick's performance the spectators subscribed £51 7s 9d on his behalf. Close upon 5,000 people paid for admission to the ground and fine weather favoured the cricket.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 July, page 14)

The Australians were entirely themselves at Brighton yesterday, their all-round cricket - apart from one dropped catch - being superb. They started at 12 o'clock from a thankless position, their opponents having on Thursday scored 389 for the loss of six wickets, but this did not in the least discourage them. They finished off the Sussex innings in less than an hour for 414, and then scored 388 for the loss of only two wickets.

The Australians had 40 minutes' batting before luncheon, Worrall and Trumble scoring 47 without being separated. On starting afresh Worrall hit out freely, but at 62 Trumble cut a ball on to his wicket. From this point, however, the batting obtained a complete mastery over the bowling. By dint of the most brilliant play Worrall and Trumper carried the score in an hour and a half from 62 to 227, at which point an interval was taken for tea. Worrall was not out 119 and Trumper not out 73.

Twenty minutes after play had been resumed the second wicket fell, Worrall, in attempting a drive, being caught in the slips. His splendid innings of 128 lasted two hours and 40 minutes and included 32 fours, two threes and eight twos. He and Trumper put on altogether 178 runs in an hour and 50 minutes. On Gregory going in the bowlers fared just as badly as ever, 148 runs being added in an hour and 20 minutes without further loss. Trumper, who played most brilliant cricket, had the satisfaction of making the highest score yet hit for the Australian eleven, and also completed his 1,000 runs during the tour.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 July, page 11)

That most true of all grounds - the Hove, Brighton - remained kind to batsmen for the third day, when Trumper, one of the most skilful members of the Australian Eleven, established a record by scoring 300 runs not out. This is the highest individual innings ever played for or against the Australians in England, and, curiously enough, it was at Brighton that the

previous best was recorded, when W L Murdoch made 286 against Sussex in 1882 which is generally acknowledged to be the year when the Australians had the most brilliant side ever sent to this country. It was the year that England lost on the Oval by seven runs.

Trumper, although one of the last to be selected for this year's team, is one of the most accomplished of their batsmen. He comes down very straight on the ball and perhaps, amongst a vary of strokes, his best is that by which he gets away a ball pitched on his middle and leg stumps. It is something of a Ranjitsinhji stroke, but it generally gets the ball well away in front of square leg.

Trumper went in at 3 o'clock on Friday, first wicket down at 62, and he was not out with 300 to his credit when, at 4 o'clock, the Australians closed their innings at 624 for four wickets. He gave no chance until he was in his third hundred, when Marlow might have caught him at mid-off. Thirty-six fours, six threes and 29 twos were his chief hits.

Sussex, going in a second time, began badly, but when Fry, Brann and Ranjitsinhji had gone for 41 runs there was a stand by Killick and Collins that saved the match. The game was eventually drawn . . .

27 July: WORCESTERSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5289.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 July, page 12)

At Worcester, yesterday, the home side occupied the whole time available for cricket in completing an innings of 428. The chief honours were carried off by W L Foster and R E Foster, each of whom made over 100. The former, in scoring 140, was at the wickets a little over three hours, and his chief hits were 16 fours, five threes and 12 twos. R E Foster was batting two hours and three-quarters, and hit 15 fours, five threes and nine twos.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 July, page 14)

Major Poore played another great innings for Hampshire yesterday at Worcester; he got his 122 in three hours and hit 16 fours. His best partner was Barton, with whom he added 115 for the second wicket.

Day 3 (report from Monday 31 July, page 11)

The closing stage of the match at Worcester between Worcestershire and Hampshire was marked on Saturday by a feat which has no parallel in the history of cricket. Never before have two batsmen in the same match made two scores each of over 100.

On Saturday W L Foster followed up his first innings for Worcester of 140 by scoring 172 not out, and his brother, R E Foster, who had made 134 in the first innings, scored 101 not out in the second. W L Foster was batting four hours and a half for his 172, and hit 21 fours, four threes and 19 twos; while his brother was at the wickets two hours and a half, his innings including 11 fours, four threes and six twos. In the whole game one batsman made 312 runs and the other 235.

The Worcestershire captain delayed closing the innings until R E Foster had made his second hundred. Hampshire were then left to get 384 runs in three hours. The task being obviously impossible, there was nothing to play for but a draw. Hampshire succeeded in saving the game, but in doing so they had some anxious moments, and when the time came for drawing stumps they had only three wickets in hand.

27 July: YORKSHIRE v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5290.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 28 July, page 12)

In the course of five hours' cricket on a fiery pitch at Huddersfield yesterday not less than 25 wickets fell for an aggregate of 293 runs. It was an afternoon of successes for the fast bowlers, Brown of Darfield and Hirst on one side, and Jessop on the other, carrying all before them. As matters now stand the visitors are only 89 on with five wickets to go down.

The weather was fine and some 6,000 spectators followed the fortunes of the cricketers with keen interest.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 29 July, page 14)

Yorkshire gained a brilliant victory over Gloucestershire at Huddersfield yesterday by seven wickets. Mr F S Jackson's 68 furnished the best batting of the day.

Saturday 29 July, page 14

THE AUSTRALIAN TEAM. - The Australian cricketers, on the conclusion of their programme of matches in this country, will go straight home, the idea of visiting either America or South Africa having been given up. The proposed match at Lord's in September for the joint benefit of the Cricketers' Fund and Harry Trott, the captain of the Australian team of 1896, will not be played.

Monday 31 July, page 11: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The results up to the present are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	20	13	3	4	10
Lancashire	18	11	3	4	8
Surrey	16	6	2	8	4
Middlesex	11	7	3	1	4
Essex	14	5	3	6	2
Sussex	14	5	4	5	1
Notts	11	2	2	7	0
Kent	12	3	6	3	-3
Hampshire	12	2	5	5	-3
Gloucestershire	13	2	5	6	-3
Worcestershire	6	1	3	2	-2
Leicestershire	13	2	6	5	-4
Derbyshire	13	2	7	4	-5
Somerset	12	1	7	4	-6
Warwickshire	11	0	3	8	-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 AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Times not out	Average
Major Poore	15	1130	304	3	94.16
K S Ranjitsinhji	39	1937	197	6	58.69
Hayward	32	1539	158	3	53.06
Shrewsbury	20	935	146	2	51.94
Mr P Perrin	26	1096	186	4	49.81
Mr F S Jackson	27	1137	155	3	47.37
Mr A J Turner	18	751	124	2	46.93
Mr W L Foster	14	607	172*	1	46.69
Mr C L Townsend	35	1473	167*	3	46.03
W G Quaife	26	980	207*	4	44.54
Abel	37	1539	357*	2	43.97
Mr C B Fry	41	1759	181	1	43.97
Mr A O Jones	23	948	250	1	43.09
Tyldesley	34	1372	249	2	42.87
J T Brown	35	1443	192	1	42.44
Captain Wynyard	17	671	225	1	41.93
W Gunn	28	1073	150	2	41.26
Storer	39	1233	216*	7	38.53
Mr R E Foster	22	968	134	2	38.40
A Hearne	33	1108	168	3	36.93
Mr S M J Woods	24	849	146	1	36.91
A Ward	34	1103	118	3	36.76
Mr F P Knox	20	477	106	7	36.69
Mr H C Pilkington	12	344	93	2	34.40
Lockwood	35	749	100	3	34.04
Brockwell	33	1049	147	2	33.83
Mr A C MacLaren	14	439	126	1	33.76
Mr C J Burnup	28	937	150	0	33.46
Mr F Mitchell	36	1136	194	1	32.45
Mr H G Leveson-Gower	13	386	155	1	32.16
Mr G Brann	34	996	157	2	31.12
Mr G L Jessop	29	842	171*	1	30.07
Killick	33	838	140	4	28.89
Hirst	34	851	85	4	28.36
Mr H K Foster	17	480	83	0	28.83
Mr J R Mason	27	701	181*	1	28.04
Mr S H Day	21	558	138	1	27.90
Mr F H B Champain	28	766	120	0	27.35
Diver	21	567	184	0	27.00
Lord Hawke	28	600	127	5	26.08
Mr P F Warner	24	595	150	1	25.86
Dr W G Grace	17	437	78	0	25.70
Mr C McGahey	26	588	75*	3	26.56
Mr F G J Ford	27	593	180	1	22.80
A E Trott	38	836	164	1	22.59
Mr K J Key	27	538	59*	3	22.41

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Rhodes	922.4	314	1873	119	15.73
J Gunn	350	123	737	46	16.02
Mold	739.3	252	1490	92	16.19
A E Trott	1160.2	378	2793	171	16.33
Mr W M Bradley	738.4	255	1659	99	16.75

Mead	986.2	386	1841	109	16.88
J T Brown, jun.	362.4	103	965	56	17.05
Cuttell	759.4	334	1229	65	18.90
Haigh	607	204	1257	66	19.04
Briggs	667.1	247	1150	60	19.16
Young	827.4	268	1924	100	19.24
Tate (Sussex)	823.2	293	1837	93	19.77
Paish	697.4	191	1612	80	20.15
J T Hearne	1009	385	1955	97	20.15
Martin	610.3	125	940	46	20.43
Lockwood	450.1	115	1156	56	20.64
Wilson	567.2	146	1132	54	20.96
Hayward	433.4	105	1208	57	21.19
Roche	461.2	142	1128	53	21.28
Tyler	367.1	80	1027	48	21.39
Hulme	734.1	218	1504	70	21.48
Hirst	663.3	211	1473	68	21.66
Mr J R Mason	459.3	175	1022	47	21.74
Brockwell	703.2	225	1683	76	22.14
Bland	702.1	208	1988	86	23.11
Dr W G Grace	358	66	466	20	23.30
Mr F G Bull	557	177	1171	49	23.89
Mr F S Jackson	399.4	127	852	35	24.34
T Richardson	665.4	178	1570	57	25.78
Mr C L Townsend	677.3	124	1887	66	28.59
Mr G L Jessop	434	94	1203	40	30.75

AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Times not out	Average
Mr V Trumper	27	1288	300*	2	51.52
Mr M A Noble	34	1248	156	6	44.57
Mr J Worrall	24	854	128	4	42.70
Mr C Hill	20	836	160	0	41.80
Mr J Darling	38	1092	134*	6	34.12
Mr S E Gregory	35	930	124	5	31.00
Mr F Laver	27	526	79	8	27.68
Mr H Trumble	33	714	100	6	27.44
Mr F A Iredale	23	569	115	1	25.88
Mr J J Kelly	26	509	89	2	21.20
Mr E Jones	23	371	55	3	18.55
Mr C E McLeod	24	217	41*	5	11.42
Mr W P Howell	27	228	49*	7	11.40
Mr A E Johns	6	22	12	1	4.40

AUSTRALIAN BOWLING AVERAGES

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
Mr H Trumble	902.2	333	1765	107	16.49
Mr W P Howell	780.2	304	1641	80	20.51
Mr M A Noble	560.2	187	1339	65	20.60
Mr C E McLeod	434.3	157	977	46	21.23
Mr E Jones	717.4	197	1750	80	21.34
Mr F Laver	191.4	66	488	19	25.68

31 July: DERBYSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5291.html)

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

The Worcestershire eleven were severely handicapped yesterday, at Derby, having to take the field without Straw, their regular wicket-keeper. While practising at the nets he was so severely hit by a cricket ball that he was rendered unconscious, and though he recovered and wished to play it was not thought advisable that he should do so. In his absence Mr R E Foster kept wicket, Bowley coming in to make up the team.

The Derbyshire eleven stopped in all day and scored 307, but the credit of the performance was lessened by the fact that they took over five hours to make the runs. With two exceptions the batting of the eleven was poor. Far above everything else was the cricket shown by L G Wright and Storer. Wright helped Bagshaw to put on 93 runs of the first wicket in about an hour and a half, and was second out at 119, after batting an hour and 50 minutes. He gave one chance, but apart from that no fault whatever could be found with his play.

Storer was batting for two hours and 40 minutes for his 85 - the best and highest innings of the day. Like Wright, he gave only one chance, while among his hits were seven fours.

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

The one feature of the cricket at Derby yesterday was an innings of 121, not out, played by Arnold, the Worcestershire professional. While his side were doing badly he obtained an absolute command over the bowling. Combining perfect defence with hard hitting he held his own for three hours and ten minutes, and hit 11 fours, five threes and 11 twos. Greenstock helped him to add 54, but the best partnership was that for the last wicket, Wilson giving such valuable assistance that 70 runs were put on before the innings closed for 257.

Despite Arnold's batting triumph his side had all the worst of the day's play, for in the last hour and 50 minutes Derbyshire increased their lead of 50 to 145 and have still eight wickets to fall. L G Wright and Storer played sound cricket, but the most pleasing thing in the cricket from the Derbyshire point of view was the good work of the side in the field.

Bestwick with his fast bowling caused a breakdown at the beginning of the visitors' innings from which they never recovered, notwithstanding Arnold's skill and determination.

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

The match at Derby ended in a draw, though at one time it appeared probable that the Worcestershire eleven would be beaten. Overnight Derbyshire, with two wickets down in their second innings for 95, held a lead of 145 runs, and this total was yesterday increased to 263 for seven wickets before the innings was declared closed.

Worcestershire thus required 314 to win, but with only three hours and a quarter left for cricket all they could hope for was a draw. They started very badly by losing four wickets in an hour for 49 runs. Some capital defensive play by Arnold and H K Foster, who stayed together for an hour and 20 minutes and added 54 runs, saved the game.

The great feature of yesterday's cricket was the admirable batting of Walter Sugg. He went in at the fall of the third Derbyshire wicket, at 100, and was out just after lunch at 258. His hitting was very brilliant, his first 50 being scored in an hour and a quarter and the remaining 57 in an hour. He took many risks, but only gave one chance, being missed in the slips when he had made 21. He hit 15 fours, four threes and ten twos.

A word of praise is due to Arnold for the steady fashion in which he batted at the close of the day. His not-out innings of 24 lasted for two hours.

31 July: LEICESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5292.html)

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

Fortunate in batting first on a perfect wicket at Leicester yesterday, Warwickshire only had three men did during the afternoon for a score of 333 runs. Devey was out with only one run obtained.

From that point the moderate Leicestershire bowling was mastered. By good and careful cricket Kinneir and Walter Quaife added 199 runs and, after they had both been dismissed, Willie Quaife and Diver punished the bowling freely, putting on 109 without being separated. Kinneir, who had never before scored a hundred in important cricket, played very soundly, his 111 being practically without fault. He hit eight fours, nine threes and ten twos.

Walter Quaife, in scoring his 101, showed more patience than usual, but hit 13 fours, two threes and seven twos. Pougher might have caught and bowled him when 60 from a rather easy return, but apart from this faulty stroke, the cricket throughout the day was maintained at a high pitch of excellence. The match was originally fixed for Pougher's benefit, but it was thought he would derive a more substantial reward by postponing the recognition of his services until next season, when, according to present arrangements, the new ground will be available.

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

Yesterday's cricket at Leicester went all in favour of Warwickshire. They found run-getting just as easy as on Monday - indeed the scoring was much faster, their innings of 605 only lasting eight hours.

W G Quaife gave one chance in his 117, but otherwise played in his usual finished style. He was batting three hours and a quarter and hit 13 fours and five threes. His most useful assistant was Diver, their partnership for the fourth wicket producing 127 runs in an hour and 35 minutes. Diver hit with great freedom and his example was followed most successfully by Bainbridge, Glover and Santall, all of whom punished the bowling severely. Stocks did a capital performance, taking six wickets for 139 runs on a hard pitch.

Of the Leicestershire batting little need be said. There were six scores of over 20, but Wood, who stayed in an hour and a half, alone caused any serious trouble, and in three hours the whole side were out for 191, which will necessitate their following on to-day 414 runs behind.

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

The position of the game at the drawing of stumps at Leicester on Tuesday evening gave promise of an overwhelming victory for Warwickshire, Leicestershire being left to follow on against a balance of 414 runs. As it happened expectation was quite borne out, Warwickshire winning yesterday by an innings and 158 runs.

31 August: MARYLEBONE CRICKET CLUB v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5293.html)

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

The Marylebone Club were unable to put a thoroughly representative side in the field at Lord's yesterday, this more particularly applying to the batting, as after number six on the order there was a considerable "tail." However, as they day's cricket went they had no reason to be dissatisfied with its result. To a large extent they owed their good position to the batting of K S Ranjitsinhji, who played one of his typical innings for 92, and with this he had the distinction of making his aggregate 2,000 for the season.

It was the second match of the M.C.C. with the Australians; the first, played June 5, 6 and 7, resulted in a win for the Australians by eight wickets. The conditions were wholly favourable for the game and there were about 10,000 spectators.

Marylebone had the advantage of first innings, but their start was rather a disastrous one, as at 14 Dr Grace was splendidly caught at mid-off by Jones, who held a hard drive rather low with his right hand. At the same total Warner was bowled by a good length ball. Jones bowled at a tremendous pace, while Noble kept an excellent length, but the latter had bad luck, as Townsend ought to have been stumped off him at 5, while K S Ranjitsinhji when nine was missed at slip by Trumble.

So difficult were runs to make that the first hour's play produced only 29. After a quiet start, however, K S Ranjitsinhji played brilliant cricket, and the score was taken to 90 before Townsend was caught at slip. The wicket added 76 runs in 70 minutes. At luncheon time the total was 108, Ranjitsinhji being not out 60 and F G J Ford not out one.

When play was resumed Ford was bowled at 123; then Trott, by some powerful hitting, helped to add 65 in 45 minutes for the fifth wicket. Trott's 41 included eight fours, and from one of his drives the ball was only prevented from clearing the pavilion by striking one of the chimney stacks. At 197 Ranjitsinhji's brilliant innings was closed by a catch at mid-off. He played admirable cricket and his 92 included 14 fours. His play was marked by all his characteristic accuracy whether in dealing with a ball on the off or on side, while at one period he punished Jones's fast deliveries with severity.

After he left there was little of note in the batting. Board and Young put on 30 runs in 25 minutes for the eighth wicket, and then the innings was soon completed. The Australian fielding was up to its usual standard, and Jones, with five wickets for 98, was the most successful bowler. Noble bowled much better than his figures indicate.

The Australians had a little over an hour's batting before the close; but their start was even more disastrous than that of the Club. This was due to the good bowling of Trott. Worrall was caught by "W.G." at point before a run had been scored, and Trumble was out l-b-w at 7. Trumper left at 18, while at 31 Gregory called Noble for a short run, but the latter would not move, and Gregory, who had gone half-way up the pitch, failed to get back, the ball being returned by Warner from cover-point to the wicket-keeper.

Afterwards Noble and Darling played out time, and when stumps were pulled up the Australians were 204 runs behind with six wickets in hand. The Australians are leaving out Iredale, Kelly and Laver.

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

Once again the Australians have proved what a difficult side they are to get out on a fast pitch, for after having the worst of the opening day's play they recovered their lost ground at Lord's yesterday and secured a lead of 61 on the first innings.

This was chiefly due to the splendid batting of Darling, who made his 128 in his best style. He went in overnight when four of the side were out for 31 and was seventh to leave at 251.

He was batting three hours and a half, and his figures included 19 fours, three threes and eight twos. His 128 was marked by good driving, especially on the on-side.

After the good form displayed by the Australians it was confidently expected that the M.C.C. would soon hit off the arrears, but the last hour and a half proved most disastrous for them, and before the close five of their best wickets were down and they were only 24 runs on, so that to-day they will have to fight very hard to avoid defeat.

Overnight the Australians had lost four wickets for 24, and when they resumed their innings yesterday morning the score was taken to 86 before Noble was caught at mid-off, the wicket having added 55 in 65 minutes. Noble was batting an hour and a quarter for his 27. With Hill in, runs came at an increased rate, and Darling completed his 50, making 51 out of 94. After helping to put on 53 in 35 minutes, Hill was bowled at 139.

As six of the side were out it seemed probable that the Australians would make a comparatively small score; but when McLeod joined Darling the most fruitful stand of the innings occurred. McLeod was content to keep up his end while Darling got the runs. The former was very lucky as he gave an easy chance of stumping to Board, off Townsend, at 15, a mistake which proved very expensive for the club. Darling completed his hundred, out of 171, before the interval, and when the players adjourned for lunch Darling was not out 105 and McLeod 17.

At 251 Darling's innings was closed by a catch at the wicket. The partnership had produced 112 in an hour and three-quarters. When Jones came in the spectators were treated to some vigorous batting. Shortly after the 300 was reached Board injured one of the fingers of his left hand and had to retire, Trott taking the wicket, while Hill fielded as a substitute.

Jones was bad at 318. He made his 51 out of 67 in 35 minutes, and he hit nine fours. For the addition of another run the innings was finished, Mead taking the last three wickets in an over. Jones was bowled by the first ball, Howell caught at slip from the third and McLeod caught at mid-off from the last. McLeod was batting two hours and a half for his 46. He showed excellent defence, but was lucky. One of the features of the innings was the bowling of Mead, who took four wickets for less than eight runs apiece.

Going in a second time with a deficit of 61, the Marylebone Club again began very badly, and four good wickets were lost before the arrears were hit off. Warner was bowled before a run had been scored, while Dr Grace played on at 7, and at 26 and 49 respectively, Ranjitsinhji and Ford were dismissed. Trott at ten was missed by Hill at long-off, but the mistake made little difference as he was almost immediately caught by the same player at third man. Townsend and Stoddart then played out time. There were 10,000 spectators of the cricket.

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

The Australians gained a splendid victory by nine wickets in their second match with Marylebone at Lord's yesterday. This result was thoroughly deserved and the better side won.

The game was one of varying fortunes. At the close of the first day's play the M.C.C., owing chiefly to some splendid batting by Ranjitsinhji, were able to claim a substantial advantage. On the second afternoon, however, the Australians turned the match in their favour by excellent batting and by dismissing five of the M.C.C. in their second innings for 85.

The third day of the match was thus robbed of some of its interest and there was a great falling off in the company. Apart from Townsend's batting there was little of note in the Marylebone innings. Stoddart was bowled at 103, the partnership having yielded 35 runs, while Board and Young left at 111 and 114.

Roche then put some life into the cricket by his hitting; but loose fielding accounted for his score, as he was twice missed. When he had scored four Hill dropped an easy catch at long-on, off Noble, and McLeod missed him at mid-on at 28, off Trumble. Roche made his 34,

out of 37, in 25 minutes, for the ninth wicket, and he hit one five and five fours. By the next ball Mead was bowled, and the innings closed with the small lead of 90 runs, after having lasted three hours.

Townsend was batting for two hours and 55 minutes for his 69, and his chief hits were one five, nine fours, one three and six twos. He made his runs in quite his best form. He played the bowling with plenty of confidence and it seemed strange that the rest of the side should fail. The only possible conclusion was that the bowling of noble, Howell and Trumble was too good for the majority of them. No fault could be found with the pitch, as was proved by the easy manner in which the Australians hit off the runs. Although not having such good figures as Howell, Noble proved the most difficult to play, but he was a trifle unlucky in having a couple of catches missed off his bowling. Considering the excellence of the pitch, both he and Howell bowled splendidly.

When the Australians went in, with 90 to get to win, runs came at a fast pace from the first, and the Marylebone bowling appeared to have little sting in it. The first wicket fell at 66, Trumble's share being 37, made in as many minutes. At the time appointed for the luncheon interval the score was 70, and it was decided to play the match out. At a quarter past 2 Worrall made the winning hit - a cut to the boundary off Ranjitsinhji - the runs having been scored in just under the hour. Worrall made one or two risky hits, but apart from these his cricket was attractive.

In the absence of Board, whose finger was still painful, Trott again kept wicket. The Australians won the first match against the M.C.C., early in June, by eight wickets.

31 July: SURREY v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5294.html)

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

Yesterday's cricket on the Oval was very interesting. Surrey, on a good hard wicket, had to fight keenly for their runs against much clever bowling and fielding, and were disposed of for the moderate total of 206. Most of the side did something towards the score, but there was nothing comparable to the batting of Hayward, who has been a most consistent run-getter this season.

Hayward went in third wicket down at 73 and was ninth out at 180. He played splendidly on both sides of the wicket and scarcely made an ill-timed stroke, although just before he left he might have been easily caught by Patterson at extra slip. He was out in attempting a sharp run so as to get the bowling in the next over, Stedman refusing to start.

In the last two hours of the day the Kent eleven did very well and at the close of play were only 58 behind with seven wickets in hand. Burnup played superb cricket and had the satisfaction of reaching his four-figure aggregate for the season. Bradley, for Kent, bowled well and obtained the wickets necessary to pass beyond the 100. Stedman, who was making his first appearance for Surrey as a wicket-keeper in place of Wood, who is injured, made a poor entrance to county cricket; he ran out Hayward and missed two catches off T Richardson.

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

Yesterday's cricket at Kennington Oval was full of interest, Surrey playing an uphill game so successfully that they not only made up for their bad batting of Monday, but secured a distinct advantage. Brockwell and Richardson, by dismissing the last seven Kent batsmen for 61 runs, put their side on terms, and afterwards consistent batting placed Surrey in a strong position.

The breakdown of the visitors can only have been due to bad batting against excellent bowling. Certainly the use of a light roller suggested that the wicket might have crumbled somewhat, but the ball always looked to leave the pitch truly and it never kicked. Moreover, C J Burnup showed that correct batting was possible, and he had the distinction of carrying out his bat for 103, an admirable innings, including one five, 14 fours, three threes and four twos. He was batting just three hours.

Brockwell varied the pace of his bowling with such skill that his fast ball frequently beat the bat. He took four wickets yesterday morning for 21 runs, Richardson taking the other three at a cost of 13 runs each.

Having got level with their visitors, Surrey were not long in freeing themselves from all cause for anxiety. Had Mason caught Abel when six the game might have gone very differently; but the Kent captain missed a sharp low chance to his right hand at short slip, and then the batting always held the mastery. Abel, the fourth out at 186, made two more bad strokes in the slips besides the one referred to, but there was much excellence in his 91, which occupied two hours and three-quarters and included a five, 11 fours, two threes and five twos.

Hayes, after a careful beginning, hit splendidly, scoring 52 out of 93 in 65 minutes. As usual, he made most of his runs in front of the wicket, and from one of his drives the ball struck the wall at the back of the open stand adjoining the pavilion. Hayward and Lockwood both played with a good deal of care and were only separated by a lob. W H Patterson, finding that his slow full pitches puzzled the batsmen a good deal, bowled them frequently until Hayward was driven back and trod on his wicket. A section of the crowd, annoyed at one of their favourites getting out in this manner, gave vent to their feelings by hooting and hissing, and outburst of temper which could only be caused by an absolute ignorance of the game.

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

Although beaten at the Oval yesterday, Kent made the Surrey men work hard for victory, which was only secured by a margin of 45 runs. J R Mason played an innings of 126 and almost enabled his side to get the 327 runs necessary for them to win. The old Winchester boy showed quite his best form, and while he stayed the result was always in doubt.

In fact when 200 went up and only four men were out Kent had the better of the position and, moreover, fortune was favouring them. S H Day had been caught off a no-ball and Mason played one into his wicket, while a few difficult chances were missed. But the last Kent batsmen could do but little, and Surrey won the match on their merits.

Still Mason's batting gave interest to the cricket, and he has not played better this season. Until 96 he gave his opponent no opportunity of getting him out; and his only other faulty stroke was at 122. Always scoring freely, he made his runs in two hours and 50 minutes, hitting 17 fours, three threes and 12 twos. Off-drives and well-timed cuts were his chief strokes, but he hit with judgment all round the wicket; and altogether played splendid cricket.

Early in the day, when Surrey looked like winning easily, S H Day showed skilful defence, and his partnership with Mason for the fourth wicket, which realized 110 runs in an hour and a quarter, quite altered the state of the game. Day had an escape when 41, but his 56 had much merit in it. He obtained his runs in admirable style and, during his stay of an hour and three-quarters, hit nine fours, two threes and two twos.

T Richardson had a large share in Surrey's success. Bowling with much of his old pace he often made the ball break back and, though experiencing bad luck in having both Day and Mason missed off him, he took five wickets for 84 runs. The Surrey fielding was at times lax. Stedman was more than once at fault; but, as in the first innings, he caught three men and may well improve when more experienced in first-class cricket.

31 July: YORKSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5295.html)

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

With the weather brilliantly fine and the wicket in perfect condition the Yorkshiremen were fortunate at Bradford yesterday to win the toss against Notts. They did not fail to take full advantage of their good luck. They remained in for the whole time available for cricket and scored 447 for the loss of only six wickets.

Mr Jackson and Tunnicliffe began the innings in promising style by putting on 87 runs in a trifle over an hour before they were parted, and with Denton and Jackson together the Notts bowling was so severely punished that 124 runs were added for the second wicket. Jackson, who was out at 211, played faultless cricket for his 114. He made his big score in two hours and a half, his figures including 16 fours.

Denton, who in the end lost his wicket through bad judgment in running, also played in fine style for his 81, with which he completed his 1,000 runs this season. Wainwright did little, but Hirst, who should have been caught at slip before he had made a run, helped Mitchell to put on 85 runs for the fifth wicket. In his 85 Mitchell hit 12 fours and made no mistake, while Hirst hit ten fours in his 54. After these two batsmen had been got rid of Taylor and Smith stayed together until the finish.

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

The Yorkshiremen, who at Bradford on Monday had scored 447 for six wickets, completed their innings yesterday more for 562. The remaining batsmen hit in vigorous style, Lord Hawke and Brown of Darfield putting on 72 runs in just over half an hour for the last wicket.

In face of Yorkshire's huge score Notts had, of course, nothing to play for but a draw, and, naturally enough, the cricket after they went in was not so popular with the crowd as that previously witnessed. Notts played a steady game with complete success, scoring between half-past 12 and the drawing of stumps 314 for the loss of only four wickets.

The great feature of the Notts batting was a fine display by Shrewsbury, who went in first and at the close was not out 143, this score having enabled him to complete his 1,000 runs for the season. Dench, who was with Shrewsbury at the close of play, has already helped the latter to put on no fewer than 129 runs.

A O Jones, who opened the innings with Shrewsbury, hit up 29 out of 32 in a quarter of an hour, and Gunn, who followed in, stayed nearly an hour and a half while 94 more runs were added. Gunn, who was at last out l-b-w for a stylishly-played 50, also completed his 1,000 runs. The weather was beautifully fine and between 7,000 and 8,000 spectators were present.

During the last hour of the day Dench and Shrewsbury played an extremely cautious game, and it is regrettable to have to state that a number of the spectators indulged in utterly uncalled for jeering. Lord Hawke was much annoyed and, besides expostulating with the offenders himself, sent round some members of the Bradford committee to try and induce them to improve their behaviour.

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

When Notts faced the follow on, at Bradford, yesterday, a draw was inevitable, and at 5 o'clock the game was abandoned, according to an arrangement made when Yorkshire began their second innings. Consequently the last part of the cricket was practically devoid of interest. Lord Hawke changed his order, and only Tunnicliffe, who completed his thousand runs, batted with much care.

Early in the day, when Notts were struggling to save the game, much keenness was displayed, and it was only by the narrow margin of two runs that they averted the danger involved of having to go in a second time. To Shrewsbury and Dench belongs the honour of saving Notts. Not until the score had reached 353 were they separated, their partnership having realized 168 runs, in two hours and 40 minutes.

Shrewsbury showed great skill and patience during the five hours and 25 minutes that he was at the wickets. He gave only two very difficult chances in scoring his 175, and his chief hits were 27 fours, three threes and 15 twos. Although playing very slow cricket, Dench rendered his side fine service, maintaining a perfect defence for four hours. In his 88 were ten fours, five threes and six twos.

Despite the prolonged stand of these men seven wickets were down when 74 runs were still required to save the follow on; but then J Gunn helped Dench to add 53, and afterwards, with Oates, obtained the necessary runs.

3 August: ESSEX v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5296.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 August, page 6)

A fine batting performance was accomplished by the Gloucestershire eleven, at Leyton, yesterday. Gaining first innings on a hard, true pitch, the Western county made such good use of their opportunity that they stayed in the whole of the day and scored 388 for seven wickets.

Before lunch the Essex bowlers had the best of matters, getting down four wickets in an hour and a half for 93 runs, but in the afternoon they were mastered. The hero of the day was Mr Townsend, who, going in first wicket down at 41, successfully resisted all efforts to dismiss him. At the close he was not out 156, having so far been at the wickets for four hours and three-quarters. He was once or twice beaten by the ball, but so admirable was his play that he did not give a chance. This is his sixth hundred for Gloucestershire this season, and he has now scored over 1,000 runs for his county.

Messrs Troup and Jessop shared in the honours of the day. The former assisted Townsend to put on 128 runs for the fifth wicket, in less than two hours, and this stand made a big score for Gloucestershire tolerably certain. Jessop gave a curious display, as after taking half an hour to score six runs he completed his 50 in just over an hour and made 84 out of 118 in 80 minutes. His hitting was splendid, though not free from blemish. He was badly missed when 56, but that was the only real chance that he gave. Some of his drives were very powerful, the ball in three instances clearing the ring. His chief figures were 11 fours, seven threes and five twos.

The Essex men stuck to their work very well, but they became a little slack as the day wore on. A good rate of scoring was maintained all day, the 338 runs being obtained in five and a half hours.

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

The Gloucestershire eleven were again seen to advantage at Leyton yesterday, and they left off at night in the happy position of being tolerably secure from defeat, with an excellent chance of winning. In the first hour their overnight score of 388 for seven wickets was increased to 241, the innings altogether lasting six hours and a half. Mr Townsend again played well and took out his bat. His innings of 181, the highest he has ever made in first-class cricket, was practically free from any real blemish, and occupied him five hours and three-quarters. His chief hits were 17 fours, eleven threes and seven twos.

With practically nothing better to hope for than a draw, Essex were in a thankless position, and at their first attempt they were all dismissed in a little over three hours and a half for 220. The batting varied a good deal. A hundred appeared on the board with only one man out, but then came a breakdown, the score only being 166 when the eighth wicket fell. A timely stand by Messrs Lucas and Bull at that point put a better appearance on the game. Carpenter and Perrin both played in fairly brisk fashion, making their runs in three-quarters of an hour. Fane batted with great steadiness, being in over two hours for 48, while Lucas, who took out his bat for 39, was at the wickets for a little over an hour and a half. The first and ninth wickets each realized 54 runs, while the second partnership produced 50. Townsend and Roberts bowled very well and the fielding of the Gloucestershire men was excellent.

Following on in a minority of 221, Essex had scored 26 without loss when stumps were drawn for the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 August, page 9)

Gloucestershire beat Essex on the Lyttelton ground, Leyton, on Saturday by an innings and three runs. By their splendid batting in their first innings Gloucestershire were left in a safe position, and they followed up their advantage with some good bowling and fielding, so that Essex never looked like saving the match.

After having followed on 221 behind, Essex overnight had made 26 without loss, and when they continued their batting on Saturday, Fane and Carpenter took the score to 67. With Perrin in, the hundred was reached; but then the game took a decided turn in favour of the bowlers and half the side were out for 126. After lunch the sixth and seventh wickets fell at 152. Fane, who was the sixth out, batted with great steadiness for his 65 runs and was in three hours. Young hit well and Owen played a sound game. Young hit up 39 out of 52 in 35 minutes, and Owen kept his wicket standing for over an hour and a half. Russell could not bat owing to a swollen arm, the result of a mosquito bite.

3 August: HAMPSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5297.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 August, page 6)

At Southampton yesterday the Australians were kept in the field for the whole of through five hours and a quarter that cricket was in progress, Hampshire completing an innings for 393. With the wicket in perfect order and the weather fine, winning the toss meant a great advantage, and the county made capital use of their opportunity.

At lunch time only one man had been dismissed for 151, and it appeared certain that a big score would be reached. A startling change in the game followed, Major Poore, Captain Wynyard, Bradford and Robson being dismissed in an hour for an addition of 46 runs. Llewellyn - whose first appearance it was for Hampshire - turned the fortunes of the game once more in favour of the county.

Hampshire's success, however, was mainly due to Hill and Wynyard. In an hour and 20 minutes they scored 93 for the first wicket. Hill, whom Trumble caught beautifully with one hand at short slip, played in quite his best style for 60. His cutting, leg hitting and driving were alike admirable, and among his figures were nine fours, four threes and three twos. Poore helped Wynyard to add 59 in three-quarters of an hour by sound, bright cricket. Wynyard, the [fourth?] out at 180, should have been caught by the wicket-keeper off Jones when six, but this was his only mistake during the two hours and 40 minutes that he was at the wickets. Clever placing to leg was the chief feature of his play. His principal hits were a seven (four for an overthrow), ten fours, three threes and seven twos.

After the collapse every partnership resulted in a useful addition to the score. Llewellyn, a left-hand batsman who drives with great power, hit up 72 in an hour and a half by a five (four for an overthrow), ten fours, three threes, four twos and singles. He is not yet qualified to play in inter-county matches, and it may be of interest to add that he met with some success as a bowler against Lord Hawke's team in South Africa two or three years ago. Heseltine hit freely and scored 24 out of 33 in 25 minutes, and then Steele and Llewellyn put on 52 in half an hour, while the last two wickets added 28 and 30 respectively. The Australians' fielding was not nearly so accurate as usual. The cricket gave every satisfaction to a crowd of about 4,000 people.

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

The feature of yesterday's cricket at Southampton was the success of G C B Llewellyn as a bowler. Although the Australians, by admirable batting, put together 360 runs in five hours, the young amateur was never mastered and took eight wickets for 132 runs. Bowling with the left hand, slow to medium pace, he at times sent down a fast ball. He put on considerable spin and made the ball break as well as go with his arm. Moreover, he did this fine work on a fast, true pitch. He will not be qualified for county matches until the season after next, but the Australians, on being asked, gave their sanction to his playing against them.

In his first over Llewellyn got rid of Worrall, who was well caught at the second attempt in the long field. He bowled Noble with a ball that went with his arm and beat Gregory with a fast ball. After lunch he dismissed Trumble, Darling and Hill in half an hour, and finished up by disposed of Howell and Jones.

With regard to the Australians' batting, chief honours rested with Trumble and Darling, who added 101 in an hour and a quarter, after three wickets had fallen cheaply. Trumble, who gave a sharp chance when four, was at the wickets two hours and hit ten fours, while in Darling's 48 there were nine fours. Despite the efforts of these two men, six wickets were down for 185. Iredale and McLeod then stayed together an hour and put on 77; and Iredale and Kelly afterwards scored 56 together. McLeod played good, steady cricket at a critical time, and Iredale, after a little unsteadiness, showed excellent form. He watched the bowling carefully and his strokes were clean and hard. Included in his 69, made in a couple

of hours, were 14 fours. Some free hitting by Jones marked the close of the innings, and Kelly, who was not out 40, played well.

In the last quarter of an hour Hampshire scored 17 for one wicket, and at the drawing of stumps held a lead of 50 runs, with nine men to be dismissed. Beautiful weather again favoured the cricket, which attracted about 4,000 spectators.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 August, page 9)

As was foreshadowed by the position of the game on the second evening the match at Southampton on Saturday was drawn. The Hampshire batting in the second innings was again good, particularly that of Captain Wynyard and Major Poore, who each secured a three-figure aggregate in the match. Major Poore hit 11 fours and Captain Wynyard eight.

When the county closed their innings an hour and three-quarters only remained for play, so that the Australians had no chance of winning. There were several blunders in the Hampshire fielding. It may be mentioned that Pickett and White, the umpires, each no-balled Captain Bradford for throwing.

3 August: LANCASHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5298.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 August, page 6)

The return match between Lancashire and Yorkshire at Old Trafford yesterday aroused much interest. Yorkshire won the toss and their innings lasted until five minutes past 6, the total reaching 344.

Tunncliffe was out when only 12 had been scored, but Mr Jackson and Denton made such a fine stand that 126 runs were added before the second wicket fell. Denton hit vigorously for 64, his figures including 11 fours. Jackson left soon afterwards, having made 68. He was missed by Cuttell in the slips with his score at 34, but this was the only blemish in an excellent innings.

Wainwright played on at 161, and at that point Yorkshire did not seem to have a very great advantage. Mitchell, however, played splendid cricket for 84, and was much helped by Hirst and Ernest Smith, who aided him to put on 86 and 70 runs for the fifth and seventh wickets. Mitchell, who left at 328, was at the wickets two hours and three-quarters.

Lancashire had a few minutes' batting and, altering the regular order, Lancashire and Smith were sent in, with the result that six runs were scored without loss. During the afternoon a collection was made on the ground on behalf of the wife and family of Briggs, and the amount realized was £126 5s.

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

The Lancashire eleven accomplished a fine feat at Old Trafford yesterday. They had to go in against a total of 344, and at the close of the day held the better position, as with four wickets to fall they were only five runs behind.

The early play held out no promise of what was to follow. Lancashire and Smith, who had made six runs on Thursday, were quickly dismissed, and MacLaren for a time was so uncomfortable with the bowling that it would have caused no surprise had he been out for a trifling score. Tyldesley, however, played a superb innings, scoring 65 out of the 90 made while he was at the wickets. He left at 97. He made 13 fours and batted in faultless style.

Ward after this gave MacLaren most valuable assistance, helping to carry the score to 222. For this run-getting the Yorkshiremen had themselves to blame, as Ward was missed when five and again at 15. MacLaren, who, after beginning very unsteadily, settled down to good cricket, gave no actual chance during his stay of two hours and 40 minutes, but he was often beaten by Rhodes and, in addition, made two or three dangerous strokes. All things considered, however, his 116 was a fine innings. It included 15 fours, four threes and ten twos.

Eccles, who was struck in the face by a rising ball, had to retire at 245, but then Ward and Cuttell obtained a complete mastery over the bowling until the storm put a stop to cricket at a quarter to 6 o'clock. The players were away half an hour, and on resuming two more wickets were lost. Ward was out at 333, and Cuttell was dismissed at 339 by the last ball of the day. Ward was batting three hours and a half and hit ten fours, while Cuttell's innings of 50 lasted an hour and 35 minutes.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 August, page 9)

The bat beat the ball to such an extent in the Lancashire and Yorkshire match at Manchester that the game on Saturday ended in a draw. For the greater part of the day the result seemed a foregone conclusion, but there were one or two moments when it seemed possible that Lancashire might win.

Owing to an unexpected resistance on the part of Sharp and Webb in the morning, Lancashire finished up with a lead of 106 runs on the first innings, and this obliged Yorkshire to play simply to save the game. A much more interesting day's play might have been witnessed had Mitchell accepted an easy chance of catching Sharp before he had made a run, for in that case it is very probable that the scores of the two teams would have been about equal on the first innings.

When Yorkshire went in, Jackson and Tunncliffe scored 66 for the first wicket, but there were five men out for 149. Denton was then joined by Haigh, and so good a stand was made that the Lancashire bowlers met with no further success. Denton's fine innings of 101 not out was only marred by a chance to the wicket-keeper soon after he went in. At the finish Yorkshire were 116 runs on with five wickets in hand.

3 August: SURREY v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5299.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 4 August, page 6)

There was much excellent cricket on the Oval yesterday. The Surrey batsmen had to fight very hard for their runs, against splendid bowling and fielding. It was a typical batsman's pitch; the ball came along at a nice, easy pace, and the Middlesex bowlers may be congratulated on getting seven wickets down for 366.

At one period of the game Surrey seemed likely to finish in a much stronger position. The second hundred went up with only one man out; but then came something like a collapse, and with seven wickets down the score was only 286. Thereafter Surrey triumphed, and there is now little danger of their losing, as they did in the match at Lord's.

The great feature in yesterday's cricket was the batting of Abel, whose 112 was a highly finished innings, which was only ended by the mistiming of a rather short-pitched ball that was cleverly caught at point. As usual, Abel obtained nearly the whole of his runs in front of the wicket, and he mostly waited for the easy ball to hit. Brockwell helped him to make 93 for the first wicket and Hayes 117 for the second. Hayes and Brockwell both played fine cricket.

After Hearne's effective two overs, during which he got three wickets for three runs, seven men were out for 286. In the last hour of the day there was brilliant work by Mr Key and Lees, who added 80 runs. Hayward drove a ball from Mr Wells out of the ground for six.

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

The Middlesex eleven were yesterday fighting a stern, uphill game, and at the close of play they had little hope of escape from defeat. They had to follow on and, in their second innings, were still 127 runs behind with two good wickets gone.

Surrey were quite at the top of their game. Having finished their innings, the closing feature of which was the superb hitting of Mr K J Key and Lees, they fielded and bowled in their best style. Lockwood, with his length and variety of pace, never bowled better. Brockwell, too, seems to be rapidly securing a place in the highest class of bowlers. His varied pace, his spin and his length stamp him now as one of the bulwarks of the county.

Middlesex, in their first innings, managed to make 191, but their batting was quite indifferent and a great many of the runs were got behind the wicket by ill-timed forward play. The bowlers at both ends were repeatedly beating the batsmen, and the only respectable innings was really that of Mr Moon, who hit a five and seven fours. There were two wonderful catches during the afternoon. The ball that dismissed Mr R N Douglas went hard to Brockwell, at extra-slip, and was just held, wide out. Abel, running backwards from mid-off, brought off a wonderful catch high up, also with the right hand.

When Middlesex followed on Mr P F Warner played well, but the batsmen were constantly in difficulties, and the visiting county were fortunate in leaving off in the position indicated by the following score . . .

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 August, page 9)

The Middlesex eleven saved their return match with Surrey at the Oval on Saturday, and when the game was drawn at half-past 6 Surrey wanted 123 runs to win with nine wickets to fall.

Middlesex were saved from defeat by Mr F G J Ford and Mr MacGregor. When MacGregor joined Ford after luncheon Middlesex had three wickets left and were only 42 ahead, so that the game seemed to be Surrey's. But more than an hour and a half elapsed before Ford was out at

374, caught by the wicket-keeper, and after Ford had gone a few big hits by MacGregor quickly settled the question as to Surrey's having any chance of success.

Ford's great innings of 147 was a fine piece of batting. Going in at a time when his side were in difficulties, he adapted his game to the circumstances and restrained himself from forcing too much. But with all his steadiness he drove and cut very hard, and invariably kept the ball on the ground. He went in fourth wicket down at 124, Middlesex being then 100 behind, and he was eighth to leave after a stay of three hours and a half. His best hits were 16 fours, four threes and 12 twos. MacGregor was some two hours in playing his innings. The Surrey bowlers and fieldsmen came well out of the two long afternoons' hard work on a good wicket and under a hot sun, and the catch in the long field which dismissed Trott on Saturday was particularly brilliant.

Surrey had only an hour and a quarter for the fourth innings in which to make the 205 necessary to win, and the match was left unfinished.

3 August: WORCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5300.html)

Day 1 (scorecard but no report from Friday 4 August, page 6)

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

The Sussex eleven, in their match at Worcester, have so far not distinguished themselves, and they will have to fight hard to-day if they are to escape a beating.

Day 3 (report from Monday 7 August, page 9)

The Sussex team played a fine uphill game at Worcester on Saturday, and just succeeded in escaping defeat. When they went in close upon five hours remained for play, and they were set the practically impossible task of getting 428 runs to win.

The start was disastrous, Brann mistiming a ball from Wilson before a run had been scored, but Ranjitsinhji and Fry made a good stand, 66 runs being put on before Fry was out. Killick afterwards gave Ranjitsinhji valuable assistance, and after five wickets had fallen for 148 Killick and Collins also offered a prolonged resistance. Ranjitsinhji was batting nearly two hours for his 78 and showed excellent cricket, although at times he played a much slower game than is usual with him.

Killick and Collins put on 101 runs before the former was caught for 78 - an innings which included 11 fours. Newham helped Collins to add 70 runs for the seventh wicket, and when the match was left drawn the Sussex score was 340 for nine wickets. Collins, who was not out 72, had been batting for two hours and three-quarters.

Monday 7 August: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The positions in the county championship are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	22	13	3	6	10
Lancashire	19	11	3	5	8
Surrey	18	7	2	9	5
Middlesex	12	7	3	2	4
Essex	15	5	4	6	1
Sussex	16	5	4	6	1
Notts	12	2	2	8	0
Gloucestershire	14	3	5	6	-2
Kent	13	3	7	3	-4
Hampshire	12	2	5	5	-3
Worcestershire	8	1	3	4	-2
Warwickshire	12	1	3	8	-2
Derbyshire	14	2	7	5	-5
Leicestershire	14	2	7	5	-5
Somerset	12	1	7	4	-6

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "one point shall be reckoned for each win; one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in innings	Not out	Average
Major Poore	17	1230	304	3	87.85
K S Ranjitsinhji	43	2190	197	6	59.18
Shrewsbury	21	1110	175	2	58.42
Mr C L Townsend	38	1755	181*	5	53.18
Hayward	35	1658	158	3	51.81
Mr F S Jackson	31	1377	155	3	49.10
W G Quaife	27	1097	207*	4	47.69
Mr A J Turner	18	751	124	2	46.93
Abel	41	1780	357*	3	46.84
Captain Wynyard	19	801	225	1	44.50
Mr W L Foster	18	754	172*	1	44.23
Tyldesley	35	1438	249	2	43.67
Mr C B Fry	43	1800	181	1	42.85
J T Brown, sen.	35	1443	192	1	42.44
Storer	41	1357	216*	7	39.91
Mr A O Jones	25	977	250	1	39.08
Mr P Perrin	34	1156	196	4	38.53
W Gunn	27	1030	150	2	38.14
A Ward	35	1171	118	4	37.77
Mr S M J Woods	24	849	146	1	36.91
Mr R E Foster	26	880	134	2	36.66
Mr C J Burnup	30	1060	150	1	35.33
Mr F P Knox	22	513	106	7	34.20
Denton	39	1251	113	2	33.81
Mr F Mitchell	40	1317	194	0	32.92
Brockwell	37	1148	147	2	32.80
Lockwood	28	816	100	3	32.64
Mr H D G Leveson-Gower	13	386	155	1	32.16
Mr G L Jessop	30	926	171*	1	31.93
Mr J R Mason	28	827	181*	1	30.62
Hayes	30	857	131	1	29.89
Mr F H B Champain	26	777	120	0	29.88
Mr H K Foster	21	607	83	0	28.90
Mr A P Lucas	14	287	67	4	28.70
Hirst	38	965	85	4	28.38
Mr S H Day	21	558	138	1	27.90
Mr J A Dixon	19	492	71	1	27.33
Mr F G J Ford	31	766	160	1	25.53
Mr C McGahey	27	610	75*	3	25.41
Mr K J Key	30	620	59*	4	23.84
Mr P F Warner	28	639	150	1	23.66
Mr C E de Trafford	32	728	117*	1	23.48
Dr W G Grace	19	443	78	0	23.31

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mead	1039	404	1939	116	16.80
Rhodes	1015.4	349	2079	123	16.90
Mold	774.3	262	1589	94	16.90
Trott	1259.2	415	3015	174	17.32
Mr W M Bradley	800.1	265	1846	106	17.41
J T Brown	397.4	111	1050	66	18.75
Cuttell	803.4	349	1316	69	19.07
Briggs	667.1	247	1150	59	19.49
Paish	745.4	205	1719	88	19.53

Haigh	627	209	1309	66	19.83
J T Hearne	1053	399	2067	100	20.67
Young	910.4	290	2134	103	20.71
Lockwood	518.1	129	1357	64	21.20
Hulme	797.1	243	1618	75	21.57
Brockwell	819.2	263	1978	90	21.97
Roche	498.2	162	1232	56	22.00
Hirst	802.3	228	1539	69	22.30
Hayward	454.4	112	1284	57	22.52
Mr B J T Bosanquet	496.4	115	1250	55	22.72
Dr W G Grace	381	66	479	20	23.95
Bland	768.1	220	2165	90	24.05
Mr F S Jackson	483	163	1001	39	25.66
Mr F G Bull	618	193	1329	51	26.05
Richardson	777.1	203	1883	71	26.52
Mr C L Townsend	726.3	130	2038	72	28.30

AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in innings	Not out	Average
Mr V Trumper	28	1292	300*	2	49.84
Mr M A Noble	37	1296	156	6	41.80
Mr C Hill	23	879	160	1	39.95
Mr J Worrall	18	908	128	5	39.47
Mr J Darling	41	1285	134*	7	37.79
Mr S E Gregory	38	984	124	6	30.75
Mr H Trumble	37	867	100	6	27.96
Mr F A Iredale	24	638	115	1	27.73
Mr F Laver	27	526	79	8	27.68
Mr J J Kelly	27	549	89	3	22.87
Mr E Jones	25	448	55	3	20.36
Mr C E McLeod	26	295	46	5	14.04
Mr W P Howell	29	230	49*	7	10.45
Mr A E Johns	7	23	12	2	4.60

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr H Trumble	983.2	354	1980	114	17.36
Mr W P Howell	854.3	325	1831	90	20.34
Mr M A Noble	656.2	213	1554	73	21.28
Mr E Jones	817	137	1979	90	21.98
Mr C E McLeod	482.3	162	1096	48	22.83

7 August: DERBYSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5301.html)

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

The great feature in yesterday's cricket at Derby was the innings of Mr L G Wright, who for so many years has been a consistently good bat for Derbyshire. He was quite in his best form and scored easily all round the wicket; he took four hours to get his runs and hit nine fours, 13 threes and 18 twos. Bagshaw helped him to make 84 for the first wicket, and he and Mr Wood put on 107 for the sixth in 90 minutes.

Hampshire had a little batting, but play was soon abandoned in consequence of bad light.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

Up to a certain point at Derby yesterday there seemed every prospect of a prolonged struggle, but at their second attempt Derbyshire failed. Hampshire, who had lost two wickets overnight for 38, gave a creditable display, approaching within seven runs of their opponents' total. Major Poore and Captain Wynyard put on 89 for the fourth wicket in 65 minutes. The former batted well, his 79, which occupied him an hour and 40 minutes, being quite free from fault, but Captain Wynyard gave a couple of chances in making his 57.

Derbyshire started their second innings fairly well, but after the second wicket fell the batting broke down entirely and the whole side was out for 88. As the game stands Hampshire, with all their wickets in hand, only require 81 runs to win.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 August, page 5)

The cricket at Derby yesterday was brief, for Hampshire, who had only to make 96 in the fourth innings (and 15 of these had been got overnight), won by nine wickets. Major Poore once more did well, and he made 132 in the match and was not out in his second innings.

7 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5302.html)

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

There were several delays by rain at Bristol yesterday, but Gloucestershire on the whole came out creditably. After a bad beginning - they had lost Wrathall, Townsend and Troup for 30 runs - there was a fine innings by Jessop, who made 56 in 40 minutes.

Then, when six wickets were down for 149, Rice, who played extremely steady cricket, found a very useful partner in Board. Gloucestershire, with still a wicket left, had made 247 at the close of the day. Rice was batting three hours for his 64. There was a big holiday crowd on the Gloucestershire county ground.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

Despite the fact that Paish and Roberts, the last pair of Gloucestershire batsmen, raised the total of their side from 247 to 296 at Bristol yesterday, the western county found themselves at a great disadvantage at the close of play. Mainly through a fine stand by Brann and Ranjitsinhji, Sussex not only passed the Gloucestershire total by 72 runs, but still have five wickets in hand.

The two batsmen named came together when Fry had been dismissed for 15 and were not separated until they had raised the score to 267. They were partners for two hours and 40 minutes, and during that time Ranjitsinhji, in spite of his lameness, contributed 154. He gave no chance and only made two bad strokes. His chief hits were 26 fours and 14 twos. Equally meritorious, though of quite a different stamp, was the innings of Brann, who took nearly four hours in making his 136, his score including 18 fours, three threes and nine twos.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 August, page 5)

The Gloucestershire eleven played excellently at Bristol yesterday and succeeded in saving the game. At the outset they were at a considerable disadvantage, Sussex, with five wickets in hand, holding a lead of 72 runs. But with the help of Paish's bowling the Sussex innings was finished off for the addition of 33 runs, the total reaching 401. Paish actually took the last five wickets for 12 runs and had the excellent analysis for the innings of seven wickets for 77 runs.

Gloucestershire were in a minority of 105, and for a time they did only moderately. Wrathall and Jessop hit well and Townsend played steadily, but three wickets were lost before the arrears were cleared innings and half the side were out for 148. This was a critical point in the game, but Hale and Brown stayed together for an hour and a half and put on 130 runs. Of these Hale obtained 84 by some fine forcing play, his score being the highest he has so far made for his county. Brown and Board carried the total to 341, and with the fall of the former's wicket stumps were drawn.

Brown was batting for two hours and a quarter, and deserved great praise for his steadiness. Gloucestershire could fairly claim to have none the worst of the draw, as at the finish, with three wickets left, they were 236 runs on.

7 August: KENT v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5303.html)

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

The week at Canterbury was begun yesterday under every favourable condition; the weather was fine and the Old St Lawrence ground was in exceptionally good condition. It was the 58th celebration of the festival, from which the Old Stagers, as usual, are inseparable, and they will play four nights in the theatre. Other functions in connection with the week will include a cyclist parade. On Friday afternoon there is sure to be a big gathering of Kent cricketers for the presentation of a silver-wedding gift to Lord and Lady Harris, which will be made by Sir E Leigh Pemberton.

Kent invariably command their best eleven for the week; but yesterday they began without Martin, who was still incapacitated by his strained thigh. Under the circumstances Mr E B Shine, the old Cambridge Blue, reappeared in the side. Mold was absent from Lancashire, in whose ream Mr A H Hornby again found a place.

With first innings on a slow pitch Kent made the respectable score of 293 for nine wickets. The great feature in the play was the batting of Mr Burnup and Mr Mason. Burnup was caught at the wicket at 145; he was batting two hours and a half for his 73, giving no chance and hitting nine fours, two threes and six twos. He got nearly all his runs in front of the wicket. His best partner was Mr Day, who helped him to add 89, but he was fortunate in getting some kindness from the fieldsmen. But the best cricket was to come. Mr Mason and Mr Patterson stayed together an hour and three-quarters, and by superb cricket added 118 runs against much good bowling. Patterson was at times very careful in his style, but he occasionally hit hard.

With 260 on the board and only three men out, it seemed that Kent were in for a very big score; but the game was soon afterwards changed. Mason was sixth out at 276 and he had hit 14 fours. In the last three-quarters of an hour six wickets fell for the addition of 30 runs. The Lancashire wicket-keeper made five catches during the day. There were some 8,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

Kent followed up their good batting of Monday with excellent bowling and fielding, and last night they stood in a very strong position, for with seven wickets left they were already 198 runs ahead. They completed their first innings very quickly in the morning, only a dozen runs being added for the last wicket. Cuttell bowled well, his five wickets costing only 13 runs each.

When Lancashire went in Mr Bradley bowled with great success at the start, and in less than 40 minutes the North countrymen, with three wickets down for 40 runs, had an uphill fight before them. Mr MacLaren played brilliantly, and while he and Mr Eccles were together 70 runs were put on. He was bowled in playing back to Alec Hearne for 62, made mostly by hard driving and including nine fours.

At luncheon time, with the score at 115 and only four wickets gone, Lancashire seemed to be in a fair way of getting on terms with their opponents, but the game soon afterwards changed and three more batsmen were dismissed for an additional 20 runs. A useful partnership by Cuttell and Lancaster produced 43, and then the innings rapidly ended.

In the last hour and a half of the day Kent made 90 for three wickets. Mr Burnup was quickly out, but Hearne and Mr Day raised the score to 63. There were nearly 6,000 spectators. It may be interesting to state that in view of last Monday's test match at the Oval the sub-committee of the board have asked the Kent executive not to play Mr Bradley against the Australians to-morrow.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 August, page 5)

The first match of the Canterbury Week was yesterday left drawn - a result that could not have been wholly unexpected after the way the game had gone on Tuesday. Kent then finished with a lead of 198 runs and seven wickets left.

Mr Mason and Mr Patterson forced the game well, but the former, after one escape, cut the ball into the hands of point. He made his 66 out of 85 added during his stay, in 70 minutes, and hit six fours and two threes. Mr Livesay played steadily, and then, after Mr Patterson had completed his 50, the Kent captain at 1 o'clock closed his innings. Mr Patterson had played with his characteristic steadiness.

Lancashire were left to make 318 in four hours and a quarter, and such a task was well within the bounds of possible achievement. Mr MacLaren forced the game after luncheon, and he obtained 37 out of 53 when he was brilliantly caught at mid-off. Subsequently there was some fine batting by Tyldesley, who scored 50 in a little over the hour; but, with six wickets down for 156 and more than three-quarters of an hour to play, the game seemed to have changed in favour of Kent. Albert Ward, with all his fine steadiness, prevented any such calamity for his side, and in the end he was not out 65, after a stay of four hours.

The Kent committee have intimated to the Test Board that they cannot allow Bradley to stand out of to-day's match with the idea of his resting for the Oval fixture on Monday, but they have suggested to Mr J R Mason, the captain, that he should do what he can to rest the fast bowler.

7 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5304.html)

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

Essex had the better of the cricket at Leicester yesterday. The home side, although making 74 for the first wicket, were out in a little over three hours for 194. Mr Wood and Knight, who began the innings, played very sound cricket, and later there was some hard hitting by Mr De Trafford.

Essex lost Carpenter at 22, and then came a fine stand by Mr Fane and Mr Perrin, who put on 121 before the drawing of stumps, leaving Essex only 51 behind with nine wickets to fall. There was a large and enthusiastic company.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

There was some remarkable batting by Essex on the Leicester county ground yesterday, when they raised their overnight score of 143 for one wicket to 673. The honours of the day belonged to Messrs Fane and Perrin, who for the second wicket added 236 runs, Perrin playing a great innings of 132. He made his score at a rapid rate and hit 16 fours. Fane, who was third out at 447, took four hours and a half to get his runs; his chief hits were 27 fours, seven threes and five twos.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 August, page 5)

Essex beat Leicestershire yesterday at Leicester by an innings and 223 runs. Considering their huge total of arrears Leicestershire did fairly well, and Knight's 111 was an extremely fine innings. Walter Mead again bowled excellently, and his double analysis for the match was ten wickets for 155 runs.

7 August: SOMERSET v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5305.html)

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

In their return match with Middlesex, which was commenced at Taunton yesterday, the Somerset eleven gave a deplorable display of batting. They went in first on a run-getting wicket and made such poor use of their opportunity as to be dismissed in two hours and a quarter for the paltry total of 105.

Worse batting on a good pitch has rarely been witnessed in an important match. Robson hit fairly well, and Messrs Phillips, Woods and Newton managed to reach double figures, but a poor resistance was offered by the others to Hearne and Trott, who bowled unchanged. Hearne was quite in his best form, taking half of the wickets for 36 runs.

Having done so badly with the bat, Somerset proceeded to make a number of mistakes in the field, and as a consequence they found themselves at a great disadvantage at the close. Staying in for the remainder of the afternoon, Middlesex only lost four wickets in scoring 205, Mr Warner making 106 and being still not out. He did not play very well, as he gave three chances, the first when 30, and made several risky strokes through the slips. Mr J Douglas assisted him to put on 66 for the first wicket in three-quarters of an hour, while Rawlin helped to add 71 for the fourth partnership in an hour. With six wickets in hand Middlesex have a lead of 100 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

Somerset quite failed to recover any of their lost ground at Taunton yesterday, and at the drawing of stumps found themselves in a hopeless position. A good deal of rain fell during the night, but, though soft, the wicket in the absence of sunshine never became difficult. Consequently, Middlesex were enabled materially to add to their advantage, raising their overnight total of 205 for four wickets to 360.

Mr Warner, who was not out 106, only advanced his score to 114, when he was caught at mid-off. His innings, which included 15 fours, was a lucky one, being marred by three chances. Some remarkable scoring was witnessed during the partnership of Trott and Mr Wells, who put on 96 runs in 35 minutes. Trott made his 63 in three-quarters of an hour and three times sent the ball out of the ground.

Somerset had to face a deficit of 255 runs, and for a time they fared so badly at their second attempt that it appeared likely the game would be finished before the drawing of stumps. However, Bernard, Daniell and Nichols batted with determination, but in spite of all they could do Somerset at the close had seven wickets down and still required 37 runs to avoid being beaten in a single innings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 August, page 5)

Very few minutes were occupied in the completion of this match at Taunton yesterday. The last three Somerset wickets fell for an additional 11 and Middlesex won by an innings and 26 runs.

7 August: SURREY v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5306.html)

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

The Surrey and Notts match at the Oval long ago established itself as one of the big holiday functions for the first Monday in August, and with the weather promising in the morning it was not surprising to find that the spectators yesterday on the Kennington cricket ground numbered about 30,000.

Notts have reached a position that makes their defeat improbable. They began badly enough on a pitch that was for a long while affected by the rain of Sunday, for Shrewsbury was caught at extra slip from a bumping ball in the first over. Gunn and Mr Jones, however, played in their best form and forced the game. There was a loud cheer for Jones as he completed his thousand aggregate for the season; but just when things were settling down nicely for Notts, Gunn, who was well set, was caught by the wicket-keeper, who took the ball standing back to Lockwood wide out with his right hand. This was at 59, and 28 runs later Lockwood bowled out the Notts captain.

Mr Goodacre played in excellent style and made some strong forward hits; but Jones did most of the work and practised with great power a variety of fine strokes. The Notts game prospered well until just after luncheon when Goodacre and Dench were quickly out, making five down for 133. Then in the next three-quarters of an hour came the finest piece of batting in the innings; that was when Jones and Groves were adding 80 runs for the sixth partnership. Jones forced the game in great style, and he made 115 out of 190, the last 16 having been all scored in an over from Lockwood. Eventually at 213 Jones, in hitting, had his middle stump bowled down. His was a brilliant innings, made in two hours and three-quarters, and there were few balls ill-timed; he hit 18 fours. He should, however, have been easily caught at the wicket with his score at 88 off Richardson.

Groves, an amateur who was playing for the first time in big county cricket under the birth qualification for Notts, distinguished himself. He went in on a slow pitch when the game was going rather against his side. He came down very straight and hard on the ball; and his two best strokes would seem to be on the leg side and the cut. He hit eight fours in his 42, and going in fifth wicket down at 133 was eighth out at 255. Eventually Notts finished their innings at ten minutes past 5 for 300.

The Surrey fielding and bowling were generally good, and the best thing in fielding was the work of Mr H C Pretty at third man. He was making his first appearance for Surrey by reason of his fine play for the Surrey second eleven in some recent matches. Lockwood bowled with much of his old sting, and had all the catches been held his figures would have come out better; as it was he got five wickets for 84 runs.

Surrey had an hour's batting at the close of the day, and Pretty and Abel, playing very well, scored 58 without loss of wicket, so that there is every prospect of a good match. The turf steadily improved all day, and when Surrey were in the ball came along at a nice easy pace. The weather was very bright in the latter part of the day.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

The Surrey eleven achieved a fine batting feat on the Oval yesterday, when they kept Notts in the field from half-past 11 until close upon 6 o'clock. Their innings had begun on Monday evening and their average rate of scoring the 493 was nearly 80 an hour, these figures alone showing how attractive was the batting.

A side that makes a first innings off 300 is as a rule pretty safe from defeat, but Notts now find themselves with arrears of 187 and one wicket gone in the second innings. It was hard work bowling and fielding against the powerful Surrey batsmen on a beautifully true pitch; but the visitors stuck to their work right to the end, when at deep square-leg Dench made a brilliant catch, which dismissed Richardson.

The foundation for the Surrey total was laid by the first partnership of Abel and Mr H C Pretty, who made 138 before Abel was bowled. Abel played with his usual soundness and got most of his runs by the cut and the off-drive, while now and again he had a short one, which he quickly hit to leg. But the feature of the day was the innings of 124 by Mr Pretty, a batsman whose name has now to be added to that small list of men who have made a century on their first appearance for their county. He played a strong game all round, but his driving was particularly good; he was third out at 254 after a stay of three hours, and his chief hits were 16 fours.

Surrey's triumphs continued. Hayes made 45 very rapidly towards a partnership of 103, and Mr Leveson-Gower, the old Winchester and Oxford captain, played in his best form for 47. But next to Mr Pretty the honours of the day belonged to Hayward, who made 96 in his inimitable style, and also had Mr Jephson for a partner while 103 runs were added for the eighth wicket. It was this stand that destroyed the last hopes of Notts finishing fairly even on the first innings.

This 493 is the largest score ever made by Surrey in their matches with Nottinghamshire, the previous best of 468 having been made at the Oval so long ago as 1864. There were 20,000 spectators of yesterday's cricket, and the crowd was much more orderly than on Monday.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 August, page 5)

The pitch at the Oval yesterday maintained its excellence to the end, and the Surrey bowlers were unable to get Notts out until it was too late to win. Nottinghamshire, therefore, just saved the match, although, as Surrey had only 21 more to make with six wickets left, they might claim to have secured a "moral" victory.

It was a great feat by Nottinghamshire to draw the game, for they began the day with arrears of 187 runs and one wicket gone in the second innings. The best cricket of the day was seen during the partnership for the fourth wicket of William Gunn and Arthur Shrewsbury, who put on 93 runs in an hour and a quarter. Their defence seemed invulnerable, but at last Gunn mistimed a ball and edged it away to short slip.

Another long partnership by Shrewsbury and A O Jones yielded 67. The game then changed, and Surrey were winning again when the eighth wicket went at 253. But the vital stand occurred when Guttridge and Attewell put on 44 in half an hour by some effective though indiscriminate hitting, and Surrey were left with less than 80 minutes in which to get 109 runs.

The home batsmen strove hard to perform the task, but Attewell and J Gunn kept such a fine length that it was impossible to hit them to any extent, and when stumps were pulled up Surrey were 21 short of the required number. The Surrey fielding was not quite up to its best standard, but Lockwood bowled in great style and his 11 wickets for 167 runs is among his best performances this year.

7 August: WARWICKSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5307.html)

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

As on the occasion of their match a few weeks ago against the Midland Counties' eleven, the Australians proved a great attraction in Birmingham yesterday, the crowd on the Edgbaston ground numbering about 15,000. The Australians were not at anything like their full strength, Noble, Jones and Hill standing out of the eleven.

Heavy rain had fallen during the night and the wicket was considerably affected. It was a decided advantage to Warwickshire to win the toss, but their gain was largely neutralized by the admirable bowling of Trumble and Howell. Up to a certain point the county's prospects seemed hopeful, for after Diver had been got rid of without a run, Devey and Lilley scored 35 together for the second wicket. However, despite Lilley's good batting and some fine defence on the part of Walter Quaife and Mr Bainbridge, the total for nine wickets was only 94. Walter Quaife played with great skill for nearly an hour and a half.

Field, the last man, showed more ability than most of his colleagues to force the game on a slow wicket, and by vigorous play scored in 20 minutes 32 runs out of 41, the total reaching 135 before the innings ended. Howell and Trumble bowled splendidly and met with equal success.

The Australians' innings opened in quite a sensational fashion, three wickets being lost for eight runs. Worrall was brilliantly caught at cover-point, Trumper in the same over played on and McLeod was bowled. Gregory and Darling, however, put a much better appearance on the game, staying together for 50 minutes, adding 37 runs. Still despite their efforts there were five wickets down for 60, Gregory being out fifth after a stay of an hour and a half. When he left Warwickshire had decidedly the better of the game.

During the remainder of the afternoon, however, only one more wicket fell and 44 runs were added. Trumble was batting 55 minutes for his 13, and Iredale, though rather lucky in not being caught at slip, played with skill for 29 not out. As the game stands now the Australians are only 31 runs behind with four wickets in hand.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

At Birmingham, on Monday, on a wicket rendered slow and treacherous by rain during the previous night, the Warwickshire eleven held their own uncommonly well against the Australians; but yesterday, when the ground had thoroughly recovered itself, they were outplayed at every point.

There was nothing in the position when play began, the Australians, in face of Warwickshire's total of 135, having lost six wickets for 104. However, when the cricket came to an end the colonial eleven had the game in their hands, Warwickshire, with three wickets to go down, being only 19 runs ahead. The match again proved a great attraction, fully 12,000 people visiting the Edgbaston ground, and the weather all the afternoon was delightful.

The cricket before lunch was surprising in character, for though the Australians lost Iredale at 130 and Laver at 154 they succeeded in carrying their overnight score to over 300. To Kelly and Howell belonged the chief credit, these two batsmen having put on 109 runs in an hour and ten minutes. There was no fault in Howell's 46 and Kelly, after a few lucky strokes in the slips, played first-rate cricket. When lunch time came Kelly was 99 not out, and from the first ball afterwards he hit a four, and thus for the first time in this country obtained 100. He did nothing more, however, before being caught at the wicket, the innings coming to an end for 312. Kelly was batting two hours and 50 minutes for his 103, and hit 18 fours, three threes and five twos. Apart from some little irregularities to begin with, it was a very fine display.

Going in for the second time with a majority of 177 against them, Warwickshire had a very doleful prospect, but up to a certain point they did great things, Diver and Devey by brilliant cricket scoring 98 runs in an hour for the first wicket. After this, however, McLeod bowled with such effect that four wickets were down for 117. Diver was out third at 114, his splendid 66 including 11 fours, a three and a two. W G Quaife, who took an hour and a half to make 28, did his best to retrieve the disasters of the side, and Mr Bainbridge also played with great steadiness, but despite all their efforts the score at the finish was only 196 for seven wickets.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 August, page 5)

As was to be expected from the position of the game at Birmingham on the second evening, the Australians won very easily yesterday, the actual victory being by nine wickets. The colonials had only 50 to make in the last innings of the match.

7 August: YORKSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5308.html)

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

A thoroughly interesting afternoon's cricket was seen at Sheffield yesterday. Yorkshire were dismissed for the moderate total - for them - of 268, but nevertheless they left off with the best of the game. They could not put anything like their strongest team into the field, as for various reasons Mr Jackson, J T Brown, Tunncliffe and Hunter were all away.

The start of their innings was very promising, Mr Mitchell and Wainwright batting so well that 70 went up without a wicket having fallen. Then, however, three men were sent back at the same total, the good beginning being to a great extent nullified. At this point Denton and Mr Ernest Smith played admirably together and put on 83 runs, while subsequently Lord Hawke helped Denton to add 47 for the sixth wicket.

The feature of the day was Denton's fine innings of 82. He went in at the fall of the first wicket and was out seventh at 211, his stay lasting just over two hours. He gave one very hard chance - his only mistake - and hit a five and nine fours. Worcestershire had 50 minutes' batting at the end of the day and lost two wickets for 36 runs, so that with eight wickets to fall they are 232 runs to the bad.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 9 August, page 10)

Though at the end of the afternoon they found themselves some little way behind, the Worcestershire eleven had no cause to be dissatisfied with their doings against Yorkshire at Sheffield yesterday. For the most part their batting was good. W H Wilkes played admirable cricket for two hours and ten minutes, and with Wheldon helped to add 71 runs for the seventh wicket.

In the last hour and 50 minutes, when Yorkshire were in, some very brilliant batting was seen. Fifty runs were scored in 20 minutes and a hundred in an hour, Wainwright and Denton, who had the most to do with all this, putting on 76 for the second wicket in 55 minutes.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 10 August, page 5)

This match at Sheffield yesterday was drawn. Lord Hawke and Haigh met with so much success in their vigorous cricket that they added 96 runs, and Yorkshire were soon in a position to close their innings. Worcestershire were left to make 298 in three hours and a quarter and, after a bad beginning, there was a fine partnership for 93 by Mr W L Foster and Arnold, which saved the game for their side.

10 August: ESSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5309.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 August, page 6)

Although there was no special feature in the opening day's play in the return match on the Lyttelton-ground, Leyton, yesterday, the cricket was always interesting. At the commencement there was some good batting by Mr Fane and Carpenter, who put on 56 for the first wicket, after which the bowlers held the upper hand for a time and four of the side were out for 71. But at lunch time the score was taken to 103 without further loss.

When the game was resumed Mr Fane and Mr Owen were out at 107, being bowled from successive balls in Mold's first over. Fane was batting two hours for his 55, without giving a chance, and he hit six fours. Russell was caught at point at 139. Young then helped Mr Lucas to put on 49 in 45 minutes for the eighth wicket. Mold bowled Mr Bull at 200 and made his aggregate 100 wickets for the season. The innings closed for 212. Mr Lucas's 55 had taken him two hours and a quarter, and included some splendid strokes on the off-side. The Lancashire fielding was very close, and the "c and b" by Albert Ward was a splendid catch off a hard drive. Mold with his great pace, although rather erratic at the start, bowled extremely well, and he took seven wickets for 93.

Lancashire had an hour and a half's batting, but began disastrously; Ward was bowled in Young's first over, at 26 Mr MacLaren was well caught at slip, right hand low down, by Ayres, and Mr Hornby left at 46. Then Mr Eccles helped Tyldesley to add 63 before stumps were drawn by some of the most attractive cricket of the day. Tyldesley made some beautiful strokes on the leg-side and Mr Eccles's best hit was his drive. At the close Lancashire were 103 runs behind with seven wickets in hand.

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

Up to a certain point yesterday at Leyton there was very little difference in the positions of the two elevens; but Essex collapsed in their second innings and Lancashire had no difficulty in winning by eight wickets.

Overnight Lancashire had made 109 for three wickets, and when they continued their innings Tyldesley and Mr Eccles took the score to 1722 before the former was caught at cover-point. The partnership had produced 126 runs in an hour and a half, while Tyldesley had been batting half an hour longer for his 84, which included ten fours, three threes and nine twos. He played fine cricket and made more of his runs on the leg side than usual. Mr Eccles was fifth out at 184. He had been at the wickets an hour and three-quarters for his 76 and his chief hits were nine fours. His best stroke was his drive.

Eight of the side were out before the Essex total was passed. Smith and Webb added 35 in 15 minutes, when Smith was well caught at slip low down with the right hand by Ayres, after which the innings closed for another four runs.

Going in 36 behind, Essex gave a poor display. In fact, Mr Perrin and Carpenter were the only two to stay for any period. Mr Perrin made his runs chiefly by drives, but Carpenter was much slower in his method and was batting an hour and three-quarters for his 41. After Carpenter left the rest of the side shaped very badly against Ward's slow leg breaks, and Essex were all out for 146. Ward in his first attempt met no success, but on going on later took five wickets for 35 runs.

Requiring only 111 to win and with just over an hour left for play, Lancashire, owing chiefly to Mr MacLaren and Tyldesley, batted so freely that the game was prolonged until 20 minutes to 7 to avoid the third day.

10 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5310.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 August, page 6)

In the opening of their return match with Gloucestershire at Clifton yesterday, the Middlesex eleven gave a capital display of batting, going in first and scoring 379 runs for nine wickets. The chief honours of this performance rested with Messrs Warner and Ford, who, coming together with four wickets down for 82, put on 129 in 85 minutes.

Mr Warner, who went in first and was fifth out at 211, played very sound cricket for two hours and 50 minutes, and hit in his 89 eight fours, six threes and seven twos. Mr Ford was in brilliant form, scoring 100 in an hour and three-quarters and making 156 in a little over three hours. He hit equally well all round the wicket, his driving always being full of power, and among his figures were a five, 19 fours, six threes and 17 twos. Trott played a useful innings of 51 and took more time over his runs than usual, being at the wickets for 85 minutes.

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

Though they had to face a total of 406 at Clifton yesterday, the Gloucestershire eleven, after their recent fine performances, were naturally expected to make a good many runs. But they played very indifferently, being put out in three hours and 25 minutes for 162 and losing four wickets at their second attempt for 139.

In the first innings Mr Townsend was the only batsman seen to any advantage, and he was out to a good catch low down at third man. Trott bowled very finely, taking seven wickets for 43 runs, and he was well supported by the field.

In the follow-on Mr Wrathall played a fine forcing game and with his score of 43 completed his 1,000 runs this season. Mr Jessop also hit in characteristic fashion, but despite his efforts Gloucestershire left off in a very bad position, requiring, with six wickets in hand, 105 runs to avoid being beaten in a single innings.

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

Middlesex beat Gloucestershire by nine wickets at Clifton on Saturday. Mr Brown and Mr Troup by a partnership of 71, which lasted nearly two hours, did their best to save the game for the home side.

10 August: KENT v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5311.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 August, page 6)

There was a record attendance at Canterbury yesterday for the first day of the Australian match, no fewer than 17,021 people passing on to the ground. Very fine weather prevented and everything favoured the game. The Australians had to fight keenly for their runs and the day ended with every prospect of a hard match. Mr H C Stewart and Humphreys, of Tonbridge, appeared in the Kent side, but Trumble and Hill were absent from the Australians.

After losing the toss seven times running, the Australians at last found that they had the choice, and they went in. Their early batting was poor in the extreme. Noble was batting two and three-quarter hours to make his 49. There was a lot of fine play afterwards; and the best, perhaps, was that by Trumper, who made 50 out of 66 in 45 minutes for the second wicket. Worrall hit hard and made six fours, while Trumper scored eight fours. Iredale played well, and in the end the score read 227. Noble played dull cricket, but he kept up his end.

Five wickets were lost for 224, and then, after the tea interval, the last five batsmen fell in 20 minutes for three runs. Kent had about 30 minutes' play and lost no wicket.

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

There was some extraordinary cricket on the St Lawrence ground, Canterbury, yesterday, when the bowlers for once in a season so generally unkind to them got the upper hand, with the result that Kent have an excellent opportunity to-day of beating the Australians; as with their second innings intact they want 138 runs to win.

Kent, who had made 29 without loss on Thursday night, were all out by half-past 3 for 184. Mr Burnup and Mr Stewart made 53 for the first wicket, and Hearne and Mr Stewart added another 59 for the second. After Mr Stewart was out at 112 for a brilliant 71, in which were 12 fours, the game went so much against Kent that seven wickets were down for 135. Subsequently Mr Du Boulay hit hard and had a little assistance from Huish and Humphreys. The chief cause of the breakdown in the Kentish batting was the fine bowling of McLeod; he got a lot of work on the ball and kept a fine length, so that in the end his analysis produced a record of seven wickets for 87 runs.

The Australians completely failed in their second innings against the bowling of Mr Burnup and Mr Bradley. So skilfully did they bowl that in about an hour six of the Australians were out for 40 runs, the fourth, fifth and sixth wickets going down at this total. Worrall and Trumper made a few good hits and the stand of 30 by Laver and Jones for the ninth wicket considerably improved the visitors' record. Jones was the last man out to a brilliant one-hand catch deep in the slips, and the Australian innings of 94 came to an end in two hours. There were over 7,000 spectators of the day's cricket and the weather was beautifully fine.

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

The Canterbury Week ended on Saturday, when Kent gained a victory over the Australians by two wickets. It was a hard-fought match and the finish was full of excitement.

Kent had been left overnight to make 138 runs to win, and up to a certain point on Saturday they seemed to be getting easily into a victorious stride; but they were greatly pressed at the finish, seeing that when the eighth wicket fell 24 runs were still wanted. The weather was again fine, and between 4,000 and 5,000 people assembled for the last of the match.

Bradley and Huish in the last innings, at the last few minutes, on Friday, had not scored, but on resuming the amateur hit at nearly everything and, favoured by an escape at Trumper's hands in the long-field when only six had been scored, he made 11 out of the first 17 runs

before being bowled by Noble. Du Boulay came in and runs were made steadily for the next 25 minutes. Then Huish, against whom one or two appeals had been made, was out leg-before-wicket, also to Noble, at 44.

McLeod, who had shared the bowling with Noble at the outset, had 20 runs scored off his first six overs and so he gave way to Jones at 34. Du Boulay, whose new partner was Burnup, played the fast bowler with very little confidence, while Burnup was missed off Jones by Iredale in the slips when only three had been made. Du Boulay played a ball on to his wicket at 64, but Hearne and Burnup batted so well afterwards that the county looked to be winning easily until McLeod resumed at 91. Then Burnup was taken at point at 97, Hearne at the wicket at 105 and Day dismissed at 107.

Thus a remarkable change came over the game in the quarter of an hour before luncheon. Everything pointed to a close finish and every ball bowled subsequently was watched with the keenest anxiety. With four wickets in hand the county wanted 31 runs. But when Mason and Patterson were both got rid of at 114 and 24 runs were still required, the chances appeared all in favour of the Australians. Stewart and Weigall, however, rose to the occasion and the runs came steadily. With the game a tie Jones resumed, and off him Stewart was missed at point by Noble. Immediately afterwards the last-named batsman made a cut for four; the game was over at 25 minutes to 3 and Kent had won.

The Kent eleven thus wound up in brilliant fashion one of the most successful of the Canterbury festivals, and as the game went their victory was thoroughly merited. Kent have usually done very well against the Australians at Canterbury, so that their victory is only consistent with their cricket career. The "week" was a triumph in every way and, while the out-door festivities were a great success, the Old Stagers on their four nights at the theatre commanded big houses, and they finished as usual on Friday night with the epilogue, which was enthusiastically received. This was the Australians' third defeat; they having been previously beaten by Essex and Surrey.

10 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5312.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 August, page 6)

Major Poore, who is displaying such remarkable form with the bat this season, added another to his long list of triumphs at Leicester yesterday.

Gaining first innings on an excellent wicket, Hampshire in four hours and 40 minutes put together a total of 331, and towards it Poore contributed 157. He actually made his runs out of 236 put on which he was in, going in first wicket down at 39 and being fifth out at 275. Apart from one dangerous stroke early in his innings, not the least fault could be found with his cricket. He made his runs in three hours and ten minutes, and hit with great power and brilliancy, his chief figures being 20 fours, eight threes and 16 twos.

Captain Wynyard assisted him to put on 110 runs for the third partnership in an hour and three-quarters, and of the later batsmen Mr Steele was the only one seen to any advantage. Indeed, after Poore left the batting broke down, the last five wickets falling for the addition of 56 runs. Geeson bowled very steadily, but the other bowlers were hit with more or less freedom. Leicestershire had half an hour's batting at the close and lost two wickets for 32 runs.

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

Leicestershire in an uphill game yesterday at Leicester came out remarkably well and were actually able to secure a lead on the first innings of 48 runs. Knight and Whiteside made a splendid stand for the third wicket, putting on 116 runs, and it was really this partnership that enabled the home side to get on terms with their opponents. Captain Bradford's bowling was again taken exception to by the umpire, and he was once no-balled for throwing.

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

Although the match at Leicester had to be left drawn on Saturday it looked at one time as though Leicestershire would snatch a victory, Mr Marriott and Knight making such a determined effort that at the finish the home county required only 34 more runs, with eight batsmen left. Captain Bradford's brilliant innings saved Hampshire from defeat.

10 August: SOMERSET v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5313.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 August, page 6)

Sussex had to go into the field against Somerset at Taunton yesterday without Bland, and they sadly missed his bowling during the afternoon. The pitch was in good order, and Somerset, who had the fortune to win the toss, made such full use of their opportunity that they stayed in the whole day, and scored 500 for the loss of seven wickets.

The chief honours of the performance belonged to Mr F A Phillips and Mr S M J Woods, who made 163 and 109; but Mr C A Bernard also had a big share in Somerset's success. He made 85 in admirable style, and helped Phillips to put on 171 runs for the third wicket. Phillips was at the wickets for less than two hours and a half, his chief strokes being 24 fours. Woods, who was out to the last ball of the day, made his 109 in about two hours and 20 minutes. His partnership with Captain Hedley for the seventh wicket produced 140 runs in a little over an hour.

An unfortunate accident occurred during the afternoon, Blackheath, in catching Daniell at deep square-leg, breaking one of the fingers of his left hand.

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

The cricket at Taunton yesterday again went all against the bowlers, and Somerset finished off their first innings for 554, Captain Hedley raising his score from 59 to 93. He played fine cricket, making his runs in an hour and three-quarters and hitting 16 fours.

Sussex were batting for the remainder of the day, scoring 314 runs for six wickets. Messrs Fry and Brann put on 83 for the first wicket in 65 minutes, both playing well in their different styles, while the partnership of Killick and [Mr] Latham for the third wicket realized 126 runs, the stand lasting an hour and three-quarters. Killick, who contributed a splendid innings of 117, was at the wickets for two hours and a half and hit 19 fours, three threes and four twos. After an indifferent start Ranjitsinhji played in brilliant style, scoring his first 50 runs in three-quarters of an hour.

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

The Sussex eleven had no difficulty in drawing their match with Somerset at Taunton on Saturday. In reply to Somerset's total of 554, they had scored 314 for six wickets, and they finished off their innings for 361, Mr Newham being unable to go in. Ranjitsinhji, who carried out his bat for 86, played finely, making his runs in an hour and 20 minutes and hitting 16 fours.

Sussex were in a minority of 193, but there was never any doubt that the game would be left unfinished. Mr Fry batted magnificently. He reached his 100 in an hour and 20 minutes and was an hour longer getting the other 62. His chief hits were 24 fours, four threes and nine twos. Mr Brann helped to put on 73 for the first wicket, while Mr Latham assisted to add 126 for the third. Mr Latham played very finely for 85, which occupied him a little over two hours and included 13 fours. At the close Sussex, with three wickets left, were 188 runs on.

10 August: SURREY v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5314.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 August, page 6)

The Yorkshiremen achieved a great triumph at the Oval yesterday, when, batting all day on a perfectly true pitch, they made 478 for the loss of only four wickets. In fine weather there is no ground to equal that at the Oval, and the winning of the toss by a capable side invariably means a good score. This was the case yesterday.

Nothing could have been better than the Yorkshire batting; the Surrey fielding was beyond reproach - there were perhaps two difficult things that went to hand - and the bowlers did their best on turf that was supremely true. So everything was for the side successful in the toss, and Yorkshire made every use of their chances; Mr Jackson, who is probably the best all-round cricketer we have just now, and is particularly good on bad wickets, was quickly out; but Tunnicliffe played well.

The things for admiration were the splendid results of some subsequent batsmen. Mr Frank Mitchell never played better; he came down very hard on the ball and his off-driving was a feature in his innings. He went in second wicket down at 104 and was fourth out, bowled off his pads by a lob, at 302; he made his 87 in two hours and 20 minutes and hit 13 fours. Mr Mitchell as a bat has come on remarkably since he left Cambridge and his driving yesterday was superb.

Wainwright and Mr Mitchell put on 160 during their partnership; but the stand for the fifth wicket, which is not yet ended, has already yielded 176 runs in 100 minutes. Wainwright played a fine vigorous game, but he gave two difficult chances about 10 and 30 at short slip and cover-point from Brockwell. These were the only two errors in a great day's fielding, in which Mr Pretty again showed that it is not only in batting but fielding that he has a claim to be further tried for Surrey. Hirst forced the game well and made one fine drive on to the awning in front of the pavilion.

Yorkshire have already placed themselves in an apparently secure position, and the interest really rests on what the Surrey men will to-day accomplish. There were 7,000 people on the Oval yesterday.

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

The Yorkshire eleven followed up their batting triumphs of Thursday by establishing a record score against Surrey on the Oval yesterday. With the wicket beautifully true, Hirst and Wainwright, who had become partners at 302, seemed to do as they liked with the bowling, and it was not until nearly another two hours had elapsed yesterday morning that the fifth wicket fell. They had been together three hours and a half, during which 340 runs were added.

Wainwright played a hard and strong game from the moment that he went in and, although he gave two difficult chances, there was not much fault to find with the best innings he has ever played for the county. He was batting more than five hours and he hit 34 fours. Hirst, who played in his usual manner of hard forcing, hit 31 fours in his 186. The balance of the innings took the play up to nearly half-past 3, and then ended for 704. Surrey's fieldsmen were keen to the finish, and it was a very clever catch by which Hayward dismissed Wainwright at third man.

Surrey lost three wickets for 58, and then came a fine stand by Abel and Hayward, who between a quarter to five and half-past 6 put on 111 runs. Hayward played fine cricket; but Abel was very quiet. The Yorkshiremen fielded brilliantly and Mr Ernest Smith, the old Oxford player, was as good as ever in bowling.

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

The great stand for the fourth Surrey wicket by Hayward and Abel in its earliest stages on Saturday rid Surrey of the danger of defeat, for with the pitch so firm and true it was apparent to any judge of the game that the Yorkshire bowlers were in for a hard day's work. But its extent was under-estimated.

The Yorkshiremen bowled and fielded well from the beginning of the innings on Friday; but it took them six hours and a half to get down the fourth wicket. Surrey not only saved the match, but by the finish they were merely 153 runs behind the Yorkshire score and had three wickets left. When Hayward was at last caught at wicket on Saturday it was nearing half-past 5, and he and Abel had become partners more than 24 hours previously, for it was a quarter to 5 on Friday that the third wicket fell. His 273 is the highest score this season, and 172 of these were made in fours, a majority of which were boundary hits.

Abel was the fifth out, well caught at point at 529; he made his 193 out of 500 added during the seven-and-a-half hours of his stay at the wicket, his chief hits being 28 fours. During this long partnership the Yorkshiremen bowled and fielded well - Rhodes was absent through illness right through the day, but he is not a fast-wicket bowler - and Mr F S Jackson pegged away so well near the finish of a tremendous day that he got the only four wickets that fell after Friday in the last 35 minutes. A collection round the ground for Abel and Hayward yielded a sum a few shillings short of £73 . . .

10 August: WORCESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5315.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 11 August, page 6)

Though winning the toss at Worcester yesterday, the Warwickshire eleven performed so indifferently that at the drawing of stumps they had the worst of the position. They stayed in for four hours and 20 minutes, but found it such a difficult matter to score from the Worcestershire bowling that in that time they were only able to make 208 runs.

At the outset Devey played with his customary freedom, and after the third wicket had fallen at 56 William Quaife and Fishwick put on 64 runs, this being the best stand of the innings. Afterwards Quaife continued to offer a stubborn resistance, but he received indifferent assistance. He took three hours to score 58 runs and he deserved great praise for his fine defence with the game going against his side. The Worcestershire bowling was admirable and Straw kept wicket in fine style, making five catches.

Worcestershire had 45 minutes' batting, and by some bright cricket Messrs W L Foster and G Bromley-Martin hit up 63 without loss.

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

At Worcester, yesterday, the home county failed to follow up the advantage they had gained on the opening day, when, in reply to Warwickshire's total of 208, they scored 63 runs without loss. So moderate was the batting yesterday that the ten wickets went down for the addition of 139 runs, and Worcestershire failed by six to reach their opponents' total. Field bowled very well, none of the batsmen playing him with any confidence, and Lilley made four catches at the wicket.

There was a curious incident during Worcestershire's innings, Straw being given out for obstructing the field. He ran into Glover, who was about to catch him out, and, on appeal, was given out by Mycroft, the umpire.

Going in a second time, Warwickshire lost Mr Bainbridge and Diver for 43 runs, but then the game underwent a great change. Devey was joined by William Quaife, and the two men thoroughly mastered the Worcestershire bowling. By admirable cricket they added 138 runs without being separated, and at the finish Warwickshire, with eight wickets in hand, were 187 runs on.

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

Warwickshire gained a victory at Worcester on Saturday by 204 runs. The ease with which they won came as a surprise after the good fight made by the home side until late on Friday. A stand by Devey and W G Quaife then turned the game in favour of the visitors, and on Saturday they completely outplayed Worcestershire. Quaife, not out 119 when Warwickshire closed their innings at 309 for five wickets, hit 11 fours and nine threes during the four hours he was batting.

Santall and Forester bowled very well and were mainly responsible for dismissing the home team for 111. In trying to draw the game the Worcestershire batsmen showed great care, Mr H K Foster being at the wickets two hours for his 19 not out. At one time it seemed possible that his effort might succeed, but three wickets fell in two overs, and there was still half an hour to spare when the side were out.

The sub-committee of the Test Matches Board met late last night in London, and it was decided that the eleven at the Oval yesterday for the final test match should be chosen from the following 13, the actual side not being made up until the morning of the match: -

Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire) (captain), Mr F S Jackson (Yorkshire), K S Ranjitsinhji (Sussex), Mr C B Fry (Sussex), Mr C L Townsend (Gloucestershire), Mr W M Bradley (Kent), Mr A O Jones (Notts), Hayward (Surrey), Lockwood (Surrey), Brockwell (Surrey), Lilley (Warwickshire), Denton (Yorkshire) and Rhodes (Yorkshire).

The positions in the county championship are as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points
Yorkshire	24	13	3	8	10
Lancashire	21	12	3	6	9
Surrey	20	7	2	11	5
Middlesex	14	9	3	2	6
Sussex	17	5	4	8	1
Essex	17	6	5	6	1
Notts	13	2	2	9	0
Warwickshire	13	2	3	8	-1
Hampshire	14	3	5	6	-2
Gloucestershire	16	3	6	7	-3
Kent	14	3	7	4	-4
Worcestershire	10	1	4	5	-3
Derbyshire	15	2	8	5	-6
Leicestershire	16	2	8	6	-6
Somerset	14	1	8	5	-7

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "one point shall be reckoned for each win; one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

THE AVERAGES

The chief averages are given below: -

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in innings	Not out	Average
Major Poore	21	1551	304	4	91.23
K S Ranjitsinhji	46	2472	179	6	61.80
Hayward	38	2036	273	4	59.88
Shrewsbury	23	1174	176	2	55.90
Abel	43	2034	357*	3	50.85
Mr C L Townsend	42	1850	181*	5	50.00
Mr P Perrin	31	1319	196	4	48.85
Mr F S Jackson	32	1395	155	3	48.10
Mr A J Turner	18	751	124	2	46.93
W G Quaife	33	1311	207*	5	46.82
Captain Wynyard	22	943	225	1	44.80
Mr C B Fry	46	2015	181	1	44.77
Mr A O Jones	27	1141	250	1	43.88
Tyldesley	39	1613	249	2	43.59
J T Brown	35	1443	192	1	42.44

W Gunn	29	1129	150	2	41.81
Mr A C MacLaren	19	703	126	1	39.05
Mr W L Foster	24	897	172*	1	39.00
Storer	43	1389	216*	7	38.58
Mr S M J Woods	27	985	146	1	37.88
A Ward	38	1239	118	5	37.54
Mr C J Burnup	34	1183	150	1	35.84
Knight	34	1178	111	1	35.69
Denton	42	1422	113	2	35.55
Mr R E Foster	32	1008	134	3	34.75
Mr F Mitchell	43	1452	194	1	34.57
Alec Hearne	39	1214	168	3	33.72
Mr H D G Leveson-Gower	14	433	155	1	33.30
Mr G L Jessop	34	1088	171*	1	32.96
Mr A P Lucas	16	361	67	6	32.81
Mr G Brann	39	1210	157	2	32.70
Hirst	41	1176	186	6	32.66
Mr J R Mason	32	989	181*	1	31.90
Wainwright	41	1272	228	1	31.80
Brockwell	40	1195	147	2	31.44
Killick	38	1068	140	4	31.40
Lockwood	30	824	100	3	30.51
Mr F G J Ford	33	931	168	2	30.03
Hayes	33	949	131	1	29.65
Wrathall	37	1037	116	2	29.62
Mr F H B Champain	26	777	120	0	29.50
Mr A Eccles	34	912	76	2	28.50
Mr P F Warner	31	852	150	1	28.40
Tunnickliffe	43	1097	85	3	27.42
Mr S H Day	25	651	133	1	27.12
Mr C McGahey	30	724	99	3	26.85
Mr J A Dixon	21	521	71	1	26.06
Mr D L A Jephson	23	763	74	2	25.43
Lord Hawke	34	728	127	5	25.10
Lilley	32	719	62	3	24.79
Mr K J Key	36	624	59*	5	24.00
A E Trott	44	1031	164	1	23.97
Dr W G Grace	19	443	78	0	23.31
Mr C E de Trafford	36	792	117*	1	22.62

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mold	820.4	272	1715	103	16.65
Mead	1142.3	429	2187	129	16.95
Rhodes	1090	386	2176	126	17.26
A E Trott	1401.2	461	3303	191	17.29
Mr W M Bradley	898.1	301	2046	118	17.33
Cuttell	901	392	1492	76	19.63
Paish	821	226	1897	96	19.76
Haigh	652	220	1353	68	19.89
J Gunn	460	156	1010	50	20.20
J T Hearne	1174.1	453	2284	111	20.57
Mr J R Mason	572.3	220	1242	59	21.05
Hulme	852.1	258	1747	82	21.30
Young	1002.4	350	2394	112	21.37
Lockwood	618.2	165	1670	77	21.68
Roche	534.1	167	1302	59	22.06
Tate (Sussex)	1056.2	424	2190	96	22.81
Geeson	633.1	176	1574	68	23.14
Wilson	820.1	205	1745	75	23.88
Hirst	731.3	236	1621	69	23.49

Tyler	452.1	88	1292	55	23.49
Hayward	488.4	119	1402	59	23.76
Brockwell	913.2	288	2249	94	23.92
Bland	816	231	2297	93	24.69
Mr F S Jackson	530.3	178	1102	43	25.62
T Richardson	908.2	240	2238	83	26.96
Mr C L Townsend	800.4	142	2244	79	27.89

AUSTRALIAN AVERAGES

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in innings	Not out	Average
Mr V Trumper	32	1364	300*	3	47.03
Mr M A Noble	39	1346	156	6	40.78
Mr C Hill	23	879	160	1	39.95
Mr J Worrall	32	974	128	6	36.07
Mr J Darling	44	1323	134*	7	35.75
Mr S E Gregory	41	1018	124	6	29.08
Mr H Trumble	39	901	100	7	28.15
Mr F A Iredale	27	721	115	1	27.73
Mr F Laver	30	558	79	8	25.35
Mr J J Kelly	30	679	103	3	25.14
Mr E Jones	27	479	55	3	19.95
Mr W P Howell	32	276	49*	9	12.00
Mr A E Johns	8	50	27*	3	10.00

BOWLING

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr H Trumble	1048	377	2099	122	17.20
Mr W P Howell	955.3	359	2030	100	20.30
Mr C E McLeod	566.3	197	1314	64	20.53
Mr M A Noble	658.4	217	1580	76	20.78
Mr E Jones	856	150	2060	91	22.63
Mr F Laver	199.4	68	508	19	26.74

To-day, on the Oval, the last of the five test matches will be started. So far three games have been left unfinished; but as the Australians won at Lord's, they have only to draw this match to secure the international championship.

There has been an abnormal demand for seats to see the game. The reserve seats were allocated a long time ago. The privilege of members introducing a friend to the pavilion is withdrawn for this match. Neither side will be completed before this morning, when the selections will depend on the condition of the wicket. The gates on the Oval will be opened soon after 9 o'clock.

ENGLAND	AUSTRALIA
Mr A C MacLaren (Lancashire), captain	Mr J Darling (South Australia), captain
Mr F S Jackson (Yorkshire)	Mr C Hill (South Australia)
Mr C B Fry (Sussex)	Mr E Jones (South Australia)
K S Ranjitsinhji (Sussex)	Mr S E Gregory (N.S.W.)
Mr C L Townsend (Gloucestershire)	Mr M A Noble (N.S.W.)
Mr W M Bradley (Kent)	Mr F A Iredale (N.S.W.)
Mr A O Jones (Notts)	Mr J J Kelly (N.S.W.)
Hayward (Surrey)	Mr W P Howell (N.S.W.)
Lilley (Warwickshire)	Mr V Trumper (N.S.W.)
Rhodes (Yorkshire)	Mr J Worrall (Victoria)
Brockwell (Surrey)	Mr H Trumble (Victoria)
Lockwood (Surrey)	Mr C E McLeod (Victoria)
Denton (Yorkshire)	Mr F Laver (Victoria)
	Mr A E Johns (Victoria)

Tuesday 15 August: ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5317.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 August, page 8)

The English eleven accomplished a fine performance on the Oval yesterday, when in the last test match they made 435 runs for the loss of only four wickets. Although England's only chance of finishing even in the test matches with the Australians is to win the fifth, there was yet plenty of interest in yesterday's fixture. Everything was favourable for it and the crowd run upwards of 20,000. The gates at the Oval were opened soon after 9 o'clock, and several hours before then a crowd began to assemble outside the county ground.

From the 13 names chosen by the English selecting committee those of Denton and Brockwell were missing when the final eleven came to be made up. The chances of the men rested wholly on the condition of the ground, and as the Oval wicket remained as true as ever and as there was no prospect of a change in the weather, it was determined to play an absolutely fast wicket side. The Australians were again without Hill, who is still suffering from the effects of the throat operation which was performed some few weeks ago.

The defeat of the Australians at Canterbury had little effect on the interest in the match, although there was some feeling that the side by their hard and continuous work had grown a trifle stale. But against the Englishmen yesterday they fielded brilliantly; and the return and the gathering of the ball were well worthy of the high traditions of Australian cricket. The conditions for the game on the Oval yesterday were perfect. For the most part the weather was dull but the light was always good and there was much sunshine in the afternoon.

Mr MacLaren, who won the toss, made a radical change in the ordinary order of going in; but the alteration answered the purpose. Mr Jackson and Hayward made an excellent beginning. For a while the bowling was too true to be hit; Jones kept a trifle short but Noble bowled a beautiful length, and there was one spell of nine maidens. As the batsmen played themselves in runs came quickly, Hayward's off-driving being particularly good. But Jackson made the

majority of the runs. The fielding was very close and nothing could have been better than the work of Gregory at cover-point and of Jones at mid-off.

Changes in the bowling - McLeod and Trumble - proved of little avail, and the batsmen settling down scored at a great pace. Jackson was particularly good in the cut and the off-drive, and he spared no bowler in practising these strokes. He made 12 in one over from Jones, and then from the same bowler he edged one rather luckily for three that brought up the 100 just after 1 o'clock. With this quick rate of run-getting all sorts of bowling changes were tried, and from McLeod Jackson was missed by Trumble at short slip; the ball went quick and straight to the fieldsman. Generally the batting continued excellent, and there was a burst of applause when Jackson completed his 100 out of 155 soon after the luncheon interval.

Jackson forced the game, but Hayward was very quiet, and in his care he made a bad stroke just short of Howell at mid-on. At last, at 185, came the fall of the first wicket, Mr Jackson mistiming a fast one from Jones and being completely beaten. He was batting rather more than two and a half hours, and his brilliant innings of 118 included 18 fours, three threes and eight twos. From the time he went in the old Cambridge and Harrow captain had played beautiful cricket, and his stroke on the off-side was well worthy of his great reputation.

With only one wicket gone for 185 England's chances were very prosperous, and with Ranjitsinhji in they were rapidly improved. Ranjitsinhji got most of his runs behind the wicket; but he practised his great stroke off his legs as cleverly as ever. The score mounted rapidly by fours, and at last Hayward, with the figures at 261, ran to his 100. These he had made in about four hours.

Soon after the 300 two wickets fell. Ranjitsinhji, having helped Hayward to make 131 for the second wicket, was caught in the slips, and at 318 Hayward gave cover-point a catch. He had played a very fine innings of 137, made in about four and a half hours, and his chief hits were 20 fours, five threes and 11 twos. Hayward has been splendidly consistent in his cricket this season, particularly against the Australians, and yesterday, as a recognition of his batting, the spectators contributed a sum of £131 as a present for him.

With four men out for 318, Mr MacLaren and Mr Fry became partners, and in the closing stages of the game they gave the spectators a splendid illustration of quick scoring. It was in vain that Darling changed his bowling, for both batsmen hit very hard. Jones kept short and was particularly well punished, and when Noble was put on Mr MacLaren made two very fine hits from him, the ball once going on to the roof of the covered stand and subsequently into the pavilion. Messrs Fry and MacLaren scored at an even pace, and the former's driving was very hard; but just after the 100 had been put on inside an hour's partnership the latter was caught in the deep field for 49 - a brilliant contribution to the 110 added in 65 minutes for the partnership.

Mr Townsend played cautiously in the last three overs; but Mr Fry hit hard to the end, and his 60 not out remains so far as one of the best innings of the match. There was a demonstration of the public in front of the pavilion at the finish, and the chief men of the day were vociferously called for.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 August, page 9)

The Englishmen have played a hard game to win this match on the Oval; but if the pitch lasts they have yet a severe task to get 15 more Australian wickets down. Mr MacLaren's novel order of going in paid well, and after Mr Jackson and Hayward had laid the foundation of England's big score the instructions "to hit" were scrupulously carried out; otherwise England might have been batting now to the detriment of their chances of success.

Should they fail to-day it will not be for lack of either tact or skill. The Australians are a difficult side to get out, as they have proved over and over again during this tour; and yesterday, with nothing but a draw for which to play, they once again showed a characteristic doggedness of defence. In fighting an uphill game their cricket was dull to

follow. Their one idea is to save this match, for if they are successful in avoiding defeat they will have the credit of the one victory in the test matches. More than 20,000 persons paid for admission to the Oval yesterday; the weather was bright until late in the day, when a regular Australian dust storm swept over the ground and delayed the match for a quarter of an hour.

Having reached such a strong position as 435 for four wickets it was England's game to force the play quickly at any price, so that an opportunity might occur of getting their opponents twice out. As a matter of fact these tactics had been immediately adopted when the third 100 had gone up on Monday, and they were renewed yesterday morning. Mr Fry, who had hit so brilliantly in the closing hours of Monday, was caught in the third over by Worrall fielding deep on the off side; it was a good catch made running sideways. Mr Fry played beautiful cricket and in his 60 were nine fours.

The English captain's policy of hitting was exposed by his "order," for Mr Bradley was put in fifth wicket down at 436; but the fast bowler, whose number is usually eleven, had little opportunity for illustrating those forcing powers of which he is supposed to be possessed. In attempting a short run he lost his wicket, which was taken as the result of a fine piece of workmanship between Worrall and Kelly. And so two wickets fell for the addition of only one run.

Mr Townsend, who was now joined by Lockwood, might have been caught by the wicket-keeper standing back, after which Lockwood adapted himself to circumstances and made some fine cuts and drives, the ball usually travelling to the boundary. Jones and McLeod had begun the bowling; but at 475 Trumble took the ball from McLeod and in his first over he got Lockwood to play on. The wicket had yielded 43 runs in about as many minutes. Mr A O Jones began carefully, and soon after the 500 went up he had the mortification of seeing Mr Townsend's middle stump sent flying. Then Mr Jones and Lilley steadily added 40, and by a quarter to 1 the innings was completed for 576.

This is the highest total made in test matches in England; the previous best was that so long ago as 1884, when the Australians were batting for a day and a half for 551. W L Murdoch made 200 and Mr Scott and the late Percy McDonnell each 100 in that match, in which the whole of the English eleven (including Shrewsbury) went on to bowl, and near the end W G Grace was to be seen keeping wicket to Mr Alfred Lyttelton's lobs.

The Australian bowling analysis yesterday was not very exhilarating, as the figures themselves will show. It was a quarter to 1 when England were all out, after having had more than seven hours and a half of actual batting. The fielding was excellent from the first, and it was a fine catch by Iredale at long-off that brought the innings to an end.

As the game had been started at 11 o'clock it was agreed to lunch early, and the Australians had only half an hour's play before the interval. The wicket, after an application of the heavy roller, seemed better than ever and the ball came along at a nice easy pace. Trumble and Worrall began the innings to Mr Bradley and Rhodes. Trumble twice erred in his timing of the ball and was almost caught in the slips; but he subsequently made some good strokes on the off-side. The Englishmen fielded splendidly, and Mr Jackson at cover-point was particularly good, and then when Mr A O Jones was tried with his slows there was more fine fielding. Lockwood also had a turn with the ball, but no wicket had fallen up to lunch time, when the score stood at 25.

The game was resumed at a quarter past 2, and very soon Mr Jones had a return catch from Trumble, whom he at last got to play forward to a short one. Another triumph was in store for the old Cambridge and Notts man, for the score was only 44 when Trumper was well caught on the leg side by Lilley at the wicket. Here for a time the successes of the English eleven stayed. Noble and Worrall played with care and many balls were let off that in the ordinary way would have been scored from. Lockwood bowled very well, keeping a fine length and varying his pace; but the batting was dull and Noble had been in 50 minutes for nine runs, when he was utterly beaten by Lockwood, through playing right back to a nice length ball. Noble had made only nine of the 41 added while he was in.

Darling and Worrall played a strongly defensive game, declining many good things that were given them to hit. The 100 was reached as the result of two and a quarter hours' batting. Mr MacLaren varied his bowling, and in Mr Jones, Mr Bradley and Rhodes he had a great variety. Eventually, at 120, Lockwood got Worrall very well caught at third man from a ball that he was attempting to cut. Worrall, while forsaking his usual forcing tactics, played very soundly and was 90 minutes in getting his 55. Four for 120.

Gregory then joined his captain, and the pair settled down to a system of rigid defence. No bowling would tempt the batsman to hit, and they scored steadily at will. Gregory nearly played on, after which there was a quarter of an hour's interruption through a blinding dust storm which scattered the Oval with the paper refuse from the terraces.

The game was renewed at 5 o'clock, but it was in vain that the bowling was changed. Mr Jones, Rhodes, Lockwood, Messrs Townsend, Bradley and Jackson each had a turn with the ball; but the batting steadiness prevented and the 200 went up. Townsend nearly caught and bowled Gregory, who at 33 was missed by Ranjitsinhji at short slip - a rather bad mistake, the ball going straight to the fielder's hands.

The hours of cricket were fast running out when Lockwood was again put on at the far end; he bowled with great pace and sting and got the batsmen in difficulties. Darling was nearly caught by MacLaren, and the next ball he edged away to Fry, who, running from third slip, made a clever catch. Gregory and Darling had put on exactly 100 runs in rather less than two hours. Darling played fine cricket and among his figures were eight fours. Stumps were then drawn for the day . . .

The game will be resumed to-day at 11 o'clock.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 August, page 5)

The last of the test matches was left unfinished on the Oval yesterday - an ending generally expected. Accordingly the Australians have won the rubber, as out of the five games arranged the solitary decisive result was that at Lord's, when they beat England by ten wickets.

It will be a disappointment to a large body of English cricketers that the England elevens should have failed to win one match; but a survey of the general run of the cricket in these test matches will leave little for Englishmen to be dissatisfied with. The brevity of English cricket hours has had much to do with these drawn games, for at Leeds and Manchester particularly, had weather and time permitted, England would probably have won; and in the contest at Trent-bridge the Englishmen had little the worse of the match. But the stern logic of results has only to be reckoned with, and the Australians having won the one match decided in five are to be congratulated on their success.

Over and over again they have shown themselves splendid in their recovery of a lost position, while in doggedness in defence and in bowling and fielding they have proved equal to the best teams who have come from the colonies. In brilliant individuality they may not rank with the sides of 1882 and 1884, and may not possess players of the type of Murdoch, Spofforth, Massie, McDonnell, Palmer, Blackham, Giffen and Turner, but they are a remarkably even team. It is only the fortune of cricket that while Essex, Surrey and Kent have been able to beat the Australians, the picked elevens of England have failed to win in any one of the five fixtures.

In this last match the England eleven did their best and, playing a quick innings, were hopeful of getting the Australians twice out; but, as fortune turned, they might just as well have centred their efforts on making a big score. The wicket played true to the end and the Australian batting yesterday was brilliant. Mr Sidney Gregory was never in better form than yesterday, and there was excellence in the batting of Worrall, Noble and McLeod. The position at the finish favoured England; but the wickets are so good nowadays that bowlers are greatly handicapped. What England lacks at present is bowling of the type of Lohmann and Richardson. The weather was splendidly fine yesterday and the company again ran beyond 20,000.

The Australians had, of course, nothing for which to play but the draw, but their early batting was singularly attractive. Gregory was the surviving bat in the first innings on Tuesday night, when five men were out for 220, which meant that the Australians had yet another 237 runs to make to save the follow-on. Iredale joined Gregory in the morning, and once again the wicket, having been swept and having had an application of the heavy roller, played with trueness. Bradley and Lockwood mixed up their pace and length; but the batsmen were wary and refused to take the merest liberty. Gregory played beautiful cricket, and nothing in the match had been better than his stroke on the leg side, particularly in dealing with Bradley. The English fielding was very good, and Mr Charles Fry showed a fine turn of speed in an attempt to save two runs from a late cut by Iredale.

However, at 242 Iredale wholly lost a nice length ball from Lockwood, and his leg stump was sent flying. Six for 242 left the question of England's success still very open, but McLeod and Gregory by their steadiness rather destroyed such hopes. Mr MacLaren had changed his bowling a good deal, and Rhodes was of little service on such a hard wicket. Gregory seemed particularly partial to him, and thrice in two overs played him away to the leg boundary, and there was loud cheering for Gregory's 100, which he had made in two hours and three-quarters.

The cricket of both the batting and fielding side remained excellent. Once Mr Jackson beat Gregory, who was playing forward to one that was a trifle short, but which just missed the off stump. The score ran on to 340, and then Gregory was caught in the slips. Nothing could have been better than Gregory's play on the leg side. He made his 117 out of 220 added during his stay. Lockwood bowled Jones with the first ball, and he should have got out Howell in the same over, but Brockwell, the substitute for Ranjitsinhji, who was suffering from an injured hand, missed him in the slips from the second ball.

An over later, however, Lockwood bowled out Howell and the innings ended for 352. McLeod played soundly for his 31, and was not out. Lockwood bowled well, and his seven wickets at a comparatively cheap rate on such a hard pitch furnished one of the best things in the match.

With arrears of 224 the Australians followed on, and McLeod and Worrall had a few overs to play before luncheon. Subsequently, there was plenty of bright cricket. Various bowling changes were tried; but Mr Fry, at deep square-leg, dazzled by the sunshine, dropped a catch from Worrall off A O Jones and the ball went to the boundary. Worrall made a very fine drive over the ring from A O Jones and, pulling another from Jackson, reached his 50 in 65 minutes out of 89.

The next incident was a fine drive by Worrall, who sent a ball from Hayward on to the awning in front of the pavilion. Fry had a turn with the ball at 113, and then at 116, when the innings had lasted an hour and a half, the first wicket fell, Worrall being caught at the wicket. His 75 was a display of good cricket; he got nearly all his runs in front of the wicket and his 15 fours. One for 116.

Noble and McLeod played a rigidly defensive game; here and there came a big hit, but the bowling and fielding were too good to be trifled with. All sorts of changes with the ball were tried, but the 200 went up, and only 16 of the arrears remained when McLeod mistimed a ball from Rhodes and was bowled. He and Noble had put on 92 for the wicket, while McLeod had hit 10 fours in his 77. McLeod was certainly one of the heroes of the game, and his aggregate for the two innings was 108.

Trumper and Noble were together when the Australians got on terms with their opponents; but very soon Trumper was cleverly caught and bowled, Gregory was beaten by Rhodes in hitting to leg and Darling ran himself out. These three wickets fell within a quarter of an hour, and five were down for 243. Then Trumble and Noble played out time, the game at a quarter-past 6 being left unfinished, the Australians, with five wickets to fall, being 30 runs ahead. Noble hit 13 fours in his 69.

The averages in the five test matches are given below: -

AUSTRALIAN BATTING AVERAGES

	Inns	Runs	Most in innings	Times not out	Average
Mr C Hill	5	301	135	0	60.20
Mr M A Noble	9	367	89	2	52.42
Mr J Worrall	8	318	76	1	45.42
Mr H Trumble	9	232	56	3	38.66
Mr V Trumper	9	280	135*	1	35.00
Mr J Darling	10	232	71	1	25.77
Mr F A Iredale	5	102	35*	1	25.50
Mr S E Gregory	8	188	117	0	23.50
Mr J J Kelly	8	118	33	1	16.85
Mr F Laver	7	72	45	1	12.00
Mr E Jones	7	31	17	0	4.42
Mr W P Howell	7	17	7	2	3.40

Mr C E McLeod batted in two innings only - 31* and 77.

AUSTRALIAN BOWLING AVERAGES

	Innings	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr F Laver	3	32	7	70	4	17.50
Mr H Trumble	8	192.3	78	375	15	25.00
Mr E Jones	9	255.1	73	657	26	25.76
Mr M A Noble	8	180.3	73	406	13	31.23
Mr W P Howell	8	164	61	346	8	43.25

The following bowled in one innings only: -

Mr C E McLeod	48	15	131	1	131.00
Mr J Worrall	3	0	15	0	--

ENGLISH BATTING AVERAGES

	Inns	Runs	Most in innings	Times not out	Average
Hayward	7	413	137	1	68.83
K S Ranjitsinhji	3	278	93*	2	46.33
Lilley	5	181	58	1	45.25
Mr F S Jackson	8	303	118	1	43.28
Mr A C MacLaren	6	164	88*	1	32.80
Mr C B Fry	8	187	60	0	23.37
Mr C L Townsend	3	51	38	0	17.00
W G Quaife	4	44	20	1	14.66
Tyldesley	4	50	22	0	12.50
Rhodes	4	18	8	1	6.00
J T Hearne	3	8	4*	1	4.00

The following batted in two innings only: -

Mr G L Jessop	51 and 4	J T Brown, sen.	27 and 14*
Dr W G Grace	28 and 1	Mr W M Bradley	23* and 0
Young	0 and 43	W Gunn	14 and 3
Mead	7 and 0	Storer	4 and 3

The following batted in one innings only: -

Mr A O Jones	31	Lockwood	24
Brockwell	20	Hirst	6

Briggs did not bat through illness.

ENGLISH BOWLING AVERAGES

	Innings	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Young	4	111.1	38	262	12	21.83
J T Hearne	6	199.3	87	321	13	24.69
Mr C L Townsend	3	28	5	75	3	25.00

Rhodes	6	146.2	37	341	13	26.23
K S Ranjitsinhji	3	15	5	30	1	30.00
Mr W M Bradley	4	125	49	233	6	38.83
Hayward	6	39	7	143	3	49.33
Mr F S Jackson	9	119.3	42	284	5	56.80

The following bowled in two innings only: -

Lockwood		55.3	24	104	7	14.85
Mr A O Jones		42	14	116	3	38.66
Mr G L Jessop		43.1	10	124	3	41.33
Hirst		35	13	62	1	62.00
Dr W G Grace		22	8	37	0	--
Brockwell		21	5	54	0	--

The following bowled in one innings only: -

Briggs		39	11	53	3	17.66
Mead		53	24	91	1	91.00
J T Brown, sen.		7	0	22	0	--
W G Quaife		3	1	6	0	--
Mr C B Fry		2	1	3	0	--

14 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5318.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 August, page 8)

After scoring 263 runs at Bristol, yesterday, Warwickshire made several blunders in the field, the result being that the home county had the better of the day's play, Messrs Champain and Rice hitting up 106 runs without being parted. The Oxford captain had considerable luck, but he hit brilliantly. He scored a four off every ball in one over by Santall.

The brothers Quaife played very well for their runs, and Diver, who captained the visitors - H W Bainbridge and A C S Glover, besides Lilley, being away - was batting an hour and a half for 53. Paish, the most successful of the bowlers, took his hundredth wicket this season.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 August, page 9)

Mr F H B Champain and Mr W Troup played their highest innings of the season at Bristol yesterday, and, curiously enough, each was batting rather more than two hours and a half and each hit 16 fours. But whereas Champain gave three chances in his 123, Troup, who carried out his bat for 108, made no mistake.

Rice and Champain, who had scored 106 overnight, put on 182 for the first wicket, and their excellent start was well followed up by Jessop and Bird. In reaching so big a score as 450 the home county were considerably assisted by the slackness of their opponents in the field. Having gained a lead of 187, Gloucestershire dismissed one of the visitors a second time for 25 runs, and to-day Warwickshire, with nine wickets to fall, will continue their innings 162 behind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 August, page 5)

At Bristol, yesterday, Gloucestershire beat Warwickshire by ten wickets, the match coming to an end soon after 4 o'clock. The result was quite in accordance with what had seemed probable from the state of the score overnight, Warwickshire, after going in against a balance of 187, having lost one wicket for 25 runs in their second innings.

14 August: YORKSHIRE v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5319.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 15 August, page 8)

Neither Yorkshire nor Hampshire were able to put anything like their full strength into the field for the match which began at Bradford yesterday, Yorkshire being weakened by the absence of Lord Hawke and the two Browns, apart from the men required for the Test Match at the Oval.

Yorkshire won the toss and, thanks chiefly to the efforts of Hirst and Mr E Smith, they scored 445 runs for the loss of eight wickets before stumps were drawn at 6 o'clock. The two batsmen mentioned came together when five wickets had fallen for 94 runs, and in less than two hours they added 183 to the score. Hirst gave two chances in his 131, but his display was a brilliant one, his figures including 20 fours. Mr Smith, who also hit 20 fours in his 129, made, as far as could be seen, only one mistake, and that was when his score reached 98.

After he left at 345, Pollitt - a player new to first-class cricket - and Lees Whitehead added 100 runs and were still together at the close of play.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 16 August, page 9)

The cricket hours at Bradford yesterday were shortened by the wet weather. For Yorkshire Pollitt came out creditably on his first appearance for the county, while Captain Wynyard played a brilliant innings for Hampshire.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 17 August, page 5)

Captain Wynyard and Webb by their stand of 162 for the second wicket in the follow-on at Bradford, yesterday, rescued Hampshire from defeat. Their partnership lasted rather less than three hours. In the end Hampshire were only five runs ahead with six wickets down, the match being drawn . . .

17 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5320.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 August, page 5)

At the beginning of the Cheltenham Week yesterday, the Gloucestershire eleven, after a good start, finished rather badly, and they were dependent for their fair score upon the individual efforts of three men.

Mr Champain, the Oxford captain, played the most brilliant cricket of the day, and nothing better could have been seen than his off-driving; he made 51 out of 68 in 50 minutes. Mr Jessop hit very hard and profited well by some mistakes in the field; his 57 were made out of 70 during his stay, and he obtained 11 fours. Mr Townsend played very carefully, but there was some vigorous hitting by Board near the close. The Australians, after a good start, finished perhaps with rather the better of the position.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 August, page 5)

At Cheltenham, yesterday, Gloucestershire finished up with a lead of 138 with seven wickets to fall. The Australians did so well at the beginning of their innings that the county score was passed with only four men out, but subsequently the fielding and bowling of Gloucestershire were so excellent that the difference between the totals was only 215. Noble, who went in first wicket down, was seventh out at 220, and his fine innings of 77, which occupied about two hours and a quarter, included nine fours.

Gloucestershire, in their second attempt, lost three good men for 41 runs; but then Mr Townsend and Mr Troup, playing fine cricket, added 122 runs and were still together at the drawing of stumps. There was a crowd of about 6,000 people.

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

At one time on Saturday afternoon at Cheltenham it seemed within the range of possibility that Gloucestershire would beat the Australians, but danger was easily averted by Darling and Iredale, and in the end the match was left drawn, the colonial team at the finish having five wickets to go down and wanting 101 runs to win. Favoured on all three days with delightful weather, the match was a great attraction, the college ground being very largely attended.

Gloucestershire started in the morning from a favourable position, as with only three wickets down in their second innings for 163 they already held a lead of 138. Their batting was again exceedingly good, and in rather less than two hours 137 runs were added, the innings coming to an end at half-past 1 for exactly 300. The chief honours belonged to C L Townsend, who made his eighth hundred in first-class matches this season and also completed his 2,000 runs. He was batting for four hours and three-quarters, and except for an easy chance at point on Friday afternoon, when he had scored five, little or no fault could be found with his play, his defence against the fine bowling being, indeed, a model of steadiness and skill. He hit in his 135 14 fours, seven threes and 11 twos. In first wicket down with the score at 31, he had the satisfaction of taking out his bat.

Troup, who had played so finely with him on Friday afternoon, was bowled at 178, the partnership of the two batsmen having produced 137 runs in two hours and 50 minutes. In its careful way Troup's innings was admirable. Very different in character was the cricket shown by Hemingway and Board, the former of whom in 40 minutes hit up 42 runs out of 72.

The Australians wanted 276 to win, but the time at their disposal was insufficient to justify them in attempting to hit off such a number, and they were content to play for a draw. Up to a certain point they did very well indeed, but, though Worrall and Trumble scored 45 together in 70 minutes for the first wicket, there were five men out for 74, Paish's bowling being very effective. It was half-past 4 when the fifth wicket fell, and

the position of the Australians was not free from anxiety. However, after an interval for tea Darling and Iredale played splendidly and put all idea of defeat out of the question. They added 101 runs in an hour, and were still not out when the match was left drawn.

17 August: HAMPSHIRE v LEICESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5321.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 August, page 5)

Hampshire had all the better of the day's cricket yesterday at Bournemouth, and they finished off with a score that advances them to a winning position. Webb and Captain Quinton laid the foundation of the fine total by making 84 runs at a quick rate for the third wicket, while later there was another long partnership by Barton and Steele, who have so far added 93 runs in 75 minutes. Neither Major Poore nor Captain Wynyard were able to play for Hampshire.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 August, page 5)

Yesterday was a batsman's day at Bournemouth and there seems little chance of the match being played out. Hampshire took a good part of the day in increasing their overnight score of 322 for five wickets to 497. Barton played very well and carried his bat for 126, in which were 11 fours; his off-driving was the chief characteristic of his innings, and he and Mr Steele added 137 while they were together for the sixth wicket. Leicestershire batted consistently against much good bowling and fielding . . .

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

Heavy scoring caused this match at Bournemouth to be left drawn on Saturday. When play ceased on Friday evening Leicestershire had, in response to Hampshire's total of 497, made 231 runs for the loss of only three wickets, and on Saturday Mr de Trafford was in great form. After Pougher was out at 327, De Trafford and Geeson scored at such a pace that over 100 runs were put on in 70 minutes, the Leicestershire total in the end reaching 476, or only 21 runs to the bad.

17 August: MIDDLESEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5322.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 August, page 5)

The Middlesex eleven batted excellently at Lord's yesterday and their innings extended from mid-day until beyond half-past five. To begin with Middlesex fared only ordinarily considering the fine condition of the pitch; but after four wickets had gone for 89 everything went well with them, and then, when Mr MacGregor and Mr C M Wells put on 122 for the eighth wicket, the home side were really freed from the danger of defeat.

Mr Warner's 78 was perhaps the best innings of the day both numerically and in point of skill, and it was unfortunate that it should have ended through the misunderstanding over a run that might have been easily made. Mr Warner played wonderfully well, and his driving on the off side was quite a feature of the day. Mr Ford, as usual, got nearly all his runs by hard driving, and after he left at 239 there occurred the brilliant stand of Mr Wells and Mr MacGregor, who put on 122 in 65 minutes. Mr MacGregor hit hard and well, and there were ten fours in his 61.

Arthur Mold did all his bowling from the pavilion end and his figures came out very creditably; his pace and length were maintained to the finish and the excellence of his work is discovered from the analysis. He was, in fact, the only bowler who seemed to trouble the batsmen. The Lancashire fielding was generally good, but there were a couple of catches dropped by Mr Stoddart, the bowler, and Mr MacLaren, at mid-off, that made a considerable difference to the side; the former missed Wells at 31 and the latter dropped Ford when he was in his twenties.

Lancashire had half an hour's batting towards the close of the day. It will be seen that they are giving a trial to the Marlborough captain, R H Spooner, who has gained a considerable reputation as a bat.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 August, page 5)

The Middlesex eleven had run into an easily winning position before stumps were drawn at Lord's last evening, for Lancashire have now only three wickets left in their second innings and are yet three runs behind. Although Lancashire were continually in an uphill fight, the cricket yesterday was made interesting by two incidents of much more than common note.

Albert Trott who, since his sojourn in England, has become such a distinguished Middlesex cricketer, completed the feat of taking 200 wickets and making 1,000 runs in one season. Such a thing is unparalleled in English cricket, but Dr Grace, in 1875, got within eight wickets of it. Trott, with his mixed pace and his sturdy batting, is a very hard cricketer, and his position on the M.C.C. ground staff naturally affords him facilities that are not possessed by some others for such a continuous run of first-class cricket.

With the pitch hard and true Lancashire did a bad performance in getting out so cheaply in the first innings; and then in the second, after Mr R H Spooner and Albert Ward had made 128 for the first wicket, the batting again broke down. Mr Spooner, the Marlborough captain, batted splendidly in each innings; he has a fine forward style, with tremendous wrist power, and relies mostly on his off-drive for his runs. To come off twice in one match when his side were in a bad way was high testimony of his capacity, and there were some judges at Lord's yesterday who rated him as one of the best bats seen from Marlborough since Mr A G Steel's days. His 83 was a very fine innings, played inside two hours, and included 14 fours. Spooner will take rank with A C MacLaren and S H Day among the few schoolboys who have made their mark in their first trial in county cricket.

The failure of Mr MacLaren and Tyldesley yesterday was a great disappointment to Lancashire. Middlesex fielded splendidly except for one blunder near the finish, and Mr Ford's bowling in the last hour was singularly effective for a player who has since his Cambridge days almost given up bowling.

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

The course of the first two days' play in this match at Lord's pointed to an easy victory for Middlesex, and this became an accomplished fact on Saturday, when the cricket lasted only a little more than an hour and Middlesex won by ten wickets.

Albert Ward did his best for the losers to the end, and altogether he was at the wickets four and a quarter hours for his 83. He played with his usual care, but the Lancashire batsmen were mostly out of form and their game on the hard wicket was, apart from Mr R H Spooner and Ward, poor. Mr Ford, who bowls comparatively little now, secured a fine analysis, while Trott's 12 wickets for 168 runs in the match was one more demonstration of his capacity as a bowler.

17 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5323.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 August, page 5)

There was a big crowd at Trent-bridge yesterday to see the beginning of this match. Yorkshire made most of the advantage of first innings, and before lunch 141 runs were recorded for the loss of only two wickets.

Subsequently Yorkshire were dependent on the brilliant batting of George Hirst for their strong position. Hirst has been in great batting form of late, and his 138 yesterday was marked by fine forcing on the off side. In the two hours and a half of his stay he hit 20 fours. Yorkshire were all out 391 and Notts in their little time at the wicket lost Dench.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 August, page 5)

The Nottinghamshire eleven had a stern uphill fight against Yorkshire at Trent Bridge, yesterday, and last night they were still in a losing position, seeing that with three wickets gone after the follow-on they were 92 runs behind.

William Gunn and Mr Jones both batted excellently, but eight wickets were down for 187. Then came a vigorous piece of batting by Attewell and the follow-on was nearly saved. The loss of William Gunn and Mr Jones in the second innings rather destroyed the hopes of Notts saving the match. The light was very bad and caused an interruption to the cricket.

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

As the game was left at Nottingham on Friday evening the Notts men had little chance of escaping defeat, as with three wickets down in their second innings they were still 92 runs in arrear. Heavy rain on Saturday morning quite ruined the wicket, and Yorkshire won by an innings and 42 runs.

17 August: SOMERSET v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5324.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 August, page 5)

Hayward played another fine innings yesterday by scoring 158 on the Taunton ground against Somerset. This was his third successive "century," and he took only three hours and three-quarters to get his runs. He timed the ball unerringly and he got 80 of his runs by fours. With Lockwood he made 163 for the sixth wicket, this being the best stand of the innings.

Early in the day Abel played extremely well. The proceeds of the match are being devoted to the benefit fund for Tyler, who for a dozen years has done such excellent service for Somerset. Fine weather and a large company yesterday promised a successful benefit for him.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 August, page 5)

On the easy ground at Taunton, yesterday, the batsmen generally had the better of the cricket. Surrey increased their Thursday night's record from 270 for seven wickets to 499 in rather more than three hours. Lockwood played with his well-known vigour, was very strong on the leg side and hit 16 fours. So quick was the scoring that he and Lees added 113 runs in 80 minutes.

So far all the Somerset men who have gone in have made double figures. The chief feature of the home play was the batting of Mr Phillips and Mr Woods, and the nature of their cricket will be easily appreciated from the fact that they put on 126 runs in rather more than an hour, Mr Woods making 13 fours. Somerset, with three wickets left, want 85 to save the follow-on.

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

Somerset came out well in their uphill game at Taunton and were able to draw their match with Surrey. Somerset completed their first innings, in which seven wickets had been lost overnight for 295, for 358, and then in the follow-on they did excellently, and the match was left unfinished.

17 August: SUSSEX v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5325.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 August, page 5)

Mr F L Fane, the old Charterhouse and Oxford cricketer, played another fine innings for his county yesterday when at Brighton he made 116. He and Mr Perrin put on 104 runs in 90 minutes for the second wicket, and later on Mr McGahey helped him to add 100 in less than 100 minutes.

Mr Fane was caught at third man and his big hits were nine fours. He played a fine forward game on the easy pitch, but his late cutting was particularly good. Ayres forced the game well near the end, and Essex were left in the favourable position indicated by the following score . . .

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 August, page 5)

The Essex eleven played very good cricket on the Hove ground yesterday, and last night Sussex, who had followed on, were still 90 runs behind with two wickets lost.

Young's bowling when he went on a second time at 76 was particularly effective, but after five of the home side had gone for 88 there was a fine stand by K S Ranjitsinhji and Vine, who added 92 runs at a quick rate. Ranjitsinhji, who was suffering from an injured hand, played in his best form, while Vine's vigour enabled him to make seven fours in his 63. Sussex by a mere six runs failed to save the follow-on . . .

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

Thanks to Ranjitsinhji, Sussex saved their game with Essex at Brighton on Saturday in very good style. Indeed, so far were they from meeting with the defeat which threatened after they had followed on and lost Fry and Latham for 35 runs that they were able in the course of the afternoon to declare.

With the ground still in excellent order there was not the slightest chance of getting Essex out in an hour and a half, but still Sussex were able to claim a satisfactory draw. Ranjitsinhji put together a score of 161 - his seventh hundred for Sussex this season - in less than three hours. He was appealed against for a catch at slip when only ten and given in, but his batting was practically free from blemish. Though he made a few strokes on the leg side, he cut delightfully and drove very hard, especially to the on, included in his innings being 29 fours, two threes and seven twos.

Vine for the second time in the match batted in capital form, assisting Ranjitsinhji to put on 188 runs for the third Sussex wicket. Brann and Killick added 70 runs by bright cricket before Ranjitsinhji declared with the total at 307 for five wickets.

Essex wanted 183 to win and, though Fane failed, Carpenter and Perrin stayed together for an hour and made 66 runs in nice style. Hot weather prevailed and about 2,000 people were present.

27 August: WARWICKSHIRE v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5326.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 August, page 5)

Mr J R Mason played an extremely good innings at Birmingham yesterday, and it was chiefly due to this that Kent were able to make such a respectable score as 158. At one time their chances were much more promising, but the dismissal of four men at 121 left them in quite a moderate position. Before the close of the day Warwickshire may be said to have established an advantage, seeing that they are only 51 runs behind with six wickets to fall.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 August, page 5)

Warwickshire steadily established an advantage in the match at Birmingham yesterday and last night Kent were still 11 runs behind with two wickets gone in the second innings. The Warwickshire batting was singularly even, except in the case of Diver, whose dashing innings included six fours. Santall also played very well.

Kent, who were 140 behind, lost two men for 22; but then came a long spell of superb batting by Mr Day and Mr Patterson, who added more than 100 runs and were still together at the close.

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

After their follow-on Kent made a fine effort to retrieve their position, and there was much fine batting by Mr Patterson, Mr Day and Mr Weigall, but the task set Warwickshire was too easy and Kent were beaten at Birmingham by seven wickets.

17 August: WORCESTERSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5327.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 18 August, page 5)

Yesterday at Worcester Mr H K Foster and Mr G E Bromley-Martin each played a brilliant three-figure innings for their county, with the result that Worcestershire were placed in a position exempt from defeat. The Foster and Bromley-Martin partnership carried the score from 77 to 284 for the fourth wicket. During the day there was a presentation of a shield to Mr R E Foster and Mr W L Foster to commemorate their scoring two hundreds in a match.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 19 August, page 5)

Last evening, at Worcester, the match was adjourned when Derbyshire wanted 277 to save an innings defeat, and had only one wicket left. After their big score, in which Mr W W Lowe, the old Cambridge blue, had a big share in the contribution of the third "century" for his side, Worcestershire fielded and bowled splendidly. Mr Lowe made his 102 in 100 minutes, and he and Burrows at one time put on 87 runs in a little more than half an hour.

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

Worcestershire won this match at Worcester on Saturday by an innings and 218 runs. The game might well have been finished on Friday night, when Derbyshire had only one wicket left and were 277 behind, but, as no break in the weather occurred, Derbyshire were soon beaten on the third day.

21 August: DERBYSHIRE v NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5328.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 August, page 5)

In the opening stage of the return match between these counties at Derby yesterday the Notts eleven accomplished a fine batting performance. Winning the toss, they remained at the wickets the whole time available for play, and when stumps were drawn they had scored 383 for the loss of five batsmen.

Mr A O Jones and Shrewsbury gave the side a splendid start, putting on 77 for the first wicket before the first-named was dismissed for a faultless 61, which included four fours, five threes and five twos. The partnership for the second wicket, however, was even more productive, Gunn and Shrewsbury carrying the total to 169 before the last-named was out. Though at times somewhat slow, Shrewsbury played good, stylish cricket for nearly two hours and a half. Included in his 57 were five fours and four threes. As far as could be seen his innings was quite free from fault.

Gunn, who from the time he went in had played in attractive style, was then joined by Mr Dixon, and another stubborn resistance was offered. When the score had been advanced to 262 a separation was effected, Gunn having the misfortune to play a ball from Hulme on to his wicket. Apart from one bad stroke his play was quite free from blemish, and among his figures were seven fours, three threes and 15 twos. Dixon left at 272, and then with Mr Goodacre and Dench together the brightest cricket of the day was seen. Both men hit vigorously and in an hour added 101 runs before Goodacre was taken at the wicket.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 August, page 5)

At Derby on Monday the Notts men had practically placed themselves beyond all fear of defeat by staying in the whole day and scoring 383 for the loss of five wickets. On the game being continued yesterday morning two hours were occupied in bringing the innings to a close, the total reaching 581. Dench and Carlin added 98 in an hour and five minutes, and later on there was an even brighter partnership between J Gunn and Wass, who hit up 70 runs for the ninth wicket in less than 25 minutes.

Derbyshire went in with nothing to play for but a draw, and during the rest of the day scored 237 for the loss of six wickets. This performance was chiefly due to the fine batting of Mr L [G] Wright, who went in first, and at the close of play was not out 109. He has so far been batting for three hours and a half without making any mistake.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 August, page 5)

At Derby, yesterday, the Derbyshire eleven just managed to save themselves from being defeated by Notts. On Tuesday they had to go in against the large total of 581, and when the time came for drawing stumps they had scored 237 for the loss of six wickets, Mr L G Wright being not out 109 at the close.

Yesterday morning Mr Wright only raised his score to 155 before he was bowled, but other batsmen did well and the total reached 342. The side had to follow on against a balance of 239 runs, and they did very badly for a time. Mr Higson and Mr Kenward, however, made a good stand when things looked critical, and after Kenward left Higson played steady cricket. He was so well supported by Humphries after the eighth wicket had fallen that a draw was secured, Derbyshire at the finish being 14 runs ahead with one wicket to fall.

21 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5329.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 August, page 5)

Brockwell's batting and Paish's bowling were the features of yesterday's cricket at Cheltenham in the return match between Gloucestershire and Surrey. Brockwell went in first for Surrey and stayed for three hours and three-quarters. When seventh man out at 279, he had put together a score of 167 - the highest he has made all through the season.

Abel helped him to add 65 for the first wicket, and Mr Pretty and he added 101 for the third wicket. Brockwell should have been caught and bowled just after 50. At 116 he gave Paish a hard return, and at 165 Rice let him off. His play, however, was very attractive, especially his hitting on the off side. His innings included 21 fours, six threes and ten twos. Paish took seven wickets for 93 runs, dismissing four batsmen after he resumed at 262 for 11 runs.

Surrey were all out for 292, and Gloucestershire, who lacked the services of Mr Champain - the Oxford captain suffering from a bruised knee - lost Mr Rice's wicket for 17 runs. Despite one or two mistakes, Gloucestershire fielded very smartly, the catches which disposed of Lees, Brockwell and Jephson being particularly good. Pleasant weather prevailed and there was a good attendance. Owing to the non-arrival of one of the official umpires, Tom Richardson acted in that capacity.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 August, page 5)

The Surrey team, thanks to some splendid bowling by Lockwood, obtained a great advantage over Gloucestershire at Cheltenham yesterday, leaving off 203 runs ahead with seven wickets in hand. Lockwood took the first six Gloucestershire wickets, and altogether he bowled nine for 105. At one time he bowled without a rest for two hours and three-quarters, and scarcely any batsman played his bowling with confidence.

Continuing the home team's innings, Mr Townsend and Mr Troup made a useful stand and Board hit very well, but there were eight Gloucestershire wickets down for 140 when Mr Goodwin and Paish came together. These two quite unexpectedly withstood the Surrey bowlers for more than an hour and, scoring 67, their partnership was the most productive of the whole innings. A collection on the ground for Paish, who had also bowled so well on Monday, produced more than £20.

Entering on their second innings 85 runs to the good, Surrey made a capital start, Abel and Brockwell putting on 77 for the first wicket. Brockwell, who was second out at 108, did not repeat his triumph of Monday, but he played admirable cricket for his 50, which included five fours, a three and seven twos. Brilliant weather prevailed and the College ground was well attended.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 August, page 5)

The wicket at Cheltenham having crumbled a good deal, Gloucestershire yesterday had no chance of retrieving the ground they had lost on the two previous days, and in the course of the afternoon Surrey gained a decisive victory by 140 runs. The success of Surrey, coupled with the defeat which Yorkshire sustained at Tonbridge, had a most important effect upon the aspect of the county championship competition, Surrey now standing first and Yorkshire second.

Having established a lead of 85 on the first innings, Surrey, at their second attempt, had made 118 for three wickets, and thus entered upon the concluding stage of the encounter 203 runs ahead with seven wickets in hand. These seven wickets went down in 80 minutes for the addition of only 93 runs, but the rapidity with which the innings was finished off suggested

that Gloucestershire would find the task of making 297 runs in the last innings quite beyond their powers.

Expectations in this respect were not disappointed. Mr Troup, Mr Townsend and Mr Rice were all out for 36 runs and, though Mr Brown batted steadily and Wrathall and Mr Jessop hit, the innings was all over in less than two hours and a half for 156. Lockwood, whose record for the match was 15 wickets for just over 12 runs apiece, had the satisfaction yesterday of bringing his aggregate runs to 1,025 and his total number of wickets to 105. Paish, the young left-handed bowler of Gloucestershire, accomplished a capital performance, taking seven wickets in each innings of Surrey.

21 August: HAMPSHIRE v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5330.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 August, page 5)

Warwickshire batted first against Hampshire at Bournemouth yesterday and gave an uneven display, most of the batsmen offering a poor resistance. The innings was redeemed from failure, however, by a splendid stand by Diver and Lilley, who, coming together when four wickets had fallen for 56, hit with such vigour that in 75 minutes no fewer than 144 runs were added.

Diver, who was the first to leave, played brilliant cricket for 87, in which he hit a five and 13 fours, while Lilley only made one mistake in scoring his 59. After Lilley's departure things went badly for a time, but the last wicket produced 43 runs and the total in the end reached 271. Hampshire batted for an hour and 40 minutes before the stumps were drawn. They lost three wickets for 87 runs.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 August, page 5)

The Warwickshire cricketers played a fine game against Hampshire at Bournemouth yesterday, and they now seem to possess an excellent chance of gaining a victory to-day. In little more than two hours before lunch they closed the first innings of the home team for 198, the seven outstanding wickets going down for the addition of 111 runs. There was nothing much to note in the batting, but Santall bowled well and Dickens took three wickets very cheaply.

When Warwickshire went in with a lead of 73 runs, Devey and Walter Quaife, who became partners at the fall of the first wicket, soon obtained a complete mastery of the Hampshire bowling. They hit so brilliantly that they put on 218 runs in 100 minutes. Devey gave a splendid display of clean, hard hitting, his innings including a five, 23 fours, nine threes and three twos. Quaife, who made only one mistake, was not out 123 at the close when, with four wickets in hand and the total standing at 360, the visitors were 433 runs ahead.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 August, page 5)

Warwickshire were left with victory well in sight when play ceased at Bournemouth on Tuesday evening, holding a lead of 433 runs, with four wickets to fall. Mr Bainbridge adopted a wise policy in declaring the innings closed first thing yesterday morning and he had his reward in a handsome victory for Warwickshire by 194 runs. The first few Hampshire batsmen, playing a careful game, did fairly well, but after the fall of the third wicket at 130 the result was never in doubt, and by a quarter to 5 the side were all out for 239.

A word of praise is due to Walter Quaife, who carried out his bat in Warwickshire's second innings for 123. He was at the wickets altogether for a little over three hours and a half, and, except for a chance of being caught and bowled with his score at 96, he made no mistake.

21 August: KENT v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5331.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 August, page 5)

Although at Tonbridge yesterday Yorkshire had the good luck to win the toss, they had all the worst of the position when the day's cricket came to an end. They made a wretched start, three of their best wickets going down for 18 runs, and although Mr Mitchell and Hirst each played a fine innings, the whole side were out for 164.

Mitchell, who went in first wicket down, hit in most attractive fashion for 55, in scoring which he made no mistake whatever, and Hirst, who was the seventh man out at 144, made his 60 in an hour and a quarter by brilliant cricket, his chief hits being 11 fours. Like Mitchell, he did not give any chance.

Kent, on going in to bat, lost Hearne and Mr Day for 48, but when Mr Perkins joined Mr Burnup a splendid stand was made, the two batsmen raising the score to 159 and being still together when stumps were drawn at 6 o'clock. Burnup completed his 50 out of 85 in an hour and 20 minutes, and at the finish was not out 90. Perkins, previous to yesterday, had not played for Kent since 1894, in which year he was in the Cambridge eleven. Blythe, a young bowler who is making his first appearance for Kent, was fortunate enough to take a wicket with the first ball he sent down, but met with no success afterwards.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 August, page 5)

At more than one period in yesterday's cricket at Tonbridge it seemed almost certain that Kent would beat Yorkshire in a single innings, but some good hitting by Wainwright, who was well supported by Haigh and Lord Hawke, prevented this result and caused the finish of the match to be deferred until to-day. As the game was left, however, Yorkshire have practically no chance of escaping defeat, as with seven wickets down in their second innings they are only three runs ahead.

The chief feature of the Kent batting was a great innings by Mr Burnup, who raised his overnight score of 90 to 171 before he was dismissed with the total at 321. He was at the wickets for something over four hours and a half, and not only gave no chance, but so far as could be seen he did not make a bad stroke. In his big score he hit 25 fours. Mr Perkins helped him to add 118 runs for the third wicket and the Rev Mr Rashleigh stayed with him while 117 were put on for the fifth.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 August, page 5)

As was only to be expected from the hopeless position in which they were left at the drawing of stumps on Tuesday, the Yorkshiremen were beaten at Tonbridge yesterday, but they made such a splendid fight in the morning that the defeat - though very important in its bearing on the championship - was robbed of all discredit.

With seven wickets down for 208, they started the day with a lead of only three runs, but so finely did Wainwright and Lord Hawke bat that the total was carried to 325 before the last man was out. The two batsmen became partners on Tuesday afternoon with the score at 166, and it had reached 304 yesterday when Lord Hawke was bowled. Though slightly marred by two difficult chances - on to Mr Mason at slip at 33 and the other to Mr Rashleigh at mid-off at 77 - the Yorkshire captain's 81 was an exceptionally good innings. It lasted two hours and a quarter, and included one five (four from an overthrow), 12 fours, two threes and four twos.

Wainwright did not stay long after Hawke left, being caught in the slips at 310 directly he had completed his 100. No one could have tried harder to save a practically lost game. During a stay at the wickets of three hours and three-quarters he never made a mistake, his innings being a model of care and skill.

Kent had 121 to get to win and, as the wicket was beginning to crumble, they might easily have found some difficulty in making the runs. However, Mr Burnup played so well, and was so ably supported, that the result was never in doubt. Hearne was out at 42 and Mr Day at 87, and then Mr Burnup and Mr Perkins hit off the remaining runs, Kent winning by eight wickets. Inasmuch as he scored 236 runs for once out, Burnup clearly gave his side their brilliant victory.

21 August: MIDDLESEX v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5332.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 August, page 5)

The Australian team, for the second time out of 11 matches, managed to win the toss at Lord's yesterday, when they began their match against Middlesex, and occupied the whole of the day in making 320 runs for the loss of five wickets.

The scoring was never really fast, and at times, especially after lunch, it was extremely slow, but it did not justify the unseemly demonstrations of a section of the spectators on the new stand, principally levelled at Darling. On one occasion, after a long period of idleness, the Australian captain cut Hearne to the boundary, and he was the recipient of a great chorus of ironical cheering, which lasted several minutes. Such an episode has probably never been witnessed on any cricket ground before.

The weather was beautifully fine and about 10,000 spectators watched the play. The Australians left out Hill, Worrall and Johns. The first-named is reported to be slightly better, but Worrall is suffering from lameness.

During an hour and 55 minutes of the play before lunch 101 runs were made. McLeod was the principal scorer with 48, but it was a lucky innings, as he was missed at slip off Trott's first over, and he offered two chances of stumping before making ten. Trumble was dismissed cheaply, caught at the wicket for ten, but that number completed his thousand runs aggregate for the season. McLeod and Gregory batted 35 minutes for two runs.

Then after lunch Trumper and Darling were in an hour for 36 runs, and play was decidedly slow. Still, the pair had a partnership of just under two hours for 88 and carried the score from 87 to 175 before Trumper was beautifully caught by MacGregor standing back to Trott. The outgoing batsman had been in two hours for 62, which included seven fours, two threes and four twos. Iredale improved matters when he arrived, and the second hundred went up for about three hours and 40 minutes' batting.

There was some quiet play afterwards, so that when Darling, after a long period of inactivity, cut Hearne for four, there was, as already mentioned, a regular round of ironical cheering which lasted some minutes and was continued considerably beyond that time, when Darling refused to continue to play until the demonstration had subsided. Subsequently there was a quickening in the pace, principally through Iredale, who passed Darling's score after batting 50 minutes, the Australian captain having then spent two hours and 40 minutes in making 35 runs. It is only fair to add, however, that the latter improved on this form afterwards, and got his 50 before Iredale.

The 50 of the last-named batsman took him an hour and 25 minutes to score, and the batsmen were together at the end of the day, with the total 320 for five wickets, Darling being not out 76 and Iredale not out 76. The captain had been batting about three hours and a quarter for his runs, and Iredale an hour and 50 minutes. Still, with the slow periods thrown in, the runs had averaged 60 per hour throughout the actual play. Middlesex bowled very well on the whole - Trott getting four of the wickets - while their fielding was very good throughout.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 August, page 5)

Middlesex have gained a rather unenviable reputation for failing against Australian bowling, and in their match against the team now in England they made a poor show at Lord's yesterday, so that at 20 minutes past 6 in the evening the colonials won an easy victory by an innings and 230 runs.

Most of Middlesex's best batsmen failed, and F G J Ford, who has been such a conspicuous success of late, was twice dismissed without scoring, the first time bowled with the first ball sent up to him, and in the second innings caught by the wicket-keeper off the second.

Middlesex were dismissed by two bowlers only, McLeod and Jones being unchanged throughout both innings and each taking ten wickets, but Jones had the better average.

Up to the end of the first day's play the Australians had scored 320 for the loss of five wickets, Darling (78) and Iredale (76) being the not outs at the close. Yesterday morning this pair showed themselves in form, and each made 111. Darling was the first to leave, being "l-b-w" to Wells. He had batted four hours and 20 minutes, and although very slow to start with, he scored well towards the close, and his best strokes were 11 fours, two threes and three twos. He and Darling had a two-and-a-half hours' partnership, which realized 201 runs.

After his captain had left, Iredale found runs difficult to obtain, and it took him 25 minutes to score a single to complete his century. He eventually fell to a catch at slip, after playing a bright innings of 3¼ hours, in which his chief strokes were 17 fours, seven threes and eight twos, and his only chance was to Roche at mid-on when over a hundred. Iredale was eighth out at 417, and the innings closed shortly afterwards at 445, a total which had occupied 7¼ hours to get. Seven of the Middlesex side were put on to bowl, but only Trott, Hearne and Wells were able to take wickets, and in their cases there was nothing noteworthy about the analysis.

Middlesex began batting a quarter of an hour before lunch, and in an hour and 50 minutes were all out for 105. P F Warner scored 39 out of 76 made for the loss of four wickets, but beyond his performance there was nothing worthy of note in the innings. Jones and McLeod bowled unchanged throughout, the latter, from the nursery end, taking seven wickets for 57 runs.

This poor display meant a follow-on and, commencing again at 25 minutes to 5, Middlesex were dismissed a second time for 110, and the Australians were left victorious by an innings and 230 runs. Trott was batting three-quarters of an hour for 43 and Wells was in an hour for 30. Jones this time was the successful bowler, and his return for the match was ten wickets for 84 runs. McLeod had ten for 127 runs.

A E Johns, the reserve wicket-keeper of the Australian team now in this country, received news yesterday of the very serious illness of his partner. He will not stay for the four remaining matches of the tour, but will leave London to-morrow morning, travelling overland to Marseilles, where he will join the Orient liner Oroya on Saturday.

21 August: SUSSEX v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5333.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 August, page 5)

The comparative triumph of the bowlers at Brighton yesterday came as a relief to the monotony of the huge scores in the majority of recent matches. It was strange, too, that the change should have occurred on such a ground as that at Hove, which is usually something of a batsman's paradise.

Lancashire, who were severely beaten last week by Middlesex, began so badly as to suggest another failure, but after three wickets had fallen for four runs there was some splendid batting by Mr Eccles and Mr Hartley. The off-driving of Mr Eccles was particularly good, and reminded one of his brilliant century against Cambridge at Lord's last year. He went in third wicket down at four and was fifth out at 145, when, in trying to cut, he was caught by third man close in. Of his 81 no fewer than 60 were made in fours.

Messrs Eccles and Hartley put on 87 for their partnership for the fifth wicket. Then the Lancashire team again broke down and, although 140 went up with only four men out, the innings was finished for 223. Had all the catches been held this score would not have been reached.

Sussex had an hour's play, and the game on the day came out pretty even. Mr A C MacLaren was too indisposed to play for Lancashire, and Mr Newham was still kept away from Sussex by an injured hand. Beautiful weather prevailed and there was a company numbering 5,000.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 August, page 5)

There would seem to be no finality to the achievements of K S Ranjitsinhji. Yesterday he established another record by making the highest aggregate ever credited to an individual player in one season. Dr Grace for 25 years had the distinction, but in 1896 Ranjitsinhji displaced him with 2,780, and now he has raised the figures to 2,837.

The innings of 102 yesterday by Ranjitsinhji was one of his best, although he was several times in difficulties with Mold, while from Barnes, the new Lancashire bowler, he was missed at wicket when only 27. Ranjitsinhji is not the kind of cricketer from whom catches should be dropped, and the fact that he got his 102 on a little more than two hours (and 60 of them by fours) will show how brilliant was his game, in spite of the jar on his injured left hand, the thumb of which is still thickly bandaged. He went in fourth wicket down at 133 and was sixth out at 299, and this was his eighth century this year. Yesterday, brilliant cutting and driving characterized his game.

An innings of almost equal merit was the 103 by Mr P H Latham, the accomplished Cambridge bat of a few years ago. Mr Latham's driving was particularly hard, and he came down full on the ball with a perfectly straight bat. The quick bowling seemed to be most relished, for Ward's slows were often ill-times by him, and he ought to have been stumped from them. Vine played very well, and with Ranjitsinhji made the only three-figure partnership of the day.

Smith's mistakes at the wicket were irreparable to the Lancashire side, who finished the day in a bad position. They are still 147 behind in the second innings. The weather was fine and the number of spectators present was about 5,000.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 August, page 5)

With the pitch slightly broken at one end yesterday Lancashire came out rather badly from the uphill fight at Brighton, and early in the afternoon Sussex won the match by an innings and 2 runs. Sussex, when once the game was in their hands, fielded and bowled brilliantly, and the catch by which Humphreys got out Tyldesley at mid-on was particularly well made.

Tate kept a fine length, and helped by the pitch got a lot of work on the ball, his analysis in the end being six wickets for 39 runs.

There was one feature in Lancashire's cricket yesterday, and that was the batting of Mr Eccles, the old Oxford blue. He made some beautiful cuts and drives, and scored his runs at a more than average rate, while he and Tyldesley, in the third wicket partnership, added 76 in three-quarters of an hour. Early in the game Painter, the old Gloucestershire professional, who was standing umpire, received a sunstroke and had to leave the field. Mr W Newham, the Sussex secretary, took Painter's place for the rest of the match.

21 August: M.C.C. AND GROUND v WORCESTERSHIRE (not first-class)

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

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 22 August, page 5)

The feature of yesterday's cricket at the Crystal Palace was the batting of Mr R E Foster. His 123 was made by beautifully free cricket, and included 21 fours, three threes and ten twos. Considering the excellence of the pitch, Dr Grace bowled remarkably well and his five wickets only cost 14 runs apiece.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 23 August, page 5)

An interesting day's cricket was seen at the Crystal Palace yesterday. First of all there was some splendid batting by the Rev K Clarke and Mr R S Lucas, who put on 150 runs for the fourth wicket in an hour and three-quarters; while the bowling of Wilson was a feature of the innings.

When Worcestershire went in a second time Mr H K Foster played grand cricket, and at the close Worcestershire were 193 runs ahead with four wickets in hand.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 24 August, page 5)

After an interesting match London County drew with Worcestershire yesterday at the Crystal Palace. Worcestershire increased their overnight score of 171 for six wickets to 324, this being chiefly due to some good batting by Mr H K Foster and Bird, who put on 104 for the seventh wicket. Mr Foster's 107 included 19 fours.

London County lost four wickets for 93, and then Mr Tindall and Dr Grace added 130 in 80 minutes for the next wicket, and this practically placed the result beyond doubt.

Wednesday 23 August, page 5: THE MARYLEBONE CLUB

A special general meeting of the M.C.C. will be held at Lord's on September 7, at 3 p.m., to confirm alterations in the laws of cricket as follows: -

Law 10. - The ball must be bowled, if thrown or jerked either umpire shall call "no-ball."

Law 48. - If either umpire be not satisfied of the absolute fairness of the delivery of any ball he shall call "no-ball."

THE HASTINGS FESTIVAL

The two matches at Hastings this year are South of England v the Australians on September 4, 5 and 6, and the Home Counties v the Rest of England on September 7, 8 and 9. The South of England team will be selected from the following: - W G Grace, K S Ranjitsinhji, C B Fry, C L Townsend, G Brann, A E Stoddart, A J Turner, W M Bradley and F G J Ford, J T Hearne, Young and Board. The Surrey men are all engaged in the Surrey v Warwickshire match at the Oval.

The teams for the second match of the week are: - Home Counties. - Selected from K S Ranjitsinhji, C B Fry, G Brann, A E Stoddart, A J Turner, W M Bradley, F G J Ford, Abel, Hayward, J T Hearne, A E Trott, Young and Butt. Rest of England. - W G Grace, A C MacLaren, C L Townsend, A O Jones, F Mitchell, J T Brown, sen., W G Quaife, Hirst, Rhodes, Cuttell and Board.

Below will be found the present positions of the counties engaged in the County Championship Competition: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Surrey	22	8	2	12	6	60.00
Yorkshire	27	14	4	9	10	55.55
Middlesex	15	10	3	2	7	53.84
Lancashire	23	12	5	6	7	41.17
Sussex	19	6	4	9	2	20.00
Essex	18	6	5	7	1	9.09
Warwickshire	16	4	4	8	0	--
Notts	15	2	3	10	-1	-20.00
Gloucestershire	18	4	7	7	-3	-27.27
Hampshire	17	3	6	8	-3	-33.33
Worcestershire	11	2	4	5	-2	-33.33
Kent	16	4	8	4	-4	-33.33
Leicestershire	17	2	8	7	-6	-60.00
Derbyshire	17	2	9	6	-7	-63.63
Somerset	15	1	8	6	-7	-77.77

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."

24 August: GLOUCESTERSHIRE v ESSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5334.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 August, page 5)

Thanks to a remarkable partnership between Mr Townsend and Mr Troup, Gloucestershire at Clifton yesterday went a long way towards assuring themselves against defeat in their match with Essex. At first, after winning the toss, they did none too well, Wrathall and Mr Rice being out for 31 runs; but when Mr Townsend and Mr Troup came together the Essex bowling was completely mastered.

For hour after hour the two batsmen withstood the attack, and it was not until a quarter to 6, when they had raised the score to 230, that Mr Troup was at last caught in the long field, having made 115. He made his runs without giving a chance in something under four hours, his chief hits being 17 fours. Mr Jessop gave little trouble, and with his dismissal stumps were drawn for the day with the total at 299 for four wickets. Mr Townsend, who was not out 142 at the close, took two hours and ten minutes to make his first 50, but scored at a much better pace afterwards.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 August, page 9)

At Clifton, yesterday, Mr C L Townsend, who had made 142 overnight, increased his score to 224 and carried out his bat, when the Gloucestershire innings closed for 436. With thud performance, Mr Townsend beat his previous highest score in first-class cricket, which was 181, also made against Essex, at Leyton, in the early part of the present month. For his big innings in the match under notice he was at the wickets for a little over six hours, and the only chance he gave was from the last ball sent down to him, when Ayres should have caught him at slip. During the whole time he was in he batted with all his well-known skill, his chief strokes being 28 fours.

Essex went in with nothing to play for but a draw, and up to a certain point they did very well, thanks to the excellent batting of Mr Fane and the good cricket shown by Carpenter, Mr Perrin, Mr Lucas and Mr McGahey. The 150 was passed with only three wickets down, but Paish bowled with such success afterwards that at the close eight men were out for 216.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 August, page 9)

On the Clifton College ground on Saturday Gloucestershire for the second time this season beat Essex, the result on the present occasion being by an innings and 117 runs. Essex batted very feebly and had all the catches been taken they would have been out for even less than 85 in the second innings. A feature of the match was the left-hand medium pace bowling of Paish.

24 August: HAMPSHIRE v WORCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5335.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 August, page 5)

The Hampshire team made rather poor use of the advantage of batting first in their return match with Worcestershire at Southampton yesterday, as on a hard, run-getting wicket they were dismissed for a total of 220. The only men on the side to show really good form were Captain Quinton and Mr Heseltine.

Captain Quinton, who went in first wicket down at 18, was fifth out at 138, having batted for two hours without making the slightly mistake. His 66 included ten fours. Heseltine gave a fine display of on-driving, and hit up his 48 out of 51 in 40 minutes, his chief strokes being a five and nine fours.

Worcestershire on going in made a disastrous start, two of their wickets falling in the first over without a run being scored, but Messrs W L and R E Foster obtained a complete mastery over the bowling, and when stumps were drawn at 6 o'clock they were still together, having put on 110 runs.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 August, page 9)

Considering that the game is being played on a hard, run-getting pitch, the cricket at Southampton yesterday was unusually full of incident, and in the course of the day no fewer than 19 wickets went down. On Thursday, Worcestershire, going in against a total of 220, lost two of their batsmen without a run, but then Messrs W L and R E Foster scored 110 without being separated before the drawing of stumps.

When the game was resumed yesterday, however, the two Fosters were got rid of at 114, and afterwards things went so badly that eight wickets were down for 155. At this point Wheldon hit out in good style, and was so well supported that the total was carried to 269 before the innings closed, Hampshire having thus to face a balance of 49 runs.

Barton and Robson made so good a start with the Hampshire second innings that 69 runs were scored before the first wicket fell, but then there came such a breakdown in the batting that six men were out for 106. Again, however, a wonderful change came over the game, Captain Wynyard and Mr Hill adding 94 runs together in 50 minutes. The innings closed for 252. Captain Wynyard, who was the last man out, made 108. He was only at the wickets for 85 minutes, hit chief hits being 21 fours. Worcestershire were left with 204 to get to win, and before the close they lost a wicket without scoring.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 August, page 9)

Hampshire beat Worcestershire at Southampton on Saturday by 5 runs. The pitch helped the bowlers and the result was not unexpected, seeing that on the third morning Worcestershire had still to make 204 to win with one wicket down.

24 August: KENT v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5336.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 August, page 5)

Kent yesterday on the Private Banks' Ground, Catford, in their return match with Warwickshire, accomplished a fine batting performance, for during some five hours' actual cricket they made 420 runs. Mr Day and Mr Burnup, by some attractive play, laid the foundation of their large total, but three of the side were out for 84. Mr Perkins then helped Mr Mason to put on 101 for the next wicket in 65 minutes.

It was left, however, for Mr Mason and Mr Rashleigh to carry off the batting honours. Mr Rashleigh scored much the faster, but both treated the bowling with severity. During a partnership of an hour and three-quarters 182 runs were added before Mr Mason was caught in the slips. Altogether he was batting two hours and 40 minutes, and his 119 included 15 fours. Mr Rashleigh was seventh out at 394 to a good catch in the long field by Mr Rhodes. He played a splendid forcing game and made some grand off-drives; his innings included 18 fours.

Afterwards there was little of note in the batting, and Kent were all out a few minutes before six. During a trying day the Warwickshire fielding was good.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 August, page 9)

The Kent eleven, thanks chiefly to some good bowling by Alec Hearne, established a great advantage over Warwickshire in the Private Banks' ground at Catford yesterday, and when stumps were drawn they were left in practically a winning position, as Warwickshire, in their second innings, were 148 runs behind, with eight wickets in hand.

When Warwickshire went in yesterday they offered a very feeble resistance to Alec Hearne's bowling, and were all dismissed in two hours and a half for 120. Hearne, who kept a splendid length, took seven wickets for 40 runs, and Lilley was the only batsman to play him with confidence. Diver's 16 completed his 1,000 runs aggregate for the season. Lilley, who frequently has proved of the greatest service to his side when the game has been going against them, showed stubborn defence, and he was batting an hour and 50 minutes for his 45.

When Warwickshire went in a second time 300 runs behind their batting proved that the pitch had little to do with their collapse in the first innings. Devey and Walter Quaife put on 32 for the first wicket, and Lilley helped the latter to add 69 for the second, after which Lilley and William Quaife took the score to 152, when play stopped for the day.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 August, page 9)

As was only to be expected from the position of the game overnight, Kent beat Warwickshire, at Catford, on Saturday, by 10 wickets. For their victory the home side were largely indebted to the batting of Mr Mason and Mr Rashleigh, and to the splendid bowling of Alec Hearne, who in the match took 11 wickets for 97 runs.

At the close of play on Friday, Warwickshire, with eight wickets in hand, still required 148 to save the innings defeat. Consequently when the game was resumed on Saturday Warwickshire's only hope was a draw. In the circumstances the cricket was very slow and most uninteresting. All the batsmen showed a disinclination to hit, and altogether the visitors were batting nearly seven hours for their 319, the innings defeat being saved by the last wicket.

Lilley, who played good cricket for 73, was batting two hours and 50 minutes, and his chief hits were one five and seven fours, while William Quaife was at the wickets five hours and a quarter for his 100, which included 14 fours. The Kent ground fielding was good, but they

were much at fault in dropping catches, for had the chances been accepted their victory would have been much more decisive.

24 August: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5337.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 August, page 5)

For the concluding match of their season Notts were opposed by Middlesex, the game opening yesterday in glorious weather at Trent-bridge, and before an attendance considerably above the average for Nottingham.

The Midland team had to take the field without Shrewsbury, who was indisposed, but even in his absence they made such an excellent start that there appeared for a long time every prospect of a big score. Although Mr Dixon, who went in first with Mr Jones, was out at 40, the last-named and W Gunn added no fewer than 150 for the second partnership, and Mr Jones and Mr Goodacre put on 33 more. But from the time that Mr Jones was out, at 223, the whole aspect of the game changed and the innings only reached 29 - the last five wickets falling for the addition of 20 runs.

Middlesex, having to go in in a failing light, lost two of their best wickets for 23 runs. Mr Jones was batting three hours for his faultless 117, which included 20 fours.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 August, page 9)

An extraordinary change came over the game at Nottingham yesterday, the Middlesex eleven doing so well that though they left off on Thursday evening with the worst of positions, they now hold such a commanding advantage that Notts will have to battle very hard to avoid being beaten. For this highly favourable state of affairs Middlesex were almost wholly indebted to Mr C M Wells, who played a superb innings of 244.

On the game being resumed in the morning only four runs had been added to the overnight score of 23 when the third wicket fell, but on Mr R N Douglas and Mr Wells becoming partners the aspect of affairs was completely altered. For two hours and 35 minutes those batsmen resisted all the efforts of the Notts bowlers, and in that time added no fewer than 171 runs for the fourth wicket. Rawlin helped Mr Wells to put on 161 in an hour and 40 minutes for the fifth wicket, but the liveliest cricket of the day was seen when Mr Ford joined Mr Wells. Both hit vigorously and in 50 minutes scored 99 between them.

Wells, whose cricket from first to last was maintained at a high level of excellence, was batting five hours and three-quarters, and during that time he only gave one chance - a hard return high up to Mr Dixon when 54. He hit well all round the wicket, some of his drives past cover-point being particularly fine. Included in his figures were two fives and 27 fours. It may be mentioned that this 244 is the highest individual score ever made against Notts.

Mr R N Douglas, Rawlin and Mr Ford all played faultless cricket. With the exception of Carlin all the members of the Notts eleven went on to bowl, and despite their hard work the fielding never became in any way slack. As the game stands now Middlesex with three wickets in hand hold a lead of 183.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 August, page 9)

At Trent-bridge the Notts eleven finished their season with a disaster, being beaten by Middlesex by ten wickets. On Saturday morning Middlesex declared their first innings closed and put Notts in with arrears of 183 runs.

Up to a certain point Notts did very well, Mr Jones and Mr Groves putting on 69 for the first wicket and Mr Groves and William Gunn afterwards carrying the score to 118. Mr Groves was at the wickets for two hours and played fine cricket.

24 August: SOMERSET v AUSTRALIANS

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

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 August, page 5)

As there seemed very little likelihood of Somerset being able to hold their own with the Australians at Taunton yesterday, Darling acceded to a request that Braund might be allowed to assist the western county. That player is qualifying for Somerset, but has not as yet completed a sufficiently long period of residence to give him the right to assist the county.

He had previously made scores of 63 and 125 against the Australians, and yesterday he put together an innings of 82. He and Bernard opened the Somerset innings and raised the total to 152 in less than two hours, their partnership being the second highest which has been made for the first wicket against the present team. Braund gave a chance when 29, but his driving and cutting were for the most part delightfully clean and hard. He hit 14 fours, a three and seven twos. Bernard, who was second man out at 186, missed his 100 only by six runs, but his cricket, although possessing considerable excellence, was marred by three chances. Included in his score were 13 fours, seven threes and two twos.

After Phillips's dismissal came some hard hitting by Robson and Woods, who for 65 minutes punished the colonials' bowling so severely that they increased the total by no fewer than 134 runs. Robson, who, after a chance at 3, played most brilliant cricket, threw away his wicket in the end. Except for the one mistake no real fault could be found with his innings, which included 11 fours. Woods obtained his 68 runs in 70 minutes without giving a real chance. After he left four wickets fell for 50 runs, but still Somerset, with 376 runs for seven wickets, had every reason to be satisfied with their day's work.

Delightful weather prevailed and the company numbered between 4,000 and 5,000. A collection for Robson and Braund yielded £25.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 August, page 9)

Heavily as Somerset had scored against the Australians at Taunton on Thursday, they found themselves last evening with a good deal the worse of the game, the colonials being 22 runs ahead with half their wickets in hand. The county's innings was finished off without any addition to the overnight score of 376, and then in rather more than five hours the Australians made 398 for the loss of five batsmen.

The feature of the day was the success achieved by Laver, who had never previously put together an innings of over 100 in England. Yesterday that player withstood the Somerset bowling for three hours and 50 minutes, and ran up a score of 143, going in first wicket down at 22 and being fifth man out at 318. He was badly missed at mid-off by Woods when 39, and might have been caught behind the wicket at 48; but afterwards scarcely any serious fault could be found with his cricket. He cut well at times, but depended for his runs mainly upon the pull, a stroke he brought off repeatedly. Among his hits were 22 fours, two threes and nine twos.

Trumper played very well at the start of the innings, and Trumper, who assisted to put on 111 in 70 minutes for the fourth wicket, batted in nice bright style. Darling, who went in at 240, helped Laver to make 78, and after Laver's departure the Australian captain and Iredale hit up 80 in the last 45 minutes of the day. Darling gave no chance until 76, and at times batted with much power. Delightful weather prevailed, and again there was a large attendance. To-day the game will be proceeded with at 11 o'clock, and stumps will be drawn at a quarter past 5.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 August, page 9)

The concluding stage of the match at Taunton on Saturday between Somerset and the Australians was fairly interesting, the county, after being, up to a certain point, in danger of defeat, finally drawing the game.

Overnight the Australians had been left in a very comfortable position, having, in face of a total of 376, scored 398 for five wickets, and it is quite possible that they might have won on Saturday but for several blunders in the field. Their innings came to an end, after something less than an hour and a half's play in the morning, for 532. Darling had the misfortune to be bowled when only four runs short of his hundred. His chief hits were fourteen fours. Iredale made 50 in an hour and then took 25 minutes to score three more runs. The partnership of Darling and Iredale for the sixth wicket produced 119. Towards the close of the innings Kelly and Jones added 69 in about 20 minutes.

Somerset, going in a second time, lost one wicket for 31 before luncheon, and immediately after the interval Robson, who had been twice missed, was bowled at 34. Bernard played well and received valuable support from Phillips and Woods. The arrears were cleared off with six wickets in hand, but with Hill failing and Woods thrown out by Trumper six men were out for 162, there being then nearly an hour left for play. However Daniell and Hedley came to the rescue and all danger of defeat was averted. When the match was left drawn, Somerset, with one wicket to fall, were 76 runs ahead.

24 August: SURREY v LANCASHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5339.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 August, page 5)

With Surrey holding such a prominent position in the county championship and the match proceeds being for the benefit of T Richardson, their fast bowler, it was not surprising to find a large gathering of spectators at Kennington Oval, yesterday, to witness the opening day's play in the return match between Surrey and Lancashire. The attendance of spectators was about 12,000.

The home team began the batting rather indifferently, as Brockwell, Hayes, Mr Pretty and Hayward were all disposed of for the comparatively small score of 83, but from that point Abel (who had gone in first) with Lockwood gradually effected a great change in the condition of the game. They scored by no means fast at first, but for nearly four hours they defied all the attempts on the bowlers to dismiss them, and at the close had added 241 runs.

Abel had batted about five hours for 161, and gave only one chance, a possible catch to Barnes at short mid-on, when 84. Lockwood, in the course of scoring 104, was missed twice, by Barnes and Mold - both off their own bowling - when eight and 59 respectively. Albert Ward bowled well for Lancashire, and it was only towards the close that he was really hit freely.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 August, page 9)

As was the case on Tuesday, yesterday's play at the Oval went all in favour of Surrey, for at the close of the day Lancashire were left with but three wickets to fall in their first innings and still 264 runs were necessary to save the follow-on.

Surrey were batting the whole time play was in progress on Thursday, and when the game was resumed yesterday they had 324 runs standing to their credit for the loss of only four of their wickets. This result was chiefly due to the fine stand which had been effected for the fifth wicket by Abel and Lockwood, who, profiting by the mistakes Lancashire had made in the field, had both credited themselves with three figures before stumps were drawn for the day.

Yesterday they advanced the total to 370 before they were separated, and then Abel, who had been given a life on the previous afternoon when 84, and who was badly missed by Mr Spooner at cover point when 177, was easily caught by Mr Eccles at point off the next over. For his fine 178 he was batting altogether five hours and a half, and he hit 17 fours, nine threes and 13 twos, while for the wicket 287 runs were scored in the course of four hours and a half. Lockwood was bowled by Cuttell four runs later, having hit 19 fours, six threes and eight twos in his 131,

Mr Jephson and Lees added 89 runs for the seventh wicket in three-quarters of an hour, and after Lees had been caught at mid-on by Mold there followed another stand by Mr Jephson and Mr Key for the eighth wicket. Mr Key was bowled at 549, while three runs later Mr Jephson, who had just completed his 100, for which he had been batting two hours, shared a similar fate. His best hits were 16 fours, two threes and four twos. The innings, which had occupied seven hours and three-quarters, closed for the fine total of 556, despite the fact that their first four wickets had fallen for only 83 runs.

Lancashire started their first innings disastrously, for their first 63 runs were made at the cost of four of their wickets. Mr Spooner was bowled when only two runs had been scored, and Tyldesley was out at 15; Mr Jephson, who had puzzled all the batsmen with his lobs, bowled Ward at 41, while Mr MacLaren was bowled by a good ball from Brockwell, who had relieved Mr Jephson, two runs later. Mr Eccles played steadily, but when Brockwell bowled him half the Lancashire wickets had fallen for 108 runs.

Mr Hartley and Baker then stemmed the tide of disaster for a while, but the latter was neatly stumped at 163, and ten runs later Mr Hartley, who had played very well, was bowled, and thus the close of play found Lancashire still 383 runs behind with seven of their wickets down.

BROCKWELL'S CRICKET. - By his bowling in Surrey v Lancashire Brockwell earned the distinction of a place among the small list of cricketers who have taken 100 wickets and scored 1,000 runs during the season.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 August, page 9)

Surrey succeeded in winning this match at Kennington Oval on Saturday by an innings and 121 runs. When cricket was resumed Lancashire had only a draw for which to play. The remaining three batsmen in the first innings were disposed of in three-quarters of an hour for 26 runs, so that when they went in a second time Lancashire required 357 to avoid a single innings' defeat.

Mr MacLaren altered the order of batting, himself and Ward being the first couple, but the change was only attended with disaster, as the Lancashire captain was bowled off his pads by Mr Jephson with only five runs scored. Ward was smartly caught by the wicket-keeper standing back to Richardson, while the third wicket, Mr Spooner's, was captured at 48. Tyldesley and Mr Eccles made a fine attempt to save their side, and scored 81 for the fourth wicket before Lockwood bowled Mr Eccles, who had made 40 of his runs by fours.

At 149, Tyldesley, who had hit brilliantly, touched a rising ball from Brockwell and was caught at the wicket. He had been batting two hours for 71, in which were 13 fours. Subsequently there was no stand of any moment.

24 August: SUSSEX v YORKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5340.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 25 August, page 5)

The brilliant cricket by Mr F S Jackson and Tunnicliffe on the county ground at Hove, yesterday, promised Yorkshire an almost overwhelming advantage; but after these batsmen had put on 153 for the first wicket in the course of two hours a steady dismissal of players reduced the Yorkshire innings to something that must in these days of huge scores be described as normal. Two hundred went up with one wicket down, and 300 with only five men out; yet the innings was finished in four and a quarter hours for 341.

There was a certain amount of uniformity in the Yorkshire scoring, but on one of Hove's best pitches Sussex were pretty fortunate to get rid of Yorkshire for 341 after the great start. Cyril Bland, the fast bowler, came off very well, and managed to enter honoured list of those bowlers who have obtained 100 wickets this season. K S Ranjitsinhji, who has succeeded Mr W L Murdoch in the Sussex captaincy, cannot be credited with any particular skill in the management of his attack. A glance at the analysis will show that Tate, the most capable bowler in the side, was kept off much too long in such a big innings.

The Yorkshire batting was brilliant. Mr Jackson made his 88 out of 153 in a couple of hours, playing strongly all round the wicket, and Tunnicliffe by fine driving secured most of his 82 in two hours and a half. There was subsequently a great deal of fine batting by Mr Frank Mitchell and Denton, but Sussex fielded excellently, and the only bad mistake was when Mr C B Fry at point missed Denton.

Yorkshire have reached a commanding position in a match that may have a material bearing on the ultimate decision in the championship, which they won last year. Wainwright was absent from the Yorkshire eleven yesterday in consequence of the serious illness of his wife. Brilliant weather again prevailed and the company numbered about 5,000.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 26 August, page 9)

Against the big Yorkshire score the Sussex eleven made a gallant fight yesterday and, after following on, they finished up last night with arrears of 32 and seven wickets left.

The leading actor in the English batting - K S Ranjitsinhji - had naturally much to do with this fine fight, although his effect on the game would have been less had Tunnicliffe (an unusually good slip as a rule) not missed him in the first innings off Haigh when he was only 18. As it was, Ranjitsinhji made 57 out of 69 put on for the fifth wicket in 75 minutes, while in the second innings his cricket was perfect. Nothing could have excelled his wonderful cutting either in power or style. He had one narrow escape of being run out, but that was through taking things too leisurely. Ranjitsinhji's wonderful batting figures for this season were given in The Times of Wednesday, but it is worthy of remark that he is now within 58 of the 3,000 aggregate for the summer.

With regard to the other cricket yesterday, it may be mentioned that Mr Collins, who went in first, was over three hours getting his 34, and was seventh out after an innings of wonderful patience. Mr Fry, in his second innings, had himself alone to blame for his run out through taking a great risk when his side were in a critical position. Mr P H Latham, the old Cambridge blue, again batted well.

The Yorkshiremen had a very hard day in the field, and both their fielding and their bowling were very creditable. Rhodes in the first innings found a spot just wide of the off stump of which he made full use, and his six wickets for 64 made a fine performance, while Haigh in his second spell with the ball summarily finished off the Sussex innings by taking three wickets in three overs at a cost to himself of four runs. Schofield Haigh mixed his pace with fine skill and showed that he can put in a "yorker" as well as any bowler going.

There were 5,000 spectators of yesterday's cricket at the county ground, Hove, and there was a continuance of the same brilliant weather. Fielding on this parched and almost grassless turf at Brighton seemed very hard work.

Day 3 (report from Monday 28 August, page 9)

The Sussex eleven managed to draw their match with Yorkshire on the Hove ground on Saturday, for they were able to set the north countrymen a task which they had no time to perform. The position of the game on the previous evening in no way presaged such a result; but K S Ranjitsinhji's brilliancy and the extreme steadiness of Killick and Vine rescued Sussex from defeat.

Ranjitsinhji's position as a not out attracted a big crowd to see the early play, particularly as he was within easy distance of his 3,000 aggregate. He started by forcing the game at a great pace, but when he seemed well set he was bowled in hitting too soon at a half-volley from Haigh. In his 70, made in 80 minutes, were 13 fours, and the runs left him 36 short of his third thousand.

When half the side were out for 184 Yorkshire seemed to be winning easily, but Vine and Killick added 85 for the next wicket in an hour and a half, while after Killick had gone at 269 Vine had some useful assistance from Tate and Butt. It was not until after 4 o'clock, however, that Sussex were saved from defeat by the lack of time. Vine, whose usefulness to the Sussex team in fielding and batting is not easily measured in this match, was in three hours and 20 minutes for his runs.

Yorkshire had to make 168 to win; but there was only an hour left and the game was drawn. The Yorkshiremen bowled and fielded well, but the follow-on rule was again a handicapped for them, as they were fielding on the hard, parched ground and under tropical sun through really two days.

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The county season will end in a few days. On Saturday three sides finished their programmes, including Yorkshire, who are deposed from their leading position of last year. As far as the results have gone, and under the manner of reckoning the championship competition prescribed by the M.C.C., Surrey seem to have already almost won the championship.

YORKSHIRE

The Yorkshire eleven, if they have lost the leading position in the championship, have no reason to be dissatisfied with their splendid work this season. Their batting and bowling figures come out excellently; and were the championship decided on some equitable basis there appears to be no reason why the chief honours of the year should not once more be awarded to that splendid band of cricketers led by Lord Hawke.

The draw has affected them as much as any side; but their bowlers have come out very well on the hard wickets, particularly Rhodes, who has proved such an able successor to Peel in a very trying season. The good work of the eleven in batting and bowling can be readily gleaned from the following figures: -

[Note: batting and bowling averages follow. These can be found from http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/ENG/1899_ENG_County_Championship_1899.html]

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

The great cricket nursery of the Midland has again failed to secure for itself any very prominent bowlers who could restore the county to its merited high position in cricket. In batting the Notts eleven are as good as ever. Arthur Shrewsbury and William Gunn, with all their splendid styles, have been quite themselves, and Mr A O Jones has developed a standard of batting which has raised him to the front rank of great cricketers. Not only is he a superb bat, but he is a brilliant field and a capable change bowler.

Bowling is the thing which has now for some seasons affected Notts by its lack of excellence; and to make matters worse this summer Attewell seems to have lost the art which he so splendidly practised for so many years for his county. Notts have, however, two or three young bowlers coming on, and they may raise them in a few seasons to a more respectable position in the County Championship than that now filled by them. Of 16 matches played, Notts won only two (Derbyshire and Middlesex), while four were lost and ten drawn.

WORCESTERSHIRE

In a programme of dimensions that only just secured their inclusion in the championship, Worcestershire did fairly well. Their summary of results shows two matches won, five lost and five drawn. They have various brilliant cricketers in their side, notably the brothers Foster, and Wilson, the fast bowler, Arnold, a good all-round cricketer, and Straw, a sound wicket-keeper. For an eleven who have risen so quickly from mediocrity to the championship circle the performances are not discreditable.

The position of the competition is at present as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts	Percentage
Surrey	23	9	2	12	7	63.63
Middlesex	16	11	3	2	8	57.14
Yorkshire	28	14	4	10	10	55.55
Lancashire	24	12	6	6	6	33.33
Sussex	20	6	4	10	2	20.00
Essex	19	6	6	7	0	0.00
Warwickshire	17	4	5	8	-1	-11.11
Gloucestershire	19	5	7	7	-2	-16.66
Hampshire	18	4	6	8	-2	-20.00
Kent	17	5	8	4	-3	-23.07
Notts	16	2	4	10	-2	-33.33
Worcestershire	12	2	5	5	-3	-42.85
Leicestershire	17	2	8	7	-6	-60.00
Derbyshire	17	2	9	6	-7	-63.63
Somerset	15	1	8	6	-7	-77.77

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 are given below: -

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in innings	Not out	Average
Major Poore	21	1551	304	4	91.23
K S Ranjitsinhji	52	2964	197	7	65.66

Hayward	43	2361	273	4	60.53
Mr C L Townsend	48	2306	224*	6	54.90
Abel	47	2334	357*	3	53.04
Shrewsbury	26	1257	175	2	52.37
Captain Wynyard	26	1227	225	1	49.08
Mr F S Jackson	38	1688	155	3	48.22
Mr A J Turner	18	751	124	2	46.93
Mr A O Jones	32	1453	250	1	46.87
W G Quaife	40	1522	207*	7	46.12
W Gunn	34	1370	150	2	42.81
J T Brown	35	1443	192	1	42.44
Mr C B Fry	52	2115	181	1	41.47
Tyldesley	45	1748	249	2	40.65
Mr C J Burnup	39	1473	171	2	40.35
Mr S M J Woods	31	1187	146	1	39.56
Storer	45	1430	216*	7	37.63
G H Hirst	46	1540	186	5	37.56
Mr W L Foster	27	978	172*	1	37.53
Mr P Perrin	35	1423	196	4	36.22
Lockwood	35	1156	131	3	36.12
Mr A C MacLaren	24	819	126	1	35.60
A Ward	44	1350	118	6	35.62
Mr R E Foster	35	1104	134	3	34.50
Denton	46	1509	113	2	34.29
Brockwell	44	1421	167	2	33.83
Mr F Mitchell	48	1580	194	1	33.82
Mr J R Mason	36	1183	181*	1	33.80
Mr F H B Champain	39	976	123	0	33.65
Mr H D G Leveson-Gower	14	433	155	1	33.30
Killick	43	1218	117	5	32.05
Mr L G Wright	36	1119	138	1	31.97
Wainwright	45	1403	228	1	31.83
Mr G L Jessop	40	1229	171*	1	31.51
Mr G Brann	44	1322	157	2	31.47
Diver	33	1030	184	0	31.21
A Hearne	44	1277	168	3	31.14
Mr P F Warner	37	1016	150	3	29.88
Mr F G J Ford	37	1044	160	2	29.82
Tunnicliffe	49	1272	85	4	28.26
Mr A Eccles	40	1048	81	2	27.57
Mr D L A Jephson	36	904	100	2	26.58
Lord Hawke	38	866	127	6	26.24
Mr J A Dixon	26	640	71	1	25.60
Mr C E de Trafford	37	899	117*	1	24.97
A E Trott	48	1121	164	2	24.36
Dr W G Grace	19	443	78	0	23.31
Mr K J Key	35	665	59*	5	22.20

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
A E Trott	1593.3	525	3721	215	17.30
Rhodes	1363.4	495	2687	153	17.56
Mead	1266.3	471	2443	137	17.83
Paish	1051.4	293	2421	132	18.34
Mold	942.4	296	2095	114	18.37
Lockwood	802.2	209	2175	108	20.13
Cuttell	995.1	423	1711	81	21.12
Young	1106.1	325	2671	124	21.54
Haigh	772	253	1626	75	21.68
J T Hearne	1306.4	504	2540	115	22.03
Wilson (Worcester)	645	230	2060	92	22.38

Tate (Sussex)	1062.1	371	2380	106	22.45
Mr W M Bradley	1101.1	358	2582	113	22.84
Dr W G Grace	243	66	479	20	23.95
Hayward	499.4	122	1440	60	24.00
G H Hirst	827.2	272	1831	74	24.85
Bland	913.2	249	2536	102	24.88
Brockwell	1018.2	316	2577	103	25.01
T Richardson	962	265	2362	89	26.53
Mr F S Jackson	605.3	207	1312	43	28.51
Mr G L Jessop	643	140	1723	50	34.40

AUSTRALIAN BATTING AVERAGES

	Inns	Runs	Most in innings	Not out	Average
Mr C Hill	23	879	160	1	39.95
Mr M A Noble	45	1517	156	7	39.92
Mr J Darling	50	1672	134*	8	39.80
Mr V Trumper	43	1493	300*	3	37.32
Mr J Worrall	36	1155	128	5	37.25
Mr F A Iredale	32	963	115	2	32.10
Mr F Laver	33	739	143	9	30.79
Mr S E Gregory	47	1180	124	6	28.78
Mr H Trumble	45	1046	100	8	28.27
Mr J J Kelly	34	742	103	4	24.73
Mr E Jones	31	519	55	4	19.22
Mr C E McLeod	33	471	77	6	17.44
Mr W P Howell	36	292	49*	9	10.81
Mr A E Johns	8	50	27*	3	10.00

AUSTRALIAN BOWLING AVERAGES

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr H Trumble	1158	412	2408	132	18.24
Mr W P Howell	1041.3	392	2204	106	20.79
Mr C E McLeod	693.3	236	1703	76	22.40
Mr E Jones	1067.4	311	2646	118	22.42
Mr M A Noble	753.3	243	1837	80	22.91
Mr F Laver	230.2	75	588	22	26.72

28 August: HAMPSHIRE v SUSSEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5341.html)

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

Rain at Portsmouth yesterday morning prevented the match from being started until nearly 1 o'clock, but play went on without interruption afterwards. Hampshire were dismissed in three hours and a quarter for 197 - a larger total than would have been reached had not several blunders been made in the field. Webb, who made 78, had two escapes, but he played very well; he went in second wicket down at 28 and took out his bat. Sussex had three-quarters of an hour's cricket at the end of the day.

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

Mr C B Fry played a brilliant innings at Portsmouth yesterday, when he made 131 in two and a half hours and got his runs mostly by driving. The pitch was kept easy by sundry showers, which greatly aided him.

Mr Collins was joined by Mr Fry yesterday morning at the fall of the second wicket at 38, and the partnership has amid the various delays so far realized 168 runs. Mr Collins has already been in three hours and a half, and the batting of the two men was greatly marked in contrast.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 August, page 5)

Sussex won this match at Portsmouth yesterday by an innings and 16 runs. Mr C B Fry's great batting feat and K S Ranjitsinhji's increased aggregate beyond 3,000 runs were the features of the day.

Mr Fry and Mr Collins made 193 for the third Sussex wicket. Mr Fry played with splendid brilliancy and hit two fives and 13 fours. K S Ranjitsinhji scored his 72 in 90 minutes in his own inimitable style, but he should have been caught at point when only 21. Hampshire, after a good beginning, collapsed before the bowling of Tate and Bland.

28 August: KENT v SURREY

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5342.html)

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

Between the showers at Blackheath yesterday the players managed to get more than an hour's cricket, but little progress was made with the game on a pitch from which the ball bumped a good deal.

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

The Surrey eleven found the wicket very false yesterday morning at the Blackheath Rectory-field, and it "kicked," particularly from Mr Bradley's bowling. And so in the course of a couple of hours Surrey completed an innings, the chief feature of which was the courageous hitting of Mr Key and Lockwood. Both are strong forcing players on any pitch. Blythe, the new left-hand bowler discovered by Kent, made the most of his chances and got the last three Surrey wickets for five runs each.

The long spell of rain, which began as the adjournment was made for luncheon, not only prevented any cricket between 2 o'clock and 4.15, but made the turf easy for Kent. Mr Burnup quite appreciated the changed conditions, and his fine free hitting established for Kent a place almost secure from defeat, seeing that they are within five runs of Surrey's total and have seven men left.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 August, page 5)

The pitch at the Blackheath Rectory Field remained false to the end, and for a great while yesterday Surrey seemed in every danger of defeat; but eventually the match was drawn.

When, with half the side out in the second innings and with two hours to play, Surrey were only 17 runs on, they seemed in for a beating. But at this stage Mr Key and Lockwood stayed together an hour and a half. The stolid defence they observed and the indifference with which these usually vigorous bats treated the gibes of the rude section of the crowd were thoroughly appreciated by the better part of the company.

Mr Key and Lockwood rescued their side from defeat on a bad wicket against difficult and bumpy bowling. In the 90 minutes of their partnership they made 41 runs. In the last three-quarters of an hour, when the draw was inevitable, the cricket was not taken seriously. Blythe, the new Kent left-hand slow bowler, seems a very promising man.

28 August: LANCASHIRE v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5343.html)

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

At one time yesterday it seemed quite likely that cricket at Liverpool in the return match between Lancashire and the Australians would have to stand over until to-day. A heavy storm burst over the ground soon after 11 o'clock, and with more rain falling between 12 and 2 the outlook was very unpromising. However, the weather cleared up and the wicket recovered so rapidly that soon after half-past 3 play was quite practicable.

Lancashire won the toss - under the circumstances a decided advantage - and when stumps were drawn at 6 o'clock the score stood at 116 with three wickets down. At one point the position was very flattering, the hundred going up with only one man out. Mr Spooner and Albert Ward, who opened the innings, played admirably together, scoring 76 in an hour and three-quarters before the former was out to a catch at the wicket. The Marlborough captain's innings of 46 included one splendid drive which cleared the ring. When he had made 39 he gave a difficult left-handed chance to Laver in the slips, but there was very little fault to be found with his play.

With Tyldesley and Ward together, the hundred went up after the innings had been in progress two hours and five minutes. However, at 102, Ward was bowled, apparently off his body, and I'Anson, the next batsman, only made a cut for four before he also was bowled. Tyldesley and Mr Eccles then played out time. Ward's innings of 32 was marked from first to last by great skill and patience.

The Australians, in making up their eleven, had to leave out Gregory, as well as Hill, the former player's leg having given way. Lancashire, weakened by the absence of Mr MacLaren and Mold, found room for two cricketers who have been doing well lately in second eleven matches - Huddleston, a right-handed bowler from Manchester, and Mr H G Garnett, a local amateur.

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

Rain at Liverpool yesterday interfered seriously with the progress of the Australian match, preventing anything being done till after 3 o'clock, and later in the day causing further loss of time. Play was only in progress for an hour and a half.

Having on Monday scored 116 for the loss of three wickets, Lancashire went on batting from a very hopeful position, but the previous standard was not maintained, and as the result of 70 minutes' cricket the innings came to an end for 184. The wicket was far more difficult than on the previous afternoon, and only Cuttell and Mr Hartley met with any success in dealing with the excellent bowling.

With only five wickets down the total was up to 154, but after a stoppage for rain the remaining five wickets fell for 30 runs - all obtained by Hartley. That batsman played a fearless game and hit out in vigorous fashion, but though he of necessity ran many risks he gave no chance. Going in fifth wicket down at 132, he was the ninth man to leave. He hit six fours in his innings of 40, and at one time punished Trumble for 14 runs in an over. McLeod had the capital average of four wickets for 28 runs, but Trumble - partly through Hartley's rough treatment of him - was far more expensive than he ordinarily would be on a wicket affected by rain.

Lancashire were out by 20 minutes to 5, but more rain fell and an hour elapsed before the Australians could start their innings. In the 20 minutes that remained 17 runs were scored without loss.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 August, page 5)

With no chance of the match being finished few people appeared at Liverpool yesterday to see the game, which was eventually drawn. After the rain the wicket helped the bowlers and the ball required much watching. Darling, the Australian captain, played a dashing innings, making 58 in an hour and a half out of 90.

Although 90 went up with two wickets down, the side were out for 140. I'Anson, a fast bowler, performed a fine feat in taking seven wickets for 31 runs.

28 August: LEICESTERSHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5344.html)

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

Eighty minutes' cricket was all that the weather allowed yesterday at Leicester, and Middlesex in their first innings fared rather badly.

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

On the slow wicket at Leicester yesterday the cricket was even; runs were always difficult to make and the bowlers generally had the advantage. The day's play was of a very ordinary nature and the figures in the score convey everything.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 August, page 5)

Although Middlesex had all the better of yesterday's cricket at Leicester, time prevented them from winning. In the early part of the day there was some fine batting by Mr Warner and Mr Douglas.

Middlesex declared and put Leicestershire in for two hours and a half against a lead of 215. The home side did badly at first, but the fine steadiness of Pougher and Mr Wood saved them from defeat.

28 August: SOMERSET v GLOUCESTERSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5345.html)

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

Showery weather prevented at Taunton yesterday, but in spite of this the cricket match made good progress. After losing five men for 73 Gloucestershire did remarkably well. There were partnerships of 47 by Board and Mr Hemingway and 83 by Mr Brown and Mr Goodwin.

Somerset had a bad hour near the close, when Mr Jessop not only bowled effectively, but by his brilliant fielding ran out Mr Bernard.

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

After a bad beginning at Taunton yesterday - eight wickets fell for 84 runs - Somerset managed to make quite a respectable score, thanks to the batting of Captain Hedley and Gill.

On the soft ground the hitting of Mr Jessop and Wrathall was very profitable in the Gloucestershire second innings. In the end Gloucestershire finished with a lead of over 200 and a wicket to fall in the second innings.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 August, page 5)

The Somerset eleven have had a very disastrous season, but they finished it up in brilliant style at Taunton yesterday, beating Gloucestershire by five wickets.

Gloucestershire's second innings, in which nine wickets had fallen on Tuesday for 154, was quickly finished off for the addition of only three runs, and then Somerset went in with 217 required to win the game. At first their prospects seemed anything but hopeful, three good wickets falling to Paish's bowling for 37 runs. A great change was, however, brought about by Messrs Phillips and Woods, who played brilliant cricket together, and in a little over an hour and a quarter put on 120 runs, thus placing the side on the high road to victory. Mr Phillips, who was out first, made eight boundary hits in his capital innings of 69.

When he left Somerset had the match practically in their hands, wanting only 60 runs with six wickets to go down. Mr Woods stayed some little time longer, but with 34 still required he was run out, his wicket being brilliantly thrown down from the long field by Wrathall. His splendid 70 included a five and eight fours. After he was out Messrs V T Hill and Daniell finished off the game, Somerset winning at a quarter past 3 by five wickets. There was only a moderate attendance.

28 August: WARWICKSHIRE v DERBYSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5346.html)

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

Little progress was made with this match at Birmingham yesterday owing to heavy rain storms.

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

Yesterday's cricket at Birmingham was not uninteresting, but there was no uncommon feature in it. The score given below will show that the position of the game is fairly even . . .

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 August, page 5)

There was never any chance of finishing this match at Birmingham yesterday, and the game was finally drawn . . .

28 August: YORKSHIRE v M.C.C. AND GROUND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5347.html)

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

When play was started yesterday in the opening match of the Scarborough Festival there was every promise of a full day's cricket under most pleasant conditions. Nothing occurred to spoil the pleasure of the large number of spectators present up to luncheon, but during the interval the sky became overcast and half an hour after the resumption of the game rain came on and prevented any further cricket.

In the time during which play was practicable Yorkshire, who lost the toss and were put in to bat by their opponents, did extremely well, scoring 158 for the loss of only two wickets. The M.C.C. captain had plenty of reason for the course he took, for rain had fallen in Scarborough on Sunday and the pitch, soft and slow in the morning, was very likely to improve.

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

At Scarborough yesterday the weather proved more favourable than it had been on the previous afternoon, but still rain caused an interruption of rather more than an hour. Sent in to bat by their opponents, the Yorkshiremen had scored 158 for the loss of only two wickets, and thus, with the pitch drying under the influence of bright sunshine, they entered upon the second stage of the contest with every prospect of establishing a commanding advantage.

In an hour and a quarter Mead and Young finished off the Yorkshire innings for 237, the eight outstanding wickets going down for the addition of 79 runs. Tunnicliffe, who was third man out at 168, batted two hours and 20 minutes for his 74 and hit 11 fours. He gave one chance at five and another at 24. Mitchell played freely and well, but after he left at 195 there was little or nothing in the batting.

Marylebone had to start their innings under conditions all in favour of the bowlers, and although W L Foster and Fane put on 32 before the first wicket fell, half the side were out for 43. Then Taylor and Carlin added 38 before the rain set in. Afterwards batsmen found themselves much more happily situated, the ball coming along easily. Carlin, who helped to put on 62, was out at 105, and Taylor, after hitting finely, left at 112. Then Leveson-Gower and Attewell not only averted the follow-on, but at the call of time had raised the total to 155. In spite of the wet afternoon a fairly large company visited the ground.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 31 August, page 5)

Showery weather prevailed at Scarborough yesterday. There was no chance of finishing the match, and the public showed their discrimination by not putting in an appearance in any numbers. Some hard hitting by Young, for the M.C.C., was the best thing of the day, and the match was drawn . . .

Thursday 31 August, page 5: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Four more counties finished the season yesterday, but in no case did the records affect the present state of the championship. Leicestershire managed to win only two in 18 matches, and generally their cricket was far below the average excellence of the greater sides.

Somerset have had a very poor season, but they wound up cleverly with a five wickets win against Gloucestershire. In 18 matches Derbyshire won only twice and were beaten nine times, while seven games were drawn. Gloucestershire may be said to have done fairly well; but the fact that they won only five games in 20 is a sad falling off from the great days of the Graces. The averages of the counties are given below . . .

[Note: batting and bowling averages follow. These can be found from
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/ENG/1899_ENG_County_Championship_1899.html]

The table of results is as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Pts	Percentage
Surrey	24	9	2	13	7	63.63
Middlesex	17	11	3	3	8	57.14
Yorkshire	28	14	4	10	10	55.55
Lancashire	24	12	6	6	6	33.33
Sussex	21	7	4	10	3	27.27
Essex	19	6	6	7	0	0.00
Warwickshire	18	4	5	9	-1	-11.11
Kent	18	5	8	5	-3	-23.07
Gloucestershire	20	5	8	7	-3	-23.07
Hampshire	19	4	7	8	-3	-27.27
Notts	16	2	4	10	-2	-33.33
Worcestershire	12	2	5	5	-3	-42.85
Somerset	16	2	8	6	-7	-60.00
Leicestershire	18	2	8	8	-6	-60.00
Derbyshire	18	2	9	7	-7	-60.00

According to the rule laid down by the M.C.C., "one point shall be reckoned for each win; one deducted for each loss; unfinished games shall not be reckoned. The county which during the season shall have, in finished matches, obtained the greatest proportionate number of points shall be reckoned champion county."

31 August: C I THORNTON'S XI v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5348.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 September, page 5)

With the weather fine at Scarborough yesterday the second match of the festival secured a record attendance, the company numbering over 8,000. The Australians went in first and were not out until twenty minutes to five for a total of 233.

A good start was made by Trumble and McLeod, who put on 75 runs. Trumble, who was second out at 86, played faultlessly, and his 60 was the highest and best innings of the day. Two exhibitions of batting, in very different styles, were given by Noble and Iredale. Noble took nearly an hour and a half to make 23, while [Iredale] scored 49 in 70 minutes, his figures including 11 fours. Jones also hit hard towards the close of the innings, making in his 19 a big drive out of the ground for six. A curious thing about the bowling was the success of Captain Wynyard's lobs. None of the batsmen seemed to play him with any confidence, and he took four wickets for 30 runs.

When the English side went in, Messrs Jackson and A O Jones began well by scoring 33 together in half an hour for the first wicket, but three men were out for 54 when the day's play came to an end.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 September, page 7)

At Scarborough, yesterday, the day's cricket was made remarkable by two fine performances for the English team, one in batting and the other in bowling. In the morning Wainwright and Mr Leveson-Gower, by resolute hitting, put on 79 runs when the Australians were bowling their best and a follow-on seemed imminent, while later on, when the Australians went in with a lead of 48 on the first innings, Rhodes, the Yorkshire left-handed slow bowler, on a wicket that exactly suited him, dismissed nine batsmen and had only 24 runs hit from him. Thrice during the innings he took two wickets with successive balls, and on being put on to bowl for the second time his analysis read: - Four overs and four balls, two maidens, for five runs and seven wickets.

Through his wonderful success, the Australians were all out for a total of 83, leaving the English team with 132 to get to win. The Australian innings was finished off by five o'clock, but rain came on then and prevented any further cricket, stumps being pulled up at 20 minutes to 6.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 September, page 9)

A storm of rain prevented a definite issue to the match at Scarborough on Saturday. The English eleven were set 132 runs to win - a simple task in the ordinary way, but one that was very difficult in the prevailing conditions. The rain that caused an early abandonment of play on the Friday afternoon continued until late in the night, and on Saturday morning the sun shone. The pitch, of course, gave the bowlers considerable assistance.

For a long time matters went very badly indeed with the Englishmen. Captain Wynyard was dismissed with the score at five, Gunn left at 11 and Mr Jackson ran himself out at 19. Further disasters followed, and when the sixth wicket fell the score stood at only 37. Then Hirst and Wainwright offered a plucky resistance and carried the score to 60. Some good cricket was shown by Hirst and Mr Leveson-Gower, and they had advanced the total to 81 when the rain caused the game to be abandoned. The draw was against the Englishmen, who, with only three wickets left, required 51 runs to win; but Hirst and Mr Leveson-Gower were playing so well that the result was fairly open.

When the storm came on Mr Darling, the Australian captain, stayed to fill up the bowlers' footholes with sawdust, though Louis Hall, one of the umpires, protested, while Mr Jackson, the English captain, subsequently protested. Mr Darling asserted that a similar thing had

been done by a Surrey player in the first match against the Australians, and it is probable that the M.C.C. will be asked to give a decision upon the point for further guidance.

31 August: ESSEX v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5349.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 September, page 5)

The cricket at Leyton yesterday on the slow wicket produced no uncommon feature. The Warwickshire batsmen played very steadily and in making 215 for the loss of six of the side averaged about 50 runs an hour.

Lilley, William Quaife and Diver got their runs in the best style. With the ball coming straight along on the slow turf the bowlers were at a disadvantage; but Essex have certainly fielded better on some occasions than they did yesterday.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 September, page 7)

On a wicket made slow by the rain storm on Thursday night the Essex eleven achieved a fine batting feat at Leyton yesterday, and secured a position that promises them success. They are 112 runs ahead on the first innings with seven wickets left.

Their batting had the double merit of variety and excellence. Mr Fane, the old Oxford cricketer, though a little uncertain in his timing of the ball from Santall, usually played well and was very strong in the off-drive. He and Carpenter made 131 for the first wicket, but this stand was beaten by Mr Perrin and Mr McGahey, who for the third partnership added 136. Both men played beautiful cricket and nearly all the runs were got in front of the wicket.

Warwickshire fielded well, but the bowling seemed to possess little sting. Santall was rather unkindly treated by fortune, particularly in the first hour, when he constantly had the batsmen in difficulties without getting a wicket. Mr McGahey's century was quickly made. Indeed, the Essex side got their runs at the rate of about 80 an hour.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 September, page 9)

On Saturday at Leyton the rain storm almost flooded the ground and necessitated the abandonment of the match between Essex and Warwickshire. There were then two hours left for play and Warwickshire were still 107 behind, with three men out.

Mr Lucas had closed the Essex batting and left his opponents to make 177 to avoid defeat by an innings. Warwickshire strove well to save the game before they were befriended by the weather and in two hours made 70 for three wickets. William Quaife was in an hour for five runs.

31 August: LANCASHIRE v MIDDLESEX

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5350.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 September, page 5)

Middlesex were batting during the hours available for cricket at Manchester yesterday, and when their innings closed just after 5 o'clock rain set in and the game was adjourned until this morning. Mr Wells and Rawlin put on 86 in 70 minutes. I'Anson again bowled well and his four for 68 was a good performance.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 September, page 7)

Rain during the night and yesterday morning at Manchester quite ruined the wicket at Old Trafford, and the Lancashire men found the Middlesex total of 246 quite beyond their powers. So hard were Trott and Hearne to play on the slow pitch that Lancashire at their first attempt could only make 97; but two wickets were lost through ill-judgment in running. Cuttell hit out pluckily, obtaining five fours in his 23, and Tyldesley did tolerably well, but it was a hard matter making runs.

Following on in a minority of 149, Lancashire lost Paul and Tyldesley for 29 runs, but afterwards, with the wicket improving, matters went very much better with them. Mr Spooner, who was run out earlier in the day, gave a brilliant display at his second attempt. In an hour and a half he scored 47 out of 89, and hit eight fours and three twos. Ward, who exhibited exemplary care, assisted him to put on 60 runs for the third partnership in an hour, and he and Cuttell were together at the close. Lancashire left off in a very unfavourable position, having three men out and requiring 40 runs to avoid being beaten in a single innings.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 September, page 9)

In consequence of heavy rain in Manchester on Saturday, further cricket in this match was impossible, and at 2 o'clock it was decided to abandon the game. The position was that Lancashire, after following on against a balance of 149 runs, had scored 109 for three wickets.

31 August: SURREY v HAMPSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5351.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 September, page 5)

Yesterday's match at the Oval, unfortunately, lost much of the interest that might have been attached to it, Hampshire's batting being reduced to utter weakness by the absence of Captain Wynyard, Major Poore and Mr A J L Hill. With these great run-getters away there was not much chance of a close fight.

When the two counties met at Portsmouth at the end of June Hampshire gained a hard-earned victory. It was then Surrey's misfortune to have a bad side, Hayward, Brockwell and Richardson being all up at Leeds for the third test match. Yesterday, with one notable exception, Surrey put their fell strength into the field, Lockwood - suffering from a sore throat - being the only absentee.

Surrey stayed in all the afternoon, scoring 341 for eight wickets. Abel and Hayward took all the honours, carrying the score in about two hours and a half from five to 206. After luncheon they put on 93 runs in less than an hour, their hitting being brilliant. In first at noon, Abel was not out till 5 o'clock, his being the fourth wicket to fall. Out of the 273 runs obtained while he was in he made 167. He hit three fives, 24 fours, seven threes and three twos, his driving being quite exceptional in its vigour. He ought to have been caught at point when he had made 146, but for the most part his play was irreproachable.

Hayward was for once a little overshadowed. He was bowled at 206 when apparently certain to get his 100. His fine innings of 87 included a dozen fours, two threes and seven twos. Apart from Abel and Hayward there were two or three failures among the Surrey batsmen; but Mr Key, towards the end of the afternoon, hit with refreshing freedom and received useful help from Lees and Richardson. The weather was cool and cloudy, and at one time threatening. A light shower stopped the game for a quarter of an hour before lunch, but there was no other interruption.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 September, page 7)

By scoring at the Oval on Thursday 341 for the loss of eight wickets the Surrey eleven placed themselves in a perfectly safe and comfortable position, and yesterday they finished off the match in brilliant style, beating Hampshire soon after half-past 5 by an innings and 230 runs.

Though Hampshire was weak in batting, it is hardly likely that the game would have ended yesterday if the wicket had not been affected by the brief but very heavy fall of rain on Thursday evening. Perhaps a strong side would have triumphed over the difficulties of the pitch, but the Hampshire batsmen, with a few exceptions, could do very little.

The day's cricket was far too one-sided to be exciting, but the good bowling made the game interesting to watch. The 20 Hampshire wickets were very evenly distributed, Richardson and Jephson taking five each, Hayward four, and Nice and Brockwell three each. The five men all did well, Jephson in particular bowling his lobs with excellent judgment.

The completion of Surrey's innings took an hour and a half in the morning, the overnight score being carried to 459. Mr Key and Nice hit with great vigour, and in a little more than an hour put on 86 runs for the ninth wicket. Mr Key's brilliant 86 included ten fours, four threes and five twos.

Hampshire's first innings opened in a rather sensational way, Barton and Robson being out before a run had been scored. At lunch time four wickets were down for 45, and on the game being resumed the innings was finished off in about three-quarters of an hour for 74. Nice took three wickets in quick succession, and Richardson secured the last three at a cost of two runs.

A follow-on against a balance of 385 was the result, and an overwhelming defeat for Hampshire became merely a question of time. Barton and Robson started the second innings capitally, scoring 48 together in less than 40 minutes; and Webb and Mr English afterwards carried the score from 48 to 83. Afterwards, however, there was a regular collapse, seven wickets being down for 106. Tate and Mr Lee delayed the end for some little time, but though they added 30 runs the innings was all over for 155. Of the Hampshire batsmen yesterday Webb was decidedly the best, his defence being very strong.

31 August: SUSSEX v KENT

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5352.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 1 September, page 5)

Mr S H Day carried off the batting honours at the Hove ground yesterday with his brilliant innings of 81. He was fourth out at 186, and his game in front of the wicket was very good; 40 of his runs came by fours. For the third partnership Mr Day and Mr Perkins added 99 runs. The weather was unsettled and there was no cricket from 1 o'clock until after the luncheon interval.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 2 September, page 7)

On a wicket made difficult by sunshine coming after heavy rain, the Sussex players fared very badly at Brighton yesterday, and when the day's play came to an end they were in an almost hopeless position, Kent, with an innings to play, being only set 48 runs to win. Overnight Sussex had, in the face of a total of 230, lost one wicket for six runs, and yesterday they were all out for 110, the last two wickets being thrown away in desperate attempts to get the one run that was required to save the follow-on.

When Sussex went in a second time against a balance of 120 the side for a time did very well, Mr Collins helping Mr Fry to score 50 for the first wicket, and Ranjitsinhji later staying with Mr Fry while 61 runs were put on. The latter, who was third out at 111, batted in fine style for his 82, in which were 12 fours. After his dismissal, however, the batting completely broke down. Mr Mason, who had bowled with great success in the first innings, went on at 111, and with his first ball got Ranjitsinhji caught, and in five maiden overs he took four wickets. The innings closed at five minutes to 6 for 167, and stumps were then pulled up.

Day 3 (report from Monday 4 September, page 9)

Kent beat Sussex at Brighton on Saturday by nine wickets, the 48 runs necessary for them to win being hit off in 25 minutes. Mr S H Day, who went in first for the express purpose of completing his 1,000 aggregate, had the satisfaction of succeeding in his effort.

Saturday 2 September, page 7: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Another county has finished its matches for the season. This was Hampshire on the Oval yesterday, when Surrey completely avenged defeat early in July and won with every ease.

In batting Hampshire has done particularly well, but the county possesses no bowlers of the first class, as a glance at the figures for the season will show. Of the 20 matches played only four were won, while eight were lost and eight were drawn.

Monday 4 September, page 9: THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The competition for the championship for this season among the counties is almost at an end. Five sides finished on Saturday, and Surrey and Warwickshire, who meet to-day on the Oval, alone have yet to complete their programmes. Prophecy in cricket is more dangerous than in most games; but there seems to reason to expect that Surrey will do anything less than win or draw. A drawn game makes the championship theirs; a loss would place them below Yorkshire. That is according to the complicated method of deciding the championship laid down by the Marylebone Club Committee and which the counties adopted.

But, were the competition decided on the intrinsic merits of a side, it is certain that many cricketers who have seen the teams regularly would say that Yorkshire were the finest team of the season. However, the county championship is governed in a certain way by figures, and under these conditions a side who won a single match and drew every other would come out first. Thus there is every reason for the adoption of a simpler method of settling the championship.

Of the five counties who finished on Saturday the most prominent was Middlesex. The Middlesex eleven owe their position very largely to the work of Albert Trott, who, with his unique method of wickets and runs in the general return of the season, has secured a very high position in the world of cricket. His varying place, his length and spin, and his lack of fear in sending down an easy ball to be hit, are to be found among the causes of his wonderful success. He is undoubtedly an improved cricketer since he came to this country more than three years ago, the ignored of the then Australian side, and he is now one of the finest all-round players of the day, for besides his merits as a bat and a bowler he is a superb field.

Had Middlesex possessed batting of the class of Mr A E Stoddart and Sir Timothy O'Brien, the championship might have been easily theirs, but as it was the run-making powers of the team declined, and J T Hearne in bowling was much less effective than he used to be, for at one time he was the best hard-wicket bowler we had. This season, however, has been enough to deaden the sting of any bowler, and no doubt Hearne with his fine natural action and superb length will come again.

Middlesex are fortunate in getting the high position they hold, and Mr Gregor MacGregor, who usually captained the side, is to be congratulated on the success of his men. In the captaincy he has worthily followed Mr A J Webbe and Mr A E Stoddart.

Lancashire did well up to a certain point, but a disastrous southern tour quite ruined their championship chances. Mr MacLaren was not able to play regularly for them, and then in mid-season the illness of Briggs robbed them of one of the chief sources of their success. They were left with only one good bowler in Mold, in a summer in which bowlers never had a worse time. Mr A N Hornby's son promises well, but Mr Eccles, the old Oxford player, takes rank next to Mr MacLaren as the best amateur bat in the side.

Tyldesley lost his game towards the end of the season, but Albert Ward with his splendid steadiness again proved himself one of the bulwarks of the side. Mr R H Spooner, the Marlborough captain, made a successful first appearance for the county, and all good judges vote him a brilliant future; he is a good bat on a hard wicket and his success increased the cricket debt which Lancashire owe to a school that gave them Mr A G Steel.

K S Ranjitsinhji and Mr Charles Fry, with Tate in bowling, were the cricketers to whom Surrey owe their fine cricket year. Ranjitsinhji made seven three-figure scores for the county, while his general record, as already set forth in The Times, eclipses his previous best and leaves a standard which may remain unbeaten for many years unless another prodigy in batting is let loose on the bowlers in another dry summer. Mr C B Fry is a much greater batsman than he was in his Oxford days, but he has been constantly unfortunate in missing centuries after reaching the nineties. But there is no more attractive bat playing than he. Sussex, of course, want more bowling.

The Essex eleven were not wholly a consistent side; but had they fielded with as much distinction as they usually batted and bowled their record would have been better. Mr Kortright's fast bowling was much missed, and Mr Bull is not the bowler he was. But a lot of splendid work was done by the left-hander Young and Walter Mead, both of whom, however, felt the severe work on the hard wickets.

Mr Percy Perrin is the great bat on the side, and when he once ran into form his career produced a whole series of triumphs. He made three figures six times for the county. Mr

Turner was their finest player on all wickets, but his duties with the Royal Artillery at Woolwich kept him away from cricket for the second half of the season.

The Kent club generally had a most brilliant side; but, relying mostly on amateurs, they were not able to command the team with regularity, for gentlemen who play the game have other walks in life to pursue besides cricket. Mr J R Mason, after a long spell of bad luck at the beginning of the season, ran into form and played in a manner worthy of his great Winchester reputation. Mr W M Bradley bowled extremely well in a trying season, and in Huish the county have one of the foremost wicket-keepers of the day. The Tonbridge nursery, too, has just now given Kent a bowler of great promise in Blyth, a left-hand man of about the pace of Rhodes, of Yorkshire, with a fine easy action.

The counties, whose chief figures we print below, have little cause to complain of their work in the season now closing.

[Note: batting and bowling averages follow. These can be found from http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/ENG/1899_ENG_County_Championship_1899.html]

The positions in the championship are at present as follows: -

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Surrey	25	10	2	13	8	66.66
Middlesex	18	11	3	4	8	57.14
Yorkshire	28	14	4	10	10	55.55
Lancashire	25	12	6	7	6	33.33
Sussex	22	7	5	10	2	16.66
Essex	20	6	6	8	0	0.00
Warwickshire	19	4	5	10	-1	-11.11
Kent	19	6	8	5	-2	-14.28
Gloucestershire	20	5	8	7	-3	-23.07
Notts	16	2	4	10	-2	-33.33
Hampshire	20	4	8	8	-4	-33.33
Worcestershire	12	2	5	5	-3	-42.85
Somerset	16	2	8	6	-6	-60.00
Leicestershire	18	2	8	8	-6	-60.00
Derbyshire	18	2	9	7	-7	-63.63

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 are given below: -

BATTING

	Inns	Runs	Most in innings	Not out	Average
Major Poore	21	1551	304	4	91.23
K S Ranjitsinhji	55	3054	197	8	64.97
Hayward	46	2477	273	4	53.97
Abel	50	2529	357*	3	53.80
Mr C L Townsend	50	2361	224*	6	53.65
Shrewsbury	26	1257	175	2	52.37
Mr P Perrin	36	1491	196	4	46.59
Mr F S Jackson	42	1742	155	3	44.84
W G Quaife	44	1593	207*	8	44.25

Mr C B Fry	55	2366	181	1	43.81
Mr A O Jones	36	1483	250	2	43.61
Captain Wynyard	30	1264	225	1	43.58
J T Brown	35	1443	192	1	42.44
Mr S M J Woods	33	1291	146	1	40.34
Mr C J Burnup	42	1565	171	3	40.13
Mr A C MacLaren	24	819	126	1	39.95
Tyldesley	45	1812	249	2	39.39
W Gunn	37	1374	150	2	39.25
G H Hirst	50	1601	186	6	36.38
A Ward	48	1452	118	8	36.30
Mr W L Foster	29	1012	172*	1	36.14
Storer	48	1477	216*	7	36.02
Lockwood	37	1196	131	3	35.17
Mr C McGahey	33	983	130	4	33.89
Mr R E Foster	37	1131	134	3	33.26
Brockwell	47	1468	167	2	32.62
Mr F Mitchell	52	1649	194	1	32.33
Mr G L Jessop	42	1284	171*	1	31.31
Mr H K Foster	28	849	162	1	31.44
Wainwright	49	1489	228	1	31.02
Mr S H Day	36	1011	138	3	30.63
A Hearne	47	1312	168	4	30.51
Diver	37	1086	184	1	30.16
Mr P F Warner	40	1108	150	3	29.94
Mr G Brann	47	1341	136	2	29.60
Mr F G J Ford	40	1117	160	2	29.39
Tunnickliffe	51	1373	85	4	29.21
Lilley	42	1051	73	4	27.65
Hayes	40	1028	131	1	26.35
Mr D L A Jephson	39	945	100	3	26.25
Mr K J Key	38	808	88	5	24.48
A E Trott	51	1165	164	2	23.54
Dr W G Grace	19	443	78	0	23.31
Mr J R Mason	39	1220	181*	1	22.97?
Lord Hawke	39	875	127	5	22.79?

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Rhodes	1440.3	523	2849	168	16.95
A E Trott	1702	569	3903	226	17.26
Mead	1340.3	640	2568	142	18.08
Paish	1095.4	304	2540	137	18.54
Mold	963.4	299	2139	115	18.60
Mr W M Bradley	1165	384	2698	142	19.00
Mr J R Mason	795.3	319	1615	83	19.45
Lockwood	823.2	218	2225	111	20.04
Haigh	791	261	1670	79	21.13
Cuttell	1067.3	463	1841	87	21.16
Young	1172.1	350	2823	132	21.38
J T Hearne	1374.4	538	2635	123	21.42
Tate	1164.1	403	2598	121	21.47
Bland	950	258	2615	108	24.21
Richardson	993.4	275	2447	96	24.44
Brockwell	1035.2	321	2631	106	24.62
Mr C L Townsend	964.3	173	2616	90	29.06
Mr F S Jackson	630.4	216	1351	46	29.36

AUSTRALIAN BATTING AVERAGES

	Inns	Runs	Most in innings	Not out	Average
Mr C Hill	23	879	160	1	39.95
Mr J Darling	54	1750	134*	9	39.11
Mr M A Noble	48	1552	156	7	37.85
Mr J Worrall	37	1155	128	5	36.09
Mr V Trumper	46	1529	300*	3	35.55
Mr F A Iredale	36	1016	115	2	30.73
Mr F Laver	37	798	143	10	29.55
Mr H Trumble	29	1174	100	8	28.63
Mr S E Gregory	29	1181	124	6	27.46
Mr J J Kelly	37	752	103	4	22.78
Mr E Jones	34	548	55	4	16.93
Mr C E McLeod	36	504	77	6	16.80
Mr W P Howell	39	288	49*	11	10.64
Mr A E Johns	8	50	27*	3	10.00

BOWLING

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Average
Mr H Trumble	1221	427	2577	141	18.27
Mr W P Howell	1072.3	410	2270	108	21.01
Mr E Jones	1095.4	327	2716	125	21.72
Mr C E McLeod	759.3	266	1820	81	22.46
Mr M A Noble	775.3	234	1878	82	22.90
Mr F Laver	243.2	79	619	23	26.91

4 September: SOUTH v AUSTRALIANS

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5353.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 September, page 9)

As might have been expected, the Australians proved a great attraction at Hastings yesterday, the attendance, it was stated, being the largest ever known on the opening day of the annual cricket week. With this match the Australians will bring their long and highly scorer tour to a close. To oppose them the Hastings authorities, though prevented by the Surrey and Warwickshire match at the Oval from securing Abel, Lockwood and Hayward, got together a fine South of England eleven, seven of the 11 players having appeared in one or more of the test matches.

The day's cricket went much in favour of the Englishmen, who dismissed the Australians in less than three hours for 148, and then in an hour and a quarter scored 127 for the loss of only four wickets. Good generalship, as well as first-rate all-round cricket, did much to bring about this result.

The central part of the ground had, of course, last week been well watered and, as rain fell heavily on Saturday, Dr Grace, who won the toss, judged that during the early part of the day at least the wicket would give the bowlers a good deal of assistance. He, therefore, put the Australians in first and, though at one time his policy seemed likely to be defeated by blunders in the field, it turned out uncommonly well at the finish.

The Australians began batting with Trumble and Worrall, but only six runs had been scored when the former batsman was out to a capital one-handed catch by Ranjitsinhji at mid-off. Noble at 33 was caught by the wicket-keeper standing back, and then on Trumper going in two mistakes were made which involved considerable trouble and might have turned the whole fortunes of the game. Trumper, before he had scored, was missed by Board, and Worrall, at 14, was let off by Hearne at mid-on. Profiting by their good fortune, the two batsmen steadily increased the score, and when 70 was reached with only two wickets down things looked rather serious for the English team. However, at 79 Worrall was bowled, and as Trumper and Iredale - both out to Mr Jessop's bowling - left soon afterwards the total at lunch time was only 99 for five wickets.

After the interval rather less than an hour's cricket proved sufficient to finish off the innings. Laver played a ball from Mr Bradley on to his wicket at 104 and, on Mr Jessop bowling again in place of Mr Townsend, Darling, who had been batting an hour for 14, was sent back at 118. From this point very little was done, the two fast bowlers proving very effective on the somewhat difficult wicket. Both came out with an excellent average.

Mr Jessop, indeed, bore off the chief honours of the day, for on starting the South's innings with Mr Townsend he hit in such splendid form that the score was up to 64 in 25 minutes. While the total was being carried from 19 to 64 the pace was tremendous, 45 runs being obtained from four overs. Then Mr Jessop's remarkable innings, which comprised ten fours, a two and five singles, was closed by a catch in the slips.

With Messrs Townsend and A J Turner together the 100 went up before the innings had lasted 50 minutes, and it looked as if the South would leave off with an enormous advantage. However, on Howell going on for the second time a great change came over the game, Messrs Townsend, Turner and Ford being out in quick succession to the New South Wales bowler. Then Ranjitsinhji and Mr Stoddart played out time, the South at the close being only 21 runs behind with six wickets to fall. Except for one match at Lord's this is the only time Mr Stoddart has been seen in first-class cricket this season.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 September, page 6)

Yesterday brought with it a complete change in the match at Hastings, the Australians playing in their finest form and more than making up for the ground they had lost on Monday. They started in the morning from an unfavourable position, but left off at the drawing of

stumps with a big advantage, being 219 runs ahead with five wickets still to go down in their second innings. They owed much to the fine bowling of Howell and the splendid batting of Darling, and were indebted in a smaller degree to Noble and Laver, both of whom played admirable cricket when runs were badly wanted.

The South's innings, in which only four wickets had fallen on Monday for 127, was finished off for 183, the six outstanding wickets going down in an hour. Considering that the hundred went up on Monday with only one man out, a total of 183 was extremely disappointing, but one must not do less than justice to the admirable bowling that so turned the fortunes of the game. From the moment he went on for the second time at 101 Howell was irresistible, sending down 19 overs for 38 runs and seven wickets.

Starting their second innings the Australians, up to a certain point, did badly, three wickets - those of Trumper, Worrall and Trumper - being lost in hitting off the arrears. After that, however, Darling joined Noble, and in 50 minutes these two players put on 72 runs. Iredale left at 137, but thenceforward the English bowlers met with no success, Darling and Laver staying together for the rest of the afternoon and in something over an hour and a half putting on 117 runs. Laver, who in the course of his innings received a severe blow in the face - the accident delaying the game for ten minutes - was missed low down at slip by Bradley when he had made 13, this blunder involving for the South of England serious consequences. Darling was at the wickets altogether two hours and 50 minutes for his 113 not out, without making a mistake of any kind.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 September, page 5)

At Hastings, yesterday, the Australians won the last match of their tour in brilliant style, beating the South of England by 110 runs. They had practically made themselves safe against defeat at the drawing of stumps on Tuesday, holding, as they did, a lead of 219 runs with five wickets still to go down.

Yesterday they soon put themselves in a perfectly secure position, adding for the loss of two more wickets 98 runs in 65 minutes. Darling and Laver, whose partnership was the turning point of the game, were separated when the overnight score of 254 had been increased to 285. Altogether the two batsmen put on 148 runs. Laver's share of this number was 60, his capital innings being only marred by a chance at slip when he had made 13.

Darling went on hitting for some time longer, but was out at last with the score at 326. His great innings of 167 lasted three hours and a half, and included 28 fours, four threes and seven twos. He did not make a mistake of any kind until he had scored 150, but after that he was twice missed by the wicket-keeper standing back to Mr Bradley's bowling. With the total at 352 for seven wickets, Darling declared the innings closed, the South being left with 318 to get to win.

Three hours and 40 minutes remained for cricket, but, though there was a possibility of winning the game, the chances were all against the runs being obtained against the Australian bowlers. The South never seriously set themselves to try and save the game, Ranjitsinhji for one forcing the pace to such an extent that he scored 30 runs in 17 minutes. Naturally that sort of cricket did not last very long. Mr Jessop hit out fiercely, while Mr Townsend, taking a wiser course, kept to a steady defensive game.

Three wickets had fallen by lunch time for 80 and, as Messrs Townsend and Stoddart were out shortly after the interval, the Australians soon had victory in sight. Mr Ford and Dr Grace, staying together for three-quarters of an hour, made a commendable effort to avoid defeat, but after they had been separated Jones bowled with such effect that the innings was all over for 207, the Australians winning the match at half-past 4 by 110 runs. Ford made some fine hits in his 52, but was fortunate in being twice missed.

4 September: SURREY v WARWICKSHIRE

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5354.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 September, page 9)

With the pitch on the Oval yesterday slightly helping the bowlers the batting proved unattractive. Warwickshire's innings extended from midday until nearly 4 o'clock, and the Midlanders were mostly dependent for their fairly respectable score of 155 to Santall and Hargreave, who made 77 in an hour for the last wicket; but Hargreave, although he did so well, was repeatedly beaten by Lockwood, who, though he has not had very good health in the last week, bowled well; he hit the wicket five times and in spite of ill-luck his figures were five for 45. Warwickshire did so badly at one time that, while 70 went up with only three men out, nine had gone by the time the score reached 78.

In the last hour and a half Brockwell and Abel played with great care and made 73. Their batting was dull to follow, but the fielding of the visitors was particularly good, and Santall bowled well. There were between 6,000 and 7,000 spectators.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 September, page 6)

The best feature of yesterday's cricket on Kennington Oval was the great innings played by Hayward, whose exquisite style both in forward and in back play, and also in wrist power, was never better demonstrated than in this score of his of 137. He went in first wicket down at 154 and was fifth out at 389; he got his runs in rather more than three hours and hit a five and 18 fours, while he had a three increased to seven by an overthrow.

Abel and Brockwell, by their stubborn cricket, placed Surrey beyond the possibility of defeat, and thereby assured to their county the championship, for it was only a loss that could have deprived Surrey of the title. The Warwickshire fielding was very good, but the bowling of William Quaife was often ludicrous. As a rule he had eight of the field on the leg side and then pitched the ball so wide that the batsmen refrained from attempting to hit it. Near the end of the day Mr K J Key had one over of this kind of stuff, and he simply stood still and looked at each ball as it went almost out of reach on the leg side. This farcical bowling naturally aroused the ironical notice of the company, and it was a poor method of keeping down the runs. The fact that there were in all 12 wides among the extras is worthy of note.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 September, page 5)

When the storm had subsided yesterday the umpires at the Oval reported the condition of the turf to be so bad that the captains at once decided to abandon the match. There was only an hour's play in the morning before the rain set in.

4 September: YORKSHIRE v MR C I THORNTON'S XI

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5355.html)

Day 1 (report from Tuesday 5 September, page 9)

The cricket at Scarborough yesterday, when the closing match of the festival began, was marked by some successful bowling by Trott from Mr Thornton's team and by Rhodes for Yorkshire. The ground was wet, as the result of last week's heavy rain and, with the sun shining on it, Lord Hawke hesitated some time on winning the toss before he decided to let his own side bat first. It looked at one point as though he might have occasion to regret not taking the risk of putting Mr Thornton's team in, but when the day's play came to an end he was in the happy position of having good reason to be satisfied with the course he had taken.

Thanks to Tunnicliffe's hard hitting, Yorkshire did well for a while, the total being up to 73 when the second wicket fell, but after Tunnicliffe had been dismissed - third man out at 84 - the batting broke down badly and the innings closed for 156, Trott taking eight of the ten wickets for 64 runs.

It was quite expected that Rhodes would be difficult to play, and he bowled with such effect that Mr Thornton's team were dismissed for 115, giving Yorkshire a lead of 41 runs on the first innings. At one time Rhodes took three wickets in four overs for one run, and in all obtained seven for 56.

Day 2 (report from Wednesday 6 September, page 6)

The conditions at Scarborough yesterday were much more favourable to batsmen than was the case on Monday, and the Yorkshire team increased their overnight score of 13 for no wicket to 302. For this fine innings the side were mainly indebted to Mr Jackson, who made 101. Much assistance was given to Mr Jackson by Wainwright and Lord Hawke, the former staying while 76 runs were scored for the fifth wicket and Lord Hawke helping to add 70 for the eighth wicket.

Day 3 (report from Thursday 7 September, page 5)

Two heavy showers at Scarborough yesterday morning kept the wicket very easy and, with the bowlers further handicapped by having to use a wet ball, the batsmen indulged in hard hitting. Yorkshire won by 51 runs.

Wednesday 6 September, page 6: K S RANJITSINHJI'S TEAM FOR AMERICA

K S Ranjitsinhji has completed many of the arrangements for the trip to America. The team will sail on the 13th inst., and after playing four or five matches will be back in England towards the end of October. The side will include, besides K S Ranjitsinhji himself, Mr A C MacLaren, Mr C L Townsend, Mr C B Fry, Mr A O Jones, Mr G Brann, and Mr A Priestley, Mr A E Stoddart, Mr J R Mason and Mr C J Burnup have been asked to go, but have not yet definitely decided.

There is some difficulty over the question of a wicket-keeper, neither Mr H Martyn, of Oxford, nor Mr T L Taylor, of Cambridge, having as yet been able to see his way to undertake the tour.

The Australian cricketers who completed their programme yesterday with a fine victory at Hastings are to be congratulated upon their season in one of England's abnormal summers. Tropical weather with fast and true turf must have made the colonists think that they were at home instead of in England, where in an average season there is no lack of false wickets to convince the batsman of the capability of the bowler.

But no side from the Australian colonies ever did so well as the team which Mr Darling has had the distinction of captaining. In 1882 the one England v Australia match was won by Australia on the Oval in a way that is best described in some of the pages of the Badminton library. But to-day we are face to face with five test matches - there was no test boards committee in 1882 - and it is doubtful whether after a lapse of 17 years the English side is of the same brilliant class that then entered the field and were then just beaten.

Cricket in those days was a much brighter and more stimulating game. Sides were yet unlearned in playing for a draw; their whole hope was for a win. It is easy to recall the picture of Mr W L Murdoch dashing away with the ball in his hand and his cricket cap given to the winds, when Australia beat England in 1882. There was only one match then. Now we have five "test" matches and only one of these decided. The Australians won this match, at Lord's, and so repeated their success in these series of games which they began against Mr A E Stoddart's last eleven in the colonies. Mr Stoddart's side did badly then, but our teams under fresh conditions have fared ill in their own places.

The steadiness of Australian cricket, with its unlimited time, is a different game from the ordinary English style. Mr Darling's team are to be congratulated for their splendid all-round capacity. They have not the wonderful individual skill in their team which was an advantage when Spofforth, Murdoch, Giffen, Palmer, Blackham and Turner were at hand. But to redeem the lack of this brilliant individuality they have a great evenness in batting and bowling. This side who have now completed their tour were splendidly balanced; fine fields, steady bats, and true and varied bowlers. With the advantages of an abnormal summer they were able as a rule to play the Australian game with great success.

In an analysis of form it can be readily understood that the great English sides are in front of the Australians. For instance there is probably no bat in the present Australian eleven quite on a level with such players as Mr Charles Fry, K S Ranjitsinhji, Mr A C MacLaren, Mr F S Jackson, William Gunn, Hayward and Shrewsbury. But the Australians were fortunate in catching England at a period when there was a wave of mediocrity passing over English bowling. With Lockwood comparatively out of the fight and Richardson off his game there was no fast bowler of much consequence in a season when a fast bowler was of the utmost importance.

Perhaps the Australian bowling was as much as anything the chief source of their success. But their stubbornness in batting can not be overlooked. To get a side out twice in the given time on a hard wicket seemed to be an impossibility; and they always made the most of the advantage bestowed on them by the inequitable follow-on rule. They have a lot of fine bowlers in Trumble, Noble, Jones, Howell and McLeod, who possessed pace, length and variety to the highest extent. There may not have been a Spofforth of a Turner in this lot, but they were yet extremely good. Some doubts were expressed about the fairness of the action of certain bowlers; but with some English bowlers constantly in the same street it is a difficult matter to discriminate on the delicate question of fair and unfair bowling.

The side who have now finished cannot be rated with those of 1882 and 1884; but it was still a splendid team, and cricketers will ever remember Mr Darling's men, who in a severe dry wicket season lost only three matches - Essex, Surrey and Kent - and secured the rubber in the test games by winning the solitary match of the five brought to a definite issue.

[Note: final Australian first-class averages follow. These can be found via:
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Events/ENG/Australia_in_England_1899/Team_Averages.html]

THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The Surrey eleven are again the champion side of the year; and their position among the counties is completely justified. It has been a trying season for great bowlers; but Surrey, after an indifferent beginning, ran into form. With Richardson out of form and Lockwood affected by a strained thigh they had no bowling of first class, although Brockwell worked admirably as a change bowler. But when once Lockwood was able to bowl the Surrey eleven made a big effort to get the championship. Richardson was quite off his game, and his lack of form affected the competition to a great extent.

But, while Surrey's bowlers failed, they were a tremendous batting side. Abel, as usual, did great things; but the choice bat in the Surrey side is Hayward, who has a wonderful record. He and Abel by their batting have had a great deal to do with Surrey's splendid record. The fielding of the team has been very good, and they are to be congratulated upon their championship honours.

[Note: batting and bowling averages follow. These can be found from http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/ENG/1899_ENG_County_Championship_1899.html]

FINAL POSITION OF THE COUNTIES

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Points	Percentage
Surrey	26	10	2	14	8	66.66
Middlesex	18	11	3	4	8	57.14
Yorkshire	28	14	4	10	10	55.55
Lancashire	25	12	6	7	6	33.33
Sussex	22	7	5	10	2	16.66
Essex	20	6	6	8	0	0.00
Warwickshire	20	4	5	11	-1	-11.11
Kent	19	6	8	5	-2	-14.28
Gloucestershire	20	5	8	7	-3	-23.07
Notts	16	2	4	10	-2	-33.33
Hampshire	20	4	8	8	-4	-33.33
Worcestershire	12	2	5	5	-3	-42.85
Somerset	16	2	8	6	-6	-60.00
Leicestershire	18	2	8	8	-6	-60.00
Derbyshire	18	2	9	7	-7	-63.63

The match between Lancashire and Kent fixed to be played at Manchester on May 22, 23, 24 was abandoned without a ball having being 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."

7 September: HOME COUNTIES v THE REST OF ENGLAND

(See scorecard at Cricket Archive, www.cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Scorecards/5/5356.html)

Day 1 (report from Friday 8 September, page 5)

The concluding match of the Hastings Festival, which was entered upon yesterday, did not prove much of an attraction with the public, although two very strong teams had been got together to represent the Home Counties and the Rest of England. However, a fairly interesting day's cricket was witnessed, the Home Counties, who won the toss, staying in until the drawing of stumps at half-past 5 and scoring 298 for eight wickets.

The chief feature of the play was the excellent batting of Mr Jephson and Ranjitsinhji, who came together when five wickets had fallen for 142, and put on 117 runs. Mr Jephson played free, attractive cricket for his 77, among his hits being ten fours; but Ranjitsinhji, though he showed all his usual grace of style, did not make any attempt at rapid scoring, taking an hour and 40 minutes to make his 60. Mr Townsend obtained three wickets yesterday and now only wants one more to reach 100.

Day 2 (report from Saturday 9 September, page 12)

The chief event arising from yesterday's cricket at Hastings was the completion by Mr Charles Townsend of his 100 wicket aggregate for the season, for this secured to him a record - namely, the scoring of over 2,000 runs and the taking of 100 wickets, which Dr W G Grace has alone ever equalled.

William Quaife played steadily and well; but he is never an attractive bat to watch. The Home Counties team established an advantage before the close of the day, for with nine wickets left they are already 129 runs on. The weather was dull and oppressive and the cricket was never very exhilarating.

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

With the close of the Hastings Festival on Saturday first-class cricket ended for the season. The match between the Home Counties and the Rest of England had to be left drawn; but the day's cricket was very attractive in character, some superb hitting by Mr Jessop keeping the spectators thoroughly interested long after it had become evident that no definite result could be arrived at.

Early in the day the play was quite exciting, the advantage that the Home Counties had gained on Friday being quickly discounted. With one wicket down in their second innings for 31 they held a lead of 129 runs and looked to have all the best of the game; but Mr Jessop, bowling his fastest, got rid of Abel, Hayward and Mr Ford in such rapid succession that with four men out the score was only 61. However, Alec Hearne and Mr Stoddart put a very different appearance on the game, the latter hitting with much of his old brilliancy and scoring in three-quarters of an hour 44 out of 52.

After he left Hearne found an even more successful partner in Mr Jephson, the two batsmen putting on 99 runs in 55 minutes. Then on Mr Jephson being dismissed the innings was declared closed at lunch time with six wickets down for 212. Alec Hearne was batting nearly two hours for his 51 not out, his steady defence being invaluable when things were going badly for his side. Mr Jephson, who was seen for the second time in the match to great advantage, hit ten 4s.

The Rest of England were left with 311 to get to win, but as little more than two hours and a half remained for play a draw seemed inevitable. They started very badly, losing Mr MacLaren and W G Quaife for 13 runs, but Tyldesley played such good cricket and was so well backed up by Mr Mitchell and Mr Townsend that when the fourth wicket fell the total had reached 88. Danger of defeat was then virtually at an end and, on Mr Jessop joining Tyldesley, some splendid cricket was seen, no fewer than 126 runs being added to the score

in 55 minutes. Tyldesley, who was out at 214, was in an hour and 50 minutes, and afterwards Mr Jessop and Dr Grace played out time, the total at the close being 251 for five wickets. Mr Jessop obtained his 100 not out in an hour and a quarter, actually scoring his first 59 runs in 35 minutes. He hit 17 fours.

The festival was a great success, the weather being fine throughout and the attendance excellent.

Friday 8 September, page 5: THE M.C.C. AND LAW 10

The special general meeting of the Marylebone Club summoned yesterday afternoon to consider the proposed alteration in law 10, by which a bowler could be no-balled for throwing by either umpire, had to be adjourned to a more convenient date, there not being a sufficient number of members present to form a quorum.

ENGLISH AVERAGES AGAINST THE AUSTRALIANS

BATTING [Note: condensed here to 200 runs.]

	Inns	Runs	Most in an inns	Not out	Average
J T Brown (Driffield)	5	221	187	1	55.20
Hayward	11	509	137	1	50.90
Braund	5	270	125	0	54.00
A Hearne	5	230	168	0	46.00
F S Jackson	10	358	118	2	44.75
C L Townsend	15	550	135*	2	42.30
C B Fry	14	555	181	0	40.35
K S Ranjitsinhji	16	515	93*	2	36.78
F H B Champain	8	291	120	0	36.37
Lilley	13	310	58	1	25.83
G L Jessop	14	331	51	0	23.65
W G Grace	11	205	50	0	18.63

BOWLING [Note: condensed here to 10 wickets.]

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wkts	Average
Paish	75.2	22	181	12	15.08
Hirst	107.1	33	239	15	15.93
Rhodes	184.1	56	392	23	17.04
T Richardson	95	27	207	12	17.25
Roberts	65.1	13	177	10	17.70
Lockwood	125.1	42	302	15	20.13
Young	201	72	465	23	20.21
W M Bradley	214.4	92	435	21	20.71
Mead	121	50	228	11	20.72
J T Hearne	399.1	162	723	25	28.92
G L Jessop	162.3	30	505	17	29.70
C L Townsend	207.2	32	643	19	33.84
Trott	170.4	46	482	13	37.07

Saturday 9 September, page 12: K S RANJITSINHJI'S TEAM FOR THE UNITED STATES

Mr C Robson and Victor Barton, of Hampshire, have accepted the invitations to join the side for the United States.

Monday 11 September, page 9: THE CLOSE OF THE CRICKET SEASON

First-class cricket ended for this year on Saturday, and in such a summer of "high scores and drawn matches" its finish can only come as a relief to the bowlers, who have had a long sequence of true pitches on which to contend. In a few places a false wicket, either as the result of a local thunder-shower or of broken ground, has been met with, but the occurrence was rare, and in this abnormal summer the bowlers have also had the extra work entailed by the Australian visit and the addition of Worcestershire to the first-class counties.

The special articles which recently appeared in The Times dealt with the causes of the great triumph in big cricket of the bat over the ball, with the notorious increase in the number of drawn matches, and with suggestions for reducing cricket to its old state of equality between the batsmen and the bowler. These articles and the notices of the counties and the Australians as they finished their programmes make comment unnecessary upon anything but the general figures of the season which we publish to-day.

K S Ranjitsinhji's great feat in making a 3,000 aggregate, the unique record which excels his own previous best and also that of Dr Grace, was recorded some time ago in The Times. Ranjitsinhji was a little disappointed with himself in his play against the Australian bowlers, whose most severe opponent was Hayward, of Surrey, who got a couple of centuries for England against them. Hayward is a splendid bat to watch, for he has such a variety of strokes, and his power and style go far to make him the most accomplished professional of the day.

Major Poore, who actually heads the batting tables, was disappointing in the Gentlemen and Players matches both at Lord's and the Oval; but his wonderful aggregate as well as his average must be a record for one playing only 21 innings in a summer.

Mr C L Townsend has performed a feat that has only before been achieved by Dr Grace - namely, that of making in one season 2,000 runs and taking 100 wickets. As a left-hand batsman he has not the style of the late Mr F M Lucas, of Sussex; but he has a great reach with a wonderful stroke in the vicinity of cover-point, and is the most successful left-hander of modern years.

Abel and Shrewsbury of the old brigade have done well; but Dr W G Grace, deprived of opportunity by his absence from Gloucestershire in all but four matches, has fallen away from the big scorers of the year.

Interminable comparisons could be drawn between the figures of to-day and those of other seasons which have been less favourable to batsmen. Trott, of Middlesex, is one of the characters of the summer. He has established a record unapproached by anyone else in cricket history - namely, his 200 wickets and 1,000 runs aggregates. And to him perhaps may be awarded the chief honours as an all-round cricketer, for besides being a fine bat and skilful bowler he is a brilliant field in any position.

Rhodes, of Yorkshire, and Mead, of Essex, did very well with the ball in this batsman's year, and for the rest the figures may be left to speak for themselves. In the accompanying tables only the chief batsmen who have an average of 15 or over and only the bowlers who have taken from 40 wickets are given . . .

[Note: first-class batting and bowling averages follow. These can be found from:
http://cricketarchive.co.uk/Archive/Seasons/1899_ENG.html]

Monday 11 September, page 7: LEADING ARTICLE

The cricket season of 1899, which ended last week, has been rendered exceptional partly by the fine weather and partly by the visit of the strongest team that Australia has yet sent to this country. It is pleasant to see good cricket played in fine weather, and the sight has probably been enjoyed during the present year by more people than ever before.

At the same time it is not pleasant to see match after match left unfinished, and yet this result also has been produced by the dry ground. Of the five so-called "test matches" against Australia, four had to be left unfinished, and the same was the case with sixty out of the 150 matches played by first-class counties in the competition for the championship.

We need not here reopen the question, which has been so much discussed in our columns and throughout the cricketing world, as to the remedies which might cure this state of things; but it is certain that the central authority - the Committee of the M.C.C. - must take the matter into serious consideration during the coming winter.

All sorts of changes have been proposed. On the one side it is suggested that all cricket contests should follow the rule which exists at present in one-day matches, and that the results should be determined by the first innings. Other innovators would like to see cricket played in compartments - two hours of batting by one side to be followed by two hours of the other, and so on until the end of the game. Other more radical reformers would either narrow the bat or widen the wicket; and each of these alternatives has met with such strong support in influential quarters that it is quite possible that some change of the kind may at least tentatively be made.

But, without further discussing the questions of high policy, we may proceed to indicate some of the principal features of the season, and especially the high scores which seem to give it a place of its own in cricketing history.

DR W G GRACE has, unfortunately, ceased to play in county matches, and has made comparatively few appearances in first-class cricket. He has been mainly occupied in inaugurating his new "London County" Club at the Crystal Palace Ground, of the ultimate success of which it is as yet too early to speak.

Of the active players, the leading place must be assigned to K S RANJITSINHJI, who has achieved the unprecedented feat of scoring over 3,000 runs in first-class matches, and who has also bowled well. His county average of 76, made in 35 innings, is, on the whole, more remarkable than that of MAJOR POORE, though the performance of this new batsman is quite one of the events of the year, as is the batting of ABEL and HAYWARD, the two Surrey cricketers, who ran a neck-and-neck race for the lead of their own county, and obtained respectively an average of 64.36 and 64.21 runs.

If it were a question of giving the palm to either, it would be decided in favour of HAYWARD, who has played far better against the Australians. Here in eleven innings he obtained an average of 50, whereas Abel, overborne by the bowling, secured only 104 runs in six appearances at the wicket. Among the other great features of the year's cricket the achievements of TROTT and MR C L TOWNSEND deserve special mention.

By this time we are well accustomed to good Australian teams, and there is no room left for such surprises as were experienced by English cricketers when MR SPOFFORTH and MR MURDOCH first came over. But it may safely be said that MR DARLING's Eleven of 1899 is the best that has ever come from the Antipodes. It has played thirty-five matches, and of these has won sixteen, drawn sixteen and lost only three. This wonderful result has been achieved by sheer merit, though of course the hard wickets of the year have suited the Australians even better than they have suited their opponents.

The team has been characterized in the first place by unusual "all-roundness," to use a popular term for which it is difficult to find a synonym. Almost all the Australian visitors were first-rate in batting and fielding, and most of them could bowl. Again, they were thoroughly accustomed to each other's play, and long habit had enabled them to combine action in a way that few English teams even in the crack counties could rival. Their fielding and throwing were probably better, viewed as a whole, than those of any English eleven; and they had an irresistible weapon of offence in five absolutely first-class bowlers.

Lastly, they could play an uphill game with a coolness and a dogged determination that were invaluable to them; witness three of the test matches which were saved entirely through this

quality. Many of the eleven, and especially MR DARLING, the captain, had the gift of "stone-walling" on occasion - though they could also play a dashing innings when necessary - so that sometimes the crowd of spectators lost its patience and was tempted almost to forget its good manners. The scene at Lord's in the Middlesex match, when the crowd noisily protested against the Australian captain's method of keeping up his wicket, was not to be commended, though it cannot be said that the protests were altogether unnatural. On that occasion the crowd suspected the Australians of wishing to prolong the match into a third day, for what is commonly called "the gate," which is, of course, a very different thing from prolonging it in order to save it.

Of the test matches our visitors were victorious in one, Lord's ground favouring them as usual; while, of the four drawn games, those at Leeds, Manchester and the Oval would probably have been won by England if they could have been finished, and that at Nottingham was drawn in favour of the visitors. On the whole, therefore, the result of these chief matches was more unsatisfactory than humiliating; we were beaten once, and we had no fair opportunity of redressing the balance.

That the Australians were too strong for all their opponents except the very best has been completely proved; neither Yorkshire nor Middlesex would stand up against them, and they were defeated only by Essex, by Surrey and by Kent. We part from them in all good feeling, and with increased respect for their prowess. Every one who has watched the beautiful batting of MR TRUMPER and MR HILL, the brilliant hitting of MR WORRALL, the bowling of MESSRS JONES, HOWELL, NOBLE and TRUMBLE, the wicket-keeping of MR KELLY and the fielding of the whole side will admit that nothing better has yet been achieved in the cricket field.

The County Championship goes to Surrey, which, according to the M.C.C. system, scores a percentage of 66.66, against the 57.14 of Middlesex and the 55.55 of Yorkshire. In this Surrey may be called lucky; for it has drawn more than half its matches and has won only ten against Yorkshire's fourteen. Still, the batting of HAYWARD and ABEL has been so consistently good that the success of the county is no surprise. In bowling it has suffered through RICHARDSON'S decline in "form," and through the strain which partly disabled Lockwood during the early weeks of the season; though this fine player recovered himself towards the end and bowled nearly seven hundred overs, taking 98 wickets for an average of 19 runs. In batting, too, he stands fourth in his county list.

That Middlesex has obtained second place is largely due to the bowling of TROTT, the Australian, who has taken 146 wickets in county cricket for an average of 15.69, a still better performance than that of RHODES, who has obtained 129 wickets for Yorkshire at an average of 15.66. In the case of TROTT, it is curious to notice that his bowling against the Australians was more than twice as expensive; each colonial wicket taken by him cost 37 runs, whereas Rhodes obtained 23 of them for 17 runs apiece, and RICHARDSON, YOUNG and MR W M BRADLEY did nearly as well.

With regard to the general performances of Middlesex, they have been extremely unequal, and the county distinctly lost ground when, in its match against the Australians, it suffered a single innings defeat on an excellent wicket.

Yorkshire probably possessed the best of the county elevens, though it has obtained only the third place. Six of its men scored over a thousand runs in county matches, and it possessed remarkable bowling strength, especially in RHODES and in the younger J T BROWN.

Lancashire fell off somewhat towards the end of the season; perhaps its best claims on public notice come from its possessing MR MacLAREN, who has more than once been captain in the test matches, and TYLDESLEY, who has scored nearly 1,600 runs for his county and is one of the finest fields in the world; while in young MR SPOONER, of Marlborough College, the county has discovered a cricketer of unusual promise.

For Sussex, K S RANJITSINHJI has played 35 innings for the extraordinary average of 76 runs; and other good performers have been MR C B FRY and the bowlers TATE and BLAND. The great achievement of Essex was to inflict upon the Australians their first defeat; in county matches it has done well, but not remarkably, achieving its principal successes through the bowling of MEAD and YOUNG.

For Kent, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and Hampshire several individual performers have done consistently well, notably MR W M BRADLEY, the fast bowler, the three brothers FOSTER, MR C L TOWNSEND and that redoubtable batsman MAJOR POORE, who seems to think it beneath him to score less than a century. He has played 16 innings for the "record" average of 116. It should be remarked, however, that he did not bat during the latter part of August, when runs were rather difficult to make.

As to the Universities and public schools, we have only to record that both Oxford v Cambridge and Eton v Harrow were drawn. The latter was a foregone conclusion, for, if most of the three days' matches played during the year were left unfinished, it was not to be expected that a different lot should befall two elevens, always stronger in batting than in bowling, who are limited by an unkind fate to two days.

Thursday 21 September, page 2: CRICKET REFORM

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - The phenomenal scoring of this year's cricket season has again brought under discussion the advisability of taking some steps to curtail the mastery of the bat over the ball. There can be little doubt that the recent unusually dry summers are largely responsible for this state of affairs, and the clerk of the weather may be safely trusted to help to restore the balance.

Most cricketers will therefore probably agree that it would be unwise to alter the size of the wicket or the width of the bat; of the two alternatives the latter would certainly appear to be the better, as conducing to more free and brilliant batting than the former would do. Nothing more, however, need be said at present on this point, as the recent letters in The Times from "Old Blue" and others have thoroughly threshed out this part of the subject.

A third proposal, however, has from time to time been brought forward - namely, the alteration of the law relating to "leg-before-wicket," and so much has some change in this direction appeared necessary that it was even proposed in some quarters to saddle the umpire with the invidious task of giving a batsman out "leg-before," even if the ball pitched off the wicket, if the umpire supposed it were going to hit the stumps. Conceive the absurdity of this in the case of a "lob" pitched, say, a yard outside the leg stump and hitting the batsman's legs. In such a case the decision would be a mere piece of guesswork, and such a rule, if ever it were passed, would be a direct incentive to uncertainty, or even dishonesty, on the part of the umpire, and disputes among the players. Surely no umpire should be called upon to decide a point which is beyond his powers of observation.

My object in this letter is to propose a modification of the present law, which, so far as I can see, would call upon the umpire to decide only such points as are easily within the ken of a fairly careful and competent man; and which at the same time would be an effectual cure for the objectionable and unsportsmanlike trick, which has crept into cricket of late years, of intentionally guarding the wicket with the legs from a ball breaking in from the off.

My proposal, which at first sight may appear somewhat radical, is that the law for "l-b-w" should read as follows: -

"That if a ball, pitched either on the wicket or on the off side of the wicket, strike the batsman's leg, such leg being at the time in front of, or on the off side of, the wicket, the batsman shall be out. (For the purposes of this rule the word 'leg' shall be taken to mean the thigh, leg or foot.)"

This rule purposely does not call upon the umpire to decide whether the ball is going to hit the wicket or not. The weak spot in the law as in force at present is that if a ball rises rapidly from the pitch it is often impossible for an umpire to be certain whether it would

hit the wicket or not, and there can be no doubt that wrong "l-b-w" decisions are occasionally given in consequence.

My proposed rule calls upon the umpire to decide three points, and only three, viz.: -

1. Did the ball pitch either on the wicket or on the off side of the wicket?
2. Did it hit the batsman's leg?
3. Was that leg either in front of, or to the off side of, the wicket?

Now all these points are clearly to be seen by a competent umpire, and there is no room left for guess work.

It may be argued that it would be hard lines for a batsman to be given out "l-b-w" if hit on the leg by a ball, which perhaps he had meant to cut, breaking back suddenly from the off and hitting his leg, which he had not intentionally interposed. The answer to this objection is that, if the ball was good enough to beat the bat, it is hard lines on the bowler not to benefit by it.

It should be an understood thing that the batsman's legitimate position (or, as a Scot would conveniently call it, "stance") is on the leg side of the parallelogram between the wickets, and that he is entitled to stop a ball breaking in from leg with his legs - if this were disallowed, of course, leg-hitting would be at an end - but if he trespasses on to the sacred ground in front of, or on the off side of, the wicket, he does so at his peril.

By the rule now in force the batsman is out "l-b-w" if a straight pitched ball hits him on any part of the body or limbs (except hand and wrist) if such part be in front of the wicket and the ball be supposed to be going to hit the stumps. My proposal is to substitute the word "leg" as above defined. In the first place, a ball which kicks and strikes the batsman anywhere above the thigh will, with almost absolute certainty, go over the wicket. (How many of us have seen a batsman given out "l-b-w" from a ball hitting him elsewhere than on the legs?)

Secondly, though certain batsmen nowadays put their padded legs in front of the wicket they would not intentionally interpose their body or head! It is only proposed to give the batsman out if hit on the "leg."

I claim for this suggested rule -

1. That it will at once do away with the intentional and objectionable stopping with the legs of the ball breaking in from the off.
2. That it will call upon the umpire to decide even less difficult points than he has to decide at present.
3. That it will tend to lessen the scores, in so far as it gives the bowler the deserved benefit from a rapidly breaking ball from the off; while it is no real hardship on the batsman, who should be able to protect his wicket and, if necessary, his legs, with the bat.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,
J. M. COTTERILL

Saturday 28 October, page 16: THE M.C.C. AND THE RULES OF CRICKET

(By an Old Blue)

On Monday next the Marylebone Cricket Club will hold a special general meeting of its members to consider a minor alteration proposed in the rules of the game by which power to no-ball a bowler for throwing will be given to the umpire at the batsman's end. I doubt the

expediency of a rule which will give rise to allegation of, if not to actual, differences of opinion between the umpires; and will make a grave change in the conditions of umpiring under which hitherto the responsibility for deciding any point which arises has been several and not joint. But I do not press my objection.

Throwing is regarded by our cricket legislators with a feeling akin to the loathing with which vulpecide is regarded in a hunting country. A man who would throw is every whit as criminal as a man who would shoot a fox. I am certainly no advocate of throwing, though I believe that its mischief has been exaggerated. And if it is absolutely necessary for the prevention of throwing to give concurrent jurisdiction to both umpires the dangers of conflict may, without perhaps any grave risk, be disregarded.

But I venture to press strongly on the Marylebone Club the expediency of considering whether something cannot be done to improve the position of the bowler and to diminish the present overwhelming preponderance of the batsman. The fine weather in which the cricket of the past season was played contributed to a long succession of huge scores and drawn matches. The recurrence of an abnormally brilliant summer is scarcely to be expected. But even in ordinary weather the defence is stronger than the attack, and the conditions of the game, which were made when grounds were rough and there were no boundaries, are greatly varied in effect now that true wickets are the rule and not the exception, and with a few insignificant exceptions no hard hits are run out.

The whole tendency not only of legislation but of administration has been in favour of the batsman. A professional who makes a good score is rewarded, as Hayward was at the Oval, by a liberal collection, but how often is the hat sent round for a bowler? Young amateurs think of and delight in batting. They treat bowling as an incident, and not a very satisfactory incident. Four or five hours of batting afford intense gratification, but a long spell of bowling is felt to be an arduous if not a hopeless occupation conducive more to weariness than to zest. Their feats with the bat are loudly praised in the Press, and are recorded and remembered with pride. Save in the case of some rare and sensational over, feats with the ball are passed over with scant notice and soon fade out of the recollection even of those who perform them.

Nor is the case of professionals greatly different. A professional may owe his selection for first-class cricket to his skill as a bowler. But when once he has made his position good he finds that success with the bat is more lucrative than success with the ball. Naturally he devotes his best energies to cultivating his defence; and views with indifference, even if he does not welcome, competitors with the ball. For he knows that their competition can do him no harm and may save him stress of hard work, provided he can go on making long scores. This he seeks to do with the patience and perseverance which are characteristic of Britons, and are part of the stock-in-trade of men who adopt a game not for amusement but for profit. The attractions of batting therefore prevail over the attractions of bowling, both with amateurs and with professionals; and the natural inequality between attack and defence is increased by the zeal bestowed on the cultivation of the latter.

This is a condition of things which is not without menace to the popularity of the game; and it is therefore one which demands the attention of prudent legislators who are able and qualified to look ahead. During the last few weeks of the past season there were many signs of weariness on the part of spectators disgusted with the "stone-wall" tactics of many first-class batsmen, and bored with the deadly ease with which hour after hour was spent in the compilation of huge scores. There were many good judges of the game who failed to find any pleasure in watching an unequal contest, or in seeing fourer after fourer made by a pair of batsmen with very little exertion, while all the available bowlers pounded away in their up-hill task in the vain hope of some improbable accident.

The feeling began to show strength that cricket would be a better game if there were fewer runs made, if the chances of a draw were less overwhelming, if the state of a match were more frequently critical, and if there were more outlets for enthusiasm or excitement other than the breaking of some huge record. When it comes to hooting, to whistling the Dead March in Saul, and to satirical applause of a hit for two, even the most strenuous advocate

of the theory that whatever is best must have some doubts of its perfect applicability to modern cricket.

In a former series of articles on the subject (see The Times of August 15, 17, 19, 22, 24 and 25) I examined several possible changes which might contribute to the restoration of equality between the bat and the ball, and might add to the gratification felt in watching and in playing one of the very best of our national games. I do not propose to go over the ground then covered. There stood out from the suggestions considered, suggestions which were criticized with ability and courtesy by many writers to The Times, three of more or less minor and two of major importance.

The former were, the allowance of closure at any time, the granting of an option as regards follow-on to the leading side, and the abolition of boundaries. The two others were the increase in the size of the wicket and a decrease in the size of the bat. Among suggestions made *aliunde* the chief were that matches should be played out - those at any rate between England and Australia, if not those between the first-class counties or a few of them; and that each side should have one innings instead of two. As regards the last two the only observations necessary at present appear to be that the devotion of more than three days to any one match, how important, is highly inexpedient as tending to turn a pastime into a business; and that the opportunity for recovery given by a second innings is eminently desirable if it can properly be maintained.

The first three involve no radical change in the game. The abolition of boundaries is a matter of arrangement for a particular ground, not a matter affecting the general law. A netting might be tried at Lord's for a few matches without any necessity for its continuance if the experiment proved unsatisfactory. But its adoption should be deliberate and after due consideration. Change in the laws of closure and follow-on could scarcely be made without elaborate consultation of the counties.

Even more careful experiment would be necessary before any change could be made in the size of the wicket or of the bat. It would be hopeless to expect any such alteration in the essential conditions of the game until after a carefully organized series of trial matches had been played; a series long enough to eliminate accidents of weather or of play, and so arranged as to elicit the opinion of competent players and judicious spectators. For the organization of such a series there is very much to be said.

A narrow bat - I have never advocated a broomstick, but a bat made as now, but of decidedly reduced width - would be an efficient and very pleasant weapon to use. It would "come up" well, its hitting powers would be even greater than those of the present weapon, it would allow of more brilliant drives, for it would probably be thicker, and as brilliant cuts. By the reduction of its powers of pure defence, it would discourage stonewalling and encourage hitting. The innings of the man using it would be far more merry if decidedly more short. If it tended to reduce the duration of first-class matches to two days, of second-class matches to one day, and even if it shortened village matches to a few hours, it would encourage the playing of cricket by more young men than can find time to play it now, and would annihilate the present limitation of first-class cricket to wealthy men of absolute leisure, schoolmasters and others in vocation, and professionals or amateurs who get their expenses on a very liberal scale. And lastly, it would ensure to spectators the display of quick and brilliant cricket, instead of the present dreary, dull and dismal compilation of centuries in a game devoid of all interest as to its result.

I earnestly trust, therefore, that the Marylebone Club will consider the expediency of appointing a strong committee to consider the whole position of the game. The time is opportune for such a course and opinion in its favour is ripening - nay, is even ripe. As The Times wisely pointed out, cricket must not be allowed to become unpopular through its own fault or the exaggeration of its own merits, such as the overgrown scores of the present period are admitted to be. The Marylebone Club is strong enough to regard the future of the game by the light of its true interests, rather than the temporary gratification of some of its younger players or the money-making instincts of those who follow it as a profession. It has exceptional advantages for conducting such an examination as I have suggested, and for organizing any experiments which may result from it. It could secure the services of a committee of the strongest qualifications whose recommendations would be made with the

soundest judgment and the most unquestioned authority. And even if their deliberations had a negative outcome the world of cricket would benefit from them.

A favourable opportunity exists for making a good game better, and it is to be hoped that the Marylebone Club will take the preliminary steps for making use of it.

Tuesday 31 October, page 7: THE LAWS OF THE GAME

The special general meeting of the M.C.C., adjourned from last month through the failure to find a quorum, took place yesterday afternoon at Lord's. It was held at the request of the committee for the amendment of Laws 10 and 48, so that the bowler should be brought under the jurisdiction of either umpire when there was any question of the fairness of his delivery. The business was finished in two or three minutes and the amendments were unanimously approved.

Lord Justice A L Smith, the president of the M.C.C., was in the chair, and others present included the Duke of Buccleuch, Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, Lord Harris, Mr V E Walker, the Earl of Lichfield, Lord Hawke, Mr A J Webbe, Mr H D G Leveson-Gower, Mr John Shuter, Dr W G Grace, Mr W H Patterson, Mr Ernest Smith, Mr C E Farmer, Mr H Perkins, Mr Denzil Onslow, Mr G F Vernon and Mr W Hine-Haycock.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY CLUB. - Mr T L Taylor, trinity, was yesterday elected captain to succeed Mr G L Jessop, with Mr E F Penn, Trinity, hon. secretary and Mr S H Day, Queens, assistant hon. treasurer.

Wednesday 1 November, page 2: THE FOLLOW-ON IN CRICKET

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - As many suggestions are now being made dealing with the proposed alterations in the rules of cricket, I should like to make one with regard to the follow-on for the consideration of those in authority.

In these days of heavy scoring, the side that has earned by superior play in the first innings what ought to be an advantage very often finds that the reverse is the case.

Say A scores a first innings of 350; B one of 230. B follows on and wipes out the runs without loss, or with the loss of one or two wickets. A is then at a distinct disadvantage.

I would suggest that, in order to restore the balance to some extent, the captain of A should have the option of commencing his second innings when the adverse balance has been wiped off.

Yours, &c.,
DARTMOUTH.

Patshull, Worcestershire, Oct. 29.

Friday 3 November, page 7: RANJITSINHJI'S AMERICAN CRICKET TEAM

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - A statement appeared in one of your columns to-day that the Metropolitan Cricket League of New York met to consider the charge of discourtesy against myself and other members of the visiting team.

From the second paragraph of the statement I gather that the accusations are that myself and other members absented ourselves from the match, and that we played substitutes the next day.

I am naturally much astonished at this most extraordinary statement, and this is the first intimation I receive in any shape or form of this conduct on the part of myself and the other members. After the first day, as is well known, of the match against Philadelphia I was laid up with bronchitis so that I was not able to take any further part even in that match. But, feeling slightly better, I left for New York and, not a little against my doctor's wishes, to play against 18 of New York, in which match our conduct is impugned as discourteous.

As the travelling brought on fever, I was advised to abandon the idea of playing in the match and of putting up in New York, instead of Staten Island with the rest of the team. I was unable to leave the hotel the whole time I was in New York on that occasion.

I entrusted Mr MacLaren with the control of the team as before. The next day the team, as invited by Sir Thomas Lipton, went and saw the yacht race. I trust that my absence did not lead Sir Thomas Lipton to think that I was discourteous to him, as it evidently did the associated clubs of New York.

The next day the match commenced and all our players took part. In the evening Mr MacLaren telephoned to me that he was suffering from rheumatism and would I mind if he had some medical treatment for it in New York, and that both he and Mr Priestley were coming to see how I was getting on. I was naturally alarmed with Mr MacLaren's condition, and replied, "Come this evening and stop here." Both of them came and stopped in New York that night. Next day he had some electric treatment.

A wire was sent by Mr MacLaren in the morning to Mr Stoddart to take charge of the team in his absence to the hotel at Staten Island, informing him of the cause of his absence and that he required Mr Priestley's assistance; the latter also that afternoon had to arrange for our berths for the passage back, as we were not to return to New York again till just before our departure for home. The wire was not forwarded by the Staten Island hotel authorities on the ground, and consequently Mr Stoddart was unable to declare innings until lunch time, having waited for Mr MacLaren. The delay in declaring undoubtedly saved the New Yorkers from defeat. Whether Mr Stoddart asked for two substitutes to field or not I am unable to say, as no mention was made to myself either by my own side or by any of the New York authorities.

These, then, are the facts of the case. How they can be construed as acts of discourtesy to our opponents I fail to see.

I am cabling to-day to the Metropolitan Cricket League of New York, the existence of which I only knew through your columns to-day, for explanation of the matter, and asking them to inform me why I was kept ignorant of their complaint against myself and my team during our stay in America.

I request you to put this rather lengthy explanation in your columns in justice and fair play to the men who did me the honour to accompany me out there, to myself and for the sake of English cricket, which we represented out there. I take this opportunity of acknowledging our indebtedness to the Philadelphian clubs and the Canadian clubs for their lavish hospitality and kind attention during six weeks of our most pleasant stay among them.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,

RANJITSINHJI

22, Sidney-street, Cambridge, Nov. 2.

Tuesday 7 November, page 7: CRICKET

The Kent County Committee met yesterday at the Golden Cross Hotel, Charing-cross. The report to be submitted to the general meeting was approved.

This compliments the captain of the eleven (Mr J R Mason) on the position of the side and extends the thanks of the executive to those members whose work chiefly contributed to the rise in the county's fortunes. Mr Bradley's 129 wickets and Huish's wicket-keeping, which dismissed in all 79 batsmen, are declared to be records in Kent cricket.

The report went on to say that the expenses of the club continued to increase every year, but the receipts from the two principal sources of income - the annual subscriptions and the Canterbury Week - more than balanced them, with the result that the close of each succeeding year found the club better off. This year the receipts from subscriptions were £1,647, as against £1,423 in 1898, and the receipts from the Canterbury Week £1,954, as against £1,595 in 1898.

On the other hand, the receipts from the home county matches declined from £1,424 in 1898 to £1,262, the falling off being accounted for by the small amounts taken at the Notts match at Catford and the Middlesex match at Maidstone. At both places wet weather was responsible.

The total number of members of the club had again increased, being 1,990, as against 1,668 in 1898. the club finished up the season with a balance in hand of £1,006, out of which £600 will at once be invested.

It had been determined to build a pavilion at Canterbury on a site hitherto occupied by tents at the west side of the ground. The pavilion, which was to be ready for use at the beginning of next season, would contain a luncheon-room, 37 ft by 18 ft, a committee-room, and dressing-rooms for the players, as well as seating accommodation for 500 people on the roof and under a verandah in front of the building.

Next season Kent would have a slightly different programme, playing Hampshire and Worcestershire, but dropping their matches with Warwickshire. Of the 11 county matches at home three would be played at Tonbridge, three at Canterbury, two at Blackheath, two at Catford and one at Maidstone. Kent would also play the M.C.C. at Lord's. in the event of the West Indies sending over a team Kent would have a match with them, but it had not yet been decided whether the county would put their full strength into the field or rely upon a purely amateur eleven. That would depend upon the form previously shown by the visitors. One of the matches at Canterbury next season would be given to Martin for his benefit.

Saturday 18 November, page 13: ALTERATIONS IN THE LAW

The following alterations in the laws of cricket have been recommended by the M.C.C. committee.

1. Six balls to constitute an over.
2. Decision permissible at or after the luncheon time on the second day.
3. The side that leads by 150 runs in a three-day match, 100 runs in a two-day match or 75 runs in a one-day match shall have the option of calling on the other side to follow its innings.

Copies of the proposed alterations have been sent out to the cricket authorities in Australia, America and South Africa.

THE TEST MATCHES

The Test Matches Board will meet at Lord's ground at 2 p.m. on Monday, December 4, to settle up the accounts and all other business in connection with the test matches between England

and Australia during the past season. At 3 o'clock on the same day the county captains will meet at Lord's to select umpires for the county matches next season and for other business.

The secretaries' meeting to arrange next year's matches will be held at Lord's on Tuesday, December 5, at 12 noon.

Tuesday 23 November, page 12: CRICKET

MELBOURNE, Nov. 22

Major Wardill, who has been interviewed, approves of the alterations in the rules of cricket which have been proposed by the Marylebone Club. Mr Darling approves of the proposal to have six balls to an over. - Our Correspondent.

Friday 24 November, page 11: CRICKET

The annual general meeting of the Middlesex County Club was held yesterday at the Charing-cross Hotel, Mr V E Walker presiding. Among those present were Mr G MacGregor (captain), Mr A J Webbe, Mr W J Ford, Mr H V L Stanton, Mr Westley and Mr J A Murdoch (assistant-secretary).

The balance-sheet showed the match receipts to be £2,078 18s 6d and the expenses £1,266 7s, but, after deducting general expenses, donations to the M.C.C., the Middlesex professionals and the London Playing Fields Fund, there was a slight loss on the year's working. There is, however, a balance in hand of £1,152 12s 4d, and a sum of £4,500 invested in Consols.

Next season's programme will contain the same matches as in 1899, with the addition of a fixture with Essex. J T Hearne will be given a benefit and the Whit Monday match against Somerset has been set apart for that purpose.

After many years service Mr P M Thornton, M.P., tendered his resignation as hon. secretary, finding he could not spare the time to fulfil the duties. Mr Webbe consented to fill the post. With this alteration the officers were re-elected - Mr V E Walker as president and hon. treasurer; Lord George Hamilton, M.P., vice-president; Mr MacGregor (captain); and Mr F G J Ford, vice-captain. It was resolved to forward 25 guineas to the Sportsman in connection with the war fund.

Friday 1 December, page 11: CRICKET

The annual general meeting of the Yorkshire County Club was held at Sheffield yesterday, Lord Hawke presiding. The accounts showed a balance of income over expenditure of £2,424, the club now having a total credit balance of over £9,000. The number of members had increased from 1,200 to 2,433.

In moving the adoption of the accounts Lord Hawke expressed the opinion that the team had played really good cricket during the year. He suggested that, new stands having been erected at Leeds, Bradford and Sheffield, and in view of the increase in the membership of the club, it would be necessary to consider the advisability of not allowing ladies on the pavilions. He believed Yorkshire was the only club who did so at present.

He expressed regret that the committee had not succeeded in reviving Bank Holiday matches with Lancashire, and announced that matches would be played against the South Africans and West Indians instead. He had received a letter from South Africa, from which it appeared that the team would visit this country next year in spite of the political troubles, the feeling being that in 1901 there would be such a boom that they would not want to come.

The committee had granted £500 towards a benefit for Moorhouse. The report was adopted and Lord Hawke was re-elected president.

The annual meeting of the Hampshire County Cricket Club was held yesterday at Southampton and was very largely attended. The report and balance-sheet showed that the receipts last season were £3,289, or £500 in excess of any previous year, while the expenses amounted to £2,970. There is still an adverse balance of £198, but this will be practically covered by the county's share of the test match receipts.

In moving the adoption of the report, Mr Moberly said the last season had, on the whole, been a satisfactory one. Special mention was made of the brilliant performances of Major Poore, who came out at the head of the first-class averages. Captain Wynyard resigned the post of captain, and Mr C Robson was unanimously elected to fill the position.

It was decided to give Soar a benefit next season and to continue the second eleven matches. Fixtures have been arranged with the whole of the counties opposed last season, with the addition of Kent.

Saturday 2 December, page 14: CRICKET

The annual report of the Lancashire County Cricket Club was issued yesterday. It attributes the fact that the county was not higher than fourth in the championship to the accidents and illness which deprived them of the services of J Briggs, J Sharp and Hallam.

The public support was greater during the season than ever before, the total number of people who paid for admission to the ground being 206,742. The existing membership has now reached 3,065 - the highest in the history of the club - while 839 ladies became subscribers. The surplus on the year's working is £1,873.

The only liability of the club is £20,000 to the mortgage creditors, and the assets exceed the liabilities to the extent of £8,142 1s 2d.

Tuesday 5 December, page 10: CRICKET

Three private meetings were held at Lord's yesterday. The first, over which the Hon A Lyttelton, M.P., presided, was that of the Test Matches Board, the business being [finally to] settle up the accounts in connection with the five test matches between England and Australia.

Nothing was made known beyond the fact that the profit accruing to the M.C.C. and each county from the series of matches would amount to about £180. Half the gate money in all five matches went to the Australians, and 25 per cent was taken in every case by the club on whose ground a test match was played - Notts, the M.C.C., Yorkshire, Lancashire and Surrey. The remaining profits were, in accordance with the arrangement made before the season began, to be divided among the M.C.C. and the first-class counties.

The second meeting was one of county captains, the business being to select the umpires for county matches next season. The number of umpires nominated was reduced from 35 to 20, but the names of the men picked will not be made known until to-day. At this meeting Mr F E Lacey, the secretary of the Marylebone Club, took the chair.

At a third meeting, with Mr W E Denison presiding, some preliminary discussion of a private nature took place over the proposal by Lord Hawke that in future the gate money taken at the various benefit matches played each season should be pooled and equally divided.

To-day, at 12 o'clock, the county secretaries meet to draw up the programme for next season.

The Tuesday in Cattle Show week has become quite a landmark for county cricket secretaries, for it is on this day at Lord's that they meet to develop the programme for the following summer.

Yesterday the secretaries were untroubled by any prospective Australian tour, and so county cricket reassumed its paramountcy. With the Australians absent the provisional arrangement with regard to the number of matches qualifying for the championship lapsed; but Worcestershire were fortunate in escaping any danger of relegation from the front rank by securing fixtures with Surrey, Middlesex and Kent. Other important additions have been made to the programme of Middlesex, who have given matches to Essex.

Perhaps the most notable new fixtures are in the greatly improved list of matches which Dr W G Grace has secured for the London County Club, and those with Surrey should be particularly attractive. The development of the London County Club must be a question of time, but Dr Grace has certainly done wondrously well in the brief days of the club's existence.

Some interest will, no doubt, be aroused by the tours of the South Africans and West Indians, whose interests at the meeting were looked after by Lord Hawke and Mr F Mitchell.

There was a certain lack of decision amongst the secretaries of some counties in fixing the actual grounds for their matches, and this remark particularly applies to Yorkshire, Gloucestershire and Kent. But the county list has greatly grown in the last few years and there is every prospect of a big season for 1900.

Yesterday Mr F E Lacey, the secretary of the Marylebone Club, was in the chair; and those present included Lord Hawke, Mr F Mitchell and Mr J B Wostinholm, Yorkshire; Mr A J Webbe, Mr G MacGregor and Mr A E Stoddart, Middlesex; Mr K J Key and Mr C W Alcock, Surrey; Mr J R Mason and Mr S J Lancaster, Kent; Mr W Newham, Mr E A Smithers and Mr W B Carless, Sussex; Mr O R Borradaile and Mr H G Owen, Essex; Mr W E Denison and Mr H Turner, Nottinghamshire; Mr H Murray Anderton and Mr S M J Woods, Somerset; Mr S H Swire, Mr A Appleby and Mr E Rowley, Lancashire; Dr E M Grace and Mr G L Jessop, Gloucestershire; Dr W G Grace, London County; Mr P H Foley and Mr H K Foster, Worcestershire; Dr Russell Bencraft and Mr C Robson, Hampshire; Mr H B Delacombe, Derbyshire; Mr H W Bainbridge and Mr W Ansell, Warwickshire; Mr T Burdett and Mr C E de Trafford, Leicestershire; Mr E Roper, Liverpool and District; Mr R E Foster and Mr L P Collins, Oxford University; and Mr T L Taylor and Mr S H Day, Cambridge University. The chief fixtures for the season are given below:

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

THE MINOR COUNTIES

The representatives of the minor counties held their annual meeting earlier in the morning at Lord's Tavern. Mr A M Miller presided, and there were also present Messrs F G H Clayton, Northumberland; L C R Thring and R Waller, Bedfordshire; F L Norman, Hertfordshire; W L Nares, Berkshire; A J Darnell and Percy W Dale, Northamptonshire; L G and E G Buxton, Norfolk; J H Brain, Glamorganshire; G R Ward and P J de Paravicini, Buckinghamshire; O Papworth, Cambridgeshire; H M Turner, Oxfordshire; J B Wostinholm, Yorkshire; H W Gardner and the Rev P E Mainwaring, Staffordshire; Colonial Fellowes, Devon; and Mr R H Mallett, Durham, hon. secretary.

In accordance with an instruction from the Marylebone Club, it was resolved to ask the opinion of the first-class counties with regard to some desired alterations in the rules regulating the classification of counties. The suggestions made by the minor counties are that there shall be no limit to the numbers of first-class counties, and that there shall be a second class in the county championship, to be competed for by the minor counties and second elevens.

A committee, consisting of Messrs A J Darnell, P J de Paravicini, A M Miller, W L Nares and R H Mallett, was formed to make special efforts to obtain the recognition by the first-class counties and the Marylebone Club of the second-class championship with a view to the establishment of a scheme of promotion by merit. In future, teams, to be eligible for the championship, must play home and out matches with at least four counties or second elevens, themselves fully qualified competitors.

Yorkshire's second eleven will be in the competition next summer, and it is expected that the Lancashire second eleven will also play sufficient matches to qualify for the championship, as the Surrey second eleven did last summer.

COUNTY UMPIRES IN 1900. - The following are the 20 umpires chosen for county matches next season: - W Hearn, Barlow, Wheeler, Richards, Thoms, White, Sherwin, W A J West, Titchmarsh, Lillywhite, A Shaw, Richardson, Phillips, Moss, Pickett, Mycroft, A Hide, W Wright, Porter and A F Smith.

PROFESSIONAL BENEFITS. - The following resolution was adopted at the Lord's meeting on Monday: - "That this meeting is strongly of opinion that counties should reserve direct control over the investment and disposal of all benefit money."

Monday 18 December, page 12: CRICKET

The annual meeting of the Somerset County Cricket Club was held at Taunton on Saturday, the Hon Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, president, being in the chair.

The balance-sheet showed, for the first time for some years, a small balance on the right side. The total income was £2,692, the receipts at the Australian match were £664, and Somerset's share of the test match receipts was about £180. The amount realized by members' subscriptions showed a decrease of £60, and this falling off was stated to have taken place in the Bath district. The gate at Tyler's benefit match produced only £69, but this amount had by subscriptions been raised to nearly £400.

Sir Spencer Position-Fane had been re-elected president, and Mr W H fowler and Colonel Colton were elected vice-presidents. Mr S M J Woods was re-elected captain and secretary, and Mr H E Murray Anderdon hon. secretary, and Mr Gerald Fowler hon. treasurer.

Mr Woods spoke of the excellent form shown by the young amateur, Mr Bernard, and the improvement of Robson as a batsman, and said he hoped that next year, with Mr Lionel Palairet and Mr Gerald Fowler available, the club would do much better than in the last two seasons.

(By an Old Blue)

I.

Our national games are ruled with a conservatism which persistently avoids change. From racing down to hockey there is a tendency to adhere to known conditions and refuse any material modification of terms.

Of cricket this is especially true. More than 30 summers have waned since the no-balling of Willsher in a Surrey and England match was followed by a modification of the rule which forbade a bowler to raise his hand above the shoulder. But this is the only important alteration which has been made since the days of Beauclerk and of Mynn; for the additional fifth ball to the over, the concession to the bowler in respect of changing ends and the power to declare an innings closed on the last day of the match are all slight modifications which have had no material effect on the conditions of play.

But there are apparent signs of a feeling growing among those who watch cricket matches, and nascent at least among those who play them, that the repetition of huge scores and drawn matches which has characterized the present season is not in the true interests of the game. Week after week adds to the list of unfinished contests, of total scores of over 500 and individual scores of over 200. Of the matches in which **esprit to corps** is keenest - those, namely, between England and Australia, Oxford and Cambridge and Eton and Harrow, one only has been finished. Indeed, it has been made clear that, in a season when sunshine is continuous and wickets remain hard, the chances of finishing a match in three days are by no means great.

Englishmen continue to show interest in cricket. Huge crowds still watch such matches as those between England and Australia, Gentlemen and Players or any two of the leading counties. But there are symptoms of an abatement of that interest which the wisest friends of the game cannot afford to ignore. Signs of weariness were not wanting recently when the Australian batsmen, with that skill and patience which distinguish them, were slowly turning a losing into a drawn position. It is even recorded that the crowd were unkind enough to whistle the "Dead March" in Saul, in a spirit of utter boredom.

Onlookers are beginning to think that, in present circumstances, the progress of a cricket match is far more monotonous than that of a contest at football, at golf or on the river. There is much sameness. There are few episodes. The condition of the game is rarely critical. And men, as well as those of the gentler sex - and there are many - who really understand what they see, are becoming more and more impressed with the idea that watching for hour after hour excellent bowling met by the still more excellent batting of players making a series of boundary hits which they do not run out, and of twos and threes which entail little physical exertion, is, after all, not an exciting, even if it is not a somewhat dreary, amusement.

On the third day of a match there are even now sometimes moments of intense excitement when the saving or winning of a match depends on the efforts of two or three men. But the occasions on which this occurs are becoming rarer and more rare. And the outlook for the enthusiasm of spectators is more and more confined to applauding the appearance of additional hundreds on the telegraph board or the completion by one more batsman of his thousand runs. Megalomania affects cricket as it affects all other sport, and there is a certain amount of gratification in seeing a record broken or a very big thing done. But the British public are still fond of episodes, and find few in the slow and steady compilation of "centuries."

Of course, it will be answered that this state of things is exceptional; that a few days of rain would end it; that such a summer as we have had is not likely to recur; and that bowlers will take very good care of themselves when the wickets once more become soft. This answer cannot be considered sound. Fine weather is a condition precedent to pleasure in a cricket match. No one wishes to play in cold or damp; breaking toil to play when the climatic circumstances are all that can be desired, the conditions of the game must be in

fault and not the weather. When the monotony of the spot-stroke at billiards made match-play dull, no one proposed to make the tables untrue. The spot-stroke was barred and the player was handicapped by a method which involved no interference with all-round play. So should it be with cricket. The wicket ought to be as true as they can be made and the conditions of the game made suitable to the use of perfect material.

Nor do I lose sight of the fact that the majority of players, of amateurs certainly and probably also of professionals, enjoy batting more than they enjoy bowling, and would regard with some little regret any limitation of their power to make runs. But against this I set what I believe to be the real feeling of every true sportsman, that success easily gained is not so sweet as success in circumstances of some difficulty. There is little pleasure in killing hundreds of low-flying pheasants or brood after brood of close-lying grouse. If it be still a pleasure to score century after century against wearied bowlers, it is a pleasure of which the keen zest is rapidly wearing away.

For I cannot but think that such sterling cricketers as Major Poore and K S Ranjitsinhji would derive far more gratification from a score of 40 under difficult circumstances than in maintaining their remarkable averages of the present season. In a word, a match in which a side scoring 150 runs would be in a winning position is far more interesting to play and far more exciting to watch than one where four wickets fall for 698 or a side is outplayed after making over 400 runs.

I venture to think that it may be of interest to examine the causes which have produced a grave change in the position of cricket, tending to sap its popularity with the public, while making it more a labour than a recreation to those who play it; and to endeavour to find some remedy which may commend itself to both classes, and may meet with the approval of those who, no longer competitors themselves, devote skill and knowledge to the control of the destinies of the game. I am aware that in doing so I may to some extent run counter to the conservatism already referred to, which dominates cricket, which has, on the whole, been [?] advantage, and which I have not the slightest desire unduly to deprecate or interfere with.

Of the more important factors affecting the game played now as compared with the game of 30 or even 20 years ago, that which has undoubtedly had the most influence is the improvement of the grounds. Mr Alfred Lubbock, whose reminiscences are read with pleasure by men of an older as well as by men of the present generation, has commented with much vigour on the difference between Lord's as it is and when it was when he first played in first-class matches.

In former days, which many of us can well remember, a batsman had to be prepared for the first of two consecutive balls bounding over his shoulder or his head, and the second shooting dead on the off stump. He was rarely free from the alternative of having either to meet the ball on or immediately after the pitch, or to allow full time for playing back. If he attempted to play many balls between the half-volley and the long-hop, he was certain to be beaten by the bump or the shoot.

Now the shooter is unknown. The ground between the wickets has been rendered almost level by the operation of the ten-ton roller. The influence of grass is reduced to a *minimum* by the mowing-machine; and the grass itself is as perfect as the skill of the seedsman can make it. No plantains or daisies affect the course of the ball, the perfect oncome of which is affected only by the spin imparted by the fingers of the bowlers. This spin the batsman must judge to the best of his ability, and when he fails to judge it he succumbs. In this respect he has more to contend with than the batsmen of old times, for, as I shall urge presently, the bowling has improved, and change of pace and spin are more successfully cultivated than they were.

But a modern batsman has rarely if ever to guard against fortuitous circumstances due to the condition of the ground itself. When, indeed, heavily rolled grounds are wetted by a shower the pace of the oncome of the ball becomes liable to rapid variations. But in very wet grounds and in very dry grounds the ball, to use the common expression of the day, "does nothing"; and its onward movement from the pitch is very easy to judge.

In this state of things the batsman of the end of the century has an advantage incomparably superior to that enjoyed by the men who played with Mr Lubbock in the sixties, or the giants of old days whose prowess was recorded in the pages of Bell's Life, and is regarded with affection by the author of "The Cricket Field." Lord's probably has improved more than the Oval or Brighton. There was more room for improvement. But what is true of Lord's is true of other places. The wickets are incomparably better than they were. Consequently the batsman has an easier task, and the preponderance of defence over attack is much greater than it was.

I am no **laudator temporis acti**. If I were I should be obliged to admit that there has been no deterioration in the bowling. On the contrary, I consider that the bowlers of the present day bowl better than the bowlers of the past. Jones and Noble, Richardson and Hearne, Young, Bradley and Hayward bowl more difficult balls and far fewer crooked balls than Hillyer and Lillywhite, Tarrant and Jackson, Willsher, Wootton and Freeman. Few, I might almost say none, of the best fast bowlers of the old day could have safely dispensed with a long-stop (Mr Harvey Fellows used to have two), or afforded to bowl with only two men on the off-side. The leg-half-volley was too frequent.

It may be, as is urged by some of the older school, that the attack is too persistently confined to the off-side of the wicket, that the "leg-break" in right-hand bowlers is not as much cultivated as it ought to be; and that first-class "lobs" are too rarely tried. But this, even if true, would not modify the opinion that bowling has vastly improved since the days of Bathurst and of Mynn.

Much the same is true of fielding. It is easily now than it was, for there is little or no running after long hits, and absolute no long-distance throwing. But it has improved in itself. There is as much accuracy as there was; and, on the whole, as much activity and quickness. No one can expect a side to field for the sixth hundred runs as well as they field for the first. But until staleness or weariness is produced by exhaustion the fielding is better now than when Box kept wicket or even than when E M Grace stood at point.

No, the preponderance of the defence is not due to any weakness in the attack. The improvement of the grounds is the chief cause which has led to its development. And, inasmuch as that improvement is in itself eminently desirable, there can be no going back in respect thereto. I propose subsequently to consider whether any steps can be taken to counteract its influence, to make the conditions of the game more equal and the game itself more pleasant to criticize and to play.

Thursday 17 August, page 6: HIGH SCORES AND DRAWN MATCHES

(By an Old Blue)

II.

I pointed out in a previous article that there was growing among spectators and players a feeling of dissatisfaction with the abnormally high scores and consequently exceptionally large number of drawn matches.

To look on at any good feat gives pleasure to the onlooker, and to see under ordinary circumstances two batsmen make two or nearly three hundred runs without being parted is a gratifying thing in itself and is a pleasant subject for subsequent conversation. But when the performance tends to become habitual it ceases to be amusing. The ease with which, on hard, true wickets, runs are made makes run-getting an uninteresting occupation to watch. The compilation of fourers becomes monotonous.

Golf without bunkers, billiards with 6in pockets, fishing with salmon as plentiful and as greedy as perch - would any one care to watch one of the three? Would any real sportsman be gratified with all? No blame attaches to the bowlers. They do their best, and that best in very good. But they have no chance. Occasionally, indeed, they have a gleam of success, as

when Kent got rid of the Australians in their second innings at Canterbury for 94. But the gleam is very transient, and the success after all only relatively great.

Now and then a new bowler appears on the scene with some freshness of style which puzzles his opponents and lures them to comparative disaster. But his triumph is ever short-lived and he soon ceases to be really dangerous. Even the best professionals die away after two or three seasons. And of the few gentlemen who shine in the first rank the orbit is even more transitory.

Some critics have said that bowling is not enough practised in schools. This may or may not be true. But it is only natural that gentlemen, who play for amusement and not for a livelihood, should devote their energies and their application to that part of the game which presents fewest difficulties and entails least labour and disappointment. Amateurs practise bowling to some extent, but they practise it far less regularly and persistently than professionals. I should be very much surprised if at the chief practice nets of the best known grounds there would not be found ten instances of professionals bowling to amateurs for one of an amateur bowling to a professional. Consequently bowling has always a tendency to drift into the hands of professionals. And whereas the amateurs are at the head, but not preponderatingly at the head, of the batting averages, the professionals are pre-eminently superior in those of bowling.

But even if this were not the case as regards the practice of bowling, I doubt if there could be much strengthening of the attack. Where of two opposing elements one is decidedly the superior, it is in the nature of things that that one should be the more cultivated, to the enhancement of its superiority. Batting is more popular than bowling and is more practised. Its preponderance therefore grows.

But I question whether there are any possibilities of bowling capable of restoring it to a position of equality. If bowling has not reached a zenith of perfection - I am not speaking of this season only, or of English bowlers solely - it has reached a degree of excellence which is very unlikely to be surpassed in the near future. Curl and break, spin, pitch and straightness are methods of which our best bowlers are masters. I see no opportunity of any material development, no sphere for any startling invention. Throwing is never likely to be allowed - though I am by no means convinced that batsmen need dread it on true wickets - and I fail to imagine any new method of delivery calculated [materially to] change the conditions of play.

I referred to the improvement of the grounds as the factor which has chiefly contributed to the preponderance of batting. It is a factor of very general influence and of a very widespread effect. Rough wickets are unknown in first-class cricket. Pace may vary. A very little rain may occasionally produce a great change. But, even so, the change is not nearly as great as it used to be when the grounds were less true. It is frequently enough to upset the judgment of even our best batsmen. But it is less than it was when it was necessary to contend with both inaccuracy of level and change of pace. And in their inability to contend with such changes is, I venture to think, the one point in which the batsmen of modern days compare unfavourably with those of a quarter of a century ago.

But improvement of grounds is not the only factor which has contributed to the triumph of the batsman and the defeat of the bowler. The prevalence of boundaries is another. At Lord's at the Oval, as well as in most provincial grounds, the majority of hard hits were, within the memory of many of us, run out. Now by far the greater number of balls hit past the fieldsmen reach the boundary; in some cases the men have to run the first run hard, but in much the larger proportion they have not to move. The difference is enormous and is eminently in favour of the batsmen.

The energy consumed in running five or six or even four runs unquestionably tends to make the striker less fit to receive the next ball. He is to some extent out of breath, decidedly so after repetition of the feat, his eye is not so steady and his hand does not so readily respond. That the fieldsmen also suffers is true, but it is to a less degree and with far less direct effect. His nerves and his steadiness are not necessarily called into immediate play. Those of one batsman are. A striker receiving the fourth or fifth ball of an over in which 12 or 14 runs have been run out is at a disadvantage. He may be inspired

by success, but he is disquieted by severe physical effort. Where there are boundaries all round the ground, as is the case in all or nearly all first-class matches, it is rarely necessary for the batsman to run hard. Threes are not very frequent, and ones and twos seldom require very great physical exertion, save on the few occasions in which time is short or every run of great importance. The speech of Tim Brown to his long-stop, "Jack, mind your hits, he steals more runs than any man in England" is utterly out of date.

There is no stealing of byes, very little stealing of runs. The batsman if he puts any runs at all into his stroke usually plays it sufficiently hard to reach the boundary. It is either fielded, or he is in the position of complacently and quietly watching it travel unimpeded to the limit, and calmly and without fluster preparing to receive the necessitated ball. I admit, as I have said, that the men in the long field gain much by not having to run after hard hits through such innings as Yorkshire and Surrey recently played against each other at the Oval.

In this respect the account of cricket given by a well-known member of a well-known cricketing family to an inquiring young lady is no longer applicable. "Do tell me what is cricket, Mr M." "Why, you see, 'She' is hit and you step and fetch her." "She" is certainly hit, and very frequently hit. But there is no stepping and fetching her. She is thrown up by a small boy in the crowd or by a good-natured policeman. Now if the fieldsmen gain something the batsman gains more. The strain on his nerves is less, his sight is not perturbed. His limbs are not disquieted and he derives something from the brevity of the interval between one stroke and another.

When I come to deal with the several remedies which have been suggested to restore to the bowler some at least of the advantages which he has lost, I propose to refer to a proposal to do away with boundary allowances. For the moment it suffices to press the proposition that those allowances and the consequence removal of all necessity for running out any but an infinitesimal proportion of the hard hits made has been a benefit to the batsman and a disadvantage to the bowler far outweighing any gain derived by the men in the deep field.

I have not thought it necessary to be statistical. No reader of the cricket records of the present season can have failed to be convinced of the very favourable conditions under which men bat, or of the success with which in first-class cricket they take advantage of those conditions. A match in which no batsman makes 100 runs is considerably more rare than a match in which a side scores over 400. Frequently three or more centuries are made in a match, and one of the records of the season is the performance of two brothers who, to their enduring honour, each made over 100 in each innings of an important county match.

When record after record is broken it is difficult to say that any climax has been reached, but the performance at the Oval when Surrey met an innings of 704 of Yorkshire by making over 500 for seven wickets is not only unequalled in this country, but has never been even approached. I yield to no one in honouring the great batsmen on both sides. Especially do I admire the pluck and persistence of the Surrey men, who, in no way disheartened by disaster, so gallantly fought an uphill fight.

But I think cricket ought to ask themselves, and are asking themselves, whether the conditions of the game in which such masses of runs are possible are the best that can be found. I have a very strong suspicion that the best professionals would be better pleased if 70 or 100 were as exceptional a score as 200 is now. The plaudits of an admiring crowd are gratifying enough; so are the contents of the hat which it seems to be the growing fashion to send around; and there is much pleasure in outdoing a great achievement of an adversary. But to bat for four hours after bowling for a large proportion of eight is a severe strain, and if the plaudits and the hat-lining were forthcoming for a score of 50 as readily as they are now for a score of thrice that amount most professionals would be better pleased.

I am not sure that this is true to the same extent with amateurs. Amateurs regard batting as their own especial function. For them the pleasure of hitting is the greatest pleasure derivable from the game. There are few, I suspect, who would not infinitely rather make 14 or 16 runs from an over than bowl out the most dangerous batsman. But even this intense preference for batting is giving way to the feeling that batting is too easy. No one has

made 500 runs yet in a first-class match. But there is no more reason why an individual batsman should not make 500 than there is to prevent a side scoring 1,000. These huge performances pall on both spectators and players, and when a game begins to be considered wearisome it has probably reached its zenith.

Before passing to consider remedies it may be well to refer briefly to one indirect but not unimportant effect of the preponderance of batting. If the side winning the toss makes a big score and dismisses its opponents for 120 less, it is compulsorily obliged to let them follow their innings. There is no choice in the matter. Now the difference between, say, 500 and 380, is not overwhelming. And to compel a side which has fielded against 380 to put their opponents in again is to punish them for their first success. Their bowlers are jaded, their fieldsmen approach their work without keenness, and they both know well that a rule, the object of which was to facilitate the finishing of the match and which in days of low scores did facilitate the finishing of the match, even as it held good then, now operates in directly the opposite direction.

It is difficult enough to get ten consecutive wickets. To get 20 is far more than twice as difficult a task. Consequently the rule gives a great advantage to the losing side which they by no means deserve. No one contends that the rule is meant, or ever was meant, to give in pity to the side which has done less well on the first innings a chance of recovery. And yet the winning side is obliged to accept as a boon that which it would infinitely prefer not to receive.

Judges of the etiquette of cricket have emphatically pronounced against any artificial attempts to forgo the disadvantageous privilege. It is not "cricket," that is to say it is almost dishonourable, certainly discreditable, to allow a side approaching the necessary limit to reach it. Whatever else is done to promote the finishing of matches, the rule of follow-on should be altered. There should be an option with the leading side.

Saturday 19 August, page 65: HIGH SCORES AND DRAWN MATCHES

(By an Old Blue)

III.

I contended in previous articles that the huge scores of the present season, though gratifying to the **amour propre** of those who make them and a source of unmixed delight to the writers of sensational paragraphs, are wearisome to spectators and not wholly a joy to players. And I pointed out that the causes which have chiefly conduced to them have been the great improvement of the grounds and the general adoption of boundaries.

When it was decided to modify the rule which forbade a bowler to raise his arm over the shoulder - a change the need for which was very doubtful - the necessity for the improvement of the ground became more urgent. High bowling on rough wickets was too dangerous. The ball bumped with a frequently which entailed undue hazard to a batsman's eyes and face, and a reform which under ordinary circumstances would have been brought about gradually was pressed forward by the natural reluctance of batsmen to incur risk.

The improvement of grounds was accompanied by improvement in bowling, which bowlers like Alfred Shaw and Mr A G Steel did much to encourage and to help. A greater command of the ball was cultivated and cultivated successfully. The art of making the ball spin either way at the will of the bowler was learned by many. The attack was improved as far as circumstances would allow. But circumstances allowed very little, and as more and more batsmen, both amateur and professional, learned how to bat well, the defensive power of elevens waxed out of all proportion to their power of attack. The scores even in years of changing weather sprang upwards at a rapid rate and have this year reached an intolerable height.

To this growth has contributed not a little the greater caution shown by the majority of batsmen, even of amateurs. It is perhaps not unnatural that there should be hesitation in

cutting an off long hop when there are three men in the slips and two or more behind point. And though it is very sad to see ball after ball short pitched and wide of the off stump severely let alone, or met simply by a movement of the right leg in front of the wicket, some allowance must be made for the batsman's dread of the cluster of men on the offside. But why the leg half-volley, which appears sometimes even now, should be treated with respect I never could quite understand. A few of the hits for which George Parr was so famous would be a treat to see once more, and would force the withdrawal of one of the fieldsmen from the off-side. And why a full pitch should so often be played gently back to the bowler is a mystery. The "hook" and the "pull" - lucrative but dangerous and ungainly strokes - have replaced the short-lived "draw" and what for some years was known as the "Cambridge poke," but the hit with an open shoulder to square leg or long-on has disappeared, and very rarely is any effort made to force the ball over a fieldsmen's head.

Probably the explanation of such extreme caution is that to which Dr W G Grace incidentally refers. Cricket is more of a business, less of a recreation, than it was. In old days a few professionals were employed to assist men who played for sport and sport alone. Now the professional element predominates. County matches were promoted and the county championship established because it was felt that such matches would encourage keen and wholesome rivalry, that they would be fought out in a spirit of true sportsmanship, and would be highly interesting both to watch and to play.

But though this anticipation has been to a great extent realized, county competitions have tended to become a serious labour rather than an amusing pastime. Considerations of gate money have not been ignored. The public have - not, perhaps, in so many words, but in sounds which have been unmistakable - claimed a voice in determining how county matches should be conducted. They have insisted on the strengthening of the teams and have by no means discouraged, even if they have not to some extent favoured, the exclusion of amateurs. The result is that the majority of the county elevens, with one or two exceptions, consists of professionals.

Now the professionals of the present day are a most worthy set of men, whose conduct is, as a rule, as admirable as their skill. But they have their living to make, and their success in their profession depends upon the result of their play. Caution at all times, caution carried to its utmost, is for them a necessity. They dare not run risks or take liberties. They find little to hope for in great and continuous achievements with the ball, so they rely mainly on achievements with the bat. It is but natural, therefore, that they should exercise a persistent care in the avoidance of all risks, which is greater than that exercised in former days by Carpenter and Hayward, the elder, and far in excess of that to which Griffiths or even George Parr would have condescended. County cricket fed and fostered, if not chiefly maintained, by gate money has turned cricket from a pleasure into a business and has largely contributed to the slow and painstaking compilation of huge scores.

There is a well-known story of a gentleman who, when shooting a friend's pheasants near a town in the heart of the Black Country, was peremptorily ordered by an onlooker to take pains, as there was great local interest in, if not some little local money on, his performance. No amateur cricketer who does not take pains, and successfully take pains, could keep his place in a county eleven. The gentleman who likes the game for its own sake finds that cricket is a serious labour, and unless he can give up the whole of the summer to its pursuit he has no alternative but to retire. He has no rest. Six days a week are expected of him. And his taskmasters, the public, will suffer no abatement of his labour or his zeal.

There are signs, I think I may say welcome signs, of a reaction. Even in so important a match as the last test match, the play of the English champions was described, certainly by no hostile cricket, as monotonous, and the spectators seem more than once to have lapses into listlessness. To spend a whole day watching the batting of one side, and to see it become every moment made more clear that nothing short of some extraordinary accident can prevent a draw, is an amusement the interest of which is rapidly departing. And it is because I think some change in the game would be welcome to all those who take a true and intelligent interest in cricket that I venture to believe it desirable to examine what change is possible and how it should be brought about.

The alterations in the conditions of the games which have been suggested or which are open to discussion may be divided into two classes - first those which, leaving the game much the same as it is, aim at such slight modifications in the interests of the bowler as, though separately of no great influence, might in the aggregate have considerable result; and, secondly, those which would produce a decided and a radical change.

In the first class are the following: - An addition to the number of balls bowled per over; the shortening of the distance between the wickets; a change in the law of leg-before, making it penal for a batsman to stop with his legs any ball which would have hit the wicket; the extension of the closure to all days of the match; the abolition of the law of follow-on, or at least such a limitation as would vest an option in the leading side; and the abolition of all boundary allowances. In the second class may be placed two important items - a reduction in the size of the bat and an increase in the size of the wicket.

I have omitted from either class two possible changes which, I think would have no support worth considering - a withdrawal of all limitation of the method of delivery of the ball and some modification of the perfect smoothness of the wicket. I have, indeed, seen and heard discussed the suggestion that the bowler should be allowed to throw, and I have known it supported in the belief - to some extent sound - that on the level ground of the present day the batsman would have little to fear.

But on all but perfect grounds his position under such circumstances would be intolerable. Second-class cricket played on grounds not absolutely true would be impossible. And even on first-class grounds there would be some risk which batsmen would hesitate to incur, and which it is not at all desirable to impose. It is by no means clear that throwing, if prolonged for many consecutive overs, would not be a more severe strain on a bowler than any he has to undergo now, and one more productive of accident and disablement. Nor is it certain that even for the time for which it could be kept up it would seriously increase the bowler's chances, save those of inflicting physical hurt. Some increase of pace, some greater rapidity of spin and some development of "kick" might be expected from a throw; but even these would be liable to limitation and would be effective only for a time. In a word, neither side has much to gain by the adoption of throwing, and the preponderating balance of opinion against it is justified.

So, too, there is no going back from the perfection of the grounds. I have heard suggested the encouragement of grass and the veto of watering. But it is generally admitted that the weapons with which the game is played should be of their kind as perfect as they can be made. In the nature of things any artificial limitation of level is impossible. Nothing in the nature of a "bunker" or a "hazard" is conceivable. It remains only to take the opposite alternative and do all that can be done to raise all grounds on which cricket of any kind is played to the greatest perfection attainable in the circumstances of each case.

Of the less important remedies, that which is the most simple and the easiest to introduce is the lengthening of the over. When the Marylebone Club added the fifth ball there were many who regretted that they did not go further. The time spent in changing sides is a hindrance to actual play the advantage of which is difficult to see. When one of the batsmen is right-handed and the other left the position of the field is constantly changing. Probably 20 or 30 per cent of the gross time available is consumed in changing sides. As between right and left-hand play this cannot be avoided. But why the field should change every fifth ball is by no means clear. It used to be urged that to bowl more than four consecutive balls was an undue strain on the bowler. I doubt if this argument is seriously produced now.

When a new bowler is put on he frequently delivers five or six balls to loosen his muscles - a habit which is, by the way, becoming more and more abused. And no bowler in full practice could possibly urge that the bowling of six or even eight consecutive balls was an excessive requirement. On the contrary, most bowlers would prefer a longer over, as giving additional opportunities of plan. And there are few fieldsmen who would not welcome a curtailment of their obligations to change. To this small alteration so high an authority as Dr W G Grace is favourable. There is little objection to it, and inasmuch as it stands by itself it involves no consequential alterations. It would do something to save time, but its effect

would be little on the huge mass of runs which make the real problem, as both spectators and players are beginning to see. It would be a palliative, not a remedy.

Monday 21 August, page 9

HIGH SCORES AND DRAWN MATCHES

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - Every one who is interested in cricket must be reading the very excellent articles now appearing in The Times on the subject of the ascendancy of batsmen over bowlers. Now, although this summer has emphasized the fact that on fast, true wickets long scores are becoming too prevalent in first-class cricket, and to a modified extent in second-class cricket also, in the great majority of other cricket matches there does not seem any necessity for radical change in the present laws.

Thousands and thousands of one-day, and even half-day, matches are played throughout the country weekly, in which an individual score of 50 is very much the exception, and in which an aggregate of 100 is generally sufficient to win the game. If the records of the matches played on a Saturday afternoon at Raynes-park, for instance, were analyzed I feel sure that it would be apparent that the bowlers had by no means the worst of the exchange. By any alteration tending towards increasing the difficulty of run-getting in indifferent cricket - which affords as much pleasure to the participators therein as the county matches do to the fine players who have the honour of playing in them - the great majority of batsmen, who already look upon a score of 20 as something out of the common, would be deprived of a great part of their enjoyment.

Any difference in the rules for first-class and other cricket is much to be deprecated, but I humbly suggest that unfinished three-day matches should be decided by the first innings, making the "follow-on" rule optional with the side winning the toss, and that in the return match the side that lost the toss should have first choice of innings and be arbiters as to following on.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
E A MAINWARING, Capt., Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
The Barracks, Naas, county Kildare, Aug. 18.

Tuesday 22 August, page 10: HIGH SCORES AND DRAWN MATCHES

(By an Old Blue)

IV.

The Australians can scarcely add much to the high reputation they have gained during their present tour. They have received and deserve the hearty congratulations of the cricketers of Great Britain. In winning and in losing positions they have shown qualities of which we and they may well be proud - qualities which in other fields may some day be of service to the Empire. Of them, as of the British infantry in the Peninsula, it may be said that they never know when they are beaten. Their pluck, their endurance and their resource have been shown in play. There is little doubt that if wanted they would be available in circumstances of more stern reality.

But they have proved that in such a season as this three days are insufficient for a first-class cricket match. They defied, and easily defied, the efforts of a splendid team to get them out twice in two nearly full days. And they achieved the result, which, if satisfactory to themselves, was a disappointment to the whole of England, of adding one more drawn match to a list already far too long. By doing so they gave rise to a suggestion which deserves a passing notice before I further consider whether there is any remedy for

the present highly unsatisfactory position of the game, and how best to check the compilation of huge masses of runs, wearisome alike to those who watch and to those who play. I mean the suggestion that all further test matches, that is to say matches between England and Australia, should be extended to six days.

In the interests of cricket such a remedy is sternly to be resisted. Already cricket is made too much of a business. There is no other sport demanding such continued application, such persistent labour on the part of its devotees. Among our national amusements it alone requires not only the whole day, but the whole of the majority of days in four months of the year from players of the first rank. And the result is that the duration of the career of nearly all first-class amateurs and of many of the leading professionals is far shorter than is the case in any other game. To extend the duration of matches would be to increase this evil. It would encourage slow play, develop safety at the expense of brilliance and materially add to the growing boredom felt by spectators who derive no pleasure from watching hour after hour laborious and painstaking defence.

In my last article I referred to six minor and two major alterations which might restore to bowling some of the possibilities of which, by a combination of circumstances it has been deprived, and in the true interests of the game make the conditions more equal than they are. In the former category were placed the following: - An extension of the over; a shortening of the space between the wickets; an alteration of the law of leg-before; allowance of the closure at any time; follow-on to be at the option of the leading side, and a withdrawal of all boundary allowances. In the latter were placed an extension of the wicket and a diminution of the bat.

And I endeavoured to show that an increase of the number of balls bowled per over to six or eight would save an unnecessary consumption of time, would be to the advantage of the field and the bowlers, would be easy to introduce, but could scarcely be expected to have much effect on the unwieldy mass of runs.

A shortening of the space between the wickets was a method which, some years ago, found some favour. It would be a great saving to bowlers if they had to bowl 20 yards instead of 22, and the batsman would have appreciably less time to make up his mind as to the pace and spin of the ball. It would add much power to a fast and some to a slow bowler. It would detract something from the ease of the defence. Joined with other remedies it might contribute to swell a total of effect; alone, it would scarcely be worth the disturbance of habit which it would create.

The rule of leg before wicket has probably led to more controversy than any other. A few years ago a committee of the Marylebone Club, to whose deliberations were due the adoption of the closure and the addition of a fifth ball to the over, debated long and anxiety the question of a change in the law. They found, as do all good judges of the game, much to be said in its favour. As the rule operates now it heavily handicaps all leg-break bowling. The best ball bowled by a right-hand bowler bowling round the wicket and curling with the arm is naturally a most dangerous ball. Most batsmen will admit that a ball between the leg and the wicket is above all others difficult to see. And if that ball has a certain amount of curl it is no slight task accurately to judge it.

But under existing circumstances many batsmen - it would probably scarcely be true to say all - make no attempt to do so. They cover their wickets with their legs either with or without an attempt to glance or slide the ball away. Nothing is more disheartening to a good right-hand bowler than to find ball after ball which has beaten the bat and would have hit the wicket stopped by the player's body. If the ball curls enough to miss both bat and legs, it more often than not misses the wicket also. Consequently it is the most accurate attack which is the most liable to failure.

To this liability, add to the somewhat greater ease with which over-hand bowling is made to break from the off, is due the neglect of right-hand leg-break bowling, which many good judges would like to see resuscitated. The rule, as I have said, severely handicaps an important class of bowling, and lately opinion in favour of a change seems to be regaining ground. The M.C.C. committee, guided to some extent by the advice of some of the best

umpires, abstained from recommending a rule which would place on all umpires a serious and a difficult responsibility.

In former days the umpires were not as accurate a body as they are now. And it was felt that the duty of judging whether a twisting ball would hit the wicket was too severe. The objection has less weight now. Umpiring has improved as much as other parts of the game. There is nothing in the task of judging whether a ball, whatever its break or curl, would have hit the wicket which need alarm any first-class umpire. And they and all others would probably be glad to be relieved of the obligation to judge in addition whether the ball pitched in line between the stumps.

With the batsman's objection to a change of law there need be little sympathy. "It would be very hard," it was sometimes urged, "on a batsman who, putting his leg out to cut an off ball, was beaten by the break and given out leg before." But where the hardship came in the bowler never could see, and he now appears to have the best judges with him; he overcomes the batsman's defence and is deprived of his reward by a wholly inequitable use of the body. Of this abnormal means of meeting attack the batsman should be deprived. The change of the law would operate fairly and opinion in its favour seems to be ripening.

The allowance of the closure at any time would tend to save time and would be to no one's disadvantage. The closure was adopted as an experiment and to remove the temptation to knock down wickets, which was held to be shabby, or to hit wildly and recklessly, which is held to be perfectly fair - a casuistical distinction the justice of which I do not pause to examine. The experiment has worked well. For its limitation to the last day of a match there is no longer need. And the power to close at any time may well be given to each side. The change would in a percentage of cases save time and would give many interesting opportunities for the exercise of fine judgment. But its effect would not be of much consequence as regards the preponderance of batting.

The same may be said of the rule of follow-on. It was originally framed in order to promote the chance of finishing a match. The side in a position of marked superiority - and in former days a lead of 80 gave a marked superiority - put their opponents in to avoid the necessity of having to make an unnecessary score themselves, or, in other words, to enable them to win by wickets instead of by runs. But in these days a lead of 120 by no means necessarily or even generally gives a marked superiority. And the side which has done best in the first innings is often seriously penalized by its own success. Such a position is not in accordance with the fairness of which cricketers are proud. The rule, if not entirely abolished, should at least be so altered as to give an option to the leading side. No team should be compelled, whether they like it or not and as a consequence of better play, to field out until they have got twenty consecutive wickets.

The abolition of all boundary allowances is supported by many good judges, among whom is believed to be a veteran amateur who has done much to promote the efficiency of University and school cricket. Boundaries are comparatively modern. Less than 30 years ago the majority of hits were run out at Lord's and the Oval, and all hits were run out in most country grounds. The crowds of spectators who watch all the more interesting matches have made this no longer possible, without some special arrangement. Batsmen are, therefore, spared the exertion of running out all but a few of the hard hits which escape the field. The change has contributed greatly to the preponderance of batting. It has, consequently, been suggested that the balance might be to some extent restored if either a wire net about 2ft high were placed round the ground or such a paling as there is at Lord's in front of the new enclosure.

Some of the objections to such a course are not very weighty. In the first place, it is urged that the public would not respect the railing, but would encroach in front of it. The public are, with exceptions too insignificant to consider, far too well-behaved to do anything of the sort. They would soon become aware of the fact that they change was calculated to add to their enjoyment by the increase of the opportunities for quick fielding and brilliant returns. And they would rapidly acquiesce in and encourage an arrangement which did away with the present monotony of fourers.

Again it is urged that a railing would make the best and hardest hits of least value owing to the rebound. There is little in this argument. As things are a hit which trickles to the boundary scores four equally with a hit which in an open ground would travel for six or seven. And inasmuch as few balls would strike the palings or the net at right angles the rebound would carry the ball elsewhere than directly back towards the wicket.

There is slightly more force in the objection that the field would have to be extended and be forced to devote somewhat more attention to saving runs and somewhat less to making catches. This is probably so. But even if the massing of men at slip and cover point had to be, to some extent, abandoned, the labour imposed on the batsman of running everything out would outweigh this advantage. Of course it is true that the field would have to do more running as well as the men batting. But it is generally possible to avoid placing bowlers in the outfield, and especially if other means were taken of making the innings less stupendously long the balance of advantage would be greatly with the outside rather than the makers of runs.

County and other first-class cricket will never again be played on such comparatively limitless grounds as Parkers-piece, Rickling-green or Chatham Pines. Clear-run eights and sevens are things of the past and sixes will continue to be possible only by hitting the ball in the air and out of the ground. But the running out of all hits would add to the interest of the game, and would, on the whole, operate in aid of the bowler. If the Marylebone Club chose to try the experiment other clubs would follow their example. As no change of the rules of cricket would be necessary it would not be difficult to abandon the experiment in the event of its proving a failure.

Were all the above remedies adopted, or even four or five of them, the combined effort would probably be considerable. But the selection of one or two would have but little influence. The making of many changes at once is difficult and, from many points of view, undesirable. If the conditions of the game are to be altered, it is much better that they should be altered in a comprehensive way. Perhaps it may be convenient that I should reserve for a further article an examination of the more drastic remedies for vexatiously high scores which would be produced by a change in the size of the wickets or the bat.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - I have read "An Old Blue's" letters on the subject of "High Scores and Drawn matches" with much interest, and I venture to suggest the following proposal for his consideration. When either side scores upwards of 300 runs in its first innings I would limit each side to one innings only. Scores of over 300 are almost invariably made under conditions of weather and ground which favour the batsmen. My proposal would help to equalize matters as the bowlers would be set the task of getting the batsmen out once only instead of twice. Given three fine days for play, "draws" would be comparatively rare; there would be plenty of time for two big innings or four innings of moderate length.

Besides halving the bowler's task my proposal would help him in other ways. Many matches would be finished on the second or early on the third day and the bowlers on both sides would get a rest, while under the present system a railway journey is practically the only break which many a good bowler gets between two three-day matches, at both of which he is expected to do the brunt of the work for his side, the result being that he never actually bowls his best.

From a purely cricket point of view I believe the advantages of my proposal to be many and its disadvantages few. It would, no doubt, result in many matches being finished early with a consequent loss in gate-money and it would be opposed for that reason, but I make it in the interest of the game, not in the interest of the "gate."

With many of "an Old Blue's" views all cricketers must agree. To substitute throwing for bowling would be to do away with what is finest in the fine art of cricket, and the rules as to the number of balls in an "over," as to l-b-w and "following on" might all be usefully altered; but I venture to think that in what I propose (or something like it) will be found

the simplest and most effectual remedy for an unsatisfactory state of things.
Sir, your obedient servant,
August 20.

I am,

SHORT WHIST

Sir, - May I suggest an automatic method of preventing drawn games at cricket, except in so far as they are caused by bad weather, for the consideration of your Correspondent "an Old Blue"?

The suggestion is to limit the time allowed for each innings and to give the captain of the side which is in complete power of dealing with the time as he sees fit - i.e., to permit him to declare an individual player's innings as closed.

It may be taken that, weather apart, there are about seven hours available each day, or, say, 21 hours in three days.

From these 21 hours we must make the following deductions: - (a) for three luncheon intervals of one hour daily, three hours; (b) for three tea intervals of 10 minutes each, 30 minutes; (c) for three intervals of 10 minutes each between innings, 30 minutes; total, four hours, leaving 17 hours, or 17 playing hours in which to play four innings.

Why not then allot 4¼ hours to each innings and allow a side to make as many runs as it could in that time provided the whole side were not out or declared before that time had elapsed?

As an incentive to the side that was out they should be allowed, if they can get the other side out in less than 4¼ hours, to add the time so saved to their own next innings.

Possibly this system might militate against "records" and individual dropsical scores; but perhaps that would be rather an advantage than an evil, especially if the good is gained of bringing all matches, not interfered with by rain, to a definite conclusion.

I am, etc.,

BEAKAL

Sir, - Mr Norwood Young's suggestion that "the side which has made most runs per wicket be declared the winner" would lead to very unfair conclusions.

Let us suppose that one side has made 150 runs, of which 100 runs were made by its two best bats. This gives an average of 15 runs per wicket. The other side then goes in and rain stops the match after the two best men are out for 80 runs. The side then wins the match with an average of 40 runs per wicket, merely because the average has not been "watered" down by the tail end of the eleven having gone to the wickets.
Your obedient servant,
August 20.

E.O.U.

Thursday 24 August, page 5: HIGH SCORES AND DRAWN MATCHES

(By an Old Blue)

V.

Whatever alteration is made in the conditions of cricket must be of general application. It would not, indeed, be actually impossible to arrange that first-class matches should be played under special rules. But the inconvenience would be so great as to be prohibitory.

At billiards there is no difficulty in providing for championship contests tables with the spot in a particular place and pockets of a certain size; while allowing all other games to

be played on tables with larger pockets and the spot further from the cushion. At golf the tees for medal play may be specially placed so as to make each hole longer and more difficult than usual. At croquet the size of the hoops may vary. But at cricket no such differentiation is practicable. Experiments may, indeed, be tried locally and for a time. But in the end cricket of all classes must be played under identical rules.

Those who legislate for the game - and it is to be hoped that the responsibility in this respect will remain with the Marylebone Club - cannot safely provide two codes. Nor is this all. In their consideration of the rules they must have regard to the requirements of all classes or cricket, not of first-class cricket only. There must be the same sized bat and the same sized wicket for all. No law can forbid the playing of cricket on rough grounds or compel a *minimum* level of pitch. But the weapons must be the same and the rules the same for all players. And unless those weapons and those rules are suitable for all players they will be bad.

Cricket does not depend on first-class play solely, nor even chiefly. Were it not for what are commonly and not inaptly called country matches cricket would rapidly wane. Schools, colleges, local and wandering clubs - these are the feeders of first-class elevens, and their requirements and wishes must be carefully borne in mind.

It is in the firm belief that the preponderance of batting has affected all classes of cricket that I advocate a change in the conditions in order to restore some measure of equality between the attack and the defence. It is not only the first-class grounds which have improved. The average excellence of all grounds is far higher than it was. The scores are larger and the drawn games more frequent in one and two-day matches than they were. The game would be a better game for all sorts and conditions of players if this unsatisfactory state of things were altered.

At some risk of repeating myself, I desire to meet an objection to change to which, in a previous article, I have briefly referred - the objection, I mean, that a few days of rain would reduce the preponderance of batting and raise the bowlers to a state of superiority. The argument seems to me unsound. In the first place the statement is subject to qualification. When the pace of the ground changes from hour to hour or even from forenoon to afternoon the task of the batsman is difficult, under certain combinations very difficult. But this requires an alternation of sunshine and storm which, even in our variable climate, is extremely rare. If it were frequently to recur I firmly believe that our batsmen would develop means of overcoming the difficulty, and would maintain their superiority even in face of their disadvantages. But when the pace of the ground remains the same for a whole day, or changes slowly, there is no great advantage to the bowler. On true wet grounds as on true dry grounds the ball does little, except, of course, that which the bowler makes it do, which need tend to puzzle a good player.

Moreover, in many conditions of wet the bowler finds more difficulty in bowling than the batsman in batting. A sodden ball is not easy to hold. It admits of less variety of pace, and much less bias and spin. The foothold of the bowler is treacherous, his left foot liable to slip. Even, however, if the objection mentioned above were founded on a fact true without qualification, the deducible argument would not be overwhelming. The *desiderata* of cricket are fine weather and true grounds. If a continuance of fine weather makes the cricket played on good grounds as monotonous and as dreary as that of the present season, it is no defence of existing conditions to urge that under certain combinations of bad weather and untrue ground there is less monotony and somewhat more excitement.

From the minor remedies which in previous articles I have examined I cannot anticipate very much. I reject entirely the proposal to allow throwing. I recognize that an opinion in favour of an alteration of the rule of leg-before-wicket is ripening. But, though my confidence in the first-class umpires of the present day is great, I doubt whether it would not be a very grave change to impose on all umpires the duty of deciding whether a curling or breaking ball would hit the wicket. The number of balls bowled per over may safely and easily be increased. The abolition of boundary allowances might without any alteration of rules be tried experimentally. The closure might be extended. The rule of follow-on should certainly be abolished or so changed as to give an option to the leading side. The

shortening of the space between the wickets would entail a change of habit and method outweighing any probable advantage.

It remains to consider the more drastic remedies involved in a change of the size of the wicket or the bat. In approaching the consideration of these relatively great questions I venture to urge the importance of grappling with them boldly. If it can be shown that an improvement in our justly popular national game can be made by a change in the instruments with which it is played, no consideration of the prestige of past or present players ought to stand in the way. Nor ought legislators to be frightened by the seriousness of the position with which they deal.

And here I dismiss absolutely an argument which I have heard used that it is only the batsmen of the past who are in favour of change, and that they are influenced by jealousy of the feats of those of the present day. Of course, any question must be determined by regard to the interests of those who are playing or who will play, rather than those who have played. The two classes ungrammatically described as the "have-beens" and "never was-es" may safely be left out of account. But, on the other hand, those who look on at matches from the windows of committee-rooms or the benches of pavilions may have a capacity of judging what is best in the true interests of the game as great as or greater than that of youngsters who still burn to rival the performances of their contemporaries or their predecessors.

An increase in the size of the wicket could be made either by raising the three stumps or by adding a fourth. There are probably few bowlers, wicket-keepers or umpires who could estimate with much accuracy the proportion between the number of balls which, having beaten the batsman, miss by a little the top of the wicket and the number of such balls which just miss the wicket by passing to one side. But in the nature of things the latter category must be the more numerous; because the area of error is so much the greater.

To raise the existing three stumps would therefore be the lesser change. Unless the increase in height were considerable the effect would not be great. And if it were considerable it would tend to the cultivation of short-pitched bumping balls, which is not desirable. As it is there are some fast bowlers who bowl a series of short-pitched high-rising balls in the hope of getting a catch in the slips. The method is not a very worthy one; it is not pleasing to watch or to meet in play. It involves a certain amount of discomfort, if not of actual risk, to the batsman, whom no one desires to see hurt. I should be sorry that it should be encouraged, and for this reason chiefly I regard it as the less preferable alternative.

The addition of a fourth stump would add nothing to the physical hazard of the striker, but would add much to his obligation to be accurate. Some critics, among them I believe one of the highest authority, have stated that a good player does not confine himself to defending three stumps and rarely lets a ball pass within half an inch of the wicket. I demur to the statement. No one can have watched many first-class matches without seeing many balls in an innings just miss the off or leg stump. Over and over again in a chronicle of a long score it is recorded that such and such a player was morally bowled, but that the ball did not quite hit the wicket. From the effects of accidents even the best players have frequently escaped, in cases where the ball would have caused their downfall had the wicket been broader.

Another objection has been raised from an opposite point of view. It is said that no one can defend four stumps with a straight bat without running risk of getting in front of his wicket, and that consequently a fourth stump would foster crooked play - *anathema maranatha* to purists. The premise is doubtful, the deduction open to question. Tall men without much difficulty and short men without insuperable difficulty can defend four stumps with a straight bat. And even if they could not there is nothing sacred in straightness of bat. If a change, otherwise desirable, would involve in certain circumstances some slight departure from straightness of bat, it should not be rejected solely for that reason.

A more weighty objection is that the fourth stump would have an effect in second-class and inferior matches out of all proportion to that which it would have in first-class matches. This is probably true. It is also conceivable that in the former the change would be

unpopular as doing away with many amenities of batting without any compensating increase of the gratification of the batter. No one could find much more pleasure in defence of four stumps than he has in defence of three.

This is not equally true as regards a reduction of bat. Were the bat made narrower it could be made thicker. Its driving powers could be increased and the delight obtainable from successful hits. No one who has played with what is called a "broomstick," by which is meant a round well-made piece of willow or other elastic wood, of about two inches or slightly less in diameter, is without knowledge of the keen gratification derivable from skilful use of the weapon. To my mind it is one of the strongest arguments in favour of a reduction of the bat that in all classes of play, first, second and inferior, the batsman would derive more satisfaction from a score of 40 or 30 made with a narrowed and thicker bat than he does from an innings of twice the length made in present circumstances.

The objection that if the bat were narrower it would have little effect in first-class matches is as unsound as in the case of the wicket. Very frequent in a long innings are the instances in which a batsman, well-set and triumphant, is almost beaten by a straight ball, which he meets with the outer quarter of an inch only of his bat, with the result of an wholly fortuitous snick and the sore disheartening of the bowler. Reduce the width of the bat and many more balls would be clean missed by even the best players. Of these, in first-class matches, a large proportion would hit the wicket; and a great reduction of the huge unwieldy innings which weary spectators and tend to unfinished matches would result.

Aye, it is urged, this may be true, but if true it follows that on wet wickets the curtailment of scores would be too great. "I should get no runs at all," exclaims some over-timid amateur mindful of his average. There is no reason for undue alarm. On wet wickets or tricky wickets there is far more danger of being caught than of being bowled. The amateur on such a wicket who is pleased with making 40 would have to be content with making 20, and would find in doing so much opportunity of satisfaction.

Let it be supposed that a reduction of bat could be made which would reduce the average innings by one-half. The scores of 500 would be reduced to 250. Those of 100 would reach 50. The former change would be an unmitigated good; the latter certainly no evil. This criticism applies to first-class play on tricky wickets, and to all other classes of cricket. The abnormally long scores would be adequately reduced; the short scores would still remain of sufficient length to be interesting. And the pleasure of batting would not only not be annulled, but would actually remain as great as, or even greater than, it is at present.

Cricket with 150 or 200 as a winning score in county matches would be a better game than it is. It would be less of a labour. More matches could be played. The demand not only on the energy but on the time of amateurs would be lessened. There would be less monotony, more episodes, more critical positions. The interest of spectators would not be so frequently lulled into boredom. The field would not have for hour after hour to struggle against the stonewall defence of men whose chief object is the safe consumption of time. There would be more zest in batting, not only because "the danger's self is here alone," but because the effect of good play would be more immediate, the reward of skill more prompt.

In play not of the first class the scores would be shorter and there would be more ciphers; but the playing out of the match would be more accessible - the main consideration after all. There would be no mischief in the completion of four innings in one day. That was formerly and ought to be now the "consummation devoutly to be wished." The change would be a benefit to players and spectators, and the sole losers would be the lovers of huge records.

But it is probably too great a change to be made without experiment, if experiment is possible. Therefore I make a suggestion to those who have in any way the control of cricket. Let the Marylebone and the Surrey clubs organize - if too late to do it this season it may well be done next - a certain number of Saturday matches between selected teams played with bats narrower by an inch or even an inch and a half than those now used. Let the owners of county grounds who entertain such wandering clubs as I Zingari and the Free Foresters have a few matches, admittedly trial matches, under the above conditions.

The experiment would be interesting and popular. If it succeeded the new game would spread. At any rate, experience would be gained which would be useful.

And in the meanwhile let the Marylebone Club appoint a committee to consider the whole question. The scores are too huge, the drawn matches too frequent. In every interest save that of megalomania the preponderance of batting should be reduced. In saying this I have no object to serve save the welfare of the game I love - the grandest and most wholesome of our national sports. I have long ago made my last run - may I be proud of the fact that the ball went to the boundary? - but I am anxious to see cricket restored to its status of an amusement instead of being a heavy and laborious business. And I should like to watch a few more quick and critical contests before the Great Umpire calls Over.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - In common with most other keen cricketers I fear I must confess to having found, in my own mind, a panacea for the evil of drawn matches - an evil brought so prominently to the fore by the fine weather which has prevailed this season and by the high scores which in such fine weather are compiled on the perfect wickets now so easily obtained.

I have been watching for some time the various proposals which have been made, both in The Times and elsewhere in the expectation that my simple method would have been suggested; but, as that has not been the case, I venture to ask you to allow me briefly to expound it. It is simply this - that county matches should be restricted to two days and one innings each, the result decided on the one innings and the closure to be permitted to be put in force upon either day. There could then be three matches played every week instead of two, and when matches are played against the Australians, or when more time is required for any great classic event, the week in which such a match is played could be divided into two games - two days for the county match and four days for the more important event.

Under such circumstances as those, we should have no (or hardly any) drawn matches, a great deal of time so valuable in our short cricket season could be saved and more matches could be played, thus encouraging second-class county cricket.

I cannot understand how, under present conditions, it can be found necessary that a cricket match between two teams should consist of two innings each. If the answer is that conditions are thereby equalized, I reply that the return match is intended to fulfil that requirement. The match is at present decided in favour of the team which makes the most runs; very well. Let each side make its attempt, produce a result and the game is over. Except on the ground that there is plenty of time to spare, I cannot conceive why a second innings should be entered upon. If more than one is needed, surely three innings each would be most in accordance with the customs of games.

It may be urged that the necessary travelling for three matches in the week would be too much strain on the cricketers; and to meet that I suggest that the match should be over and finished as soon as one innings each is completed. There are several other points which I might elaborate, but I have taken enough of your valuable space to set forth the idea.

One other matter. In the so-called "test matches," which with one exception have not been test matches, owing to the time limit stopping the game, 12 days have been spent (four matches) with absolutely no definite result. In those 12 days at least two games could have been fought out. Could not these matches be played on the cumulative principle - viz., continue in July the game which in June was unfinished at the end of the three days? Illness and injuries might prevent players finishing a match they had commenced, but these forces are at work under the present system.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Bisley, Surrey, Aug. 23. A DUTHOIT

Sir, - I should think the great majority of old cricketers will agree with "old Blue's" remarks on this subject.

As regards the "leg-before" rule, my experience leads me to endorse his remarks very heartily. In my day I bowled left-hand round the wicket with such a break with the arm that not one ball in ten - on some days no ball at all - that pitched at a good length between wicket and wicket would hit the stumps. When I went up to Cambridge, 30 years ago, it was considered bad form to "play" such balls with the legs. By the time I got to the end of my cricket life many men did this systematically and gloried in it.

As far as umpires are concerned, it will surely be simpler to decide whether any given ball would hit the wicket than to settle not only that point, but also the question of pitch between wicket and wicket.

Yours faithfully,

RUDE DONATUS.

Sir, - Your correspondent "E.O.U." has pointed out that my suggestion that "the side which has made most runs per wicket be declared the winner" would lead to "very unfair conclusions" where one innings had not been completed by each side. To obviate such a result I would propose that the rule should apply only when each side had completed an innings. Even then a case might occur in which a meritorious performance on the part of two men might give their side the victory, at a period of the game when it was not certain which side would have won. The cases would, however, be very few. And the verdict would always go to the side which seemed to have an advantage.

It should be remembered that the verdict of "drawn" is very common, and in many cases very unfair; and that no regulation which decided the issue before the game is finished can be technically "fair." The worst that can be said of my suggestion is that in certain rare and exceptional cases the side which had an advantage, though not one which would necessarily ensure victory, would be given a premature decision in their favour. Compared with the evil of drawn games this seems to me a trifle.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

August 22.

NORWOOD YOUNG.

Friday 25 August, page 6: HIGH SCORES AND DRAWN MATCHES

(By an Old Blue)

VI.

It is much to be regretted that the boredom of the crowd at Lord's when the Australians were batting against Middlesex got the better of their manners. The boredom may have been natural. The breach of manners was not. The Australians were playing perfectly fairly. However wearisome their tactics may have seemed to the spectators, the latter had not justification for any expression of disapproval of a policy which was perfectly in accordance, not only with the rules, but with the etiquette of the game. The occurrence, however, was exceptional, for nothing is more characteristic of English cricket crowds than their courtesy to opponents.

The fact, however, remains that what is now generally called "Stonewalling" is a deadly dull spectacle. And here let me refer in passing to a curious error made by Dr W G Grace when he ascribes the origin of the term to a saying of William Barnes, who applied the phrase to R G Barlow in 1882. W Mortlock, of Surrey, was called "Stonewall," probably after Stonewall Jackson, the General, long before Barnes or Barlow appeared in first-class cricket.

If no change can be made in the conditions of the game, we may expect from spectators not, perhaps, overt signs of dissatisfaction, but an increase of listlessness and a decrease

interest which will seriously affect its popularity. And this will be true not only of occupants of the new stand at Lord's, but also of those far less demonstrative but more keen critics who look on from the benches of the pavilion. Nor is this prospect modified by the fact that every now and then a side collapses as completely as did Middlesex on Tuesday. Even when success in batting is as easy as it is now there must be occasional failures. What is desirable in cricket is that a score of 150 or 200 should be as a rule a winning score; and that an effective check should be placed, not by the murmurs of the crowd, but by the rules and conditions of play, on the huge and unwieldy innings which bore every one concerned except the worshippers of records.

I refer incidentally to the change produced when overhand bowling was allowed. Its effect was to discourage bowling delivered level with, or slightly below, the shoulder. Combined with the rule of leg before wicket it reduced bowling round the wicket with a curl from leg to a state of inanition. It is physically easier to deliver a series of balls with a high than with a level or low action. But the policy grew of bowling with an off break and massing fieldsmen in the slips and behind or in front of point.

It is not to be expected, nor is it to be desired, that overhand bowling, which has been allowed for so long, should ever again be prohibited. But young bowlers may well be encouraged to cultivate bowling with a level arm and a curl from leg. A ball so delivered is more difficult to see, and its pace and bias more difficult to judge, than a ball delivered perpendicularly. There are more "blind spots," to most batsmen at any rate, inside the leg stump than outside the off stump. If the rule of leg before wicket is found to stand in the way, the rule of leg before wicket will have to go. The change is of doubtful expediency, having regard to the idiosyncrasies of umpires not of the first class. But the balance of argument is against a continuance of an unfair and abnormal method of defence by the batsman, and, whatever may be my own doubts on the subject, opinion appears to be ripening in favour of the change.

A suggestion has been made that matches should be decided by the score of the first innings, either in all cases of failure to finish, or where the first total reaches 300. We may have to come to this. It would be a great pity if we do. For a match of four innings is preferable to a match of two, and that those behindhand in the first trial should have a chance of recovery is in accordance with the whole spirit of the game. In tennis, in racquets, in gold - and in many other games which are played as a pastime, not as a business - the first venture does not decide the issue. It would be no advantage to cricket were it otherwise. Even in one or two-day matches it is far better that they should be so played as to make the completion of four innings probable than that victory should follow the completion of only two. No one advocates one fall only at wrestling or one round only with boxing gloves. In cricket not quite first-class, such, for instance, as that played by I Zingari, the Free Foresters and other leading peripatetic clubs, it is probably true that there are fewer huge scores and drawn matches than there are in first-class matches. But I maintain that the bat has beaten the ball in the former as well as in the latter, though not, perhaps, to the same extent. And the shortening of scores would be an advantage all round.

In former days the average of a second-class innings rarely exceeded, even if it reached, 100. Now this is no longer so. Second-class cricket is like first-class cricket - too slow. Shorten the scores and it will at once become quicker and more productive of episodes and of interest. This is true even of the play in house matches at schools, in college matches at the Universities, and in those happy and invigorating contests played on suburban grounds where five or six elevens may be seen fielding away merrily in close proximity, and where a hard hit ball permeates the area occupied by two or even three lots of competitors. In such, centuries may be rare and totals of 400 or 500 unknown. Nevertheless they would not only not be damaged, but actually improved, if run-getting were made more difficult and the attainment of double figures a feat of which the Tom Brown or the Dumkins of the day might well be proud.

How early in first-class cricket have amateurs to abandon the game! Occasionally gentlemen independent of a profession remain in the front for a series of seasons. But the exigencies of life call away the great majority from a game which entails so vast a consumption of time. Busy men may find opportunity for a day, or even two, in many summer weeks. But how

many of those who have work to do can devote six days a week to that which ought to be an amusement but is a labour? Lord Hawke, happily for Yorkshire, has been available for many seasons, and it is to be hoped may be available for many more. But how soon did Kent and England regret the retirement of Lord Harris? Where are the Lytteltons and the Steels? Brief, too brief, under present circumstances, is the career of amateurs; far too early their abandonment of the business of cricket for the business of politics, commerce or the Bar.

There are two objects to be aimed at in any change of the game which may be made - an increase in the chances of finishing first-class matches, and an increase in the brilliance and excitement of the play. The fault to be found with some of the suggestions which have recently appeared is that they deal with the former only. Notably is this true of the somewhat ingenious suggestion that the time available for each first-class match should be divided into four, and each side allowed to bat for a given time, say four hours or five. That such a method would lead to the termination of matches is probably true, but there is nothing to show that it would curtail the preponderance of batting, or make huge figures and dreary "stone-walling" more difficult than now. It would be a drastic alteration of system, entirely upsetting all the habits and ideas of cricketers. As such it would meet with more opposition than other changes, while it would leave untouched one great source of dissatisfaction and boredom.

The phase of a cricket match which gives rise to the keenest interest and the most refined pleasure to both players and spectators is when a good eleven has to make a small score in circumstances of difficulty. The literature of cricket contains no more exciting record of a match than that in which Mr R A Fitzgerald, and now again Dr W G Grace, describe the match between the English Eleven of 1872 and the 22 of Philadelphia, when the former, a strong team of amateurs, had to make 33 to win against the good bowling of Newhall and Mead, and fielding far better than that of most old-day twenty-twos, and only just did it. In University cricket the matches which Cobden won for Cambridge and A W Ridley for Oxford were productive of intense excitement.

Occasionally in these days the game reaches a stage in which every run is of importance and every ball is big with fate. But how far more rarely this happens than when scores were smaller! It appears to me that such stages would recur with far more frequency were the powers of the batsmen materially reduced, and that every one directly or indirectly interested in the game would benefit vastly by the change.

But a satisfactory alteration can only be brought about if the difficulty is grappled with boldly. Tinkering will do no good. Caution may be desirable. It may be wise to hesitate before making changes which cannot be undone. A step which cannot be retraced should only be taken upon clear proof that it is in the right direction. It may be better to bear the ills we have than to do anything which may lead us to others that we know not of. Nevertheless, it is better to make no change at all than to make one of inadequate effect. If cricketers consent to modify their habits or adopt new weapons they are just as likely to accept a serious as a slight reform. They are probably unwilling and reasonably unwilling to abandon their present groove, but, if they are inclined to abandon it, they are just as likely to make a long as a slight excursion.

The excursion, however, need not be in the direction of the unknown. The case is not one in which experiments are out of the question. I have suggested that a few trial matches might be played with a smaller bat; for such there are plenty of days available in metropolitan grounds. The Oval is not seriously occupied every day in the season, nor is Lord's. It would be by no means difficult to organize a few matches of quite sufficient importance to create interest, in which experience should be gained of a new weapon. If, at the same time, some county matches could be played under similar conditions, the **arbitrium popularis aurae** might be adequately tested.

But one or two matches would not suffice. The number must be great enough to eliminate the influence of accident. A match, or even two, played in the wet would be no criterion, nor would the case be different if the weather were persistently fine. The failure of one or two influential players would produce as much undue dislike of the experiment as accidental success of the trial would produce undue confidence in its value. But just as from small

beginnings and experiments on a few private lawns lawn tennis had its origin, so a trial of small-bat cricket might have great results. If fairly tried I believe it would be popular with both batsman and bowler, and a far greater pleasure to watch than the dreary reiteration of maiden overs, varied chiefly if not only by un-run fourers, which characterizes first-class play. To a batsman 30 runs in 20 minutes would be a more pleasurable innings than a hundred in three hours. Not merely each ball hit but each ball blocked with a small bat would be a source of keener gratification than it is with a big one. The bowlers would feel that they had a chance and would not be as now under the influence of despair. The game would be quick, full of incidents and demonstrative of much greater skill.

The Marylebone Club are to hold a general meeting early in September. Surely it is not too much to hope that those who rule its destinies, and rightly also rule the destinies of cricket, may make up their minds ere then that the time has come for the appointment of another committee to consider the whole position of the game. The moment is opportune. The hold of cricket on the national fancy is great. Its surroundings are less open to censure than those of any national pastime of equally high position. It has advantages surpassed by none, equalled by few. It would be a matter for unmitigated regret by those who love it, as well as by those who criticize it from a distance, if its popularity were sapped because it is too easily played.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - The laws of cricket were framed for batsmen, to whom a blow on unprotected legs was a serious matter, and for underhand bowlers. The use of pads makes it necessary to enact that any ball stopped by anything except the bat, when on its way to the wicket, should be fatal to the batsman, although it was a twister. The permission to bowl, first over shoulder, and then overhead, should have been accompanied with an increased height of the stumps, proportionately to the increased rise of the ball.

But proper as these alterations would be, something more is required, if matches are to end in one day, as they did formerly, and ought to do. The increased science of the batsmen, more marked even than the improvement in the bowling and fielding, makes it necessary to settle all matches in one innings.

THE CAPTAIN OF THE ETON ELEVEN IN 1836
August 22.

Sir, - As so much is now being said and written upon the laws of cricket, and the necessity for some drastic alterations therein, will you allow me to make my own suggestions, viz.: -

1. That where two counties play out-and-home matches the side losing the toss in the first match shall have the choice of innings in the second match.
2. That in a match where one side has scored 100 runs (without all being out) the other side shall go in and remain until they have scored 100 runs, and so on until the match is completed. When the tenth man on a side is out the first man shall go in again, and thus there will only be one "not out" on each side in a match. Two minutes only to be allowed for a batsman to take the place of a retiring one, and four minutes only for a change of innings.
3. If a match be not concluded at the end of the third day's play, the umpires shall give the victory to the side which they think deserves it. I think, however, this would not occur often.
4. Trial balls to be abolished. Why should bowlers have "trials" any more than batsmen?

By the above rules there would be no follow-on and no drawn games. Stonewalling would soon die a natural death. It would be no particular advantage to win the toss. At present the winning of the toss gives an advantage of about 5 to 4, if not greater. Each side would have a share of the wicket when good and when bad, and we should be spared the spectacle of a side standing out in the hot broiling sun for a day and a half while their opponents run up an absurd score of 700 or 800. The game would be much better from the spectator's point of view, because in an ordinary afternoon's play he would be sure to see each side both at the wickets and in the field. At present, when one side makes a big score in the first innings all the other side have to play for is a draw, and all interest and excitement in the game is gone.

By my suggested rules I think gates would be improved and the game would not be so tiring to the players as it frequently is now.

With many apologies,
EDGBASTONIAN

Birmingham, Aug. 22

Friday 25 August, page 7: LEADING ARTICLE

This wonderful summer, which recalls that of 1893, has brought to the front other questions besides that of the water supply of men and the "feed" of cattle. It has given a prominent place to the great cricket question. We find ourselves in a position that is a paradox.

This is the weather in which to play cricket and to look at cricket; in which to sit under an awning and to watch the game ought only one degree less enjoyable than to stand up in flannels, to bat or field. But yet, by reason of this very weather, cricket has become so monotonous that thousands of people are getting tired of it and refuse to sit through an afternoon in which a succession of boundary hits is sure to lead to the tame and impotent conclusion of a "draw." Our reports for the last two months have shown a succession of bloated scores and unfinished matches. The game, which is meant to lead to the decision of matches between well-chosen sides, has this year become the opportunity for individual display, and chiefly in batting.

Cricket is probably better all round than it has ever been, but it is the merit of the batsmen alone that in first-class matches and on modern grounds meets with its reward. The bat has been triumphant, the ball defeated. It is the exception when a county or other first-class team does not score 300 in an innings; often it achieves 400; and once this season, at the Oval, it reached 700. there is a glut in "centuries"; 200 is not a rare score for a batsmen; and ABEL and others have made over 300 on occasion. Two of the brothers FOSTER scored over 100 each in each innings of the same match, playing for Worcestershire. K S RANJITSINHJI has beaten his own "record," which had beaten that of DR W G GRACE, which had beaten all the world.

Such feats are very interesting, no doubt, to the batsman's friends and rivals; but not interesting to the bowler, who is discouraged by persistent want of success, or to the spectator, who goes to see a well-fought game. For the worst is that, in the face of these scores, the matches which it is most important to play out are left unfinished. Five times have England and Australia met, and only once has the game been brought to an end; the other four games were drawn, and England scores nothing by the fact that three of them were "moral victories." Of course, nobody likes this, and nobody thinks it a good thing for the prospects and interests of our national game. The question which is agitating the minds of cricketers - who include, let it be remembered, a large number of extremely clever men - is whether any reforms are possible, and if so what they should be.

The whole problem is discussed "in all its amplitude," as M. LABORI would say, in the six interesting communications from "AN OLD BLUE," of which we print the last this morning. These articles have attracted deserved attention. The writer, who combines a distinguished cricketing past with much experience of the world, approaches the question of "High Scores and Drawn Matches" in the spirit of the true reformer, who would preserve by improving.

Cricketers, he points out, are conservative. They would like to see the game remain what it has always been since they have known it, unless very good cause can be shown for alteration. Yet they have already been forced to yield sometimes to the necessities of the case, as in the rule against high delivery, and in the rules regulating the length of the "over" and the follow-on.

They find themselves now in the presence of the fact that, in a dry summer, modern grounds give an undue prominence to batting, and thus tend to spoil the game. It may indeed be admitted, as "AN OLD BLUE" urges, that even when the weather is less perfect than it has been of late run-getting is unduly easy; grounds remain true and hard even in summers when we have our normal amount of rain. Reforms, then, are imperative; we cannot wave them aside with the remark that "a few showers of rain will make them unnecessary."

Now reforms are of two kinds - they are palliatives or they are fundamental changes; and both these groups are fully discussed by our contributor. All alike are designed either to strengthen the bowler's attack or to deprive the defence of its present unfair advantages. As to the bowler, we agree that there can be no question of removing the prohibition of throwing; for, in the first place, to throw would expose the batsman to undue danger, and in the next its difficulties would not long continue to be difficulties. A thrower would always be liable to hurt the batsman; it does not follow that he would always capture his wicket. Besides, in the interest of the bowler himself, throwing must remain forbidden; no bowler could go on, over after over, if he had to throw and not to bowl.

It is otherwise with two other reforms - a change in the law of "leg-before" and the lengthening of the over. Opinion seems to be gradually ripening in favour of the former change - a very important one; while as to the lengthened "over" the bowlers themselves, in whose interest the present limit was fixed, ask for six balls or even more; and for the sake of saving time the change should certainly be made. This is, of course, merely a palliative, but taken together with a few others it would have a very considerable effect.

Such are the following: - To allow a side to "declare" on any day of the match; to give the side which leads an option in the case of the "follow-on"; and, above all, to abolish boundary hits. "AN OLD BLUE" did not exaggerate when he described the present system as one which almost does away with the necessity of running. A bowler has a right to expect that after the batsman has hit him for four he shall not be quite so fresh and so ready to punish the next ball. When the runs are really run, this is the case; but at Lord's or the Oval, and indeed on every county ground, a man who hits to the boundary stands still and does not lose his breath; he is in as good wind and in better spirits to hit the next ball. Our correspondent has much to say in support of his proposal that the grounds shall be fenced and that the runs shall really be run. If this is not accepted, we would suggest that a boundary hit should count not four, but three. This would cause the batsmen to change ends and give the bowler at least the small advantage of sending down his next ball to the other man.

But these remedies for long scoring are of but slight importance compared with the radical proposal which "AN OLD BLUE" made in his communication yesterday. This is nothing else than to diminish the size of the bat, assimilating it, in a certain degree, to the "broomstick" with which a strong school eleven sometimes condescends to play against a weak one armed with bats. The proposer is aware that his plan would not be generally popular, since most people regard batting as the pleasantest part of cricket, and shrink from anything which would make it more difficult than it is. He must expect, therefore, a good deal of opposition, especially from the multitude of inferior players, but the plan has the support of many fine cricketers, who know that beautiful "cuts" and "drives" can be made with narrow bats.

Another change, which might however prove too effective, would be a slight enlargement of the wicket; this, as our Correspondent intimates, demands serious consideration as an alternative. To add an inch and a half to the width of the wicket and two inches to the height would probably be found to answer the purpose; and this might be done, not by using a fourth stump, but by increasing the diameter of each of the three stumps by half an inch. There are perhaps more objections to this change than to the diminution in the size of the bat; but a serious trial should be given, at some of those "Saturday matches between

selected teams" at Lord's and the Oval which "AN OLD BLUE" suggests as an experiment, to one of these proposals, if not to both.

Some such change is imperatively called for and, as our contributor urges, it should be made after a strong committee of the M.C.C. has met and considered the whole position of the game. Cricket must not be allowed to become unpopular through its own fault, or the exaggeration of its own merits, such as the overgrown scores of the present season are admitted to be.

Saturday 26 August: HIGH SCORES AND DRAWN MATCHES

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - I presume that what the cricketing public wish is that matches should have some decisive result. Two factors would bring this about - viz., an additional day's play or rainy weather; but the first seems unpopular and the second is out of our control.

May I suggest two alternatives, both of which are no doubt open to many objections, as all radical reforms are?

First, that the teams should bowl and field as now, but that they should only bat five;

Or, taking the cricket day at six hours, that no side should occupy the wickets more than six hours for their first innings or three for their second - in a three days' match.

Enlarging the stumps and diminishing the bat would, I fancy, tell more against second-class than first-class players.

I cannot help thinking that some reform based on these lines would be better than a violent change in the constitution of the game.

Yours faithfully,

August 25.

H.

Sir, - I have been greatly interested in your admirable articles on this subject, more particularly as the conclusion at which "An Old Blue" has arrived as to the remedy for the present unsatisfactory state of affairs is in accordance with the results of a series of experiments which, in a small way, I have been making during the past two seasons.

What he writes as to the delight of batting with a "broom-stick" is much to the point, but I think it will be found that if, in place of a broom-stick (which, as usually made, is merely a club), an ordinary bat be cut down laterally to about half its width, without diminishing its thickness, and merely slightly rounding off the edges, the result will be a weapon which, even on a sticky wicket, affords plenty of opportunity for an exhibition of batting skill, and which, at the same time, gives the bowler a considerably better chance than he at present enjoys.

The mere hitting powers of such a bat are at least equal, if not superior, to one of the present standard size, and it will be found possible to play with effect many fast balls, particularly on the off-side, which with an ordinary bat most men would be unable to touch; the reason for this being that such a bat as I have described "comes up" much better and is altogether better balanced than an ordinary bat.

Pace your correspondent's observation that "there is nothing sacred in straightness of bat," I should regard the fact that such a bat as I have described must be held absolutely straight to ensure a successful defence as not the least of its merits.

I cannot pretend to any intimate knowledge of what goes on in first-class cricket, but I see something of club cricket, and I feel sure that the present state of affairs deters many a likely and otherwise keen youngster from playing owing to the probability that if his side

does not happen to win the toss he - as he would put it - "will not get a knock," and this observation, of course, applies with tenfold force to those whose opportunities do not extend beyond half-day cricket.

Probably few of your cricketing readers will disagree with me in thinking that it would add immensely to the interest and popularity of the best of all games if it were the rule, instead of the exception, for a match to be played to a finish, and I trust that it may be found possible to arrange a series of experimental matches on the lines your correspondent suggests.

In my view the benefit which the nation at large derives from the game depends on its cultivation by players rather than spectators, and anything which tends to the encouragement of the former seems to me to be at all events worthy of trial.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

JOHN P MEAD

St Mary's, Teddington, Aug. 24.

Sir, - "Old Blue's" suggestion to narrow the cricket bat will be welcomed by all who delight in looking on at good cricket. I think he has hardly laid enough stress on the transformation which the reform will effect in the quality of play. Obviously, when the bat has been narrowed it will pay no longer to cultivate the "stonewall" style any more, and we shall see batsmen devoting their whole attention to their proper object - namely, the making of runs.

I doubt very much if the total scores in fine weather will be much diminished, but they will be made in half the time. It may, however, be found that matches will no longer fill up three days, or in smaller engagements two days. If this is so, why should it be impossible to have three innings instead of two, a rule being made that if the third innings is not completed the game shall be decided in accordance with the score at the end of the second innings?

Believing as I do that the narrowing of the bat will utterly abolish all playing for a draw, I think that this suggestion would ensure that the time now devoted to matches would be filled up, while the new conditions of the game would prevent any risk of the recurrence of "stonewall" tactics except to a very small extent. This plan would have the advantage, on which "Old Blue" insists, of being applicable to cricket of all standards.

Yours faithfully,

OSENDYKE.

Monday 28 August, page 9: HIGH SCORES AND DRAWN MATCHES

Sir, - I, in common with all lovers of cricket, have read with great interest your Correspondent "An Old Blue's" admirable articles on the subject of "High Scores and Drawn Matches." He proposes eight alterations in the game, which are -

1. An extension of the over.
2. Shortening of space between wickets.
3. Abolition of leg-before.
4. Allowance of closure at any time.
5. Follow-on at option of leading side.
6. Withdrawal of boundaries.
7. Extension of the wicket.
8. Diminution of the bat.

At the end of his last article he concludes with the following words: - "If the conditions of the game are to be altered, it is much better that they should be altered in a comprehensive way." In this I perfectly agree, and now propose a drastic alteration in the

"Game of Cricket" - viz., that it should consist of one innings for each side, and that two days should be allowed for a match. I'd this were agreed to, no other alterations need be made, and many more matches could not only be played, but played out, and "stonewalling" to make a stand would become a thing of the past.

In no other game does such a thing as a second innings exist, and why should it in cricket?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CONGLETON.

Eilean Aigas, Beaulieu, N.B., Aug. 24.

Tuesday 29 August, page 6: HIGH SCORES AND DRAWN MATCHES

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - I believe the great majority of old players will concur in the views you express in your leading article of the 25th. The fact that the record of county cricket for the present year is now: - finished matches, 80; drawn, 106; shows that the situation should be at least considered. I sincerely hope the proposed committee will be appointed, and write to call attention to an aspect of the question which has not been touched upon by "An Old Blue."

I refer to the extent to which professional is superseding amateur cricket in the county matches.

The following statement gives the numbers of the two classes playing in the games to be decided to-day.

County	Amateurs	Professionals	County	Amateurs	Professionals
Kent	8	3	Essex	5	6
Gloucestershire	7	4	Lancashire	4	7
Middlesex	7	4	Yorkshire	4	7
Hampshire	7	4	Notts	4	7
Somerset	7	4	Surrey	3	8
Worcestershire	6	5	Warwickshire	1	10
Sussex	5	6			

I fully admit that professional bowling is a necessity. Without it amateurs could not have brought batting into its present state of perfection, and if the county matches were played by amateurs only the number of finished matches would be much smaller than it is at present; but some limit should be placed on professional batting, which is too often of the "stonewall" order. An amateur can play what game he likes, even when a draw is the only chance for his side. Thus you record to-day, "Ranjitsinhji made 57 out of 69 in 75 minutes," under such conditions. A professional cannot do this, he is paid to keep up his end and has his average, his captain and his committee to consider, and hence the Fabian tactics he adopts.

But apart from this a preponderance of professionals means that county cricket has become a question not of which county produces the best cricketers, but of which county can pay best and so attract the best available talent from elsewhere. In short the counties receiving the largest amount of gate money will always lead in the competition, as a glance at the present statement of wins and losses will show.

The present system also works badly in another way, as the following incident will show. The committee of my own county had to dismiss a young professional for insubordination. He took the matter lightly and said he could do better for himself elsewhere. This he promptly did and after a brief qualification has continued to play for another county. It was more than suspected that he had his offer in his pocket and that his offence was committed for the purpose of obtaining an excuse for his departure.

I hope the committee if it meets will consider this question, and I venture to make two proposals. First, that at least six, or still better seven, players in each county team should be amateurs; and, secondly, that the residential qualification of a professional player changing his county should be not less than two years.

My excuse for writing is that I have first played and then watched cricket for half a century, and I sign myself

August 26.

Yours faithfully,

A BOWLER IN THE FIFTIES

Thursday 31 August, page 5: HIGH SCORES AND DRAWN MATCHES

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, - Doubtless players, spectators and readers alike are weary of the high scoring of modern cricket, and of play which is so finished that the game too often is not. On the perfect wickets of the day the highly trained batsman makes 100 more easily than his predecessor of a generation ago made 50; first innings often gives an advantage past recovery and the whole thing becomes a matter of "pitch" and "toss." Each Monday and Thursday morning's newspaper contains from a dozen to a score of centuries in first-class cricket.

Yet there is a great risk, it seems to me, of breaking the continuity of the game if the size of the wicket or bat be altered. Comparisons with the past will almost lose their interest. Moreover, it may be that some considerable players of the day might fail to adapt themselves to the new conditions, and others might arise who would develop unlooked-for possibilities and results and the game be ruined, not restored.

May I suggest that a time-limit be imposed, at which each innings should end if its wickets had not fallen? Roughly, there are 18 hours' cricket in a first-class match. Therefore, I suppose four-and-a-half to five hours would be a reasonable limit, but this I leave to experts. Thus the tax on the bowlers would be brought within fixed bounds; matches would be always finished, if weather allowed, and the stone-waller abolished, except in case of bad wickets or collapses, when a side would be hard put to it to stay in for its full time. No one would suffer but the stickers, and perhaps they could arrange six days' contests among themselves somewhere else than on cricket grounds. The present "faultily faultless, icily regular, splendidly null" methods would give way to something more exhilarating.

Some high authorities have favoured the notion of a low boundary net, all hits within it to be fielded and run out. This, with a good-sized ground, I should greatly like to see given a fair trial.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

RICHARD R OTTLEY.

5, Effingham-crescent, Dover, Aug. 29.

Sir, - An amusing commentary upon the recent discussion on the above is supplied by the following extract from your issue of September 1, 1890: -

"By a strange perversity of fortune, the wickets, since the scare a few seasons back about the superiority of the bat over the ball, have been much in favour of the bowler. Mr A J Webbe, at the meeting of secretaries, then warned them that they had only to wait for a wet season for matters to find their level. This has proved too true, and little, if anything, is now heard from those advocates of such radical alterations as the widening of the wicket, the narrowing of the bat and so forth."

Yours obediently,

August 29.

H.M.G.